

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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President's Message

Hi Cousins,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year. Time is getting close to our 2019 Coffee/ey Convention in Franklin, TN. Check the list of the many activities for the area that was in the last newsletter, so I will not take up a lot of space going over them again. As I mentioned in the last newsletter Jean and I plan to tour the Franklin area and will try to return to the Tennessee State Archives in Nashville, which is only a short distance away. The Archives is a great research facility. 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 Reunion 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 cost for the rooms is \$84.99 for two Queens and \$74.99 for a single queen plus 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 is a cost of \$25.00 per person to cover the Saturday evening banquet, which will be catered by Cracker Barrel Catering, the meeting room for two days and the cost for a speaker. Please send this to Dave Brogan at 7106 Brush Creek Road South, Fairview, TN 37062. He will need this for convention down payments and expenses. If you only plan to attend the Banquet at 6:00pm on Saturday, the cost will be \$15.00.

Start making your plans early and join with your cousins for another great reunion. Dave Brogan has put a lot of work into the plans for this year's reunion. Hopefully we will have a good turnout.

Check out Fred Coffey's Coffey Roadmap Project, which he has been working on for many years. <http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html>. Lots of information to be had.

Please consider hosting the reunion for 2020. It is great to have information to get out to everyone early. It is not hard to do. Just takes a little organizing. Send me an email at wdmower@verizon.net and I will send you a paper that will help guide you through the process.

Wayne Mower

President CCC

wdmower@verizon.net

Editor's Comments

Happy New Year,

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and hope that you were successful researching your lineage last year. Do you have a goal for 2019? Who is it that you just can't find? What if that was to become one of your new years resolutions. I did just that last year and have finally traced one of my father's Irish families back into Ireland. All four of my father's grandparents were born in Ireland and came to America in the potato famine era. All four had very common names. Now I find that one Julia Herrick left from County Cork.

How can this help you? I'm 85 and if I can still research, so can you. Look over your records again. I failed to get a death certificate for one g.grandmother. Thought I knew it all!! That certificate had her mother's maiden name on it... The Irish are known for using the same names over and over. She married William Cleary and there are millions of them. Without her maiden name, I could not identify which family was mine.

What might you have missed in your Coffey lineage? Where have you not checked? Come to the Coffey Convention in April. Bring your records and let's see if one of your cousins might have some suggestions. We have fun but we also share research.

Hope to see you in Tennessee in April. This is a really hot spot for Coffey genealogy. I expect to do some serious looking.

bculey@embarqmail.com

Bonnie Culey

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We Get Mail

EMAIL from Spencer Coffey

Subject: Coffey stuff

Date: October 5, 2018 at 1:12:46 PM CDT

"In the last CCC there was a query from Lucas McCaw asking about Paul Coffey, of the Canadian Oilers hockey team. Maybe this will help point in the right direction: In April 1906 three of the sons of Col. Jonathan N. Coffey (the Hugh Coffey line, supposedly) and their extended

families - a total of 27 Coffeys plus one Coffey step-son - moved from Boone Co. AR by way of chartered railroad cars to Stettler, Canada, which then was end-of-track, and on from Stettler by covered wagon train to settle around what is now Czar, in Alberta Province. The brothers were Civil War veteran William B. "Dutch" Coffey (1847-1907); Robert Exum Coffey (1858-1939) and Jonathan Spencer Coffey (1860-1915). My Coffey research days are all now in the far distant past, but if my memory is not playing tricks on me I believe Paul Coffey descends through one of these three brothers. (Kind of seems to me like at one time I knew which one, but if I did, I've forgotten. I have a faint memory about Paul and his team playing one night here in KC MO, but that's ancient history too.)

*Best wishes,
Spencer Coffey"*

NOTE TO LUCAS, from Fred Coffey: We are also aware of one other Coffey family that lived in the right area at about the right time. If we had a sample of Paul's DNA, we could tell which family was correct. The two families are genetically quite distinct. This second possible family is indeed connected to my own Coffey line.

