

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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President's Message

Hi Cousins,

Here it is September already. I hope everyone had a great summer. We spent 11 weeks on the road with our motorhome and logged just under 7,000 miles. We toured the West and Midwest this year visiting with friends and family and several of Jean's Coffees in Wyoming.

We are getting an early start with the plans for our 2019 Coffee/ey Cousins Convention. This coming year we will be gathering in Franklin, Tennessee. The list of the many activities for the area was in the last newsletter so I will not take up a lot of space going over them again. Jean and I plan to tour the Franklin area and will try to return to the Tennessee State Archives in Nashville, which are only about 20 miles to the south. We were there back in the 90s and found a lot of information. Jean also has Stevens and Wier/ Ware families in the Franklin Area. We might even come early or stay late for a visit and show at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

The dates for the 2019 Convention will be April 25, 26 and 27. We will be at the Best Western Franklin Inn. It is located at 1308 Murfreesboro Rd., Franklin, TN 37064. They can be contacted at (615) 790-0570, or frontdeskbwf@gmail.com. Their web site is www.bestwestern.com.

The costs for the rooms are \$84.99 for two Queens and \$74.99 for a single queen. Of course, that does not include the ever-present tax. Dave has reserved 15 rooms plus a hospitality room for Friday and Saturday. The cut off for pricing will be the 11th of April. Any reservations after that will be at the regular price. There will also be a cost for the Saturday evening banquet, but these plans are still being worked on.

Start making your plans early and join with your cousins for another great convention. Dave Brogan has put a lot of work into the plans for this year's convention. Hopefully we will have a good turnout. (Contact: DaveBrogan@comcast.net)

Don't forget to check out Fred Coffey's Coffey Roadmap Project (see link at end of newsletter). Don't forget to contribute to the Newsletter. Tell us about your research and your special finds.

Hopefully there will be someone thinking about hosting the convention for 2020. It is great to have information get out to everyone early. Please think about hosting so we can at least announce where we will be in 2020. It is not hard to do. Just takes a little organizing. Send me an email and I will send a paper out that will help guide you through the process.

Enjoy the last of summer and travel safe.

Wayne Mower

President CCC

wdmower@verizon.net

Editor's Comments

Hope everyone had a happy Labor Day.

Fred says that I have never written about my life at the Missouri Confederate Soldier's Home. Guess I just thought everyone knew but I did live there until I was 7. It was a wonderful place to live as a child with all those extra grandmas and grandpas. Needless to say, I was spoiled.

I was born May 17, 1933 at my Grandfather Flanigan's home. Dad was hired as dairyman at the Confederate Home in December of that year. Mother and Dad checked a little furniture out from the attic of the big Men's dormitory and we moved in. I can't remember much about the first house that we lived in, except that I fell into the big old iron sink while playing in the dishwasher. Guess it scared me is why I remember. The other thing is that Minnie Brown, a high school girl that lived next door would baby sit and play with me. She was an actual daughter of a Confederate Soldier. Her father had married a much younger lady and that was why they were still in one of the cottages at the home. The Superintendent was trying to keep the family together until she was of age. (That's another story!)

By the time I was 4, we were in a little better house, which I remember well. The Confederate Soldier's home was run by the State but was started by groups of soldiers who wanted to help those who had been injured during the war or were unable to take care of themselves. It was a very big self-sufficient farm, much like a small town. The main buildings were men and women's dormitories and hospital buildings, but we had a commissary, green house, power plant, office building and chapel along with about 15 cottages that employees lived in. Some single men also lived in rooms in the office complex. We had supervisors, nurses, cooks, laundry, engineers, storekeeper, gardeners, milkmen and probably a few more that I can't think of. A few workers commuted from town.

I sort of had the run of the place when I got old enough to do so. The Brant's across the street had the other children so we played. Their youngest and my brother were both born at the home. I did attend the first grade while living there and because the Brandt's and my family was Catholic, we were taken into town to the Catholic school.

This community had a huge park with a string of lakes. The old soldiers would fish down there and there was an island in one with a small cabin and Mammy doll in the door. The ladies would make new clothes for her a couple of times a year. The men would row out and change her clothes. There was also a goldfish pond. The men would set on the big veranda porch in rockers and fight the Civil War every day. They wouldn't let them smoke so they chewed tobacco. Some were still pretty spry but were getting fewer during the time we lived there.

One of my big memories was when the men's hospital wing burned. It's not something you can forget. One man died of smoke inhalation. (Too long to tell here) I did go back to the home to visit the ladies sometimes and visited with the last man who was 107 before he died.

Mother would help in the ladies' kitchen when there were vegetables to can. The ladies would baby sit me and that is how I learned to crochet. Guess it was to keep me quiet. That's why I make afghans for Coffey Convention.

This was a state-run institution, so when the politics changed we moved into Higginsville. I went to 2nd grade living in town. WWII had started, and Dad soon went to work at Remington Arms known as Lake City Arsenal.

If you ever have a chance to visit what is left of the Missouri Confederate Soldier's Home near Higginsville, MO, be sure to go into the chapel and sign the guest book. (Also add everyone you can think of. The Park Department allocates money according to how many visitors visit a particular park. We can use the money!)

On September 29th I will be the speaker at the Missouri United Daughters of the Confederacy State Convention. I'm to speak about growing up at the Missouri Confederate Soldier's Home.

bculey@embarqmail.com

Bonnie Culey

Bonnie's Family Line:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca 1670 - ca 20 Nov 1716) & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) John Coffey (BET 1699 AND 1700 - BET JAN 1775 AND FEB 1775) & Jane Graves (ca 1708 - 1792)
- (3) Benjamin Coffey (ca 1747 - 4 Jan 1834) & Mary Hayes (ca 1760 -)
- (4) John Coffey (15 Oct 1776 - 15 Mar 1845) & Elizabeth Rucker (6 Jan 1787 - 22 Mar 1855)
- (5) Elizabeth Coffey (14 Oct 1810 - 30 Aug 1883) & George W. Hayes (ca 1817 - 1898)
- (6) Hamilton Hayes (15 Dec 1854 - 1906) & Elvira Register (4 Mar 1861 - 14 Nov 1936)
- (7) Ida May Hayes (16 Sep 1883 - 27 May 1973) & John Henry Willard (17 Aug 1882 - 18 Feb 1935)
- (8) Stella Lucille Willard (13 Aug 1912 - Oct 1985) & Virgil James Flanigan (29 Dec 1902 - 7 Jan 1979)
- (9) **Bonnie** Rae Flanigan (17 May 1933 -) & James Dudley **Culey** (6 Oct 1930 - 15 Aug 2015)

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We Get Mail

From **Ray and Linda Coffey** (rwlj3coffey@gmail.com)

Dear Cousins: With the 2019 Reunion being in Tenn. maybe it would be another good time to raise the Issue of locating the Parents for Chesley Sheldon Coffee/ey (1818-1869), born in Murray County, Tenn. Per my DNA test we are related to the ECP. But the missing link seems to be Chesley's parents, either from Tenn. or North Carolina. If you know of other relatives (cousins) researching this generation and time period, we (our branch of the Coffey tree) would be interesting in solving the mystery.

From **Tom Coffey** (tomcoffey1525@gmail.com)

(See: Tom's discussions about Annister Coffey lines in Newsletter Issues 144-10,11,12 plus 145-14,15 plus 146-5 plus 147-10. In the last of these, he speculated about a possible connection to "the Spencer Coffey who had an NC connection, passed through KY and on to IN.")

Tom Writes: “I followed a trail on Spencer Coffey from Indiana. Maybe I missed it, but I didn't see where Spencer fit in. So, I thought maybe there could be an Annister connection.

