

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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Editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

Hope this finds everyone well and that this heat wave hasn't got you down. It's not terrible in Missouri but my grass is sure brown. I did finally get my knee surgery finished. I can walk upright again. It wasn't even painful so guess I got the perfect surgeon. I had a half knee replacement. My son, Joe came to take care of me. Sorry when he had to leave but he was back for the first Sunday in June for a Celebration of Life for my son-in-law, Scot Ball, daughter Connie's husband. It was a nice service.

I plan on taking the genealogy online programs offered by DAR and am waiting for my daughter, Carol to have time to do it with me. There are several things I want to find but just don't know where to look. I think this will help. Hope to learn how to research the DAR files better. They seem to be a little tricky. Possibly I can look for records for other people if I get good at it.

On May 17 I celebrated my 90th birthday. I have never received so many cards in my entire life. Thanks to those who wished me a happy one. I did have a very happy birthday.

I hope you have had time to do some research. It keeps your mind active if nothing else and gives you something to look forward to. I need Elizabeth Coffey Hayes' husband's birth date or death date. I need them to prove another line for DAR. He has a tombstone but with no dates on it. He died shortly before 1900 so missed that census. I have 2 lines for Elizabeth. Benjamin Coffey and Colby Rucker. George had 2 Revolutionary War lines (if I can prove it) to Thomas Hayes sr and Colby Rucker. Now I have some research to do so need to get busy.

Hope you do too.

Bonnie Culley

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Co-editor's Comments

In this newsletter I have written about the work done by deceased expert researchers Jack Coffee, Marvin Coffey, and Frank Crosswhite. And I have pointed out that there were situations where, if they were still alive, they would probably now be supplementing or changing their previous research. This is not a reflection on their original work. They were all very expert at analyzing the information they had. But new information is always coming to light.

There are still many “mysteries” about Coffey genealogy. And remember we are not a single united family, but dozens of families that simply share a “Coffey” surname. Or that share Coffey DNA with a different surname. I love trying to try to solve “mysteries” and will keep analyzing and writing as long as I can.

And I expect that everything I write may be challenged in the future. (Or challenged as soon as I write it.)

I invite all readers to raise new “mysteries” and start discussion. And to challenge anything I write now, or after I am gone. Send me your suggestions, discoveries, and challenges. And we’ll keep working together!

Fred Coffey

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Index: Issue 167

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Editors' Comments | Page 1 | Archive Update | Page 7 |
| Co-Editor Comments | 2 | Searching for “Chesley Martin” | 7 |
| Fake Email Note | 2 | Error/Oversight Correction | 10 |
| Ancestry of John O’Farrell | 3 | Big Y Testing | 11 |
| Marvin Coffey Books | 5 | “Cahill” Coincidence | 15 |
| Marvin Coffey Background | 5 | Names in Edward’s Will | 15 |
| Marvin Coffey Citations | 6 | Error Correction, Jeff Coffey | 16 |
| Fred’s Toolbox | 6 | Information Resources | 17 |

FAKE EMAIL RISK TO CCC NEWSLETTER READERS?

By Fred Coffey

This is just a reminder that we no longer include a “click here” link when we send out advice that a new newsletter is ready. There is a risk that such “clicking” could expose a reader to hacking.

You will be told “Visit the Coffey Genealogy Information Roadmap to call up the new newsletter issue. Once there, you can click on ‘Newsletters’ and choose the latest issue. If you don’t know or remember how to find the Roadmap, just reply to this note and say “send me instructions to find the Roadmap”. I will send you a direct reply with instructions*.

*To find the Roadmap, visit www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html Click on **Newsletters** and the list of available issues will pop up! Recommend you post this link on your computer.

Update on Coffey ancestry of John O'Farrell:

By Gillian O'Farrell [but really Coffey!]

Dear Fred,

Gillian: You may recall that we corresponded a little while ago over the paternity of my father, John O'Farrell. **The case was discussed in the March 2019 CCC Newsletter Issue 150, pages 10-13.** I wanted to give you an update as the case has been solved. You may wish to include this in a forthcoming newsletter.

Fred: I remember that study. The DNA analysis confirmed that John O'Farrell connected to a known Coffey group with ancient roots in the midlands of Ireland.

Gillian: My father was born in London in 1922. His mother was Irish, from County Longford in the Irish Midlands. My father died in 2008 but I was able to take Y-DNA from my brother, also called John. By way of summary, my father's biological father was unknown, but the y-DNA test showed that his father had to be a "Coffey", likely from the County Meath area in Ireland. You were able to match my brother's test to Vernon Christopher Coffey (72279) with a perfect y-DNA match at 37-markers. That match suggested a 70-80% chance they had a common ancestor within the last 4-5 generations.

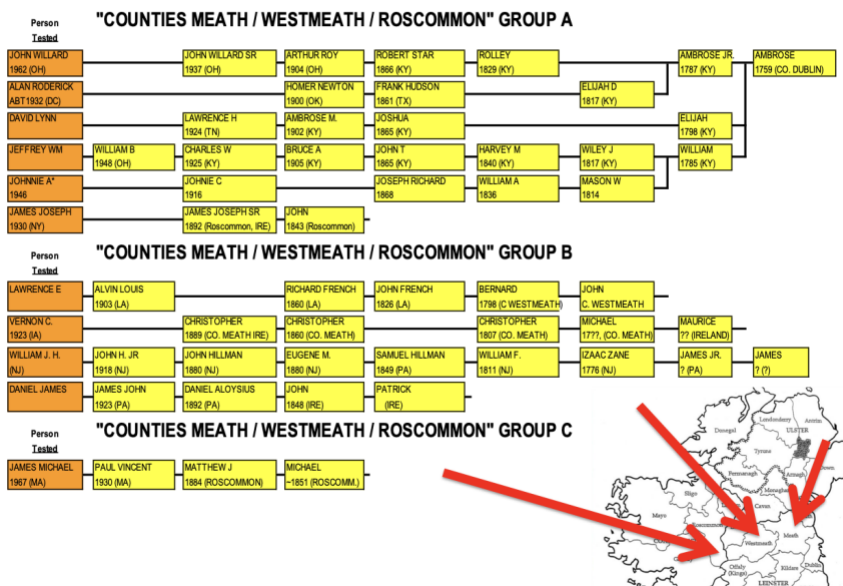
Fred: For background, the following image is from my DNA studies. It shows some of the genealogy and origin locations for the midlands group. Vernon is the second person down under Group B.

