

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded and Published by Leonard Coffey 1981-1989

Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley 1989-2012

Editor and Publisher: [Jack K. Coffee](#)

Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 139 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Greetings Coffey/Coffey Cousins,

The cousins have all returned safely from the Convention at Cumberland State Park. The Convention, hosted by Danny and Glenda Coffey, thank you both for all the work and hosting a wonderful event. We also elected this year's officials. The last slate was so good that all were re-appointed, Vice President Wayne Mower, Treasurer Glenda Coffey, and recording Secretary Nelda Coffee. Special thanks to Jack Coffee for keeping the newsletter operational. Bonnie Culley is hosting next year's convention in Missouri. Watch this space for information. I did not forget the ladies who assisted the convention with door prizes and wonderful delicacies. More on this in the next newsletter

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)

The next Coffey Cousins Reunion will be held in Jefferson City, MO and hosted by Bonnie Culley. More information will be posted, including dates, as it is received.

The Reunion in Jamestown, KY this year was a very nice affair. Bonnie's report on the doings will appear will appear below.

Famous Quotes

The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life. Richard Bach

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As always, an Interesting read from Fred this quarter..

William Lawson Coffey

I wrote about William in Vol. 131, Apr.-Jun. 2014. His story and family photo appears on pages 4-5 of that issue and relates a family story of his service at the Battle of Midway during WW2. I was recently contacted by Commander Gerry Lawton [<mailto:mav448@gmail.com>] a retired 30-year veteran of the US Navy who describes himself as a “family history researcher and historian.” He relates a substantially different story from that which appeared in Vol. 131. Chief Coffey was the father of Coffey Cousin Susan Coffey Wooten [<mailto:nmhtc4sue@yahoo.com>].

The following is verbatim from CDR Lawton’s e-mail:

My name is Gerry Lawton. I'm a 30 yr retired US Navy CDR and family history researcher and historian. I have enlisted and officer service during my career, and I've done 2 tours on carriers; USS Independence and USS Midway. While on Find A Grave.com last May (2015) I saw Chief Coffey's thumbnail picture come up as part of the stroll. Recognizing the uniform I opened and read his memorial page. I knew little about the specifics of the battle of Midway, but as I read the family lore about Chief Coffey voluntarily giving up his seat on his torpedo plane to a friend and fellow torpedoman it seemed unusual to me. That is how this year long quest to investigate the story began. I try to be very careful when I research family lore so I don't do it often or take it lightly. Chief Coffey had a distinguished career, and he served his country proudly so this is no attempt to diminish that. Please let me share some of what I've found during my research.

First, Chief Coffey was not a torpedoman. He was an Aviation Machinist Mate (aircraft engine mechanic). Just prior to Midway he was one of only several aviation machinist mates in the entire US Navy who had been trained on the Navy's newest torpedo plane, the TBF-1, that came to be known as the Avenger (name came from the need to avenge the losses at Midway). The new engine was called the Cyclone, and he was the only one in the Torpedo Eight detachment on the Midway Atoll that had training on it! He was the only one who could fix it.

This fact is critical to the story. He was also an AMM1, a senior technician with a lot of experience.

Chief Coffey was not aboard the Hornet during the battle of Midway. He was on the island of Midway with the six new TBF-1 aircraft that made up a detachment from Torpedo Squadron Eight (VT-8) aboard Hornet. The main part of a VT-8 were flying the old TBD-1 Dauntless torpedo planes.

VT-8 was scheduled to receive 21 new Avengers. When the war began Hornet’s training and scheduling were pushed forward. Now it would not be possible for VT-8 aboard Hornet to take delivery of the Avengers. It was decided to divide the squadron in half; half would remain in Norfolk to take delivery of the Avengers (under the command of Lt. Harold “Swede” Larsen) and receive the necessary training, and the other half (under the squadron CO Lcdr John Waldron) would sail aboard Hornet and fly the older Dauntless. Chief Coffey was in the group that remained in Norfolk.

