

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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President's Message

Dear Cousins,

Have you called in your reservation for the convention yet? If not, why not? Do it today.

Are you interested in attending a convention in the future?

Send answer to bculey@embarqmail.com

GOOD NEWS

Fred Coffey says that he plans to be in our area at Convention time. He plans to visit his 91 year old sister and 99 year old aunt who are not too far from here.

Tim Peterman, who has often written for these newsletters and who is also very active in DNA testing, also plans to attend on Saturday.

Please read the Convention news for details of programs.

Notice how much of this newsletter involves DNA! **You need to come to the Convention and learn more!**

All back issues of the Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse and the hugh index are found at

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CCCNNewslettersOnline/

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**ATTEND
THE CONVENTION!**

You are invited to the
33rd. COFFEY COUSINS CONVENTION April 27 -30, 2017
Jefferson City, Missouri

Baymont Inn and Suites
319 Miller Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101
Phone: 573-636-5231 Baymont-jeffcity.dos@pmihotels.com

Double or King rooms: \$65 plus tax
This includes continental breakfast and wi-fi
Make your own reservations with the hotel and
Send \$26.50 for each person attending to
Bonnie Culley, 4012 Cambridge Circle, Jefferson City, MO 65109

We have a convention room reserved at the hotel for the duration, for people to meet, talk and share information. It is planned that on Saturday afternoon Fred Coffey and Tim Peterman will be available there to give brief presentations on their DNA activities and answer unlimited questions.

We will gather first on Thursday evening to eat together at Arris Bistro, where we get a discount for staying at the Baymont Inn. Friday morning we will car pool to the area of the old Missouri State Penitentiary. We will tour the museum that cost \$2. We can pay at the door. The prison has tours but I think it would be too much walking for many of us. There is also a ghost tour at night but I have been in this prison several times and you are not going to get me in there after dark. If you want to do this, email me and I will set you up with the Jefferson City Tourism office. They will make you an appointment and sell you a ticket. Reservations have to be made in advance for this as the tours are usually full well in advance.

We can have lunch at the Prison Brews. After a leisurely lunch, we will tour the Missouri Capitol building if you are interested. It is free of course... You can also visit in the convention room at the hotel and peruse our books.

Saturday morning is the highlight of our tours. We will car pool to Fulton, Missouri, just a short drive north of Jefferson City. We will leave at 9a.m. This is where, at a small local college called Westminster, Winston Churchill gave his "Iron Curtain" speech as a commencement address. Of course it was heard around the world, putting Westminster and Fulton on the national map. In commemoration of the speech, the college went to England and purchased a chapel built in the 1500s that had been bombed in WWII and brought it here, putting it back together like a

jig saw puzzle. It is beautiful and there is a museum in the lower level. This is the biggest memorial to Winston Churchill anywhere. Cost of this tour is \$6.50. You will need to send me a check for this tour in advance.

The banquet and annual meeting is not set in stone yet. If we have a good turnout (and we didn't last year) we will eat at the hotel banquet room and the price will be \$20 each. If we don't have more than 20 people, we will go to a local restaurant. Jefferson City has lots of them. I am looking forward to seeing you again.
Bonnie Culley

TEXAS COFFEY FAMILY'S 81st REUNION

Check in date is Thursday June 15, with checkout Sunday June 18 at the Sage Inn. Room rates are \$104 for a single/double (we have 11 reserved), and \$159 for a suite.

For more information contact Molly Houck, 208 River Ranch Rd, Boerne, TX 78006, phone:830-537-5394, cell 210-380-0072, molly@rollinrecording.com

We Get Mail

*** (DAVID COFFEY)**

My name is Laura Ellis Lefler lefler.thomas@comcast.net. David Coffey (DNA kit #85718) is my first cousin. Several years ago I paid for him to take the test so I could find out more about my Coffey ancestors.

I am researching my immigrant ancestor, Ambrose Coffee from Dublin, Ireland, and I may have found a brother to him. Do you have anyone in the database that descends from John Coffee and and Rachel Pidgeon. They married 8 December 1784 at the Fairfax Meetinghouse in Loudoun County, Virginia.

I think that John Coffee moved to Flushing, Ohio and died there. My Ambrose was an indentured servant in Loudoun County, Virginia and so was John Coffee. Ambrose is a few years older than John. I would love to find out if there is someone else in the Coffey database that is a descendant of John Coffee who married Rachl Pidgeon and see if the DNA matches. If any of you have anything in your research on this line, please contact Laura at the email address above.

*** (REUBEN COFFEY)**

I wanted to share good news. On Christmas Eve, I received news that Reuben Coffey b 1859 was officially recognized by the DAR as the son of James Coffey born Albemarle County VA. Reuben and James have been recognized by the DAR for awhile but not as father and son. James Coffey is A023806 and Reuben is A023814.

I would be glad to field any question on this.

Miriam Miller, nipandtuck2016@gmail.com

*** (WILLIAM T COFFEY, BROOKLYN)**

A fellow researcher sent me your newsletter today. She saw I was working on my relative William T. Coffey and sent me your link. Any chance you have any Brooklyn Coffey's? It's a reach and thought I'd give it a try... All of my Coffey's landed in Manhattan then later moved to Brooklyn in the mid 1800's. Your newsletter and organization is impressive.

I did note your Coffey's are largely in the South. I am writing a story on my William Thomas Coffey .

b.1841 in County Cavan landed in N.York in 1848 or 1854?

m.18 to Ellen Lunney

d. 1927 in Brooklyn

Parents Thomas b.1824 d.1873 in Brooklyn and Mary Masterson b.1825, d.1890 buried in HolyCross Cemetery, Brooklyn

Grand Parents might be William b. 1795 Kilmore, County Cavan d. 12 Sept 1872 NY NY married to Julia

Guessing this is enough to start. Sincerely Pam, seeyouonyourbike@gmail.com

*** (GREEN COFFEY)**

From: lbanks64@comcast.net

To: Fred Coffey <fredcoffey@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, Mar 2, 2017 4:28 pm

Subject: Re: New Y-DNA37 Results for Kit Number 522766 in Group Coffey

Laura Banks says; My father is Hubert Coffey (b.1925), son of Clifford Bailey Coffey, son of Landon. Landon Coffey is a very common name, but I have Clifford's birth certificate that shows Landon Harrison Coffey and Margaret Ann Chaffin as his parents. This Landon also has a "Landen" and a "Caffey" misspelling along the way, but I'm reasonably certain that the same Landon is Clifford's father and Green's son.

