

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. 154 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

In light of the CV-2019 outbreak and spread, we have decided that we should cancel the April convention and take it from there.

I hate to even suggest this after all the work has been done by Diana and her husband. Many of us are "older" and some, like me, have underlying health issues

One bit of news, Wayne Mower has told me he cannot be treasurer anymore, effective immediately. Anyone care to step up and take the treasury position?

Betsy Coffey Berry

President CCC

bcberry1977@icloud.com

Editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

I really hate writing this letter. I was so looking forward to our convention in St. Louis in April. Of course, it had to be cancelled. We couldn't even think of any of you or even me getting this terrible virus. All we can hope for is that we are still here and be able to get to gather next year. Dianna had such an interesting program set up for us.

This might be a good time to look through your genealogy work while you are forced to stay home. What might be hiding in all those old records that you overlooked? I find things that I didn't notice before every time I go through my records. Sometime looking for others, I find things that I didn't know I had. Even those dates, places or names of other people that didn't look important before might make a difference now that we know more. I found the Revolutionary War pension application in one of the notebooks I had inherited from Kathryn Johnson. It was for Thomas Hayes sr. He is grandfather of my George Hayes (married to Elizabeth Coffey). We have had problems documenting him so I don't know if I can prove the line for DAR. (We gals always like another pin on our ribbon!)

The virus thing is causing another problem. My only living Uncle, Johnny Willard, passed away on March 19th. He lived in Monroe, Louisiana. Most of my cousins live in Missouri and we aren't going to be able to travel for the funeral. We hope to have a Memorial Service when things get back to normal. His great grandparents were George and Elizabeth (Coffey) Hayes.

We need to thank Fred Coffey for getting this newsletter out early so everyone could be notified of the Convention cancelation. He could have used a few more stories. Do you have any interesting stories of your Coffee/y families? We would love to hear them. SHARING is our purpose for being. Since we can't get to the libraries and court houses, it will probably depend

on us going through our own records and sharing. You might have a dead end. Send a query. The newsletter depends on you.

HEY, I'm a lonesome widow.... I don't do Facebook so email me. I would love to hear how you are doing since they have locked our doors and threw away the keys.

Your lonesome cousin.

Bonnie Culley

bculey@embarqmail.com

CCC CONVENTION ST LOUIS CANCELLED:

From: Diana Coffey Holder <wdjr@charter.net>

*Coffey Cousins Convention
St. Louis, Missouri
April 23 to 26 2020*

THE CCC CONVENTION 2020 CANCELLED

From Diana: Hi all, I'll try again next year. We'll try to go with the same plan we'd hoped to use this year. That's about all I have at this time. I'll plan to have exact dates and other details in time for the June newsletter.



Thanks, Diana

**CHANGE THE DATE TO
"2021"!**

Index: Issue 154

	Page
President's Message	1
Editor's Comments	1
CCC Convention	2
MAIL:	
Tom Coffey	3
ARTICLES:	
Working with new Coffey Cousins	4
Another Adoption Mystery	6
Learning from the "Big Y" DNA Test	7
Carol and Rudolfine Coffee	8
Hugh Coffey Project	10
Information Resource Links	11

We Get Mail

From: Tom Coffey, to Jack Coffee and Fred Coffey

From Tom: "Seems like I come up with more hypotheticals and questions than actual facts. Apologies for that but I hope you find some of this interesting.

Came across a book called "The Samuell/Samuel families of tidewater Virginia" published in 1997. It has a short chapter about the James Samuell-Sarah Boulware family including James's will. The book says James Samuell was born in 1685. It makes no mention of a James Coffey. But the will does list a James Samuell, his son, who was reportedly born sometime before 1720. James and Sarah were married in 1714. James named his loving wife Sarah and sons Foster and James as executors of his will. So I think that would indicate that James was one of the older children and that would be in agreement with the before 1720 birthdate.