I found a living relative via “find a grave” and the obits posted there. I contacted him, and his mother then contacted me. She says Spencer Coffey was Hiram Spencer Coffey, and that he was a son of Reuben Jr. (Descent: Reuben Jr., to (Hiram) Spencer, to Granville Spencer, to Albert Omer, to Robert Grandville, to Robert Keith). What do you think?

Reply **FROM JACK COFFEY:**

Tom, some researchers report a Granville Spencer Coffey (FAG #10645659) as a descendant of James Coffey and Sarah Coffey. Other researchers report this James Coffey to be a son of Joel and report Joel to be a descendant of Edward, Jr., son of Edward and Ann Powel Coffey. Sarah is reported to be a daughter of Nebuzaradan, also a son of Joel, son of Edward Jr.

I knew Dean and LaVonne Hoel, who placed this Granville Spencer on FAG and as best as I can recall, they were never really sure who his parents were. LaVonne wrote that he was a son of Spencer and Mary Pruitt Coffey. Dean seems to confirm that with a note he posted on the memorial 10645659. I know LaVonne is deceased; not certain if Dean is. It's been years since I last saw him.

I have James, Jr. as a son of James Samuel and Annister Coffey. This son James, Jr. may be the one who lived in Surry and Stokes Co. NC. He also spent time in Pittsylvania Co., VA. Or, he could be the one in Botetourt Co., VA in 1785. I tentatively listed him in my files as a son of Annister but don't have enough information to make a true determination of any parentage except perhaps for DNA.

A big break through is needed to find James Coffey, said son of Annister and James Samuel; then to prove that James Coffey who married Sarah Coffey in 1794 Wilkes Co., NC was a son of that James. If LaVonne Hoel was accurate, that proof would likely lead us to the second Granville Spencer and his descendants.

The James/Sarah marriage record tells us that George Hays was bondsman. I believe George might be the one that married Mary Juda “Polly” Mills. Their bondsman was Benjamin Coffey, possibly a nephew of Annister.

Nothing is “for certain” with the possible exception of James Coffey being James Samuel. Jack

From **Lucas McCaw:**

“I'm not sure if you have done a ton of research with your Coffey family or not. It's not a common name from what I can tell, but I'm no expert. I'm wondering... I live in Edmonton, western Canada. In the 1980s, we had an amazing defenceman on the Oilers hockey team named Paul Coffey. I know it's a longshot, but any idea if he's from the same line of Coffey males as you are? 😊”

OK, do any of our readers claim “Paul Coffey” as their cousin?

(Lucas is the administrator of the **R1b-DF27 and Subclades** project on FTDNA. This the branch of the human family tree marked by the mutation **DF27+**, which seems to include our “Edward” line:)

THE TEXAS COFFEE/Y FAMILY REUNION:

These newsletters often include notices about the “**Texas Coffee/y Family Reunion**”, which has met every year since 1937. See Newsletter 146-6,7 for discussion of this family. If a reader interested, contact Ed Coble (ed@edcoble.com). Ed is coordinating next year’s event, which will be in Newcastle, Wyoming.

But don’t get confused: This is a “**Reunion**” focused on a Texas branch of the Edward Coffey line. This is quite separate from the “**Convention**” advertised in the President’s Message on Page 1. Our Convention is directed at all things “Coffey/Coffee”, and includes multiple related and unrelated families!

THE WILL OF EDWARD COFFEY:

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

With Jack Coffee (jack.coffee@gmail.com)

With Bonnie Culley (bculey@embarqmail.com)

We all agree that Edward Coffey and his wife Ann Powell had children named John, Edward Jr., Martha, Elisabeth, and Annister. That’s five. But his will says he had six children! The transcript says “...after ye Deces of my wife all tenables to be Equall devided between my Six children John, Edward Cofey, Marther Cofey, **Ann** Cofey, **A?????** Cofey, Elisabeth Cofey.”

I’ve highlighted the names Ann and A?????, with the second shown with “?” for reasons to be discussed. We can’t agree how to read “A?????”, and can’t agree which of these two names represents “Annister”.

First, some quick background on Annister: There are many references to her in various records, and we know she had a son (James) out of wedlock. And we believe she ultimately married Stephen Chenault as his second wife.

And we have three theories, each with variations:

- (1) Jack Coffee** only recognizes the known five children in his Edward Coffey Project (ECP), because he cannot prove the sixth “beyond a reasonable doubt”. But he thinks it more likely that “A?????” is a son “Austin”. In this case, “Ann” would be a nickname for “Annister”.
- (2) Fred Coffey** favors the idea that “A?????” is a daughter “Anstes”, Some in the Chenault Family Association think that this Anstes was the first wife of Stephen Chenault, and that Annister became his second wife after Anstes died. Again, in this case “Ann” would represent “Annister”.
- (3) Bonnie Culley** is inclined to think that “A?????” is a tortured rendition of “Annister”. And she thinks it may be possible that “Ann” was the first wife of Stephen Chenault.

And all of these come with variations! We invite our readers to weigh the evidence. First, you should try to read Edward's will. There are two copies to view – BE SURE TO LOOK AT BOTH COPIES:

<http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/EdwardWillV1.jpg>

<http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/EdwardWillV2.jpg>

These are bad Xerox copies of bad copies, and difficult to read. Here is some discussion, with Fred's attempt to read the name. Readers may want to keep an open mind before jumping to Fred's conclusion:

<http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/AnstesCofeyName.htm>

Now, let's see how each of us supports his favorite theory:

Theory (1): Jack Coffee: My aim when I began the ECP some years ago was to help correct all of the Edward genealogies one finds on Ancestry, etc. Its purpose is not to add more doubt. I fear now that some more doubt has already crept into my compilation but not on purpose.

This morning I decided to take another look at Dr. Marvin Coffey's book about his ancestor, James Bluford Coffey, who was an Edward Descendant. Anyone that knew Marvin knew him to be a thorough and professional researcher. In addition, he lived in OR, was a member of LDS and knew his way around the library at SLC. In a nutshell, this is what he wrote:

Citing Laurence H. Coffey who lists the spouse of Anister (Laurence's spelling) as _____ Shenalt, but in his list of the children of Edward and Ann, he doesn't mention a son Austin. It was Austes in Edward's will. I suspect this Anister's spouse was Stephen Chenault but married only after she had her out-of-wedlock son, James Coffee by James Samuel c1735-36.

Dr. Coffey believed that Austin might be the real name instead of Austes because descendants of Edward's son John and wife Jane Graves Coffey descendants used the name Austin [extensively through many generations of male descendants*]. That would not have been unusual for a brother to name one of his children, or a influence a son to name a child after a beloved younger brother. He may have been killed in some Indian attack on the colony or otherwise distinguished himself.

***For reference:**

Austin Coffey, born c1800 in NC, was in Wilkes Co. 1840-1860 census. Great-Grandson of John
Austin Coffey, born c1818 in Burke Co., was in 1850-1860 census in Caldwell Co. also great-grandson of John
Austin Coffey, born c1840 in TN – 2d great-grandson of John
Austin Coffey, born 1871 in MO – 3d great-grandson of John
Austin Coffey, born 1912 in MO – 4th great-grandson of John
Austin Coffey, born 1936 in KY – 6th great-grandson of John
I'm sure you guys get the idea but there are seven more Austins if you need more.

He (Marvin) wrote that he had no idea where Edward and Ann might have obtained the name Austin but reminded us that there was a Daniel Austin family, contemporary with Edward, residing in Essex Co. Marvin didn't consider accurate the idea that the child was a female or named Austes. But, if he was a male, what happened to him. Was he one of Edward's children that married a Chenault female?