Some time between 1860 and 1870, Green Coffee disappeared and his wife remarried Robert Calvert. She and her children are in Robert's household in the 1870 Census. Green is also missing from the list of children given with Calvin's grave information. Quite a mystery. If I ever make it back to Maury County I'll dig around a bit.

Sadly, my brother is battling ALS, has limited use of his limbs, and has many other things on his mind. Before he lost his mobility, we visited Ireland with his wife and kids and had a great time experiencing our homeland! He may get back to this project in the next few months as he is going to retire from his position as a professor to have more time for family.

I appreciate your help on the Green question. It's good to see that someone else found the same information. Laura

Fred wrote; I do not know of anyone descended from Calvin Coffey's son Green. And I can find only the most minimal information about Green or his descendants.

However we do have tests on a Thaddeus Elmo Coffey Jr., who appears to claim descent from Calvin Coffey.

There seem to be some uncertainties about the connection, but it MAY be something like this:

(1) Edward Coffey (ca1670 - ca1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 - ~1744)

(2) Edward Coffey JR. (ca1701 - >1774) & Unknown???

(3) Chesley Coffey Jr??? (1755 - 1818) & Margaret Baldwin

- (4) Nathan Coffey (1780 - 1858) & Elizabeth Gilbreath (ca1777 - 1846)
- (5) Calvin Coffey (1805 - 1889) & Elizabeth Fine (1809 - 1882)
- (6) Green B. Coffey (ca1825 -) & Sarah A. Sutton (ca1832 -)
- (7) Landon Harrison Coffey (ca1855 -)
- (7) Nancy J. Coffey (ca1858 -)
- (6) William Fine Coffey (1830)
- (7) William Daniel Coffey (1860)
- (8) Thaddeus Elmo Coffey (1902)
- (9) Thaddeus Elmo Coffey Jr. (1921)

T Elmo Jr. (goes by "Elmo") has both a y-DNA test, and an atDNA test. If Scott did the atDNA test, it might be in range for a match.

Elmo's y-DNA test result is typical for any descendant of Edward. If Scott has a y-DNA test match to Elmo, then he will have dozens of Coffey y-DNA matches. Fred

*** (DELPHIA COFFEY)**

Wynne Linden impy2101@yahoo.com asks if anyone can help him with this family. Dad is Truman Dale Helmig - on his mother's side there is Henry Brookshire from North Carolina that married a Delphia Coffey (1784-1811). They had one child, Cynthia Brookshire. He then remarried and had a bunch more children.

There are two places where his wife is mentioned. Once in a history book about McCracken County (where he moved with Cynthia) in the book, a granddaughter of Henry Brookshire, stated she had been named after Henry's first wife Delphia Coffey. The other mention is in a well documented family research/genealogy tree of the Evers family. I once wrote to you (possibly Jack Coffee) about her (Delphia Coffey Brookshire)- and searching you found a Delphia, the same one I found but as I discovered she was the wrong age.

The Delphia I'm trying to track down would have been born about 1784 - and probably died giving birth - Cynthia in 1811. Cynthia is my and my father's ancestor (as is Henry and the mysterious Delphia).

I've paid a genealogist in NC to research records and have done some serious questioning about her. I cannot find any info on her family. How can there be so many Coffey's there and she is not related? She has to be related. :-). Anyway, I suspected Delphia was a slave love child - and I had Dad's DNA tested - but found no results of African American - maybe it's too far back. Anyway, the whole point of this request - I have his DNA records and wondered if they would match up with any of yours? I don't know how to do the checking though - but would gladly send his info - if you tell me what you need.

*** (MAZELLA JUNE COFFEY)**

We were so glad to hear from Sheri Kelly again. She wrote; Hello, Fred: I have researched my east Tennessee Coffeys for while then have taken a break. I have done my uncle, John Taylor Parker, son of Mazella June Coffey, daughter of Thomas Jefferson Coffey, son of Thomas Nelson Coffey, son of Bennett Coffey, and so forth, DNA, and my own Family Finder DNA. I actually was working on his paternal lines, not maternal lines.

Would you be interested in having those results? Let me know. I am not all that much familiar with how DNA works. I will be getting my sister's Family Finder DNA shortly. We had no brothers. I am the daughter of Robert E. L. Parker, son of Mazella June Coffey and perhaps Walter Parker. It is Walter's father whom we all look for, but as of now, many years down the road, no close matches for paternal lines to research. The family was told Walter's mother, Amanda Russell, daughter of Jeremiah Russell, son of Jeremiah Russell, was Melungeon, or Black Dutch as the family called it. My own Family Finder doesn't indicate that for me, which is why I need my sister's dna to see exactly whose genes I got. 97-98% European and the remainder Asian. No Native American. There was this family rumor....

Sheri Kelly, Niota, TN. sheri.kelly@gmail.com

Fred found the following for her.

Hi Sheri,

Do any of the Family Finder tests you have done, show any matches to any Coffey name, or to a Ronald Wheeler, or a Martha Kirby? I would be mildly interested if so, because that could be a part of the matches discussed in the atDNA article in Newsletter #141.