Of course the obvious solution is for you to ask Paul Coffey HIMSELF about his family. And he is now owner of an automobile dealership in Bolton, Ontario. You could pay a visit there, and offer to buy a new car in return for his family information or a DNA sample?

EMAIL From: Cheryl Felker

I go to church with a man, Bill Dick, who descends from Joseph Warren Coffey (1818-1900) and Susannah Dudderor (1830-1906) of Russell County, KY. I have tried to help him uncover Joseph Warren's father but so far I have come up with nothing. Would you happen to know anything regarding Joseph Warren Coffey?

Reply by: Fred Coffey

Back in 2009 I worked on a big study of all the Coffeys I could find in Russell County in the census through 1880. Here's a link to that study:

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/RussellCo/>

Go to the "Genealogy" section, and find person #1178. That is what I found for Joseph Warren and his family. As you will see, I called this an "unknown family connection" because I couldn't link him to any other Coffey family. The family appeared in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 census. Here are the names I found:

1 Warren G Coffey
+ Ellen Haines b:
2 Joseph Warren Coffey b: 26 Aug 1828 d: 6 Apr 1900
+ Susannah Duderar b: 13 Feb 1830
3 William H. Coffey b: 2 Oct 1853 d: 23 May 1923

3 Mary E. Coffey b: 15 Mar 1855
3 John J. Coffey b: Feb 1857
3 Chloe Emma Coffey b: 23 Sep 1859 d: 24 Aug 1932
3 Hiram F Coffey b: 1 Mar 1862 d: 1 Mar 1923
3 Franklin L. Coffey b: 1867

3 Samuel L. Coffey b: 1870
3 Joseph Pennington Coffey b: 14 Jan 1871 d: 12 Nov 1934

I invite our readers to advise if they can shed any light on Joseph's family. (He had 6 sons, and 3 of them lived into the 1920's and 1930's. It might be possible to find a living descendant with the Coffey surname, for a y-DNA test? That could at least confirm descent from Edward.)

EMAIL From: Tim Moore

Sent: Saturday, October 20, 2018 6:32 PM

Reply by: Fred Coffey

(The following discussion between myself and Tim Moore started with Tim's note to Jack Coffee's Edward Coffey Project (ECP) blog. Jack passed the question on to me because of the interest in DNA testing to determine Native American ancestry. The conversation wandered off as follows:

From TIM MOORE: Dear "ed.coffey.project@gmail.com"

I hope you receive this message! I am emailing you because I found your blog while doing some family research, and let me start by thanking you for putting it all together! Lottie Merle Coffey is my grandmother - she married Ralph Moore and from those two my father Jay Harold was born. I have a lot of history on my fathers fathers side but not much on my father's mother's side. I'm trying to trace down if there is any Native American in his family, supposedly according to lore there is Cherokee in there. My name is Tim, and I live in the Boston area of Massachusetts. I hope you get this email, and thank you again! Tim

From FRED: Hello Tim, this is Fred Coffey. As Jack Coffee told you, I have a particular interest in DNA testing. I'll get to that in a moment:

I did have a look at Jack's "Edward Coffey Project", and I see that your family is recognized there. And you are correct that your Coffey line involves marriages of cousins. It's complicated, and here is Jack's representation of the lines leading down to your grandmother Lottie Coffey (your father's mother). Your cousin marriages are highlighted in red:

- (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) Reuben Coffey (7 Mar 1742 - 1825) & Sarah Scott (ca 1750 - Oct 1837)
- (4) Jesse Coffey (ca 1775 - ca 1840) & Margaret Edmisten
- (5) Reuben Coffey (1805 - Dec 1892) & Rachel Hayes (1807 - 5 Feb 1895)
- (6) Jesse Calton Coffey (21 Apr 1821 - 28 Aug 1904) & Nancy A. Raines (30 Sep 1822 - 14 Jan 1899)
- (7) Matilda Ann Coffey (ca 1848 - 2 Apr 1927) & George Washington Coffey (21 Nov 1842 - 9 Nov 1912)
- (8) Roby Monroe Coffey (20 Mar 1881 - 1 Oct 1955) & Anna Lee Wright (27 Jul 1885 - 11 Dec 1951)
- (9) Lottie Merle Coffey (24 Feb 1912 - 3 May 1998) & Ralph James Moore (4 Apr 1908 - 27 Jan 1973)
- (5) William Clayton Coffey (ca 1808 - Feb 1865) & Sarah Greene (ca 1809 -)
- (6) George Washington Coffey (21 Nov 1842 - 9 Nov 1912) & Matilda Ann Coffey (ca 1848 - 2 Apr 1927)
- (7) Roby Monroe Coffey (20 Mar 1881 - 1 Oct 1955) & Anna Lee Wright (27 Jul 1885 - 11 Dec 1951)
- (8) Lottie Merle Coffey (24 Feb 1912 - 3 May 1998) & Ralph James Moore (4 Apr 1908 - 27 Jan 1973)
- (5) Austin Coffey (ca 1818 - Feb 1865) & Mary A. Blalock (25 Mar 1818 - 19 Jan 1905)
- (6) Margaret Ann Coffey (19 Aug 1845 - 1 Dec 1931) & Thomas A. Wright (11 Nov 1834 - 5 Apr 1906)
- (7) Anna Lee Wright (27 Jul 1885 - 11 Dec 1951) & Roby Monroe Coffey (20 Mar 1881 - 1 Oct 1955)
- (8) Lottie Merle Coffey (24 Feb 1912 - 3 May 1998) & Ralph James Moore (4 Apr 1908 - 27 Jan 1973)
- (4) Elizabeth B. Coffey (30 Jul 1776 - 5 Mar 1868) & John Greene (ca 1774 - 2 Jun 1853)
- (5) Sarah Greene (ca 1809 -) & William Clayton Coffey (ca 1808 - Feb 1865)
- (6) George Washington Coffey (21 Nov 1842 - 9 Nov 1912) & Matilda Ann Coffey (ca 1848 - 2 Apr 1927)
- (7) Roby Monroe Coffey (20 Mar 1881 - 1 Oct 1955) & Anna Lee Wright (27 Jul 1885 - 11 Dec 1951)
- (8) Lottie Merle Coffey (24 Feb 1912 - 3 May 1998) & Ralph James Moore (4 Apr 1908 - 27 Jan 1973)

George Washington Coffey and Matilda Ann Coffey are first cousins once removed. And Anna Lee Wright (whose mother was a Coffey) is a second cousin of Roby Monroe Coffey. (And no, I'm NOT certain I labeled those relationships completely and correctly!)

To understand these people and the families, you need to acquire a copy of Jack's ECP. Here's a resource that talks about his project, plus tells you how to find a few thousand pages of other Coffey information:

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

Now to your DNA question: I grew up in Iowa, but like you I NOW live in the Boston area. And like me, you obviously have been reading about our senator Elizabeth Warren's struggle to document her Native American ancestry. (Donald Trump has expressed skepticism, and loves to call her "Pocahontas"!) But Elizabeth does now seem to have some DNA evidence of such ancestry, maybe 6 to 10 generations back. That is a pretty distant connection, and I believe she needed to seek the opinion of a highly respected DNA expert. I'm not sure if that expert used one of the conventionally available tests, or did something special.

There is a generally available test that can identify Native American ancestry. However I would be skeptical about its ability to make a RELIABLE detection much beyond maybe 5 generations back without at least highly expert interpretation. That is an "autosomal DNA" test, and there are at least 3 companies that do this test. However I strongly recommend you order it from FTDNA (Family Tree DNA) because there is potential for some additional value for the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse.

Go to www.ftdna.com. And then click on "Buy Now" for the test 'Family Finder'.

Be aware that this test is looking at the mix of ALL of your DNA, and even if it comes up positive for some percentage of Native American, you cannot conclude that this had anything to do with your Coffey ancestry. It could be in ANY of your family lines.