Marvin also worked to show that the Coffey, Duling and Chenault families were close, he cited the fact that when John sold his Essex county land in 1745, witnesses were Wm Duling and Wm Chenault. In 1747, when he sold more land, Wm Duling and Stephen Chenault Jr were witnesses and presumed that Austin might have been there as well. Could be Austin moved out of the area or perhaps died young. In either case, he left no records.

Searching the early census records of Burke Co., NC reveals that many of the Coffey family members relocated there after John's death. Depending on age of course, Austin, or any name similar to that does not appear.

In wrapping up that section of his book, Marvin wrote that it was possible that Austin existed without creating any public records and managed to have several children. If that should be true, he speculated that some of the children of Edward, Jr. might actually be Austin's.

To confuse things just a tad more, there was an Austis Bedford Coffey, born 1893 in MO who was a 3d great-grandson of John. The 's' could have been an editorial error. Difficult to determine last letter in his signature on WW1 draft registration. And, on his 1918 marriage record his name was interpreted to be Autis and was spelled Autis on his marriage license. In 1920 Camden Co., AR, he was Ottis. By 1930 it was back to being Autis. And finally, his grave marker is engraved Autis. I conclude his name was Autis!

My opinion of the handwriting would be that in a document such as a will being dictated to and recorded by a clerk, letters he wrote would also look alike even in errors of his own creation.

Not much room there for adding a female Austes to Edward's family. I am open to adding Austin, a male child and will use this small dissertation as justification. Fred, should you find a use for this, you can use it in the newsletter with proper credit, of course.

Theory (2): Fred Coffey: In part, I am influenced by the analysis of the name shown at the beginning of this discussion. I simply cannot read the name as "Austin"! And surely, if there was such a male, we would have by now found more concrete records of his existence. Females are easier to lose track of, once they marry.

I am also very influenced by a very lengthy exchange I had with Rev. John Chenault, who believed the name was a female. The following link goes into considerable detail on Coffey and Chenault connections, particularly if you follow all the links. The volume of material may be overwhelming, but skimming through it may be interesting to any researcher of Edward:

<http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/CoffeyChenaultConnections.htm>

Theory (3): Bonnie Culley: I am good with the idea of having (others) look at that will. I always saw (the mystery name) as Anster. Rev. Chenault seemed to think that Ann had married Steven Chenault and had several children. She had been dead for some time before he married Anister. That would be a good reason for the families to be so close. Jack's story is reasonable also, but we don't actually have proof of either. Guess I am just a "hold-out" for Ann and Anister, not being the same person.

As I remember, in Marvin's book, he has both Ann and Anstes married to Chenault. What he actually said was that they did not know which was married to Chenault because it was not documented but family stories. Girls seldom left much in the line of records and I think that is why we don't find an Austes. If it was a male, he would probably have left something. It would also make the connection with the Chenaults closer if Stephen was married to Ann as his first wife. I think they had 4 children (just memory) I'm not sure of the number but they were grown and married before Annister had her Chenault son.

When Annister's mother died, she may have needed his help. The plantation was left with her and her half-brother. Anster's mother kept a very close eye on her and she did not have the second son until after her mother was dead. According to the Rev. Chenault, Stephen had been a widower for some time.

I know that not many agree with me. Everyone wants it to be a male. It just seems so obvious to me. Marvin Coffey was dead before we found the first copy of the will where Edward dictated it. I think he would have seen it differently if he had seen that copy.

Fred's Addendum to Theory (3): This is something I propose once in jest. But it's consistent with the assumption that Edward's will was talking about two separate females, "Ann", and "Annister":

Many people think sons John and Edward Jr. may have been twins. Maybe the same is true of Ann and Annister. Maybe Edward and his wife Ann had decided that if the new baby was a girl, she would be named "Ann", after her mother. When the first baby was born, the midwife said: "Here's Ann!". Then when the second baby appeared, she said: "And here's Ann's Sister". So, the family started calling the babies "Ann", and "Ann's Sister". And the second name evolved into "Annister"?

Edward of course was illiterate, and had to dictate his will. The scribe had a bit of trouble with Edward's Irish accent, and had trouble hearing and understanding either "Ann's Sister", or "Annister", and he wrote "Anstes".

Conclusion: We can't really prove anything. Any readers want to offer their own analysis, opinions, and conclusions?

A COFFEY FAMILY FROM MAINE:

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

I got an email note out of the blue from **Amber Hicks**, who wrote: *"Hi... I hope you can help me get started in the right Coffey Cousin's direction. I know very little about my Coffey heritage. My mother was born **Sue Ann Coffey** from **Dayton, Ohio**. Her father was **Ralph Leo Coffey** from **Maine**. My mother always wanted to know who her dad's family was, but never learned very much. I am doing this for her and myself."*

Hey, I'm always game to explore a new Coffey mystery. And "Maine" was an unusual location for Coffey families. A quick search for a "Ralph Leo Coffey from Maine who had lived in Dayton Ohio" and I was off.

It quickly became apparent that this family had been residents of Portland, Cumberland County, Maine, since the early 1800's. And there were lots of birth records, marriage records, census records, etc. It was a fairly easy search, and ultimately, I sent Amber 28 pages of records. Here is the family summary. The people in **RED** are the ones named above:

- (1) James COFFEY (abt 1809/1815 -) & Ellen/Eleanor (abt 1817 -)
- (2) Ellen COFFEY (19 Jun 1836 -)
- (2) James F COFFEY (27 Jan 1839 - 28 Nov 1894) & Margaret E WARREN (abt 1845 -)
- (3) Ellen "Nellie" COFFEY (abt 1864 -)
- (3) Warren Frances COFFEY (abt 1865 -) & Annie J WOOD (abt 1868 -)
- (4) Margaret COFFEY (abt 1891 -)
- (4) Florence COFFEY (abt 1893 -)
- (4) **Ralph Leo COFFEY*** (9 Feb 1894 - 18 Dec 1945) & Grace Ester EMERICK (2 Aug 1893 -)
- (5) Donald Leo COFFEY (14 Mar 1919 - 4 Jul 2013) & Muriel Helen CALLAHAN (1922 - 2006)
- (6) John "Jack" Lawrence COFFEY (22 Jun 1955 -) & Sandra Kay (abt 1955 -)
- (7) **Cameron G COFFEY** (3 Dec 1987 -)
- (7) **Jacob John-Dreffs COFFEY** (abt 1989 -)
- (4) **Ralph Leo COFFEY*** (9 Feb 1894 - 18 Dec 1945) & Helena J MOORE (- 25 Mar 1970)
- (5) Norma Rae COFFEY
- (5) **Sue Ann COFFEY** & Carl F IPOCK
- (6) **Amber IPOCK** & **HICKS**
- (6) Trisha IPOCK
- (5) Elizabeth COFFEY
- (5) **James COFFEY**
- (6) **James COFFEY** Jr.
- (6) Darla K COFFEY
- (4) Ellen "Nellie" COFFEY
- (3) James L COFFEY (abt 1868 -)
- (2) Mary COFFEY (16 Aug 1843 -)

As shown, Ralph Leo was married twice, and Amber was from his second family. When I pointed out that Ralph's first son Donald Leo Coffey was the half-brother of her mother, Sue Ann, Amber wrote: *"I remember him when I was a little girl, he came to our house a couple of times. My mom thought he was her dad's brother and she would always say how much he looked like her dad. Honestly, I don't know if she knew he was her half-brother."*

A piece of this family puzzle remains missing. What was the family origin of the immigrant James, shown at the top of this genealogy? Obviously (hey, I manage the Coffey y-DNA Project!), we need a y-DNA test. The above identifies **IN PURPLE** four good choices for such a test. Amber is now working to twist the arm of her uncle (her mother's brother) James.

A COFFEY MYSTERY: CATAWBA COUNTY, NC:

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

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

(This is an exceptionally long article, but the mysteries and the twists and turns are fascinating. The impatient reader is free to skip ahead.)