The Hornet entered the war in the Pacific and participated in the early raids on some Japanese held islands, and then in the Doolittle raid. In the meantime, Larsen's group received factory training from Grumman at the Naval Air Station (NAS), Norfolk and by mid-May 1942 they were ordered to rejoin the rest of the squadron as soon as possible. They flew cross country to NAS North Island in San Diego. There, they were delayed because Grumman needed to apply more

modifications to the aircraft. When that work was completed, the planes and men proceeded to Alameda, CA where they were loaded aboard the USS Hammondsport (AVP-2), a converted railroad car transport. The ship proceeded to Pearl Harbor arriving on 28 May, one day after Hornet had sailed to participate in the battle of Midway.

To bolster the defenses on the Island of Midway in anticipation of the forthcoming battle, the Pacific Commander's air staff directed that a detachment of six of the now 20 Avengers (one was lost enroute CA) be sent to Midway. All crews were volunteers. Chief Coffey flew in one of those six planes as a crewman with AMM1 (NAP) Pilot Darrel D Woodside, and Ptr2 Arnold T Meuers. After these six planes reached Midway on 01 Jun 1942 their detachment commander, Lt Langdon K. Fieberling determined that Chief Coffey was too valuable an asset to the detachment/squadron to fly into combat and had a replacement found. That replacement, Aviation Ordnanceman Third Class Lyonel J. Orgeron who was assigned to VP-44, a PBY reconnaissance squadron on Midway. *I don't believe they knew each other or were friends. The fact that they were stationed on opposite coasts and Orgeron had been in the Navy for a very short time supports that. They had no opportunity to meet previously.* [emphasis mine]

War correspondent Ira Wolfert was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the Battle of Guadalcanal. He writes in his 1943 published book, *Torpedo 8*, on p. 16, the following;

"The fellows at Midway were dug out of their sacks at five o'clock in the morning. 'Holy crock, Doc,' and so forth, 'Grab your sock. It's five o'clock, Doc,' and so forth, 'Time to get up.' Third-class ordnanceman Lyonel J. Orgeron stirred no more than a log might through the bellowing. He was replacing William Lawson Coffey as tunnel gunner in one of the planes. Coffey was a top-grade mechanic and it had been thought more sensible to let him work on the planes instead of in them. 'Let him sleep,' whispered Coffey, 'I'll go.' Where the bellowing had failed to disturb Orgeron, the whisper didn't. He snapped awake instantly. 'Hell, no!' he cried, slapping his feet on the deck, 'this is my pigeon.' He looked around the tent and saw most of the fellows had gone and grabbed his shoes and socks and shirt and ran barefoot to the airfield, carrying his shoes in his hand and crying, 'Wait for baby.'"

I find it astonishing that Wolfert put that one small piece in his book when there was an event of historic proportions about to engulf everyone there. But, that was the truth of why then Petty Officer Coffey did not die during the Air Battle of Midway. Later that morning the lone surviving Avenger piloted by Ensign Bert Earnest returned to Midway so full of bullet and cannon holes it would never fly again. Ensign Earnest and his radioman, ARM3 Harry Ferrier, although wounded, survived. The third member of that crew, Seaman 1/c Jay D Manning, was killed in action. His body was recovered. The next day he was buried at sea with the casualties from the Japanese bombing of Midway the previous morning. Petty Officer Coffey assisted Ens Earnest gather the personal effects of the other 5 crews who did not return. Ens Earnest and later CDR Ferrier have written accounts about their exploits on 4 Jun 1942 in a paper called, *Avengers at Midway*. Petty Officer Coffey is also mentioned. It is available online. Just Google the paper's name. Its in PDF format.

[There is an anomaly in this article. In the second paragraph, this page, Gerry writes that Coffey and Orgeron did not know one another. In the last paragraph, he appears to confirm that they did know one another. I don't believe that Orgeron and Coffey could not help but know each other, even if it was in passing. Gerry also wrote later that Orgeron had been "temporarily assigned as a crew member of Coffey's plane." They may have not met previously but I can certainly believe they knew each other on the Island of Midway. For an update on William's brother, Otto Marion Coffey, see the [Edward Coffey Project Blog](#)]

George T. Johnson Killed

George was a son of Leander Vance "Lee" Johnson and his wife, Ella Elzina Coffey. Lee was born in Wilkes Co., NC in 1879 to George and Eliza Whittington Johnson. He was married in 1904 to Ella, also born in Wilkes Co. in Apr., 1883. Lee died in North Wilkesboro in 1959, Ella, a daughter of John Drury and Sarah Ann Wyatt Coffey, preceded Lee in death in 1957. Both are buried at the Reddies River Baptist Church cemetery in Wilbar, Wilkes Co. To them were born at least four children: William Thomas, Sarah Virginia; George T. and Arthur Franklin.

