

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

Editor and Published by Bonnie Culley 2017

Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 151 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Hi Cousins,

I'm just getting used to the idea that I accepted election as the new president of the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse (CCC).

Greetings from Mississippi, the Hospitality State, from your cousin, Betsy Coffey Berry! It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at our recent convention in Franklin, TN. It is my hope that you are already planning your trip to our next convention in St. Louis, 2020, or as the song goes, "Meet Me In St. Louis, Louis"!

Best regards to all...

Betsy Coffey Berry

New President CCC

bcberry1977@icloud.com

Editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

The convention in Franklin, TN was lots of fun and we had plenty of time to visit with cousins. Dave Brogan did an excellent job of finding places for us to visit and a good clean hotel that didn't cost a fortune. Our speaker, Doris Douglas, an avid genealogist had dug up some interesting stories about our Coffey/ys. They were too good to let go so Fred, Wayne and I have asked her if we could print her speech. It is in this newsletter, and I hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

We had an exciting Annual Meeting. Wayne Mower wished to resign so we were looking for a new president. Betsy Berry stepped up and offered to run. We hadn't seen Betsy for a few years, but she has been involved in Coffey genealogy for a very long time. Her father was Walker Coffey. He was very involved with the beginning of our newsletter and organization. She will be a great asset. I look forward to working with Betsy.

Next, we elected a couple of cousins who all of you recognize as active members, Terry Stern as secretary and Larry Coffey as vice president. Wayne Mower said that he would serve as treasurer, so we now have a complete slate of officers. It's going to be a good year!

The good news is that Diana Coffey Holder offered to host the convention for 2020. She lives near St. Louis, Missouri so the convention will be centralized again. This makes it equally available to everyone. There is a fabulous genealogy library there for us and tons of sight seeing things for our spouses and kids. Be sure to watch for Diana's write-ups on the convention and mark April 2020 on your calendars for Coffey Cousins' Convention.

This is a large newsletter, in no small part because of Doris Douglas' speech, and also because of a long and complicated discussion of the ancestry of Larkin and Collins Coffee. We have moved these long

articles to the end, so readers can think about taking a break or skipping ahead when they get there, if the topics do not seem to be of interest.

Love you all,

Bonnie Culley

bculey@embarqmail.com

Index: Issue 151

	<u>Page</u>		<u>Page</u>
President's Message	1	<u>MAIL:</u>	
Editor's Comments	1	Mike Coffey: Is my Family in There?	5
Convention Report	2		
at-DNA Basics / Hugh Coffey Project	3	<u>ARTICLES:</u>	
New President / Betty Berry	3	Remote Connections / Kehoe / Ireland	6
2020 CCC Host / Diana Coffey Holder	4	CCC Presentation / Dorris Douglass	7
		Larkin & Collins Coffee	15
		Information & Resource Links	18

CCC CONVENTION REPORT:

By Wayne Mower (wdmower@verizon.net)

Hi Cousins,

Wow! What a great reunion. I want to thank Dave Brogan and his wife Eileen for doing a great job organizing a wonderful weekend. Lots of things to do, from battlefields to archives to flea markets and so many places of local interest. Did I mention FOOD and the NFL Draft weekend in Nashville. And then there's the relatives, it is always good to renew friendships and see cousins from afar, talking about the old days and especially the new additions to the future of the Coffee/y Cousins Convention.

In attendance were Dave & Eileen Brogan, Wayne & Jean Coffee Mower, Bonnie & Joe Culley, Terri & Ed Stern, Rick & Rasa Miller, William & Diana Coffey Holder, Larry & Mary Coffey, Jesse & Robin Coffey, Richard Coffey, Danny & Glenda Coffey. Ken & Ann Boone, Betsy Coffey Berry. Hopefully I did not forget anyone. If I did please accept my apologies.

Now the real test. Match the names with the faces.



Thursday evening started with dinner and visiting, and renewing friendships made over the years. Friday saw many taking tours around the area or visiting the State Archives and National and State Battlefields and cemeteries. There was so much to see. Friday evening everyone got together and went to one of the local restaurants, returning to listen to Terri Stern go over Autosomal DNA and her work in progress (links to Terri's report are covered later in this newsletter).

On Saturday morning it was much the same as Friday with touring, researching or just visiting. Saturday evening started with an interesting talk by Doris Douglas who has been doing Genealogy for 64 years and works at the Williamson County Archives where she has been for the last 18 years. She discussed how to research primary sources.

After a fine dinner catered by Cracker Barrel Restaurant we had our annual business meeting and election of officers. The new officers are President: Betsy Coffey Berry, Vice President: Larry Coffey, Secretary: Terri Stern, Treasurer, Wayne Mower and the Host for 2020 is Diana Coffey Holder. The reunion of CCC will take place in St Louis, MO.

As always there is change. Time for new ideas and energies to make CCC stronger and more interesting. I cannot believe it was four years ago I decided to follow my wife's presidential footsteps and jump in as Vice President for two years and then President for the last two. Thank goodness for texting, email, social media and yes even the old phone calls to help stay connected and in touch with all the friends and "cousins" to help with the mutual challenges, rough spots and excitement of an organization such as ours. It is surely great to belong to an organization that does not have a rule book and just does things to put forward the interests and needs of the membership. What a wonderful thing genealogy is bringing everyone together in a common interest.

I want to wish the best to our new President, Betsy Coffey Berry. I know she will carry the "Cousins" forward. Our host for 2020 is Diana Coffey Holder who will hold the next convention in St. Louis, MO. Diana is a long-time follower of CCC reports and news.

Please consider hosting the convention for 2021. 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 I will send you a paper that will help guide you through the process.

AUTOSOMAL DNA BASICS & HUGH COFFEY PROJECT RESULTS PRESENTATION AT CCC CONVENTION:

By Terri Stern (hughcoffeyproject@gmail.com)

Following is a link to the presentation I gave at the Convention with autosomal DNA basics, the 4 results so far in the Hugh Coffey Project, and information on what you can do to help understand your own Coffey connection through autosomal DNA:

www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA/TerriStern2019CCCTalk.pdf

Readers may also be interested in the details on the Hugh Coffey Project at this link:

www.familyreedna.com/groups/hugh-coffeyb-1710/about/background

MEETING THE NEW CCC PRESIDENT:

By Fred Coffey

I'm always curious about new (to me) people who appear in these pages with important roles in the Coffey Cousins. And now we have a new President, Betsy Coffey Berry. Bonnie Culley recognized her immediately as the daughter of Walker Coffey, also an unknown to me. But a little research into the archives of these newsletters revealed much!

Walker J Coffey was one of the founding members that started these newsletters, and he first wrote in Issue #1, back in January 1981. He participated in nearly every discussion thereafter, and was the keynote speaker at the very first CCC Convention in May of 1984, in Boone, NC. His daughter Betsy Berry attended that convention.

