

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded by Leonard Coffey 1981
Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley 1989-2012
Editor: [Jack K. Coffee](#)

Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 135 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Dear Coffee-Coffey Cousins,

I would like to congratulate Kathy Whitson on a very successful hosting for our Convention in Morristown. I feel everyone enjoyed themselves very much. There are a lot of Cousins in that area. Well Done Kathy!

I am pleased to announce that we finally talked Larry Coffey into assuming the position of President. I have enjoyed it very much, but was ready for a break; imagine trying to satisfy a bunch of Coffeys.

Best of luck to Larry; I am available anytime if I can help in any way.

Danny and Glenda

Editor's Comments

I received e-mail from Coffey Cousin Archie Dalton telling me that he had suffered a stroke and would be away from research for awhile. Our very good wishes for a quick recovery go out to this long time Coffey Cousins' member and major contributor to the Dalton/Coffey family history. A later e-mail revealed that he is now recovering at home. He has not let the incident deter his work around the house.

Questions or comments regarding any item in this newsletter, other than DNA items authored by Fred Coffey, should be addressed to me. See address at bottom of adjacent column. Fred's e-mail address is FredCoffey@aol.com.

Thanks to Danny Coffey for his contribution to the maintenance of this newsletter's website.

It was a treat for us to see our long time friend and "cousin" Bonnie Culley at Thorn Hill. We are looking forward to seeing her again next year in Jamestown. Bonnie was editor of this newsletter from 1989 to 2012.

Famous Quotes

"It is a desirable thing to be well-descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors."
Plutarch

Table of Contents

The Babb Switch Fire	2-3
Incoming Mail	3-5, 8-9
News You Can Use	6
Notice	7
The Cibicu Affair	7-8
DNA Project	10-11
Coffey Death Notice	10
CC Convention, 2015	12

Contact Info:

Edward Coffey Project blog: <http://tinyurl.com/qbcumjz>
Follow on Twitter [Twitter.com/@CoffeyCousins](https://twitter.com/CoffeyCousins)
E-mail me at jack.coffee@gmail.com

The Babb Switch Fire

A tragedy that has become known to many Coffey researchers as the Babb Switch fire, occurred on Christmas Eve, 1924 near Hobart in Kiowa Co., OK. By the time all the bodies had been recovered and identification of all victims made, a total of 33 people died that night in the school house fire.

It was Christmas Eve and a large number of area families had come together to celebrate and treat the youngsters to an evening of joy.

As news reports of the day explain, "Death entered the Christmas celebration suddenly, cutting off at its high [sic] the program rendered by the children of the neighborhood." Santa, in his normal costume of red with white fur, had just about finished handing out small bags of sweets. As he leaned in to retrieve the last of the small candy sacks, his arm hit one of the lit candles on the tree causing the tree to burst into flames.

As the folks tried to put out the fire, the tree fell over scattering flames. People began to panic and all begin to rush the single door that lead to safety. Some went to the windows but they "were covered by a heavy wire netting." The door opened inwardly but the frenzied crowd was jammed against it.

Panic grew as heat caused window glass to shatter. Wind rushing in fed the flames and the old wooden school began to blaze, as some reported, "like firewood."

Those that were injured while escaping the flames, were rushed to Hobart .

Six in the family of Thomas C. Coffey died that night: Thomas, his wife Beulah and children Ethel, age about 12; Maud, age about 17; Orley, age about 5 and Aubrey M., age about 26. Reports say that Aubrey was to be married and that her fiancé was also killed that night.

Witnesses tell how the Coffey family, surrounded by flames and unable to move in any direction, clasped one another in their arms and silently went to the floor together as blazing beams began to fall around and onto them.

The Coffey family and other victims were buried at Hobart Rose Cemetery in Hobart. Today a red granite tablet stands at the site, engraved with a short tale of how the fire began and lists in memory all of the names of those who died.

