

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded and Published by Leonard Coffey 1981-1989

Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley 1989-2012

Editor and Publisher: Jack K Coffee 2012-2016

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Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 150 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Hi Cousins,

We are rapidly approaching the time when we get together for our 2019 Coffee/ey Convention in Franklin, TN. It is shaping up to be another great time. It is a time when we get together and share family stories and recent finds in our quest to take our genealogies back to Adam and Eve. I think that is a little stretch, but wouldn't that be great. It is a time when we teach each other and our newer researchers the little tricks we have learned over the course of our research. The best part is to meet new cousins and renew our friendships which have developed over the years. The meeting room will be available throughout the Convention to visit and share.

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. Many of the rooms are already reserved, but there will be others available if we run out of reserved rooms. Please call the motel asap to reserve a room.

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 Rd. S., 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. Get this in to Dave asap so he can make the necessary arrangements.

The Convention is set up for everyone to do the sightseeing they want to do and to go to the various research facilities, particularly the State Archives. Dave will have a sheet of places to visit and other research repositories.

We will have a get together in the meeting room on Friday evening for Terri Stern to go over the subject of Autosomal DNA. This is called the cousin finder. Terri will go over this and her research on the Hugh Coffey lines. It should prove be very interesting. We will also have a speaker on Saturday on the Coffees in the Franklin area who fought in the Civil War. We will have our annual banquet, meeting and election of officers. After two years it is time for me to step down as President. Please think about this and step up to the plate. We need fresh blood, new ideas and a new energy.

I hope that someone has been thinking about hosting the reunion for next year. We would like to announce a meeting place for next year.

I want to thank everyone who has helped this year. Fred Coffey's attention to getting out an interesting newsletter and dedication to the Coffee/ey DNA project is appreciated by all, thank you Fred. Jack Coffee is still lurking in the background and is a great source for Coffee/ey information. What can I say about Bonnie Culley, she is the inspiration, mentor and glue of the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse and Convention. Thank you Bonnie for all you do. Jean and I will still attend as many Conventions as we can.

Thanks to all the faithful,

Wayne Mower

President CCC

wdmower@verizon.net

Editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

I am so excited that I can hardly wait for March to be gone. I look forward to seeing all of you who can make it to convention this year. It's always so good to get together with my cousins again and meet a few new cousins.

Dave has worked really hard to show us a good time in Tennessee and remind us of what our ancestor's left behind. He really knows his Coffee/y family and state. Actually Dave probably had a hard time deciding what we would most want to see in Tennessee. So many of us have roots there. We are really going to have a good time and possibly find a few more Coffee/y ancestors.

We are going to ask for your help at this convention. We are going to need a new Convention President as Wayne wishes to resign. We thank him for his service. He has a lot of other commitments and finds himself a little over extended. It's not a hard job... You work with the convention chairman to be sure that things are set up and on time. You have to write note for each of the quarterly newsletters, letting the organization know what to look forward to in the spring convention and you preside at the Banquet/Business meeting.

We will need a cousin to host the 2020 convention. We have met all over the U. S. and in Canada once. It's always fun to see what other parts of this wonderful country can offer. By it being all over the U.S. it makes our conventions available to people who couldn't or wouldn't travel long ways to get to one. I have been to North Carolina, Tennessee, Oregon, Florida, Texas, Maryland, Calgary, Canada and many more. I have seen much more of the U.S. than I would have seen if it wasn't for Coffee/y Conventions. What fun!! Someone already had a good hotel set up for me and suggestions of things to see in the area. Jim and I always loved to make the conventions. He liked to exchange recipes with the ladies while I did genealogy. We made so many friends from all over the country. WE NEED YOU TO HOST.

We take it all for granted without thinking about what Coffey Cousins' has to offer. It has come so very far since its beginnings in 1981. Of course there is still the Coffey Cousins' Newsletter and Convention. Jack Coffee began his Edward Project in the '90s which is huge and reliable. Then Lorie Okel and Fred Coffey started the DNA Project, and we get lots of members from this. It is one of the largest yDNA projects going. Now we have Terri's, Hugh Coffey DNA Project. (Wish we had one for the Peter line). When you put all of this together it's AMAZING.

I hope that Leonard Coffey, founder of the newsletter and Dr. Marvin Coffey, author of the first reliable book on the Coffey families, are up in heaven, looking down on us and saying, "just look at what we started!"