And the map red arrows point to the midlands. The far-right arrow points to Meath, and Longford is the next county to the north of County Meath.

This general area is recognized as an ancient "Coffey" homeland.

Gillian: From correspondence with Vernon's descendants and from other Coffey matches on Ancestry, I was able to determine that we shared a common ancestor in James Coffey and Jane Loughran from County Meath. I made great efforts to trace down their descendants to try and identify a male who was in London in 1922 who could have been my grandfather! By looking at the DNA matches for descendants of James and Jane's children, the closest match was with their son Patrick, born in 1867. Patrick moved to Dublin, married and had five sons. However, none of the sons appeared to have left Dublin. A match with one of Patrick Coffey's great grandchildren was for 138cM, approximately that of a half second cousin. The possibility had to be considered that Patrick Coffey may have fathered a son with someone else, possibly before he was married.

IRELAND TOUR: "MEATH/WESTMEATH" GROUP



I achieved a breakthrough in 2022 when I matched with VM, my highest paternal match of 230cM. Examination of the DNA clusters showed that the ancestor VM and I had in common was Bridget Grey born in 1865. Bridget lived in Oberstown in County Meath and in 1887 she married a widower, Patrick McGuinness. Despite having many DNA matches with Bridget Grey and her parents, I had no matches with the McGuinness family. Was it possible that Bridget Grey had a child with someone other than her husband? Bridget went on to have ten children. Her eldest child was named John and he was born two months after her marriage. Perhaps she found herself pregnant, and the family arranged a marriage with the widowed farmer, Patrick McGuinness who agreed to take her on? Is it possible that Patrick Coffey was the father of Bridget's son John?

Bridget Grey's eldest son, John, would have been conceived in early 1887, which was approximately two years before Patrick Coffey was married, and six months before Bridget was married. At that time, Bridget lived in Oberstown. We know from the death records of Patrick Coffey's parents that they also lived in Oberstown, and it's likely Patrick lived with them before he married in about 1889. At the time of the 1901 Census, there were only 16 households in Oberstown. It seems inevitable that Bridget Grey and Patrick Coffey would have known each other in 1887.

By the time Bridget's next son would have been conceived, Patrick had left County Meath and was living in Dublin. This suggests that out of Bridget's sons, John McGuinness is the most likely to have been fathered by Patrick Coffey. So, although was known as McGuinness, he was actually a Coffey.

So, what became of John McGuinness? He moved to Dublin and married a girl from his hometown in Meath. He worked as attendant in a lunatic asylum before moving to England and joining the army. He was badly injured in the Somme in WW1 so returned to London to recover. He joined the police force and had four children with his wife. By 1921 he was living a twenty-minute walk away from where my grandmother was living as a servant.

Shortly after my father would have been conceived, John McGuinness transferred to the police in Wales, with his family. I managed to track down all the children from his marriage. Only one of them married and he had no legitimate grandchildren. Sadly, this means I am unable to check DNA with any descendants, but this also explains why there are no other close matches on any DNA sites.

Once I made these discoveries, I was fairly sure that John McGuinness was my grandfather. I paid a professional researcher to check the research for me and to look at the DNA matches. She also concluded that John McGuinness [Coffey!] was my grandfather. This means my real surname should also be Coffey.

The James Coffey I refer to is a grandson of Michael Coffey born c1771 in County Meath. This Michael Coffey is Vernon's great great grandfather, meaning Vernon is my third cousin twice removed.

I remember being told when I was a child that my father's father was a policeman called John. Turns out that was right, after all. I am now working on trying to find my grandfather's grave. He died in a small town north of Cardiff. This will then put the case to rest after 100 years. Grandad – I found you after all!

Best Wishes Gillian O'Farrell [but really Coffey!]

MARVIN COFFEY BOOK AVAILABILITY:

By Todd Coffey

I'm happy to let you know that my father's books (and supplement) are now available online. To access them a reader will need a Family Search account. To create your free account, go to this link:

<https://www.familysearch.org/identity/signup/>

Once signed in to Family Search, the links below will go directly to the book or supplement record and can be accessed by clicking 'VIEW INSIDE.'

- *James Bluford Coffey, His Ancestors and Descendants in America* (volumes 1-2):
 - Volume 1: <http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/idurl/1/139082>
 - Volume 2: <http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/idurl/1/127251>
- *Supplement to James Bluford Coffey*:
<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/504423-supplement-to-james-bluford-coFFEY-his-ancestors-and-descendants-in-america-v-ii-ancestors>

I still have around 50 hard copies of the supplement. If anyone would rather have the supplement in their hands for a nominal fee and not have to rely on looking at a screen, they can contact me via email (coFFEY.todd@gmail.com).

Todd

MARVIN COFFEY BACKGROUND:

By Fred Coffey

Most of you readers will be aware of Marvin's support of the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse. For those not familiar with Marvin's work, I would like to offer some background info. Here is Marvin's descent from Edward Coffey, going down to Marvin's son Todd:

- (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) & (3) 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) John Coffey (22 Apr 1810 - 8 Apr 1879) & Nancy Snyder (1 Dec 1815 - 28 Feb 1893)
- (7) James Bluford Coffey (11 Oct 1837 - 3 Jul 1924) & Mary Elizabeth Bolin (24 Jul 1847 - 26 Apr 1927)
- (8) James Orville Coffey (5 May 1878 - 4 Dec 1962) & Iva May Johnson (4 Sep 1881 - 9 Sep 1965)
- (9) Raymond Stanfield Coffey (14 Sep 1898 - 21 Dec 1965) & Agnes Hutchinson (1899 - 1959)
- (10) Marvin Dale Coffey (25 Apr 1930 - 26 Jun 2001) & Wanda Kirchgestner (29 Apr 1934 -)
- (11) Todd Coffey

Marvin was involved with the Coffey Cousins from the very beginning. He first wrote about his plans in Issue 3-2 (June 1981) reporting that he was "...preparing a history of James Bluford Coffey 1837-1924 and descendants." This became Volume I and focused on descendants of James Bluford. This would be of most interest to readers who are also descendants of James.