Walker descends from the Hugh Coffey line. He wrote a book, "Journal of a Journey" in 1980, about Hugh (and other family lines). This book is in the Bonnie Culley library (Item BCL055). You will find Bonnie's library, and all historical newsletters, in this link:

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

Terri Stern, manager of the "Hugh Coffey Project", had posted the following descent:

- (1) Hugh Coffey (abt 1710 - bef 22 Aug 1767) & Mary Ramsey?? (abt 1710 -)
- (2) John Coffey (1730 - abt 1800) & Susannah Watson (abt 1710 -)
- (3) Hugh Coffey (13 May 1750 - 26 Apr 1827) & Agnes Montgomery (15 May 1755 - 10 May 1838)
- (4) Hugh Coffey (9 Apr 1784 - 7 May 1861) & Margaret Walker (1 Oct 1789 - 4 Nov 1854)
- (5) James Alexander Coffey (31 Oct 1830 - 6 Jun 1907) & Martha Ann Leggett (20 Oct 1848 - 21 Jul 1924)
- (6) James Alexander Coffey Jr. (27 Nov 1878 - 21 Jun 1955) & Mary Elizabeth Petty (2 May 1875 - 3 Jan 1947)
- (7) Walker Jackson Coffey (22 Aug 1906 - 13 Jul 2000) & Mina Ruth Hatfield (17 May 1910 - 26 Feb 1977)
- (8) **Betsy Coffey & Berry**

MEETING THE HOST FOR THE 2020 CCC CONVENTION:

By Fred Coffey

Diana Coffey Holder is a relatively new "Coffey Cousin", who has stepped up to take an active role. She first came to my attention in 2017 when an autosomal DNA match said she was related to Dorothy Coffey Smith (who is my father's sister) at the "second to fourth cousin level". That seemed quite impossible, since as far as we could see there was no connection until you get back to the first generation or two after the patriarch Edward Coffey!

It took a while to figure out, but the reason is likely because the Coffeys were not hesitant about marrying their cousins, and also tended to marry into many of the same non-Coffey families in the regions where they lived. All this resulted in a lot of "shared DNA", and resulted in matches that might otherwise seem impossible.

Dorothy had a marriage of first cousins in her line. But **Diana's** family had MULTIPLE such marriages. I discussed their match in Newsletter 142 for Jan-Mar 2017, on pages 14 & 15. Here is Diana's fascinating descent from Edward Coffey:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca1670 - ca1716) & Anne Powell (~1683 - ~1744)
- (2) John Coffey (~1699 - ~1775) & Jane Graves (ca1708 - 1792)
- (3) Benjamin Coffey (ca1747 - 1834) & Mary Hayes (ca1760 -)
- (4) Jane Coffey (ca1774 -) & Joel Coffey (1774 - 1822) [\[SECOND COUSINS\]](#)
- (5) James Coffey (1800 - ~1857) & Mahala Coffey (ca1803 -) [\[FIRST+THIRD COUSINS\]](#)
- (6) Anderson H. (Hayes of Hardin?) Coffey (1829 -) & Mary Ann Wheat (ca1835 - 1891)
- (7) Cyrus Christopher Coffey (1854 - 1928) & Parthenia Emiline Wheat (ca1857 -)
- (8) Arthur Reed Coffey (1888 - 1972) & Edna Anastatia Dailey (1907 - 1993)
- (9) Arthur Robert Coffey (17 Jul 1939 -) & Elieen Aldridge (16 Jul 1942 -) [\(atDNA Test\)](#)
- (10) [Diana Coffey](#) & William [Holder \(atDNA Test\)](#)
- (2) Edward Coffey JR. (ca1701 - >1774) & Unknown???
- (3) Joel Coffey (ca1730 - ~1789) & Martha Stepp (Sealey?)
- (4) Celia Coffey (ca1777 -) & Fielding M. Coffey (ca1777 - ~1833) [\[FIRST COUSINS\]](#)
- (5) Mahala Coffey (ca1803 -) & James Coffey (1800 - ~1857) [\[FIRST+THIRD COUSINS\]](#)

- (6) Anderson H. (Hayes of Hardin?) Coffey (1829 -) & Mary Ann Wheat (ca1835 - 1891)
 - (7) Cyrus Christopher Coffey (1854 - 1928) & Parthenia Emiline Wheat (ca1857 -)
 - (8) Arthur Reed Coffey (1888 - 1972) & Edna Anastatia Dailey (1907 - 1993)
 - (9) Arthur Robert Coffey (17 Jul 1939 -) & Elieen Aldridge (16 Jul 1942 -) [\(atDNA Test\)](#)
 - (10) [Diana Coffey](#) & William [Holder \(atDNA Test\)](#)
- (3) Nebuzaraden Coffey (1757 - 1797) & Elizabeth Hayes (1760 - 1830)
- (4) Fielding M. Coffey (ca1777 - ~1833) & Celia Coffey (ca1777 -) [\[FIRST COUSINS\]](#)
 - (5) Mahala Coffey (ca1803 -) & James Coffey (1800 - ~1857)
 - (6) Anderson H. (Hayes of Hardin?) Coffey (1829 -) & Mary Ann Wheat (ca1835 - 1891)
 - (7) Cyrus Christopher Coffey (1854 - 1928) & Parthenia Emiline Wheat (ca1857 -)
 - (8) Arthur Reed Coffey (1888 - 1972) & Edna Anastatia Dailey (1907 - 1993)
 - (9) Arthur Robert Coffey (17 Jul 1939 -) & Elieen Aldridge (16 Jul 1942 -) [\(atDNA Test\)](#)
 - (10) [Diana Coffey](#) & William [Holder \(atDNA Test\)](#)
- (4) Joel Coffey (1774 - 1822) & Jane Coffey (ca1774 -) [\[SECOND COUSINS\]](#)
- (5) James Coffey (1800 - ~1857) & Mahala Coffey (ca1803 -) [\[FIRST+THIRD COUSINS\]](#)
 - (6) Anderson H. (Hayes of Hardin?) Coffey (1829 -) & Mary Ann Wheat (ca1835 - 1891)
 - (7) Cyrus Christopher Coffey (1854 - 1928) & Parthenia Emiline Wheat (ca1857 -)
 - (8) Arthur Reed Coffey (1888 - 1972) & Edna Anastatia Dailey (1907 - 1993)
 - (9) Arthur Robert Coffey (17 Jul 1939 -) & Elieen Aldridge (16 Jul 1942 -) [\(atDNA Test\)](#)
 - (10) [Diana Coffey](#) & William [Holder \(atDNA Test\)](#)

Adding another level of complication, Diana's husband Bill also has a match to my aunt Dorothy. That is probably some unidentified ancestral connection at the "second to fourth cousin level" to a non-Coffey line? No wonder Diana was ready to step up and host the 2020 CCC Convention. She and Bill have more complicated Coffey ancestry to discuss than anyone!

