

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. 160 ISSN 0749-758X

President's Message

Greetings Coffey Cousins,

As Vice President, I am filling in for Betty Coffey Berry as she has relinquished the presidency. Thank you, Betty for your great contribution to the Coffey Cousins organization.

I trust all the cousins are well and protecting themselves during this pandemic. I hope that the convention will take place as planned and we can all meet in St. Louis, April 2022, thanks to the efforts of Diana and Bill Holder. See below for details. May all go well until we meet in St. Louis.

Larry Coffey

President CCC

larrycoffey2@hotmail.com

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

Convention Note from Diana & Bill

wjdr@charter.net

Hi all, want to give you an update re Coffey Cousins Reunion:

Best Western, Kirkwood Inn
Hotel phone 314-821-3950
Thursday night: \$95 + tax
Fri & Sat nights: \$100 + tax



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.

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. At this time, the plans remain the same as before. We will tour the Boone Home on Friday and the Missouri History Museum on Saturday. We hope to get a speaker from the genealogical society, but at this point they're still doing everything remotely. We still plan to have Bandana's BBQ do the catering. That's all we have at this time. (See Newsletter 153-2 for more discussion and pictures.)

Editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

We need **YOU!** Yes, **YOU!** Do me a BIG FAVOR and read "Preserving Genealogy Records for Posterity" starting on page 14.

I have worried about what would happen to the Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse when I pass. At 88, I am already living on borrowed time. I have relied on Fred and Jack Coffey for so long and now Jack is gone. At the first Coffey Convention, I was the youngest one there. I am pretty sure that I am the only one of the researchers at that meeting that is still alive. If my memory is correct, Bennie Loftin was only a couple of months older than me and we were heralded as the youngest researchers at that time.

How about we have a real get to gather in St. Louis this coming year and discuss the future of Coffey Cousin's? We won't ever ask anyone to do more than they want to. Sometimes just your input is what we may need. Please do plan to attend the Convention in St. Louis if only for Saturday, the day of the business meeting. We only need 10 reservations to get the meeting room free and I will take at least 2 of those.

We all need to give Fred Coffey a big THANK YOU and pat on the back for all the data that he is handling for us. His data base of newsletters, books, DNA, etc., is huge and now he is working with Jack's unbelievable date base as well. We are so fortunate to have him, but I think he could use a little help. Please think about it.

How has the Coffey Cousins' helped you?

As always, your cousin,

Bonnie Culley

bculey@embarqmail.com

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GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Great Uncle Bertrand didn't have a computer in 1880, so how will you find him on line?

WE GET MAIL:

Question from "Trudi Hancock Beard (thbeard@bellsouth.net): **Re: Maggie Belle Coffee Harbin**

"I'm wondering if anyone has any info on this line? Maggie married John Harbin. I have conflicting names on father....please help..."

(Following: Discussion with Bonnie Culley and Fred Coffey)

From Bonnie: I found your Maggie in a query in the Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse, Issue 78, page 16, dated March 2000. It said,
"I now know who my grandmother (Maggie Belle Coffee) father & mother are, John Brinton Coffey, m. Nellie Steely & thus far I found out from my 92-year-old Aunt that 3 other children were born to John & Nellie were Bill, Dave, & Jess and of course my grandmother Maggie Belle. If you have anything else on my family, I would be grateful. They were from Jackson Co. AL. I do know that Maggie Belle was born in the town of Trenton. John had a huge farm on Cumberland Mountain" (sent in by Alice Adair)

From Fred: The article in this newsletter was placed by Jack Coffee, but it does not appear that Jack ever actually investigated the family branch details. But I did a quick look at census and other information and worked out that MOST of this family origins ARE included in Jack's Edward Coffey Project (ECP). And I was able to add information about the Steeley family, shown in **RED** below. Here is my summary assessment:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca 1670 - ca 20 Nov 1716) & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) Edward Coffey JR. (ca 1701 - aft 1774) & Unknown???
- (3) Nathan Coffey (1760 - 1823) & Mary Saunders
- (4) Absolom Coffey (1788 -) & Mary Lusk
- (5) Absolom Coffey Jr. (1807 -) & Jane Duncan (ca 1807 -)
- (6) James R. Coffey (ca 1827 -) & Nancy A. Shields (29 Apr 1827 - 24 Feb 1916)
- (6) William W. Coffey (ca 1829 -) & Ann (ca 1832 -)
- (6) Nancy Coffey (ca 1832 -) & George W. Burrow (ca 1829 -))
- (6) Hiram Coffey (ca 1833 -)
- (6) Sarah Coffey (ca 1835 -) & William J. Sanders
- (6) Eliza (Louisa?) Coffey (ca 1838 -)
- (6) Martisha (Melissa?) Coffey (ca 1838 -)
- (6) Rutherford Coffey (ca 1839 -)
- (6) Elizabeth Coffey (ca 1840 -)
- (6) Jesse H. Coffey (Mar 1843 -) & Sarah F. Dodson (ca 1846 -)
- (6) Jacob Coffey (ca 1844 -) & **Tabitha Steeley** (ca 1845 -)
 - (7) Hiram C. Coffey (9 Oct 1865 - 16 Dec 1949) & Cynda Buchanan (Oct 1867 - bef 14 Dec 1909)
 - (7) Mary J. Coffey (Feb 1868 - 30 Jan 1917) & John P. Burrow (20 Nov 1863 - 15 Dec 1931)
 - (7) Charles F. Coffey (ca 1868 -)
 - (7) John Coffey (ca 1874 -)
- (6) John **R** Coffey (ca 1848 -) & **Bernettie Steeley*** (**abt 1842**)
 - (7) **William Coffey (15 Apr 1870 – 1 Jun 1951)** (See Social Security files)
 - (7) **Oner Coffey (abt 1872 – 15 Sep 1941)** (See Alabama Deaths and Burials)
 - (7) **Maggie Coffey (15 Sep 1881 -**
- (6) David Coffey (ca 1851 -)
- (6) Clemens Coffey (ca 1852 -)