Jack and I consider ourselves to be CSI (Coffey/ee Scene Investigation) experts, and we love to work on a good mystery. And I recently got a notice from FTDNA (the DNA testing service we use) that our Coffey Project had a new member, named Brad Jackson. This led to a fascinating discussion/investigation. Here's a loose interpretation of our exchanges:

Fred: Hi Brad, I see that FTDNA says you have joined us, and shows you have an excellent y-DNA match to our Edward Coffey line. Your name may be "Jackson", but your DNA says you are "Coffey". Welcome to the family. What can you tell me?

Brad: I am adopted, so when I got the Y-DNA results back this past Saturday it was the first time I had any idea that I am a COFFEY. It was quite a surprise, not at all what I was anticipating.

Here is what I do know. The birth mother is of German descent and from a Workman/Wortman family and is from Hickory, Catawba County, NC. I spoke to her some 20 years ago and haven't heard from her since. She gave very few clues as to the birth father except to say that he was from a "prominent" family in the area. I have done extensive research on the maternal line from an Autosomal DNA test.

I have connected with a cousin on another site... (there are hints of a connection) to the late Reverend Billy Graham. Grahams mother was MORROW COFFEY daughter of BENJAMIN MARROW COFFEY (Jun 6, 1842-May 29, 1915) of Charlotte. I have not however been able to find a COFFEY connection yet but then again up until Saturday I was not looking for one either.

I thought I would begin with EDWARD COFFEY and start working my way forward until I come up with some higher probabilities, but it could take a while.

Fred: I'm going to copy this reply to two "Coffey Experts". And I'm going to throw out some quick comments, which may for now offer more confusion than help. But maybe we'll stir something up.

I'm aware of the ancestry of the Coffeys who are ancestors of Reverend Billy Graham. They belong to what we call the "Hugh Coffey" line, managed by Terri Stern. But your y-DNA is NOT, repeat NOT, from the Hugh line.

And you suggest a link to Catawba County, NC. Many Coffey families have large links to North Carolina, with one of the biggest groups coming from Wilkes County, which is just to the north of Catawba. Your y-DNA is ABSOLUTELY consistent with the Wilkes County Coffeys. I don't know how many found their way to Catawba County, but Jack Coffee may have ideas.

Then I turned to your atDNA results, and asked FTDNA if you had any matches to people who identified Coffey connections. And I got two matches, to people who ARE ALREADY part of our overall "Coffey DNA Project". Unfortunately, those two matches point in DIFFERENT directions.

One of those matches was to William Richard Coffey, who FTDNA says is roughly a third cousin of yours. His reported genealogy leads back to HUGH! I'm sure Terri knows all about him.

And another was to a James Edward Coffey, who FTDNA says is roughly your 4th cousin. James Edward is absolutely a descendant of Edward, and his genealogy is as follows:

- (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) Reuben Coffey (1759 - 1842) & Mildred Morris (**Born VA, died NC**)
- (5) James Coffey (1790 - 1892) & Sarah Emerline Sumpter (1792 - 1869) (**Born NC**)
- (6) Lewis Coffey (ca1813 -) & Elizabeth Watters (ca1814 -) (**Born NC**)
- (7) Lewis Coffey Jr. (1850 - 1928) & Permelia Ann Tucker (1851 - 1932)
- (8) Mitt/Milton Coffey (1887 - 1970) & Flossie Linnie Taylor (1894 - 1971)
- (9) James Edward Coffey (ca1938 -)

James Edward descends from a Reuben Coffey who was born in Virginia and then moved to NC. And the next two generations under Reuben were born in North Carolina, probably Wilkes County.

(Oh, I don't recommend you start with Edward Coffey and work DOWNWARD, as you suggested. Jack Coffee manages "The Edward Coffey Project (ECP) which 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." Jump into that, and you'll never come up for air!)

Brad: My head is absolutely spinning right now! So much new discovery so fast. The Coffey's are certainly an interesting bunch.

Starting with Edward and working back was definitely a bad idea. I knew it the second I wrote it. I would never find my way out of that! Any new cousins with any clues would be great! Birth mothers DOB is 1952 and I was born in 1970. I'm assuming the man I'm looking for is about the same age.

Jack: Welcome to the World of Edward Coffey! My name is Jack Coffee and like you I come from Edward but on the mother's side of my GGgrandfather. She gave birth to a child sired by a Mills and some three generations later I came along. I have a fairly good circumstantial evidence case for who she was.

Anyway, let's talk about your family. Was the Workman/Wortman lady you spoke to some 20 yrs ago your birth mother? If so, what was her given name?

Brad: Thank you so much for the welcome Jack. I am very excited to learn everything I can about the Coffey line and heritage!

I should back up and clarify a little more on the Workmans. Yes, she is my birth mother. Janie Loretta Workman b. 1952 to Thomas Vance Workman (1922-2003). The family settled in Catawba Co. around 1760. Wortman was the German name later changed to Workman after coming to America.

Janie was a senior at Hickory HS when she got pregnant. Her and the birth father were NOT married. After graduation Janie's parents sent her away to a girls' home in Asheville to have the baby (Me). The entire event was apparently kept pretty quiet I assume due to the social stigma of an unwedded teenage pregnancy, the Workman's fairly zealous religious beliefs and the birth father's family "prominence" (Janie's words, I am not sure what she meant by that). At any rate, I'm not sure if the birth father even knows he has a son or even if he was aware that Janie was pregnant at all.

Unfortunately, when I spoke to her some 20 years ago that is all the info I was able to get out of her. She seemed pretty upset talking about it, so I did not push the subject.

Fred: Here's some more information to think about. There were definitely "Edward Coffey Line" Coffeys present in Hickory, Catawba, NC in about the time period of interest. The latest census that is available is for 1940. There were 9 people named "Workman" in Hickory, Catawba, NC in the 1940 census.

There were also Coffey families in Hickory, Catawba, NC in the 1940 census, and AT LEAST SOME OF THEM were part of our known Edward Coffey genealogy. Following is a genealogy, and the persons marked in **RED** were absolutely in Hickory, Catawba, in 1940.

- (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) Larkin Coffey (ca1832 - 1863) & Sibby Wyatt (ca1831 -)
- (7) John Nelson Coffey (1858 - 1932) & Laura Ann Henley (1862 - 1936)
- (8) George Franklin Coffey (1884 - 1941) & Mary Emma Greene (1883 - 1967)**
- (9) Arnold Justin Coffey (1917 - 1966) & Eloise Smith (ca1916 -)
- (9) William Franklin Coffey (1923 - 2016)
- (3) Reuben Coffey (1742 - 1825) & Sarah Scott (ca1750 - 1837)
- (4) Jesse Coffey (ca1775 - ca1840) & Margaret Edmisten
- (5) McCaleb Coffey (1814 - 1895) & Sarah Hayes (1815 - 1898)
- (6) Cornelius Jones Coffey (1840 - 1917) & Martha Jane Gragg (1843 - 1900)
- (7) Charles Burton Coffey (1882 - 1960) & Amanda Louise Misamore (1888 - 1967)**
- (8) Edward Franklin Coffey (1910 - 1992) & Margaret Myrtle Hendrix (1929 - 2014)
- (8) Fred Jones Coffey (1912 - 1980) & Mary Jane Cook (1917 - 1987)

Jack: Oh...there are at least 60 Coffey males mentioned in ECP that have at least one 'fact' in their file that places them in Catawba co. at least once.

Fred: Brad, you might want to acquire a copy of Jack Coffee's "ECP" as part of your search. One reason is that he does obituaries, and those can actually tell you a lot about living people. Just as an example I called up his page on "Edward Franklin Coffey" who was on my list above. The obituaries associated with his family told me a lot about their long-time presence in Catawba, and identified children who would have been alive and present in the time period of interest to you.

