

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded by Leonard Coffey 1981
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Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 134 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Hello Coffey-Coffee Cousins,

Just a reminder that our Convention is coming up soon, and I hope a lot of you are making plans to attend. Kathy has made several plans and we should have a very enjoyable time in and around the Morristown, Tn. area. We do have a lot of Cousins in this area so try to come out and meet some of them. They may very well have that link to that long sought relative. I really want to extend an invitation to those who haven't been before, we would like to get to know you and you may even enjoy getting to know some of us regular attendees. We don't even have a registration fee, you only need to pay for your meals and lodging. If you haven't made plans, please reconsider and join us, we would love to have you. **Danny and Glenda Coffey**

Editor's Comments

Thanks to **Kevin West** again for his generous contribution to the expenses associated with producing this newsletter and maintaining the website.

Print subscribers please make checks payable to Jack Coffee. I do not maintain a separate account because of small number of print subscribers.

I am constantly searching for new and informative Coffey and related families items to present to newsletter readers. If you would like to share your ancestor with others, and perhaps uncover a long lost cousin, write to me. If you need help finding someone or documenting some fact that you have been unable to prove, write to me! I'll try to help you!

<mailto:jack.coffee@gmail.com>

Famous Quotes

When our relatives are at home, we have to think of all their good points or it would be impossible to endure them. ~George Bernard Shaw

Table of Contents

Wm & Pearl Virginia Coffey Voris	2
We Get Mail	3
News You Can Use	5
William Noah Coffey	5
In Memoriam - Lorie Joyce Okel	6
Thanks - Reams Goodloe, Sr.	7
2015 Reunion Update	7
John P. & Mary L. Coffey	
Sanders	8
DNA Project & Tribute to Lorie Okel	8 - 10

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Follow on Twitter: [Twitter.com/CoffeyCousins](https://twitter.com/CoffeyCousins)
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William Voris was the husband of Pearl Virginia Coffey, a daughter of Robert Marion and Emma Gaines Reynolds Coffey. Pearl was a descendant of Chesley through Joel (Martha Stepp); James (Eliz. Coffey, d/o Nathan & Mary Saunders Coffey); Logan McMillon (Mary E. Ragland), parents of Robert Marion. (Continued from Vol. 133, "A Race for Life")

"Troops from Apache."

"Lieut. Fenton Investigates the Cibieu Affair"

"Gila County Officers in the Right."

"Lieutenant Fenton, Seventh cavalry, and detachment of twenty soldiers, sent out from Fort Apache to investigate the killing of the Indian on Cibieu creek, Dec. 5, arrived in Globe on Wednesday last. They were accompanied by William Voris, Frank Ketcherside and Huse Kyle, members of the sheriff's posse that had the fight with Cooley's band of Indians. They were not under arrest, but came to Globe with Lieutenant Fenton, voluntarily, as a matter of prudence, to show their good faith and to pacify the Cibieu Indians, who supposed they were to be brought to Globe under arrest.

"Lieutenant's [sic] Fenton's investigation of the trouble at Cibieu corroborates the statements of the Gila county officers engaged in the affray, published elsewhere, and leaves no ground for action against the officers.

"Colonel Powell, commanding at Fort Apache, was notified of the Cibieu fight on Friday, the 7th inst., and Lieutenant Fenton and detachment left the same night for Cooley's camp. Upon their arrival there they found the Indians in a state of great excitement, and their demeanor was so threatening that for a time it looked as though they might attack the troops. The Lieutenant found that the Indian killed by Voris was Nan-tan-go-tayz, tag V 7, a brother of Cooley, chief of the band. He was shot in the right breast, four inches below the neck, and the bullet ranged downward, diagonally through the body and came out in the region of the left kidney.