Based partly on Jack Coffee's Edward project, I think your Coffey ancestry looks something like this:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca1670 - ca1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 - ~1744)
- (2) John Coffey (~1699 - ~1775) & Jane Graves (ca1708 - 1792)
- (3) Benjamin Coffey (ca1747 - 1834) & Mary Hayes (ca1760 -)
- (4) John Coffey (1776 - 1845) & Elizabeth Rucker (1787 - 1855)
- (5) Ausburn Coffey (1805 - 1876) & Matilda Dalton (1799 - 1899)
- (6) Cornelia Coffey (1849 - 1892) & Rev. Thomas Nelson Coffey (1850 - 1917)
- (7) Thomas Jefferson Coffey (1871 - 1956) & Elizabeth Isabell Perry (1871 - 1951)
- (8) Mazella June Coffey (1902 - 1997) & Walter Lee Parker (1901 - 1966)
- (9) Robert E. L. Parker
- (10) Sheri Parker
- (9) John Taylor Parker
- (4) Bennett Coffey (ca1779 - <1858) & Sarah Ferguson (ca1781 - 1847)
- (5) Caswell Coffey (ca1806 - 1882) & Annie Jordan (- 1849)
- (6) Rev. Thomas Nelson Coffey (1850 - 1917) & Cornelia Coffey (1849 - 1892)
- (7) Thomas Jefferson Coffey (1871 - 1956) & Elizabeth Isabell Perry (1871 - 1951)
- (8) Mazella June Coffey (1902 - 1997) & Walter Lee Parker (1901 - 1966)
- (9) Robert E. L. Parker
- (10) Sheri Parker
- (9) John Taylor Parker

You seem to have an interesting marriage of cousins (lines 6) here, which would reinforce the amount of "Coffey" DNA. Fred

* **(GEORGE WASHINGTON COFFEY)**

Terrel Coffey" <uccra@hintonet.net, wrote:

Here is Terrel's Coffey line according to Jack's "Edward Project":

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca1670 - ca1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 - ~1744)
- (2) John Coffey (~1699 - ~1775) & Jane Graves (ca1708 - 1792)
- (3) Thomas Coffey (1742 - 1825) & Elizabeth Smith (- ~1775)
- (4) James Coffey (ca1772 -) & Delilah Ferguson
- (5) Thomas Coffey (ca1804 -) & Nancy Barlow (ca1804 -)
- (6) Calvin Coffey (ca1824 - ca1870) & Serena White (ca1825 - ca1913)
- (7) George Washington Coffey (1862 - 1918) & Mary Elizabeth Lewis (1860 - 1935)
- (8) Harry Horton Coffey (1884 - 1976) & Minnie Lee Thomason (ca1891 -)
- (9) Harvey Coffey (1909 - 1965) & Dorothy (ca1913 - 1995)
- (9) Melvin Coffey (ca1914 -)
- (9) Vincent Lee Coffey (1922 - 2011)

I see that Jack has a different view on the spouse of George Washington Coffey. I'll leave it up to you if you want to stir up discussion. Fred

Terri wrote back that George Washington Coffey's wife's full name is Mary Elizabeth Mason Lewis.

We hope to meet Terri at our convention in April.

* **(LEVI COFFEY)**

I was looking at the Coffey family DNA chart and I discovered that Ronald Lane #481579 should be my 4th cousin. Go back 4 generations to William R. (1839). William was an older brother to my great great grandfather Levi Coffey that died at Ft. Sanders, Knoxville, TN in 1863. Levi and his wife Katherine Kilpatrick are buried near Murphy, NC. Levi's youngest son, John was my great grandfather. We buried my dad, Billy Coffey the end of July 2016. He is resting next to my grandfather, Charles Coffey at the cemetery in Jacksboro, TN.

Paul Coffey, aircoffee@aol.com

Inver Grove Hts, MN

Sue McClure suemcclure@yahoo.com supplied the Ronald Lane Coffey genealogy and she working with Paul and Fred the were able to document the following line.

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca1670 - ca1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 - ~1744)
- (2) John Coffey (~1699 - ~1775) & Jane Graves (ca1708 - 1792)
- (3) Rev. James Coffey (1729 - 1786) & Elizabeth Cleveland (1727 - ~1826)
- (4) John Coffey (1753 - >1825) & Mary Hall (Hull?) (Harbord?) (1755 -)
- (5) Levi Coffey (1774 - 1825) & Dorothy Edmundson (ca1777 -)
- (6) Rice Coffey (ca1802 -) & Dorothy Jane Medaris (ca1804 -)
- (7) Levi Coffey (ca1829 - 1863) & Catherine Kilpatrick (1830 - ~1910)
- (8) John J. Coffey (1862 -) & Mary E. Burnett (1864 -)
- (9) Charles Lucion Coffey (1889 - 1954) & Birdie Lyle Wilhoit
- (10) Billy Alvin Coffey (1930 - 2016)
- (6) John Collins? Coffey (ca1809 -) & Unknown
- (7) William R Coffey (1839 - <1866) & Maranda Rupell (~1837 -)
- (8) Robert Warren (William) Coffey (1861 - 1940) & Mary Mariah Bell (1860 - 1906)
- (9) Robert Benjamin Harris Coffey (1890 - 1971) & Ellah Magnolia Coffey (1891 - 1987)
- (10) R. B. Coffey (1921 - 2007) & Lora Bell Roach (1925 - 1983)
- (11) Clayton Allen Coffey (1955 - 2014)
- (11) Ronald Lane Coffey

- (11) Sue Coffey & McClure
- (6) Levi Coffey Jr. (ca1817 -) & Louisa Turnbull (ca1822 -)
- (7) Robert Jackson Coffey (ca1852 - 1928) & Mary Ann Zimmerman (1858 - 1926)
- (8) Ellah Magnolia Coffey (1891 - 1987) & Robert Benjamin Harris Coffey (1890 - 1971)
- (9) R. B. Coffey (1921 - 2007) & Lora Bell Roach (1925 - 1983)
- (10) Clayton Allen Coffey (1955 - 2014)
- (10) Ronald Lane Coffey
- (10) Sue Coffey & McClure

Let me also mention that some genealogists think that the Elizabeth Cleveland who married (3) James Coffey was actually fathered by a Coffey, and therefore this was a marriage of first cousins. I think Jack would say this claim is suspect. However, if true, the above tree is complicated by an additional cousin marriage. Fred

Sue added: From here, my family (Sue, Ronnie, and others) have two Coffey lines: John Coffey, Levi Coffey Jr., Rice Coffey, and Nancy Coffey (children of Levi and Dorothy) are all living in the Cherokee County, NC/Towns County, GA area around 1850 based on 1850 censuses for both counties. I do not know yet how they ended up there, but the Trail of Tears took place around the time they show up in records, and that is when the area was opened to new settlers looking for rich land and/or gold. The 1850 census shows that Rice has a son named William and John has a son named William. I believe that the William R., born in Towns County Ga, is the son of John Coffey and wife unknown (she had died before the 1850 census). Some of the people on Ancestry.com list Rice as William's father, but the age of Rice's William is not correct. John's William is the correct age, and in 1860 he is living near John and married to Miranda (Maranda) Rupell. John and unknown had 4 sons: William, Robert, James, and John, Jr. William (John's son) had one son, Robert William Coffey. William and John both joined the 39th NC Infantry in 1862. Miranda applied for a widow's pension in 1866. My assumption is that William was killed during the Civil War, and I believe he died in Tennessee based on records of where his regiment fought. I have seen the records of William C. Coffey in Tennessee during the Civil War, but I believe those are for a different William because of the middle initial and the information that I found.