Once your test is completed, I would like for you to JOIN the Coffey DNA Project. No cost involved, and if you're not sure how to join get back to me and I'll help.

Why am I interested in having you join our Project? This same test will also be showing specific matches to maybe a few thousand of your distant cousins. And because of your multiple history of Coffey cousin intermarriages, you will have an UNUSUALLY large share of "Coffey" DNA. And we have a big study that may find value in analyzing such Coffey matches.

From TIM: Hi Fred, I'm so happy to hear back from you - I think the info you've provided is a great start to helping me uncover a lot of this stuff. Whereabouts do you live in the Boston area? My family hails from Billerica, MA.

About the DNA - I would absolutely like to be involved with the DNA project. I talked to my dad who is Lottie Merle Coffey's son and he is interested in doing the DNA study as well. With him being less diluted than I, would you be interested in him joining as well? I will look into the DNA testing site you recommended and when I get it done I'll reach out to you about it.

From FRED: Hi Tim, I live in Sudbury, MA, west of Boston. And YES, your dad would definitely be a better subject for the autosomal DNA test than you. Fred

EMAIL From: Stacy Folsom (ethansmomma_cst@yahoo.com)

Sent: Jan 8, 2019

My name is Stacy Folsom, I'm trying to find information/heritage from my grandparents. My grandmothers name was Thelma Coffee and I believe she was from Clinton, Oklahoma, she married a Clarence Folsom. And I found information about them living in California for a time before returning to Oklahoma. They lived in Tulsa Oklahoma (which is where they also passed away). I have no living relatives from my father's side that i know of but I was told I had an aunt and i knew of my uncle who has passed as well. Thelma Folsom (Coffee) and her husband Clarence Folsom had three children, a daughter (whom I don't even know her name) and two sons a Kenneth Folsom (air force) and Bob Folsom (my father). I know I must have cousins from this aunt, and someone somewhere must know something of my grandmother's family. I have had no luck finding anything. If there's any leads i would be grateful to know.

Reply by: Fred Coffey

Hi Stacy, I have a fair bit of practice digging into Coffey genealogy, and I think THIS is the ancestry of your Thelma:

- (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) Thomas Coffey (7 Mar 1742 - Apr 1825) & Sarah Fields (ca 1750 - 21 Nov 1828)
- (4) Marvel Coffey (ca 1790 - bef 17 Aug 1840) & Rachel Boone (ca 1793 -)
- (5) William Brazeal Coffey (1824 - 14 May 1864) & Martha Anne Elizabeth Odom (22 Oct 1839 - 1916)
- (6) Robert Marion Coffey (6 Mar 1858 - 3 Sep 1899) & Barbara Jane Asher (20 Dec 1857 - 20 Feb 1938)
- (7) Alexander Coffey (14 Jan 1886 -) & Kittie Sprouse (1898 - 1986)
- (8) Thelma Lee Coffey (5 Dec 1920 - 4 May 1994) & Clarence Folsom

I did a quick and superficial search for your Thelma (Coffey) Folsom, and found her Social Security application. That told me that she was born 5 Dec 1920 in Cameron, OK, and died 4 May 1994, and her father was Alexander Coffey, and her mother was Kittie Sprouse.

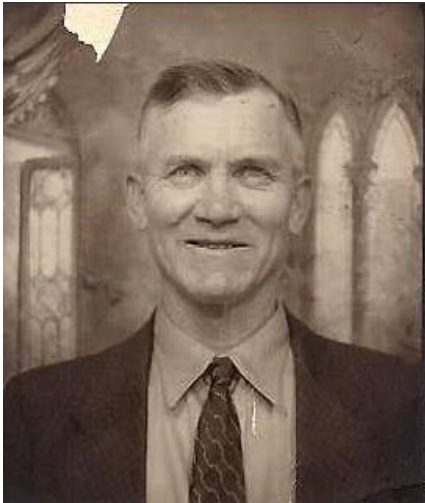
Searching then for Alexander found his WWI draft registration, saying he was born 24 Jan 1886, and his wife was Kittie. Oklahoma marriage records said Alex Coffey married Katie Sprouse on 29 Aug 1914 in Coal, Oklahoma. The Social Security death index said Alexander was born 14 Jan 1886 and died Mar 1973 in Tulsa, OK.