In 1984 he published Volume 2, which focused on ancestors of James Bluford. This book was 227 pages and would be of considerable interest to any "Coffey" who descends from Edward.

In 1994, recognizing that he had learned a great deal of additional information in the last 10 years, he published a Supplement (67 pages).

The supplement references specific pages in Volume 2, and then, for each referenced page, discusses what Marvin had learned since 1984. The reader may want to have Volume 2 in hand, to see the original context.

If you search the archives of these Newsletters, you will find more than 100 citations to Marvin's work.

His obituary is in newsletter Issue #84 for Sept 2001, page 2. You will read there about his membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Here's a statement from the church explaining their interest in genealogy:

"Genealogy, the study of one's ancestors or family history, is one of the most popular hobbies in the world. People of all faiths and nationalities enjoy discovering where they come from. For members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, however, learning about one's family history is more than just a casual endeavor. Latter-day Saints believe families can be together after this life. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen relationships with all family members, both those who are alive and those who have died."

A POWERFUL TOOL FOR MARVIN COFFEY CITATIONS:

By Fred Coffey

Todd has created a useful tool for me or others to use in citing on analyzing the work done by Marvin Coffey. The links in Todd's article above give us access to an ELECTRONIC copy of Marvin's writings.

I went to Family Search and accessed the Family Search result for Marvin's supplement. I copied the entire Supplement file and saved it to my computer. I can now go to ANY page and extract ANY PART of Marvin's exact text. Then I can paste that information into my own writings and re-format with my own preferences. Here's an example of some text extracted directly from the Supplement:

"PAGES 9 AND 12

Frank Crosswhite has made an intelligent and interesting study of the etymology of the names Coffey —O'Cobhthaigh —Cobthaoh. His research adds additional (or alternative) meanings. ... His essay was printed in CCC March 1989, pp. 6-10 and is recommended to all interested in the origin of the Coffey name."

And those of you who use the "Coffey Roadmap" will be able to instantly retrieve the full original article in newsletter "CCC March 1989, pp 6-10" and read Mr. Crosswhite's full essay! Not only do our newsletters cite Marvin Coffey's book – Marvin's book cites our newsletters!

FREDS TOOLBOX COLLECTION:

By Fred Coffey

I am now adding a new option to the "Road Map" site. It will begin to offer access to "Fred's Toolbox Collection". It will offer no new information on Coffey lines, but it will offer computerized tools that may speed your research. Initially, you will find it offers two Excel spreadsheets:

“CoffeyCensusKY” summarizes and accesses 7000 Coffey-related census records for Russell County Kentucky, and the surrounding counties, for every census year from 1810 through 1950. It’s an easy way to follow people or families through census records year by year. And (provided you have access to Ancestry.com) you can click on any name, and it will pull up the actual complete census report. And maybe offer suggestions for other sources to explore.

“ECPSourceList” is a tabulation of the 33,000 references that Jack Coffee cites in his Edward Coffey Project (ECP). Why is this useful? If you start using the ECP, you will see that each page offers many “Source References” that offer supporting details. You can click on any such reference number, and the ECP will *eventually* call up the reference citation. The system is overburdened by the sheer volume of Jack’s 33,000 references, and you will have to very patient while it seeks the one you want.

The ECPSourceList can find the reference you want within a couple of seconds. Then you can copy the reference text and paste it into your own work. And it can search across the full text of all the references looking for repeated entries. Like you might search for all “Ohio County Marriages” if that’s a special topic of interest.

“ARCHIVE” UPDATE:

By Fred Coffey

Readers may recall that in newsletters 161-8 and 162-10, I talked about the possibility to create a USB flash drive that archived all of the information available in our “Roadmap” application. The intent was to create something that would protect our Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse data if something happened. We worked out that all our important data could be contained on a 16-gb USB flash drive, which could be offered to interested Coffey researchers. I have decided to call this the “ArchiveStick”.

I’ve put some additional thought into the project, including thoughts about how some Coffey researchers might find the “ArchiveStick” useful as a stand-alone tool. And have included discussion about how it can become an information source if our “Roadmap” were to completely crash tomorrow!

Readers who are interested in having this “backup” should send me a note, giving me your postal mail address. I’ll start mailing out a few drives, along with discussion and access instructions.