"The Indians expressed displeasure at the presence of the troops and informed Lieutenant Fenton, through an interpreter that they wanted to settle their difficulties themselves. Cooley and two other Indians accompanied the command to Vosburg's and Ellison's ranches. At Vosburg's the lying interpreter pointed out Frank Ketcherside as the man who killed Nan-tan-go-tayz, whereupon old Chief, trembling with excitement, and with gun in hand, assumed a threatening attitude as though about to shoot Ketcherside. A soldier, observing the move, threw a cartridge into his gun and Cooley subsided. When the soldiers reached Canyon creek, on their way to Pleasant valley, [sic] they were met by John Dazin and band of Indians, armed and mounted, who asked permission of Lieutenant Fenton to accompany them to fight the whites. The Lieutenant informed Dazin that he was not out for the purpose of fighting the whites, and told the Indians to return to their camp.

"Lieutenant Fenton and detachment left Globe Thursday morning for San Carlos and expected to proceed to Fort Apache the next day."

Source: *Arizona Silver Belt*. (Globe City, Pinal County, Ariz.), 14 Dec. 1895, Page 3, Col. 4-5. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84021913/1895-12-14/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Concludes next issue with "The Cibicu Affair." "Lawless Character of the Blood Thirsty Civicus."

We Get Mail

Melonie Masih [<mailto:mawmasih@gmail.com>] submitted the following photo of Priscilla Howard Coffey, the wife of William Fine Coffey and their sons:



Priscilla Howard Coffey and Sons
L-R rear: Franklin Penn; William Daniel; Equilla & Isaac Fountain
L-R seated: Calvin Jefferson, Priscilla, William Alexander
Photo provided by Melonie Masih

Pictured l-r in the rear is Franklin Penn, William Daniel, Equilla and Isaac Fountain Coffey. L-r seated is Calvin Jefferson, Pricilla and William Alexander Coffey

In the Jul-Sep 2014 issue, Vol. 132, Page 5, I wrote about e-mail from Ralph Crumpton [<mailto:Ralph.Crumpton@gmail.com>] concerning the murder of James Coffey. Ralph followed up on that information with a news article that appeared in the Morristown, Hamblen Co., TN Gazette on Mar. 11, 1908. The article reads:

“For Murdering Mail Carrier. Sam George, Will Reed and Thomas Green, their brother-in-law, were taken to Knoxville last week and jailed charged with waylaying and killing James Coffey, a rural free delivery carrier in Hancock county on the night of Nov. 7. [1907] Coffey was thrice shot from ambush while completing his evening’s ride, and his body was found in the road a few hours later. Two days before the Reed boys’ father died from being shot from the woods while working in a corn field. Isham Elrod, brother-in-law of Coffey, was charged with killing old man Reed and skipped the country. The assassination of Coffey is believed to be but another chapter in the feud, though the brothers and Green deny all knowledge of it.”

From Bonnie Culley [<mailto:bculey@embarqmail.com>] via Jerry Coffey [<mailto:j.coff@verizon.net>] of Plano, TX, we learned that Carol Coffee, brother to Jerry, was recently awarded the rank of French Knight of the Legion of Honor and was given the medal by the Consulate General of France at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Several US WW2 veterans were honored with the same medal at the ceremony and is the highest award France can give to a non-French citizen. The Legion d'Honneur was created by Napoleon and cannot be awarded posthumously. See the photograph and additional details at this [US Army website](#). Carol was a member of the 66th Panther Infantry Division during WW2.

I have heard from Otis Morris [<mailto:otismorris812@aol.com>] concerning the 79th annual reunion of the Coffee/Coffey family in TX. Dates are Jul. 31-Aug. 2, 2015 and will be held at Granbury, in Erath Co., TX. Otis writes that HQ for the reunion is La Quinta Inn at Granbury. For additional information, please contact Otis.

Mike Anderson of Caddo Mills, TX [[GMAAnderson1947 on Ancestry.com](mailto:GMAAnderson1947@Ancestry.com)] wrote that he is attempting to refine data on his Coffee/Coffey family. His GGmother was Elizabeth Coffey, daughter of Thomas Hayes Coffey and wife Violet Carter. I was disappointed in that I was unable to help him (he lost most if not all of his research in a house fire). With the exception of Fielding and Isaac, I have no information on any of Thomas' other children. I do have on file a short news item which appeared in *The Adair County News*, Columbia, Adair Co., KY on Aug. 10, 1904, p3, Col. 2 and reads: "Perhaps the three oldest people living in the State and enjoying good health are Violet Coffey, age 98 years, Nancy Acre, 89 years, sisters, and their brother, Flem Carter, who is 94." If any reader can help Mike reconstruct his files, please drop me a note and I will let him know through Ancestry. If you use your Ancestry account to contact him, then please include me via e-mail.