So now I'm wondering about a ~26-year-old unmarried woman, a ~50-year-old man with 10 children who professed his love for his wife in his will, and a ~17 year-old and I'm starting to wonder who rolled in the hay with Annister?

If it was James Samuell the younger could his age have kept him safe from a forced wedding?"

From Fred: Hi Tom, here is the paper I wrote about Annister's son James Coffee.

<http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/FamilyNotes/JamesCoffee.html>

In that paper, all I claimed was that James Coffee was fathered by a male in the family of the James Samuel, who was named in Virginia "Order Book 11: 91, Court 20 Feb 1738/9" which read "It is ordered that the Churchwardens of St. Anns Parish do bind James Coffy a bastard child to James Samuel as the Law directs."

DNA matches to living male Samuel family members, proved that James was indeed fathered by a male "Samuel". But ANY male with the Samuel name could have been responsible. And I believe that the original James Samuel had more children than just the son James that you named. I'll leave it up to you to write a paper resolving WHICH Samuel male was likely responsible! Good luck, Fred

Working with new Coffey Cousins:

Based on a note exchange from Colin Coffey, to Fred Coffey and Jack Coffee

MEMO From Fred: Jack Coffee and I often work together to help new "Coffey Cousins" work through learning about their family. They often don't know where to look for information, and they sometimes make mistakes that Jack and I can easily spot. With permission from Colin, the following is a discussion that is meant to be a learning aid for new cousins.

Be aware that Jack Coffee manages a fantastic database on the descendants of Edward Coffey, that he calls the "ECP" (Edward Coffey Project).

From Colin: Hello, I am working on my family tree and came across your website. My brother had his DNA test done through [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and we are trying to see where we fall in your chart. Thank you, Colin and Loren Coffey

From Fred: Did Loren have any matches to anyone with the "Coffey" surname on Ancestry? [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) has the biggest database, but unfortunately it is not the best for looking for "Coffey" ancestry. We tend to do our DNA testing on [FTDNA.COM](https://www.familytreeDNA.com).

From Colin: We have been able to confirm our DNA to John D. Bluford Coffey Sr but we are stuck here. Cannot determine who his father is.

1700–1775

BIRTH 16 JULY 1700 • Essex County, Virginia, USA

DEATH 31 MAR 1775 • Albemarle County, Virginia, USA"

Fred: I'm afraid you're already in trouble! I recognize the date range "1700-1775" as the approximate dates for Edward Coffey's son John. But the name "John D Bluford Coffey" is quite impossible for those dates, because The Edward family was NOT using any middle names in that time period!

This is actually a very common problem, and it happened to me when I first decided to start digging into my family, and I tried to give Edward a middle name. Bonnie Culley promptly delivered her famous lecture "they weren't using middle names – don't ever do that again"!

So, we DO know that John's father was Edward, and do know we're going to learn a LOT if we dig into Jack's ECP.

Colin, I really would like more information about your family line. Do you by chance maintain a tree on Ancestry for yourself, for which you know some part of it to be correct for your family line? Can I look? Give me more info, and I'll see what I can figure out. If you can get me back to the 1940 census or earlier, I (and Jack) are very good at digging up connections.

Colin: (Gave me a link to his tree on Ancestry.)

Fred: By the way, if you told Jack you had your data on Ancestry, he would have refused to even look. His view is that there is so much extremely bad information on Ancestry from undocumented sources, that the safest assumption is that it's all garbage.