Love you all,

Bonnie Culley

bculey@embarqmail.com

Index: Issue 150

| | <u>Page</u> | <u>ARTICLES:</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| President's Message | 1 | | |
| Editor's Comments | 2 | Collins Coffee's Bull | 6 |
| | | An Adoption Mystery | 6 |
| <u>MAIL:</u> | | Another Mystery (Being Addressed) | 10 |
| Arthur @ Spike Energy (Coffee Prices) | 3 | Caffey Isn't Coffey | 13 |
| Ben Jones III (Callie Coffee Ladd) | 3 | Information Resource Links | 14 |
| Randy Coffee (Collins Coffee) | 4 | | |

We Get Mail

Mail: **THE COFFEE/TEA FAMILY?**

I got this query in my email today. Bonnie

From: Spike Energy® Drinks

Subject: Re: COFFEE/TEA INQUIRY

Date: March 13, 2019 at 9:41:13 AM CDT

Hello, We would be having conference meetings and we want you to serve our members. Please let us know the prices of your coffee.

Thanks Arthur

Mail: **FINDING CALLIE COFFEE LADD**

From Ben Jones III: Dear Fred, Jack Coffee suggesting contacting you about the Coffee/Ladd/Jones connection. My great grandmother was Caroline "Callie" Coffee Ladd. Her father was Noble R. Ladd who is supposed to be related to Peter Coffee. Do you know how he is related? Jack indicated that you did a DNA test?

Response from Fred Coffey: Hi Ben, I don't recognize the names, and you haven't provided enough information there to do a search. Give me some more data, like dates and who married whom, and I'll have another quick look.

(You call your great grandmother "Caroline Coffee Ladd", which to me implies her maiden name was Coffee and she married a Ladd, but you say her father is Noble R Ladd. If so, where does the "Coffee" come from? Did Caroline Ladd marry a Coffee?)

Meanwhile, you might have a look at this link:

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

If you click on the Peter Coffee line, you'll find some discussion.

We have done y-DNA tests on the Peter line, and Peter is clearly related to the Edward Coffey line, with connection somewhere back in Ireland. If you could find a related living male with the Coffee surname in your line, a test would be possible. And I could probably tell the difference between a Peter descendant and an Edward descendant.

Ben: Thanks for the quick reply. Caroline's middle name was Coffee. Her father was Noble R. Ladd, born 1799 died 1880. Noble apparently divorced his first wife about 1847 and in about 1852 married Caroline Cornelia (or Cordelia) Francis Jackson born 1822 and died 1880. They had two children Caroline Coffee Ladd born May 5, 1854 and died Mar 28, 1943 in Warren, Ohio. Her younger sister was named Linnie Ladd. Caroline married Benjamin Harris Jones born Apr 13, 1853 and died Sept 15, 1908. All of the Jones family hailed from the Russellville, Alabama area.

I will check out the link you sent, THANKS!!!

Fred: Hey Ben, I think I got it! Did a quick search on Ancestry, and find some that some people claim this ancestry for Caroline (her grandmother was a Coffee):

Caroline Coffee Ladd (1854-1943)
Her mother: Caroline Cordelia Frances Jackson Knight (1818-)
Her mother: Elizabeth Woodson Coffee (1788-1852)
Her father: Thomas Graves Coffee (1769-1846)
His father: Joshua Coffee (1744-1797)
His father: Peter Coffee (1700-1771)

For more information, go to the "Roadmap" link I recommended, and then click on the Bonnie Culley Library. In that, you will find much of this family in the link BCL069. And there may be other information scattered about in the BCL.

Best wishes, Fred

We Get Mail: **SEARCHING FOR FAMILY: RANDY COFFEE**

From Randy: (randy.coffee@verizon.net)

My name is Randy Dean Coffee. I've only recently found the CCC. Hopefully, I can get some answers from someone in the group.

First, a little about me... I was born (in 1967), fairly late into my dad's life and we were geographically distant and didn't have much contact with his mom and siblings (or cousins). My grandfather had already passed before I was born. I attempted to get family history from my dad, but aside from stories about Grandpa, I didn't get many facts.

Although I've always wanted to know about my family, I didn't get serious about looking into my roots until a year or so ago, when my wife gifted me a DNA test from MyHeritage.com. I was pretty excited and started working on my family tree. My DNA results didn't reveal any big surprises, other than a complete absence of Coffee matches. Not a one... Maybe I don't know as much about DNA as I thought...

My dad passed away in Nov, '14, leaving only one sister who is now 85 or so. I've reached out to her, but like my father, she's a bit tight-lipped when talking about family details. So, I've been struggling along, working with limited MyHeritage access & using borrowed accounts on ancestry.com.

