

# Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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## **President's Message**

Greetings Coffey Cousins:

The pandemic continues and in many areas of the country the numbers of infected increase along with the death toll. With this in mind, I hope the infection rate does not prevent the cousins from meeting in Missouri, April of 2022. Please make your reservations as indicated in the newsletter.

If you have not been vaccinated, please consider doing so. I would like to see as many cousins as possible in Missouri. Please be safe in your travels and endeavors.

*Larry Coffey*

President CCC

[larrycoffey2@hotmail.com](mailto:larrycoffey2@hotmail.com)

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

## **Convention Note from Diana & Bill**

[wjdr@charter.net](mailto: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. (See Newsletter 153-2 for more discussion and pictures.)

**PRE-CONVENTION COMMUNICATION: Message to Readers from Fred:** We normally communicate about the Convention in these newsletters, but Covid has introduced extra uncertainty this year. And the next newsletter will not come out until late March, which may be too close to the convention date to help in making firm plans. We propose to organize an EMAIL NOTIFICATION LIST so we can send out direct email updates to likely participants in January, February and/or early March. If you are DEFINITELY **NOT** going to attend the Convention, no action is required.

Otherwise, please send a one-sentence email to me ([FredCoffey@aol.com](mailto:FredCoffey@aol.com)) indicating your degree of interest and giving names of people who will likely attend. (Alternatively, if you are one of the people who receive email notifications when this newsletter is released, just click "Reply" and summarize your plans.) I am the only one who can see such "reply" notes.

I will pass the names on to Diana and Bill to assist them in planning. And I will coordinate sending direct email updates in January, February or early March, updating on plans and expected attendance. Again, you can simply reply to those notes if your plans change.

I strongly recommend you go ahead and make hotel reservations now, recognizing that you can cancel later if necessary."

### **Editor's Comments**

Dear Cousins,

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas. Now is the time to reflect on what we have left undone in 2021. Have you made any progress in your genealogy lines last year? Since we are looking at a new year and winter months, why don't you set down and look through what you have found so far to see what you might want to look more closely at. I did that recently and have a lot of good possibilities. Some I won't be able to do until spring when I can get out of the house but some can be done on the computer.

I made a book of 'direct lineage' for my children for Christmas and when I got into some of my old books, I was surprised at the number of lines that I had forgotten about. Now I have plenty to keep me busy while the snow falls. OH! And when you find something of interest, be sure to share it with us by letting me or Fred Coffey know.

Please don't forget to make your reservations for the Coffey Convention. Diana has a really good program planned for us. I have been to the Daniel Boone home but it was probably 40 years or more, ago. The Coffeys and Boone's are mixed a number of times in the past. I will be making reservations for myself and my children in January. If anything changes that I can't go, I can always cancel but of course, I am not expecting that. Just a reminder that it would help Diana, if you would make your reservations early. She can plan better. I have been there and know that it is hard to plan anything when you have no idea how many are coming.

As always, your cousin,

*Bonnie Culley*

[bculey@embarqmail.com](mailto:bculey@embarqmail.com)

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**WE GET MAIL:**

Questions from "Sally (Freeman) Parkhurst 1965- " (sallyparkhurst@cox.net)

Hi Fred,

This is how I believe I'm related to the Coffey's:

Sally (Freeman) Parkhurst 1965- (me)  
Marjorie (Fitzgerald) Hall, Freeman, Moore 1932- (Yes, she was married three times) (My mother)  
Moses Doskey Fitzgerald 1896-1979 (my grandfather)  
Robert Lee Fitzgerald 1866-1941 (my great grandfather) (You can guess who he was named after)  
Mary Ann (Coffey) Fitzgerald 1827-? not sure about dates (my great, great grandmother)  
Reuben Coffey 1777-1845

**From Fred:** Part of your family is in Jack Coffee's ECP (Edward Coffey Project). Your three oldest ancestors are mentioned in the ECP, but Jack is fuzzy about connections and dates. He has data on Reuben Coffey, on a Mary Coffey who married a Fitzgerald, and who had a son Robert Lee Fitzgerald. From there on down (up?) the names are new to us, but undoubtedly correct.

You offered some interesting mysteries and stories, as follows. Some of our newsletter readers may have thoughts!

**From Sally:**

Much of my research came from several people in my family, an older generation who used court documents and LDS microfiche to confirm what information had been passed down. My Grandmother, Margaret DeMasters Fitzgerald, who was born in the late 1800's, and her mother-in-law, Ella Wise Dodd Fitzgerald, who was born in 1872, were a tremendous source of general information and wonderful stories. Unfortunately, the Coffey line was not one that was investigated much. (Lately I have been using My Heritage to go beyond their research, but need to be more careful of sources) Although I do have one good story:

My grandmother's aunt, Georgie Campbell, married a man named Charles Franklin Coffey (1878-1966). He owned a store (I believe in Woodson, Virginia). A customer challenged his bill and asked Uncle Charley if he would like to "step outside" and settle it. They dueled. Uncle Charley left the man dead in the street and that was the end of that. My Aunt Georgie never called her husband by his first name and always referred to him as "Mr. Coffey." After having many children together, she divorced him and moved to Washington D.C. and opened a

boarding house. I don't believe that Charley Coffey was closely related to the line I'm descended from, but I could be wrong.