I found trees on Ancestry that included Alexander, that named his family back many generations. I never trust trees I find on Ancestry, unless I can verify the information.

Some of what I found were quite screwed up in the older generations, as people copied data from unreliable sources. However a couple seemed well documented for the three most recent generations. Then once I got as far back as William Brazeal Coffey I switched over to the Coffey database maintained by Jack Coffee. I have a lot of confidence in Jack's work.

From Stacy: "...you truly have no idea what that information means to me. I've only seen one photo of my grandmother at her graduation and it is so incredibly fascinating and haunting the resemblance between us, as if looking into a mirror in the past."

From Fred: "You like photographs? Here's a picture of your grandmother's father (your great-grandfather) Alexander Coffey."



I found the above photo on the following ancestry.com site:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/2574925/person/2070015000/facts>

I don't know if you use ancestry.com for your research, and if not, you might want to sign up for at least a temporary membership. But you have to be VERY CAREFUL. Don't just TRUST anything you find there, verify whatever you find. The link flagged here seems to have verifiable links to many reliable sources of information FOR THE MOST RECENT THREE GENERATIONS. However for older generations, they have "borrowed" information from old and unreliable sources, and much of it is simply WRONG. That is fairly typical. I DID NOT Use any of the data from this ancestry.com link for your descent as shown at the beginning of this note.

The older generations in the genealogy I used are taken from Jack Coffee's work, and Jack is very careful, and he documents his work. You would do well to acquire a copy of his ECP (Edward Coffey Project). You will find a lot of information in the "Coffey Roadmap" link at the end of this newsletter, including discussion of Jack's ECP and how to order it.

I'm in a big rush to help get this newsletter out, and this discussion is very superficial. Hopefully there are clues here that will get you started on your own careful future research. Other readers of this newsletter may have thoughts to share with you.

One more item: I see your Family Finder (autosomal DNA test) is now completed. They report finding 5786 of your cousins. I did a quick check, and I see a few who are part of my Coffey Project. However they are all "Fifth cousin to remote", which means the connection could go all the way back to Edward. Also those matches are not necessarily "Coffey", since this test is looking at the DNA from ALL of your ancestors. The matches could be to a non-Coffey line. The "paper trail" approach above is more meaningful.

Best wishes, Fred Coffey

WE FOUND A CAFFEY! WE FOUND A CAFFEY!

From: Mark Caffey to Bonnie

Hi Bonnie, I ran across the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse online. My Surname is Caffey. I have been told that I am a descendant of the O Cobhthaigh clan, (Coffey). Do you know of Caffey's that are related? Either through documentation or DNA testing? I appreciate your help!

Reply: From Bonnie

Mark, I have had to think about what you ask. Yes, we have worked with Caffey or two in the past. I am going to send your letter on to our DNA chairman, Fred Coffey. He has all the back issues of the newsletter and index on his web site as well as our library. We now work with y-DNA and have members from Ireland. We have always considered the Cobthaigh clan as ours.

Since we began in 1981, there is a large collection of material to wade through. The index will probably be the first place you should look. Have you had a DNA test from one of the groups that offer them?

Extended Reply: From Fred

Hello Mark, I WANT YOUR DNA!

I have carefully searched through 2100 pages of our Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse newsletters (that's not as tough as it sounds). There are 64 references to the "Caffey" name and Caffey families. A few of those are misspellings, but the bulk recognize that Caffey is a distinct group of families. And we have long suspected that the name was a variation on "Coffey", but nobody has yet PROVEN that. And now YOU have the potential to provide that PROOF!

Lots of background to discuss. Suggest you visit this link, and I'll explain what is relevant:

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

First, you ought to visit the section on "Newsletters". That will explain how you can look at our collection of historic newsletters, dating back to 1981. Discussions of the Caffey families go back to 1986. And there is a search tool called "HTM" that can find every reference to any word, like "Caffey". And that will tell you which issues might be relevant, and you can call up the actual newsletters and read them if you wish.