So, here's what I know... My dad was Robert Laverne Coffee, born in California 1927 and passed in 2014. His father was Roy Dennis Coffee, also born and died in CA. 1900-1966. We do not have his birth certificate, but his death certificate lists C.W. Coffee as his father. Ancestry website Searches revealed a Charles (Chas) Wilbur Coffee, born in La Cygne, KS. 1876-1933.

His father was Ambrose Lee Coffee, born in Tennessee 1841-1924. His father was Collins Coffee, 1809-1864 from NC., **assumed to be** John Collins, son of Levi Coffey, 1774-1850, son of James Edwin (or Erwin?) Sr. ... And so on...

Response by Fred Coffey: (Memo: Randy and I exchanged several notes, and Jack Coffee also had a look. A bit of digging suggested that Randy's ancestry notes above were pretty solid, down to the phrase "**...assumed to be.**" Neither Jack nor I could come up with any evidence to support that assumption. And, as Jack will attest, no genealogy on Ancestry should be accepted without question.)

The last SOLID piece of evidence we could find was this:

TEXAS DEATH CERTIFICATE:

Name: Ambrose Lee Coffee
Gender: Male
Race: White
Age: 83
Birth Date: 22 Mar 1841
Birth Place: Tennessee
Death Date: 8 May 1924
Death Place: Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA
Father: Collins Coffee
Mother: Callie Hensley

Ambrose is easy to track through census reports. In 1840 he fits at age under 5 in the headcount of Collins Coffee in Bradley, TN. In 1850 he is age 10 in the household of Collins and Sarah Coffee in Greene, MO. In 1860 he is age 19 in the household of Collins and Sarah Coffee in Howell, MO. In 1870 he is with his wife Martha and children in Howell, MO (and his widowed mother Sarah lives next door). In 1920 he is in Latimer, OK, as father-in-law to his daughter Dora, who has married William E Parham.

This is the same "Collins Coffee" that was being researched by CCC member Lorie Okel several years ago. And Lorie arranged for a y-DNA test on a cousin of hers, Lawrence Ronald Coffee (Sample #26238). This "L Ron" can be shown to be a H2C2R (half second cousin, twice removed) of Randy. Lorie found that Collins death date was 8 Sep 1864. His wives were Callie Hensley and Sarah Hinkle. Lorie published a book about her family, and Bonnie Culley has a copy.

Ron and Randy appear to be connected via the following descent from Collins:

- (1) Collins Coffee (1809 - 8 Sep 1864) & Callie Hensley (- abt 1841)
- (2) Ambrose Lee Coffee (22 Mar 1841 - 8 May 1924) & Martha Johnson (1843 -)
- (3) Charles Wilbur Coffee (1876 - 1933)
- (4) Roy Dennis Coffee (1900 - 1966)
- (5) Robert Laverne Coffee (1927 - 2014)
- (6) Randy Dean Coffee (1967 -) (**atDNA Test**)
- (1) Collins Coffee (1809 - 8 Sep 1864) & Sarah Hinkle (Feb 1817 - 1905)
- (2) William Taylor Coffee (Feb 1847 - 6 Sep 1917) & Jane Helen Wemple
- (3) Hubert Coffee (13 Aug 1891 -)
- (4) Lawrence Ronald Coffee (20 Dec 1938 -) (**y-DNA and atDNA tests**)

Because "L Ron" has a y-DNA match to the Edward Coffey group, there is NO DOUBT that Randy is ALSO a descendant of Edward. There is thus no need for Randy to do a y-DNA test.

((Randy did arrange to upload his "MyHeritage" DNA to the Coffey DNA Project, and Ron has done the same test. However no match is detected, probably because "H2C2R" is at the distance where the atDNA test is not reliable.)

All of this is fine, but it does not solve the fundamental problem. We **DO NOT KNOW** who were the parents of this Collins Coffee. And this is exactly what Lorie Okel was also struggling with -- she could never pin down his ancestry - she first reported on her search in the June 1982 issue of this newsletter! Do any of our newsletter readers have any fresh ideas on how to find and extend the paper trail back in time to identify the parentage of Collins?

COLLINS COFFEE'S BULL:

By Jack Coffee (Contact: Jack.Coffee@mail.com)

I found a hilarious story about Collins Coffee while searching for information in this book:

A History of Southern Missouri and Northern Arkansas: Being an Account of the Early Settlements, the Civil War, the Ku-Klux, and Times of Peace

By William Monks, pub. 1907 by West Plains Journal Co.