My GG grandmother, Mary Alice Anderson Dodd (Granny Dodd,) who was born out of wedlock, was not descended from the Coffey's, but one of her daughters, Mildred, did marry a Coffey. I'm not sure what his first name was, but those descendants may be interested in this. The story that came down from Granny Dodd's daughter, Ella Wise Dodd Fitzgerald, was this: Her grandmother, Margaret (unknown surname, but probably Anderson) went to live as a housekeeper in the home of an older Italian man (a stone mason) and his wife, who had a very nice brick house. Margaret became pregnant by the master of the house and an elderly couple with the last name of Anderson took her in. They gave her and her baby their last name. The Italian couple's last name sounded something like "Berry." I don't think much of that is true.

Based on my research, I believe that the elderly Andersons were indeed her parents. As to the father of Margaret's child, I think it was her sister's husband. Her sister, Mildred Anderson, married an older man named Thomas Berry. I believe that when her sister started having children, Margaret went to help her and consequently ended up pregnant. The Italian part of the story probably had been conflated with the story of Antonio Gianniny (My 5th great grandfather), whom Granny Dodd' husband had descended from. Antonio came from Tuscany as an indentured servant and eventually ended up as Thomas Jefferson's gardener and vintner. I believe one of his grandsons was a stone mason. Anyway, I would love to know for certain who Granny's Dodd's father was.

On a side note, the DNA analysis done by 23andme shows that I am .2% north African. I have traced that to the side of my family descended from Antonio Gianniny. After reading on your website about Hannibal, I believe that's probably the origin. I was hoping for something a bit more interesting.

#### **From Fred:**

Georgie Campbell and her marriage to Charles Franklin Coffey are part of Jack Coffee's Edward Coffey Project. Also, your "Granny Dodd" is in his database. But your story offers TWO mysteries, that are NOT discussed by Jack: What local excitement was stirred up by the big duel? And who was Granny Dodd's father? Maybe our readers can help?

Mildred Jane Dodd married Henry Joseph Coffey. Mildred's sister Lula had a daughter Bertha who married Delmas Coffey. All these are in the ECP.

You tell a good story, and there are Coffey Connections everywhere!

#### **From Sally:**

Please feel free to use my stories! Other family members may have heard them too, or a version of them. Perhaps they can add some detail. I have another one that the descendants of Uncle Charley Coffey and Aunt Georgie may be interested in. Aunt Georgie's grandmother, Sallie Massie Campbell (1823-1893) was a naughty little girl. Her parents bought a new pair of stockings and shoes for her to wear to church. Not wanting to wait, she put them on and proceeded to romp and mire in the mud outside of her home. The local chimney sweep, Jack, happen to see her having a good time in the mud and promptly informed her parents. She was made to fetch her own switch which was used on her bottom. Sallie bided her time and came up with a vengeance plan. The next time Jack came to sweep their chimney, she built a fire under him and made up a very clever little poem. "I built myself a rousing fire, just to please my own desire, therefor Jack will cough and sneeze, therefor Jack will have no ease." This was told over

and over in my family. My mother, who is 89, knew Aunt Georgie well and this was a favorite topic. I considered writing a children's book about it, but then thought better of it. Probably would not go over very well today.

**WE KNOW WHERE THE HUGH COFFEY LINE CAME FROM!**

By Fred Coffey and Terri Stern

The “Coffey Cousins” have long known about a family line descended from Hugh Coffey, but it has been a mystery where Hugh came from. Terri Stern is the manager of the “Hugh Coffey Project” ([hughcoffeyproject@gmail.com](mailto:hughcoffeyproject@gmail.com)) She writes “*Hugh Coffey is recorded in Augusta County, Virginia as early as 18 March 1746/7 when he was ordered to work on a road from the lower end of the Cowpasture River to Carter's Mill. He died about 1767 and his descendants are known to have lived in the Waxhaw area in Mecklenburg Co NC and Lancaster Co SC.*”

And we have long known about a line of Coffey families who were Presbyterian and living on the Ards Peninsula in Northern Ireland. We worked with Lena McVea, administrator of the Ards DNA Project. See:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/ardsdna/about>

The residents of Ards are fishermen, and they fish the sea between County Down in Northern Ireland and Ayrshire in Scotland. And their Presbyterian faith may be tied to Scotland. Here’s a map of the area:



We have long been interested in getting a DNA test that could tell us if the Coffeys living on Ards matched any of our other known Coffey family lines. We finally got the y-DNA sample we wanted, and the pieces came together! The Hugh Coffey line came from Ards in Northern Ireland!



