

# Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 147 ISSN 0749-758X

## **President's Message**

Hi Cousins,

Those of you who did not make the 2018 Reunion of the Coffee/ey Cousins really missed a great time. The Motel was first class, the attendees were warm and friendly, and the weather cooperated. David Smith did a great job of putting together a fine weekend.

We separated in groups and visited the WWI Museum, Steam Ship Arabia Museum, the Nelson-Adkins Museum of Art and a few other venues. What amazing City.

The weekend was capped off with sumptuous dinner at the School of Culinary Arts where David is a professor.

We had a very informative class on DNA and the ongoing study of the Coffee/ey DNA Project by Fred Coffey, who has been working on this for many years. Check out his Roadmap to Coffey Information <http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html>

We are progressing well for our 2019 reunion. David Brogan announced his plans for the reunion to be held in Franklin, Tennessee. He is firming up the plans, and we will be getting the information out in our next newsletter.

### **Coffey Cousins Convention 2019, Franklin, Tennessee**

Franklin is a city just 20 miles south of Nashville, off I-65. A key site of the American Civil War, it's home to 2 properties exploring the 1864 Battle of Franklin: Carter House and Carnton Plantation, which includes the McGavock Confederate Cemetery. The 1858 Lotz House contains a large collection of 19th-century furniture. Downtown Franklin's Main Street is lined with galleries, antique shops and restored Victorian buildings. Modern Cool Springs Mall is only 12 miles north with shopping, restaurants and entertainment.

### **Civil War History in Franklin**

Carter House	Carnton Plantation	McGavock Confederate Cemetery
Eastern Flank Battlefield Park	Fort Grainger Park	Winstead Hill
Williamson County Museum		

### **Activities in and near Franklin**

The Factory at Franklin, Franklin Antique Mall  
Sightseeing on Natchez Trace Parkway National Scenic  
Shopping, entertainment, art galleries in Franklin, Leipers Fork, Nashville

### **Nearby attractions**

Stones River National Battlefield, Murfreesboro TN	Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville TN
Nashville Zoo, Nashville TN	Ryman Auditorium, Nashville TN
The Parthenon, Nashville TN	Grand Ole Opry, Nashville TN
The Johnny Cash Museum, Nashville TN	Belle Meade Plantation, Nashville TN
Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Nashville TN	The Hermitage, Nashville TN
Cheekwood Estate & Gardens, Nashville TN	Adventure Science Center, Nashville TN
Belmont Mansion, Nashville TN	Tennessee State Museum, Nashville TN
Tennessee Archive Library, Nashville TN	

And much more!! So, start making your plans early and join with your cousins for another great reunion. Enjoy the summer and travel safe.

*Wayne Mower*

President CCC

([wdmower@verizon.net](mailto:wdmower@verizon.net))

**Editor's Comments**

Hello Cousins,

Wish we could save a little of this heat for the winter. Here we are again, trying to share more Coffey genealogy. We got a good dose of it at the convention with the DNA discussions and a speaker from the genealogy library in Independence. I need to spend some time over there. We really appreciate the great job that David Smith did at setting up and hosting the convention. Also, we received some really nice hostess gift bags. I understand that David's family provided these. There were 2 sticks of chewing gum in mine that have that wonderful smell of the old Dentine gum. I will keep mine forever!!

We had a great visit as Cathy Powers and I shared our suite as a gathering place with coffee and cookies. I always like to tell who attended in the newsletter as that seems to be our only existing minutes. The secretary minutes have always been lost when we change secretary.

Those who signed the register this year are:

Wayne & Jean Mower, David & Barbara Smith, Fred Coffey, Jessie & Robin Coffey, Cathy Powers, Dave Brogan, Larry Coffey, Vivian Smith, Linda Smith Berube, Karen Smith, Timothy Peterman, Rickey E. Miller, Terri & Ed Stern, Ginny & Ike Thomas, Judy Withrow and of course me, Bonnie Culley

Don't forget to share any new genealogy links or stories that you find.

[bculey@embarqmail.com](mailto:bculey@embarqmail.com)

*Bonnie Culley*

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**We Get Mail**

**From John Coffey**

(See article "Finding Joseph Coffey" on Page 3.)