Accounts of this fire can be found in newspapers nearly all across the nation. From the *Richmond Times Dispatch* in Virginia of Dec., 26, 1924 to *Evansville Courier and Press* in Indiana, *The Idaho Statesman* in Boise, *Springfield Republican* in MA, and on and on, thus magnifying the tragedy and sadness felt all across the country. Babb Switch was not the only fire in America that Christmas Eve, but the overwhelming number of deaths and injuries was the one that captured the nation's interest. Babb Switch was rebuilt as a model for safer

construction of school houses but, was dismantled in 1943. In earlier years, the wood structure had survived a fire and a tornado but no deaths or injuries had occurred.

I have been unable to discover who Thomas' father was. One Ancestry.com family tree names his wife as Beulah Gertrude Rather. The family appeared in the 1900 through 1920 OK census.

Checking earlier records I found who I believe to be this Thomas in the 1880 Stephens Co., TX household with James Coffey, born c1833 in IL and his wife Elizabeth, born c1842 in VA. Children in the household then were: Thomas, George W., Anderson M., Mary T., Willis H., George Barrott, and Catherine.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who can identify this family.

Incoming Mail

Melonie Masih [<mailto:mswmasih@gmail.com>] recently wrote to give me the correct name of a brother to her grandmother, Mary Priscilla "Edith" Coffey Jacobs. I had written in a long ago blog that his name was Webb Granville Coffey. Melonie reminded me that his real name was Wibb. She reports that the family Bible tells us that it was Wibb and that a daughter once told those at a Coffey family reunion that his name was Wibb. It is indeed Will on his grave marker but in some other places it can be found as Webb. The Apr. 21, 1929 edition of the *Dallas Morning News*, in reporting his death, names him as "Webb G. Coffey, 45, Victoria business man,..." The difference in how his name was pronounced might be a matter of dialect. But, to insure accuracy my records now reflect both names.

Kent Dalton [kentdalton@msn.com] wrote that his ancestor was Tandy Witcher Dalton who married Matilda Coffey. Matilda was the daughter of George and Margaret Rucker Coffey. He was apparently on a cross country trip from his home in Lakewood, CA to visit a few places related to his ancestry. He wrote that he would be making a stop in Thorn Hill, TN.

Cheryl Peterson [jordansgranny@sbcglobal.net] wrote that her mother was Gladys Faye Coffey Hamilton, born in Slidell, TX in May of 1918, one of 14 children born to Aurelius and Jesse Edna Bryant Coffey. Gladys married Tyson Brandon Hamilton the first time in Nov., 1949 and was the mother of five children. The children of Cheryl's grandparents were 1) Elmer, born Aug. 1898, died Mar., 1899; 2) America, known as Avo, was born in Dec., 1899, died Apr., 1983 in Lubbock, TX. She married William Lee Walker and had two children; a daughter named Avalee and a son named Billy Joe. Avalee was born in 1924 and died in 2004. Billy Joe was born in 1924 and died in 1996. 3) Marvel Elizabeth, called "Aunt Sug," was married to Robert Charles Ohlott in 1911 in New Jersey and died in 1980. Their children were Ross, Ricky and Vicki. Marvel Elizabeth died Aug. 5, 1998 at the home of Cheryl's mother in Concord, CA. Cheryl's mom died in Jan., 2002 in Reno, NV and is buried next to her dad, Tyson at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette, CA.

Rick Miller [rickmiller1953@comcast.net] sent a clipping from a newspaper in which the author was Liz Coffey, a film conservator at the Harvard University library. I took the opportunity to contact Liz to ask her about her ancestry. She responded that her grandparents were Irish immigrants and that she knows nothing of her Coffey heritage. Too bad!

The 79th Annual Coffee/Coffey Reunion will be held in Granbury, TX from July 31 to Aug. 2, 2015. For additional information contact Otis Morris at 972-743-1482 or, 972-743-1396. He can also be reached at otismorris812@aol.com.

Emily Kievet [ekievet@gmail.com] is a descendent of Chesley through Sarah Viletta Coffey (1883-1936), a daughter of Meredith Washington and Sarah Jane Garrison Coffey. Jr. According to my records, Viletta died on Apr. 16, 1936 in Columbia, Boone Co., MO and is buried at the Columbia Cemetery. As usual, there is some disagreement about where she died. Her MO death certificate reports her death in Moberly, Randolph Co., MO.