Isn't genealogy fun?

COFFEY DNA PROJECT: Solving a DNA Mystery

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

A large percentage of the readers of these newsletters descend from Edward Coffey, who appeared in Virginia by 1699 as an indentured servant, and who married Anne Powell. And DNA testing has proven that Edward was absolutely related to Peter Coffee, who arrived separately, and whose descendants are also documented in these newsletters. And both were related to other Coffey's who arrived separately, and to people with names like "Keogh". And we now talk about our "Coffey/Keogh Family".

The y-DNA of people that descend from Edward has a couple of distinctive markers, and we can with good confidence identify an Edward-line descendant. And there are several tested people in America with non-Coffey names but with "Edward DNA". And there are also several with the Coffey name and paper trails back to Edward, but with non-Edward DNA. This is not surprising; There do tend to be "adoptions", both planned and unplanned, in most families. We actually know how many of these came about in the Coffey lines.

But there has been one interesting mystery. One tested person with Edward-related DNA was Mr. Michael Wilson. Mike traced his Wilson line back to Scotland, with possible presence in Northern Ireland, and we could not find any Wilson/Coffey connection after the Wilson's arrived in America. And yDNA cannot be precise on time to MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor). So we speculated that someone from Edward's line, back in Ireland, had interactions with a Wilson in Northern Ireland?

But then came the expansion of atDNA (autosomal DNA) testing, which can be QUITE precise for close relatives but cannot look back to beyond 1699. And both Michael, and his father, did that test. And SURPRISE, the test revealed that Michael's father was a FIRST COUSIN to Sandie (Coffey) Carroll, sandie368@gmail.com. See the article in the last newsletter, which discussed atDNA, and where Sandie was mentioned for other Coffey DNA matches. There was now no escaping the fact that Michael Wilson's Edward line DNA was picked up in America. Cancel the Northern Ireland theory!

The families quickly searched for and found Mr. James R Coffey, and recruited him for testing. James was another first cousin of Sandie, but one with the Coffey name. And the atDNA test was absolutely consistent with Michael's father being a HALF BROTHER of James. Half brothers share 25% of their atDNA, and first cousins only share 12.5%.

The evidence was now conclusive. Michael Wilson was the grandson of Raymond Scott Coffey (1922-1979). His grandmother was Miriam Ketola, who was pregnant when she married into the Wilson family. After some family discussion, it was learned that SOME members of the Wilson family knew all about this, but had kept it secret from Michael's father!

And here is the connection back to Edward:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca1670 - ca1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 - ~1744)
- (2) John Coffey (~1699 - ~1775) & Jane Graves (ca1708 - 1792)
- (3) Thomas Coffey (1742 - 1825) & Elizabeth Smith (- ~1775)
- (4) James Coffey (ca1772 -) & Delilah Ferguson
- (5) Marvel Coffey (1822 - <1880) & Nancy E. Pendley (ca1818 -)
- (6) James Granville Coffey (1845 - 1915) & Lois Ann Dancy (1859 - 1938)
- (7) George Lee Coffey (1891 - 1961) & Elizabeth Mae Steele (1903 - 1968)
- (8) Helen Kathleen Coffey (1921 - 1974) & Paul Bernard Wiley (1915 - 1982)
- (8) Raymond Scott Coffey* (1922 - 1979) & Edith Doris Dotson (1927 -)
- (8) Raymond Scott Coffey* (1922 - 1979) & Mary Durham (1929 - 2008)
- (9) James R Coffey (1963 -)
- (8) Raymond Scott Coffey* (1922 - 1979) & Miriam Violet Ketola (1928 - 2006)
- (9) James Henry Wilson (1947 -)
- (10) Theresa Wilson & Gore
- (10) James Henry Wilson Jr.
- (10) Michael Wilson
- (8) Charles Lee Coffey (1923 - 2003)
- (9) Sandie Coffey & Carroll

So, Michael, welcome to the extended Coffey family!

(Mike's email is maldorex@gmail.com - and he is looking forward to Coffey Cousins' support in researching his Coffey roots.)

COFFEY DNA PROJECT: A New and Complicated Family

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

Bonnie and I have had lengthy exchanges with Karen Spencer Dhawan about her family and DNA results. But first a heads-up! This family has NO apparent connection to the Edward, Peter, or Hugh families that are more commonly discussed in these pages.

Bonnie wrote: Karen Dhawan does not want her e-mail address published so you will have to contact Fred Coffey at FredCoffey@aol.com or me bculey@embarqmail.com and we will forward your information. The following written by Karen Spencer Dhawan to Fred Coffey is just too good for me to mess up so I will print it as written. Bonnie

So here's the family introduction:

*** (James Coffey, 1795 in Pennsylvania)**

Hello, Fred, I have emailed you in the past regarding our Coffey line and the possibility of my mother's cousin taking a Y-DNA test. My mother's cousin, Ray Coffey, graciously agreed to take the FamilyTreeDNA Y-37 test and we have been notified of the results by Family Tree DNA.

Our known Coffey ancestors emigrated from Shippensburg, Pennsylvania to Kansas in the 1880s. Our most distant known ancestor is James Coffey born 1795 in Delaware and died at Stony Point, Franklin County, Pennsylvania (near Shippensburg). One of James Coffey's sons once indicated that James' father was William Coffey. It is possible that William's father was Thomas Coffey who died in Hopewell Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania (near Shippensburg) in 1796. One of the sons listed in Thomas Coffey's will was William and the other sons and daughters are familiar family names. This Thomas Coffey, possible grandfather of James Coffey, had moved from Kennett Square in New Garden Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania just after the start of the Revolutionary War and had been living in Kennett Square as early as 1759. We do not know where Thomas Coffey was born or anything about that family before 1759.