Donna Hoffman Short [<mailto:mybitsnpieces@att.net>] Wrote asking for information on Susan Caroline Coffey, born Medaryville, IN in 1859. She married Loyd Jesse Elkins in IN and later died at Tazewell, IL. She is looking for the parents of Susan and other information for her research. Please contact Donna if you can help and cc me, please.

Joey Bennett [<mailto:joeyanbennett@gmail.com>]wrote recently asking for any information about Mary Ann Bennett who married Robert W. Coffey in Adair Co., KY. Robert was the son of Zidner and Morgana Ann Keltner Coffey. He and Mary Ann were married Aug. 13, 1868 in Adair Co. In 1870 they lived in Metcalfe Co. but had no children. In 1880 they lived in Gradyville, Adair Co. and still had no children. Mary Ann's brother, Jasper Bennett lived with the couple. Robert married Sally Catherine Compton on Feb. 12, 1890 in Adair Co. Mary Ann may have died but we don't know for certain; a death record has not been found. With Sally, to whom he was married for almost 30 years, he fathered Maggie Pearl who married Curt Stephens in 1924 at Jeffersonville, Clark Co., IN. She was 33 at the time and may have been previously married. The second child born to Robert and Sally was William Zidner, born 1892 in Adair Co., died 1961 in OH. William married at least three times: First was to Maggie Helm which produced Eunice Katherine, born 1915, died 1983. Second was to Louise Estel DeBolt in 1919 at Akron, OH, children unknown. Third wife was Lydia A. Williams to whom he was married c1922 in OH. They had at least one child, Mary F., born c1925 in OH. Returning now to Robert W., the 1900 census shows a child by the name of Lillian M, born Mar., 1884 and enumerated as Robert's daughter. She is too old to be a daughter of Sally Compton and too young to be a daughter of Mary Ann Bennett. In 1910 Robert reported that he had been married three times. If accurate, there was a wife between the other two who was the mother of Lillie. The question is, who was her mother?

Carol Page [mailto:cmatias1796@gmail.com] has written asking for help locating the parents of her ancestor, Alice Sanders who married Thomas Leroy "Tom" Coffey in Boone Fork, Watauga Co., NC on Jul. 19, 1919. Her death certificate of Feb. 24, 1962 tells us her parents were Eve Sanders and Emma Sumlin (Summerlin?) and was born Sep. 19, 1895 in Caldwell Co. However, no one with those names has been found in any Watauga or Caldwell Co. record available to me or to Carol. Alice is first found in the 1910 census as a 12-year old "servant" working in the household of Rufus Monroe and Emma Robbins Coffey in Watauga Co. Please contact Carol if you can help and cc me so I can update my files.

News You Can Use

The Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office website [http://1.usa.gov/1DXY2Tg] now offers digitized images of your ancestor's homestead overlaid onto modern maps. In addition to digitized images of the original patent document, you can view images of the original plat details. You will need to study the site; there are more features that I have yet to explore. I learned that part of my GG-grandpa's homestead now lies under I-30 just outside of Hope, AR.

William Noah Coffey, Bigamist & Murderer



William Noah Coffey was born in Collettsville, Johns River Twp., Caldwell Co., NC to Israel Boone and Catherine Emma Spainhour Coffey on Dec. 10, 1874. Israel was a son of Daniel Boone and Clarissa Estes Coffey while Catherine was a daughter of Noah Spainhour and wife Elizabeth Ann Mason.