I recently received e-mail from Jo Langwell, long time Coffey Cousin. She once hosted a Coffey Cousins' Reunion in Dallas which included a steak BBQ and tour of the Ewing Mansion just outside of Dallas. She has not been in the best of health over the past years but, continues to care about her cousins. Jo can be reached at [jolangwell@tx.rr.com].

JoAnn Coffey [joann_coffey@yahoo.com] (there is an underscore between joann and coffey) is a former newsletter subscriber. I had earlier entered a Find-A-Grave memorial for Walter Glenn Coffey who I believe to be buried at the Shawler Cemetery in Bullitt Co., KY. JoAnn wrote to let me know that he was a great-uncle and wondered if his burial site had been confirmed. Unfortunately, it has not. Walter was a son of James A. Coffey and Mary Elizabeth Mitchell. Another son, James Arthur Coffey was JoAnn's grandfather. The elder James A. is also said to have also been named James Arthur, son of William Coffey and Ellen Nash, born Mar. 22, 1850. What JoAnn is lacking is proof. She is now working with Rick Miller (see above). The James Arthur Coffey I have married Martha Dalton in Grainger Co. in 1877. Their children were Noah Leander, Carrie, William Jackson, Newton W., Wiley Columbus and Maria. Please contact JoAnn if you can help end our mutual confusion.

Lorel Kapke [lorel@sortyourstory.com] is working on the Martin William Coffey line. It appears that he was the subject of some early work by Ethelene Coffey which I do not recall ever reading. Porter Kendrick Coffey, born in 1869, Stanford, KY, later of Indianapolis, IN and, even later a resident of Wauwatosa in Milwaukee Co., MN, was a descendant of Martin and Nancy Heriford Coffey. I believe this Martin is the one Lorel refers to as Martin William. She is planning a research trip to Salt Lake City and promises to share her findings. Porter was a son of George Alfred Caldwell Coffey and wife Elizabeth Frances "Fannie" Goode. George was a son of James and Martha "Patsy" Tucker Coffey; Elizabeth Frances, a daughter of Daniel C. and Mary Ann Russell Goode, also of Lincoln Co. Porter and Nora's children were Earl, Lorena and Samuel M. See photos on Page 6.

Ron Wheeler [rwheel5585@hotmail.com] joined the Coffey DNA project. He wrote to Fred and me that he was a descendant of Reuben Coffey, both on his father's side as well as his mother's. This Reuben was the son of John and Jane Graves Coffey and married Sarah "Sally" Scott c1772 in Albemarle Co., VA.

Sheri Kelly [sheri.kelly@gmail.com], another Coffey Cousin we haven't heard from in sometime, wrote that she is "not doing as much research as in the past but I do wander around a bit." Sheri is an excellent researcher and we hope she finds time to return to that work in the near future.

In the on-going effort to find Chesley Coffey, Sr., Tim Peterman [tepeter100@aol.com] related to me and others that some 120 years ago Eliza Coffey Porter wrote "Nathan Coffey was the son of Joel Coffey and Martha (Step) Coffey, was grandson of Chesley and Jane (Cleveland) Coffey, natives of Virginia. But the grandparents removed to North Carolina in an early day and settled on the Yadkin River where the parents of our subject was born and raised and married..." We know that Eliza was the daughter of Joel and Martha Step Coffey. Joel was born sometime in the 1740s and died in Wilkes Co., NC in 1789. It appears to me that Eliza's writing might have been part of a family history that she created and perhaps left somewhere for others to read. Several months ago I wrote to the Pike County, IL historical society asking if they house any works by Eliza. As of this publication date, they have chosen not to respond.

Christine (Chris) Crate [cmycrate@hotmail.com] is a descendant of Ambrose Coffee [sic] who she believes to have been born in Ireland [Note: That would likely be Ambrose at Fort Boonesboro with Daniel Boone] and came to this country with his parents, William and Sarah Raleigh Coffee. Ambrose married a lady by the name of Ailsey and they had a son named Rolly [probably Raleigh after his grandmother]. Rolly married Alea Anne Anderson and had a child named Martha, the last of their 10 children. Martha was born in 1853, Slate Creek, Montgomery Co., KY. The family moved to Morgan Co., MO where Rolly and Alea lived out their lives. Martha married John R. Edmon and in 1875 their daughter, Susan Ann was born while Martha and John were still in TN. Please contact Chris if you are a descendant of Ambrose and can offer her any help. She has a website at <http://cycrate.tribalpages.com>.

