

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. 157 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Greetings:

Thank you for allowing me to be associated with Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse & Convention. I will not be "president" as of this notice. Best wishes to all and many thanks to the Holders for their patience and perseverance in hosting the 2022 convention.

Betsy Coffey Berry

President CCC

bcberry1977@icloud.com

Convention Note from Diana & Bill

wdir@charter.net

Hi all, Just wanted to give you an update regarding the next Coffey Cousins Reunion:

We will have the conference room all day and evening on Saturday. If we book ten rooms the conference room is complimentary, if not then the cost of the room is \$275. We wanted to get this information out as soon as possible. If anyone has any questions or comments, please let us know.

Diana & Bill Holder

Coffey Cousins



*Convention
St. Louis, Missouri
April 28 to 30 2022*

Best Western, Kirkwood Inn
Thursday night: \$95 + tax

Hotel phone 314-821-3950
Friday and Saturday nights: \$100 + tax

We need 10 room reservations to get a free meeting room. Make your reservations now. (You can cancel if something changes and you can't attend.) Be sure to state that you are part of the Coffey Convention to get the discount. Additional plans will be published in the next Newsletter.

Editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

MY! How researching has changed since Leonard Coffey started the Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse 40 years ago this year. We really needed our cousins back then. It sure was handy to have a cousin who still lived in the area you were researching. You might twist their arm to go down to the courthouse, library or aunts house for you. Now we just go to one of the web sites on the computer..... but what are we missing? I miss the personal relationship with family. Some were so far removed I wasn't sure how we were kin but so much fun to know their life experiences.

That first Coffey Convention (1984) at Grandfather Mountain in Boone, North Carolina was exciting for all of us. I had never met any of the people there before. I had written to Bennie Loftin but she was the only one there that I had any contact with other than Leonard Coffey when I subscribed to the newspaper. Some of the serious researchers that had worked with Leonard were Ian Strange, Walker Coffey, Lillian Harrell, Willard Duncan, Bennie Loftin and James V. Coffey. On Sunday morning before we all left for home, Rev. Will Duncan and his daughter Julia led a Gospel sing which the cousins enjoyed. There was approximately 50 of us there. I am thankful to all of these who are the true beginners of the Coffey research. Originally there were a couple of people who were trying to shove Edward Coffey, Hugh Coffey and Peter Coffee all into one family without much luck.

Although the newsletter was already 3 years old, this was probably the real beginning of the Coffee/y association. We never made it a formal convention but did elect a president after Leonard passed away. There was never any dues and heaven only knows where the secretary notes are now. We did eventually need more officers when we had a little money to keep. One year the President couldn't be there and we decided to have a Vice President to cover the problem. With the upcoming meeting in St. Louis, we will be continuing a very productive tradition. I hope we can repeat this for many years. I am so proud of my Coffey Cousins and lineage.

Don't forget to send Fred or me your queries and new finds. Some old family stories are helpful as well.

As always, your cousin,

Bonnie Culley

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Jesse:

<<<Here's a picture of my Grandfather, James Madison "Jim Matt" Coffey, taken in the early 1970s, standing on Hummel Rd, in front of his home in Hummel, K (once referred to as LANGFORD STATION), near Renfro Valley and Mt Vernon KY. He died in 1976.

And here he is at about 3 years old in 1900:>>>



And here are the parents of Jim Matt, John Henry Coffey (1861-1951) and Eliza Margaret Langford (1856-1931). Believed to be their Wedding Picture, married 1891.



This picture is the Grandparents of James Madison "Jim Matt" Coffey. James Madison Coffey (1834 Grainger TN-1885) and Lydia Ann Wolfe Coffey (1836 Grainger TN-1

Jesse: Also, Fred, I traveled to Virginia last Fall. Driving to the area mentioned in a recent CC Newsletter regarding where Edward and his family lived. It was exciting, thinking that I may be occupying the same space that Edward or his children had 200 plus years ago!

Bonnie: Sure wish I could get to that part of Virginia. Jack had wanted to do this as well. We talked about doing a convention there, but there no one in the area to do the leg work. I do think many of the cousins are interested in what the area looks like, etc. We all wonder what it was like in the 1690s.