We Get Mail

IS MY FAMILY IN THERE?

By Fred Coffey and Jack Coffee

In addition to his "Edward Coffey Project" that we are all familiar with, Jack Coffee maintains a "blog" where people can post Coffey information and ask questions. And Jack got the following query from Mike Coffey, asking "Is my family in there?"

From Mike: I came across your site researching my descendants. It's kind of a mystery due to the use of many names. My grandfather was Paul Coffey. He had a brother named Robert and a sister named Jenna. I know his father's name was John, they settled in an area of Washington state north of Spokane, first in Addie, then Paul in Chewalah. His wife's name was Jane Nettleton. I believe John's father was a James Coffey. That's when it gets all wonky because as you go back, John and James are names that are used frequently. They seem to have come from primarily Wayne County, Kentucky. Any of this ring a bell? Thanks. Mike

Discussion: Jack and Mike had a lengthy back and forth discussion, and Mark concluded that His "James, the father of John" was the James Coffey who married Sarah Emaline Sharp and lived in Wayne County, KY. And Mike speculated that the father of this James was the James Coffey from Pulaski County, who married Sarah Sumpter. Jack, per his Edward Coffey Project, knew all about this second "James", but knew of no connection between the two.

Jack learned that Mike had done some sort of DNA test, and suggested asking Fred to have a look. Fred learned that Mike had done the Ancestry DNA test, and suggested that Mike transfer his data to FTDNA, where the most Coffey/Coffee people were tested.

Fred and Jack then got into a complicated discussion of census reports in Wayne and Pulaski County, and on the geographical relationship between the two counties (they are adjacent, and both on the Cumberland River, which would facilitate movement of family members between the counties). We finally concluded a connection was plausible. (An interesting side conclusion was that in the 1850 census a couple of "head of household" names had gotten reversed by the census taker. That's actually quite understandable: "Counting Coffey" in an area where multiple large Coffey families were living in close proximity to each other with sometimes similar names, must have been a census-taker's nightmare!)

Meanwhile, Mike did transfer his raw autosomal DNA to FTDNA. And BINGO! It reported he was a "second to fourth cousin" of a James Edward Coffey, who was a KNOWN descendant of the James Coffey who married Sarah Sumpter! The connection was proven!

This brought Ella Denney Tunnell into the discussion, because she had sponsored DNA testing on her uncle, the above James Edward Coffey. And also on her brother, Earl Ray Denney. All of these people descended from James Coffey/Sarah Sumpter. Everybody put their heads together, and we constructed the descent from Edward as follows:

- (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) Rev. James Coffey (4 Jul 1729 - 1786) & Elizabeth Cleveland (Feb 1727 - BET 1826 AND 1827)
- (4) Reuben Coffey (16 Sep 1759 - 9 Jun 1842) & Mildred Morris
- (5) [James Coffey \(27 Aug 1790 - 4 Jun 1892\)](#) & [Sarah Emerline Sumpter \(7 Jul 1792 - 1869\)](#)
- (6) Lewis Coffey (ca 1813 -) & Elizabeth Watters (ca 1814 -)
- (7) Lewis Coffey Jr. (23 Aug 1850 - 25 Jul 1928) & Permelia Ann Tucker (8 Mar 1851 - 6 Nov 1932)
- (8) Mitt/Milton Coffey (16 Mar 1887 - 22 Sep 1970) & Flossie Linnie Taylor (17 Nov 1894 - 1971)
- (9) Flora Pearl Coffey (21 Mar 1924 -) & Denney
- (10) Ella Denney & Tunnell (**ELLA DENNEY TUNNELL ORDERED DNA TESTS**)
- (10) Earl Ray Denney (**AT DNA MATCH TO MIKE COFFEY**)
- (9) James Edward Coffey (ca 1938 -) (**AT DNA MATCH TO MIKE COFFEY**)
- (6) James Coffey Jr. (1823 - 16 Nov 1862) & Sarah Emaline Sharp (1833 - 1918)
- (7) John Sharp Coffey (1857 - 1937) & Mattie Virginia King (1877 - 1937)
- (8) Paul B Coffey (1914 - 1983)
- (9) (Mike's Father) Coffey
- (10) Mike Coffey (**AT DNA TEST**)

And if you work through this, you will see that James Edward Coffey and Mike Coffey are actually third cousins, once removed (3C1R). That is remarkably consistent with the DNA match suggesting a range of "second to fourth cousin".

Yes, Mike, YOUR FAMILY IS INDEED "IN THERE"!

REMOTE CONNECTIONS? JACKSON TO KEHOE? IN IRELAND?

By Fred Coffey

Readers know I'm always looking at new Coffey DNA matches, watching for those that suggest a new mystery to be investigated. This latest one involves a Victor Jackson, who has about 70 y-DNA matches to members of our Coffey DNA Project. Victor now lives in Australia, but he was born about 1934 in Dublin, Ireland, to an unknown father. His mother was from County Wicklow, but had to go to Dublin to give birth because of social stigma in conservative Ireland. Victor's daughter Carolyn Jackson is coordinating Victor's efforts to identify his biological father.

We follow several distinct Coffey groups, but by far the largest group in America descends from Edward Coffey who was in America by 1699, or from Peter Coffee who was in America by the early 1700's. DNA of descendants proves that Edward and Peter were related via a shared MRCA (most recent common ancestor) in Ireland.

Readers may also recall that long ago we decided, based on DNA, that the Edward and Peter lines were connected back in Ireland to an extended family, that we've been calling "Coffey/Keogh". We think it likely that the Edward Coffey and Peter Coffee lines originated from the Keogh (and related names), with a probable homeland in County Wexford.

But Wait: All of the descendants of Edward and Peter have been isolated in America for more than 300 years. None of them can possibly be an ancestor of Victor Jackson! So, if we throw out all of the descendants of Edward and Peter, what is left?

There is one other "Coffey" line, with one tested person, who arrived much later. But he's not a particularly good y-DNA match to Victor.

Beyond that Victor has y-DNA matches to names Kehoe (7 matches), Keough (3), Keogh (2), Kaho (1), Kough (1), and Keay (1). And the best match is to a Thomas Kehoe, whose Great Grandfather was a James Kehoe, born in Wexford County in 1850, who immigrated to America and died 1909 in New York. Note there is no reason to believe that Victor Jackson descends from this specific James Kehoe, only that he may descend from some related Kehoe family, in Wexford or nearby.