Asa C. Coffey my 2x Great Grandfather, son of Joseph Sr. Any tips on my determining a.) his burial site and b.) whether he was on the Union or Confederate side?

**EUROPEAN UNION (EU) GDPR (GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION):**

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

In response to new EU data protection laws, known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), our DNA testing service FTDNA, and many other companies, have decided to

apply the same rules to their business. FTDNA have issued a new set of “Group Project Administrator Terms & Policies”. To remain as an administrator, I needed to acknowledge that I accept those policies. I have done so.

The heart of the policy is that you have a “Right to be forgotten”. You can request that your data in any institution applying GDPR be removed. I have sent a note to each of the participants in our Coffey DNA Project explaining how this affects the way we manage our project. And I have advised each participant that he has a right to request removal of his information from our online web page. I expect that few will ask for any removal of information. Most of us WANT to share our DNA and genealogy information, to help us work with others on our genealogy.

In my message to participants, I included the following paragraph explaining how we discuss DNA in these newsletters:

As a separate activity, the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse publishes quarterly newsletters, and I am often active in writing therein about DNA analysis. Sometimes that discussion may make it possible to learn more about a DNA participant than can be learned from our DNA web page, including sometimes his email or mail address. Usually the DNA participant is also an active participant in the discussions and is delighted to have that discussion and maybe get input from others. For future newsletters, we will take great care to assure that we clearly have the DNA participant’s explicit permission to discuss his DNA and to report his email address. However, I consider all previous newsletters to be “public”, and these newsletters are sometimes collected in public libraries. We will not be able to retroactively remove information.

In addition to being careful what I or others write about DNA, I think we need to be careful about revealing email addresses in general. I think anyone who writes for these newsletters should take care to get permission before publishing email addresses.

While Bonnie Culley is the editor of these newsletters, I am sort of the “Distribution Manager” and am the last to see a newsletter before it goes out. I will try to be sort of a “watchdog” to make sure articles seem to have suitable permission.

Fred

### **FINDING JOSEPH COFFEY SR:**

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

With Jack Coffee (Contact: [jack.coffee@gmail.com](mailto:jack.coffee@gmail.com))

As the Coffey DNA Project co-administrator, I recently received notice that a new 67-marker y-DNA test had been completed on John Coffey ([johnw.coffey55@gmail.com](mailto:johnw.coffey55@gmail.com)). His test was a perfect match to our reference for descendants of Edward Coffey, proving beyond a doubt the John was a descendant of Edward Coffey.

John had engaged consultants at Ancestry to research his family tree. But they had hit a brick wall at getting back beyond an ancestor Joseph Coffey (1784-1834) who married Jane S Graves (~1793 – 1861). And after checking Jack Coffee’s ECP (Edward Coffey Project) it was quickly apparent that the ECP had none of his proven ancestors. This was not a line that had been previously researched by Jack!

John’s various family members had deep roots in Christian County, KY. With that information, I turned to our newsletter archive, and found that his Joseph Coffey was actually well known to the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse. Newsletter issue 104-8 has the will of Joseph, and the names of his wife and children solidly tie him to John’s ancestry. Similar information is in 102-5. There’s a brief biographical sketch in 46-9.

And the article in 104-8 offers that “Marvin Coffey says that Joseph is a son of Joel Coffey and Martha Stepp”. And Jack’s ECP does name a “Joseph” as a son of Joel & Martha. But it offers little information about Joseph. We can possibly put the pieces together as follows:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca1670 - ca1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 - ~1744)
- (2) Edward Coffey JR. (ca1701 - >1774) & Unknown???
- (3) Joel Coffey (ca1730 - ~1789) & Martha Stepp (Sealey?)
- (4) Joseph Coffey (1784 - 1834) & Jane S Graves (~1793 - 1861)
- (5) Asa C Coffey (~1826 - ~1866) & Sidney Ann Harrison (~1826 - )
- (6) Robert H Coffey (~1846 - 1901) & Eva Amorette Chalkley (1861 - 1900)
- (7) Harry Knight Coffey (1894 - 1954) & Grace C Bottler (~1896 - 1985)
- (8) Howard Knight Coffey (1926 - 2009)
- (9) John Coffey

Jack, in his biographical information on Joel Coffey and Martha Stepp says that “After Joel died Martha and her children moved to Kentucky. They settled in Madison Co. then moved to Green Co. That part of Green Co. later became Adair Co. and sometime later became part of Russell Co.”