*Supporting Notes:

John's wife was called "Bernettie Steeley" on Maggie's Social Security application. Called "Nettie" on social security for her son William. She was called "Bernetta" in 1850 Henry County Tennessee census. She was called "Brunette" in 1860 census. Called "Burnett" when she married John R Coffey on 12 Oct 1865. Called "Vernette" in 1870 census. Called "Nellie" in 1900 census. Called "Nettie" in the 1910 census. Called "Nellie" by Alice Adair. (I would consider Maggie's Social Security application to be the most reliable and official source.)

Jacob Coffey and John R Coffey were next door neighbors in the 1870 Jackson AL census. Their wives were the Steeley sisters. Jack's ECP says Jacob Coffey and Tabitha Steeley were married on 3 January 1865 in Jackson Co., AL. The ECP does also name "John" as a brother of Jacob but offers no other information.

Birth dates & locations from the 1860 census for Scottsboro, Jackson, AL reveals a great deal about the origins of the Steeley family. Most were born in KY, they passed through TN, and were in AL by 1857. There is a lot of "Steeley" info on Ancestry, but it's complicated and I can't easily tie things together. I found specific death dates for two of Maggie's brothers, and I've indicated them above in **GREEN**. (William, Ona/Oner and Maggie are found in the 1900 Jackson County census living with their widowed mother Nellie.)

From Trudi: There is also a Maggie Coffey in the 1880 Jackson County Census along with a James Coffey, a Jane Coffee, a Jesse Coffee and a Martha Coffeeso someone said this is the line and this goes to James J Coffey and Sarah Jane Hughey. Then in the Alabama US Death and Burials Index it list Maggie Bell Harbin born 1877 dies 11 May 1966 In Huntsville, Alabama....parents were James Coffey and Jean Hewey.

From Fred: I do also recognize the family you found in the 1880 Jackson County Census. And I think it's the same family you found in 1900, adding sons James (1884) and David (1889). And I see that James William Coffey from Jackson County born 15 Sep 1884 registered for the WWI draft with nearest relative "Sadie". And he was in the 1920 census with wife Sadie. I think they all connect back to Edward like 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) Rev. James Coffey (4 Jul 1729 - 1786) & Elizabeth Cleveland (Feb 1727 - BET 1826 AND 1827)
- (4) Eli Coffey (1 Mar 1764 - 5 Sep 1847) & Hannah Allen (ca 1762 - Aug 1849)
- (5) Benjamin? Coffey (1793 -) & Unknown
- (6) James Andrew Coffey (1821 -) & Elizabeth Jane Merrick
- (7) James J Coffey (Jul 1844 - aft 1910) & Sarah Jane Hughey
- (8) Jesse Elias Coffey (15 Sep 1876 - 1 May 1952) & Tabiatha Ellen Manning (Jul 1874 - 12 Sep 1962)
- (8) Martha Coffey (abt 1877)**
- (8) Maggie Coffey (abt 1879)**
- (8) James William Coffey (15 Sep 1884 -) & Sadie**
- (8) David (abt 1889)**

We have written about these Jackson County Alabama Coffeys before in our newsletters. The stories are complicated and confusing, but you might want to read the following articles about them: They are introduced in Newsletter 145-8,9,10,11. They are discussed again in 156-6,7,8. And again in 157-6. Jack Coffee did not believe that any beyond the first four generations in the above genealogy met his standards to put in the ECP. My view is that the circumstantial evidence is fairly convincing.

So it appears there were two “Maggie Coffey” in Jackson County, born within 2 years of each other (1879-1881) and they are not related to each other. However, Alice Adair said her “92 year old Aunt” remembered that Maggie had siblings “Bill, Dave & Jess”. Those names are consistent with the latter genealogy above, and consistent with the Alabama death index. And the dates in Maggie’s Findagrave.com entry (#54284123 for “Maggie Bell “Donie” Coffee Harbin”) entry are probably correct.

Trudi: I found Jesse Elias Coffey obituary in The Huntsville Times (Huntsville AL) for 2 May 1952. It said “*He is survived by three sons, Joe Coffey, S. O. Coffey and W. F. Coffee, all of Huntsville; one daughter, Mrs. Maude Dawson of Toney, one brother J. W. Coffey of Huntsville, one sister, Mrs. Dora Harbin of Dallas, Texas; 16 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren.*” Maggie’s nickname was “Donie”, so this is conclusive. We have found the correct Maggie!