Second, I recommend you go to the page in this "roadmap" on y-DNA discussion. Suggest you read the article titled "CCCRReview2016". That article discusses DNA testing, and evolves into a discussion of geological origins of a significant number of entirely independent Coffey groups in Ireland. Your y-DNA test would tell me if you belong to any of the known "Coffey" groups.

Bonnie asked if you have done a DNA test from any of the several groups that do such tests, such as Ancestry or 23&me. I would be interested if your answer is "yes", but the type of test most advertised on TV is NOT useful for my purpose. You need to order a "y-DNA" test, which strictly follows your "Caffey" (Coffey?) surname back, potentially through a few centuries.

Bonnie also mentioned that "We have always considered the Cobthaigh clan as ours". That is partially true. But there are actually several different "Cobthaigh" clans in Ireland that are genetically distinct. And our particular "clan" (Bonnie's and mine) may actually have originally been named some variation on "Keogh"! It's complicated.

You need to get a y-DNA test from FTDNA (Family Tree DNA). Go to

<https://www.familytreedna.com/projects.aspx>

and put "Coffey" into the search box, and click on search. Under projects you'll see "Coffey", with well over 200 members. That will bring up a price list. I recommend you choose y-DNA37 for \$149. They will send you a test kit, you rub the inside of your cheek to capture a few dead cells, and mail it back.

As a project administrator, I will receive notice that you have joined us, and will be watching for your results.

Response: From Mark

I just ordered the Y-DNA37 test. I look forward to getting the results in and hopefully see a match with one of your groups. And you may absolutely mention my name and intent for the DNA test in your next newsletter.

FINDING ADAM COFFIA (Y-DNA TEST):

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

In the last newsletter, there was an extended article about the family of Adam Coffia. Adam has NOW completed a y-DNA test, removing the last shadow of doubt: Adam and his family are all ABSOLUTELY descendants of Edward Coffey.

Adam's reaction to the news: "Thanks Fred! Guess I better start reading up and research more seriously to find my missing links. This is very exciting!"

Y-DNA TEST, ROBERT C COFFEY, DESCENDANT FROM ED JR. & GRACE CLEVELAND:

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

Many of you readers are aware of controversies surrounding the descendants of Edward Coffey Jr. He is believed to have had a family via a marriage to Grace Cleveland, and also to have had a number of descendants from a (second?) unknown wife. And for the first time we have a y-DNA test on a descendant from the Edward & Grace Cleveland line.

Following is the believed descent of this Robert, mostly taken from Jack Coffee's ECP (Edward Coffey Project):

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca 1670 - ca 20 Nov 1716) & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) Edward Coffey JR. (ca 1701 - aft 1774) & Grace Cleveland (1 Sep 1716 -)
- (3) Jesse Cleveland Coffee (bef 1755 - ca 1807) & Nancy Alexander (bef 1765 -)
- (4) Cleveland Coffee (BET 1766 AND 1784 -) & Martha Brown
- (5) Jesse Coffee (ca 1812 -) & Elizabeth Thompson (ca 1810 -)
- (6) Cleveland Coffee (ca 1841 - 1918) & Caroline Page (1852 - 1893)
- (7) Alonzo Coffey
- (8) Robert C Coffey

The y-DNA test doesn't tell us much about Robert's line, beyond offering absolute proof that Robert is definitely a descendant of Edward. His test matched our Edward Group reference on 36 out of 37 markers.

An interesting note is that Robert also has an atDNA (autosomal DNA) test, and Robert (Kit #802598) has an exceptional number of atDNA matches to other atDNA tested individuals in the Coffey DNA Project. This is somewhat surprising, because the common ancestor to the others has to go all the way back to Edward Jr., and the atDNA test does not consistently have that much range.

A significant factor may be that many of the matches involve lines that have marriages of cousins, which would increase the amount of Coffey DNA being carried forward.