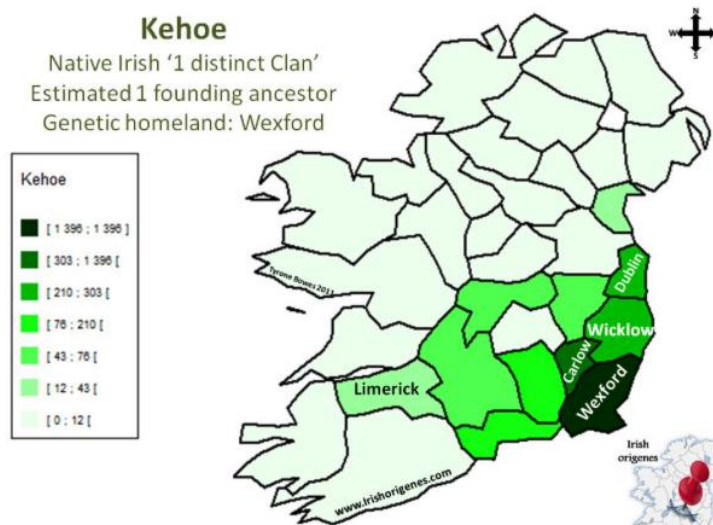
This is not proof, and the search area is huge. There were more than 1000 people in Wexford in the 1911 Irish census with the name "Kehoe". And there were also more than 200 "Kehoe" in County Wicklow.

Wicklow is adjacent to Wexford. See this map, drawn from census data & taken from:

<https://www.irishorigenes.com/kehoe>

Carolyn Jackson (Victor's daughter) was already very active in DNA investigations, and already very informed regarding testing options. She has family data already entered into multiple testing services. She wrote "Thanks to your work I think I will focus on matches with Kehoe, or variant surnames as you listed, in their trees."

So we may have provided our most distant genetic/geographic non-Coffey DNA-match clue ever?



PRESENTATION: CCC CONVENTION, FRANKLIN, TN

Introduced by Dave Brogan: Dorris Douglas is a volunteer and researcher at the Williamson County Museum and Archive in Franklin, TN. She was recommended to me by the director of the Museum. She has been doing genealogical research for many years and she has a real passion for it.

Fred Note: The following is a guide to researching PRIMARY sources, richly illustrated with fascinating “Coffey” stories. I will NOT try to add the Coffey names into our newsletter archive index – it would drive me crazy to try to “fit” each individual into the hundreds of related and unrelated Coffey families covered in the index. (However the “Full Text” search tool will still flag all the Coffey names, for anyone looking for a specific individual.)

COFFEY PRESENTATION AT TENN CONVENTION APR 27, 2019

By Dorris Douglass

I got the impression from David Brogan that most of you probably already know your Coffey line back to the 1700's. My question is, did you take somebody else's word for it or did you do the research yourself? Chances are you have relied on all the secondary sources out there. Tonight I am going to tell you how to do the research in the primary sources, that is in the original documents, and discover, as a by-product, all the trivia that others have left out of those secondary sources you have been reading, so that you can spice up your individual family lines.

Before I get started on the “How To,” I am going to give you an example of the fun of actually knowing your ancestors. The best example I found is from the Revolutionary War pension application of Eli Coffey of Wilkes County North Carolina, at the time of the American Revolution, and of McMinn County, Tennessee in 1839, when he applied for the pension. Of course the important fact was that he was a Revolutionary soldier, but he himself told how he got to be one. He served as a substitute for his brother Ambrose Coffee who was drafted. In order for a drafted man to provide a substitute, a reason had to be given, and Eli served for his brother because Ambrose was near sighted. An additional tidbit was that Ambrose was drafted to fight against the Cherokees and very few of us today know that the Cherokees were allies of the British. Also Eli said he served as a horseman, or we would say in the cavalry.

This was for a term of three months. Eli served another three-month term as a substitute for Thomas Fields who was “his uncle by marriage.” He served as a substitute for his drafted uncle because Fields, and I quote “had a large family dependent upon his labor.” In this term of service Eli was engaged as a scout against the Tories in Wilkes and Burke Counties, North Carolina. I assume everybody here knows that the Tories were their own people who did not want to separate from England. Eli explained that during this term he sometimes was detached from the army in parties to be upon active duty when called upon and therefore was permitted to visit his father, though he did not name his father. This last bit of information he supplied turned out to have some very unfortunate ramifications. His application was rejected. To get a pension you had to have served at least six months and the powers to be, decided he had not actually served six months though he was on the rolls for six months.

Now for the “How To.” It used to be to see original records you had to travel to the state and county where your ancestor was from, or at least to a state library to see microfilm of the originals. But now thanks to the internet you can see digitized original records at home, though frequently for the price of a subscription to a genealogical site, or you can go to a local library

where there is free access to such sites. There is also an option for free Internet access at home to at least two genealogical sites in some locations. These sites are Heritage Quest and Fold Three, which you can get at home if you have a library card from a library that provides remote access. Heritage Quest is a general site, while Fold Three specializes in military records (named for the folded American flag in the shape of a triangle, as is done at military funerals).

Where to Start: Census Records: People ask, "Where do I start?" I would say start with census records. Census records have been taken every ten years since 1790. At first only the names of the people, their age and sex were recorded. However, as time went on, additional information was asked for, which provides bits of trivia about our ancestors. In the beginning, 1790 through 1840 only the head of the household was named, with the rest of the family accounted for only by sex and age groups, but no first names. These census records can be helpful if you suspect somebody was the father or mother of your known ancestor, and you can prove that the head of the household at least had a son or daughter within the right age bracket.

From 1850 through 1870 the first and last names were given for everybody in the house hold, along with their sex and exact year of age, but relationships were not stated. Any children listed were usually the offspring of a named man and woman, but nieces and nephews and grandchildren could be interspersed and in the case of older children, daughters-in-law. Or if there was an older male with a different last name he could be a son-in-law. It is always good to further check the children out in the 1880 census where the relationships are given as son or daughter, etc. From 1880 through 1940 the exact relationship to the head of the house hold is given, though sometimes a father-in-law or mother-in-law were listed as borders.

Nearly all of the 1890 census was destroyed by a fire in Washington, DC in January of 1921. Only 1,233 pages or fragments survived. For the 1890 census, and on no others, each family was recorded on a separate sheet of paper, which made the loss of the records even greater than it would have been. There were no Coffey families listed on the remaining pages of the 1890 census.

One thing you need to know, census takers could not spell and you don't pay any attention to spelling. Your Coffeys might end in e-y on one census and ten years later e-e or even i-e. And the same was true, I am sure, for the e-e family. All the examples I will be giving were spelled e-y, but it is possible some of them were really the e-e family, and therefore it is important to know from other sources where your Coffeys were supposed to be living, in order to tell them apart from the e-e Coffees.

Census: Occupations I mentioned earlier that over the years various additional questioned were asked about the individuals recorded in the censuses, besides their name, age, sex and relationships. Beginning in 1850, one topic was occupation. Most were farmers. If they did not own their own land they were recorded as "farm laborers." Sometimes the farmers were listed as "planters," hence our word plantation. However, there were other occupations. In 1870 Thomas Coffey of Grainger County, Tennessee and George Coffey of Marshall County, Tennessee were blacksmiths. Edmund Coffey of Etowah County, Alabama was a "wagon wright," that is he made wagons. Joel Coffey of Russell County, Kentucky was a "miller," and operated a grist mill, grinding wheat and corn into flower and corn meal. If somebody operated or worked at a saw mill they were called "sawyers." Charles B. Coffey of Nelson County, Virginia was a sawyer, who worked at a saw mill cutting logs. William E. Coffey of Jefferson County, Illinois was a sheriff. Sometimes two occupations were listed. Enoch Coffey of Caldwell County, North Carolina was recorded as a "farmer & miller."