Fred: Trudi also found Maggie’s Social Security Death Index showing “*Maggie C Harbin, Alabama, residence Huntsville post code 35801, age 86, born 8 Mar 1880, death 15 May 1966.*” However: in the 1880 census Maggie is in the household of James & Jane Coffey with children Jesse (4), Martha (3) & Maggie, and Maggie is reported as age 1. The 1880 census began on 1 June 1880 and was to report the status on that date. The enumerator said he did it on 11 June. The same enumerator in other places reported very young children ages as a fraction, and if Maggie was actually born on 8 Mar 1880 he would have said “1/12”. But he wrote “1”. So was Maggie born “8 Mar 1879” (per census taker and per Findagrave) or “8 Mar 1880” (per Social Security)? We’re inclined to believe the people who actually saw or knew Maggie – the census taker and her burial family.

Trudi: Here’s the updated information from my Ancestry.com page for Maggie and John. Their children are added to show the overall family:

- (8) Maggie Bell “Donia” Coffey (8 Mar 1879 - 11 May 1966) & John Newton Harbin (1 Aug 1878 - 4 May 1935)
- (9) Jessie Maud Harbin (4 Jun 1899 - 4 Mar 1997) & William Oscar Jenkins
- (9) James William McKinley Harbin (18 Oct 1901 - 27 Mar 1967) & Ruthie Jane Jenkins
- (9) Bessie Jane Harbin (3 Apr 1904 - 2 May 1996) & Charles David Bradford
- (9) Earnest Howard Harbin (26 Oct 1907 - 19 Jul 1996) & Jimmie Della Helton
- (9) Mary Ellen Harbin (1914 -)
- (9) Ruby Louise Harbin (14 Mar 1921 - 22 Aug 1978)
- (9) Jim M Harbin (abt 1924 -)

Fred: Re The “Other Maggie”: We are satisfied that the “Maggie” with a Steeley mother is a DIFFERENT person and also quite real, but we haven’t yet been able to determine any details of her life. Do any of our readers have more information?

Some comments on Alice Adair’s note for this “Coffee/Steely” Maggie: Alice refers to a “John Brinton Coffey” who supposedly married Nellie Steeley. I can see a lot of genealogies on Ancestry that show this name, but NONE of them offer a citation confirming a middle name “Brinton” – they are just copying each other! The 1870 census clearly shows his name as “John R Coffey”. Alice does cite an aunt who remembers her Maggie had siblings “Bill, Dave & Jess”. That is within the living memory of a real person and thus quite plausible. But those names are more consistent with Trudi’s final conclusion. (Various census reports name this John’s sons as James, William, David, Ona, George and Maggie, there is NO JESS. See Jackson County Alabama census: John is found in 1850 and 1860 census as a child, 1870 and 1880 as an adult with children, and in 1900 widow Nellie is present with 4 sons plus Maggie.)

TURNBOW? FAMILY:

(Bonnie got a request to identify the picture below. Does anyone recognize these people? Here is the beginning genealogy.)

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca 1670 - ca 20 Nov 1716) & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) Edward Coffey JR. (ca 1701 - aft 1774) & Unknown???
- (3) Chesley Coffey Jr??? (19 Nov 1755 - 18 Sep 1818) & Margaret Baldwin
- (4) Felicia Coffey (3 Mar 1787 - 18 May 1865) & James Turnbow Sr. (22 Mar 1780 - 10 Aug 1826)
- (5) James Coffee Turnbow (13 Feb 1820 - 14 Jun 1870) & Eliza Onstott (1828 - 15 Jan 1868)



Jackie Hunter Rowbotham asked a question

July 12 at 10:10 PM ·

The back of this picture says "The Turnbow Family". The lady who has the picture and myself are related to the James Coffee Turnbo family who lived in Taney County, MO. He is buried in the Riddle Cemetery in Marion County Arkansas, near Protem, MO. We are unsure if this is the James Coffee Turnbo family or another relative. Can anyone help us? Please share any Turnbo family photos from this area.



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19 Answers 31 Shares

KERMON STORY – FINDING A NEW FAMILY:

By Fred Coffey (FredCoffey@aol.com) and Pamela Kermon

Readers may remember that there has been previous discussion of the family of David and Pamela Kermon:

Newsletter 154-6 (Issue #154, page 6) reported that David's y-DNA proved that David's male family line was an Edward Group "Coffey" match. Pam explained that David was born at Wheelus air base in what is now Libya, and the family suspected that his biological father was a James Coffey.

Newsletter 155-7,8 continued the discussion, and introduced a suspect Coffey family that had a presence at Wheelus at the right time.

Newsletter 157-8,9,10,11 analyzed the suspect family. They were new to us, and we are now calling that family the "Maryland Group" and made them part of our overall Coffey database. But DNA proved they were NOT related to Edward, and therefore could NOT be connected to David Kermon's family.

