

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

Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley & Fred Coffey 2022

Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No. 170 ISSN 0749-758X

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Editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

From Fred: *I was running quite late preparing this newsletter, and didn't leave time for Bonnie to think about writing something here! We had a telephone conversation, and she agreed I could go ahead and release this newsletter! Bonnie will be back here for the next issue.*

Bonnie Culley

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Co-editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

Readers know that I enjoy writing about people and their genealogical ancestry. The CCC is focused on Coffey ancestors, but when you think about it each named person has a life story focused on the life they lived. While you can guess at what they did with their life and what they believed, we don't go into "life story" detail. I think many of us keep photo albums and stories that we share with immediate families. We just don't go into that kind of detail when we are searching for genealogy results.

For this one time, I will insert something personal that is unrelated to genealogy:

I have been dealing with the death of my daughter, Laura Kylie Coffey (31 Mar 1975 – 23 Jan 2024). At age 6 she was diagnosed with a brain tumor, treated with surgery and massive radiation. That led to a lifetime of illness and handicaps, but there were many good times over the years with family and friends. I have been focused on writing a biography of Laura, celebrating her life, to share only with immediate family.

Fred Coffey

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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.

THE ARCHIVESTICK:

By Fred Coffey

Readers may recall that in previous newsletters, I talked about seeking ways to preserve the many thousands of pages of Coffey genealogical information in our "Roadmap" application. We worked out that all our important data could all be contained on a 16-gb USB flash drive. Which could be offered to interested Coffey researchers. I call this the "ArchiveStick".

So far only a few people have asked for a copy of this USB drive. I would be happy to send out a few more free copies. If you are a serious Coffey researcher, and would like a copy to tuck away in a safe place, send me a note with your mailing address,

THE HUGH GROUP – WHAT BIG Y TESTING TELLS US:

By Terri Stern

It has long been known by the Coffey/Coffee Surname Project that there are two genetically different early immigrant Coffey families in America – the Edward and Peter Coffey lines of Essex and Prince Edward Counties in Virginia and the Hugh Coffey line of Augusta County, Virginia.

Both lines have benefited by the advent of Big-Y DNA testing.

The first is the Coffey line that includes two immigrants: Edward Coffey Sr. who was born in Ireland ~ 1670 and died in Essex County, Virginia and Peter Coffee Sr. who died 1771 in Prince Edward County, Virginia. We know both immigrants share a common ancestor born about 1150 AD who created the genetic mutation R-FT43552. There are 12 tested Edward/Peter descendant men with that mutation, and that is sufficient to conclude that ALL proven descendants of Edward and Peter, tested or not, are R-FT43552. For a complete explanation see Fred Coffey's excellent paper at

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

***(Observation by Fred:** It is indeed true that ALL Edward/Peter descendants are R-FT43552. But there are multiple further mutations below this haplogroup. This paper shows that a Big-Y test can distinguish between an Edward descendant and a Peter descendant. And beyond that the Edward line can be distinguished into sub-groups. Readers can look to this paper and see how much breakdown detail is available.)*

The second Coffey line has been known for some time as the "Hugh Group" referring to Hugh Coffey who died in Augusta County, Virginia about 1766 or 1767. Hugh's land was passed to his son John Coffey (b 1730) who married Susannah Watson. John died in Lancaster County, South Carolina. He and Susannah had three sons born in Virginia who have living descendants who have taken DNA tests: Captain Henry Coffey (1748-1793), Captain Hugh Coffey Sr. (1750-1827), and John Coffey (1752).

Five male descendants of John Coffey have now taken a Y test and all but one have upgraded to Big Y. What we found from this is that they all have the haplogroup R-M269 when tested at Y-12 through Y-111. All four who upgraded to Big Y share the Haplogroup R-FTB75177. That Haplogroup was created by their common ancestor, a man undoubtedly named Coffey who most likely lived in Ireland and was born about 1600.