The only other clue we have of our origins is that any early church records for marriages, etc. are from the Presbyterian Churches in Shippensburg.

Because it has been so difficult for me to determine more distant relationships and the origin of our Coffey family line, I have turned to DNA testing for help. We hope that Ray's Y-DNA will show a relationship to some other Coffeys who have joined your study. Also, I have limited experience with using and understanding DNA results so will look forward to any help. I do understand a little bit after reading your links to DNA testing information and the ones on FamilyTreeDNA's website. Also, I have some experience with autosomal DNA tests which my parents and I have taken through Ancestry.com and uploaded to FamilyTreeDNA a couple years ago.

Here is our Coffey family tree (abbreviated version) which shows from James Coffey down to my cousin Ray Coffey and me:

1 James Coffey b: 11 Apr 1795 in Delaware d: 2 Oct 1878 in Stony Point, Franklin, Pennsylvania

.. +Nancy McCune m: abt 1820 d: abt 1822-1825
..... 2 Maria Coffey b: 1821 in Pennsylvania, USA d: 1896 in Pennsylvania
..... +Enos Rogers m. 1842
..... 2 Jane Coffey b: 1822 in Shippensburg, Cumberland, PA d: 1908 in Southampton Twp, Cumberland, Pennsylvania
..... +Henry Brown Hoch m. 1850
*2nd Wife of James Coffey:
..... +Mary (Molly) Highlands b: Abt. 1812 in Cumberland County, PA m: May 1825 in Shippensburg, PA d: 1836 in PA, USA
..... 2 Julia Anna Coffey b: 1826 in Southampton Twp, Cumberland, Pennsylvania, USA d: 1903 in Leesburg, Pennsylvania
..... +Levi Stohm m: 1851 in Shippensburg, Cumberland, Pennsylvania, USA
..... 2 William Alexander Coffey b: 1827 in Southampton Twp, Cumberland, PA d: 1913 in Shippensburg, Cumberland, PA
..... +Agnes Galbraith m: 1856
..... *2nd Wife of William Alexander Coffey:
..... +Emma Maglaughlin m: 1876
..... 2 John Highlands Coffey b: 1830 in Southampton Twp, Cumberland, PA d: 1904 in Shippensburg, Cumberland, PA
..... +Elizabeth Rank m: 1853
..... *2nd Wife of John Highlands Coffey:
..... +Annie Gontz m: 1896
..... 2 George Washington Coffey b: 22 Feb 1832 in Shippensburg, Cumberland, PA d: 21 Apr 1918 in Wilson, Ellsworth, KS
..... +Catherine Eckenrode b: 1837 m: 1857 d:1922
..... 3 Anna M Coffey
..... 3 Nora Coffey
..... 3 Elmer Ellsworth Coffey
..... 3 Jennie Coffey
..... 3 Eden Robert (aka Robert E Lee) Coffey b: 1868 in Cumberland County, PA d: 1958 in Phillips, Hamilton, NB
..... +Nellie Wilkie m. 1891 d:1902
..... 4 Earl C Coffey b: 1892
..... 4 Zora D Coffey b: 1894
..... 4 Belle E Coffey b: 1897
..... 4 Ross Lynn Coffey b: 1902
..... *2nd Wife of Eden Robert Coffey:
..... +Alice Lewis m: 1904 in Pamona, Kansas d: 1962
..... 4 George Coffey b: 1908 d: 1978
..... 4 Edna Coffey b: 1913 d: 1943
..... 4 Nina Coffey b: 1915 d: 2000
..... + Murl Black
..... 5 son
..... 5 daughter
..... + Spencer
..... 6 Karen Spencer Dhawan
..... 5 daughter
..... 4 Erma Coffey b: 1918 d: 2007
..... 4 Robert Coffey b: 1921 d: 1986
..... 4 Ray W Coffey b: 1926 d: 2007
..... + wife
..... 5 Ray Coffey
..... 4 Joy Coffey b: 1929 d: 2016
..... 3 George Coffey
..... 3 William Coffey
..... 3 Herman Coffey
..... 3 Roy Coffey
..... 2 Mary Coffey b: 1834 in Shippensburg, Cumberland, PA d: 1915 in Shippensburg, Cumberland, Pennsylvania
..... +John Noaker m: 1855
*3rd Wife of James Coffey:
..... +Elizabeth Goudy m: 1837
..... 2 Robert James Coffey
..... +Elenora Mary Brown m. 1865
..... 2 Elizabeth A Coffey b: 1841 in Pennsylvania d: 1917 in Carlisle, Cumberland, Pennsylvania

..... +George D Foreman m: 1864
..... 2 Margaret L Coffey b: 1844 d: 1905 in Shippensburg, Cumberland, Pennsylvania

This is my best guess for James Coffey's (1795-1878) family tree:

1 Thomas Coffey (b: ? - d: 1796 in Hopewell Twp, Cumberland, Pennsylvania)
+ Mary
..... 2 William Coffey (b: ? - d: 1828 in Southampton Twp, Cumberland, Pennsylvania)
..... + Unknown 1st wife?
..... 3 William Coffey (b: 1788 in Maryland - d: 26 Sep 1852 in Southampton, Cumberland, Pennsylvania)
..... 3 Mary Coffey
..... + Mr. Burk
*2nd? Wife of William Coffey:
..... + Elizabeth
..... 3 James Coffey (b: 1795 - d: 1878)
..... 3 George Coffey (b: ? - d: 1841)
..... 3 Nancy Coffey (b: ? - d: ?)
..... + John Eyler
..... 3 Eliza Coffey (b.1806 in Pennsylvania - d:?)
..... + George Matthews
..... 3 Thomas Coffey (b. abt 1806 in Delaware - d: after 1870)
..... + Mary "Polly" Bennett
..... 2 Thomas Coffey (b: ? - d: 14 Mar 1829 in Mifflin Twp, Cumberland, Pennsylvania)
..... 2 Robert Coffey (b: ? - d: Jan 1811 in Southampton Twp, Franklin, Pennsylvania)
... + Nancy (b: ? - d: 1844)
..... 2 James Coffey (b: 7 Aug 1759 in Kennett Square, Chester, Pennsylvania - d: 20 Dec 1836 in Marshall County, Tennessee)
... + Mary Leeper m. 5 Apr 1787 in Shippensburg, Cumberland, Pennsylvania (b: 1769 d: 1861 in Belfast, Marshall, Tennessee)
..... 2 George Coffey (b: ? - d: 1817 in Franklin County, Pennsylvania)
... + Jane (Brown?) (b: 1766 - d: 1836)
..... 2 Jean Coffey
..... 2 Martha Coffey
..... 2 John Coffey
Looking forward to future correspondence with you!
Karen Spencer Dhawan
Grimes, IA