From Page 35: "**How a Mob Was Prevented**

Comment from Randy: I've been searching these newsletter archives for information about Collins, and THAT story was already published in September 2001.

Comment from Fred: Randy is correct. There are actually 41 references to Collins in the newsletter archive. The story appears in Issue #84, starting on Page 10. Recommend you go to that issue, and read the story. Remember, the following link will show you how to access the newsletter archive:

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

AN ADOPTION MYSTERY):

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

Once again, we have found an adoption mystery to discuss. On February 8, FTDNA flagged a new match to our Edward Group members. Here's a rough reconstruction of our conversations:

FRED: To Bruce Bunderson (brucebruskovich@gmail.com). Hello Bruce,

My name is Fred Coffey, and I am the co-administrator of the Coffey y-DNA Project. FTDNA advises me that today you had a 67-marker y-DNA match to myself, and also to a few dozen other members of the Coffey family.

Their time predictor indicates there is about a 95% probability that you and I had a common male-line ancestor within about the last 8 generations. Given the huge number of your matches, there is little doubt that your male line biological ancestry includes someone with the Coffey surname. And we all descend from an Edward Coffey, who was first recorded in America in 1699 as an indentured servant.

I hope I can persuade you to JOIN the Coffey Project, and hope that we can start discussions to see if we can figure out the connection. I hope you will tell me what you know about your male-line ancestry. And I can provide you with a large amount of information about the Coffey line. Can we begin to work together?

BRUCE: Hello Fred, Thank you for your outreach. I just joined the Coffey surname project, and made my data shareable. I was adopted, and this is the beginning of a journey of discovery for me. Unfortunately, I'm an answer seeker, and don't have any information to share about my ancestry. I look forward to learning more about my roots.

FRED: Hi Bruce, Welcome to our DNA Project, and WELCOME to the "Coffey Family". You are not the first adoptee the "Coffey Cousins" have helped to find his origins. There are actually several. I've copied this note to two more of our highly qualified "Coffey Scene Investigators" who are prepared to try to help! Be aware we have a huge database of Coffey information, and we publish a big quarterly newsletter. Here is our database:

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

Your first task is to look at Newsletter issue #148. Then start reading the article starting at the bottom of Page 9. This begins the lengthy conversation with the last adoptee we were able to help. I want to start the same sort of conversation with you.

Background for **Jack Coffee** and **Bonnie Culley:** Bruce has an excellent y-DNA match to a large multitude of our cousins. He differs from many at only one or two markers, out of 67. ALL of the Edward Group men are absolutely his cousins! And this includes several that do not even have the Coffey surname, but that the DNA says are absolutely part of our extended family.

For Bruce: Start giving us whatever clues you may have. Exactly where and when were you born? What do you know about the circumstances? Who was the adopting family? ANYTHING that might be helpful? Oh, as an early step, you should also order FTDNA's "Family Finder" DNA test.

BRUCE: Hello Coffey cousins! I'm bursting with excitement at this stroke of good fortune, and feeling quite hopeful about getting the answers I'm seeking. I have begun reading the newsletter page, particularly the section you, Fred, recommended, addressed to Brad, the other adoptee.

My circumstances were different to Brad's, in that I was not given up for adoption at birth. I was later taken from my birth mother, placed in foster care, and consequently adopted, at the age of ten.

I was born Bruce Strain, in September of 1967, in Yuba City, Sutter County California. Over this past Christmas holiday, it was revealed to me by a half-sister, that the man I always thought was my biological father, could not have been, as he had a vasectomy after the birth of my older brother, in 1963! My early childhood was spent mostly in the area of Wendell, Jerome and Gooding Idaho.

I have taken the My Heritage DNA test, and wonder if that information could be useful to this effort. I'm happy to share it, if you all think it's worth the effort.

BONNIE: Do you have a full birth certificate? It might give us some places to search. I worked at Vital Statistics in Missouri a number of years ago and remember that children often could not get a full copy of their birth certificates. We didn't let them have a copy that didn't list a father. They only got a card that was enough to let them get a pass port. You are old enough to get a full

copy with the father's name if you request it. You may have the full copy but probably not if you were adopted. When adoptions were done, we changed the certificate to list the new parents' names.

I'm not sure what the address is for California, but I did get one for my husband a number of years ago. Your local library should have the address and cost of a full certificate in California. Be sure to request a full original certificate. If you have access to your adoption papers, they may have a copy of the original one.