On the professional scale, you had doctors, lawyers and teachers. Ephraim Coffey of Platte County, Missouri was a doctor, but census takers always wrote “physician”, rather than “doctor.” Marcellus Coffey of Amherst County, Virginia was a lawyer.

As for teachers, A.C. Coffey, a male, age 38, was a teacher in Vancouver, Washington Territory. Susan Coffey age 26, and Sarah B. Coffey age 20, were sisters teaching school in Monroe County, Indiana and lived with their mother and stepfather Margaret and William Mayfield. Once a woman married, being a wife became her occupation and she was listed as “Keeping house.” No woman continued to teach once they married. If Susan and Sarah Coffey ever married it was in their old age, for in 1880 at the ages of 36 and 30 they were still teaching, but living in Owen County, Indiana with their mother now a widow.

One other occupation of females that census takers were not shy about listing, was prostitute. You will be happy to know I did not find a single Coffey that was a prostitute.

All the above Coffeys were from the 1870 census because they were easy for me to find. One of the blanks you can fill in on Ancestry.com is “key word.” Some years ago I accidentally discovered that for the 1870 census those indexing for “key word,” evidently used the occupations. So all I had to do was put in only the Coffey last name and a particular occupation, and it would bring up all the Coffeys of that occupation.

For other census years I accidentally stumbled on two more Coffey occupations. Back in 1850 N. J. Coffey of Russell County, Kentucky was a “U. B. preacher,” that is a United Baptist preacher. The United Baptist, known as Regular Baptist in the north, were distinct from the Separatist Baptist, whom we know as the Primitive Baptist. In 1860 I found Allen Coffey of Marshall County, Tennessee, who was an inn keeper.

Now if your ancestor was John Coffey or William Coffey and you already knew his occupation, the only way you might be able to prove you had found the right John Coffey or William Coffey on the census, would be from the listing of his occupation (unless he was a farmer which nearly everybody was.)

You probably notice I always gave what county the people were from. You may know grandpa was from a certain town, but all records are by county, and you have to find out what county that town was in, before you can do any research.

Census: Education Another topic on census records was education. Two such questions appeared in 1850. There was a column to be marked for people over 20 years of age who could not read and write. There was also a column for children who attended school during the year. This was the census year, from June of 1849 through May of 1850. The 1860 census again included both columns. In 1860 three children of George M. Coffey, the blacksmith of Marshall County, Tennessee, attended school – Ann age 10, Mary 8, and even son Milton age 5. Six was generally the youngest age of children in school, and this was the only five-year-old Coffey I found out of three states that attended school.

I have to digress here for a minute. George’s name on the census is abbreviated G-e-o. Sometimes in searching the indexes on line, the people don’t come up unless you use the abbreviation for the name, like G-e-o., W-m., and J-a-s., which is James by the way. And don’t ask me why J-n-o. is for John, because I don’t. If you have a hard time finding your ancestor, you can put in just the last name and the place, and all the families will come up in alphabetical order by first name, and will thus catch those under abbreviated names or initials.

The 1870 census kept the attended school column but changed the “read and write” column. Somebody had the presence of mind to realize that it is a whole lot harder to learn to write, than it is to read and there were many people who could read but not write. So they made two columns. Caswell Coffey, age 60 of Grainger, Tennessee could read, but could not write. So don't misjudge him if you find his name as an x on some document.

In 1880 the three educational columns were continued: attended school, cannot read, cannot write. Remember the 1890 census burned, so I am skipping it and continuing to 1900 when changes were made. The attended school column added in parenthesis “in months” and the census taker was supposed to write in the number of months the children attended school during the census year, which loosely corresponded to the school year. The children of John J. Coffey of Adair County, Kentucky included Charles age 18 who attended school 7 months, Lucy age 16 - 5 months and Effie age 10 - 5 months. Five months sounds short to us, but you have to remember from December through February the weather was usually too bad to walk four or five miles to and from school. I have no explanation of how come Charles got more schooling than his sisters, but I do know people thought it was less important for girls to go to school than boys.

There was a difference in the other educational columns on the 1900 census as well. Instead of saying cannot read and cannot write they said can read and can write. Another column was added that said can speak English, as this was an age of great immigration.

Now there is a fun story associated with John J. Coffey's family. At the top of each census page it gives the name of the census taker, who in this case happened to be Samuel L. Coffey. The date was June 2, 1900. It must have been very late in the afternoon for this was the last family that Samuel visited that day on his census route. And he must have started quite early as he had already seen 27 other families. That morning the 12th family that he visited was that of Hiram Coffey. I had to go back to the 1880 and even 1870 censuses to prove that the census taker Samuel Coffey was indeed, as I suspected, the brother of both Hiram and John J. The order of the remaining census shows that Samuel surely ate supper that night with his brother John and spent the night, with him. The next day he did not take any census. So I looked up the 1900 calendar on the Internet and found that June the 2nd had been a Saturday. Samuel evidently spent all day Sunday with this brother John and spent the night there again, before resuming his task on Monday morning June 4th. He visited two families and then came to his mother's house, where he got to record himself, for he and another brother Joseph lived there with their widowed mother Susan age 70. One of the questions on the 1900 census for females was “mother of how many children and how many were living. Susan was the mother of 8 children and 7 were living. Samuel and his brother Joseph were both single young men ages, 32 and 29 and both were farmers. John J. was a farmer as well, but Hiram was a clerk in a store.

The 1910 census form changed the educational questions to very proper English and said, “Whether able to read” and “Whether able to write.” For the attended school question they dropped the previous number months of requirement, but was very specific about the school year and stated, “attended school any time after September 1, 1909.” In 1920 the same questions and wording was kept.

By 1930 the educational levels in our country had increased and the question read “attended school or college any time after September 1, 1929.” Also by 1930, just about anybody that could read, could also write and they combined the read and write column once again. Under the category of “home data” there was a question that sort of implies the level of education. This question was did the family have a “radio set.” So you can go find out if your father or

grandfather or great father owned a radio, which would have been a crystal set with the big bulky headphones.

Other home data included if you owned or rented your house and how much your house was worth, or if you rented how much rent you paid per month. The average rent was \$4.00, with \$12.50 being the about the highest, at least that was the case in Maury County, Tennessee. Incidentally, I was very surprised to see the word data used in 1930.