Fred's response:

I see that Ray Coffey has only two y-DNA matches at 37-markers. Neither is a "Coffey", and both are at a genetic distance of "4". That's not really a very good match, and if you use FTDNATiP (the FTDNA Time Predictor) it says there is only about a 10-15% chance that the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) is within the time that your family line has been in America. So the MRCA connection was almost certainly back in Ireland many generations ago.

So there's no male-line connection to any of the Coffey lines that our DNA Project has been following to date. However this is not all that uncommon. Our Project has quite a few members that do not show a connection to any other

Often, when I get a new DNA participant such as Ray, I have a look at these newsletters to see if anyone has written about the family. And there actually has been quite a bit of discussion about your line. Here are the references from the newsletter index, indicating the writer was Murl Black, a name that I see in your genealogy:

BLACK, MURL O., gc/o EDEN ROBERT COFFEY a.1982 / 2004 IA, 7-6 76-3 77-5,7 78-7,8 79-6 80-5,18 85-10 92-8 94-13

These cryptic references say that Murl Black first appeared in issue 7 on page 6, and last appeared in issue 94 on page 13. The most extensive writings by Murl are in issues 77, 78, 79 and 80. And issue #80, page 18, indicates that Wayne Mower has been involved in your genealogy, and that the Coffey Cousins may have more material. I'll copy this to Bonnie Culley, the Editor then and now, who may have more info. Also I observe that Wayne Mower is still very involved in the Coffey Cousins as a current officer.

It's a little confusing to me, but I think this "Murl" was Murl Black Jr. (b: 25 Jun 1937, d: 24 Jan 2004), and I think he is your mother's brother? I particularly enjoyed Murl's writing in issue #78 (March 2000), page 7, where he explained how his research had destroyed "treasured family stories" about his grandfather Eden Robert Coffey!

Karen came back, and pointed out that I was WRONG to say that Ray had only two y-DNA matches. There was a 12-marker match to a 2007 member, Patrick Asa Coffey. And Patrick has the following Coffey ancestors:

Patrick Aca Coffey, 1940, b: Texas
Leroy Franklin Coffey, 1888-1939, b: Galveston, TX
Thomas B. R. Coffey, 1865-1926, b: Marshall, TN
Samuel Robert Coffey, 1829-1886, b: Bedford, TN

Normally, I would dismiss a 12-marker test match. But on examination I conclude that Patrick and Ray have very unusual DNA with very few matches. And I now agree that this 12-marker test is significant. Karen then proceeded to discuss how this Samuel Robert Coffey might tie into her family. She wrote:

"If you looking for Samuel Robert Coffey (who is a direct ancestor of Patrick Asa Coffey, our DNA match), you will find someone has linked James Leeper Coffey and Mary Ramsey Coffey to him as the parents. James Leeper Coffey was the son of James Coffey and Mary Leeper.

This James Coffey who married Mary Leeper is the same Revolutionary War soldier who applied for a pension and testified that he was born in 1757 in Kennett Square, New Garden Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He also testified visiting his father in Cumberland County, PA after the war. He stated he then moved to New Castle County, Delaware (the state where my James Coffey was born), next moved to Hagerstown, MD (where a William Coffey who might be James' older half brother was born), next returned to Cumberland County, PA, and finally lived in Elbert County, Georgia before moving to Tennessee.

I have believed this particular Tennessee Coffey family to be related to my James Coffey partially because of his ties to Cumberland County, PA and the locations where he moved. There was a researcher in Cumberland County, PA who corresponded with a descendant of this Tennessee family and made a tentative connection to Thomas Coffey of Cumberland County as the father of James Coffey the Rev War soldier. The researcher found tax records for Thomas Coffey in New Garden Township up until 1774. I found this while on a research trip to Cumberland County, PA a few years back and will have to search for the copies of this correspondence in my files."

So, do any of you Coffey Cousins have any help to offer in tying the families together?

COFFEY DNA PROJECT: Looking for Ancestors of John Howard Coffey

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

Over the last 4 years, I've had several email exchanges with Mr. John Howard Coffey. I finally persuaded him to do a couple of DNA tests, which are now complete. But he has no yDNA or atDNA matches to anybody "Coffey". I also looked in Jack Coffee's "Edward Project", which has 40,000 Coffey names, and none matched any of John's ancestors. I searched our massive newsletter archive, with thousands of references, but no references to any of his ancestors.

So it's time to call in more experts, the readers of these newsletters. Here's what he initially gave me about his known ancestry:

"John Howard Coffey

Father - George Edward Coffey b: 6/3/1911 d: 5/6/1968

Grandfather - John Edward Coffee/Coffey b: 6/30/1873 d: 9/13/1936 (the story in my family is that my grandmother, Mabel Mowell (wife of John Edward Coffey), didn't like the spelling "Coffee", so changed it to "Coffey". The only verification is the tombstone of my grandfather, in which his name is spelled "Coffee".

I (Fred) personally dug around a bit on Ancestry, and here's what I added to John's story:

"John, there were a surprising number of family trees shown that included your ancestry. But none of them offered a plausible assessment of the parents of John Edward Coffee/ey.

A few of them reported his birth as in Ft. Mill, York County, South Carolina. I think this clearly came from his military enlistment records. Those records report that John E. Coffee enlisted in Jacksonville, FL on 1 Nov 1902. That record says he was born in Ft. Mill (that's York County), South Carolina. And his age was 29 years and 3 months. He was discharged 31 Oct 1905 at Fort Lawton, Washington. His service ended with the rank corporal, record "excellent".