WILKES FARMER HELD FOR FATAL SHOOTING

George T. Johnson, 30, Killed
In Reddies River
Community.

(Special to Daily News)

NORTH WILKESBORO, June 15. —George T. Johnson, 30, died this morning in the Wilkes hospital from two bullet wounds inflicted Saturday evening by Ambrose Shepherd at the Shepherd home in the Reddies River community, 12 miles northwest of here.

Johnson was hit twice, once in the neck and once in the abdomen. The bullet in his neck penetrated his spinal column.

Shepherd, a prominent farmer of the Reddies River community, came to Wilkesboro and surrendered to officers who placed him in jail. No date has been set for a hearing.

Johnson was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Johnson, tenants on the Shepherd farm, where he was reared. For the past few years he lived near North Wilkesboro and was employed as a truck driver by a local firm.

Funeral will be held Monday at 2 o'clock, at Reddies River church.

Johnson is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sarah Johnson; his father and mother; three brothers, James, Will and Arthur Johnson, and two sisters, Mrs. Ray Bungarner, and Miss Sarah Johnson.

The Greensboro Daily News, Greensboro, NC, Mon., Jun 16, 1941, Page 10

George was born in 1911, the third in order. His parents were tenants on the farm of Ambrose Shepherd in North Wilkesboro and, according to a news report of 1941, George was born and raised on the Shepherd farm. Several years prior to his death, George had lived away from the farm and had been working as a truck driver.

On the morning of June 15, 1941, George, age 30 years, was shot and killed by Ambrose Shepherd.

At the trial, testimony of an eyewitness to the shooting reported that Johnson had removed Shepherd's glasses and struck him, then picked up a couple of rocks. It was then that Shepherd retreated to his home and retrieved a gun with which he shot Johnson as he was preparing to leave.

George was buried at the Reddies River church cemetery

Shepherd was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to the NC State Penitentiary for a period of three to five years. The verdict was upheld on appeal. He died in 1956 at the age of 73 and was buried at the Reddies River church cemetery.

NOTE: I have posted many archived newspaper clippings about Edward descendants on [Pinterest](#). They include photos, obituaries, weddings, death notices, engagements, etc. Feel free to look and save what you need. Use Ctl-F from your keyboard to search for a name.

Edward Coffey Property, Essex Co., VA

Many of us have thought about searching Essex Co., VA deeds for Edward's property that he farmed following his release from indentured servitude in 1699. Based on the following description, it might take more than a day or two to follow the sale to a modern day description of the property.

Essex Co. deed book 23, page 276, dated Jul. 15, 1745 reads thusly: "John Coffey and wife, Jane Coffey, of Spotsylvania County, Virginia to Silvanus Allen, of Essex County, Virginia, in consideration of 24 pounds current money, a parcel of land lying and being in the County of Essex and parish of St. Anne containing 100 acres, being part of a trace of 200 acres formerly called by name of Moseley's Quarter, and bounded, viz: beginning at a corner oak and maple in a branch of Gilson's run, and running thence N-W 126 poles to a stake, a corner between the sd. land and the land of William Balland, thence N-E 132 poles to a corner red oak sapling standing by the plantation of Stephen Chenault, thence along a new made line S-E 126 poles to a hickory in the line of John Garnett, then along his line and the time of William Taylor S-W 132 poles to the beginning, together with all houses, woods, and under woods." Witness: John Garnett, William Duling, William Chenault John Coffey [seal] Jane Coffey [seal]

Gilson's Run could be the current day Mount Landing Creek. A web search says that it is also known as Andrew Gelson Creek, Andred Gilson's Greek, Andrew Jelson Creek, Coldman's Mill Creek, Jones Mill Creek, Mill Creek, Mill's Creek, Parker's Creek, Richard Tignor Creek, Waring's Mill Creek and Weir's Creek.