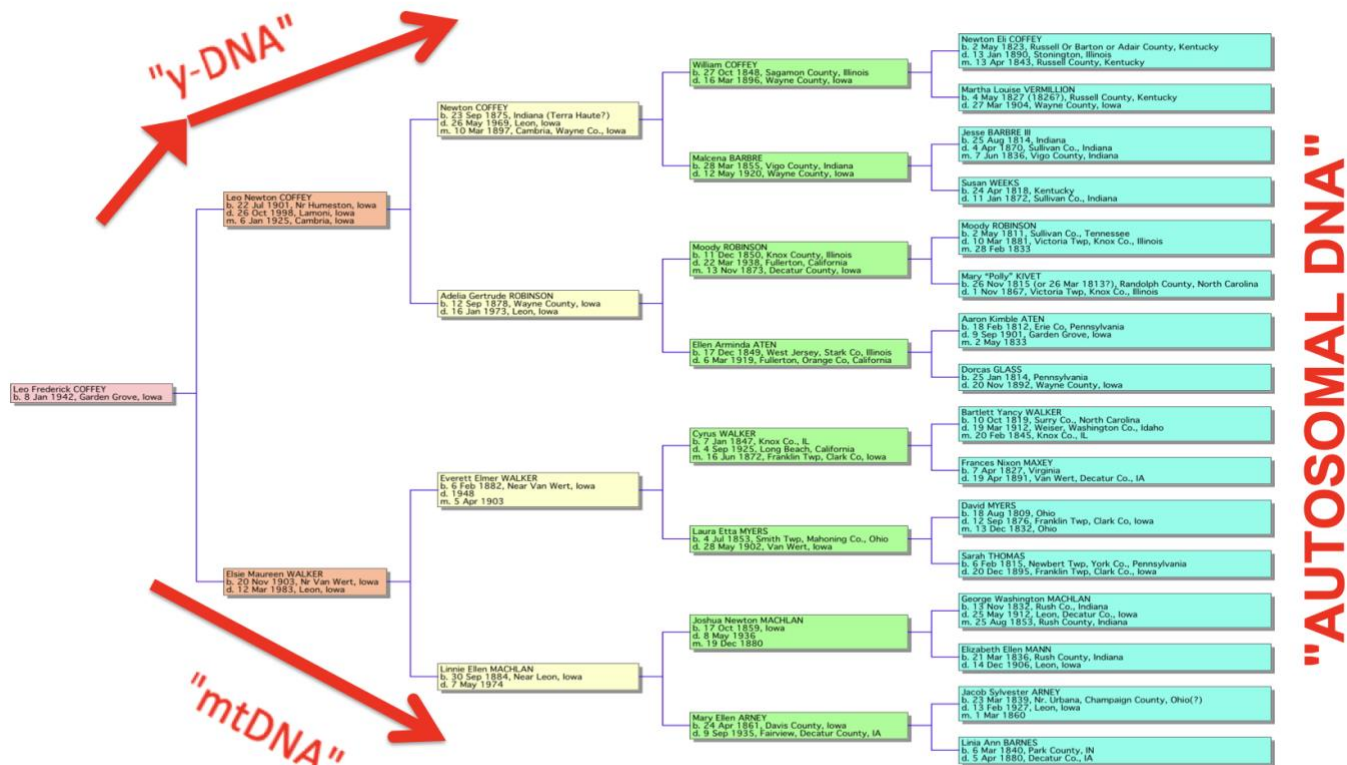
SEARCHING FOR A “CHESLEY MARTIN” CONNECTION:

By Fred Coffey, with Sandy Griffet

Fred: I had an interesting but complicated exchange of notes with Sandy Griffet. In the following I have organized the ideas we exchanged as if we had a “conversation” about several connected topics. (Readers may recall that I worked with Sandy Griffet on an article in the last newsletter.)

Sandy: Good morning Fred, I have been looking at Martin DNA specifically Henry Martin who married Jane Samuel/Samuels Virginia . I see his DNA is R-M 269 but I don't understand DNA. And I have a slight DNA match to a Nathan Meeks whose grandmother is Etha C. Coffey. Can you help me understand all this?

Fred: Let's start with your statement about not understanding DNA. I can point to a detailed paper I wrote on the basics of DNA (click on this link [CCCRewiew2022](#)). But for now, you only need to recognize there are three types of DNA tests that are useful for genealogy. Here's an image from that paper:



The underlying image is part of my own family tree, but don't worry if you can't read the fine print—the details are not important. This starts with myself on the far left, and advances through my ancestry back to my 16 great-great-grandparents.

The top row of ancestors is my male “Coffey” line. This can be explored by “y-DNA”, which is strictly handed down from father to son. You observed that Nathan Meeks had done that test and wondered what it meant. That test is telling Nathan about his “Meeks” ancestors, and it is telling him absolutely nothing about “Coffey”.

The bottom row of my ancestors is strictly female, and can be analyzed by “mtDNA”, or “mitochondrial DNA”. Everybody has mtDNA, but we all get it only from our mothers. The first ancestor here is my mother, Elsie Walker, and on down through the female “Machlan +Arney +Barnes +more”.

On the far right we have “autosomal DNA”. This “atDNA” test is looking at the MIX, repeat **MIX**, of all of my ancestral DNA. This involves a massive amount of data and can reveal huge numbers of connections. THIS is the DNA test you did!

Sandy: This test says it has found I have matches to 6534 people! And one of those is Nathan Meeks. It says I have a weak match to Nathan!

Fred: I disagree with your calling it a “weak” match! It says that you and Nathan are in the range of “2nd to 4th” cousins, which suggests you are most likely “third cousins”. And if you know

somebody is a “third cousin” you ought to be able to dig into each of your ancestor lists, looking at each of your respective 16 Great-Great-Grandparents. There will probably be one or two matching names in your lists. And you will have identified your most recent common ancestor! Probably it will be a married pair.

Sandy & Fred: We worked together trying to “solve” Sandy’s match, looking out as far as the fourth cousin level. We found no matches and concluded this probably reflected bad and incomplete data on the part of one or the other of Sandy and Nathan’s lines. Further, we looked at Sandy and Nathan’s known “Coffey” lines and concluded that Coffey connection had to be too far back to be detected by an autosomal test that was unreliable beyond about the third cousin level.

There is no doubt that Sandra and Nathan both have Coffey ancestors, and they had to descend from the patriarch Edward Coffey. We both dove into working out the paper trail, and here is where we came out:

- (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) Martin Coffey* (15 Sep 1765 - 27 Nov 1867) & Elizabeth Bronson (ca 1762 - bef Aug 1798)
- (4) Joel Joseph Coffey (1790 - abt 1862) & Villetta “Ann” Sharp (Nov 1807 - aft 1880)
- (5) Nancy Coffey (1844 -) & Hector Owens Johnson (28 Feb 1842 - 19 May 1936)
- (6) Etha Cordelia Coffey (15 Oct 1876 - 24 Jun 1928) & William Anderson Meeks (3 May 1878 - 23 Jun 1945)
- (7) Hollie Amon Meeks (26 Nov 1897 - 29 Dec 1981) & Ora Bell Perkins (15 Aug 1896 - 11 Aug 1985)
- (8) **Nathan Amon Meeks** (25 Sep 1941 -) & Ruth Anne Harlan (10 May 1953 - 19 Apr 2012)
- (3) Martin Coffey* (15 Sep 1765 - 27 Nov 1867) & Nancy Phelps
- (4) Rachel Coffey (abt 1801 - 1870) & John G Christian (27 Mar 1796 - 29 Apr 1856)
- (5) Nancy Jane Christian (abt 1824 - 10 Sep 1886) & Jesse Weaver (1818 - 1905)
- (6) Elizabeth Caroline Weaver (Dec 1849 - 10 Aug 1914) & James Alfred Lewis (1 Mar 1849 - 11 Jun 1929)
- (7) James Frank Lewis (7 Apr 1875 - 23 May 1957) & Daisy Irene Pride (2 Jul 1884 - 15 Jul 1966)
- (8) Alice Irene Lewis (17 Aug 1903 - 21 Jun 1998) & Frederick Henry Kriete (11 Nov 1892 - 13 May 1972)
- (9) Marilyn Lucille Kriete (18 Jul 1923 - 9 Dec 1994) & Robert Oscar Quinn (25 Apr 1923 - 2 Mar 2011)
- (10) **Sandra Quinn**

We are now comfortable that this line’s Coffey MRCA (most recent common ancestor) is Martin Coffey (1765 – 1867), who had three wives. Nathan descends from his first wife, Elizabeth Bronson. Sandra descends from his second wife, Nancy Phelps.

