

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded and Published by Leonard Coffey 1981-1989

Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley 1989-2012

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Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 138 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Dear Coffey-Coffee Cousins:

The New Year, 2016, has begun and there is still time to make your reservations for the Cousin's reunion in Kentucky. The details were in the last newsletter and there are probably more details in this one.

I have submitted my DNA results to Fred Coffey and he has discovered I am not of the Edward line. I am a branch off a different tree yet undiscovered. I am probably still within the six degrees of separation. Therefore, I will be at the reunion and will hopefully see new and familiar faces there.

Safe travel to the reunion!

Larry Coffey

Editor's Comments

For newsletter questions write to me; contact Fred Coffey about DNA.

E-mail us at

<mailto:jack.coffee@gmail.com> or

Fred at [mailto: FredCoffey@aol.com](mailto:FredCoffey@aol.com)

We had a tentative offer from someone to host us in Rabun Co., GA in 2017. Looks like that will not happen so, we are now looking for help to host anywhere in the US next year. Suggestions: Western TN, GA, Western NC, AL

It's really not a difficult job. Just need someone to check out hotels or motels like Best Western, etc. and eating places.

If interested without commitment, drop me an e-mail.

Famous Quotes

The trouble with family trees from the internet is you never know if they are genuine. Sam Houston

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2016 Coffey Cousins' Convention



The 2016 Coffey Cousins' Convention will be held May 5, 6 and 7 at the Lake Cumberland State Resort Park in Jamestown, Russell Co., KY. Danny & Glenda Coffey, who have hosted our cousins at this location twice in the past, have reserved the Pumpkin Creek Lodge for us that weekend. Rooms are available in the other lodge as well. Room rates are \$54.95 plus tax for Thursday night and \$71.96 for Friday and Saturday nights (resort prices). Cottages with two bedrooms, full kitchen, and living area are \$125 on Thursday and \$152 for Friday and Saturday nights. There is also an RV campground in

the park. Call for rates.

The Banquet will be held on Saturday night in the private dining room at Lure Lodge. This will be a buffet meal and will run \$22 per person.

For reservations, telephone **800-325-1709** and tell them you are with Coffey-Coffee Cousins. These rooms will be held until March 30 so be sure and call before then.

For more information about the State Park and Resort, please visit [their website](#).

We are looking forward to seeing many new as well as some of our older Cousins there!

News You Can Use

If you have been a loyal customer of **Family Tree Maker** (FTM) software, you probably know that Ancestry announced they were ending updates and revisions to the software. At first, it was thought that was the end of FTM and many researchers began rushing to find a replacement, most of which it seems gravitated to [Roots Magic](#). A subsequent Ancestry news release announced that the software would live on through a company known as [Software MacKeiv](#).

If you have been researching very long, all the while diligently attaching documents, photographs, sources, citations and other facts into whichever software you were using and then switched, you know that no two programs are alike. You recognize that the GEDCOM any program creates will not be 100% accepted by the new program. The move can cause more heartache than it is worth!

Many years ago I used FTM but stopped using it somewhere around Version 4 or so. That version was released before it was ready and although I warned FTM early about a problem (scrambled sources), they, like all software designers, told me it was a problem on my end, not theirs. Shortly thereafter, they released a patch to correct the problem I warned them of.

So, if you are still using FTM I suggest you stick with it. The new company will continue to issue regular updates and release new versions as needed. It will still function with Ancestry as usual. In the meantime, if you have already decided to go with Roots Magic, you will be happy to know that company is working with Ancestry to interface directly with them by the end of this year.

Update: Roots Magic has released an update to Ver. 7, which allows direct import of FTM files into that program.

Genealogists' Declaration of Rights

An [Ancestry blog](#) posted by Jessica Murray on Mar. 9 this year reports on the fact that our rights to "genealogically important" public records are gradually being eroded by state legislatures. She encourages all of us to become "very vocal" in our defense of those rights. I encourage you to read the blog!