A map of the area shows a rather large area draining into the creek and into the Rappahannock. Tappahannock is the oldest town in Essex Co. Based on the above description, the property would likely be found a few miles to NW of Tappahannock.

It would be greatly appreciated if any Coffey researcher is ever researching in Essex Co. would attempt to locate this property and provide other researchers with its modern property descriptions.

Incoming Mail

Diann Long [<mailto:diann.long52@yahoo.com>] wrote asking for assistance identifying one of her ancestors, Maggie Belle Coffey. Maggie was born 1878/79 in Trenton, Jackson Co., AL and died in 1966. She is buried at Ryland Shiloh Cemetery in Madison Co., AL. She married John Newton Harbin on Aug. 22, 1898 in Jackson Co., AL. Maggie does not appear in my Edward Coffey Project file. Although some of Edward's descendants were at one time or another residents of that county, Maggie was probably a descendant of Peter's son, Joshua and Elizabeth Graves Coffey. Please write to Diann if you can help her sort out Maggie's ancestry.

Kathie Hodson [<mailto:kathiehodson@hotmail.com>] wrote to Fred Coffey asking for information concerning a "Coffey/Cleveland book" that might show some connection to Grover Cleveland. Fred passed it on to me for comment and I replied with a link to the only "book" I am aware of. That book is available at Archive.Org. I have not read the book in its entirety and have no info that ties President Cleveland to the Edward Coffey family. If you can help Kathie, please write to her at the above address.

Don Kerns [<mailto:dkerns823@me.com>] recently wrote to express his appreciation for the "quality of the 'Coffey Cousins Newsletter'" and the effort your humble editor puts into it. Don

added that he had recently been “contacted by a distant cousin who got my name from your publication, and we were able to exchange information that helped us both.” Thanks Don! Your comments are well received and appreciated.

Doug Coffey wrote to notify us that his e-mail address has changed from bevcoffey@charter.net to <mailto:dqcoffey48@gmail.com>.

Karl Thacker [mailto:kt_50320@yahoo.com] wrote seeking assistance in sorting out unexpected results from his DNA test. In a partial report on his tree, Karl pointed out that his great-grandmother was Ellen Miranda Coffey, born 1876 in Baring, Knox Co., MO. Ellen married Thomas Elton Thacker in MO c1896. At least seven children were born to that union including Earl, c1897, Mary Elizabeth, c1898, Henry or Harry, born c1900; Myrtle, born 1 Dec. 1901 in AZ; Madrid, female, born c1904 in AZ, Beatrice, born c1908 in MO and Wilmer Charles, born Jul. 22, 1911 in MO.

It is that last child from which Karl descends. Wilmer married Evelyn M. DeCoursey. The problem with Wilmer is that Karl’s DNA names him a descendant of a Mr. Swift. Miranda and Thomas divorced within a couple of years after Wilmer’s birth. Karl’s research points out that in 1910, a Charles Swift was living a few blocks away from the Thackers. Charles has been a difficult search. Please contact Karl if you can help untangle his ancestry.

Lee Gragg [<mailto:graggs4@yahoo.com>] wrote that his 3d great-grandfather was Paza Gragg who he believed to be the son of a Ms. Coffey who would have been his 4th great-grandmother. I wrote back with info that Edmund Paza Gragg was said to be the child of William E. Philyaw and Nancy “Nicey” Coffey. Paza married Mahulda Vasty Gragg and they became parents of at least eight children, all born in GA. I also wrote that I didn’t know much about William Philyaw but, thought him to be a son of Moses H. and Pucinda Ann Holden Philyaw. Nicey was a daughter of Joseph and Isabella Lindsay Coffey. Joseph descended from Edward through son John and through his son Reuben. I offered more assistance but have not heard back from Lee.