But Pamela is not a person who gives up easily. David had done autosomal testing on FTDNA. That test has the potential to identify close cousins, but there were no matches. David then submitted a DNA sample to 23andMe, and that result identified an MD who was a FIRST COUSIN with the Coffey surname. Hey, if you KNOW somebody is your 1st cousin, you KNOW you've found the right family!

Pam dove into military records, and quickly found a service report for James Arthur Coffey, a 2nd Lieutenant enlisted 1954-1970 who was an airplane load supervisor in Tripoli Libya!

From Pamela: Hello Fred,

A lot has happened since our last email. I submitted connection requests thru 23andMe and David's 1st cousin Art Coffey (Thoracic Surgeon) was the first to respond. I had a feeling that the Dr in him would be curious and that's exactly what he said when he talked to David. They had a good chat. David was born in 1957 and Art in 1960 and they both share daughters the same age, 20 & 27yrs. This gave them something in common to talk about. Next call was from David's 1/2 brother Andy. He was totally excited to learn he has a 1/2 big brother. They chatted for a long time and have been sending texts and pictures back and forth since his initial call. We have plans to visit in Evansville, Indiana over the Labor Day holiday weekend and will be meeting both 1/2 brothers, Andy & Jimmy. David is excited and a little nervous at the same time.

Our oldest daughter lives in St Louis, Missouri, so we are out that way at least once or twice a year. We enjoy the drive, even though it is a bit long. However, we just split the trip into 2 days travel going and 2 days travel back and it's not so bad. We like to take our 2 dogs when we travel. Stopping in Evansville, is not too far out of the way, so all is working out great!!

I also thought you might enjoy seeing a small collage picture I put together. You can see how David and his bio father appear to hold their mouth the same way. His two 1/2 brothers are on the left and one newer picture of David at the top. On the bottom is a younger picture of his brother Jimmy and another picture of David as a young boy. They really look similar side by side:



Fred: The tree you prepared is far too detailed to include here. But here is my own version:

- (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) Archelaus Coffey (ca 1755 - BET 1783 AND 1784) & Eleanor Wade (ca 1755 -)
- (5) James M. Coffey (20 Jul 1776 - 7 Jan 1849) & Frances Lane (22 Jun 1785 - 24 Oct 1859)
- (6) James Wesley Coffey (15 May 1818 - 5 Aug 1882) & Mary E. M. Kane (11 Jan 1839 - 11 Jun 1916)
- (7) Lillian R. Coffey (21 Oct 1873 - 4 Jul 1947) & Arminda F. Braden (14 Dec 1875 - 12 Feb 1947)
- (8) Arthur Ralph Coffey (11 Dec 1905 - 9 Nov 1988) & Ruth Isabell Jones (30 Sep 1909 - 5 Jan 1997)
- (9) William "Bill" Rex Coffey
- (10) Arthur "Art" Charles Coffey (**FIRST COUSIN DNA MATCH TO DAVID KERMON**)
- (9) James "**Jim**" Arthur Coffey (1935 - 2010) & ("Pat" Burris Kermon)
- (10) Samuel David "**David**" Kermon (5 Feb 1957)
- (9) James "**Jim**" Arthur Coffey (1935 - 2010) & Penelope "Penny" Martin
- (10) James "**Jimmy**" Wesley Coffey (1 May 1961 -)
- (10) Andrew "**Andy**" Coffey (27 Jul 1964 -)

You, or your new-found family, may want to look into Jack Coffee's Edward Coffey Project (ECP) for detailed documentation on the early generations. The generations found in the ECP are highlighted in **blue** above. (See the article below about the ECP.)

And I've flagged in **red** the connections you found, and those shown in your collage above.

Pamela: Since we have made contact with the family and I have verified that David's bio-father was not married, at the time David's mother and bio father met, I see no reason to change any info. You can use whatever information you wish in the September newsletter.

I so appreciate all your advice and we look forward to a new adventure with David's newly found family. Best regards, Be well and stay safe! 😊 *Pam and David Kermon*

Fred: We have a large y-DNA project, and David Kermon's genealogy and data have been entered there. (David's "new family" male Coffey members would expect to have y-DNA results essentially identical to David's. They may be interested in the data and comparisons with other Coffey families.)

The "Coffey Roadmap" (see link at the end of this newsletter) reports two special categories that are consistent with descent from Edward Coffey. One group is men who have the Coffey surname that they got from Edward but have y-DNA from different surnames. The other group is men who have Edward's y-DNA but have a different surname. David Kermon is in this latter group. You can click here to see [Genealogy Summary](#) – you will find David on Page 4 for the "Edward Connections" group. And you can click on [Data Summary](#) – to see David's y-DNA detail on Page 4 (with continuation on Page 10).

If one of David's "new family" Coffey males were to submit a y-DNA sample and join our project, they could expect to be placed on Page 1 for each report along with other descendants of Edward's son John.

ANOTHER ADOPTION STORY WITH COFFEY CONNECTIONS:

By Larry Dean Goldsmith

On November 19, 1960, I was born in Sioux Falls, SD to parents that I never got to know. Somewhere around March of 1961 I was adopted and grew up near a small town in northwestern South Dakota called Morrystown. My adoptive parents were good people, and I grew up on a farm and ranch where we grew small grains and raised cattle, hogs, a few sheep from time to time, lots of chickens every year, and grew a significant part of what we ate. I learned to work, how to appreciate nature, and many things that have served me well over the years. One of the most important things has proven to be how to be conservative with what I have and how to save for my future although I didn't seem to realize that for a number of years following high school.