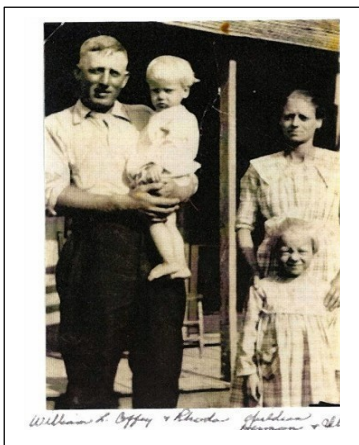
Incoming Mail



Theresa Coffey [tcoffey1@highland.net] recently wrote that she is a descendant of Edward through his son James, Reuben, James, Nelson, James Nelson, Nelson C. and Albert Worley Coffey, born 1891 in Ritner, Wayne Co., KY, died Nov. 13, 1966 in Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH. Albert married Lottie Susan Denney on Aug. 20, 1911 in Wayne Co. She was born Nov. 11, 1893 in Wayne Co. and died in Cincinnati on May 7, 1969. Both are buried at Arlington Memorial Gardens in that city. Albert and Lottie had 14 children, Theresa's dad, Earl Edison Coffey was the oldest. He was born in Wayne Co. on Jul. 7, 1912 and died in Scott Co., TN on Aug. 23, 1993. Her mother was Mary Esther Spradlin, born May 13, 1914, died Jul. 5, 1972. She and Earl were married in KY on Aug. 26, 1933. Theresa was the baby of the family. Photos of Earl and wife are available. Please contact Theresa if you are related to this family and would like to exchange information.

Christina Mallicoat [<mailto:ncwisegal@yahoo.com>] wrote to let me know she is related to the Mallicoat clan in Grainger Co., TN. Tina is having trouble researching her paternal grandmother, Bertha Wilder Mallicoat who is said to have been of Indian/German/Irish roots. Tina's grandfather was James Henry Mallicoat. Gossip tells her that Bertha had a fling with "a Coffey man" but she does not know who he might have been. Although I picked up a lot of Mallicoats in NC, attached to the Coffey clan, I do not have James Henry or Bertha in my files. I referred her to back issues of the newsletter where I hope she might find some small clue to help her. Please contact Tina if you know anything of the Mallicoat clan in Grainger Co.

M. Kay Thrush [<mailto:thrushmk@yahoo.com>] left a message on one of my Edward blogs, wondering about Asbury Marvel Coffey. I referred her to [this blog](#) that I wrote in Aug., 2009 in which I presented some opinion about Marvel Coffey and wondered if he was a son of Thomas and Sarah "Sally" Fields Coffey? Take a look at the blog and let me know your thoughts. If you know of an Asbury Marvel Coffey, please contact Kay and CC: me.



Gail Pool [<mailto:catwoman213@hotmail.com>] of McAlester, OK wrote to Bonnie offering information on her family. Her dad was Woodie/Woody Pursley and his mother was Ona Belle Hensley, second wife of William Leonard "Wink" Coffey. The photo is of Wink and first wife Rhoda Ellen Copeland to whom he was married on Apr. 21, 1930 in Wishart, Polk Co., MO. After Rhoda died he married Ona Belle Hensley who had previously married Charles Levy Pursley. Gail shared much information on both families with me, including a few photographs. This photo shows Wink and Rhoda with their first two children, Ltress, born c1914 and Herman, born c1918. Please contact Gail if you would like more information, or to let her know you are a cousin.

Otis Morris [<mailto:otismorris812@aol.com>] dropped a note to announce plans for the 80th Coffee Reunion to be held Jul. 29-31, 2016 at Granbury, TX. Granbury is 37 miles to the SW of Fort Worth and 73 miles from Dallas. Headquarters is the La Quinta Inn & Suites in Granbury. These Coffees are descendants of James Coffey, said to be a son of Joel who married Martha Stepp and James' wife, Elizabeth "Betsy" Coffey, a daughter of Nathan and Mary Saunders Coffey. Contact Otis for more information.

Margaret K. Jordan [<mailto:glasskey@aol.com>] sent this very nice photograph of the five daughters of Lucien Fletcher and his wife Frances Everett. The daughter Flavonia was the second wife of Pitt Woodward (some say Woodroof) "Pitt" Coffey. Pitt was a son of Charles Edward Coffey and Sarah Jane "Jane" Ogden of Amherst Co., VA.. These Coffeys are descendants of Jordan of Coffeytown, VA who we know through DNA testing to be Talliaferro (Toliver).