While at the annual Coffey Cousins gathering in Jamestown, Russell Co., KY last month, I had a chance to talk with Danny Coffey [<mailto:coffey@duo-county.com>] about his ancestry. Although DNA testing shows Danny to be a descendant of Edward, his research ends at his great-grandfather, Jackson Coffey. Jackson appears in the 1850 and 1870 Russell county census records but nothing further back to identify who Jackson’s father was. He recalls as a kid hearing the name “Javee” or “J. V.” (as it sounded to Danny) but that’s all. Danny’s grandfather was Willis Shelby Coffey who was the son of Sidney and Frances Jane George Coffey, and grandson of Jackson. We need to know more about Jackson and would really like to hear from anyone with more information about this family. Many of this family are buried at the Jamestown Cemetery in Russell Co. See Find A Grave memorial [No. 82450271](#) to view Willis’ headstone and obituary.

Mike Dixon [<mailto:cmiked53@yahoo.com>] Mike is still working to find out who Elizabeth Coffey was who married John Scarborough in Wilkes Co. in 1830. He also provided a great internet link to [NC Land Grants](#). I have not yet had an opportunity to explore it fully but, it looks promising.

Marianne Coffey Morrison [<mailto:morrisom@frontier.com>] wrote to me and Fred telling us about her Fred Thomas Coffey, Oct., 1903 in NC, died Jan 1980 in Lee Co., FL. There are at least two Coffey men named Fred Thomas and born in NC in 1903. One was a son of Bynum Nelson and Eva May Crisp Coffey, who married Flossie Estelle Hall in 1928. The other, and the one we believe Marianne is searching for was the son of James Larkin Coffey who married Rachel Elizabeth Robbins. This Fred Thomas is thought to have married Margaret Riley of Chicago but a marriage

record has not been found by me. I believe this is the Fred T. that appeared in the 1930 and 1940 census in Chicago, Cook Co., IL with children Fred Howard, Margaret, Louise, Shirley May and Joy. Please contact Marianne if you can help.

Chesley Coffey

In their respective books¹, Rothart and Daniels wrote that a “young son” of Chesley Coffey was murdered in 1799 by the Harp brothers on the Natchez Trace in Tennessee. Chesley researchers have reason to believe that Chesley and Jane Cleveland had seven children: Joel, Salathiel, Chesley, Jr., Nebuzaradan, Nathan, Martin and Jesse Cleveland.

There may be some variations in the compiled trees of researchers but those are the names that I have been handed. We have approximate birth and death dates for the first six. Dates for Jesse Cleveland are missing. Could Jesse have been the son that was killed by the Harps?

Chesley, Jr., born 1755, died 1818 in Maury Co., TN is said to have married Margaret Baldwin and had a number of children, including Joel, born 1789, married Sarah Mackey in Maury Co. in 1818. Joel and Sarah went west from Tennessee and lived about 25 or 30 years in Cooper Co., MO before moving on to what is now Clark Co. WA. Sarah likely died in Cooper Co. but her burial place is not known to me. While in that county Sarah gave birth to Terral Mackey; Alexander Lewis, Mary Louisa and Elizabeth Angeline Coffey. Children born in Tennessee were William, Chesley Shelton, Derrindia and Amanda Coffey. Amanda when with her father and siblings to the Oregon Territory but the first three are thought to have stayed either in their birth state or perhaps moved to Mississippi with Chesley Shelton².



Chesley Shelton was born c1816 and died Feb. 10, 1869 in Fayette, Jefferson Co., MO. He married Mississippi Seraphine Davis on Oct. 25, 1849 in Jefferson Co. She was born in Tennessee in Apr., 1833 and died in Jefferson Co., in Nov., 1884.

They are known to have raised at least seven children: Bradford D., born c1850; Charles Clark, Sr., born 1853, died 1917 in Memphis, Shelby Co., TN; Chesley, Jr., born c1855, died 1898 in Fayette, MS; John Mott, born c1857 in MS, died 1915 in Fayette; Watt, born MS c1862; Sallie, born c1865 in MS and Edgar Nathan, born May 1869 in MS, died Nov. 28, 1922 in Birmingham, Jefferson Co., AL.