The 1940 census has the best question pertaining to education, which was "Highest grade of school completed." The first through the 8th grade was to be recorded by the numbers 1 through 8, High School H-1 through H-4 and College C-1 through C-4, or College C-5 through subsequent year. The Coffey I found with the highest education in Maury County, Tennessee was J. Shelby Coffey Jr., age 30, with 5 years of College, which figures, as he was a lawyer.

The Coffey in Maury County, with the least amount of education was William Coffey age 49, with 0 grades completed, his wife completed the 2nd grade and their daughter age 27 completed the 4th grade. He was – and I quote- "Negro" and was – and I quote again – a "common laborer." I have included him for the purpose of relating an interesting side effect of the genealogy hobby. I haven't located this William Coffey's parents or grandparents, but there is every reason to assume they were Coffey slaves. With time more and more African-Americans have become interested in their genealogy and the hobby in this respect has created good race relations. When an African American family finds who they were owned by, they are very anxious to meet and swap accounts with the descendants of their white former masters. And I have witnessed more than once, where black and white descendants have met at the Williamson County Archives and the Public Library to exchange information.

Census: Slavery Besides the regular population census schedules there were also separate slave censuses for 1850 and 1860. These did not give the names of the slaves, but that of the slave owner and the sex, age and color- black or mulatto, of his or her slaves. Before 1850, the slaves, once again with no first or last names, were recorded on the main census with the master, or mistress in the case of widows.

For 1850 I put in the last name of Coffey in "Keyword" on the slave census index and came up with 39 slave owners and 241 individual Coffey slaves in the whole country. Most owners had about 5 slaves or say one family. I did find where John Coffey of Montgomery County, Alabama had 18 slaves. I did not look at all the slave records and there may have been somebody with more. John's oldest slave was a man age 78, the next oldest were a man 55 and a woman 47. In all he had 9 adult slaves ages 18 and above, and 9 children. There were 6 men and 3 women. The children ages 2 through 14 included 5 boys and 4 girls. I would like to comment here that in the state of Tennessee there was a law that no child under 10 years of age could be separated from its mother. However, I read through 42 slave laws of Alabama passed in 1833 and could not find any reference to the sale of children.

By 1860 the number of Coffey slave holders had increased from 39 to 51 and the total number of individual Coffey slaves had jumped from 241 to 397. Once again I did not look at all the slave records, but was surprised to find 6 Coffey slave holders who had only 1 slave, while in 1850 the lowest number I had found was 3 slaves. On the other extreme in 1860, was J. H. Coffey of Lowndes County, Alabama who had 41 slaves.

Military Records: Another good source is military records. Soldiers' enlistment papers, pension applications and draft registrations are great for giving the birth date, and place of birth

of a soldier, but usually not much family information. They also include a description of the soldier's personal appearance – height, weight, hair color, eye color, complexion. It is the widows' pension applications that give the most family information, as well as their marriage date and place.

The Coffey family has ample soldiers in their back ground. I know nearly everybody is interested in the Civil War. There were a total of 243 Coffey Confederate soldiers. These, with the name of their regiments and companies, and their rank, are listed in a set of books entitled The Roster of Confederate Soldiers edited by Janet B. Hewett and published in 1995 by Broadfoot Publishing Company of Wilmington, N. C. This long list of Coffey soldiers is in alphabetical order by first name under "Coffey" in volume III pages 498 to 500.

The Confederate soldier that caught my attention the most was a John Coffey in companies C and then B, of the 1st Confederate Engineer troops. These were the men that built the forts. I looked up this John Coffey's service record on Fold Three. He enlisted in Talladega, Alabama on July 18, 1863 in Company C. In the spring of 1865 he was a member of Company B of the "Virginia Engineer troops." On March 21, 1865 he was admitted to General Hospital No 9 in Richmond. The record then says disposition "Duty" "March 22." I don't know if he was admitted to the hospital for one day and released or if he was there doing construction work for the hospital. He was captured at the hospital on April 3rd. General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox on April 9th and John Coffey's name was among those that he was surrendering, the record his capture six days earlier having not been recorded yet. John was admitted to Jackson Hospital in Richmond as a prisoner of war on April 15th and said to have deserted on May 9th. It is possible that he signed the oath of allegiance on that day and was considered a deserter by the Confederate Government. But I didn't find a record of his oath of allegiance. Even though Lee had surrendered, the war was not over yet, as the troops in the west had not yet surrendered.

Janet Hewett also compiled a Roster of Union Soldiers in 2000 by the same publisher. However the Union soldiers were listed by states, in separate volumes, and I wasn't going to count all U. S., Coffey soldiers in each volume. So I looked them up a different way and let the computer count them for me. There was a census record I did not tell you about. This was taken in 1890 and survived, while the regular census did not. It was a census of all the Union Veterans or their widows, which is on Ancestry.com. The title of the census was "Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and widows, etc." The total should have been 131 Coffey veterans, but the computer had 136 entries. Four of these were Confederate veterans that got listed accidently and were crossed out as Confederates. Three of the four were from Grainer County, Tennessee - Dalton, Austin and Ira Coffey, and the fourth Confederate veteran on the Union list was from Jefferson County, Mississippi - Nathan Coffey. Also there was one Union Coffey that got entered twice, once under his own name and once under his widow's name.

There were a number of black men on the 1890 veterans census that had served in the U. S. Colored Troops, officered by white men. At first these regiments were made up of free persons of color, but it wasn't long before they were taking in fugitive slaves. The Confederates did not have blacks in their army, though some slaves accompanied their masters as body servants and also worked as nurses and cooks.

The list of 131 Coffey veterans was not all Coffey soldiers in the Union Army. The Coffey men that died during the war need to be added, as well. I found them on Ancestry.com, 42 names in

all, under "U.S., Roll of honor 1861-1865," So there were at least 173 Coffey men to fight for the Union, plus any that died and their widows, between 1865 and 1890.

There were three Coffey Union men that caught my fancy in particular, because they were sailors. One was Jerry Coffey whose widow lived in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. He enlisted on March 16, 1862 and the name of his vessel was the Wabash. Another was John Patrick Coffey whose widow Margaret lived in Hampton County, Massachusetts. He was a gunner's mate on the vessel South Carolina. The third, Michael Coffey of Essex County, New Jersey was still living at the time of the 1890 veterans census, but there is no further information about him other than he was a "seaman."

There was one other type of Union service in which the Coffey family had a part. At the same time that all the volunteers were enlisting for the war or the Rebellion as the North called it, there was also the regular Army of the United States. There were 19 Coffey men in the Regular Army during the war, 8 in the infantry, 3 in the cavalry and 8 in the artillery. When the war was over these men were not automatically discharged like the volunteers, but had to finish out serving the term they had enlisted for, which might have been two or three years later. One such soldier of particular interest was John T. Coffey of who was a saddler for the 5th U.S. Cavalry, Company H. His name is on an index of soldiers who enlisted in the regular army sometime during 1864 or 1865. I was interested because I had an ancestor who was a farrier, that is shoed the horses, in the War of 1812.