I've made Facebook "friends" with Karen Coffey Galanski of Georgia and Virginia Isham of New Mexico who descend from Edward, son of Edward and husband of Grace Cleveland. Marvin wrote in his work that no proof of Edward and Grace's children has been found, but speculated about several Coffeys in various locales beginning c1725. There are lots of "probable and could be's" when it comes to the children of Edward, Jr.! The ladies know they are descended from Edward, Jr's son, Jesse Cleveland Coffee, born before 1755 in SC and died c1807 in that state, though his son Joel who married Martha "Patsy" Cobb. Joel and Martha had at least four children: John, born Jun. 23, 1816, died in Rabun Co., GA in 1886; Mary Frances, born c1818, died 1873; Jesse Leonard and William Rowland, the latter being born Nov. 5, 1834, died Jul. 18, 1909. Jesse Leonard was married twice, first to Nancy O. Singleton and second to Arzelia P. Thomas, who was in some part, Cherokee. Readers interested to either wife's children should join us on **Facebook** for a more detailed discussion [<http://on.fb.me/1GIEv2Z>]. It's a private discussion area so write to me first to be invited to join.

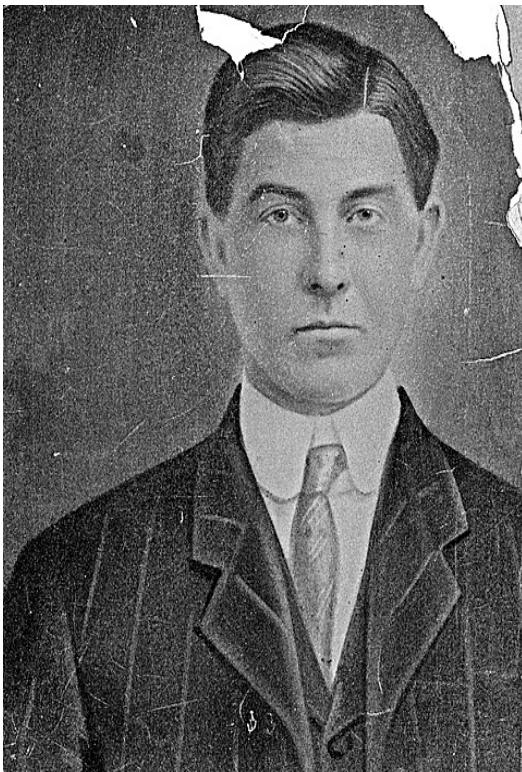
[See More Incoming Mail on Page 8](#)

News You Can Use

Irish Genealogy News – A website offering results of several of their projects – all free – including cemetery records, photos, etc. Find them at <http://www.irishgenealogynews.com/>

The MOCADO genealogy search site announced the availability of the 1790-1940 census images. The images are indexed and free to users. Visit them at <http://bit.ly/1Rh6NPm>.

Betty White Martin [<mailto:bjmartin@charter.net>] introduced several of her books at the recent Coffey Cousins' Reunion at Thorn Hill, TN. The one that I purchased is entitled *Our Coffey and Dalton Families in Photos*. She writes that "This book contains a collection of old photos that are connected to the early ancestors and their families....in Thorn Hill and surrounding communities...in the Clinch Mountains of Grainger County." Betty's books are also available on Amazon.com. See them at <http://t.co/5U37b5MKea>, <http://t.co/lSzAJpHR07>, and <http://t.co/M8AbRyfHTP>.



Porter Kendrick Coffey (1871-1946)
Father of Burnes Earl



Burnes Earl Coffey & Marjorie Hopfensperger
1922 Marriage Photo

Photos Courtesy of Lorel Kapke

Notice

There are very few, less than a half-dozen, subscribers to the print version. As those subscriptions expire, I will discontinue taking new subscribers. Getting quality prints at reasonable cost is nearly impossible. Also, the expenses required to maintain this website are totally my responsibility and one that I accepted without reservation. There are a few dedicated readers that add contributions from time to time, but otherwise all expenses are on me.