Charles Clark, Sr. married Olive S. Bullen, a Louisiana girl, on Feb. 24, 1880 in Jefferson Co., MS. She was the daughter of James H. and Sarah Jane Davis Bullen, born Dec., 1858 in Carroll Parish, now East Carrol Parish, LA and died Jul., 1937 in Whitehaven, Shelby Co., TN. They

¹ Otto Rothart, *Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock*, 1924 A.H. Clark Co., Cleveland, OH & Jonathan Daniels, *The Devil's Backbone*, 1985, Pelican Publishing, Gretna, LA

² William Terrell Lewis wrote that Sarah Mackey, daughter of Wm. L. Mackey, was born in Rutherford Co., NC in 1795, had three children and died in Missouri. He names her children as William, Chesley and Derrindia. “After the death of Mrs. Sarah Coffey, Mr. Coffey moved to Oregon.” If that information is accurate, the other children attributed to Joel must have been with a second wife. Lewis, *Genealogy of the Lewis Family in America*, Louisville, KY, The Courier-Journal Job Printing Co., 1893

were parents of Charles Lamar, Coralie Alma, Irma Lucille, Charles, Jr., Willie Elmer, and Eugene Vernon.

Chesley, Jr, born 1855 married Almyra Arnitta on Aug. 1, 1887 in Jefferson Co., MS. I have not been able to determine if Arnitta is a surname or middle name. The only child that I am aware of was Lenard Camille Coffey, born Aug., 1891, died Jul., 1893 in Jefferson Co. Chesley Jr. died in Dec., 1898. I have no further information of Almyra. She was likely young enough to remarry after Chesley died.

John Mott was born c1857 in Jefferson Co. and died there in Sep., 1915. He married Mamie West in Jefferson Co., in Nov., 1896. Mamie was born in Nov., 1873 and died in Jefferson Co. in Mar., 1933. Their children were John D., 1898-?; Ulabelle, 1899-1982 and Allein Mamie, 1902-1986. Ulabelle married Ralph Ferdinand Lehman, born 1897 in Franklin Co., MS, died 1956 in Natchez, Adams Co. Ulabelle and Ralph spent much of their life together in Baton Rouge, LA. Their children were Christine, Anna and Camille. John D. married Helen Gray in 1917, Mendenhall, Simpson Co., MS. Helen was born c1895 in MS. The only child known to me was John D., Jr., born c1921. His wife is not known but he is thought to be the father of Milicent West Coffey, born 1 Jun. 1850, died 3 Jun. 1950 in Jefferson Co., MS. The daughter Allein did not marry.

Nothing is known of Watt, born c1862 and Sallie, born c1865.

Edgar Nathan, born May 1869, married c1889 in MS to Caroline Watson Campbell. She was a daughter of Robert William and Anna Cordelia Girault Campbell, and was born in MS in Jun, 1869. She died in Nov., 1955 at Spokane, WA. Edgar died in Nov., 1922 in Birmingham, Jefferson Co., AL. Their children were Edgar, Jr., Mamie, Chesley Shelton; Lillian Camille; Ruth and Robert.

More information is available upon request.

Texas Coffee/Coffey Family Reunion

Don't forget the 80th Annual Texas Coffee/Coffey Reunion to be held at LaQuinta Inn & Suites in Granbury, TX, Jul. 29-31, 2016. Contact Otis Morris [<mailto:otismorris812@aol.com>] for more details.

Coffey Cousins Convention 2016

By Bonnie Culley

Lake Cumberland, KY has always been a great place to for our Coffey Convention. Where were YOU this year?? This was the smallest gathering of Coffey Cousins we have ever had. The price was reasonable. The food is great and they give us Pumpkin Creek Lodge all to ourselves. Of course we can give Danny and Glenna Coffey credit for being such good hosts. How many genealogy groups have the option to actually meet cousins from all over the USA and even get help from more experienced researchers? If you actually interested in finding or sharing your Coffee/y research next year mark your calendar for May 20. You will make family friends for life. I attended the first Coffey Convention in 1982 and have only missed 2 or 3 in all those years. What wonderful memories I have. I just turned 83 and drove 8 hours alone to Cumberland Lake. How wonderful to be hugged by my cousins.

I was last to arrive and was greeted by Jack and Nelda Coffee, John and Donna (Wolfe) Hoy, Rick and Rosa Miller, Danny and Glenna Coffey, Wayne and Jean Mower, and Larry Coffey and myself Bonnie Culley.

Danny Coffey led the tour to the fish hatchery. They also have an interesting museum covering the building of the dam that created the huge Lake Cumberland. Actually a couple of days aren't nearly enough if you are interested in nature and wild life. There are trails everywhere and you could fish for days. This lake sparkles!