Wills and Probate Records: Wills are a good source of genealogical information, but one needs to remember that a man or woman might not name all their children in their will. This was especially true if there was a second marriage, and the first set of children had already received their inheritance in advance. Also sometimes children left out of a will would contest the will on the grounds that there were so many children that they were simply accidentally left out. To get around this possibility, sometimes people would write in their will "I give" so and so "\$1.00 and no more."

Probate records, where there was no will, can be especially helpful. You need to look for what is identified as an "Ex parte." This is a division of land and/or slaves among all the heirs. If a sibling is deceased then his or her share will go to the children of the deceased heir. I like the estate sale inventories because they list every stick of furniture, every kitchen utensil, all the farm tools and all the livestock that one ancestor's had the time of his death.

A less obvious document of genealogical information is "deed of gift", and they are identified as such in the deed indexes. The grantor is the giver and the grantee the receiver. If you have a man giving another man of a different last name, land or slaves, in all probability the grantee is a son-in-law, though he could be a grandson. Married women had no property rights. Anything given to her was her husband's. Sometimes men were nice enough to designate in their wills for their widows to have a life's interest in any the property he got through her and at her death to be disposed of as he so designated. Or sometimes a father in his will would give his sons property in trust for their sisters, if he didn't like his sons-in-law.

Of course there are also family Bible records that are acceptable as genealogical proof. They are great on dates, but hardly ever say where the births, marriages and deaths took place. Also church records are good for births, baptisms, marriages and deaths, but you have to know what denomination your people belonged to, like your United Baptist in Kentucky.

Well I had a great time researching your family.

CONNECTIONS? CONNECTIONS? CONNECTIONS??

By Fred Coffey

CAUTION TO READERS: THIS IS A LENGTHY AND COMPLICATED ARTICLE. IF YOU ARE SHORT ON PATIENCE AND HAVE NO INTEREST IN LARKIN OR COLLINS COFFEE, SKIP AHEAD TO PAGE 18 (RESOURCE LINKS)!

Here I go again, a complicated discussion leading to possible conclusions built on shaky grounds. This discussion is probably going to drive most of my readers crazy, but maybe somebody will have clever ideas how to clarify everything!

BACKGROUND: Our “Coffey DNA Project” has largely focused on y-DNA analysis. This type of DNA follows only the male line, and for any living male with the Coffey/Coffee surname the test can determine with confidence whether that person descends in an unbroken line from Edward Coffey, who appeared in America in about 1699. But the test cannot determine the exact line of descent.

We also look at atDNA (autosomal DNA, aka “family finder”). This can with confidence determine if any two people are cousins out to about the third-cousin level. It can sometimes detect matches that are more distant, but the test becomes increasingly less reliable as the relationship becomes more distant.

We have a new autosomal DNA test on a descendant of Larkin Coffee (1814-1884). Those who have been reading these newsletters know that we have never been able to figure out the ancestry of Larkin, but we know many of his descendants. Here’s a partial descendant list for Larkin:

- (1) Larkin Coffee (abt 1814 - 10 Oct 1884) & Amanda Triplett (1825 - abt 1892)
- (2) James Anderson Coffee (28 Jul 1848 - 7 Jul 1939) & Mary Jane Lane (16 Jan 1856 - 25 Aug 1943)
- (3) James Carroll Coffee (3 Aug 1884 - 1 Sep 1962) & Lelia Jane Kendrick
- (4) Virgil Oren Coffee (5 Oct 1913 - 13 Jan 2008) & Iva Fern Wingfield (Got y-DNA test only)
- (5) Edwin Russell Coffee & Phyllis (2 Sep 1942 - 4 Oct 2016) (Memo: Ed is past president of CCC)
- (5) Daniel Lee Coffee (- bef 2008)
- (5) Virgil Oren Coffee
- (5) [Dale Scott Coffee \(6 Jul 1954 - \)](#) & Nola (Got new Family Finder atDNA Test.
- (5) Iva Fern Coffee & Ernest Barclay
- (5) Barbara Jean Coffee & Tommy Gonzales
- (5) Patricia Laverne Coffee & Britt
- (4) Robert Lee Coffee
- (4) James Haskell Coffee
- (4) Margaret Coffee
- (4) Nadine Coffee
- (4) Edwin Russell Coffee

We have long known that Larkin was a descendant of patriarch Edward, because we had a y-DNA test on his descendant Virgil Oren Coffee (1913). This test was arranged for by Virgil’s son Ed Coffee, who is a past president of the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse (CCC). But we wanted to explore connections using a newer autosomal (atDNA) test, known as “Family Finder”. And we persuaded Ed’s brother, Dale Scott Coffee, to do the test.

And Dale has several very interesting matches. And one of those matches was to Lawrence Ronald Coffee (1938) a descendant of Collins Coffee (1809). Again, readers may remember

that “Collins Coffee” is another family mystery, for whom we have never been able to determine ancestry. Here are some of the descendants of Collins:

- (1) Collins Coffee (1809 - 8 Sep 1864) & Sarah Hinkle (Feb 1817 - 1905)
- (2) William Taylor Coffee (Feb 1847 - 6 Sep 1917) & Jane Helen Wemple (8 Nov 1857 - 11 Jan 1923)
- (3) Nora N Coffee (6 Jul 1879 - 21 Sep 1947) & George Ernest West (18 Mar 1876 - 23 Dec 1966)
- (4) Marjorie Marie West (21 Mar 1911 - 22 May 1995) & Chester Arthur Hector (3 Mar 1905 - 16 Sep 1987)
- (5) Loretta “Lorie” Joyce Hector (26 Dec 1937 - 6 Feb 2015) & James David Okel (aka “Lorie Okel”)
- (3) Hubert Coffee (13 Aug 1891 -)
- (4) Lawrence Ronald Coffee (20 Dec 1938 -) (atDNA says he is ~third cousin of Dale Scott)
- (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 -) (see discussion in newsletter #150, page 4)

This raises the interesting possibility that Collins Coffee and Larkin Coffee were fairly close relatives. If we can ever figure out the ancestry of either, we may have the ancestry of both!

And my best conclusion is that Collins and Larkin were probably brothers – an idea that may also be supported by the fact that both lines use the less common “Coffee” spelling. The atDNA test says Dale and L. Ron Coffee were likely in the range of “2nd to 4th cousin”. And with the genealogy above, and if Collins/Larkin are brothers, Dale/Ron would ACTUALLY be 3C1R (third cousins, once removed). A very promising match!.