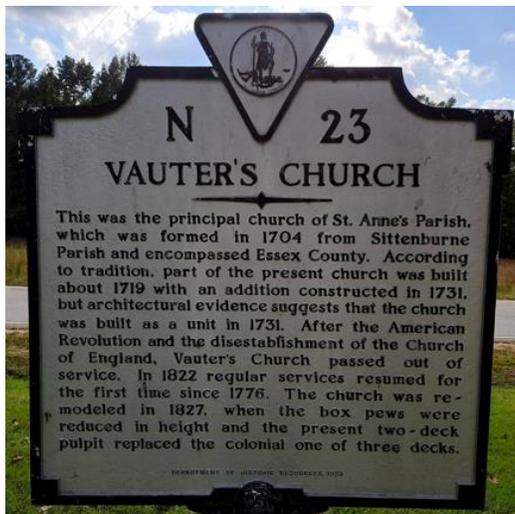
Fred: The newsletter Jesse refers to was in Issue 155, pages 2-6. It has pictures, maps, discussion, etc. Jesse, please tell us about your visit to the area!

Jesse: Our visit to the Occupacia Creek area in Virginia was short, consisting of a 30 - 45-minute drive around the area. We did drive back on the road / Drive way to where it dead ended on a farm. We didn't talk to anyone. Didn't see anyone. Nothing very revealing.

On our trip we also passed the farm with COFFEYTOWN painted on a large Boulder. After driving past it, I had to turn back and visit. I talked to the owner, a Coffey, but I can't recall his name. He told me that Coffey's had lived on that land for 7 generations.



We did stop and see the outside of a church that was the principal church of the St Anne's Parish. I wondered if our Coffey's had attended this church at any time?



We did visit other historical places on our road trip. We visited Montpelier, home of James Madison, former President of the US. This was of interest because my Grandfather and HIS Grandfather were both named James Madison Coffey. Here's a picture of Robin and I standing in front of Montpelier.



Looking forward to the next time we can all get together.

Take care Jessie

WORKING ON ECP DATABASE:

By Fred Coffey (FredCoffey@aol.com) and Chris Coffee (chriscoffee70@gmail.com)

Chris and I have been discussing the future of some aspects of Jack Coffee's ECP (Edward Coffey Project), and we have decided to manage at least parts of it in a different and easier to use ways.

The ECP has long been distributed on "jump drives" (USB drives). These are tedious to prepare and awkward to use. And over 90% of the material was in the form of a huge volume of "extra" material.

We will no longer distribute this extra material on USB drives as part of the ECP. We have moved most of the original material into an online database. And we have created a way for you to not only see what is in the catalog, but to simply "click" on a link and INSTANTLY see the actual file document.

The database now contains 19,528 files. Some 205 of those single files are "books" containing a total of 4200 pages.

We offer the new catalog in two formats, as follows. The first is in a similar format to the old catalog, and it loads like a conventional "web page" that most of you have likely used. But it has the power to link to the original documents. You will probably find this most useful.

[ECPCATALOG.htm](#)

If you have Microsoft Excel running on your computer, you might consider the second "xlsx" version. The "xlsx" tells you it is an Excel spreadsheet, and it will actually DOWNLOAD to your computer. It will appear in your "downloads" file. It becomes your personal property, and you can do anything you want with it. (Why would you want the "xlsx" version? If you are good with Excel, you might decide to customize it to your own needs!)

[ECPCATALOG.xlsx](#)

Both of these have the capability to link to our online database, and thus call up any file that interests you. Both include instructions and discussion.

With this extra data removed, the remaining actual ECP will then be a MUCH smaller application. We will be exploring the idea of also placing this to be available online. This is not yet available.

Finally, Jack managed a BLOG that contained additional Edward Coffey information. We may also try to place a copy of that online.

(Updating Memo: The “catalog” files contain some duplication material, and a few links are incomplete and will fail. I will plan to revisit at a later date and correct some of these problems. I also need to make adjustments to the “Coffey Roadmap”.)