At the recent reunion at Thorn Hill, Larry Coffey of New Jersey was elected President and Wayne Mower of Delaware was chosen as Vice President. Glenda Coffey retained her office as Treasurer while Nelda Coffee kept her job as secretary. We sincerely thank Danny for his service over the past several years and well as his planning and execution of a couple of reunions at the Lake Cumberland State Park in Jamestown, Russell Co., KY. No official word yet, but chances are good we will return to this beautiful area for the 2016 gathering. There are a **lot** of Coffey families in KY and we haven't yet met them all!

The Cibicu Affair

This wraps up the story which I began in Vol. 133 about William Voris' adventures. He was the spouse of Pearl Virginia Coffee, a daughter of Robert Marion and Emma Gaines Reynolds Coffee. 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.

"The Cibicu Affair"

"Lawless Character of the Blood Thirsty Cibicus."

"Globe Silver Belt: The actual casualties and losses arising from Indian depredations and conflicts between citizens and Indians are less harmful to the good name and interests of Arizona than are the many exaggerated, and oftentimes [sic] false, reports which emanate from press correspondents and, not infrequently from official sources. The propensity of the irresponsible correspondent to draw the long bow is so well understood that his alarming statements are usually discounted. The case is different, however, with dispatches bearing the stamp of official authority, for the public has a right to expect reliable information, whereas dispatches from military sources often convey a wrong impression without any intention of being unfair, perhaps.

"Press dispatches of December 12 announce the receipt at the war department, Washington, D. C., and by Adjutant General Ward, at Denver, of telegrams sent by the command officer at Fort Apache, in reference to the killing of the Indian on Cibicu creek, December 5, which, to say the least, contained many inaccuracies and, by asserting that the man who killed the Indian, and two others of the posse, gave themselves up for trial on the charge of killing the Indian, leaves the impression that the officers had committed a criminal act, which is wholly at variance with the facts.

"Deputy Sheriff Benbrook and his three companions were sworn officers, bearing a warrant for the arrest of two Indians regularly indicted by the grand jury of Gila county, on the charge of

burglary, and their right to enter the reservation and make the arrest can not be questioned. They went to Cibicu peaceably, and explained the object of their visit through an interpreter, and, even after the Indians opposed the arrest of the guilty parties the officers attempted to withdraw quietly, without their prisoners, but were prevented by the overt acts of the Indians. Deputy Voris shot the Indian in self defense, when the latter was in the act of wresting his gun from him, and not until one of the band fired upon the posse. It was then only a question of self-preservation with the officers, and their escape from a band of forty or fifty murderous Apaches was miraculous.

“The evidence against [sic] the two Indians for whom the officers held the warrants is positive, and the burglary is not denied. They were caught in the act, with their arms full of plunder. They had left their guns with their horses, and were surprised by Frank Ketcherside in his cabin, who, with six-shooter in hand, compelled them to disgorge. Had he killed them then and then [sic] he would have been justified and any jury would have exonerated him.

“The residents of Pleasant [V]alley and vicinity have been wonderfully forbearing with the Cibicu Indians, who have preyed upon the settlers for years, robbing ranches, in the absence of the occupants, and killing citizens’ cattle whenever they wanted meat. So flagrant have these depredations grown that the business of stockraising in northern Gila county has been practically ruined. To illustrate how extensive the stealing of cattle by the Cibicu Indians has become: When Deputy Benbrook and posse were on their way to Cibicu they struck the fresh trail of fifteen or twenty head of cattle which they followed into the Indians’ camp, and the packer with Lieutenant Fenton’s command informed Frank Ketcherside that when they arrived at the Indian’s camp he saw cattle there of the ‘flying V’ brand, going to show the cattle from the vicinity of the Vosburg ranch.

“The recent trouble on Cibicu will not be amiss if it serves to bring to an issue the arrant lawlessness of the White Mountain Apaches.