The primary researcher into the family of Collins Coffee has been Lorie Okel (now deceased), who long believed that Collins was likely a descendant of one of the sons of the Reuben Coffey (1742-1825) who married Sarah Scott (~1750-1837). And we also have a match for Dale, name Max Terry Coffey, that would seem to support Lorie’s conclusion. See the following:

- (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) James Cannon Coffey (8 Jan 1838 - 27 Feb 1915) & Sarah Evelyn Coffey (10 Oct 1843 - 30 May 1912)
- (7) James Harley Coffey (14 Feb 1878 - 11 Mar 1936) & May Heffner (ca 1889 - 15 Jun 1981)
- (8) Joe Blake Coffey (ca 1929 -)
- (9) Max Terry Coffey (atDNA match to Dale, at “4C to Remote” level)
- (5) Jesse T. Coffey (16 JAN 1807/8 - ca 1847) & Lettie Collins (- ca 1850)
- (6) Sarah Evelyn Coffey (10 Oct 1843 - 30 May 1912) & James Cannon Coffey (8 Jan 1838 - 27 Feb 1915)
- (7) James Harley Coffey (14 Feb 1878 - 11 Mar 1936) & May Heffner (ca 1889 - 15 Jun 1981)
- (8) Joe Blake Coffey (ca 1929 -)
- (9) Max Terry Coffey (atDNA match to Dale, at “4C to Remote” level)

If Collins and Larkin were brothers, and if their father was one of the sons of (3) Reuben, but not Reuben’s son (4) Jesse, then their actual connection to Max Terry would be 4C1R, which is consistent with the FTDNA assessment of “4C to Remote”. This, however, is something of a stretch since it is beyond the reliable testing limit for atDNA. But it is plausible.

Does this solve the genealogy of Collins and Larkin? Actually, NO. Because Reuben had 9 sons (plus 3 daughters), who are identified in Jack Coffee’s ECP (Edward Coffey Project) as follows:

- (4) John Coffey (ca 1770 -)

Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse, Issue No. 151, Apr-Jun 2019

- (4) Reuben Coffey Jr. (1772 - 30 Nov 1851) & Naomi Hayes (abt 1778 - 8 Nov 1857)
- (4) Jesse Coffey (ca 1775 - ca 1840) & Margaret Edmisten
- (4) Elijah Coffey (11 Mar 1779 - 3 Sep 1863) & Mary Abby Dyer (17 May 1787 -)
- (4) Joseph Coffey (ca 1785 - ca 1835) & Isabella Lindsay
- (4) James D. Coffey (23 Oct 1786 - 27 Oct 1869) & Hannah Alloway Strange (18 Feb 1790 - 14 Feb 1871)
- (4) William Henderson Coffey (1789 - 17 Oct 1844) & Mary Faulkner (ca 1788 - 1851)
- (4) Benjamin Coffey (ca 1790 - 1843) & Exie Saphronia Stepp (ca 1805 - Jun 1876)
- (4) Thomas Coffey (- ca 1838)

Jack apparently took all of these names from the book by Marvin Coffey, and Marvin wrote "...the children of Reuben and Sally are not entirely agreed upon." And Jack's ECP offers nothing about families (if any) of the presumed sons John and Thomas. Therefore, if we exclude Max Terry's ancestor Jesse, we're left with a list of 8 possible names for the possible father of Collins and Larkin!

And there are other reasons to be cautious about this analysis: We need to be aware that Lawrence Ronald Coffee (1938) has a **SECOND**, entirely separate, connection to some of the players in this puzzle. See this:

- (1) Myndert Veeder Wemple (12 Sep 1824 - 25 Jan 1887) & Sarah C. Dakin (21 Aug 1830 - 24 Jun 1894)
- (2) Mary Ellen Wemple (8 Nov 1857 - 13 Jul 1936) & William Perry Coffee (9 Jun 1857 - 29 Sep 1926)
- (3) William Adolph Coffey (5 Jun 1898 - 24 Nov 1976) & Abigail Elizabeth Selvage (19 Jun 1899 - 30 Aug 1988)
- (4) Clyde Richard Coffey (21 Nov 1924 - 7 Jan 2016) **(Has an atDNA test)**
- (2) Jane Helen Wemple (8 Nov 1857 - 11 Jan 1923) & William Taylor Coffee (Feb 1847 - 6 Sep 1917)
- (3) Nora N Coffee (6 Jul 1879 - 21 Sep 1947) & George Ernest West (18 Mar 1876 - 23 Dec 1966)
- (4) Marjorie Marie West (21 Mar 1911 - 22 May 1995) & Chester Arthur Hector (3 Mar 1905 - 16 Sep 1987)
- (5) Loretta "Lorie" Joyce Hector (26 Dec 1937 - 6 Feb 2015) & James David Okel **(aka "Lorie Okel", who has an atDNA test)**
- (3) Hubert Coffee (13 Aug 1891 -)
- (4) Lawrence Ronald Coffee (20 Dec 1938 -) **(atDNA)**

We don't see any matches of Dale Scott to the above Clyde Richard Coffey, so I suspect that Dale's matches to Lawrence Ronald are more likely based on the "Collins" descent line. So I (wisely?) rejected this line as the source of the match of Dale to L. Ron.

Dale also has a couple of other interesting matches at roughly the third cousin level. The best is to a "Holly Coffey", whom I do not know but have sent a note asking for information. The other match is to Paul David Coffey, who is already a member of our DNA Project. Here's his line of descent:

- (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) Bennett Coffey (ca 1779 - bef 1858) & Sarah Ferguson (ca 1781 - 1847)
- (5) Caswell Coffey (ca 1806 - 7 Feb 1882) & Annie Jordan (- 25 Dec 1849)
- (6) Joel Coffey (ca 1840 - 1900) & Susannah Brewer (18 Jan 1840 - 23 Apr 1933)
- (7) James Nelson Coffey (1874 - 5 Feb 1945) & Lula Potter (1892 - 1957)
- (8) Leonard Coffey (20 Aug 1912 - 9 Nov 1978) & Grace Richmond (26 Nov 1907 - 29 Apr 1991)
- (9) Paul David Coffey **(atDNA Test, with "2nd to 4th cousin" match of Dale)**

Recognize that this atDNA test is looking at ALL, repeat ALL, the ancestry of each tested person. I've (wisely?) rejected this match, because this Paul is on such a remote Coffey path versus Dale, that his Coffey line would make him a something like a sixth cousin of Dale. My guess is that somewhere back there is a non-Coffey match. (There were huge numbers of

“Coffey” living in common areas, and they married with many related families. Unless you trace every descendant of every spouse, it will be difficult to spot the non-Coffey relationships.)

(Dale does have another interesting connection. He matches, at approximately the fourth cousin level, to Arthur Robert Coffey and his daughter Diana. Hey, **Diana is the host for the 2020 CCC Convention!** See the earlier article. This match is likely because Diana and her father have unusual levels of Coffey DNA, and thus have a LOT of Coffey matches!)

What can we conclude from all this? We strongly suspect that Larkin and Collins Coffee are brothers. And, as Lorie Okel believed, their father is likely one of the sons of Reuben Coffey (1742-1825) who married Sarah Scott (~1750-1837). Can anybody help us move beyond this?

Reader comments?

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>