Jack: I did find a birth record listing Janie as the mother but did not name the father. Perhaps this is your record, Brad??

Brad: Yep, that would be me. Baby Boy Workman 8/18/1970.

DATE	FATHER	MOTHER	CHILD	PLACE	AGE	YEAR
8/18/70	Workman	Bab: Boy <i>Cancelled</i>	Workman <i>Ralph</i> Janie <i>Fela</i>	Asheville	59	1746
1/26/70	Workman	Diana Jennetta	Workman	Asheville	58	1745

The Birth Index says I was "Cancelled", ouch...talk about salt in the wound! Haha...

So Jack, how do I go about getting a copy of your ECP?

I have used obituaries quite a bit, that is actually how I found out about my half siblings on the Workman side.

Janie gave me no identifying info. Other than the "prominent" statement she said he was a drunk, but that could have been hurt feelings talking. My original thought was to look for sons of lawyers, bankers, clergy, business owners, etc. Now that I have the Coffey name to work from I will go back to ads section of her yearbook and see if anything comes up.

Fred: Prominent? Well, one of the Coffeys I found in the 1940 census (the one named Fred, but that wasn't me!) had a fifth-grade education and worked in a furniture factory.

You obviously are getting short-changed on information about the Coffey families, and I would hate for you to feel uninformed. You might want to look at this:

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html>

That will expose you to a few thousand pages of other good information, including our quarterly newsletters. Jack and I both contribute to these newsletters, and Jack is a previous editor. I'm bringing this up, because this is becoming a fascinating conversation, and we may want to reflect it in a future Newsletter edition. The next one will be out at the end of September. I'm attaching a PDF of my beginning work on the draft, and I'll copy this note as a heads-up warning to the current editor (and also a Coffey expert) Bonnie Culley.

We will never publish anything without your permission, and will give you an opportunity to edit.

Brad: The Workman's were sharecroppers so prominent to her may have been the land owner. I just don't know. It may not be an accurate statement at all. For now, I think everybody is a suspect.

Jack: By prominent she might mean his parents were wealthy enough to pay all of her expenses while away waiting your birth.

Brad: You know that is an angle I haven't considered but very plausible. Somewhere I think I have the name of the girls' home in Asheville where she was sent...wonder if I could get a copy of the bill? May not have been a Workman that paid it!

Terri Stern: Greetings to all from the Hugh Coffey Project,

I'm coming in late but would like to add more data on Brad's autosomal matches to William Richard Coffey (descendant of Hugh Coffey b 1700) and Ella Denney Tunnell (aka James Edward Coffey). As you know my project includes the autosomal DNA of Hugh's descendants and I include GEDmatch sources as well as Family Finder.

Brad, you (Brad Jackson A196457) show up in my file as an unsolved match to William Richard Coffey A541282. Here's his tree at Ancestry. Unsolved in the sense of not being able to tell whether the match is on his mother's (Clapp, Dorsey) or father's (Coffey, Askew) side. Let me know if you see any common ancestors in his tree. Would love to figure out whether his match to you is on your maternal or paternal side.

Here's the exact relationship between Billy Graham's mom and Hugh Coffey:

Billy Graham (1918-2018)->Morrow Coffey (1892-1981) & William Franklin Graham (1888-1962)->Benjamin Morrow Coffey (1842-1915) & Martha Lucinda Robinson (1849-1931) -> James Morrow Coffey (1805-1893) & Eliza Alexander (1809-1870)->John M Coffey (1785-1820) & Sarah Morrow (b 1786, d aft 1870) ->John Coffey (b 1752) & Susannah Crockett -> John Coffey (1730-1800) & Susannah Watson -> Hugh (1700-1767)

Bonnie: Very interesting!! I am wondering if there might be a connection for Brad on both the Edward and Hugh lines... Always a possibility.

Brad: WOW, what a tangled web!

Fred: Brad, To record your official position in our Coffey DNA Project, I have added your data and your known Coffey genealogy (i.e., one person) to the Project web pages. For a quick view, go to the CoffeyRoadMap and scroll down to the DNA Project and click on "Genealogy Summary" and "Data Summary". For each of these, you will find your entry on Page 3.

You will discover you are not the only descendant of Edward who has some DNA complications!

I haven't added you to the "discussion" parts of the CoffeyRoadMap yet. We're still working on that!

Brad: Hey Fred,

It has been a while and I have found out some very interesting info to share on the Catawba Co. Mystery. I will try to be brief as I can and still explain what I've found.

I told you I got a 1st cousin match on Ancestry and that I was confused because it looked like I was related to him maternally and paternally...well in fact we are! Turns out he is a 5th cousin maternally and 1st paternally.

This revelation kept me stumped for a while though. As a 1st cousin we must share a grandparent, well I knew it had to be his mother's parents because I had traced my maternal side to his dad. But the weird thing is that his mom and all her siblings were Craters. For the life of me I could not find a Coffey connection.

My cousin's mother is Theresa Crater, and I did find a Theresa Coffey born to a Charles William Coffey in Asheville with the exact same birth date which I thought was very strange, but the birth record is the only record of this person, it was like she just fell off the planet. With no other info to go on I chalked it up to coincidence that the 2 Theresa's had the same birthday. *More on this to come!

The Charles William Coffey I've narrowed it down to was born in Caldwell Co 23 Aug 1913 and died in Catawba Co 5 May 1955. The son of Charles Mozer Coffey (1892-1952)...thank you ECP!!!

So, looking at Charles Coffey's obit on the ECP I noticed he left behind 5 children, 3 boys and 2 girls. It took a minute to make the connection but that happens to be the exact same number and genders of the children of Augustus and Ethel Crater (my cousins listed grandparents).

So to make a long story short here is the email I sent to one of my Workman cousins helping me in this search:

Holy Cow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

You are not going to believe this!!!!!!!!!!!

I found the COFFEY connection in the CRATER family!

Hold on to your hat! this is CRAZY!

Turns out ALL the Crater siblings are NOT blood Craters! They are all COFFEY's! AUGUSTUS LEWIS CRATER adopted every one of those kids.

Don't believe me? try this: go to search on Ancestry and put in these names and birth dates but replace Crater with Coffey and the place with Buncombe County.

STEPHEN CURTIS CRATER, 29 APR 1953

NANCY LEE CRATER, 24 JUN 1951

THERESA ELAINE CRATER, 20 OCT 1949

DAVID WILLIAM CRATER, 30 OCT 1948

CHARLES RICHARD CRATER, 4 MAY 1947

Prepare to have your mind blown!

YES!!!!!!!

That's right, CHARLES WILLIAM COFFEY is the daddy of every single one of them! What the @#%\$ happened to make this guy give up all his children? Well as it turns out Charles Coffey died in 1955, so that's why he gave up the kids. I am not sure still how Augustus Crater came to adopt them.

So the Mystery as far as how I am a Coffey has been solved !!! J Now to drill down on who is the baby daddy, haha. Steven Crater, David Crater or Charles Crater...one of these guys gave me my DNA.

Newsletter readers: Stand by for further information!

INTERNATIONAL MUNSTER CONFUSION:

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

On July 30 I began exchanging notes with Lisa Salsbury from **Australia**, about an autosomal DNA test on her aunt. And that was the beginning of the following international exchange:

Lisa explained her aunt's Great Grandmother was named Bridget Coffey, and based on the autosomal test she saw a Coffey match at the "third to fifth cousin" level. She decided to join the Coffey DNA Project and start asking questions:

I explained that her aunt's match was to a James Michael Coffey, whom I recognized as a member of our DNA Project. James' family line were immigrants from County Kerry, **Ireland**. He belonged to our "Munster Group" who hail from the Munster region in Ireland, which includes Kerry. And if Lisa's match was indeed to the Coffey line of James, then her G Grandmother was also absolutely from Munster.