We're still working out details on genealogy and DNA, but we are convinced the puzzle pieces fit together! Our tested man is Brian Coffey, and his wife Katherine is coordinating his participation. (His birth name was "John", but he prefers to be called "Brian". And John (Brian) has an excellent match to previously tested members of the Hugh Coffey line. Terri and Lena McVey are working to organize the genealogy of Brian. And Terri was already organizing "Big-y" (500 to 700 markers) on her Hugh line, and we have ordered the same for Brian. This may help us look into the deep ancestry of the combined lines.

In our DNA Project, you can see the male line genealogy of the Hugh group at this yellow hyperlink [Genealogy Summary](#) (see page 6). And you can see details on the y-DNA data at link [Data Summary](#) (see page 5).

**MEMO: Another "Brian Coffey"** In Newsletter 139-10,11,12 (June 2016) we reported that we had found a family that we thought might be traced back to the Ards Peninsula, and we tracked down a living descendant in Texas. His name was also "Brian Coffey", and we got his y-DNA test. Then we sat back to wait to see if a resident of Ards might show up and prove the connection.

Now we have the above test on the "Brian Coffey" from Ards, but the y-DNA of these two "Brian Coffey" men is quite different. They are NOT male-line biological relatives! There has been some discussion that there may be more than one Coffey line in the County Down area, so we'll just sit tight and see if a match to "Brian from Texas" at a later date.

Future newsletters should have additional information.

### **JAMES WAIGHTSTILLE (or WIGHTSLL D) COFFEY:**

By Bonnie Culley

This appeared in the Confederate Memorial Friends Association news letter. (I am a life member. Not many of us left!)

"JAMES WAIGHTSTILLE (or WIGHTSLL D) COFFEY grave location F-34 This is in the Confederate Soldier's Home of MO cemetery in Hilgginsville, MO. James Coffey was wounded several times during the course of the Civil War.

"Coffey was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on December 23, 1842, but later moved to North Carolina. At Birth he was given the name Josph. He enlisted as a private under that name in Captain Isaac Avery's Company E, Colonel Charles Fisher's 6th North Carolina State Troops (6th North Carolina Infantry Regiment) on June 20, 1861 at Company Shops (Burlington) North Carolina.

"Coffey fought at First Manassas (Bull Run) and was wounded (shot through the elbow) at the Battle of Seven Pines. He was shot through the right wrist in a skirmish at Camp Branch and was shot in the right thumb at Fredericksburg. He also received several saber cuts, one over his right eye, another on the back of his right arm near the shoulder, and two on his right thigh.

"According to Coffey, in addition to his service in the infantry he also performed duties as a scout and worked in the rear of the Federal line burning bridges and harassing the enemy. This work apparently made him a marked man and in the fall of 1862, he adopted the alias of James W. Coffey and used it the rest of his life.

"He claimed that he was promoted to the rank of Captain under General Ewell and later transferred to Morgan's (Calvary) Company. But this latter service is not verified by his official war record. Coffey moved to Missouri in 1870. He entered the Confederate Home from Houston, Missouri in July 1929. at

the age of 86. (He was actually living with a daughter in Sand Springs, Oklahoma when he submitted his Home application.)

“Coffey was a widower suffering from all the debilitating effects of old age. He had no financial assets at the time—he owned about half an acre in Houston but it was fully mortgaged. Coffey lived quietly at the Confederate Home for several years. His health gradually deteriorated, such that when the end finally came, in early December 1935, it was not unexpected. He was ninety-three years old at the time of his death. Coffey was one of the last handful of veterans to reside at the Home. He was five feet, nine inches tall, and had a ruddy complexion. Coffey had two daughters that survived him.”

**Bonnie:** If someone wants to research the above family they might start with the following “Find-a-Grave memorial. Perhaps someone can dig in and determine his ancestry? And we can publish their analysis in the next Newsletter?

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9122900/james-w-coffey>

### **MORE ON OUR EXTENDED BIG FAMILY:**

By Fred Coffey

From previous articles many of you will recognize that our “family” is not restricted to Coffey/Coffee. We have MALE-LINE connected ancestry known to include “Boyter, Coffey, Coffee, Keogh, Keough, Kehoe, Keay, Kaho, Cahow, Kayhow, Kayhowe, and Howe”.

(This list is based primarily on names that are variations on Coffey and Keogh. For shorthand, we often refer to this as the “Coffey/Keogh” family. However, we recently added “Boyter” to the list because his “Big-y” 700 marker test offered significant connections.)