Source: *Arizona Republican*. (Phoenix, Ariz.), 25 Dec. 1895, Page 8, Col. 1. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84020558/1895-12-25/ed-1/seq-8/>>

More Incoming Mail

A few more e-mails arrived just as we were “going to press.”

Becki Christian Depew [<mailto:sek2findthem@yahoo.com>] asked if I knew anyone who might have additional information on the Thomas Jefferson Coffey family. Thomas was a son of Larkin and Temperance Gravitt Coffey of Lawrence Co., AL. Becki is particularly interested in learning who the parents were of Rhoda Christian Coffey, Thomas’ wife. She believes Rhoda is possibly the daughter of Thomas and Rhoda Jane Braden Christian of Morgan Co., MO. Rhoda Christian Coffey was born in MO in 1863. Please contact Becki if you can help.

Canadian cousin Maureen Coffey Donald [<mailto:robert.maureen@sasktel.net>] wrote to tell us that she believes she has discovered a missing elder brother of her 3Gfather, James L. Coffey, a son of John Hayes and Mary Burkett Coffey. This family migrated out of NC and VA into Russell Co., KY where John Hayes died in 1860 and Mary in 1896. The couple was married in 1815 in Staunton, VA.* Their first known child was Fielding Gatewood Coffey born in KY in 1819. Given four years had passed before this child was born; Maureen believes that the real

first child was John B., born 1817. She analyzed the 1820 and 1830 census records of Russell Co. as well as some court records. In 1840 she found a note in the margin of a land sale record from Oldacre to John Hayes Coffey instructing that the document was to be delivered to John B. Coffey. John B. married Elizabeth, thought to be the daughter of William Lair, Sr. In 1850 Enoch Lair, brother to William was a neighbor to John and Elizabeth. After Elizabeth died, John B. married Mary Belk, and in 1880 John B. was a resident in the home of his sister, Mary who married Richard Hadley and was enumerated as Richard's brother-in-law. Their sister Brunetta was also in the household.

Steven James Coffey [<mailto:coffey0519@gmail.com>] wrote to tell us of her descent from "John Coffey of Co. Cork" and, his son, "Edward Joshua" and Ann Powell Coffey. He believes his father descends from John > Edward > John > Thomas > Jesse > Thomas Walton > John L. > Carter Braxton > Burley Winford > his father, Jeffery Glenn Coffey. I hope that I dissuaded him about John of Co. Cork and Edward Joshua. Steven seems anxious to join in and help with research where he can.

I received these Voris photos from Jenny Orton [<mailto:guinevere56-just@yahoo.com>]. The first is Emma Marie Voris, the third child born to John William and Virginia Pearl Coffee, c1905 in Arizona. The older lady is Melissa Tipton who married Alex Voris and was the mother of John William:

E-mail from Alan Cody [<mailto:alancody@rcn.com>] asked for help locating Darold James, Keith Howard and Victor Lee Coffey, descendants of their relative, Angeline Mercy Rogers who married Andrew Noble Coffey.



Emma Marie (far left) married Oscar Elihu Clendennen and had at least three children: Marion Bradford; Melba Marie and Minnie Charlotte.

Melissa Tipton (left) was the mother of John W. Voris. She married Alex Voris Jan 3, 1861 in OH. These photos are courtesy of Jenny Orton.

* This marriage record was originally published in "Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, 1745-1800. Extracted from the Original Court Records of Augusta County" by Lyman Chalkley. Chalkley is known to have erred in transcribing many records and this too is probably incorrect. There is a marriage record for this couple in Botetourt Co. for same date. See *Virginia Historic Marriage Register* by John Vogt and T. William Kethley, Jr., 1984

I received news from out-going president Danny Coffey [<mailto:coffey@duo-county.com>] that his brother, Roger Coffey passed away on June 4, 2015. He had stopped breathing on the previous Tuesday and was flown to Louisville in an attempt to save his life. But, he had a living will and he was taken off the ventilator on Thursday morning and passed away about 4PM the same day. Roger leaves a wife and, two children and two brothers. He was 73 years old. We have sent out condolences to the family and a prayer that Roger finds his path to the Promised Land clearly lighted.

(1) DNA Project: Our Irish Clan is “Keogh”, not “Coffey”?