DNA says this Munster group is solidly related to an ancient Coffey line with roots in County Kerry. The line includes Aedan Coffey, who still lives in **Ireland**. Aedan has a fantastic documented genealogy going back hundreds of years. His family line has scattered around the world, with known family members in the **USA**, **Australia**, **Guatemala**, and **Honduras**.

James Michael Coffey then joined our conversation, and explained he had been corresponding with Sharon Greene, from **Australia**, whose father Aubrey had been proven by y-DNA to also have a matching Coffey connection to him. And James also had a y-DNA match to a Craig Grant Coffey from Auckland, **New Zealand**.

I recognized Sharon's father "Aubrey Bernard Francis" as a member of the Coffey DNA Project. But surname "Francis"? Not "Coffey"? I went back to my notes, and then had additional discussion with Sharon Greene. It turned out that her great-grandfather had been born "George Arthur Francis Coffey". George ran away from home, and told the world his name was "George Arthur Francis"!

And George's father was John Christopher Coffey (b: abt 1797), who was born in Kerry, **Ireland**. John Christopher was a **British** Military Officer, who was first stationed in **Canada**, then finally relocated to **Australia**.

Sharon found another descendant of John Christopher Coffey, and sponsored him for a y-DNA test. This was Robert L Coffey, from Auckland, **New Zealand**. And she believes that the tested Craig Grant Coffey, also from **New Zealand**, is Robert's brother.

Sadly, Sharon also wrote "My dear Dad passed away on 3 July 2018, age 95 yrs. He was surprised and disappointed that he was of Irish descent (he had little time for the Irish) which was ironic. He was a meat and three veg. man (one of which had to be potato), nothing fancy and he loved his beer ... really said it all!"

I did (from Aubrey's match) learn that Craig Grant Coffey's sponsor was Jane Donovan, and I exchanged notes with Jane. She explained that the TESTED person was actually Grant William Coffey, and "Craig Grant" was his son, but she was having trouble changing it. And she explained that the connection between countries was their ancestor Ronald George Coffey, who was born in **Australia** and then moved to **New Zealand**.

With these clues, I found Sharon Greene's and Jane Donovan's trees on ancestry.com, and was able to work out the connections as follows. The people with y-DNA tests are in **RED**.

- (1) (Unknown) COFFEY
- (2) John Christopher COFFEE (abt 1796 - 3 Nov 1861) & Margaret LEGASS (abt 1812 - 30 Aug 1906)
- (3) Cornelius Ambrose COFFEY (31 Dec 1835 - 29 Aug 1881) & Sarah Ann BROOKS (abt 1845 - 13 Jun 1939)
- (4) George Patrick COFFEY (1876 - 8 Jun 1940) & Alice Ann EVERARD (17 Apr 1879 - 28 Dec 1926)
- (5) William Byron COFFEY (1901 - 26 May 1972) & Doris Waverly ASHTON (9 Nov 1901 - 8 Oct 1998)
- (6) Ronald George COFFEY (16 Nov 1924 -) & June BAILEY (- 22 Aug 2014)
- (7) **Grant William COFFEY** & Jane DONOVAN
- (8) Craig Grant COFFEY
- (7) **Robert J COFFEY**
- (3) George Arthur Francis COFFEY (19 Apr 1844 - aft 1906) & Jane PEISLEY (1858 - 19 Apr 1907)
- (4) Arthur Henry FRANCIS (1883 - 1925) & Ruby Ethel Ann REID (7 Oct 1882 - 14 Jun 1972)
- (5) **Aubrey Bernard FRANCIS** (1923 - 3 Jul 2018)

I can see all the various y-DNA matches to Grant and Robert, but neither has yet actually joined my Coffey Project. Since Sharon and Jane were the sponsors, I hope they will arrange to join them to the Coffey Project. I now have all the information I need, I just need formal membership in the Project and permission to publish.

FYI, I am bound by my agreement with FTDNA regarding the EU data protection laws, known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). I must follow FTDNA guidelines that *“If you collect content and information directly from users, you make it clear that you (and not FTDNA) are collecting it, and you must provide notice about and obtain user consent for your use of the content and information that you collect. Regardless of how you obtain content and information from users, you are responsible for securing all necessary permissions to reuse their content and information.”*

JAMES TIMP COFFEY FAMILY:

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

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

And Ricky Miller (Contact: rickmiller1953@comcast.net)

Jack Coffee, in newsletter 147-8, threatened to delete the middle name of “James Temple Coffey” unless somebody could prove use of that name. Archie Dalton pointed out that Jack’s ECP (Edward Coffey Project) had a “James Timp Coffey”, and wondered if THAT could be the same person? The ECP had almost nothing about James Timp, except that his father was Andrew Jackson Coffey, and that “James Timp was born circa 1862 in Ozark Co., MO. He lived with his parents in Bridges Twp., Ozark Co., MO on 20 July 1870. He lived with his father and step-mother in Bridges Twp., Ozark Co., MO on 7 July 1880.” This was obviously a branch Jack had not yet investigated for his ECP. Jack was hooked.

And Ricky Miller, it turned out, was already investigating the James Timp family, and had an Ancestry.com tree with considerable information on the family. His interest was partly based on his connection to the Hayes family (Susan Hayes married James Timp’s grandfather Cleveland Coffey). Ricky also believes he has a connection to the “Coffia” family, and in his report in newsletter 146-4, he said “There is another group of Coffias in Alabama and Georgia. I have not been able to establish a link to them, but I am sure that it must exist. They are the descendants of Cleveland “Cleve” Coffee/Coffia.” We wonder if James Timp’s grandfather Cleveland might somehow be connected to the Alabama Cleveland Coffia?

(There are Tennessee connections: Census showed that this Alabama Cleveland Coffia was born in Tennessee. Jack Coffee in his ECP wrote that James Timp’s grandfather “Cleveland

Coffey help establish the Cedar Springs Baptist Church near Thorn Hill, Tennessee. It is a church still in existence today... (wife) Susan (Hayes) died in 1839. Cleveland Coffey and Malinda Coffey were married on 11 November 1839 in Grainger Co., TN. They appeared in the census on 20 October 1850 in Grainger Co., TN. Malinda Coffey, daughter of George Coffey and Margaret L. Rucker, was born circa 1823 in Tennessee.”)

I (Fred) saw potential for a follow-up newsletter article, and a possible new DNA test to confirm connections.