FRED: Bruce, you can transfer your "My Heritage" DNA to your current account at FTDNA. There are more than 30 members of the "Coffey Clan" who have this test done on FTDNA. If any of those are within about 5 generations of your shared MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor), you should be able to see matches.

Understand you were born Bruce Strain about 1967, adopted about 1977, and I gather the adopting family had the surname "Bunderson"? And that they then (or later?) lived in Idaho? And that you have an older brother (now known to be a half-brother) born about 1963.

It's hard to get any real access to public records after about 1940. But I did have a quick look to see if there were any Coffey families in Sutter, CA, in 1940. There is only one obvious family, and that family has a child "David" born about 1939, and this David would be about age 28 when you were born in 1967. Kind of weak, but we have our first possible "suspect"?

The child's father was David Coffey, born about 1912 in Louisiana. However the family lived in Altus, Jackson, Oklahoma in 1935. It might be possible to dig up genealogical information on that family.

BRUCE: I know the name of the person listed on my birth certificate as my father. And I now know that he is not my true biological father. Does that fact have any significance, as far as the direction we are trying to head in with regard to finding out the identity of my true father? Also, my birth certificate was modified by the state of California, to show the people who adopted me as my official parents. Does this help at all?

FRED: If we know exactly where your family lived at the time of your birth, we may be able to search for records of any Coffey families in that vicinity at the time. If any are still living in the same area, we may be able to approach them for information and maybe for a DNA test.

BRUCE: I am certain that my biological mother and her husband, who is listed on my original birth certificate, lived in Marysville, California at the time of my birth.

FRED: Marysville is in Yuba County, and the 1940 census indicates the nearest Coffey's are the ones we found in adjacent Sutter County.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| JACK: I found this in | Name: | Bruce K Strain |
| Calif. Birth Index: | Birth Date: | 5 Sep 1967 |
| | Gender: | Male |
| | Mother's Maiden Name: | Rowberry |
| | Birth County: | Sutter |

FRED: (Memo Item: That birth index also reports there is a twin sister of Bruce. However Bruce says that she wishes to remain separate and private from this discussion and from DNA testing. At the moment there is no apparent need for her to be involved, so no more will be said.)

FRED: Hey Bruce, I see your upload of Family Finder data to FTDNA was successful. And I see there are 30 matches to people named “Coffey”, or to people who indicate they have “Coffey” in their family tree.

First a caution: You cannot with confidence SAY that these matches are “Coffey Related”. This test is looking at ALL of your DNA, and the actual match may be to a surname that is totally unrelated to “Coffey”.

That said, I recognize three of these matches as ALREADY being members of the Coffey DNA Project, and that would be a place to start. Go to the “Roadmap”, to DNA, and “Genealogy Summary”. Print only Page #1 – all three of these matches are descendants of Edward through his son John. And you will be able to read the genealogy summary of each on this page.

Your closest match is “Dr. Max Terry Coffey PhD”, Sample 55864, who is likely your third cousin. There is no indication his direct line has California roots, but it is possible that some “cousin” of his made it to California.

Your second closest match is to Richard C Coffey, Sample 15366, who is likely your fourth cousin. Richard is particularly interesting, because he was born in California and lived there most of his life. You can find some quick information about him at FAG (Find-a-grave) Memorial #157164191. This link shows his obituary, and begins information on other members of his family.

Your third match is to Brent Dustin Coffey, Sample 271262, who is “Fourth Cousin to Remote”. You will see Brent and Max share descent through Edward/John/Reuben. But note that Brent has more generations in his descent line, which could make him seem more remote.

Another caution: ALL THREE of these people have TWO paths back to Edward, because they EACH have a marriage of cousins in their ancestry. That means they each carry an extra dose of Coffey DNA. It is possible, probably likely, that the actual genealogical distance is greater than Family Finder reports. THIS IS A BIG WORRY – WE MAY BE SEEING MATCHES THAT ACTUALLY HAVE EDWARD’S SON JOHN AS THE MRCA (MOST RECENT COMMON ANCESTOR), and therefore the test is not actually giving us much information beyond what we already got from the y-DNA.

I’ll think about this some more. We have a couple of Coffey Cousins who are more expert than I in analyzing autosomal DNA results, and I may want to bring one of them into our conversation.