We have other biological cousins who do not have a Coffey or Keogh related name. I wrote back in Newsletter 151-6,7 about a Victor Jackson, who had about 70 y-DNA matches to our “Coffey/Keogh” 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 now have new information related to this Victor Jackson. Carolyn recently upgraded his y-DNA test from 67 markers to 111 markers. Further, we now have another tested person who has a superb match to Victor, matching him perfectly on the first 67 markers. We have invited that new test person to JOIN our project, but he has not yet accepted. Since I don’t have permission to publish his name, we’ll call him “Mr. Anonymous”.

Both of these new tests are of considerable interest to our extended family studies. It is possible that both of these men have deep roots within Ireland, and that makes them of particular interest to aid understanding of our Irish ancestry. Let me explain what we are beginning to learn. And then encourage them both to consider upgrading to a “Big-y” 700-marker test:

Click on this link [Genealogy Summary](#) and look at page 5, which tries to summarize what we have already learned. These are the people who have already done the “Big-y” (either 500 or 700 markers). The “Block Tree” breaks this extended family down into haplogroups. Everybody ultimately goes back to haplogroup “R-Y65461”. But from there it shows how the tested individual lines later separated from this shared group.

Us “Coffey/Coffee” cousins have long followed two immigrant lines. One is the “Peter Coffee” line, which descends from Peter Coffee who arrived in America in the early 1700’s. Peter’s line started out at “Y65461”, but ultimately that split to yield a new haplogroup, “Y19967”

We also have the Edward Coffey group, and Edward was in America by 1699. We have long known that he was somehow related to Peter. The new tests show his line having the same “Y19967” haplogroup as Peter. But there was another split, and Edward’s line became “Y46776”. This tells us the Peter line came first, and the Edward line came later.

Moving on down, there are three more groups that also started out with “Y76461”. They have their own sequence of evolution. Their lines clearly do NOT descend from the Peter or Edward haplogroups. And clearly Peter and Edward do NOT descend from any of them.

Somewhere back in ancient times, ALL of these tested people have a single shared MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor). We are probably talking about 500 years or more.

You might also click on this link [DataSummary](#) and look at page 3 (extensions on pages 9 and 15). This will show you the detail data behind the above analysis. (Note that I am no longer using “Edward” as a reference to compare the individual marker STR results. I have no information on the DNA of our extended family MRCA, so I used the “Mode” (the most common value across all the lines) as the comparison reference for each marker. Any marker that is different than the mode is highlighted in pink.

To repeat, we would be most interested if Victor Jackson and “Mr. Anonymous” took the 700-marker Big-y test. We can work whatever is learned into this extended family discussion.

### **PRESERVING GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH FOR POSTERITY:**

By Fred Coffey ([FredCoffey@aol.com](mailto:FredCoffey@aol.com) )

In the last newsletter, I published my concerns about preserving our huge database of Coffey Information for use by future generations. I called it an “Old People” problem. There are three people who were particularly active in organizing and presenting Coffey information over the last 40 years or so. But Jack Coffee is now gone, and Bonnie Culley and I are in or approaching our 80’s.

We have accumulated many thousands of pages of information, and all these pages are now accessible to any Coffey researcher. We call this the “Coffey Roadmap”. If you’re not familiar with it, click on this link and read through the summary discussion that pops up:

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

I think this “Roadmap” successfully organizes and presents huge amounts of information developed and organized by Jack Coffee, Bonnie Culley, myself, and others. And it has some powerful search tools. Jack’s son Chris, and my son Bryan, have some involvement in the organization of the material, but neither Chris nor Bryan are going to have an interest in maintaining and developing this into the long-term future. Can we find a way to preserve what we have?

I have worked out that all the information contained in the current “Roadmap” can be placed on a single 16 GB USB drive. Think of it as an “Archive Stick”. And I would propose to mail that, free, to any Coffey who thinks they (or their descendants) might want to pick up and proceed to



maintain and/or enhance some version of a Coffey information sharing system. If these “sticks” end up in enough places, some may survive for future generations?

I have set this up so that the USB drive could serve a DUAL purpose. In addition to preserving our data, it can serve as a convenient access to the “Roadmap”. Plug it into a USB port on your computer, and the first thing it offers is “Click here to jump to the Roadmap”! It could also serve as a place to store your own genealogical work. I’m working on it!

If a couple of the readers of this newsletter express an interest, I will be happy to send them a trial version. And they will be invited to come back with suggestions on how better to manage our data preservation and create a useful tool.

**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](mailto:bculey@embarqmail.com). Unless it’s a question primarily about DNA, in which case send it to [FredCoffey@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html)

(The “Roadmap” now offers full access to Jack Coffee’s “Edward Coffey Project” (ECP). Scroll down to the section on “Edward Coffey Descendants”.)