Our speaker, Rita Johnson is one of the most knowledgeable genealogists that I know. We always go home with our head full of things that we need to check to find those missing links. She also has "Coffee/y" in her line. She even sent me home with some new ideas for programs to use at my Daughters of the American Revolution club meetings. Wish I belonged to her Kentucky club.

Officers for next year are Larry Coffey, president, Wayne Mower, vice president, Nelda Coffee, secretary, Glenna Coffey, treasurer, and Bonnie Culley as host of 2017 convention.

I think that everyone was happy with the idea of the convention being in the almost middle of the country. Hopefully it will not be too far for anyone. I plan to find a meeting place in Jefferson City, Missouri. I have some neat ideas for things to tour. Please mark May 20, 2017 as Coffey Convention time. I will see what I can get near that time frame so watch the newsletter for more information. Hope all are well and look forward to seeing you next year in Jefferson City.

Bonnie Culley

Hugh Coffey

I received the following e-mail from Terri Stern, Administrator of the Hugh Coffey DNA Project. Please contact Terri at <mailto:Coffeyproject@comcast.net> for more information.

Hello Jack,

Please pass along to your Coffey Clearinghouse readers information on the new Autosomal DNA Project for descendants of the immigrant Hugh Coffey of Augusta Co VA. Hugh is recorded in Augusta County, Virginia as early as 18 March 1746/7 when he was ordered to work on a road from the lower end of the Cowpasture River to Carter's Mill. Fred Coffey's YDNA Project identified the Hugh Group or "Harpers Ferry Coffeys," which has 4 members. Two of these, Richard Lee Coffey and Ed Wilson are participating and have also taken Autosomal DNA tests. The purpose of the project is to build a robust documented tree of Hugh's descendants supported by both paper records and DNA evidence. Here is the link to the page to join with more background information. <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/hugh-coffeyb-1710/about/background>

I am also working on a complete tree for Hugh's descendants at WikiTree using DNA evidence and solid sources, including Annie Velma Urquhart Klayder's well researched book *Urquhart, Coffey, Boland, and Allied Families of the South: Genealogy and Family History with Photographs, Sketches, and Maps.*, Chalkley, *A Reed Family in America*, and land and will records. At WikiTree, participants can also put their DNA information in their profile, which is very helpful. Here is the link to the WikiTree Project:

http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Hugh_Coffey_b_1700_descendants

So far, participants are descendants of Hugh Coffey b 1784 and Margaret Walker (my ancestor). I would like participation by descendants of John Coffey & Susannah Watson, Hugh Coffey & Agnes Montgomery, John Coffey & Esther Givens, John Coffey & Mary Baskin, Hugh Coffey & Margaret Moore, and Mary Polly Coffey & James Huey. Since Urquhart believed William Coffey and Benjamin Coffey who vacated property in Augusta Co may have been sons of Hugh along with John, I am looking for any descendants or family history on them as well. A more complete list is on the Join page.

Coffey DNA Project: A Coffey Family From Scotland?

By Fred Coffey [<mailto:fredcoffey@aol.com>]

While searching in our archive of Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse newsletters, I stumbled across an extensive article talking about a Coffey family from Scotland. SCOTLAND? But the Coffey name is IRISH! How can this be? I love a mystery! I was hooked!

The family was actually first mentioned by Tim Peterman in Newsletter #4, way back in September 1981, and was expanded on in a 1992 article by Walter and Elaine (Coffey) Obermayr (a descendant). But the original source was Beers, J. H. and Co., "*Commemorative Biographical Record of Washington County, Pennsylvania*" (Chicago: J. H. Beers & Co., 1893), pages 319 and 1175. So the material of interest was written no later than 1893, and it was based on interviews with then living members of the original immigrant family. There is no doubt that this family came from Ayrshire, Scotland, and perceived of themselves as Scottish.

This Coffey family is reported to have arrived in 1836. And there are two families involved, with original family heads of George Coffey and Alexander Dickey. George married Agnes, the daughter of Alexander.

I did some quick census verification, and indeed, these Coffeys did report births in Scotland in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 census. And in 1860 Alexander Dickey was living with George and Agnes, and he also claimed Scotland birth.