At all times, whatever I do will acknowledge that the material comes from the fantastic work that Jack Coffee did to document the Edward Coffey line.

By Fred

KUDOS FOR WIKITREE?:

By Terri Stern (hughcoffeyproject@gmail.com), Bonnie Culley (bculey@embarqmail.com), and Fred Coffey (FredCoffey@aol.com)

Terri: You might want to give kudos to WikiTree as a great place for collaborative work by serious genealogists that combines sources and DNA.

Fred: Terri manages excellent Hugh Coffey projects on WikiTree at <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Coffey-2480> and <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Coffey-2478>

Terri: As a good WikiTree example check out the profile for Edward Coffey, citing your own research. Here's the link. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Coffey-5>

Bonnie: I certainly can't say anything good about that story on Coffee/ys! There are so many NO NOs in that entry I can hardly count them! Those are the unsupported genealogies that have inundated Ancestry!

1. People at that period didn't have middle names. Show me any record where Edward Coffey has a middle name and I will apologize.
2. Show me the record of Edwards birth. I think you will find that there is NONE...just a GUESS.
3. All records for Ann Powell show only Ann. Someone made up the Esther thing. Annister is also just Annister NO Esther.....

What other garbage does this person have in their records???? We Coffeys have been fighting this stuff almost since we started. Good genealogy requires documentation. I sure don't want guesses in my lineage. Get rid of this guy quick or you will have a ton of junk to deal with.

Fred: I agree this “Edward Coffey” WikiTree site is garbage, and it's an example of how bad things can get on WikiTree if the site is not managed by someone like Terri -- who has excellent credentials for the Hugh Coffey line. This “Edward” owner cites me in many of his references, but I have the impression the site owner has never read or studied or analyzed many of those references (some of which are quite out of date).

One objection is that it tries to sound like it is an authoritative and well researched source. In that way it is WORSE than much of the stuff found on Ancestry -- at least those don't CLAIM to be authoritative, they just copy each other's unsubstantiated claims.

An example of a MUCH better organized and documented package is Jack Coffey's ECP (Edward Coffey Project). That project and much more is covered in our "Coffey Roadmap". (See the links at the end of this newsletter.)

FAMILY THREATS, MURDER, MAYHEM:

By Fred Coffey (FredCoffey@aol.com) and Colin Coffey

Back in Issue 154-4,5,6 (March 2020) I introduced the readers to Colin Coffey, who was beginning to research his Coffey line. For background, here's the ancestry of Colin and his brother Loren:

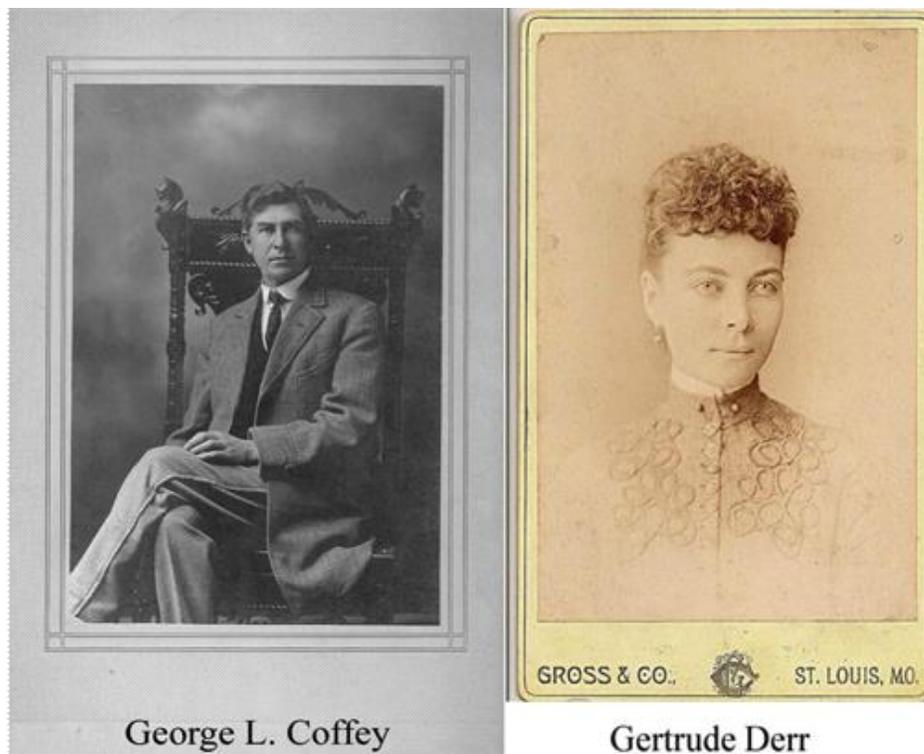
- (1) Edward Coffey (ca 1670 - ca 20 Nov 1716) & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) John Coffey (BET 1699 AND 1700 - BET JAN 1775 AND FEB 1775) & Jane Graves (ca 1708 - 1792)
- (3) Reuben Coffey (7 Mar 1742 - 1825) & Sarah Scott (ca 1750 - Oct 1837)
- (4) Benjamin Coffey (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 1894 - 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