The first two to test were Ed Wilson and Richard Lee Coffey. Through autosomal DNA testing we were able to confirm that Ed Wilson's grandfather named Edward Preston Wilson must have been Eugene Franklin Coffey who was born in 1873 and disappeared from the records about 1900. Eugene was the brother of Andrew Hugh Coffey, the great grandfather of Richard Lee Coffey. Ed Wilson, his sisters Ginny and Nancy as well as his nephew Dillon Johnstone all matched closely to other descendants of the parents of Eugene and Andrew Hugh Coffey: Andrew Boyd Coffey (1818-1884) and his wife Harriet Barry (1835-1915), and to descendants of Andrew's siblings as well as Harriet's siblings. When their Big Y results came in, both Ed and Richard had the Haplogroup R-FTB71880 which was dated as having been created about 1800, but at the 68% confidence level, the date ranges from 1734-1863. So the Haplogroup could have been created by Andrew Boyd Coffey b 1818 or his father Hugh Coffey b 1784. At that point it was important for William Richard Coffey to take the Big-Y. He is the great grandson of Harris Coffey, brother of Andrew Boyd Coffey. His common ancestor with Richard Lee Coffey is

Hugh Coffey b 1784. He also has Haplogroup R-FTB71880. This told us that the haplogroup R-FTB71880 was actually created by Harris and Andrew Boyd Coffey's father Hugh Coffey (1784-1861) or Hugh's father. What Big-Y also told us is that R-FTB71880 was a branch of R-FTB75177 dated about 1600.

There were 2 other Coffey men who matched Richard Lee Coffey and Ed Wilson at the Y-12 through Y-111 test level. At that level of testing, they all had the haplogroup R-M269. These two were Spencer Coffey who could only trace his Coffey family back to John Coffey b 1773 and Jeff Coffey who had a beautiful paper trail back to Captain Hugh Coffey Sr (1750-1827). Jeff has since passed away, so his DNA could not be upgraded, but his match to the others is a clear benchmark that all are descendants of Hugh Coffey of Augusta County. Spencer and his cousin Norm Coffey both took the Big-Y to find out if they also had R-FTB75177. They did and they were also found to have the common mutation R-FTDC70715, identified as a "brother/cousin" to the descendants of Hugh b 1784. Their common ancestor is Robert Exum Coffey b 1858. The new haplogroup shared by Spencer and Norm was formed about 1800 with a 68% confidence level that the date ranges from 1732-1875. It was a new branch of R-FTB75177 so had to have the same common ancestor as Jeff Coffey, Richard Lee Coffey and William Richard Coffey. Norm and Spencer's ancestor Robert Exum Coffey or his father Jonathan Norman Coffey created that mutation. Record evidence combined with autosomal and Big-Y revealed that their ancestor John Coffey was the brother of Mary Coffey Hamilton, Jane Coffey Anderson, Ellender Coffey and Elizabeth Coffey. He was the John Coffey in Williamson County Tennessee who with Alexander Hamilton (Mary's husband) who sold in 1802 part of a 640-acre tract previously granted to Henry Coffey by the state of North Carolina. That was indeed Capt. Henry Coffey (1748-1793), son of John Coffey b 1730 who moved to Davidson County, Tennessee. Autosomal DNA from Jane Coffey Anderson's descendant Katy Ansardi provides additional evidence for this connection.

A sixth Coffey man has the R-FTB75177 haplogroup. He is John Brian Coffey of Portavogie, County Down. He too shares the common ancestor born around 1600 with the descendants of Hugh of Augusta County, Virginia. With that information, we should really be calling the group the "County Down Coffey Group" rather than the Hugh group. I would like to test more descendants of Hugh and would be happy to buy a Y-700 test for any living male descendants of Capt. Hugh Coffey Sr's sons Hugh b 1770 and John b 1775.