He appears to have led a regular life as any young man who grew up in that that area of NC. That is, not much of notoriety caused him to be noticed until he reached the age of about 21*. It was then that he was arrested and jailed for three years for larceny when a lady of about 72 accused him of stealing from her. He pled guilty and served two and a half years of his 3-year sentence. His next known meeting with law enforcement was due to what might perhaps be described as a "mid life crisis," resulting in deadly consequences.

He had married Alberta Ellen Winnek, a daughter of Frederick G. and Ellen Martin Winnek in Lawrence, Douglas Co., KS on Jun. 24, 1903**, and over the course of the next seven years, fathered three children, all born in Wisconsin. They were Douglas Fredwill Winnek Coffey, 1907-1999, Alberta Ellen, 1909-2006, and Miriam Martin, 1910-1978. Alberta died in Los Angeles in 1960.

After his marriage to Alberta, the couple relocated to Madison in Dane Co., WI where at age 42 on Sep. 12, 1918 he registered for the WW1 draft. He was described on the registration card as being of medium height and build and with blue eyes and black hair. He listed his occupation as a credit collector with a company with offices in Monticello, IA. In 1920 he and Alberta along with their three children appeared in the Madison, Dane Co., census. He was then a "collection business manager."

He and Alberta were divorced in 1927 and by 1930 William was in the custody of the Wisconsin State Prison at Waupun, Chester Twp., in Dodge County. He was serving a life sentence for murder. He was there in 1940 and presumably through 1960 as well.

How he got there is rather strange. It is presumed that in the course of his work he met and married, without benefit of divorce from Alberta, Mrs. Hattie Hales, a 53-year old widow, employed as a buyer for a department store. The marriage apparently took place in 1926. The couple then traveled to meet her family but apparently never really settled down to what might be called "married life."

Perhaps it was a visit back home to see Alberta and the kids that caused the argument that eventually ended in Hattie's death. News items of the day seem to imply that another woman was involved. He and Hattie were camping when the argument began. Sometime during the night of Oct. 9, 1926, as William later confessed, he beat Hattie with a baseball bat and small hammer until she was dead. He then cut her body into pieces and buried them in the woods they were camping in.

It took about three months for authorities to catch on to William. He had been responding to letters from Hattie's family as if he were her. But, he had used a rubber stamp of her signature to sign the letters, which of course raised suspicion. William was questioned and arrested when it became clear that he had something to do with her disappearance. He eventually confessed everything and led officers to those places in the woods where he had buried her body parts.

*I seized the hammer and hit her with it, I cannot tell how many times. I murdered her and am willing to pay the price. I have tried my best to conceal the crime." I killed her because I wanted to be free from her to cover up my sins with her. I killed her, Hattie Hales, in the woods about five miles southwest of Platteville near the Platteville-Dubuque road where the body was found Friday, Jan. 28, 1927.****

William Noah Coffey died on Jun. 11, 1962 in prison at Waupun and was buried on prison grounds. In 1965 his remains were moved to Calvary Cemetery in Waupun.

It appears that all of his children changed their surname to Winnek.

**Milwaukee Sentinel*, Jan. 26, 1927

**Kansas Marriages, 1840-1935 [<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FW21-GPB>]

****Milwaukee Journal*, beginning in Jan., 1927

In Memorium

Loretta Joyce Okel



I received word while preparing this newsletter of the death of Loretta Joyce Okel of Vancouver, WA on Feb. 5, 2015. Lorie, as she was known to Coffey Cousins', was a long time supporter. She was a gracious, charming lady. All of us who remember her and her lovely smile will miss her.. Our condolences and prayers go out to her family. Lorie was a descendant of Collins Coffee [sic] but was never able to connect him, except through DNA, back to Edward. She suspected Collins was a son of Reuben (1744), son of John (1704) and then Edward. Fred will have more to write below.

I have been seriously lacking in giving applause to Coffey Cousin Reams Goodloe, Sr. For the last many years, Reams has faithfully indexed every Coffey Cousins' Newsletter and made it available on-line for those wishing to search back issues for their ancestors. The file is large, currently containing about 30,000 lines of data. I am told that there are about 12,000 lines of Coffey names and 3,000 for the Coffee name. Thank you Reams! Your work does not go unappreciated! The index and archived newsletters are made available by Fred Coffey at <http://tinyurl.com/ahrdfoh>.