(Tim Peterman is our expert on atDNA testing. He may have comments?)

A COFFEY FAMILY FROM WELDON, IOWA:

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

I got a curious call from my first cousin, Charlie Coffey, the Mayor Emeritus of my old home town of Garden Grove, Iowa. He said he had just gotten a call from Bob Bixby (rjbixby@grm.net) of the Decatur County Historical Society, who was researching the history of Weldon, Decatur County, Iowa. Bob was looking at a picture taken in about 1890, which included a "Joe Coffey Carpenter Shop". He wanted to know if this "Joe Coffey" was a member of Charlie's Coffey family.

History of Weldon Decatur County, Iowa



Weldon, 1890 - Joe Coffey Carpenter Shop, Charles DePew Section Foreman and Charles Pettis Blacksmith Shop
"The Racket Market" 2nd from right of storefronts
Photograph courtesy of Sherry Balow

"Weldon"? I know that place, because that is where my mother grew up! But my mother was a "Walker". My Coffey ancestors did settle in nearby Wayne County, and they didn't arrive there until 1890. This Joe couldn't be MY family! But I can't pass up a genealogy challenge:

The 1900 census for Weldon, Franklin Township, Decatur, IA quickly found Joe. He was born about 1852 in Ireland, came to America in about 1870, was a carpenter, married his wife Elizabeth (age 42) in about 1880, and they had six children: Mary (14), Katherine (14), Cecilia (12), Annie (10), Lawrence (7), and Josephine (4).

Searching marriage records for Decatur quickly showed that he married "Lizzie A Hart", a native of adjacent Clarke County. They married in Weldon on 18 Oct 1882, so Joe obviously found his way to Iowa before that date. (My own Coffey family didn't get to Iowa until 1890.)

Iowa offered a genealogist's bonanza for their 1925 Iowa census. They decided that everybody should give the names and other details for their parents! Joseph, age 74, and his wife Elizabeth (66) were still in Weldon in 1925. And that census said Joe's father was Laurence Coffey, and his mother was Mary Geohegan, both born in Ireland.

Continuing to dig into records for Weldon, I soon found Joe's death certificate. He was born Joseph Patrick Coffey on 17 Oct 1850 in Ireland, died 15 Dec 1931 in Weldon, and is buried in Green Bay Cemetery near Weldon. Family information for the death certificate was provided by his daughter Mary, then a resident of Weldon. Mary confirmed he was widowed, his wife was Elizabeth, and confirmed his parent's names and birth.

One of my genealogy interests is y-DNA testing, and Joe had a son named Lawrence. If I could find a living male descendant of Lawrence with the Coffey surname, a y-DNA test could possibly confirm WHERE in Ireland he came from (I track several unrelated Coffey lines with known Irish origins). But sadly, the search confirmed that son Lawrence (26 Apr 1893 – 10 Nov 1916) had died, unmarried, at the age of 23. There is no male line.

But wait: Joe and Elizabeth had been sloppy about officially reporting the births of their children, and when daughter Josephine wanted to qualify for social security in 1940, no birth record could be found. To get a substitute birth certificate, she had to file a sworn affidavit, with statements from witnesses who had known her for her full life. And that statement said her father Joe had been born at "Killbegan, Dublin Road, Ireland"!

"Google Maps" knew exactly where to find the part of Dublin Road that passes through the Irish village of Killbegan. That is in County Westmeath. And that area is largely populated by one of the most ancient of the Irish "Coffey" clans. And I had obtained DNA tests on a number of Coffey descendants from that area. They are NOT related to my own family.

So, back to the original question: Joe Coffey who had the carpenter shop in Weldon, Iowa, was an Irishman who married and raised his family in Weldon, and died there at the age of 81. He had no male heir, but his daughters lived and married in the general area. A good genealogist would have little difficulty expanding information on his descendants, and on his wife's family.

And Joe Coffey is absolutely unrelated to my cousin Charlie Coffey's family.