Collectively, it didn't take long to conclude that "James Timp" and "James Temple" were entirely different people. And we haven't gotten anywhere with the Alabama Coffia's (yet). But we collected a huge amount of information on the James Timp Coffey line. Here's the family – will follow with a few highlight comments:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca1670 - ca1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 - ~1744)
- (2) John Coffey (~1699 - ~1775) & Jane Graves (ca1708 - 1792)
- (3) Reuben Coffey (1742 - 1825) & Sarah Scott (ca1750 - 1837)
- (4) Jesse Coffey (ca1775 - ca1840) & Margaret Edmisten
- (5) Cleveland Coffey (ca1810 - 1862) & Susan Hayes (~1800 - 1839) **NOTE #1**
- (6) Andrew Jackson Coffey (1833 - 1901) & Louisa Jane Hutchinson (1833 - 1871)
- (7) James Timp Coffey (ca1866 - 1918) & Martha Jane Anderson (~1867 - 1918)) **NOTE #2**
- (8) William Wesley Coffey* (1886 - 1930) & Dora Patricia Upton (~1889 - 1912) **NOTE #3**
- (9) Rufus Timp "R T" Coffey (1912 - 1992) & Flora Blaine Lay (1911 - 1992)
- (10) Bob Eudale Coffey (1931 - 2018) & Geraldine Coates) **NOTE #4**
- (11) Brad Eudale Coffey & Kelly
- (11) Dennis Coffey
- (11) Denise Coffey
- (10) Eula Mae Coffey (~1933 -) **NOTE #4**
- (10) Dora Patricia "Patty" Coffey (1943 - 1990)
- (8) William Wesley Coffey* (1886 - 1930) & Ida Florence Manning (1892 - 1958)
- (9) Margie Pauline Coffey (1914 - 1973)
- (9) Frankie Mellissa Coffey (1916 -) & Orville Houston Gray (1912 - 1978)
- (9) Virgil W Coffey (1919 - 1944) & Dolly Irene Cravens (1921 - 2000)
- (9) Lucille Coffey (abt 1923) **NOTE #5**
- (9) Eugene Willis Coffey (1925 - 2003) **NOTE #5**
- (9) LaVerne Violet Coffey (1926 - 1965) **NOTE #5**
- (8) Delphia Coffey (1889 - 1984) & William A Mead (1880 - 1964)
- (9) Evelyn E Mead (~1915 -)
- (9) Oral N Mead (~1917 -)
- (9) Betty Jean Mead (1928 -)
- (8) Walter J Coffey (1890 - 1977) & Ethel Kendrix (1895 - 1975)
- (9) Elmer Troy Coffey (1915 - 2000) & Nova Burrow (~1917 -)
- (10) Elmer J Coffey Jr. & Dixie Wunderlich **NOTE #6**
- (11) Jeremy Michael Coffey (1970 - 2013)
- (11) Jay J Coffey
- (11) Kimberly Deanne Coffey **NOTE #6**
- (9) Irene Thelma Coffey (1917 - 2007)
- (9) Lorene Agnes Coffey (1920 - 1991) & Argus Arvilla Owens (1915 - 1959)
- (9) Martha Jane Coffey (1923 - 2010) & O C Johnson (1925 - 2007)
- (9) Edgar Glen Coffey (1924 - 2003)
- (9) Leslie T Coffey (1927 - 2010) & Ollie
- (10) Leslie Dwight Coffey **NOTE #7**
- (10) Thurman Coffey **NOTE #7**
- (9) J W Coffey (1929 - 1981)
- (9) Ruby L Coffey (~1932 -) **NOTE #7**
- (9) Doyle D Coffey (~1934 -) **NOTE #7**

- (9) Lavada L Coffey (~1940 -)
- (8) Arvy Coffey (1894 - 1986)
- (8) Dorothy Rachel Coffey (1896 - 1969) & Herbert Lee Mayfield (1895 - 1968)
- (8) Harvey A Coffey (~1900 -)
- (8) Oma Vertie Coffey (1901 - 1989) & Dewey Marion Payne (1899 - 1979)
- (8) Phrona Coffey (1904 - 1986)
- (8) Arizona Coffey (1906 - 1909)
- (8) Marlon Coffey (1908 - 1964) & Lou Garrett (1901 - 1976)
- (8) Vonda Aldie Coffey (~1910 -)

We all collected a large volume of supporting information. Since Jack was documenting all this for his ECP, I won't repeat the details here.

Note 1: Ricky confirmed that he has not made progress with any paper trail connecting the Alabama/Georgia Coffia's to this Cleveland. What we really need is a y-DNA sample on a male from the Alabama group to prove descent from Edward. We had made limited contact with one family genealogist, but could not identify a male line. **SEE NEXT ARTICLE!**

Note 2: We have not found any actual official records showing the middle name "Timp". Records (census, etc.) just show "T". However, he had a grandson (Rufus Timp) also using the name, with close family. We're prepared to believe the family knows it is "Timp".

Note 3: Dora (Upton) Coffey died of what was then known as "childbed fever" shortly after the birth of Rufus. See the second family of her husband William farther down.

Note 4: Bob Eudale and Eula Mae Coffey are NOT the biological children of Rufus Timp, but they were raised by, and possibly adopted by, Rufus. When Rufus married Flora Lay, Flora already had these two children. I had a telephone conversation with Bob's son Brad and his wife Kelly, who confirmed this. And careful examination of census and marriage records confirms it.

Note 5: William Wesley Coffey died in 1930 when these three children were quite young. His second wife Ida remarried to William O Cramer, and these children and their mother Ida are found in the 1940 Missouri census in the household of William Cramer.

Note 6: I had email and telephone exchanges with Kim and her father Elmer. They confirmed the tree, but they decided Elmer was not interested in a DNA test.

Note 7: I know these people are still living, and I know where to find them. But after considerable frustration, I gave up!! I would welcome a y-DNA test on a male line, but it would only serve to prove descent from Edward and that is not really in doubt.

FINDING ADAM COFFIA:

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

In the process of reviewing an early draft of this newsletter, discussions got going involving Ricky Miller, Wayne Mower, Jack Coffee, Bonnie and myself, about the possible origins of the Alabama/Georgia Coffia's. I decided to take one last shot at finding a living Coffia. And I found one! Here's the resulting conversational exchange:

Fred: To: Adam Coffia (via Ancestry.com message): My name is Fred Coffey, and I am involved with a "Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse" with a very large database on Coffey families. I am also administrator of a Coffey DNA Project, with 265 members, with y-DNA tests on Coffey, Coffee, and Coffia families. But your family is a mystery, that we cannot yet connect. I would like a

chance to discuss our Project, and maybe ultimately persuade you (or any other male Coffia in your family) to participate.

Adam Coffia: (acoffia@gmail.com) Hi Fred! Thanks for reaching out to me through Ancestry. I would love to find out more on Coffey lines. I am pretty sure we stem from this, but have never been able to make a connection.

My grandfather, Charlie Leroy Coffia, was born in Alabama, but live mainly in Rome GA for most of his life. His Father, Fred Pierce Coffia, was born in Anniston AL. in 1906. After that it gets a bit questionable as I am going off public records and trying to piece together family history. I believe Fred's Father was James Cleveland Coffia, born 1883 outside of Dixon, AL and his father could possibly be Clevolaid "Cleve" Coffia born 1852 somewhere in TN. That is pretty much where I can get to.

I remember when I was little my grandmother, Camellia (Charlie's wife) pronounced it Coffia (Cough-ee-ya) But, Charlie and his brothers, and family also pronounced it (Cough-ee) like Coffee.

My Dad's side were a rough bunch, criminals and trouble makers, who might have changed the spelling to avoid the law. Growing up we were told never to travel to Rome GA. I have done a DNA test through Ancestry and am happy to talk about that further. I would love to see if it falls within any of your groups. Very exciting! Adam

Fred: Adam, thank you so much for your prompt response. And be aware that I love to talk about Coffey genealogy. If I ramble on too much, just tell me to "shut up for a while!" I am a participant in the publication of a quarterly newsletter about Coffey genealogy, and an article in one recent edition got things stirred up about your family. (Sent instructions to link to Newsletter #146, and to read pages 3,4, and 5.)

You'll see we do already have one family using the "Coffia" name, and they do come from Tennessee. And you will recognize that the "Second Family" discussed on page 4 is your family. But we can't determine the connection. Some of us argue about the "Coffia" spelling. Some want to tie to a "Cleveland" Coffey family. Some argue that since you are found in Alabama and Georgia, you must somehow be related to a separate group of Coffee's that lived there. Or maybe you're totally unrelated, and just thought "Coffia" was a nice name?

If I can persuade you to do the right DNA test, it should prove if there is as connection, even though the path it may not be exactly determined. I can even distinguish between the Coffia's we know about, and the Coffee's from Georgia/Alabama. Both are related, but there are distinctions in the details of their y-DNA.