Sandra and Nathan are therefore “Half 4C2R”. That is actually too distant to have been picked up by an autosomal DNA test. However Sandra’s “probably third cousin” match to Nathan also remains valid. We just don’t know how, and it may not even be Coffey connected!

Sandy: I have been looking at the Martin family, specifically at the Henry Martin who married Jane Samuel/Samuels Virginia. My thinking is that this Henry Martin is the father of Edward Coffey Junior’s 1st wife.

Fred: I am skeptical that Edward Coffey Jr’s first wife was a Martin. The idea is not new, and I think it originated in the work of expert researchers Marvin Coffey and Frank Crosswhite. That view was expressed in Marvin’s 1994 Supplement as follows, where Marvin adds to what he wrote on Page 100 of his 1984 Volume II:

[Page 100](#)

It appears that Coffey researchers who are descendants of Chesley Coffey have generally agreed with my conclusion that Chesley was a son of Edward. Jr. and an unknown first wife. Frank Crosswhite has hypothesized that she might be

a daughter. of a Chesley Martin. He has found Martins~Graves~Chesley-Coffey associations in Virginia and No. Carolina. and in a later generation a Chesley Martin in Pittsylvania co. VA. This might help account not only for Chesley but the unknown Martin kb. 1762) who has been suspected of being another son of Chesley. I can only add that I have no further information as to who was the mother of Chesley.

Yes, Marvin wrote that. But the whole paragraph starts out with a defective assumption. He, and ALL other Coffey researchers at the time, believed there was a Chesley Coffey from whom very large numbers of Coffey men descended. We now believe that particular Chesley never existed! And that kind of messes up any analysis attaching weight to the name "Chesley".

Marvin was constantly looking for new information, and constantly updating his views. If Marvin had not died in 2001, I think he would have begun thinking to "supplement his 1994 Supplement"!

That DOES NOT rule out the possibility that Edward Junior's wife might have had the Martin surname. But so far nobody has produced ANY solid evidence. Show us some SOLID evidence, and you will be famous among Coffey researchers!

Sandy: Genealogy is such fun digging and so frustrating when your intuition tells you it's right but can't find an ounce of documentation!

Fred: You are thinking to "join" the Coffey DNA Project, so Tim Peterman and I can look at your DNA result and see if there is anything we missed. We'll be watching for your appearance.

AN ERROR/OVERSIGHT CORRECTION:

By Fred Coffey

Readers may recall that I worked with Sandy Griffet on an article in the last newsletter. This was where we concluded that she was almost certainly a descendant of Martin Coffey, as discussed above.

I looked back, and see I made a mis-statement on page 10 of that previous newsletter, and also had an oversight of some important information:

I wrote "House # 202 in 1850 was occupied by *Joel Coffey*. His line is generally well known among Coffey researchers. (Note Mary Sharp is Joel's mother.)"

That was wrong! Mary Sharp is Joel's mother-in-law! Mary Sharp is the mother of Joel's wife!

And although I looked ahead to the 1860 census for others, I did not do so for Joel and his family. Most important, the 1860 census revealed that Joel had another son who arrived too late to make the 1850 census.

Following is my revision of that section of the previous newsletter:

“There were two more houses in this Russell County “cluster”, and they were also left out of Jack’s ECP, again for the reason that Jack could not prove their connection to Edward.

House # 202 in 1850 was occupied by Joel Coffey. His line is generally well known among Coffey researchers. (Note Mary Sharp is Joel’s mother-in-law. She is the mother of his wife Ann.)

| House #202 | Age | Born |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| Joel Coffey | 53 | 1797 |
| Ann Coffey | 39 | 1811 |
| Allen Coffey | 21 | 1829 |
| Isam Coffey | 14 | 1836 |
| Joel Coffey | 13 | 1837 |
| John W Coffey | 11 | 1839 |
| Pruda Coffey | 9 | 1841 |
| Julia A Coffey | 9 | 1841 |
| Nancy Coffey | 6 | 1844 |
| Stewart Coffey | 4 | 1846 |
| Mary Sharp | 84 | 1766 |

In the 1860 census, this is a continuation of the same family, living in House #682:

The important thing here is that Joel has a new son, “David”, who was too young to make the 1850 census. And I found a carefully researched tree on Ancestry that shows this “David” was actually “Davis C Coffey (11 Apr 1850 – 24 Apr 1936)”, who was born and died in Russell County, KY.

| House #682, (1860) | Age | Born |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Joel Coffey | 60 | 1800 |
| Ann Coffey | 55 | 1805 |
| Isham Coffey | 24 | 1836 |
| John Coffey | 18 | 1842 |
| Prudence Coffey | 16 | 1844 |
| Julia Ann Coffey | 16 | 1844 |
| Nancy Coffey | 14 | 1846 |
| Sewart Coffey | 13 | 1847 |
| David Coffey | 9 | 1851 |

This tree is owned by Mr. Greg Pasley, with whom I have had some correspondence. I have used his work to develop a better understanding of Davis Coffey and his family. Those who use “Ancestry” can click on this link to see Greg’s public tree:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/108987556/person/220070202556/facts>

This tree has excellent documentation back to Martin Coffey and Elizabeth Bronson. There are lots of pictures and solid documentation links!