2015 Coffey Cousins Reunion Update

Dates: May 21-23, 2015

Hotel: Best Western Plus at 5435 S. Davy Crockett Pky in Morristown, TN

Contact: Hotel telephone number is 423-587-2400 for reservations. Group rate is \$89.95 + tax. Be sure and tell the hotel you are with Coffey Cousins' Reunion to get group rate. Kathy Whitson is our host again this year and you can reach her at [<mailto:kwhitson@eureka.edu>] for more specific details not covered here.

For those unfamiliar with the area, Morristown is about 20 miles and 25 minutes south of Thorn Hill. You will be leaving Morristown on TN343 then merge onto TN32 and follow that all the way to TN131 where you will turn tight to enter Thorn Hill. The distance from Thorn Hill to Rutledge is about the same. It is located to the west of Bean Station along US 11W.

Typically, out of town cousins who will be staying at the hotel arrive on Thursday. That evening the group will get together for supper and conversation at a local eatery. On Friday we will meet at the Grainger County Archives in Rutledge for a program, a tour of the museum and an opportunity to work a bit in the archives. Due to space limitations, the archives will allow only six people at a time into the research area.

On Saturday morning Ken Coffey, the Grainger County Historian will speak to us on the Wilderness Road and perhaps some Coffey involvement in the Civil War.

The John Coffey War of 1812 gunpowder gourd will be available for viewing at our "headquarters" in the Thorn Hill Community Center. There will be other opportunities for us to tour local cemeteries. Kathy says she is working on one more surprise she hopes will come about.

Bonnie Culley is making plans to attend this year and we are all anxious to see her. She will be bringing her large collection of Coffey books for our use. Kathy says she would like to set some time aside for us to spin a few family yarns about our Coffey relatives. Be thinking of some good ones to share.

The Banquet arrangements are complete. We will have a catered "family style" dinner at the Thorn Hill Community Center on Saturday evening. The cost is \$25 per person and will cover food, drink, room rental and entertainment. Prepare to dine at 6 pm. Reservations for this meal must be paid in advance in order for caterers to know how many to buy and prepare for. Send your reservations not later than Saturday, May 9th to Kathy J. Whitson, 303 S. Darst St., Eureka, IL 61530.

We are looking forward to seeing many new cousins as well as some older ones!

The John Paul and Mary Louise (Coffey) SANDERS Family



L to R - Marion Davies SANDERS b. 1 Feb 1929 Bramlett, Metcalfe Co. KY, married Edwin Ray ACREE; Helen May SANDERS b. 1 May 1926 Bramlett, Metcalfe Co. KY; married Richard E. LYONS; Dorothy Louise SANDERS b. 12 April 1923 Upton Hardin Co KY; married Robert E. CARLE; Mary Lucy SANDERS b. 20 May 1921 Upton, Hardin Co., KY; married Herman SLINKER; Lelia Kathryn SANDERS (my mother) b. 8 Jul 1918 Campbellsville Taylor Co. KY, d. 16 Mar 2004 Louisville, Jefferson Co. KY; married to William Clayton PENICK Jr.; Mary Louise COFFEY b. 9 Jun 1897 Campbellsville, Taylor Co. KY, married John Paul SANDERS; John Paul SANDERS b. 20 Apr 1897 Smiths Grove, Warren Co. KY

Mary Louise Coffey was a daughter of Cyrus Russell and second wife, Mary Lucy Page. She was born Jun. 9, 1897 in Taylor Co., KY and died Dec. 24, 1962 in Jefferson Co., KY. Cyrus was born Oct. 19, 1835 in Russell Co., KY and died in Taylor Co., on Aug. 23, 1902. Mary Lucy was born 1854 and died in 1931. Both are buried at Brookside Cemetery in Campbellsville, Taylor Co. Cyrus is an ancestor of Chesley, related to Edward as shown by DNA. Photo courtesy of Martha Lamkin [<mailto:mplamkin@aol.com>] whose mother was Lelia Kathryn Sanders. Martha send another photo that I will save for next issue.