FRED: Earlier I reported as our first “suspect” a David Coffey who was age 1 in Sutter County, CA, in 1940. And who would have been about age 28 when Bruce was born. It turned out his family was not difficult to trace. His father was David F Coffey (b.15 Jul 1911), his grandfather was Patrick Morris Coffey (b. 12 May 1870). And Patrick reported in censuses that HIS father was born in Ireland.

This 1911 David F Coffey had several younger brothers, one of whom enlisted in the Army in Yuba City in 1942. Several other brothers spent much of their lives in California. Sounds like a promising fit, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT the genealogy shows the family patriarch came from Ireland in about the 1860’s. Edward got here before 1699. The chances that an arrival in the 1860’s would have DNA identical to Edward is virtually zero. **Cancel suspect #1!**

CURRENT STATUS: DNA experts **Terri Stern** and **Tim Peterman** were invited into this conversation. They recommended that Bruce also do an autosomal DNA test on Ancestry.com,

because Ancestry has a much larger database and there may be a chance of a match there that might not be detected on FTDNA. Bruce has ordered that test.

After a very long and complicated discussion, **Tim Peterman** summarized: "Bruce needs to sit there with his autosomal DNA results and wait. Eventually people will appear who will match Bruce a lot more closely. He is most likely to find such matches in the AncestryDNA database – It is the largest by far."

FRED: We all agree that NO additional y-DNA testing is needed. That test has already established that Bruce is absolutely a descendant of Edward Coffey, most likely via his son John, and that is pretty much all we are going to learn from y-DNA testing.

BREAKTHROUGH: As noted above, Bruce followed the advice of Terri and Tim, and ordered the Ancestry DNA test. AND HE FOUND a 1C1R (first cousin, once removed) match! He has begun to establish communication, but will keep the information private until things are sorted out. Watch future editions of this newsletter for updates.

ANOTHER MYSTERY (BEING ADDRESSED):

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

We have one more adoption mystery, and this one seems to be leading toward a rapid solution! Here's our conversation (edited for brevity):

FROM FTDNA: The following person joined the Coffey DNA Project: **John O Farrell**

FRED TO JOHN: This is Fred Coffey, co-administrator of the Coffey DNA Project. I just got a message from FTDNA that says you have joined our Coffey DNA Project. Welcome!

You have good y-DNA matches to members of what I refer to as our "County Meath Group B", particularly to our reference person, Lawrence E Coffey, at 67 Markers. Lawrence's family came from County Westmeath in Ireland, and settled in Louisiana in the early 1800's. If you can tell me a bit about your known genealogy, I'll see if we can begin to work out a possible connection.

FROM GILLIAN (john's Sister) TO FRED: This is Gillian and I am managing the Y-DNA on behalf of my brother. The reason we did the Y test is because we are trying to get some clues on our Y genealogy. My father was illegitimate and although he grew up with his mother [who was an Irish Farrell from Longford County] she didn't give anything away about his father.

It would appear from the test that he may well have been a Coffey! I know a lot about my grandmother's movements and her history, so I am ultimately hoping to get an idea of who our grandfather was.

My grandmother and all her family came from the Roscommon/Longford border, so the Meath link must be the paternal side. She actually gave birth in London in 1922 so I can't say for sure whether the Coffey man was in London or in Ireland, and she had to flee when she became pregnant.

I hope this is making sense - I saw that there was a good match with Lawrence Coffey so maybe this will help.

FRED: Hi Gillian, you have an interesting story. And DNA says there is really no serious doubt: Your unidentified grandfather was absolutely a Coffey! And I have a recommendation for your next research step:

Your brother did a 111-marker y-DNA test, but no one in our relevant group has tested to that level. However John has an excellent 67-marker match to Lawrence E Coffey at a genetic distance of "2". The differences versus Lawrence are within the first 37 markers.

And I now see that at 37-markers he ALSO has a match to Vernon Coffey at a genetic distance of **zero!** Vernon has not done a 67-marker test, but if he did the match to your brother would certainly be even better. Also Vernon's father was born in Ireland, suggesting there is a chance of a relatively recent connection to your line. FTDNA's "Time Predictor", based on y-DNA at 37-markers, says there is a 70-80% chance that Vernon and John have a MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) within the last 4 or 5 generations.

I don't see any need for additional y-DNA testing for any of you. Going even up to 111-markers might change the probabilities a bit, but it's still probabilistic. There is another test that has potential to be more specific:

Before proceeding, note that I am copying this note to my contacts for Lawrence and Vernon. Vernon was a very early participant in our Project, and he died in 2007. My contact is with his daughter, JoAnn.)