Colin recently acquired a copy of the ECP (Edward Coffey Project), and upon examination found that Jack Coffee had incomplete information on his ancestors marked in red above -- his great-grandfather George Coffey and his great-grandmother Gertrude Derr. Here are Colin's pictures of his great-grandparents:

In the 2020 report, Colin mentioned in passing that he was investigating a family murder in Guthrie, Oklahoma. He recently sent to me a copy of a paper he wrote on the

topic, titled "REVENGE A True Story by Colin Coffey", which was built around Gertrude's Derr family. It was a fascinating story, and much too lengthy to reproduce in this newsletter. But here is a brief summary of some of the highlights:

Colin wrote "*Gertrude... married George Lafayette Coffey (1865-1945) a dentist from Stanberry, MO on May 24th 1894. They had a son Richard Earl Coffey (b: 7 Dec 1894). In the winter of 1895 George Derr (Gertrude's brother) became tired of the way George Coffey was treating his*



sister and threatened to kill him if he didn't mend his ways. Coffey was afraid that Derr would make good on the death threat. He abandoned Gertrude and son Richard and returned to Stanberry, MO. They were later divorced, and Gertrude never remarried."

Did George have reason to be afraid of Gertrude's brother George? Well, her brother George had a feud with one Simon H Foss, initiated when George returned after being away in the Army and went to visit his sister Gertrude. He found Simon Foss living with Gertrude. Foss pulled a gun, and George tried to beat him to death with a Winchester rifle. Foss lived but suffered a cracked skull, broken jaw and lost an eye.

This left Foss wanting revenge on the Derr family, and the feud was under way. John Jacob Derr, the father of George and his sister Gertrude, was killed. Foss and his associates were the prime suspects, but Foss was discharged by the court due to lack of evidence.

George Derr then acquired a 10-gage shotgun and shot Foss. Three times. On the street. In Guthrie, Oklahoma. George made the statement "*I killed him for ravishing my sister. I killed him for playing a part in the murder of my father. I killed him with a double-barreled shotgun and reloaded because I wanted to be sure.*"

George was indicted for Murder in the First Degree. George's lawyer "...argued that George had killed Foss out of fear for his own life. During the trial evidence was given that not only had Foss coerced Gertrude into an adulteress affair and tried to swindle her out of her land claim, but he had at one time taken liberties with her younger sister. Evidence was also given on other young women that Foss had seduced and ruined. On March 13th, 1895, after being out for ninety hours the jury filed into the court room and rendered a verdict of acquittal."

Then, in the winter of 1895, George Derr made his threat to ALSO kill George Lafayette Coffey. George Coffey promptly abandoned his wife Gertrude and son Richard and fled back to Missouri. George later remarried to Elsie Jane Randleman, and they had two sons.

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

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

(Memo: This "Roadmap" was updated in early January 2021, to incorporate some of the changes discussed in the previous newsletter.)