(His tree is excellent back to Martin Coffey (Sr) and his wife Elizabeth Bronson. But beyond that it shares many of the same issues discussed in the previous article “Searching for a ‘Chesley Martin’ connection with Sandy Griffet”. In addition, he gives Martin a middle name “William”. And gives Edward Coffey Jr a middle name “Joshua”. To the best of my knowledge, middle names were not used by any members of this family in this time period.)

“BIG Y” TESTING, AND OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:

By Fred Coffey

Many readers will recall that we have long been talking about how many of us “Coffey” are part of a big extended family, that we sometimes call the “Coffey, Coffee, Coffia, Keogh, Keough, Kehoe, Keay, Kaho, Cahill, Cahow, Kayhow, Kayhowe, and Howe” family. For short, let me call this the “Coffey/Keogh” family.

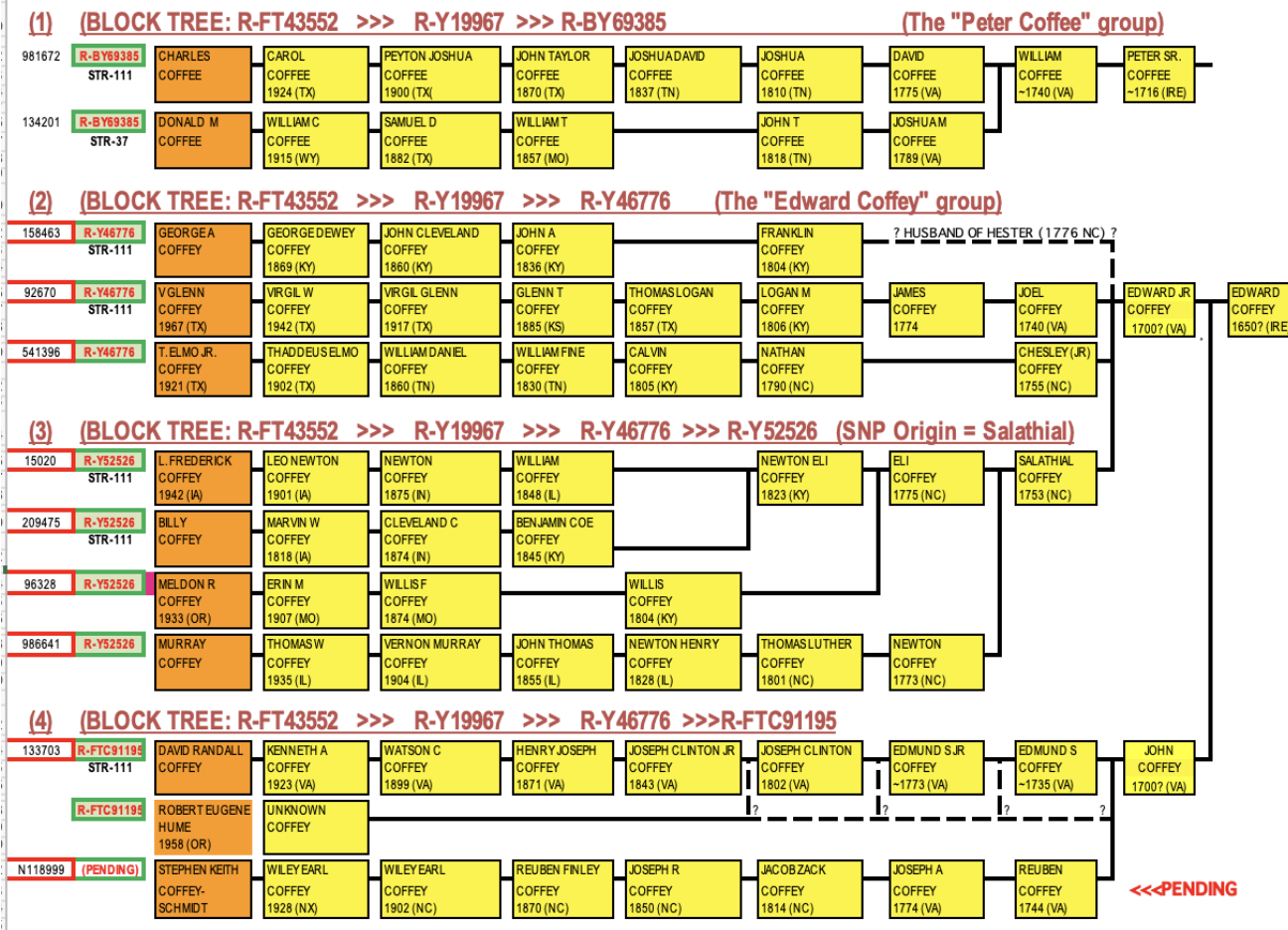
The "Coffey" part all descend from Peter Coffee and Edward Coffey who were early immigrants to America. And the "Keogh" part are highly scattered around the world. But all of the Coffey and Keogh ultimately have Irish origins.

And we have been doing a special form of DNA testing that can help reveal our "deep ancestry" connections. This is the 700-marker y-DNA test, called the "Big-Y700". We have now seen test results for 22 individuals, and I want to show you some of our results and comparisons.

Of these 22 people, 11 are Coffey, and 11 are Keogh. The test fits people into "haplogroups", with names like "R-FT43552". ALL of the Coffey and Keogh are in "R-FT43552", and that is what shows we belong together. But over the last few hundred years this has evolved into several sub-groups. The testing service, FTDNA, uses a "block tree" to show how the pieces fit together.

Let's first look at block tree results for our 11 in the Coffey group. Here's a table showing how they fit together:

"PETER COFFEE / EDWARD COFFEY" EXTENDED FAMILY BIG-Y GROUP



Look at the block tree labels. Everybody starts with R-FT43552, and we share that with the Keogh. But for the Coffey that evolved into R-Y19967, and that covers BOTH Peter and Edward – we have long known that Peter and Edward were somehow related back in Ireland.

Block (1) shows the two men who descend from Peter Coffee. The orange box names the tested men, and the yellow boxes show the male-line ancestry of these men, leading back to Peter. And for this block only, R-Y19967 has evolved to R-BY69385. That "R-BY69385" marks

every descendant of Peter, and if we ever see it again we'll know we're looking at a "Peter" descendant.