The only census record anyone seems to have found for him was for 1920 in Union, Madison, Ohio. He was there with his wife Mable (age 27), son "G" (8), and daughters Helen (6) and Dorthey (2). For that census his birthplace was reported as "Ohio", which of course conflicts with the South Carolina idea!

I did note that Mabel married Earl Lamb in Champaign, Ohio, on 26 Sep 1929. She, and daughter Dorothy, are found with Earl in the 1930 and 1940 census. So I guess she must have divorced John Coffee/y?"

OK Coffey Cousins, can anybody help John? His email is jcoffey2640@gmail.com .

COFFEY DNA PROJECT: Marryin' Cousins

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

We have written several times about Coffey marriages of cousins, and the impact on atDNA (Family Finder) results. And we have just discovered one TRULY EXCEPTIONAL family: Diana (Coffey) Holder uploaded her atDNA results into FTDNA's "Family Finder", and joined the Coffey DNA Project.

She reported her grandfather is Arthur Reed Coffey (1888-1972), and that name was known in our Coffey database. And she has a "Family Finder" match to Dorothy (Coffey) Smith at the "2nd Cousin – 4th Cousin" level. (Dorothy is my own close relative. She is my father's sister, and is the "99-year-old aunt" on Page 1.) And Diana had several matches to other "cousins" that are known relatives of Dorothy.

On first examination, the result was quite surprising, because Diana is, by most measures, more distant from Dorothy than "2nd-4th" cousin. But closer examination reveals the fascinating reason: We've long known that Dorothy had a marriage of first cousins in her family tree, and Diana had MULTIPLE

marriages of cousins. That gives both of them an extra concentration of Coffey DNA, and that makes them appear as closer relatives.

Here's how I see the family connections between Diana and Dorothy:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca1670 - ca1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 - ~1744)
- (2) John Coffey (~1699 - ~1775) & Jane Graves (ca1708 - 1792)
- (3) Benjamin Coffey (ca1747 - 1834) & Mary Hayes (ca1760 -)
- (4) Jane Coffey (ca1774 -) & Joel Coffey (1774 - 1822) [\[SECOND COUSINS\]](#)
- (5) James Coffey (1800 - ~1857) & Mahala Coffey (ca1803 -) [\[FIRST+THIRD COUSINS\]](#)
- (6) Anderson H. (Hayes of Hardin?) Coffey (1829 -) & Mary Ann Wheat (ca1835 - 1891)
- (7) Cyrus Christopher Coffey (1854 - 1928) & Parthenia Emiline Wheat (ca1857 -)
- (8) Arthur Reed Coffey (1888 - 1972) & Edna Anastatia Dailey (1907 - 1993)**
- (2) Edward Coffey JR. (ca1701 - >1774) & Unknown???
- (3) Joel Coffey (ca1730 - ~1789) & Martha Stepp (Sealey?)
- (4) Celia Coffey (ca1777 -) & Fielding M. Coffey (ca1777 - ~1833) [\[FIRST COUSINS\]](#)
- (5) Mahala Coffey (ca1803 -) & James Coffey (1800 - ~1857) [\[FIRST+THIRD COUSINS\]](#)
- (6) Anderson H. (Hayes of Hardin?) Coffey (1829 -) & Mary Ann Wheat (ca1835 - 1891)
- (7) Cyrus Christopher Coffey (1854 - 1928) & Parthenia Emiline Wheat (ca1857 -)
- (8) Arthur Reed Coffey (1888 - 1972) & Edna Anastatia Dailey (1907 - 1993)**
- (3) Salathiel Coffey (~1750 - 1784) & Elizabeth Gore
- (4) Elias Coffey (1775 - 1833) & Mary Coffey (1782 -) [\[FIRST COUSINS\]](#)
- (5) Newton Eli Coffey (1827 - 1890) & Martha Louise Vermillion (1827 - 1904)
- (6) William Coffey (1848 - 1896) & Malcena Barbre (1855 - 1920)
- (7) Newton Coffey (1875 - 1969) & Adelia Gertrude Robinson (1878 - 1973)
- (8) Dorothy Irene Coffey (1918 -) & Smith**
- (3) Nebuzaraden Coffey (1757 - 1797) & Elizabeth Hayes (1760 - 1830)
- (4) Fielding M. Coffey (ca1777 - ~1833) & Celia Coffey (ca1777 -) [\[FIRST COUSINS\]](#)
- (5) Mahala Coffey (ca1803 -) & James Coffey (1800 - ~1857)
- (6) Anderson H. (Hayes of Hardin?) Coffey (1829 -) & Mary Ann Wheat (ca1835 - 1891)
- (7) Cyrus Christopher Coffey (1854 - 1928) & Parthenia Emiline Wheat (ca1857 -)
- (8) Arthur Reed Coffey (1888 - 1972) & Edna Anastatia Dailey (1907 - 1993)**
- (4) Joel Coffey (1774 - 1822) & Jane Coffey (ca1774 -) [\[SECOND COUSINS\]](#)
- (5) James Coffey (1800 - ~1857) & Mahala Coffey (ca1803 -) [\[FIRST+THIRD COUSINS\]](#)
- (6) Anderson H. (Hayes of Hardin?) Coffey (1829 -) & Mary Ann Wheat (ca1835 - 1891)
- (7) Cyrus Christopher Coffey (1854 - 1928) & Parthenia Emiline Wheat (ca1857 -)
- (8) Arthur Reed Coffey (1888 - 1972) & Edna Anastatia Dailey (1907 - 1993)**
- (3) Nathan Coffey (1760 - 1823) & Mary Saunders
- (4) Mary Coffey (1782 -) & Elias Coffey (1775 - 1833) [\[FIRST COUSINS\]](#)
- (5) Newton Eli Coffey (1827 - 1890) & Martha Louise Vermillion (1827 - 1904)
- (6) William Coffey (1848 - 1896) & Malcena Barbre (1855 - 1920)
- (7) Newton Coffey (1875 - 1969) & Adelia Gertrude Robinson (1878 - 1973)
- (8) Dorothy Irene Coffey (1918 -) & Smith**

(Most of the above is taken from Jack Coffee's "Edward Project".)