That is consistent with other information. Adair, Russell, and Cumberland Counties are clustered together in Kentucky. John found a marriage record that Joseph married Jane Graves in Cumberland County, KY, on 28 Sep 1808. And there is a land grant in Cumberland dated 12 Nov 1808 giving Joseph 35 acres. And the 1810 census for Cumberland has a Joseph Coffey with ages consistent with his wife Jane and first son Madison. There is also a Joseph in the 1820 census, but with a complicated head count that might be consistent with two combined families?

#### **Jack Coffee Observations:**

In Dec., 1989, Daraleen Wade, now deceased, a prolific contributor to the newsletter wrote that the DAR had, on her request closed the file on Joel Coffey and Martha Seely [sic] because of numerous errors. She didn’t outline the errors.

This Joel had been cited as being born in VA c1725-1730 and died in NC in 1760. Others report his death in 1789. He had married Martha Seely. Joel’s parents were listed as Edward Coffey, Jr. and Grace Cleveland.

The DAR Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors, Vol. 1, A-C, and DAR Record No. 76141 extensively outlines the ancestors and descendants of Joel. That information is incorrect. At least it was when Daraleen had the file closed. Unless there has been more documentation added to correct some of the errors, the file is likely to still remain closed.

Likely contributing to Daraleen’s DAR report, could be the remarks by Marvin Coffey that no one has proved the children of Edward and Grace.

I would and have placed Joel and Martha in the line of Chesley and Jane purely based on time and location in which they were found. But, then we don’t know that Chesley existed. Some have given him the name of Joel Chesley and that might be accurate. However, middle names did not become common until well after the Revolution; into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Joseph is not listed in Joel's 1789 will (Wilkes Co., NC Will Book I, p260) but does appear in other researcher's works. He could have been born to Joel's first wife and died before the will was made. Joseph has also been reported to have gone to Kentucky quite early, and already otherwise provided for by his father thereby not making the will. And, even if Joel had only one



**Fred Memo:** The early generations of the Edward Coffey descendants remain subject to uncertainties that may affect the above genealogy. The reader should visit our [“CoffeyRoadmap”](#) and review the discussion under “Edward: Early Generation Issues”.

### **THE “JOEL COFFEY” PROBLEM:**

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

Hey Jack, I know how to read your above census report: The Joel in your census report is “Joel Coffey (Bogy)”. In the early 1800’s there was a serious surplus of Coffey’s in Russell County going by the name “Joel”, and the tax collectors and census takers had a real problem keeping track of them! They had to find some way to keep them separate, and they used nicknames! One of those was regularly labeled “Joel (Bogy)”, and another was “Joel (Red)”, or “Joel (Red Head)”.

Back in 2009 the CCC Convention was held in Russell County, and Kevin Coffey and I undertook an effort to put together a book with everything we could find about every Coffey who could be found in Russell and surrounding counties for 1810 through 1880. Our book was [www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/RussellCo](http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/RussellCo) and ran to over 150 pages.

Within that, there was a large collection of assorted abstracts:

[www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/RussellCo/MiscAbstracts.pdf](http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/RussellCo/MiscAbstracts.pdf) (21 pages)

[www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/RussellCo/AbstractsIndex.pdf](http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/RussellCo/AbstractsIndex.pdf) (13 pages)

[www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/RussellCo/JoelPuzzle.pdf](http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/RussellCo/JoelPuzzle.pdf) (1 page)

Within that abstract index there were 47 references to people named Joel Coffey. Out of these, Joel (Bogy), also known as Joel B, got 7 references. Joel (Bogy) was found in the 1828, 1829, 1833, 1835, and 1836 tax lists. There were also 27 references to Joseph Coffey, most of whom were probably for John Coffey’s ancestor.

By the way, these newsletters you are now reading have 769 Joel references (not counting the ones in this newsletter), of which 191 are to Joel Coffey and 47 are to Joel Coffee.