I'm much more relaxed about Ancestry, and I'm ready to take a look and see if people have documented sources. And in your case, thank you! All that I needed to believe, was that you knew the name of your father! And as soon as I saw your father was Robert Harold Coffey, I knew I had your complete family profile cornered! Here's what I have. Be patient, and I'll start explaining where I got this:

- (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) Benjamin Coffey (ca 1790 - 1843) & Exie Saphronia Stepp (ca 1805 - Jun 1876)
- (5) Lawson Howard Coffey (15 Aug 1820 - 7 Aug 1904) & Eliza Ann Campbell (18 Jun 1836 - 6 Mar 1915)
- (6) Dr. George Lafayette Coffey DDS (26 May 1863 - 20 Jul 1945) & Gertrude Derr (13 Feb 1868 - 1959)
- (7) Richard Earl Coffey (7 Dec 1895 - 1 Mar 1974) & Lois Marie Murray (26 May 1894 - Sep 1980)
- (8) Robert Harold Coffey (1 Oct 1921 - 10 May 2010) & Betty Crome (1 Feb 1922 - 15 Oct 2000)
- (9) Colin Lee Coffey
- (9) Loren Wilson Coffey

This brings us to Jack's ECP. Jack is meticulous about very carefully documenting the sources of all of his information. If he says something is so, you can buy his ECP and you will find thousands of pages of carefully documented discussion. Never trust Ancestry, but you can trust Jack most of the time (and if he has doubts, he will discuss them in depth).

Jack's ECP has 26,000 names, with 14,000 event records. And ONE of those names happens to be your father "Robert Harold Coffey" who married "Betty Crome". Jack has already thoroughly documented this family from Robert Harold all the way back to Edward. The above is taken straight from his ECP. Jack just didn't know that Robert had sons Colin and Loren. (Actually he may have known, but he would probably avoid publishing details on a living person.)

Now, your own family tree on Ancestry is actually remarkably GOOD, all the sources for the later generations are fully documented. BUT NOT for the first two generations. You were unable to find documentation details for those generations, so you turned to what OTHER people had written and published on Ancestry. Jack is right – never trust Ancestry beyond what you can prove yourself!

From Colin: Thank you for your help. By all means feel free to use our correspondence. This has been a real learning experience for me and my brother. I got started with this in 1999 when I bought some land in Guthrie Oklahoma and my dad's cousin said "tell Colin to look into the murder in Guthrie". That was it, nothing more. Well I knew absolutely nothing about my ancestors before my great grandmother Gertrude Derr. So the journey began with lots of newspaper research from the 1880's, digging through basements and looking at over 700 rolls of microfilm.

Discovered the murder(s) and a lot more. Found a cousin in California. So the journey has been worth it.

Side note: our tree did have Edward Coffey and his father and grandfather but looking beyond that we began to question our validity. That's when we found discrepancies and decided to delete Edward and start fresh from there because we knew our data was good from me to John and Jane Coffey. This is when we ran across you.

I am going to order the FTDNA y testing. Again thank you so much for your kind help. Just wish I would have found you in 1999!

Fred: I'll send you some more information on ordering the FTDNA tests, particularly the y-DNA. We have a lot of people who have done this, just to PROVE that "nothing has gone astray" and that they are absolutely an unbroken part of the Edward male line. Your Coffey line looks solid, but sometimes there are surprises!

Finally, be aware of my own pet project, and have a look at:

THE COFFEY/COFFEE SURNAME: GENEALOGY INFORMATION ROADMAP

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

There are thousands and thousands of pages of information there, to keep you reading late into the night! And you can find information on Jack Coffee's Edward Coffey Project here:

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

Best wishes, **Fred**

Another Adoption Mystery:

From: Pam Kermon, to Jack Coffee and Fred Coffey

Fred: Readers will recall that over the years we have, several times, contributed to helping people identify their birth families. But here's one that may be especially difficult. We invite our readers to suggest any ideas they may have:

From Pam Kermon: Hello, I am trying to help my husband (Samuel David Kermon) find his biological father. His father he grew up with, was very dear to him. After his passing, some documents were found that initiated the suspicion that his biological father was someone different. Unfortunately, a family member destroyed the letters with the information.

He has since submitted a Y-DNA-67 test and the results do seem to lead us to the Coffey family.