One is born, I suppose, with a natural curiosity about their genealogy and I was no different. My adoptive parents never withheld the fact that I, and my sister, were both adopted. There was little, if anything, that could be done in respect to learning more about my biological family since DNA testing was unheard of years back and science was still learning the intricacies that go along with such knowledge. Even now I have a quite limited understanding of exactly how such a small thing can weave such detailed stories, but I have come to appreciate that it does.

In February of 2019 my older daughter called me one night to visit. As the conversation went on she explained that her husband had bought her a DNA test kit for Christmas 2017 and she had sent it in but it yielded no real results.....until.....2019. One night while checking her account a new match appeared that suggested an uncle who had recently joined the website. After studying the possible link, she decided to send an email carefully explaining that he had shown up as a possible uncle and asking if he had any idea if there had been an older brother given up for adoption.

To her surprise he replied that yes, he was aware of such a child before his birth in Fargo, ND in 1962. He also explained that he was followed by 4 girls spread out over the next 8 years and born at various places between Fargo and Portland, OR. In addition he knew of another girl, older than me, that was given up for adoption in Omaha by our mother prior to being with our father. He believes there to be at least 3, and possibly 4, half siblings that our father had from previous relationships, but he did not know where any of those half-siblings are today.

My daughter was rather nervous about relating any of this to me and, in fact, asked if I was interested in knowing any of this prior to providing me the details above. As I noted earlier, I have always had a curiosity about my biological family, so I wanted to know what she had learned even though it was a lot to digest in a very short amount of time. She gave me the telephone number of my brother and said he would enjoy talking if I felt up to it but that he certainly understood that this must be a bit overwhelming for me. After all, he and my sisters knew of my existence but, until that moment, I was not aware that any of them existed. I went from wondering if I had been an only child to learning that I was the oldest of 6 siblings in only moments.

I admit that it took me a few weeks to sort this all out in my head, study the photos and data that my daughter forwarded on to me, and decide when I was ready to have a conversation with the brother I never knew I had. Eventually I decided I was ready and I made the call. Even now it is hard to describe that first conversation. It seemed as though we had known each other all our lives. The conversation flowed freely, and we found that we had many commonalities. Even though we had not yet met I found that we both dress very similarly, we both have full facial hair, we are both balding, we both had motorcycles, we utilize many of the same sayings, and we have very similar beliefs.

On the other side of that coin I also learned that our lives as children had been so much different due to our upbringings. My biological father struggled with alcoholism and so my siblings had been in and out of foster care numerous times over the years. They struggled at times to survive, and my brother had actually become emancipated at age 16. Two of the sisters, both now deceased, had also struggled with their own issues of addiction and, like our father, succumbed to that addiction at an early age. I was saddened to know that I would never be able to meet them and likewise saddened to learn that our mother had passed in 2012 before I knew of her existence. The conversation was good and enjoyable for both of us, and we continue those conversations every few weeks even now.

The next phase of this situation was telling my adoptive parents about all of this and hoping that they would be okay with it all. They were actually excellent about the news and were thrilled that I was able to learn all of this before it was too late to meet any of my siblings. My adoptive father is 98 and my mother is 90, both in reasonably good health and living independently. (My brother came to South Dakota the fall of 2019 to visit and my mom insisted that he come to lunch. He was rather nervous but my mother immediately walked up, hugged him and welcomed him which put him at ease. When we left that afternoon he said "There's no doubt that you got the best deal of any of us siblings". I couldn't agree more.)

My daughter and I made plans to travel to Portland to meet the rest of the siblings in May of 2019. Although two of my sisters were gone, I was able to meet the spouses of the two sisters who had died years earlier and that was a joy to me as well. I was able to visit the gravesite of our parents at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland as well as the gravesites of the two sisters that had passed. It was an enjoyable time and I am glad we were able to spend that time together. It became even more important when the older of the sisters passed away unexpectedly in 2021 from an apparent stroke/cardiac event.

My brother and I have been able to spend a bit of time together each of the last several years with him visiting me in Arizona this past fall while I was there tending to my lawn and checking on the house. It's always amazing to me how much we have to talk about when one considers that we never knew each other growing up. It's been an interesting and rewarding experience

for me and, while I certainly recognize that not every adoptive story has such a positive ending, I am grateful this one did. The half sister in Omaha was contacted and has chosen not to be a part of our family and we all respect that choice. I would make contact with the other half siblings if I had any idea how to do so but perhaps that will happen in time or perhaps it will not. Either way I am happy to have discovered the family I now have in addition to the one I've always known.

Through the help of Fred Coffey and Timothy Peterman I was able to learn a great deal more about my biological lineage. My father was Wayne Wilmoth and my mother was Barbara Jean Highland. Wayne's father was Dwight Wilmoth and was married to Nellie Marie Coffey. Thus I arrived at the kinship of the Coffey family.