Here’s a challenge to our readers: Sort out all the Joel’s, and accurately associate them with dates, spouses, places, etc., etc. The Coffey Cousins will be eternally grateful!

**From Jack Coffee:** Give me a few days to look for more of these Joels with "pet" names.

**Comment from Bob Coffey:** I did not know that Joel was that popular a name for Irish folks in those years. Bob

**Response from Fred:** Hi Robert, I don't think the popularity of "Joel" had anything to do with it being (or not) a "popular name for Irish folks in those years". I think that the first Joel did something judged heroic by the Coffey Clan, and every brother in that family promptly needed to name a son "Joel"!

Details are very elusive, and I would love for someone to shed some new light on the issue. However, I think it somehow goes back to the famous "Wilkes County Riot Trial of 1784". (Hey, the Hatfields and McCoys were not the only families fighting a feud!) I believe the heroic Joel was probably the Joel who was indicted at that time.

For more information, read Newsletter 111-6,7,8.

**More From Jack Coffee:** I just worked on the Joels for two full days and still as confused as ever. Don't think I'm going to try any more this century.

Joseph could be a son of Joel. He appears nearby to Joel in 1810 Morganton, Burke Co., NC. John Stapp is a neighbor. The nearby Joel is probably Joel, Jr. Both he and Joseph appear in the 26-44 age group. The elderly John Stapp (45 and over) could be their grandfather and father of their mother Martha.

But, Joseph Stapp and Katherine Spoon are considered to be the parents of Martha. Perhaps John is a brother to Joseph or an older son?!

I will keep Joseph in the Joel/Martha Stapp Coffey family but note that he is not proven to my satisfaction to be their son, esp. since he is not mentioned in Joel's 1789 will.

I think Nebuzaradan belongs in the Joel/Martha family based really on the fact that Joel suspects Martha to be with child in his will and Neb was born about 4 months later, in Aug., 1789.

All of the above comments are pure speculation and will likely never be proven without distinct differences found between the various Joels.

Someone might want to check with the Pike Co., IL historical society and local libraries for writings left by Eliza Emeline Coffey Porter, wife of John M. Porter and granddaughter of Joel/Martha, and who died in Pikesville in 1901 and was buried at the Blue River Cemetery in Detroit, Pike Co. I have written a few e-mails to the historical society over the years and have never received a response.

Jack

**Today's Trivia (Fred):** I don't know that there is any connection to Joel (Bogy), but Lord Grenville, an 18<sup>th</sup> century British Prime Minister, became the butt of cartoonists, and acquired the nickname of Bogy, or Bogey, on account of his goblin-like appearance. Here's a piece of verse, that appeared in his biography (by Peter Jupp):

*“Lord Bogy boasts no common share of head;  
What plenteous stores of knowledge may contain  
The spacious tenement of Bogy's brain.  
Nature in all her dispensations wise,  
Who formed his head-piece of so vast a size,  
Hath not, 'tis true, neglected to bestow  
Its due proportions on the part below;  
And hence the reason, that to secure the State  
His top and bottom may have equal weight.”*

### **FF PETERMAN TIMOTHY:**

As many of you know, Tim Peterman is very involved with FamilyFinder (autosomal DNA testing), and that his work includes significant analysis of parts of the Coffey family. Any of you involved in similar atDNA analysis may be interested in an overview of some of his project:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/ff-peterman-timothy/about>

### **CAN YOU SAVE “JAMES TEMPLE COFFEY” FROM BEING DELETED BY JACK?**

Following is a confusing exchange of notes. Anybody that can clarify everything is invited to speak up!

**From: JoAnn Coffey ([joann\\_coffey@yahoo.com](mailto:joann_coffey@yahoo.com)) To: Fred Coffey**

Question...you (see Newsletter 144-5,6,7) figured out that my James A. Coffey (the elder one) was the son of James Temple Coffey & Sarah Fielding. Have you seen a document that was signed by him, using the middle name Temple? I thought I saw something in the CCC or e-mail,

but I can't find it. I'd feel better seeing one, as so many people identify James Temple Coffey as the son of James Coffey & Sarah Fielding, born in 1803-but you figured out that my James A. Coffey was their son, born in 1850ish. Was it determined that it was a child that did not exist?