(1) DNA Project: Lorie Okel

By Fred Coffey

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Lorie Okel on 6 Feb 2015.

Lorie was the original Administrator of our DNA Project, and she and Tim Peterman persuaded me to get a DNA test. I became fascinated, and have worked with Lorie as co-Administrator since about 2003.

Following is her known Coffee line ancestry:

Collins Coffee (1809 – 8 Sep 1864) & Sarah Hinkle (Feb 1817 – 1905)
William Taylor Coffee (Feb 1847 – 6 Sep 1917) & Jane Helen Wemple (8 Nov 1857 – 11 Jan 1923)
Nora N Coffee (6 Jul 1879 – 21 Sep 1947) & George Ernest West (18 Mar 1876 – 23 Dec 1966)
Marjorie Marie West (21 Mar 1911 – 22 May 1995) & Chester Arthur Hector (3 Mar 1905 – 16 Sep 1987)
Loretta “Lorie” Joyce Hector (abt 1938 – 6 Feb 2015) & Jim **Okel**

Lorie took the lead in our Coffey DNA Project, but DNA testing was never able to solidly determine the ancestry of her ancestor Collins Coffee. She strongly suspected he descended from Reuben (1744), John (1704) and Edward. DNA testing on a cousin did solidly confirm that “Edward” was her ancestor, but so far has not confirmed who lies between Edward and Collins.

Lorie first started writing articles for this newsletter with Issue #7, June 1982. That’s 30+ years of contributions to Coffey genealogy!

(2) DNA Project: Aedan Coffey

By Fred Coffey

The largest Coffey group in America is the “Edward/Peter Group”, and a very large percentage of the readers of this newsletter (including myself) belong to that group. And in issue #132, I reported that we had identified the probable Irish homeland of OUR family as Counties Kilkenny and Wexford.

If you have been following our progress, you will know that we are looking to learn what DNA can tell us about “All Families Coffey”, including far more than our Edward/Peter line. And there are many more such families. See our Project at:

www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA

One person of interest was Mr. “Aedan Coffey”, who actually lives in County Kilkenny. Aedan’s genealogy reflects a line of Coffeys that have a very ancient Irish pedigree, and we had some hope that he MIGHT be related to those of us in the Edward/Peter Group, and prove OUR ancient origin! But his y-DNA test is now complete, and he is NOT part of our group.

He belongs to what I have been calling the “Munster Group”, which has many members who trace their ancestry to the ancient region of southwest Ireland, known as Munster. This includes several modern counties, including Kerry and Cork, and several of these Group members trace their American immigrants back to these counties. Many consider Kerry to be one of the ancient Coffey homelands.

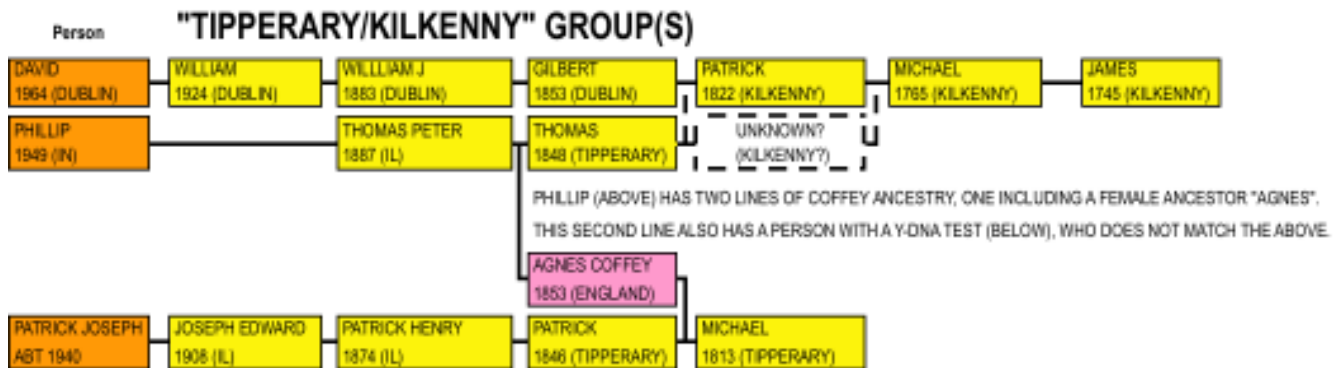
But Aedan is special, in that he still lives in Ireland, and he can arguably trace his ancestry back dozens of generations. Some of this is speculative, but in my view he is solid back at least as far as his 6G (Great, Great, Great, Great, Great, Great) Grandfather, who was indeed from Kerry. For more, see:

[http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA/DescendantsOfEdmundCoffey\(1786\).pdf](http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA/DescendantsOfEdmundCoffey(1786).pdf)

(3) DNA Project: A Family Discovery Process

By Fred Coffey

I’ve just been through a fascinating exercise, wherein I introduced three complete strangers to each other, and after many months of effort, showed they were related and how. Have a look at the finished picture, and then I’ll explain how we got there:



On the left are three Coffey men, David, Phillip and Patrick, who had never heard of each other.

David lives in Ireland, and traces his ancestry back to a James Coffey, born 1745 in County Kilkenny. And he signed up for a y-DNA test. And that test showed a good match to Phillip, who lives in the Chicago area, who knew his Coffey ancestry only back to his grandfather Thomas, born 1848 in Tipperary. Somewhere, back in time, the DNA said they had a shared male Coffey ancestor.

For Phillip, the family genealogist was his sister, Maryanne (Coffey) Morrison. Maryanne pointed out that Phillip had TWO lines of Coffey ancestors. His ancestor Thomas Coffey had married one Agnes Coffey, whose father was Michael Coffey, born 1813 in Tipperary. We wondered if Phillip's two ancestors, Thomas and Michael, both from Tipperary, could both be from the same Coffey family?

The obvious way to determine if they were the same family, would be to find a male-line descendant of Agnes father Michael. It took some digging, but with help from Maryanne I found our third man, Patrick, also living in the Chicago area. And Patrick agreed to a y-DNA test. Patrick's y-DNA did NOT match Phillip's, which suggested strongly that ancestors Thomas and Michael were not from related families.

But sometimes DNA goes astray due to a "non-Paternal Event" (e.g., illegitimate birth, adoption, etc.). Phillip and Patrick were within range for a different type of test on autosomal DNA (atDNA), which can take a shorter-range look up to at least 5 generations back, and which could reflect a female in the ancestral line, such as Agnes. So, just to be sure, we ordered the atDNA tests for Phillip and Patrick. That test came back that Phillip and Patrick were somewhere between 2C and 3C (second and third cousins). And if you study the above figure, looking at their connection through Agnes, you will see they are 2C1R (second cousins once removed). Case proven!

Now, so far as we knew, the connection between David and Phillip could be almost anywhere back in time. We suspected it might be many generations back, and out of range for an atDNA test. But since we already had two atDNA tests, we took a chance and ordered the test for David.

And SURPRISE! That test said David and Phillip were definitely related, somewhere between 2C and 4C. Hey, if David's ancestor Gilbert (1853) and Phillip's ancestor Thomas (1848) were BROTHERS, then David and Phillip would be 2C1R, and if Gilbert/Thomas were FIRST COUSINS, then David and Phillip would be 3C1R. BOTH of those would indeed be between 2C and 4C, and are equally possible.

So we drew the figure above, with a possible unidentified relative in the dotted box, showing the two ways David and Phillip could connect.

But then David chimed in, and said he was 99% certain that his ancestor Gilbert (1853) did NOT have a brother Thomas (1848). While Gilbert DID have a brother Thomas, it was not THAT Thomas. David knew exactly what happened to Gilbert's brother, when he was born, and where he had gone.

But David does believe "first cousins" for Gilbert and Thomas is quite possible. And now David's challenge is to figure out the details!

OK guys, will you have your first reunion in Ireland or Chicago?