From Fred: Yes, he has a LOT of Coffey matches, and there is absolutely NO DOUBT. His male line comes from Edward Coffey, who appeared in Virginia by 1699.

He also has some autosomal test results, and there are matches to 3 Coffey men at roughly the 3rd or 4th cousin level. But the autosomal test looks at ALL his family lines, and not just "Coffey", these matches could well be non-Coffey related. People tended to marry across many different families. It's a weak clue, but all three do descend from Edward through Edward's son John, so that may narrow things VERY slightly. But that's still a huge database!

From Pam: The only information we have is that his possible name was James (Jim) Coffey(e). He was stationed at Wheelus Air Base in 1956. This was near Italy during WWII. We have no other information to go on.

I have ordered Jack's USB about the Edward Coffey Project, in hopes that it will provide some useful information.

From Fred: Jack, do you have any way to determine who was the James Coffey who was found at Wheelus Air Base in 1956? Samuel David Karmon was born in 1957.

From Jack: I'll do some looking but, if the father was at Wheelus in 1956 that means the mother must have been close by, unless... He just arrived at Wheelus (then in Kingdom of Libya) late in 56. Searching for a James Coffey is like searching for gold in the bathtub ☺! There must be some clue that will help, such as year of birth, mother's name, including maiden name, where the mother was born, father was born, child was born?

From Fred: Yeah, the Coffey families dearly loved the name "James". Our newsletter archive has more than 1000 references to the name "James", and there are also hundreds in your Edward Project. And I have a tool to search every word ever published in a newsletter, and there are NO references in any newsletter to "Wheelus" or "Libya" or "Air Base".

OK Readers, anybody got any fresh ideas how we can pursue this problem?

LEARNING FROM THE "BIG-Y" DNA TEST:

By Fred Coffey

Readers will recall (see issue 153-3) I wrote that our extended family likely included names "Coffey, Coffee, Coffia, Keogh, Keough, Kehoe, Keay, Kaho, Cahow, Kayhow, Kayhowe, and Howe". I concluded that our ancestral origins likely go back to a MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) of everybody back in County Wexford, with the original family name being one of the above "Keogh" variations. All the branches probably came together maybe 500 or more years ago.

Several of the people in the above name list have now done a DNA test called "Big-y" which samples thousands of positions along the y-chromosome. And this is a different type of test from the "STR" (Short Tandem Repeat) markers we have previously analyzed. It is looking at many thousands of "SNP" (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) positions. I won't go into detail here, but you might want to read this paper, which reviews DNA basics, and see the section on "Looking at the Y Chromosome": [CCCReview2017](#)

This SNP test tells us a person's "haplogroup", which is a major division within his family tree. All of the above "Coffey – Keogh" are indeed in closely related haplogroups, but there are some small differences. And all of the Keogh are in the same, identical, and oldest haplogroup (known as "R-Y20216"). They have not changed over time. (Although future tests may find subtle differences within the group.)

But the Coffey / Coffee (Peter and Edward) who came to America are actually a little different from the Keogh. Further, the Edward Coffey group (R-Y46776) is slightly different from the Peter Coffee group (R-Y19967).

It appears that R-Y20216 (Keogh) came first, that R-Y19967 (Peter) split off from that, and R-Y46776 (Edward) came last. Tell me a person's haplogroup, and I'll tell you if he came from Edward, or from Peter. We have long known that Edward was related to Peter, with an unknown connection back in Ireland before either came to America. We believe they were clearly isolated from the Keogh before leaving Ireland.

But there is another twist. We also have a test on a much more recent immigrant to America, "Donald Lee Coffey". And his haplogroup tells us that Donald was really a "Keogh", and he is much more distantly related to Peter or Edward.