**From: Fred Coffey To: JoAnn Coffey Cc: Jack Coffee**

Hi Joann, I have NOT seen any document signed by James Temple Coffey, Junior or Senior, that shows his middle name.

I did search the full text of all the historical CCC Newsletters and found no mention of documents connected to any "James Temple" or "Temple" reference. (Searching for "James Coffey" is nearly impossible because there are hundreds and hundreds of "James Coffey".)

Most of what I have seen about James Temple Coffey comes from Jack's ECP. I've copied this note to Jack, to see if he has anything.

**From: Jack Coffee To: Fred Coffey; JoAnn Coffey**

I asked a friend who is deep into Grainger county Coffey families. She told me that she doesn't have a James Temple Coffey.

I have no source for the middle name Temple.

I do have this note for him:

This James Coffey may be the son of Joel Coffey and Elizabeth Grubb.

The following from Peggy Swanson of 1381 Butler Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84102:

"Married 14 Dec. 1825 Grainger Co., bondsman was John Coffee; James Kennon, MG. Sarah (Sally) was b. 1803. Children were: (1) Joel, b. 1827, m. 11/15/1856 to Sarah Mullens, b. 1837. They had one daughter; (2) Dorcus Ann, b. 1829, m. 7/24/1845 to John T. Mitchell; (3) Martha died in infancy; (4) Elizabeth, b. 1834, m. 11/16/1871 to Preston Vineyard. (5) John, b. ca. 1832, m. ca. 1853 to Nancy Vineyard. Their children were: James W., b. 1854; Eliza Cordelia, b. 1856; William G., b. 1858; Pleasant G., b. 1861; Nancy Catherine, b. 1863; John P., b. 1865; Samuel Henry, b. 1869; Meredith Frank, b. 1872 and Sarah A., b. 1872, twin of Meredith). (6) Mahala, b. 1837; (7) Calvin, b. 1839; (8) Mary, b. 1842 and (9) Henry Aquilla, b. 1847, m. Nannie B. Briscoe."

**From: Jack Coffee To: Fred Coffey; JoAnn Coffey**

After another look, Marvin does mention James Temple Coffey (no Jr applied) and names his source as Grainger County Tennessee Inventory of Estates and Wills, 1847-52, pp399, 408-10 and deed book M, pp38-41. Anyone with access to those sources?

Another note in his supplement says children were Joel, Dorcas, Martha, Elizabeth, John, Mahala, Calvin, Mary, Henry Aquilla and James A. Marvin adds that this list of children differs greatly from the list given in the sources listed above.

Marvin does have a reference to a James Temple Coffey in his index, but that person is not on the page listed.

I looked at several entries for James Temple Coffey on-line and see a reference to a letter send by Marvin on 2000 to someone named "Chilihawk." His or her source for the name is the letter.

Joann might know this Chilihawk (Memo from Fred: This is probably the Chilton Hawk mentioned on Joann's tree in Newsletter 144-6.)

Like Chesley, the Temple name has gone viral. I haven't yet found any specific sources to any Coffey with that name except the reference to Marvin's book and Chilihawk.

James, father of the alleged James Temple, Jr., is said by him to be buried at North Richland Baptist Church at Clinch Mountain. So far, a search hasn't turned up any such church cemetery.

Furthermore, it cannot be solidly verified by me that James Temple was a son of James who married Sarah Fielding. The date given to the birth is c1831. Twenty-one years later, Sally Fielding had another son named James who does appear in the 1862 census and an 8 year old.

Neither can it be verified by me that the James Coffey who married Martha Statsworth in Grainger Co. on Dec. 18, 1848.

Obviously need closer look!