FTDNA offers a test they call "Family Finder", which is looking at autosomal DNA (atDNA). This is a test on the mix of ALL of your DNA, not just "Coffey". It is shorter range, but can consistently show matches out to the third-cousin level, and can sometimes see a bit farther. And given your relatively close y-DNA matches, I think there is a possibility that you have a connection within this range.

Because FTDNA preserves the DNA samples, JoAnn can order the Family Finder upgrade on Vernon's sample. And this test is suitable for both males and females. JoAnn might even want to consider the test on herself, even though she is one generation farther removed from the MRCA.

Lawrence can order the upgrade for himself. And you (Gillian) can order the upgrade for your brother John. And you should consider ordering the same test for yourself, since you are at the same generation level as John.

My hope is that the three of you will work together, and agree on an expanded testing program for all of you. I think there's some real potential here! Particularly since each of you have some knowledge of family connections within Ireland, which is unusual. I'm excited by the chance we might work this out!

JOANN: Dear Fred, Gillian, Larry, and all: What wonderful news! On a personal note, Fred, I want to thank you for encouraging me to have my father's DNA tested so many years ago. In the years since he's passed away it's wonderful to know we still have his information to use for the future. It was wonderful to get this email this morning. Thank you for all of your diligent work on this project. Best Regards, JoAnn Coffey

GILLIAN: Thank you all so much for helping me. We have spent years wondering and trying to make some progress with the identity of my grandfather.

My grandmother suffered a lot for being a single mother in the 1920s in Ireland. She was cut off from her family in Longford because of the shame of it. Nevertheless, she would not give my dad up, which would have been the easiest option for her. She had to go into a hostel run by the

church and my dad went into a foster family before being sent to a convent school in Watford. My dad remembers looking out of the window desperately on a Sunday hoping she could visit him. She had to work as a servant.

My gran never married, and I think dad was always resentful and embarrassed about the situation. Looking back now, it is clear that she was a strong woman who did her best. Given that she tried so hard to bring up my dad, I think she must have been very attached to this Coffey chap! It would be fantastic if we could get an idea of who he was.

Regarding the autosomal DNA test - I think I already have this. I had a test quite some time ago and have uploaded the results to all the sites. Let me know what I have to do or if you need to see this result. Up until I got the Y DNA results via my brother, my own DNA didn't help me much as it is something of a needle in a haystack if you don't know who you are looking for. (Memo from Fred: Gillian has now joined the Coffey Project, and I can see her test results.)

Over the weekend I have been corresponding with a lady in Toronto who matched with me as a third cousin. She has a Coffey from Meath as her great great grandparent. I was trying to construct a tree based on what she told me. However, things might be easier now!

Fred - I am of course very happy for you to write this up for the newsletter if you wish. I am so delighted to be getting this far I cannot tell you.

FRED: I'm also adding two other names to this ongoing conversation. **Bonnie Culley** is editor of the Coffey Cousins Newsletter, and she will be delighted that I have your permission to turn your fascinating story into a newsletter article.

And **Terri Stern**, who manages the Hugh Coffey Project, is far more skilled at interpreting atDNA tests than I am. There is actually a close parallel of her Hugh Project to your case, in that she was able to use atDNA to help fit a non-Coffey surname (Wilson) precisely into the Hugh Coffey family genealogy. And we're now trying to fit the surname "Farrell" into a different Coffey family line. Terri will speak up if she thinks I'm asking the wrong questions or giving the wrong advice.

Did your grandmother remain in Ireland, or did she move to the USA? Are YOU in Ireland, or in America? (It finally dawned on me that your Internet Service was not one I recognized as American!)

GILLIAN: My grandmother stayed in London and my Dad moved to the North of England when he was demobbed after the war. I live in Dorset on the South Coast of England. We go to Ireland a couple of times a year as we have been researching the Farrell side.

This may be a long shot, but were Vernon's parents called Christy and Rosanna? if so, he is related to a lady I have been speaking to with the Coffeys from Skreen in Meath.

JOANN: I am shivering!!! Yes, those were my great grandparents! This is the first time that I have been able to find any relatives. My grandfather, who was also Christy Coffey, came to the US in 1911. He settled in Iowa. He had one brother, John, who stayed in Ireland. They owned a farm and also had a pub. The farm was on the Dublin - Trim road, near Drumree and Culmullen. I have visited the farm which is now owned by Liz Sanford. This is amazing! Thank you, thank you.