Flavonia is seated in front. Others in the photo are, left to right, Mary Frances Fletcher Brammer; Cornelia Flora Fletcher Grow; Lucy Hill Fletcher Scott; and Elizabeth Fletcher

Long time Coffey Cousin Joe Langwell [<mailto:jolangwell@tx.rr.com>] wrote to remind us of the death in San Antonio of Lucy Coffey on Mar. 21, 2015 at age 108. She was the oldest female veteran in the US and just days younger than the nation's oldest living male veteran, Richard Overton of Atlanta. Lucy was born in Indiana and was working and living in Dallas when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. She enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and served in various locations in the Pacific theater including ten years at a procurement office in Japan before moving to retirement in San Antonio. She was awarded two Bronze Stars. According to the article, appearing in the Dallas Morning News on March 21, 2015, Lucy had just completed an "Honor Flight" to Washington where she met former Senator Bob Dole, also a WW2 veteran, Pres. Obama and VP Biden. My records show that Lucy was the daughter of Philip Lewis and Carrie Mae Miller Coffey and was born in Martinsville, Morgan Co., IN in May 1906. Philip was a son of Moses Turpin and Lucinda Renner Coffey.

Bonnie Culley [<mailto:bculey@embarqmail.com>] send a copy of *Your Letter from Ireland* published weekly by Mike Collins [<mailto:mike@youririshheritage.com?subject=Your Irish Letter>] of County Cork. This edition tells us about a custom in Ireland of passing down christening robes through several generations. It also tells us about an iron bell that summoned Monks to prayers at a monastery on the island of Inishkeel off the coast of Portnoo in Donegal on the west coast. It was founded by Saint Conall in the 6th Century. Interested readers will find a photograph and other details about the bell at [Treasures of Heaven](#).

Laura Coffey [<mailto:lauralcoffey@gmail.com>], a descendant of Edward, recently wrote to Fred Coffey with DNA questions. She outlined her descent from Edward just a tad incorrectly. Fred provided her with the correct descent and advice on DNA testing. Her descent is through Marvel who married Nancy Pendley and their son, William Luther.

Judge Richard L. Coffey



Judge Coffey was a native of Monroe Co., IN, born there on May 7, 1835. He was the son of Lewis and Harriette E. Powell Coffey, Lewis being a descendant of Edward through son John, and his son Thomas who married Sarah "Sally" Fields. Like many families of the day, his father was a famer. Richard grew up on his family farm near Ellettsville. According to published history,¹ he had a rudimentary education in local schools before entering Franklin College in Indiana. His uncle, [Reuben A. Coffey](#) was a founder of that College.

After graduation, Richard taught school for a few years and later married Margaret Lytton, the daughter of Lorance Lytton, said to be a pioneer in Spencer, IN. The marriage resulted in one daughter, Annie. He farmed then until his wife died in Jan., 1857.

On July 10, 1863, along with Adolphus (son of Larkin), Asbury (son of James Wilson), James D. (son of Archelaus) and [Adoniram](#) (son of Reuben A.) Coffey, he enlisted in the Union Army. He then gave his occupation as Lawyer and unmarried. In 1864 he married for a second time and then to Martha F. Falkner on Apr. 26 in Owen Co., IN. Martha died within a year of the marriage and probably in child birth. By the end of that year Richard had taken a third wife, Julia Mattie Mason. It is with her that he fathered at least four children, all born in IN: William Lewis in 1866; [Jasper Hill](#) in c1868; Lucy J., c1873 and Richard Mason, 1877.

William married Rosa Belle Clarke in 1893 and they were parents of Lela Marie, James William Wendell; Alton Powell; Arthur Livingston and Marguerite. William died in 1934 and Rosa Benne in 1946.

Jasper married Louisa J. Metheny in Brown Co., IN on May 22, 1912. He died in Sellerburg, Clark Co., IN in 1933. Louisa preceded him in 1929.

Lucy married Edgar L. Battin in Johnson Co., IN in 1898 and had Gail, Harry C., Earl R. and Mabel. Edgar died in Nashville, Brown Co., IN in 1911. I have not yet found a death date for Lucy.