**I am going to remove mention of James Temple from the ECP if no one is able to get better info.**

Jack

### **SEARCHING FOR ELVIN D COFFEY:**

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

Last September our DNA Project had a y-DNA result for a John West ([westjeltc@gmail.com](mailto:westjeltc@gmail.com) ) that proved without doubt that he was somehow a descendant of Edward. There were complications related to the analysis, but we are now ready to explain things to the Coffey Cousins, and see if anyone has any ideas. I'll show John's comments in italic:

*My name is John E. (Jack) West, age 81, and grew up near Kansas City, MO. We knew that my father was adopted by his step-father when he was young and were told that his birth father was at least half Cherokee. One of my sisters and her daughter recently had their DNA tested and the results showed 90% + Western European with substantial Irish, but no Native American. I decided to have Family Finder (FF) and Y-DNA testing on my DNA by Family Tree DNA. I am giving up my claim to Native American heritage reluctantly, since I took pride in it. I hope to fill in enough blanks in my apparent Coffey heritage to make it seem real.*

*We believe that my father was born and lived through his mid-teens in the area where OK, AR, KS, and MO join. We have some hard evidence, and a lot of suppositions, some of which appear to be false. We do have proof that he was associated with an "Elvin D. Coffey" in OK, but I have been unable to find out anything regarding Elvin's heritage. I think that it is possible that "Elvin" may actually be "Alvin," which seems to be more common.*

I wrote back: "I did search some of our Coffey-specific data bases for an Elvin D Coffey, or for an "Alvin" variation, with no success. We have many thousands of Coffey-related names on file. I did find an Elvin D Coffey in the 1930 census for Garvin County, OK, an inmate in the "State Training School for White Boys". He was born about 1912 in Missouri. Is that likely the right person?"

*The Elvin D. Coffey you found is the one of interest to me. There is also an Alvin Coffey, born circa 1914 in MO, residing in a state penitentiary in Garvin Co., OK in the 1940 census.*

*I would appreciate your asking for information concerning Elvin in the Newsletter. I also found a D. L. Coffey in the 1920 census, born circa 1876 in TX, wife, Lua, and children; Cassie, Laviora, and Dessie. I also found a Swiveel D. Coffey in the 1930 census, born circa 1912 in OK (my notes indicated that his "relation" in the household was "grandchild". You might want to ask about these people as well if you aren't sure where they fit into the Coffey family.*

*I had checked for a FF match to the 37-Marker Y-DNA matches, but only came up with one, Meldon Robert Coffey. He is a Y-DNA 37 Genetic Distance (GD) 3 and a Family Finder 3rd Cousin - 5th Cousin.*

I was able to work out from other sources that “D L Coffey” was David Lee Coffey (9 Sep 1875 – 20 Sep 1954) and his wife was Louisa Jane Lawley (16 Nov 1875 – 11 Sep 1954). This family is also unknown in the Coffey Cousins’ database. (There was a query in Newsletter 55-9, but nothing came of it.)

I explained that Meldon Robert Coffey did have Missouri roots in that he was born there. So a connection was not impossible. Meldon’s GGGrandparents, Eli and Mary, were first cousins so Meldon got an “extra dose” of Coffey DNA. (Eli and Mary are also my own ancestors!) There were also matches to other Coffey-related names that I recognized, who tended to also have marriages of cousins. All of these were reported at about the 4<sup>th</sup> cousin level but may have actually been more distant because of the “extra” Coffey DNA.

More importantly, we belatedly discovered he had a match at about the 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin level to Lawrence Ronald Coffee. This “Ronald” was sponsored by Lori Okel, who many readers will remember as a frequent contributor to these newsletters. Ronald was her known cousin, and she was trying unsuccessfully to establish her ancestral connections via DNA. And her family had Missouri roots. (I would now love to see a Family Finder test on Lori herself. But Lori is now deceased, and it is not possible to obtain a Family Finder test.)

So, there’s the story. Anybody know how to find Elvin Coffey?

**ANNISTER COFFEY: Continuing Exchanges, With:**

**Tom Coffey** [tomcoffey1525@gmail.com](mailto:tomcoffey1525@gmail.com)

**Bob Coffey** [bjcoffey@netwurx.net](mailto:bjcoffey@netwurx.net)

Tom and Bob have been actively exchanging notes with each other and with Jack, Bonnie and Fred. They are trying to work out solid information on their descent from the Annister Coffey line. The topic was discussed in Newsletter issue 144-10,11,12 in 145-14,15 and in 146-5. There are many uncertainties, and the discussion was getting complicated and going off in many directions. I (Fred) challenged them to reorganize their thoughts and report again. Here’s the latest effort:

**From: Tom Coffey**

*I'll accept Fred's challenge and try to neaten things up a bit. Unfortunately I can't provide answers, just imagination.*

*While we were connecting James Sylvester Coffey to James Jr, the connection of Lewis M Coffey to James Jr. became suspect. It was just timing, not cause and effect. Bob knows of a Victor Hugo Coffey letter that states that Lewis M Coffey parents were deceased when he ran away from home at an early age, and their names were unknown.*

*In 1800 a Bethel Coffee family appears in Salisbury Guilford. I can't find this family before or after 1800. And in 1810, I can't find any coffee(y)s in Guilford. They are a big family.*

*1 male under 10*

*3 males 16-25*

*1 male 26-44*

*1 male 45+*

*1 female under 10*

*2 females 10-15*

*1 female 26-44*

*My guess is:*

*Bethel was a widower.*

*One of his sons was married with two children under 10, one M, one F.*

*The three other men 16-25 are also Bethel's sons.*

*The other two women 10-15 could be daughters, or possibly child brides?*

*This is quite a large family to appear and vanish. Fred suggested a possible long shot "Bathewel Coffin" connection in the 1790 census. But that would only possibly explain the appearance, not the vanishing. As for the vanishing, admittedly James Jr seems to vanish also, but Fred seems to have found him as James Cuffe still in the Stokes area. I tried similar names with no luck. No more coffee-like names in Guilford in 1810*

*Bethel is 45+ in the 1800 census. With James being born in 1735/6, it's possible Bethel could be a brother of Micajah and James Jr. James was virile enough to father James Jr. when he was 40, seems could have fathered others before he was 20. If that's the case, then the 26-44 year old son of Bethel could have been the father of Lewis M Coffey - who would have been the male under 10 in the 1800 census.*

*Why the appearance in 1800? Might have moved there, maybe from VA? Or were just missed in 1790?*

*Why the vanishing? Moved west? Disease? Died on the wagon train?*

*Why even think about Bethel as the grandfather of Lewis M Coffey and brother to Micajah and James Jr?*

- 1. Geography - Guilford is reasonably close to Stokes*
- 2. Name - Bethel and Micajah biblical theme*
- 3. He's available. No one else has claimed him that I can find*

*If others are going to ponder this puzzle, there's one more Coffey that I think might fit in somewhere - the Spencer Coffey who had an NC connection, passed through KY and onto IN, ending up not far from Micajah and James Sylvester. This is who I was referring to:*

*Spencer Coffee b. 1797 NC*

*m. Mary Hensley Pruitt Amack Coffee b. 1804 in Stokes NC*

*Both died in Franklin County, IN*

*----Granville Spencer Coffey b. 12 March 1842*

*A whole lot of conjecture..... Trigger any ideas? Tom*

**From: robert coffey**

*I apologize for the time it has taken me to respond to Tom's message, but it included a lot of things to consider both pro and con. The facts we all accept are , 1. Tom and Bob both carry the Samuel DNA and it was brought into Stokes Cty. by James Coffey (Sr), 2. Our subsequent family lines have both been traced separately back to Stokes Cty, and 3. Our ancestors born in Stokes Cty did not have the same parents. ( James Sylvester Coffey was born in 1813 and it has been told, by a grandson, Victor Hugo Coffey, that Lewis M. Coffey's parents would have died years before that). That certainly implies that James Coffey, Sr. had more than two male children as son Micajah was childless in all census reports and James, Jr lived beyond 1820. I have not seen any published records that identify a third son. Doesn't mean there wasn't one, but he is yet to be found. The Coffey Family of Townfork Settlement, researched by Judy Cardwell covers this family's history from 1779 through 1796 and it mentions only the two sons, Micajah born in Virginia ca.1768 and James, Jr born in NC ca.1776. For that reason, it had been easy for me to assign Lewis's parentage to James, Jr. until I found out recently that his duration did not fit the early death claim about Lewis's parents.*