Where's Waldo – and where's James Coffee/ey in the CCC Index?

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

Do you like the "Where's Waldo" books? The Coffey Cousins have an equal challenge!

I had a recent discussion with Reams Goodloe, the indexer of these CCC newsletters. He was worried about how people might have trouble picking out specific people in his index. He mentioned anybody named "James Coffey" as a troublesome example. There are 541 "James Coffey" in his index, and 58 "James Coffee". He suggested we think about adding some unique identifier for each "James" that would

help with searching. He suggested birth year.

I think Reams has ALREADY created a system of “unique identifiers” in his index, but didn’t realize it. And it’s easy to use, with a bit of practice. I challenge each reader of this newsletter to check it out. Go to our newsletter archive at www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/CCCNewslettersOnLine, read the intro, then click on the “TEXTFILE” that is part way down. And play along as follows:

Be aware your computer has a “FIND” function that can very quickly search through massive text. This is “Ctrl+F” if you run Windows, or “Command+F” if you have a Mac.

Let’s assume you’re looking for a “James Coffey born 1820”. Position your cursor at the top of the index page, and do Ctrl+F followed by “Coffey, James”. You will immediately jump down the list to the top of the James Coffey section. Then without changing anything, do Ctrl+F again followed by “1820”. Your computer will instantly flag every “1820” from there on down. Just press “return” and step through them. There are only three 1820’s in the James section, and only one of those is a birth year. You’ve got him! And he’s in Issue 123-4! Just go back one step to the home page, click on Issue #123, and go to page 4. (It’s an interesting article – Jack Coffee is having trouble researching too many people named James Coffey!)

Oh, you should always think about searching for “Coffee” as well as “Coffey”. Do the same exercise for a “James Coffee born 1820”. Yep, there’s also one of those. But a quick read of the entry will convince you they are NOT the same.

For the second step, you can use ANY clue you think might be in Reams’ notes. If you want a “James Coffey son of Reuben”, do Ctrl+F “Coffey, James” followed by Ctrl+F “Reuben”. There are only 9 of those, and a quick read of the notes with each should quickly allow you to spot the right one.

Each time you start a new search, you should be at the top of the index page. Do a Ctrl+F “TTT” and it will position you at the top of page for your next search.

Play with it! Look up some of your own ancestors or cousins. You’ll learn about our archives, and maybe even discover something you didn’t know about your own family!

Looking for a good article written by me? Try Ctrl+F “Coffey, Fred”. The first thing you will learn is that my first name is not actually “Fred”, it’s “Leo” and Reams’ index points that out. So you have to start over with Ctrl+F “Coffey, Leo F”. Yes, I’ve been busy writing for the CCC Newsletters!

Another neat searching trick: Suppose you are researching the Hugh Coffey line. Reams uses a code “H#” to flag known descendants of Hugh, where the “#” is the number of generations removed. So searching Ctrl+F “H1” will find Hugh himself, “H2” will find his children, “H3” will find his grandchildren. Looking for spouses? Searching for “H3s” will find spouses of grandchildren! This kind of search should also work for Edward (E), Peter(P), Ambrose(A), and Chesley(C). (But be careful with Chesley – because Chesley Senior probably didn’t exist, and even if he did exist he was a descendant of Edward. Many articles will link his presumed descendants to Edward(E)!

Oh, you CAN search for “Waldo” in our index. There is a “Waldon Coffey”, and “Ralph Waldo Emerson” got a mention!

COFFEY DNA PROJECT: Late News, and a New Recruit

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

Just as we were about to go to press with this newsletter, I got another query: “Hello, My name is Suzanne Brooks Carpenter. My maternal grandparents are 1st generation USA born. My great grandparents came from Ireland. My grandmother was Elizabeth Catherine COFFEY. I know little to nothing about this side of my family. I had my mother’s first cousin, Michael Coffey take the YDNA test and the Family Finder test. He has no Coffey matches. I don’t really understand it. My mother, my sister, and myself have all taken autosomal dna tests, We all have Coffey matches.

Michael's son, Christopher, has taken the atDNA and is my 2nd closest match. We match several people who have the same Coffey line. One match, Damien Coffey lives in Ireland. He has helped me confirm some of what I did happen to find and he added a bit more. I don't know what to think. I am coming to you to see if you understand what is going on.

LINEAGE: Michael Coffey

Roland Coffey (my grandmother was his sister)

Christopher J. Coffey B 1864 (Westmeath). Ireland, D 1940 Westchester County, New York

Christopher Patrick Coffey 1828 Westmeath, Ireland 1900 Dublin, Ireland

Christopher Coffey 1800 Mullingar, Westmeath, Ireland

I have heard from another Coffey descendant, Robert Courtney. He matches me on Ancestry. He lives in Dublin. He also matches Damien. To the best of my knowledge, Damien has not taken a YDNA test.”

And I (Fred) replied as follows: “Your situation is not unusual. My impression, given all the tests you have done, is that all the matches you have are showing a single coherent Coffey family with origins in Westmeath. You could try to persuade Damien to do a y-DNA test, but I think, given other tests, that it is highly probable he will match Michael.

Your lack of DNA matches to others in the Coffey Project is simply because our Project has not yet tested anyone else from your family. Was there a Non Paternal Event (NPE) in your family? Ultimately, that is quite possible. But I’m pretty sure it was back in Ireland, at an unknown time, involving a MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) of Michael and Damien.

I suspect you have already found our project web page, at:

www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA

If you choose to have Michael join our project (and he would be most welcome!), and based on what I now believe, he would be placed on this page:

<http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA/P1F5.htm>

You can see he would NOT be alone in his non-connection to other major Coffey groups. Also note that some of the people on this page are “pairs”. I think that if Damien did the same test, he would likely be next to Michael. And eventually, as other people got tested, we might find enough other matches and they would become a group large enough to have their own page.”

And I got an immediate reply:

“Hi Fred, Thank you so much for getting back to me so quickly. I will join Michael to the project. You are welcome to tell the story in your newsletter. Have a great day. Sue”

**AND DON'T FORGET:
YOU CAN ALL VISIT THIS WINSTON
CHURCHILL MEMORIAL WITH THE
COFFEY COUSINS CONVENTION ON
APRIL 29!**