Richard married Victoria Grimes on Aug. 29, 1905 in Nashville, IN. She was born to Charles Edward Grimes and Amanda Pool in Brown Co. on Apr. 12, 1883. He died in IN in 1936, she in 1957. They had at least three children: Mary Wanda, 1906-1975, married James Wells Leppert in 1927 and had at least two children; Barbara in c1929 and Susan c1934. James died in 1957, Bartholomew Co., IN, she in 1975 also in Bartholomew Co.

In 1878 Richard was elected state senator for the district composed of Brown and Bartholomew counties. After four years he returned to practice law and in 1876 was picked by then Gov. Hendricks to be Marshal in and for Indiana's 3d Congressional District. His duties were to oversee the election of Democratic Electors for the approaching presidential election.

Judge Richard L. Coffey died on May 1, 1901 at Washington, Brown Co., IN and was buried at South View Cemetery in Nashville, Brown Co. Julia died on Jan. 28, 1907 in Brown Co. and was also buried at Southview Cemetery.

¹ Charles Blanchard, Editor, *Counties of Morgan, Monroe and Brown, Indiana. Historical and Biographical* (Chicago, IL: F. A. Battey & Co. Publishers, 1884), Pages 759-760 and, "Brown County Journal, Nashville, Brown Co., IN", <http://tinyurl.com/jf9w3ta>

Jonathon Horton Coffey

Jonathon was a son of Jasper Pink Coffey and Mary Jane Minton. He was born in Lenoir, Caldwell Co., NC on Mar. 30, 1876 and died in Norton, Norton Co., KS on Oct. 31, 1961. He married Maude B. Ayers on May 14, 1903 at Junction City, Geary Co., KS. Maude was a daughter of James F. Ayers and Matilda R. Schiller, and was born Jan. 25, 1885 in OK and died Oct. 10, 1969 in Topeka, Shawnee Co., KS.

There were three children born to this marriage: Lawrence A., 1904-1975; Hellen, c1907-? and Walter John, 1912-1964.

However, this piece is not about this Coffey family, which DNA testing has shown to be surnamed Estes, but about Maude's father, James was probably born in Stokes Co., NC and enlisted in the Union Army at Richmond VA in 1868.

After the initial enlistment, James re-enlisted five more times. His military records between the first and his last in 1892 have not been found. The last one notes his age as 43 years. He served for 27 years before retiring as a Sergeant and died in Jan. 1895. His gravesite is located at the Fort Riley Post Cemetery in Geary Co., KS.

Early in his career, James was assigned to Co. H of the 6th Cavalry in KS. The unit was under the command of Lt. Austin Henely, an Irish emigrant who was also a graduate of West Point. They were part of the US forces assigned to remove remaining plains Indians from their homelands to a reservation in then Indian Territory, now the state of OK. During the removal process, the pursuits and battles with the

Indians was termed the [Red River War](#) and lasted from 1874 to 1875.

On Apr. 23, 1875, Co. H, along with troopers from Co. K of the 19th US Infantry were ordered to round up a band of Southern Cheyenne from their camp along the third fork of Sappa Creek in what is now Rawlins Co., KS. The resulting battle has often been termed a “massacre.”

According to history,² troopers attacked and destroyed the camp, killing about 27 of the Cheyenne while suffering only two losses. Eight troopers received Medals of Honor for their action. One of those was Pvt. James F. Ayers for “Rapid pursuit, gallantry, energy, and enterprise in an engagement with Indians.”

² John H. Commett, *Massacre at Cheyenne Hole: Lieutenant Austin Henley and the Sappa Creek Controversy*: University Press of Colorado (1999).

(1) DNA Project: About Coffey Diversity

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

I just recently saw y-DNA test results for Larry Coffey, the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse President. We observed that he had NO matches to ANY previously tested Coffey DNA Project participant. Anyone who has attended a CCC Convention, or who reads the articles in this newsletter, knows that most of our people descend from Edward Coffey, who was in America by 1699. Does Larry’s failure to match this line disqualify him?

Larry speculated that the Cousins might decide to IMPEACH him for being an imposter! I told him I would testify about his qualifications at his trial:

Much of what follows is covered somewhere in the Coffey DNA Project Web Page. If you want more details on what I have to say here, have a look at:

www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA

President Larry descends from John Coffey, who is found in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 census in Lawrence, Mercer County, NJ. Per the census, John and his wife Mary, and two of their children James and Patrick, were born in Ireland in or before 1850. The younger children were all born in New Jersey, starting with Mary in 1853. So the family arrived from Ireland between 1850 and 1853.