Want to be buried in LOTS more info? Click here for my full report:

<http://www.coffey.ws/FamilyTree/DNA/Origins-CoffeyKeoghFamilies.pdf>

CAROL AND RUDOLFINE COFFEE (1924-2020 / 1925-2017)

(Memo from Fred Coffey: we don't usually publish many detailed obituaries, but Carol Coffee is rather special to me and to others. Over the years, I worked closely with Carol, to resolve DNA issues related to the Peter Coffee line. He was always ready to consider a new upgrade to his extensive list of y-DNA tests. Carol was always well informed about his genealogy, extremely helpful, and we were both long-term residents of Houston. And he's a very interesting person:

To learn more, go to the "Roadmap", and look at the discussion of "Peter Coffee Descendents".

Carol Coffee, 95, was born December 23, 1924 in Brownwood, Brown County, Texas to the late Virginia Estelle Gilmer Coffee and Peyton Joshua Coffee, and died Jan 1, 2020 in Tomball, TX.

Carol graduated from Brownwood High School in 1942 and attended San Antonio Tech one year before being drafted into the U.S. Army in January 1943 at the age of 18. While in the military service in World War II He attended North Carolina State University as an Army Specialized Training (ASTP) student prior to assignment as an infantry sniper in the 66th Panther Infantry Division. The Division arrived in England in November 1944 and, after two weeks of additional training and issuance of new weapons and equipment, boarded the HMS Leopoldville, a Belgian liner converted to a troopship carrying 2,235 soldiers of the 66th Division, headed for France and the Battle of the Bulge where the German Army had broken through the Allied lines in the Ardennes offensive. On Christmas Eve, as the Leopoldville approached the coast of France off Cherbourg, it was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-486. The 66th Division list was 802 dead and 640 more wounded or injured in what is recorded as the second worst troopship disaster of World War II.



Carol and approximately 500 other men of the 66th were rescued from the frigid waters of the English Channel. However, less than a week later, the 66th Division relieved the American 94th Division in the Bretagne Loire sector of France and fought on to the end of the war in Europe.

Carol went on to survive the war and received a Direct Commission as a First Lieutenant of Infantry.

Coffee ended the war as one of the youngest and most highly decorated of the 66th Division, having earned two Bronze Star Medals, one each for Valor and Merit, the Battle of the Bulge Medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal with Northern France Battle Star, the Victory Medal, and Army of Occupation medal with Germany and Austria Clasps, and numerous service and commemorative decorations.

Coffee was honorably discharged from military service after more than 15 years combined active Army, National Guard and Active and Standby Reserve. Finally, on November 14, 2014, Coffee and 21 of his comrades-in-arms were presented France's highest award in the French Order of the Legion of Honor for their contribution to the liberation of France during WWII. The awards were presented by Sujiro Seam, Consul General of France, in Veteran's Day ceremonies on the parade ground of Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Carol considered his most prized decoration the American Combat Infantry Badge, awarded to all soldiers of the 66th Division. Following his military service, Carol resumed his interrupted college education under the American G.I. Bill, completing the B.A. degree in 1954 at Howard Payne University and the M.A. degree in 1952 at Hardin-Simmons University. He completed two years of residence work toward the Ph.D. degree at The University of Texas at Austin before beginning a long career in university teaching and public service before completing the Ph.D. Degree in Social Anthropology at United States University of America in 1974. Coffee retired from public service in 1987 as Executive Director, Safety Council of Greater Houston.

Carol and Fifi met in her native Vienna, Austria in November 1945 and began a courtship of two years before Carol returned to the United States for further military service. Five months later, he made his way back to Vienna where he and Fifi exchanged their vows of marriage on April 19, 1947. Those vows have proved immutable. They were parted only by death after more than 70 years. Both were 92 years of age.

Fudolfine (Fifi) Perager Coffee, was born March 18, 1925 in Vienna, to Leopoldine Pokorny Prager and Anton Prager and died September 11, 2017 in Magnolia, Texas.

Fifi was a strong and loving wife and mother of three children She loved and missed her beautiful Austria, but fell in love with her adopted America, becoming a fierce American patriot.