*Fred's analysis of the James Sylvester Coffey family development on pages 10-12 in CCC No.144 is very believable except for the reference to Lewis M. being there in the 1820 census at age 22, as he was married in Pulaski Cty, KY in January 1818 at age 19 yrs. and remained in KY for a few years before moving to Indiana. Where the 1790 Stokes Cty census shows 3 free white males in the family of James Coffey, the 1800 census shows 4 including 2 under 10 yrs. So one of those could have been the orphaned Lewis M. I had come to the same conclusion about the James Coffey family as Fred has concerning the*

*listings of the James Coffey family in the census reports. The James who was head of household in the 1784-1787 census, in 1790, and 1800, was probably James Sr. In the reports in the following decades it was James, Jr. And I think that nicely frames the development of Tom's line beginning with James Sylvester. I wonder if Lewis M and James Sr left together between 1800 and 1810.*

*I have to locate someone in my family who may have more to offer about Lewis's childhood than what Victor Hugo Coffey has written. Time will tell and of course I will let you know what I find out.*

Regards, Bob

### **UPDATE ON THE HUGH COFFEY PROJECT:**

by Terri Stern ([hughcoffeyproject@gmail.com](mailto:hughcoffeyproject@gmail.com))

Work continues on the Hugh Coffey Project. Several new members have joined who descend from Rebecca Coffey, daughter of Hugh and wife of the Revolutionary War Soldier and Patriot William Gault. The book on Rebecca's descendants, *The William Gault Family History, 1735-1948* by Pressley Brown Gault and Elisabeth Pinkerton Leighty is widely quoted at Ancestry.com as a source. Part I was written in long-hand by Pressley Brown Gault in 1893 and Part II is the update taken on by Elisabeth Pinkerton Leighty, who typed up Pressley's manuscript. I purchased a copy online from the [www.Lulu.com](http://www.Lulu.com) self publishing website for \$5 plus shipping. The 178 page paperback is well worth the price for any descendant interested in this Coffey line. It includes stories and lineage information not found elsewhere on Rebecca Coffey's descendants.

Terri

### **EDWARD COFFEY PROJECT (ECP):**

by Jack Coffee [jack.coffee@gmail.com](mailto:jack.coffee@gmail.com)

For Project Info (pricing, ordering, etc.) see:

<http://coffeycousins.blogspot.com/p/edward-coffey-project-explained.htm>

### **5/29/2018 Update**

The current edition of The Edward Coffey Project on USB contains 44746 people, 15219 families, 108356 events, 7385 places, 2344 sources, 56593 citations and 12452 multimedia items. It also contains over 16000 other documents and photographs.

This work mainly presents families and their descendants. Family histories, for the most part are not included. You will find many newspaper articles describing engagements, weddings, deaths and a few "black sheep" articles as part of my project. There are photographs, some wills, death certificates, photos of headstones, birth certificates, marriage documents and the like. It will be up to each user to describe their own family history stories.

If you have any questions/reservations about this project before deciding to purchase, feel free to write to me. I will tell you if your particular ancestor's family is represented.

Free but limited research assistance will be provided via e-mail whether or not you accept the offer. That is, I will try to help you with questions you might have about your family that might get you on the correct research path.

I do not offer refunds but in very exceptional cases. The information is easy for someone to copy then return the files to me, requesting a refund.

You are certain to find errors in the work; hopefully, they will be very minor. Please let me know if you find any in your genealogy and I will correct them in my master file.

My work in the format found on the USB drive is copyrighted. If you feel disposed to break my copyright and I find it anywhere on the web, that will create a problem. Thanks for understanding.

Jack

**INFORMATION RESOURCE LINKS:** We're going to continue using this last page to show where you can find some good sources of information:

**NEWSLETTER QUERIES:**

If you wish to pose a query to the newsletter, or offer an article or a suggestion, send to **Bonnie Culley** at [Bculey@embarqmail.com](mailto:Bculey@embarqmail.com). Unless it's a question primarily about DNA, in which case send it to [FredCoffey@aol.com](mailto:FredCoffey@aol.com).

**OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES:**

The "Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse" has access to a very substantial database of information about families with the Coffey or Coffee surname, or those connected to such a family. We are trying to consolidate access to all of these sources in a single location. If you are looking for any Coffey-related information, click on the following:

**[THE COFFEY/COFFEE SURNAME:](#)**  
**[GENEALOGY INFORMATION ROADMAP](#)**