We don’t know where in Ireland Larry’s ancestor John came from. But Larry’s sole DNA match is to a “Walton”, whose ancestor came from County Cork, Ireland. It’s quite possible, maybe even likely, that John also came from Cork.

Cork is part of the ancient Munster region in Ireland, which also includes Kerry and other nearby modern counties. And Munster, particularly Kerry, is home to one of the truly ancient Coffey Clans, and we do have matching DNA tests consistent with that ancient Clan. But there is something else interesting about Munster; our DNA Project has several men with Coffey name, but with DNA that does NOT match that Clan. And members of that Clan have DNA matches to a lot of people with family names other than Coffey. This actually is not surprising; it is common that a significant percentage of people will have surnames inconsistent with their presumed genealogical origins, typically as a result of adoptions or infidelity.

This is exactly what has happened with the American “Coffey Clan” that descends from Edward. We now have several lines of people with the Coffey surname they got from Edward, but not with Edward’s DNA. And also several lines with Edward’s DNA, but not the Coffey surname. And this developed in only about

300 years! Munster has had 1000 years to confuse Coffey DNA and surnames! The difference is that in America we have enough genealogical history to KNOW how this happened!

Consider also the qualifications of some of the previous presidents of the CCC. The longest holder of that position was Thomas Jefferson "Jeff" Coffey, who believed his ancestor was Hugh Coffey, who came to America in the early 1700's. However the DNA tells us that Hugh was NOT related to the Edward line. Also consider former president Jack Coffee (currently editor of this newsletter). He does have Edward connections, but his DNA is "Mills".

We also know about the Ambrose Coffey who fought with Daniel Boone. And DNA now tells us this Ambrose is also NOT related to Edward. But Ambrose DOES seem to connect to another ancient Coffey Clan, from the Counties Meath/Westmeath area.

And of course we used to worry about descendants of Peter Coffee, who arrived in America separately from Edward. But here DNA brought things TOGETHER. The DNA says Peter and Edward were definitely relatives - we just don't know the exact details.

Well then, at least those of us who descend from Edward or Peter, and who do have his matching DNA, can be secure in our "Coffeyness". Right? Well, maybe not. We can make a good case that back in Ireland the original name was NOT Coffey, and we are thus NOT descended from any of the ancient O'Cobhthaigh (Coffey) Clans. Our ancestral name was originally some variation on Keogh, Keough, Kehoe, or Kaho. And we are descended from the ancient MacEochaidh (Keogh) Clan.

Back to President Larry: The CCC is effectively a group researching ANY line with a connection to a Coffey name. Larry's ancestor came to America with a perfectly good Coffey name, and that is quite sufficient qualification to be "President". We rest our case.

(2) DNA Project: Looking for Deeper Coffey/Keogh Roots

By Fred Coffey

Those of us that descend from Edward or Peter (just one of MANY Coffey groups, per previous article!) have been working to use DNA to look deeper and deeper into our origins. In Newsletter Issue #136, we reported we were starting to use another type of y-DNA test, which looks for "SNPs" (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms). These are mutations in single locations within the 60,000,000 nucleotides of the Y-chromosome. These, when they occur, mark all future descendants of the individual who "suffered" the mutation. Any tested living person who shows that "mark" must descend from the mutated individual.

We discussed that we were starting to use a DNA test called "Big Y" to explore how these SNPs can define our deep ancestry. And we have just completed the test on four individuals. We have the test on **Billy Coffey** who is a descendant of Edward, on **Donald M Coffey** who is a descendant of Peter, on **Donald L Coffey** who descends from a more recent immigrant Patrick who arrived in 1863, and on **Raymond Keogh** who still lives in Ireland.

The new test confirms much of what we had already learned from standard STR DNA testing. All four clearly have a Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) within the last several hundred years. Billy is closest to Donald M, and Donald L is closest to Raymond.

Tim Peterman is our expert on this sort of testing. Tim has published a paper on the topic, which you can read at:

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/dna/BigYbyTimPeterman.pdf>

The goal is to integrate our results with other family lines, to look at truly long-term origins. The study will continue for many years.

We'll keep you informed.