Larry Dean Goldsmith

From Fred: Hello Larry, this is your double 3C1R Fred Coffey. Here's your line of descent from Edward. Most of this was already in our database, I just added entries (9) and (10) based on your note above:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca 1670 - ca 20 Nov 1716) & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
 - (2) Edward Coffey JR. (ca 1701 - aft 1774) & Unknown???
 - (3) Salathiel Coffey (BET 1750 AND 1755 - 28 Jul 1784) & Elizabeth Gore
 - (4) Elias Coffey (8 May 1775 - 18 Jul 1833) & Mary Coffey (7 Dec 1782 -)
 - (5) Newton Eli Coffey (2 May 1827 - 14 Jan 1890) & Martha Louise Vermillion (4 May 1827 - 27 Mar 1904)
 - (6) Benjamin Coe Coffey (24 Nov 1845 - 16 May 1927) & Lucy Barbre (5 May 1846 - 30 Dec 1887)
 - (7) Emery Ellis Coffey (10 Feb 1872 - 10 Jan 1948) & Alice Bertha Chadwick (4 Oct 1871 - 3 Jul 1957)
 - (8) Nellie Marie Coffey (9 Oct 1902 - 11 Feb 1980) & Dwight P. Wilmoth (15 Oct 1899 - 9 Jul 1981)
 - (9) Wayne Wilmoth (1925 - 1982)
 - (10) Larry D Goldsmith
- (3) Nathan Coffey (1760 - 1823) & Mary Saunders
 - (4) Mary Coffey (7 Dec 1782 -) & Elias Coffey (8 May 1775 - 18 Jul 1833)
 - (5) Newton Eli Coffey (2 May 1827 - 14 Jan 1890) & Martha Louise Vermillion (4 May 1827 - 27 Mar 1904)
 - (6) Benjamin Coe Coffey (24 Nov 1845 - 16 May 1927) & Lucy Barbre (5 May 1846 - 30 Dec 1887)
 - (7) Emery Ellis Coffey (10 Feb 1872 - 10 Jan 1948) & Alice Bertha Chadwick (4 Oct 1871 - 3 Jul 1957)
 - (8) Nellie Marie Coffey (9 Oct 1902 - 11 Feb 1980) & Dwight P. Wilmoth (15 Oct 1899 - 9 Jul 1981)
 - (9) Wayne Wilmoth (1925 - 1982)
 - (10) Larry D Goldsmith

You have Coffey ancestry, but you won't appear in my Coffey y-DNA project because that strictly follows the male line. Your male line is "Wilmoth".

From Tim: Fred and I have been working together on DNA testing for the Coffey surname project; Fred handles the y-DNA part, while I handle the autosomal part. I have wanted another descendant of Emery E. Coffey to participate in my project.

Larry, you overlap many of my autosomal participants on a number of chromosomes; most segments are shared with other descendants of Benjamin Coe Coffey; a few are shared with Fred's aunt, Dorothy (Coffey) Smith; a few are shared with participants beyond, such as Meldon Coffey and Marshall E. Martin, who are descended from uncles of Benjamin Coe Coffey; one segment is shared with Kathleen Huddleston, who is a distant cousin related through the Weeks family. Lucy Barbre's mother was Susan Weeks.

EDWARD COFFEY PROJECT (ECP) NOW ONLINE:

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

Chris and I have been working together to make Jack Coffee's "ECP" freely available to all of the "Coffey Cousins" who descend from Edward. And that is now ready, and you can access it by clicking on this link:

[ECPACCESS](#)

I think most readers are already aware of the existence of the ECP. But only those who have previously ordered a copy from Jack have seen the whole package. To give readers an overview of what is available, I'm going to use the following ancestry to demonstrate what can now easily be found:

- (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) Archelaus Coffey (ca 1755 - BET 1783 AND 1784) & Eleanor Wade (ca 1755 -)
- (5) James M. Coffey (20 Jul 1776 - 7 Jan 1849) & Frances Lane (22 Jun 1785 - 24 Oct 1859)
- (6) James Wesley Coffey (15 May 1818 - 5 Aug 1882) & Mary E. M. Kane (11 Jan 1839 - 11 Jun 1916)
- (7) Lillian R. Coffey (21 Oct 1873 - 4 Jul 1947) & Arminda F. Braden (14 Dec 1875 - 12 Feb 1947)

The ECP "access" package is focused on searching for names, and then helping the reader retrieve information about the people named. There are almost 50,000 names, and that powerful computer on your desk can easily search through them all in a few seconds!

Let's start by taking a first look at the way Jack presents his ECP: Within the "access" link, there is a sub-link to the actual ECP. For a quick view, click here on the link "[ECPLite](#)" and begin exploring. When ECP comes up, click on the blue "Descendants of Edward Coffey". This takes you to the home page for the patriarch "Edward". There is extended discussion of Edward there, and the small blue numbers will link to Jack's information sources. Scroll on down toward the bottom of this page, and you will see larger blue names of Edward's children.

Click on the name of his son "John", and you will instantly move to "John's page". Keep on following that down page by page for each of the names in the above genealogy, and eventually you will get to (7) "Lillian's page". And you've now explored the full path through the ECP all the way down to Lillian. And there are of course many thousands of other paths for other people descending from Edward.