By Fred Coffey (Contact: FredCoffey@aol.com)

Most of the readers of this newsletter are descended from Edward Coffey, or from Peter Coffee, both of whom were immigrants to Virginia in the late 1600's and early 1700's. And you may recall that in Newsletter Issue #132, for Jul-Sep 2014, I wrote about my view that we might have found Edward and Peter's ancient homeland in Kilkenny County, Ireland This was because we had a matching DNA test on a line from a more recent immigrant, Patrick Coffey, from Ballyhale, Kilkenny. And I also wrote that DNA said our Coffey family had connections with families with names like Keogh, Keough, Kehoe, Kaho, and Keay. (I'm going to call them all "Keogh" from here on.)

We now have results from a MUCH more detailed test on the above Patrick Coffey line, and we have DNA tests on several more people with Keogh lines. And these have changed my perspective:

I now believe that Edward, Peter and Patrick's lines were NOT tied to any of the ancient Irish O'Cobhthaigh (Coffey) clans. I now believe OUR "Coffey" ancestral line traces back just a few hundred years to County Wexford, Ireland, where the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) of our large, extended family lived. But the MRCA's surname wasn't "Coffey", it was more likely something similar to "Keogh". Wikipedia will tell you that Keogh is a reduced form of the Gaelic "MacEochaidh". And that Wexford is considered an ancient homeland of the Keogh clan.

How could we go from being "Keogh", to being "Coffey"? There are several ways this could have happened: (1) Perhaps our Keogh ancestor moved to an area where there was an ancient O'Cobhthaigh (Coffey) clan, and the Coffey/Keogh names were sufficiently similar that our ancestor began to be called Coffey. Or (2), perhaps there was an adoption of a Keogh into a Coffey family. Or (3), perhaps a Keogh ancestor had trouble with the law, and decided to move elsewhere and become a "Coffey". Or (4), perhaps there was an infidelity involving a Keogh ancestor and a Coffey female.

In addition, the more detailed DNA test (111-markers versus 43-markers) revealed that the tested descendant from immigrant Patrick was more distant than expected from Edward or Peter. We are all still related, but Patrick's line's DNA seems to have more in common with "Keogh" than with the Edward/Peter DNA. I think our two lines may have left Wexford separately, and became "Coffey" separately.

And finally, given that the two lines split off separately, I now have no reason to believe that Patrick's presence in Kilkenny had anything to do with Edward/Peter. I really have no basis to claim "Kilkenny" as a homeland for Edward/Peter. I don't believe Edward/Peter came to America

from Wexford, because there is no Coffey population there. I believe their common ancestor probably moved somewhere else, became Coffey, then the descendants immigrated.

The detailed analysis behind this picture is complicated. There is a detailed discussion on our web page at:

www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA/Origins-CoffeyKeoghFamilies.pdf.

I hope some of you readers will study this paper, and challenge my conclusions or offer comments.

(2) DNA Project: When Coffey Cousins Marry Each Other

By Fred Coffey

Most of our DNA Project has to do with “y-DNA”, i.e. based on the y-Chromosome, which is handed down from father to son, just like the Coffey surname. And y-DNA only works to trace connections involving the male line, since women do not have y-DNA.

So what can we do for people who have Coffey ancestry, but have female ancestors between themselves and their Coffey ancestor? There is another type of DNA, called autosomal DNA (or atDNA). This involves all of the rest of our DNA, aside from the y-DNA. The test, called “Family Finder”, looks at the total picture, and can determine approximately how closely related to each other any two tested people might be. Generally, this yields solid results out to about the third-cousin level. And often it can also spot a more distant relationship.

You may have read about some situations reported in these newsletters where that additional test has proven useful.

But recently I had two people join our Project, who did not have the Coffey surname, but who had some curious Coffey-related FamilyFinder matches. They were Ron Wheeler and Martha Kirby. They both had known Coffey ancestors, but FamilyFinder indicated matches to each other and to various other Coffey Cousins that seemed impossibly close.