GILLIAN: I think I have cracked this. I have found you (JoAnn) a third cousin in the Coffey descendent I have been speaking to who lives in Toronto. Her name is Siobhan. The atDNA linked me and her as third cousins. She kindly gave me a lot of info which enabled me to put together a tree using Ancestry.

Your great grandparents were Christopher and Rosanna. Christopher's father was James Coffey who lived in Tara, Co Meath. He was born about 1835 and his wife was Jane Loughran. He had [at least] 7 children. Siobhan's great grandmother was Elizabeth Coffey, one of those siblings. This makes you third cousins as you share a g g grandparent in James Coffey.

What is more, I must be a third cousin to BOTH of you. As I now know that I am a direct Coffey descendent, I must share the common ancestor of James Coffey. I have the names of James' other children, several of whom emigrated to the US. She didn't know what had happened to Christopher though!

I am pretty certain that my mystery grandfather must be a son of either James Coffey or Patrick Coffey, who lived in Kilmainham, Dublin. Strangely, my great uncle lived a 15-minute walk away from Patrick Coffey's family at the right time period.

I guess my next task is to plough through the records as Patrick had several children. Do you want me to give Siobhan your email? it is so nice to have family!

CAFFEY ISN'T COFFEY:

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

With Mark Caffey (Contact: markscaffey@yahoo.com)

In the last newsletter, we reported **WE FOUND A CAFFEY! WE FOUND A CAFFEY!** This was exciting, because these newsletters had been writing about the Caffey family for many years, and trying to decide if "Caffey" was a variation on "Coffey". And Mark Caffey agreed to do a y-DNA test!

We were already pretty sure that if there was a connection to our Edward Coffey line, it had to be back in Ireland. But now we KNOW. The Caffeys are quite UNRELATED to the Edward line, or to any of the multitude of other distinct Coffey families and individuals that we had been following.

There were NO Coffey matches. The only relevant match was to another "Caffey", Fred Ernie Caffey Jr. Mark was already an expert on the Caffey family, and he was quickly able to spot the connection between the two. Mark and Fred were "fifth cousins once removed".

- (1) Michael Caffey (1690 - 1754) & Sarah Ennals (14 Sep 1697 - 19 Nov 1742)
- (2) John Caffey (1726 - 1785) & Suffia (Sophia) (1730 - 1777)
- (3) John Caffey (1752 - 1826) & Mary Buchanan (18 Dec 1755 - 1817)
- (4) Charles Caffey (26 Feb 1789 - 3 Mar 1859) & Nancy Lewis (17 Mar 1791 - 12 Oct 1875)
- (5) Hooper Van Caffey (1832 - 1901) & Amy P. Richardson
- (6) Charles B. Caffey (7 Oct 1865 - 15 Feb 1948) & Hettie Francis (Fanny) Hunt (15 Aug 1872 - 23 Mar 1969)
- (7) Jesse Ralph Caffey (19 Apr 1910 - 3 Sept 1990) & Cynthia Augusta Sloan (19 Aug 1915 - 1 Nov 2009)
- (8) Jesse Ralph Caffey II (13 Sept 1934 - 6 Jul 2010) & Linda Ann Betts (25 Jul 1943 -)
- (9) Mark S Caffey (15 May 1969 -) **(y-DNA Test)**
- (3) Michael Caffey (1754 - 1806) & Margaret Flowers (1755 - 1820)
- (4) Thomas J Caffey (1793 - 1890) & Sarah Celia Stokes (1794 - 1880)
- (5) Robert Caffey (20 Jun 1814 - abt 1870) & Miranda (Babe) Chambers (1819 - aft 1880)
- (6) Francis Marion Caffey (9 Nov 1861 - 1 Jan 1919) & Mary Magdeline French (22 Jun 1879 - 1948)
- (7) Fred Ernest Caffey (10 Mar 1906 - 22 Jun 1997) & Ethel Francis Wright (abt 1915 -)
- (8) Fred Ernie Caffey Jr. (abt 1939 -) **(y-DNA Test)**

Our DNA Project has a page for unmatched Coffeys, and I have put Mark's data there if you want to see how different their DNA is.

Mark is very much an expert on the Caffey family, and he allowed us to post his 154-page book where it is accessible to any of our newsletter readers. If you're doing research on the Caffey family, or just curious, click on this link:

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/CCCNewslettersOnline/CaffeyKinfolks.pdf>

(Pages 119-133 in this book cover the Michael Caffey line that leads down to Fred Ernie.)

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 Bculley@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](http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html)

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>