But wait! In the 1850 census, George claimed IRELAND! And in earlier years Alexander Dickey had been living in Donegal Township. I couldn't find Alexander in the 1850 census, but in 1850 there were still 47 Dickey in Donegal, with 2 reporting birth in Scotland, and 5 reporting birth in IRELAND! I now began to suspect that George Coffey might have been born in Ireland and maybe taken to Scotland as a young child? His childhood memories were "Scotland"?

Washington County is noted for having been a destination for "Scotch-Irish" immigrants, and the Coffey and Dickey families certainly fit that label.

Next, I had a look at the 1841 Census for Scotland, at about the time the Pennsylvania family left. There were only 13 Coffey/Coffee in ALL of Scotland, and of those, 12 were born in IRELAND. Similarly, there were only 21 people with the Dickey name, and 6 of those were born in IRELAND.

How about back in Ireland? There were, of course, thousands of "Coffey" in Ireland. But per the 1901 Irish Census, 280 of them were in Northern Ireland, and 176 of those were in County Down. Further, while there were only 427 "Dickey" in all of Ireland, 404 of those were in Northern Ireland, with 34 of them in Down.

I correspond with several native Irish, and I remembered a story from Sean Coffey, who was born

in County Westmeath but worked in Northern Ireland. He told me *“The County Down cluster (of Coffey) is interesting because it comprises two distinct, but 'linked', family lines. One line seems to have stayed in Ireland, but the other is a line that has descended from the returned migrants from Ayrshire, Scotland who came back during the Ulster Scots Plantation. Originally, they are likely to have migrated to Scotland as part of the Gaelic expansion into West Scotland. Today the County Down Coffeys are associated with the fishing industry and have settled in some of the coastal towns and villages, for example, Portavogie, Kilkeel and Donaghadee.”*

These villages are on the Ards Peninsula, which sticks out from County Down, on the side of Ireland closest to Scotland, and not far from Ayrshire. And most of the residents are Presbyterian, as were the Pennsylvania Coffeys. I have correspondence with Lena McVea, who managed the Ards DNA Project and who has Coffey ancestors. She sent me a family picture, taken in 1953:



Taken on a fishing boat. From left to right the men standing in the back row are Coffeys from Portavogie. Coffeys are Hugh Coffey, John Young, William Hugh Coffey and Robert Coffey, brother of Hugh.

Lena and I had been working, without success so far, to recruit a male “Coffey” from Ards for a y-DNA test. (Anybody planning a trip to Ireland? I can provide you with a DNA test kit, and the name of a fish market to visit in Belfast, with a Coffey proprietor from Portavogie!)

Lacking success in finding Coffey DNA in Ards, I decided to at least try for a DNA test from the Pennsylvania family. So I needed to find a living male with the Coffey surname. It took some

digging, but I ultimately found a well-documented family branch in Texas, under the stewardship of genealogist Susan (Coffey) Yarborough. Turned out Susan already believed her family was more probably Irish than Scottish. She immediately twisted the arm of her cousin Brian Coffey, and Brian's y-DNA test result is now complete!

Our y-DNA Project now has about 100 members with y-DNA tests, and includes something like 30 groups and individuals with distinct and different lines and DNA profiles. And Brian does not match ANY of them. This is not a surprise – we already believed the Ards Coffeys were “different”! What we really want is to find one or more “Coffey” from Ards or Northern Ireland to participate in our project.

This is a much-shortened version of my report on this family. For more info, have a look at:

<http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA/CoffeyFamilyFromScotland.pdf>

And if you just want to poke around in our Project Web Page, go to

www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA

Fred

I hope all readers are having a wonderful summer. It is certainly a tad warmer here but I have seen hotter summers over my lifetime in South Louisiana. If it is getting to you, do as I do: spent more time inside with the A/C on “freeze” and lots of cold tea or lemonade.

The William Lawson Coffey story that opens this quarter's newsletter is the sort of story that we would like to publish more often. If you have anyone in your family that you would like to see highlighted here, please write to me with the facts. If you do not feel that you can put them into a complete article, send me the facts and I'll try and put together something for you. You will have final approval of how the article reads.

Jack