A little detective work turned up the answer, and identified the reason: Ron Wheeler had two lines of Coffey ancestry, because his parents were 5th cousins, each with a Coffey ancestor. And Martha’s great-grandmother was Julia Ann Coffey, who was the daughter of Charles L Coffey and Emily Coffey, who were 1C1R (first cousins, once removed). And every one of the other FamilyFinder matches I found also had a marriage of first cousins back in their ancestry.

Looking just at Ron and Martha, between them they had four paths back to their Coffey MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor). So they were getting four “batches” of Coffey DNA, and the test was spotting this and concluding “these people must be close – they look to probably be third cousins, or at least somewhere between second cousins and fourth cousins”.

In fact they are “2x7C+2x6C1R”. That is, they are “double seventh cousins plus double sixth cousins once removed”.

And with further digging, I turned up several other similar matches based on other family lines with Coffey-cousin marriages. One of those is my own family, where I have one such marriage of first cousins. The test said Ron, and my father’s sister Dorothy Coffey Smith, looked like “Fifth cousin to remote”. The interesting thing is that Ron and Dorothy do not have a common

ancestor until you get ALLTHE WAY BACK to the patriarch Edward. Their FOUR lines had managed to hold on to enough DNA from Edward and his wife to be detectable!

Ron and Dorothy would be approximately seventh cousins, four times. On average, seventh cousins would share 0.00305% of their DNA, so at 4X it should be about 0.0122%. And that makes them the equivalent of a "sixth cousin". However that is "on average", and each probably also benefitted from the luck of the draw on DNA hand-me-downs on a few generations.

Oh, if interested read Wikipedia's article about "Cousin Marriage". Laws and religious practices are all over the place, but it's quite common, and genetically it's not a big deal. They say that if your parents were first cousins, you have roughly the same extra genetic risk as if your mother was over age 40.

Coffey Cousins Convention 2015 Thorn Hill, Tennessee

By Bonnie Culley (<mailto:bculey@embarqmail.com>)

It was so thrilling to walk into the hotel door and be greeted by my cousins after having to miss the convention for the last several years. My heart nearly burst. We dined together at the Cracker Barrel that evening and caught up with our lives.

Kathy Whitson had a really different reunion planned for us. We were in the mountains at the foot of the Cumberland Pass near where Benjamin and Molly (Hayes) Coffey's children settled. The mountains are rugged but beautiful and Kathy took us to see the prettiest waterfall that you can imagine.

On Friday, we went to the Thorn Hill Community Center for programs. Ken Coffey, Grainger County Historian told us about the Wilderness Road and the effect that the Civil War on Grainger County.

John Samuel (Sam) Coffey brought the gourd carried by John Coffey in the War of 1812. He let people hold it and take pictures. Sam commented on it briefly. Dana Dalton assisted Sam.

Melva Coffey West and her husband Ronnie West brought the John Coffey Bible with John Coffey's 1776 birth year inscribed in it.

We car pooled for lunch at the Fried Green Tomato in Morseburg and then continued on to tour several local cemeteries on the North side of Clinch Mountain.

Next morning Stevvi Cook and Ken Coffey introduced us to the Grainger County Archives for a visit with the archivist and a look at available research materials. The local museum was really interesting. We had lunch at Bull's Restaurant in Rutledge. After lunch we toured the Cedar Springs Baptist Church, founded by Colby Rucker and his Coffey kin. Sheila Dalton, church member was our host. (I saw many relatives names in the row of minister pictures.)

Back at the Thorn Hill Community Center, we were entertained by gospel and country music provided by Dana Dalton and his family. His mother is Delta Coffey Dalton so they are cousins also. They had a bass guitar, four other guitars and ten singers rotated. We tapped lots of toes until Kathy said that it was time to eat. The meal was prepared by L. C. Shortridge and

Jeannette Owens. They were assisted by their sisters Elora McAnally and John Shortridge.

It was hard to say good-bye but my cousin, Doris and I were really tired from all the events. I was thrilled to have the chance to meet so many that I had corresponded with through my years as Coffey Cousins Editor, Coffeys, Daltons, Hayes and Ruckers. It was like a "home coming." I wish all our cousins could attend the next meeting and get the thrill of visiting with "family" as I did. Jack will tell where and when it will be so be sure to pay attention. I hope to see all of you next year.