Before you leave Lillian, note again the various "sources" Jack offers for his information about Lillian. Click on any one of these blue numbers and a discussion of the source will be called up. (Be patient, the sources are a massive database and it may take a minute to appear.)

Next go back to the ECPACCESS and we'll see what other clever things can be found. Read the discussion, and it will talk about searching through names found in some 20,000 "backup files" saved by Jack. You might try searching for a few of your own ancestors? (I tried searching for my father "Coffey, Leo N", and found his photograph was on file! Or you might try searching for "Coffee, Jack" just to see what Jack Coffee recorded about himself and his family.)

But there's another powerful tool available. Let's suppose our researcher above only knew about the (7) Lillian Coffey who married Arminda Braden. Without knowing any more, can he determine if his Lillian is in the ECP? The ECP does offer a list of surnames that you can click on. But there are 10,503 people with the Coffey surname, and a user would have to scroll through many pages to find "Lillian". (A smart researcher might instead look for his wife "Braden, Arminda" – there are only two of those!)

But we now offer another powerful tool that can help find “Lillian” more directly. The ECPACCESS contains a sub-link to an “[ECPNAMES](#)” search tool. It catalogs, in an easily searched file, EVERY name found ANYWHERE in the ECP. Click here on blue link ECPNAMES, and tell it to search for “Coffey, Lillian”. You will find there are 19 “Coffey” people with the first name “Lillian” in the list, but there is only one “Lillian R”.

But now comes the real magic: The blue labels on the right side of the ECP names page, labeled “...Narrative” are hyperlinks. If you click on that blue hyperlink, it will instantly call up the ECP and jump to the page where “Coffey, Lillian” is to be found. You can start reading about him (yes, this Lillian is a male name, but some of the other Lillians are female). From there you can then click upward from the top of each page until you work your way BACK to Edward. You’ve once again discovered the whole genealogy!

An interesting bit of trivia: If you search for “Coffey, James” it will report there are 359 Coffey men with the first name “James” in the ECP! Edward’s descendants loved the name “James”! (You may want to add a middle name to your search or just study the dates.)

We hope you will find the “Online ECP” to be useful. Play with it.

OUR BIG EXTENDED DEEP ANCESTRY FAMILY:

By Fred Coffey (FredCoffey@aol.com)

In some of our previous newsletter articles, we have talked about our extended family and our deep origins. Our MALE-LINE connected ancestry is now known to include “Boyter, Coffey, Coffee, Keogh, Keough, Kehoe, Keay, Kaho, Cahow, Kayhow, Kayhowe, and Howe”.

And I’m not talking about people who have married into Coffey lines, or otherwise connected in recent generations within America. These are all family groups with old established Irish genealogy. “Coffey” is just one name that evolved out of our deep connected ancestry.

The last time I wrote (See Newsletter Issue 153-3,4) I speculated that our Coffey/Coffee origins “...go back several hundred years and seem to lead to the Keogh lines in County Wexford, Ireland.”

We started DNA analysis 20 years ago with “12-marker” y-DNA tests on Coffey lines. We moved up gradually to 111-marker tests. We are now looking at tests with 500 or 700 markers. These are called “Big Y” tests, and we now have 11 “Big Y” tested men who are clearly “cousins”. And this kind of detail allows us to better see the SEQUENCE of their match origins.

The 11 Big Y men, plus all the other tested males, do have a single grand MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) somewhere back in time. The largest number of the tested lines had some variation on the “Keogh” name, so I previously jumped to the conclusion that we all probably descended from someone in the Keogh groups back in County Wexford, Ireland.

Some of you have seen a paper I wrote about our “deep ancestry”. That paper now needs serious updating to reflect my current assessment of the “Big Y” implications. I won’t try to do the update here, but I’ll just note some of my preliminary conclusions:

- (1) I no longer believe our Coffey/Coffee lines descend FROM any of the Keogh lines in the Big-Y. Instead, we all descend from a common “Grand MRCA” (Most Recent Common Ancestor) that pre-dates any of the Coffey or Keogh group details.

- (2) We don't know the surname for this Grand MRCA, but it actually could have also been "Keogh". Or in theory even "Coffey". And I think our shared origins are still likely linked to County Wexford.
- (3) There is, however, a separate Big Y "Coffey" line that DOES descend from the Keogh. And he is clearly NOT from our Edward or Peter lines. This suggests that Coffey/Keogh names may have been present and interacting several hundred years ago.
- (4) Within our Coffey/Coffee, we already believed that the "Peter" group came first, and the "Edward" group evolved from the Peter line before leaving Ireland. The Big Y test confirms this is almost certainly so.
- (5) We've added a new surname to our "grand family" with a Big Y test on Mr. Eugene Boyter. As was the case for our Edward and Peter groups, the Boyter family genealogy is only known within the USA, with residence in Tennessee, Alabama, Texas and Louisiana. We have no idea what surname their immigrant ancestor was using before he left Ireland. But they are genetically most closely connected to the Keogh lines, and they are the most ancient of that group. They are not the direct origin of our Edward and Peter lines.
- (6) The NEWEST group within the Keogh lines are two men with the Howe name. Their two family lines arrived separately and settled in Maine (but are suspected to have been fairly close cousins before their arrival). We think it probable that their "Howe" name evolved gradually, perhaps in a sequence order like "Keogh >> Kehoe >> Kaho >> Cahow >> Kayhow >> Kayhowe >> Howe"?