Block (2), and all of the rest of the blocks on this table, have evolved to R-Y46776. And that marks every descendant of Edward Coffey. The three men in Block 2 all descend from Edward through Edward Jr. The first line in this block is dotted, reflecting some male-line uncertainty that is still unresolved and that has been discussed in previous newsletters.

Block (3) presents a group of 4 tested men, where there was a mutation AFTER Edward arrived in America, that caused R-Y46776 to evolve one step farther, and yield a new haplogroup, R-Y52536. Once we saw that this was happening with the first two men, we started recruiting others with different ancestry to upgrade to Big-Y. Once we had all 4 recruits, we could see that we knew **exactly** where the mutation occurred. And we knew that Salathiel Coffey had been the first born with the new R-Y52536 mutation, and we now know that EVERY descendant of Salathiel is "marked" by R-Y52536.

Block (4) was triggered by the "Adoption Mystery" on page 5 of the previous newsletter, where adoptee Bob Hume was looking for his Coffey connection. Bob was in a new haplogroup that suddenly became named R-FTC91195, when it met the criteria that a pair of at least two SNP's had to be found before that SNP would become named. There was discussion in that newsletter explaining why the connection between Bob and his match to David Randall Coffey had to follow one of the dotted lines under Block 4. [\(We have another Big-Y test pending at the bottom of the above table, which will be the 13th member of this group. It may offer new information.\)](#)

ADDRESSING KEOGH GROUP: The next table (see next page) is for the "Keogh" group. They also have 11 tested persons. Again, all persons start with the R-FT43552 that they share with the Coffey. But now the next step is R-FTA58713, and that covers all of the Keogh.

Block (5) includes 5 tested men, all who have only the original R-FTA58713. Two of the tested men have not provided any genealogy, but their name is "Keogh" so there is no doubt about their origin.

This group now has one newly tested member, Matt Cahill, whose ancestry was known only back to Virginia. Now he knows his origin is Irish. And "Cahill" sounds phonetically consistent with some of his distant cousins names like Keogh, Keough, Kehoe, Keay, Kaho, Cahow, Kayhow, Kayhowe, and Howe.

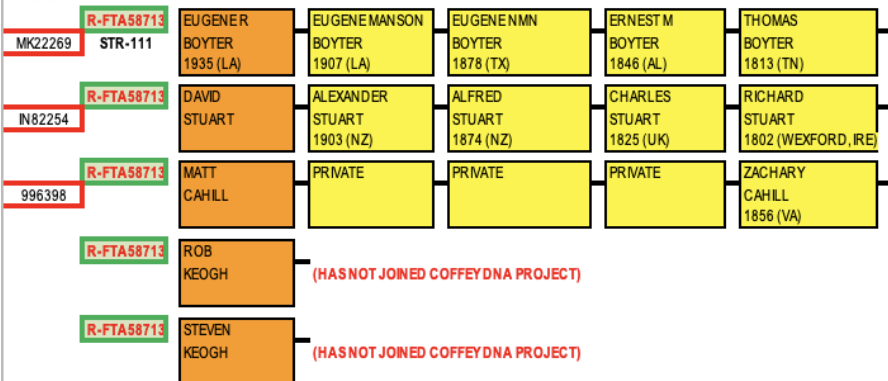
Block (6) has two men showing one more level of mutation -- the R-FTA58713 has evolved to add R-Y20216. But the really interesting thing is that one of those men has the surname "Coffey", even though the DNA says he has "Keogh" DNA. The Coffey and Keogh families were probably closely associated, and this might reflect an adoption?

Block (7) started with the R-Y20216 from block 6 and added one more evolution to become R-FT199937.

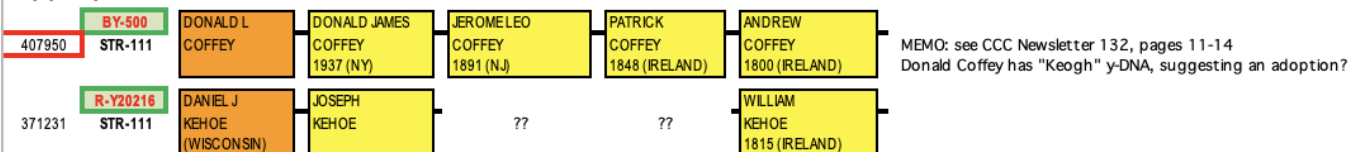
Block (8) also started with the R-Y20216 from block 6, but this one added a different evolution to become R-FT257666.

"KEOGH" EXTENDED FAMILY BIG-Y GROUP

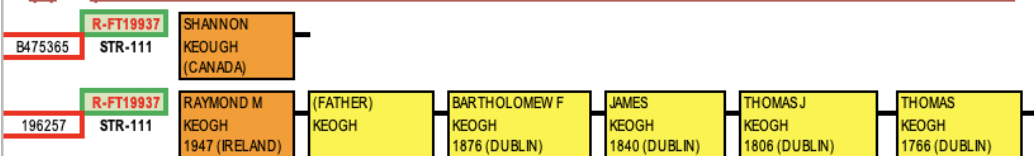
(5) (BLOCK TREE: R-FT43552 >>> R-FTA58713)



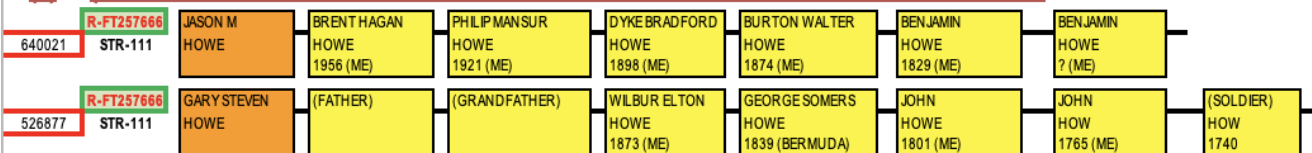
(6) (BLOCK TREE: R-FT43552 >>> R-FTA58713 >>> R-Y20216)



(7) (BLOCK TREE: R-FT43552 >>> R-FTA58713 >>> R-Y20216 >>> R-FT19937)



(8) (BLOCK TREE: R-FT43552 >>> R-FTA58713 >>> R-Y20216 >>> R-FT257666)



FTDNA, our testing service, writes the following about the central haplogroup that our Coffey/Keogh all belong to:

The R-FT43552 Story: The man who is the most recent common ancestor of this line is estimated to have been born around 1150 CE. This date is an estimate based on genetic information only. This estimate will likely change in the future as more people test and we improve the method.