You did a DNA test through Ancestry. That may prove helpful, but it's the wrong kind of DNA test for my purposes. We need a "y-DNA" test, that is based on the Y-chromosome that is handed down from father to son just like the Coffey (or Coffee, or Coffia) surname. (Sent instructions how to join our DNA Project and order a test.)

I love the way you write stories about your family, and would like to extract part of your note and publish it in the next Newsletter, due out at the end of September. A lot of our Coffey/Coffee/Coffia cousins would be delighted to know that we may be about to make progress on another family branch!

Adam: Hi Fred, Thanks for the newsletter! I just ordered the kit you recommended as I have been trying to get beyond Cleve for years! And per your suggestion I will transfer the data from my Ancestry autosomal test into FTDNA where you and others can look at it.

I know very little of my Dad's side story. I was born in 1981 and am the oldest of 9 grandchildren to Charlie Leroy Coffia. He passed while I was in high school and I don't think my grandmother cared much or was interested in his side and she became estranged later in life and passed 4 years ago. So all I have to go on is what my dad and I remember.

I know that my grandmother was a hard woman to please and she was actually my grandfather's second wife, something I didn't know about for years after he passed. They would bicker often, and he would always threaten to leave and move out west to Texas or California, where he had relatives. We never met the relatives, but my dad always had heard of Coffia's related to us out west. Reading your newsletter was like checking boxes from things I remember. Even some of the names of people, like Homer, that was the nickname my grandfather gave me. I am hoping this all lines up and you are able to help reconnect some branches from the family tree! I am so excited to see where this leads, as I have always wondered where the last name came from and the countries of origin. For a while we even thought it may be Italian, but my DNA test from Ancestry proved that false. The Irish, Scottish and the English DNA is the highest %.

And yes, feel free to use my writing in your newsletter. My grandparents were some real characters and I love them and miss them and wish I knew more of their life stories.

My dad moved the family to Greeneville TN back in the early 2000's. I looked up Hawkins County and Clinch Mt. and it was one county over. Crazy, that if all this lines up, we were right there! My parents have since moved back to Georgia, but my brother and his family live just outside of Kingsport still.

Well Fred, you are not the only one who can ramble on! And yes, you may pass these notes on to Rick.

Ricky Miller: Great news indeed! And I have a comment on pronunciations: I think a clue comes from Adam Coffia's remark about how the name was pronounced by the older male members of their family. They spelled it "Coffia", but they pronounced it like Coffee or Coffey. In Eastern Tennessee, some vowels had a different phonetic value than what is standard today.

It's that weird eastern Tennessee phonetic pronunciation. My great aunt Birda (the way she spelled it) pronounced her name Birdie or Birdy. My 2nd great grandmother Rutha (again the way it was spelled) pronounced her name Ruthie. If you look at Perry Coffia, he (or the census taker on the early ones) went from spelling it Coffey, to Coffee, to Coffie, to Coffia. But I bet he pronounced it Coffee the whole time.

Fred: Adam, thank you for quickly uploading the atDNA data from your Ancestry test into FTDNA where I can see it. We had hope that this might reveal a match to an earlier atDNA test done by Terry Coffia, but there is no match. This is not surprising, because the atDNA test has a relatively short range. The only thing we can reliably conclude is that Terry, if related, is more distant from you than a third cousin.

If OTHER analysis suggests that he may be in the range of, say, a fourth cousin, then we might want to do the atDNA test on your father. He would be one generation closer to the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) with Terry's family.

By the way, note that the 2019 CCC Convention is in Tennessee, see the President's letter. You might think about coming?

NOTE: There are still active discussions going on this topic. There may be more in the next newsletter!

A JEWISH COFFEY FAMILY FROM POLAND?

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

I got a note from Jack Coffee, saying "I found a line in an obituary for a Charles Marvin Coffey who died in Mission Hills, CA in 2015, saying he was the son of **immigrants** from **Poland** and the **Ukraine**..."

This required investigation! I quickly found the obituary for this person, and that led to the tombstone pictured here. I learned Chuck was from Pittsburgh, was a dentist, graduated from University of Pittsburgh, and married Barbara Cherington in 1957. But no mention of his parents.



The search was on! I soon found an announcement in the "Pittsburgh Press" from 1957 that reported Barbara's impending marriage, that said the groom's father was Marcus Coffee.

This led to this next discovery on Find-a-Grave, for Workmens Circle Branch #45 Cemetery in Bauerstown, PA – see this picture:

And the 1930 census for Pittsburgh revealed Marcus and his family. The family head was Lewis Coffee (age 47), wife Esther (42), Marcus (22), his sister Belle (20), and his brother Norman (18). The family spoken language was Yiddish, all were born in Poland, and Lewis had immigrated to America in 1914 and the family followed in 1920.



Dr. Chuck Coffey had chosen to use the more common American spelling of "Coffey", but his ancestors had settled on "Coffee".

I found the death certificates for Louis Coffee (1881 – 9 Nov 1939) and his wife Esther (Strawczynski) Coffee (18 Feb 1886 – 22 Apr 1946). Louis' certificate said his father was Aaron Coffee. They were both buried in the same cemetery as Marcus. There was no photo of Louis' tombstone, but there was a note on Find-a-Grave that said there was an inscription "Son of Aaron Hacohan". Looks like the name "Coffee" may have actually originally been "Hacohan". And that suggests the family's Polish name was a variation of "Cohen", a very common Jewish name.

Finally, I found a list of common Jewish surnames, and in the Cohen section I found “Coen Coenca **Coffee** Coffen Coffin Coffino Cohan Cohen...”.

So “Coffee” is a recognized Jewish variation on “Cohen”. And now I know that not all Coffee/Coffey were Irish! Some were Jewish, came from Poland, and spoke Yiddish when they arrived in America.

I found a picture of Chuck with his wife, he looks a bit like me. In Yiddish, “Mir zenen beyde bald khedad alt mentshn vas trogn briln.”



HUGH COFFEY PROJECT UPDATE:

By Terri Stern, Hugh Coffey DNA Project Administrator:

Current work is on attempting to verify who the parents are of Agnes Montgomery (1755-1838), wife of Revolutionary War Patriot Hugh Coffey (1750-1827). The 1962 book on the Reed family claims she is the daughter of a John Montgomery who lived in Abbeville County South Carolina and left a will dated 4 Jan 1777 and proved 13 Dec 1782 naming his wife Jeane, son John and daughters Agniss, Margaret, Jennet, and Jeane. The 1991 Klayder book on the family found evidence she was the sister of an Alexander Montgomery and had 4 brothers in the Revolutionary War. I am investigating the DNA matches of Agnes's descendants in the project to people who have Montgomery ancestors. There were a number of Montgomery families in the Mecklenburg Co NC / Lancaster Co SC area at the time. I contacted the Montgomery YDNA project to see what they've done to sort out the Montgomery's. It appears that the ones who were in the right place have the J-M172 YDNA Haplogroup (Group 1 in the Montgomery DNA Project) and they haven't found the relationship between the group members. I volunteered to become a co-administrator for the Montgomery Project to help work on sorting out the J-M172 Group using my autosomal DNA skills. I've encouraged all the Hugh Coffey b 1750 & Agnes Montgomery descendants in my project to join the Montgomery Project. So far, a number of us who descend from Agnes are matching various members of Group 1, but more work is needed to find the exact connections. This effort will also help the descendants of the Robert Montgomery and Rebecca Coffey family in the Hugh Project, who both appear to be related to Hugh Coffey and Agnes Montgomery, but it's unclear how so far.

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. Unless it's a question primarily about DNA, in which case send it to FredCoffey@aol.com. (Fred also maintains the newsletter distribution list, and can be contacted if you wish to receive notification when new newsletters are published.)

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](#)