One of her proudest possessions was the American Certificate of Naturalization, which graced her life in the beloved new land. Fifi was a loving homemaker who enjoyed the outdoor life even more, including travel and the lifetime sport of hiking, running and mountain climbing, which she shared step by step and event by event with Carol and their friends. Carol and Fifi were co-founders of the American Volkssport Association (IVV), based in Germany and Austria.

Carol and Fifi were also co-founders of the Houston Hikers and Funrunners Association (Houston Happy Hikers) based in Houston. Carol and Fifi participated in more than 950 IVV-sanctioned hiking events and more than 20,000 kilometers of American and European events. Together they hold many U.S. and international hiking awards.

Survivors include daughter Caroline James of Edgewood, New Mexico. Son Charles E. and daughter-in-law Judy Coffee of Magnolia, Texas; daughter Patrician Ann of Houston, Texas; and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

DNA could solve the question of the wife of Hugh Coffey of Augusta Co VA

By Terri Stern

DNA Project Administrator for the Descendants of Hugh Coffey of Augusta County, Virginia and the Montgomery Surname DNA Project (hughcoffeyproject@gmail.com)

Various unsourced trees online (and we all know these are suspect, right?) have claimed that Mary Ramsey is the wife Hugh Coffey who was born about 1700 and lived in Augusta County Virginia. Hugh's land was adjacent to Ramsey land near the Cowpasture River. His land was surveyed 26 Sep 1745 by Thomas and Andrew Lewis and lies in the Southwest quadrant of the Beverley Manor tract (Annals of Bath County, Virginia, Morton, 1917,p 16 at Ancestry.com).

Another connection between the Coffey and Ramsey families is that John Ramsey b 1758, son of Robert of Beverley Manor, served as a private under Captains James Montgomery and Henry Coffey in the South Carolina troops during the Revolutionary War. That Henry Coffey is the grandson of Hugh of Augusta Co.

The Hugh Coffey DNA Project is all about validating relationships among Hugh Coffey's descendants using DNA.

While looking at descendants of Henry's brother Hugh Coffey b 1750 and his wife Agnes Montgomery of South Carolina to find common DNA segments shared by them, I discovered a DNA segment shared by three descendants of Hugh Coffey b 1784 and one descendant of John Coffey b 1775, son of Hugh Coffey b 1750 and Agnes Montgomery which provides firm evidence that Hugh and John are related. To use this segment to prove that Agnes Montgomery and Hugh Coffey are the parents of Hugh b 1784, I would need to look at the other matches on the segment to see if they are showing Coffey or Montgomery ancestors. There were over 40 other matches on this segment. The next step in DNA analysis is to look at the trees for all of the other matches on the segment. They all share a common ancestor, but many times matches do not have very deep trees to be able to tell which common ancestor we share. I was hoping this segment would help solve the mystery of which man is the father of Agnes Montgomery. Instead, I found Mr M Ramsey and his second cousin sharing the segment with all these Coffeys. They descend from different children of Samuel Washington Ramsey (1864-1923) and Martha C Ramsey (1864-1941). Samuel and Martha are first cousins once removed to each other and trace to William Ramsey (1773-1857) and his wife Mary Polly Pugh who married in 1796. Their trees are very well documented back 6 generations to each of their 64 4th Great Grandparents and not a single Coffey or Montgomery appears in their tree. At this point, the match could be revealing that Agnes Montgomery has a Ramsey ancestor or Hugh Coffey b 1850's mother Susannah Watson has a Ramsey ancestor, or Hugh Coffey b 1700 is married to a Ramsey. We plan to work together to identify the common ancestor among these 40 DNA matches. Look for an update in the next newsletter.

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

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>

Memo: You can also use Jack's Blog for research, see discussion article on Pages 9 and 10 in Newsletter #152.

<http://coffeycousins.blogspot.com>