He is the ancestor of at least 3 descendant lineages known as R-Y19967 (*Our Coffey Group*), R-FTA58713 (*Our Keogh Group*) and 1 yet unnamed lineage. Descendant lineages are identified as people test their Y-DNA with the Big Y test. At least two testers from a lineage are needed for a new branch to be named and added to the tree.

There are 22 DNA tested descendants, and they specified that their earliest known origins are from Ireland and United States with 7 from unknown countries. But the story does not end here! As more people test, the history of this genetic lineage will be further refined.

We have a much more detailed report on the above Coffey/Keogh extended family, but it needs updating. Updating was not finished in time for this newsletter.

CAHILL COINCIDENCE: AND A NEW MYSTERY!

By Fred Coffey

The previous story about Big-Y testing included a new test on a Mr. Matt Cahill. And at about the same time a female with the “Cahill” surname joined my DNA project. I concluded this was obviously a cousin of Matt Cahill, and jumped in and started asking her questions: “*How are you related to Matt?*”

I was so wrong! She had joined the Coffey project because her **mother** was a Coffey, born in Ireland and moved to the USA! Totally unrelated to Matt! But a new Coffey mystery, and I love working on mysteries!

I’ve started asking her different questions, like “*Can you find and test a male relative with the Coffey surname?*” I could work with that kind of information, and maybe prove I already know something about her Irish connection!

To preserve her privacy, I will not presently post any more information. But I have hopes that we can work together!

COMMENTS ON NAMES IN EDWARD COFFEY’S WILL:

By James Culbertson and Fred Coffey

James: Hello Fred! My Coffey connection is a distant one: a great-great-great grandmother, according to circumstantial evidence and supported by atDNA, was Sally Coffey, daughter of Jesse (d. 1807) of Pendleton District S.C., Rabun County and later Union County, Ga., where she appears with her husband, Charles Henson--he is 65 and she 64 in 1850.

Fred: Yes, I can see them in the 1850 Census, Union County, Georgia. Charles Henson is age 65 (born 1785), and Sally Henson is 64 (born 1786), They appear to have a child Charles age 21 (born 1829). All persons were born in South Carolina.

James: I have hopes (despite the difficulties inherent in the Old Pendleton District) of locating a marriage record for Charles Henson and Sally Coffey; for now I regard it as highly probable.

Fred: I wasn’t familiar with Coffey connections to the “Pendleton District S.C.”, but I saw references in old newsletters about Marvin Coffey’s assessment. I used my newly discovered access to electronic versions of Marvin’s books, offered by Todd Coffey (see article above) to have a look at what Marvin wrote. He wrote a lot, but it’s all too complicated to fit into a short paragraph like this! Maybe you, or some other reader, will do an update for a future newsletter!

James: I have been reading about the analysis of Edward Coffey Sr’s will, that you and others worked on back in 2018.

Fred: See newsletter #148, from 2018. There’s a lengthy discussion article on pages 5 through 8, with theories proposed by Jack Coffee, Fred Coffey, and Bonnie Culley. This referenced earlier work by Dr. Marvin Coffey. (Some of Marvin’s work is discussed elsewhere in this current newsletter.)

The final words in the 2018 article were “We can’t really prove anything. Any readers want to offer their own analysis, opinions, and conclusions?” And here you are, offering some interesting additional analysis!

James: I believe there is no real reason to make Anstes and Annister two different people. Anstes is a girl's name in use the seventeenth century in the part of Ireland (Kilkenny) which is a logical origin point for the Coffey/Keough group; it appears in the Fanning family there to which I am related. Seventeenth century spelling of English was still in a state of flux. You are correct in reading the will rendering as Anstes, and in the assumption that two different hands drew the two versions depicted in the "Chenault Connection" article. The two forms of the letter "s" are normal in that period: the long "s" which to us resembles a cursive "f" was correctly used within a word, but a legal hand (the copier into the will book) would use the short "s" at the word end. The "e" preceding it is the typical form of the period, resembling a cursive "o" as we were taught."

This has been discussed by a familiar authority:

"You will observe, Watson, the alternative use of the long s and the short. It is one of several indications which enabled me to fix the date. It would be a poor expert who could not give the date of a document within a decade or so. I put that at 1730." (Sherlock Holmes, in THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES)

Fred: Any current readers have any thoughts to add?

James: Thanks for maintaining the impressive Coffey "roadmap." Best wishes, Jim Culbertson, Cathlamet, Washington.

ERROR CORRECTION, AND UPDATE ON JEFF COFFEY:

By Terri Stern

In the last newsletter (Issue 166, page 17) I wrote: "That confirms with DNA that Jane Coffey who married Henry Anderson, Jr is a descendant of John Coffey & Susannah Watson and his father Hugh Coffey b abt 1700 and his wife Mary, who is probably a Ramsey."

Please note that the "Henry Anderson who married Jane Coffey" was not a "Jr."

Also note that I recently learned of the death date of CCC past president Jeff Coffey, a descendant of Hugh. Thomas Jefferson Coffey, Jr. was born 9 May 1921 in McLean, TX, and died 21 Dec 2019 in San Antonio, TX.

FYI, here is an Ancestry.com web page owned by Sally Coffey-Webb that shows the ancestry of Jeff back to Hugh. Those who have Ancestry.com access can click on this link:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/17193402/person/475087087/facts>

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 bonnieculley33@gmail.com, or send it to **Fred Coffey** at 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

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

HUGH COFFEY PROJECT BY TERRI STERN:

Any questions? Contact me at hughcoffeyproject@gmail.com or call 410-798-4784. And here is the weblink to my [Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse Facebook Group](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/160379567933944/>

(The Coffey Cousin's Clearinghouse Facebook Group is thriving and now has 122 members which include the Newsletter editor Bonnie Culley and past President Larry Coffey.).