There are lots of mysteries within this "big family". Perhaps over time additional testing will begin to better establish the connections. And I still believe our "Grand MRCA" lived somewhere between 500 and 700 years ago and most likely in Wexford.

PRESERVING GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH FOR POSTERITY:

By Fred Coffey (FredCoffey@aol.com)

Jack Coffee did a truly fantastic job creating his Edward Coffey Project (ECP), and the ECP is a wonderfully well organized and documented database. But Jack also had a HUGE amount of backup information, that is potentially very useful to Coffey genealogists. Jack kept nearly 20,000 files of backup information, plus a "Blog" with additional information. Jack, of course, knew what was there and how to find things therein. But from the perspective of an outsider finding anything therein was nearly impossible.

I have been working with Chris Coffee, son of Jack Coffee, to make the ECP readily available, and to make the huge amount of backup data in Jack's ECP more searchable and retrievable. I have now combined this as a part of my "Coffey Roadmap" project, and I'm quite pleased with my success.

Bonnie Culley also has also been active for many, many years in gathering and preserving historic information. She has always brought a stack of notebooks to the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse annual meetings. And she was long the managing director of the Newsletter publications. With her help, plus the help of others, I have also captured most her information in the "Coffey Roadmap", and I'm also pleased with that success.

But working on the material for Jack and Bonnie has got me thinking about preserving my own massive Roadmap. This now contains tens of thousands of pages of wonderful information linked to thousands of names. I know where it all is and know how to work with it. And its size is growing significantly as I roll things like the ECP into it. But I'm the ONLY ONE who knows where everything is and how it works! And I'm almost 80 years old and thinking I might only have maybe another 10 years to keep things in working order. If that much!

Like Jack, I have a son (Bryan) who is technically the owner of the web site I am using. But he has only a mild interest in genealogy outside of our immediate family. If I were to disappear, he

would probably agree to let the Roadmap continue to run, but would never agree to maintain it and develop it farther!

I do tend to publish hard paper “notebooks” containing writeups of our immediate family genealogy. “Paper” has a long lifespan, and those books may be sufficient to cover and preserve the interests of my children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, etc. But my “Coffey Roadmap” goes WAY beyond that, covering anything involving the name “Coffey”. And all this is totally “electronic” and quite vulnerable to technical obsolescence.

I hereby resolve to put some serious thought into how to organize and preserve my resources in a way that they could easily be understood and maintained by someone in the future. But by whom? Also I’m not the only one with data preservation problems. And none of us are getting any younger. Let me ramble on about a few problem areas:

Old People Problem: There have in recent years been three people particularly active in preserving and presenting “Coffey Cousins” information. Jack Coffee is now gone. Bonnie Culley and Fred Coffey are in or approaching the “80+” age category. We really need to find a few younger people to pick up the reins when the old timers are all gone! Anybody got ideas how to make this happen?

Jack Coffee Legacy:

Jack is now gone. Is there anyone who can pick up where he left off, and continue to develop the “Edward Coffey Project”? I have done a bit above by capturing the results of his ECP. But I have no ability to actually pick up the ECP and continue its development.

Jack used “RootsMagic” as his primary software to create his Edward Coffey Project (ECP), and this was a VERY large database when he produced his final version in 2020. Output from this produced the published version of the ECP. But I would never attempt to use RootsMagic to rework or enhance what Jack has done. Jack’s son Chris now owns RootsMagic database, and I want nothing to do with it!

Bonnie Culley Legacy:

Bonnie is another Coffey research old-timer. She goes way back in terms of editing and publishing the Newsletters. And she used to come to Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse Conventions carrying a huge stack of notebooks with information to share with others.

With help from Bonnie I have captured the contents all of the newsletters and the contents of most of her notebooks. They are all available online and are quite searchable. But now they are my responsibility.

One thing that has not been published anywhere is our distribution list for the newsletters. This list originated with Bonnie many years ago, but I have kept it private to protect the subscribers from unwanted email. Can anyone identify a responsible successor to whom I can give a backup copy?

Others: There are several younger people who have recently taken an interest in the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse. I’m not sure if any of them are interested in expanded roles. **Tim Peterman** is active as co-administrator of the Coffey DNA Project, with special interest is in autosomal DNA testing. Some articles about his work have appeared in the Newsletter over the years. **Diana Holder** has been working to organize the next convention. **Terri Stern** often writes

about her Coffey line connections. There are others who have taken a selective active interest in various topics over the last year or two, such as **Jessie Coffey** in the last newsletter. Anyone ready to volunteer for an additional active role?

Fred: I've made a reservation at the convention hotel for myself and my wife Jane, so if there are no glitches in our plans or the convention plans, we'll be there. (I also have a niece living in a suburb of St. Louis, so will try to convince her and her husband to join us, at least for the banquet.)

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

(Memo: This "Roadmap" will be updated once this newsletter is published.