HUGH COFFEY LINE DISCUSSION:

By Terri Stern (Contact: HughCoffeyProject@gmail.com)

The readers might like some insight into how I'm using the autosomal DNA to answer questions about the Hugh Coffey line. The questions I'm working on now are:

1. Who are the parents of Agnes Montgomery, wife of Hugh Coffey the Revolutionary War Patriot?
2. What do the records and family histories say?
3. What does the DNA tell us?

Forrest F. Reed's book, *A Reed Family in America* (1962, p 20) tells us Hugh Coffey "was born May 13, 1750 near Harper's Ferry, Virginia. He moved with his parents to Lancaster, South Carolina when he was about 4 years old. He grew up in Lancaster County and was married there to Agnes Montgomery, who was born May 16, 1755. Agnes Montgomery was the daughter of John Montgomery who mentioned her in his will on file at Abbeville, South Carolina dated January 4, 1777." Since the Reed book is widely available, most family trees on line show Agnes as the daughter of John Montgomery and his wife Jean. No sources are offered in the Reed book, so I went in search of evidence for John Montgomery of Abbeville, SC.

Records for this family are scarce. Trees on Ancestry appear to be using the Reed book or other trees as their only sources. I found that the will had been transcribed by Dena W. and was posted online at the South Carolina Genealogy Trails website

<http://genealogytrails.com/scar/abbeville/wills2.html>

According to the transcription, John Montgomery's will was dated 4 Jan 1777 and proved 13 Dec. 1782. He names his wife Jean, daughters Margaret, Agniss, Jennet and Jeane, and son John. Here's the transcribed segment with his children's names.

'give and Bequeath to Jean my Dearly Beloved wife the Black Mair Called Bess, and sadle Likewise the Bay mair Called Bess I give my dearly be loved Daughter Margaret the Brown mair Caled file and a black heffer and one year old heffer I give to my Dearly beloved daughter agniss Besses Colt and one red heffer and one year old heffer Likewise to my 2 Daughters Jennet and Jeane I give all the Remainder of my Cattel Likewise I give and Bequith to my Dearly beloved son John all my plantation or track of land and my Bible'

This did not appear to be conclusive proof that the Agnes Montgomery said to be the wife of Hugh Coffey was the daughter named Agniss in John's will.

The 1991 book by Annie Velma Urquhart, Urquhart, Coffey, Boland, and Allied Families of the South: Genealogy and Family History with Photographs, Sketches, and Maps, is the product of many years of research and correspondence with Coffey family members. Sources in the book are well documented. The author's great grandmother was Mary Matilda Coffey Urquhart (1825-1904), daughter of Mary Matilda Coffey, who was the daughter of Henry Coffey and Rebecca Kirk and the granddaughter of Hugh Coffey and Agnes Montgomery. In 1928 Mary Jane Urquhart Hale Battle (Mary Matilda's daughter), went to the old family burying ground at Shiloh Church Cemetery in Lancaster County and found the tomb of Alexander Montgomery, the Revolutionary War soldier who was the brother of her great grandmother Agnes Montgomery. FindAGrave has a photo of Alexander Montgomery's monument and the newspaper clipping on his death. He served in the Revolutionary War and died in 1859 at the age of 102. In the same cemetery are Nenion/Neinon Montgomery (1765-1845) and his wife Jane Davis. Nenion also served in the Revolutionary War and has descendants who proved his service to the DAR. It appears that he may be the brother of Alexander, but it's not certain.

From a DNA standpoint, I have been looking at the matches of Agnes descendants trying to find any with Montgomery ancestors. I have not found any yet that trace back to John Montgomery of Abbeville, but at least two of Agnes's descendants have matches to descendants of Nenion/Neinon Montgomery. This may be an indication that Agnes is a sibling or first cousin of Neinon. My next steps are to keep looking for more DNA matches to Montgomerys from Lancaster and to find the trees for matches who share the same DNA segment with an Agnes descendant and a Neinon descendant to confirm that all three of them share the same Montgomery ancestor.

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

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

You can find information on Jack Coffee's Edward Coffey Project here:

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