Here is a chart showing the descendants of Hugh who have taken Big Y:

John Coffey (1730 - 1800) R-FTB75177

1. Henry Coffey (1748 - 1793) DNA✓
 1. John Coffey (1773 - 1843) DNA✓
 1. Jonathan Norman Coffey (1819 - 1896) DNA✓
 1. Robert Exum Coffey (1858 - 1939) R-FTC70715 DNA✓
 1. Robert Earl Coffey (1890 - 1959) DNA✓
 1. Selwyn Earl Coffey (1920 - 1991) DNA✓
 1. Living: Norm Coffey Y R-FTC70715 DNA✓
 2. Carl Ernest Coffey (1904 - 1990) DNA✓
 1. Living: Spencer Coffey Y R-FTC70715 DNA✓
2. Hugh Coffey Sr. (1750 - 1827) DNA✓
 1. Hugh Coffee Jr. (1770 - 1835)
 1. Hugh M Coffey (1802 - 1881)

2. [John Coffey](#) (1775 - 1816)
 1. [William Givens Coffey](#) (1797 - 1886) DNA✓
 1. [James Jefferson Coffey](#) (1827 - 1895) His grandson Jeff has R-M269 DNA✓
3. [Hugh Coffey](#) (1784 - 1861) R-FTB71880 DNA✓
 1. [Harris Coffey](#) (1814 - 1874) R-FTB71880 DNA✓
 1. [Robert Walker Coffey](#) (1871 - 1946) DNA✓
 1. [William Buford Coffey](#) (1914 - 1996) DNA✓
 1. Living: [William Coffey](#) Y R-FTB71880 DNA✓
 2. [Andrew Boyd Coffey](#) (1818 - 1884) DNA✓
 1. [Andrew Hugh Coffey](#) (1856 - 1942) DNA✓
 1. [James Andrew Coffey](#) (1887 - 1963) DNA✓
 1. [Joseph Lee Coffey](#) (1923 - 1995) DNA✓
 1. Living: [Richard Coffey](#) Y R-FTB71880 DNA✓
 2. [Eugene aka Edward Franklin aka Preston \(Coffey\) Wilson](#) (1873 - 1933) DNA✓
 1. [Joe Wilson PhD](#) (1920 - 2005)
 1. Living: [Edward Wilson Ph.D.](#) Y R-FTB71880 DNA✓

WHO WAS EDWARD PRESTON WILSON?

By Virginia Wilson Thomas

How I Got into DAR a.k.a Who was Edward Preston Wilson?

I have been trying to find out who my grandfather, Edward Preston Wilson, was for 25 years, ever since my sister, Alice Wilson Johnstone, died unexpectedly on May 6, 1998, overnight in her sleep at age 42. My husband and I traveled for her funeral from our home in Durham, NC to the Dallas, TX area where she lived.

When we got there and had settled in, her husband, Scott, asked me if I wanted to see something Alice had been working on and take care of it. She must have been pretty concerned about it for him to mention it to me in those circumstances.

It turned out she had been trying to find out something about our paternal grandfather, Edward Preston Wilson. He had passed away in 1933 when our father was 13 years old. I have no idea what spiked her curiosity. I decided to try and follow up on her project in her honor and in 1999 I bought a desktop computer and started learning how to research family history. Before this it had never occurred to me to do such a thing. I spent years checking all possible clues and they all led nowhere as far as finding my grandfather was concerned. I did learn over all the time I spent that I was eligible for DAR membership on my grandmother's side.

I thought I had hit gold when I found his WW1 draft registration on Ancestry.com. It listed his closest relative as Willim E Wilson of Owensboro, KY. None of the scraps of information available led anywhere including this one, but I knew when DNA testing became available that it could lead to the answer.

My brother did the Y-DNA test for me at Family Tree DNA which made the most sense and myself and my sister tested at various companies, but no one matched anyone named Wilson.

There were some DNA matches from the testing but no Wilsons. Then I noticed that there were matches to people at different testing companies who matched me and/or another of my family members and their tests all had been paid for by the same woman whose name is Terri.

Terri and I decided to put our heads together and she came to Durham from MD where she lives to help me investigate my grandfather. She found a candidate from her family, had a picture to show me, and knew that the matches were her mother's family. We had no pictures of my grandfather to go by and her description of the guy didn't fit in my mind. Things stalled for a couple of years.

Then someone named Richard Lee Coffey contacted me about making a change in Wiki tree to my grandfather because my grandfather's real name was Eugene Franklin Coffey!

Apparently, Eugene left home in Mississippi. and worked/ traveled in TX, the Midwest, etc. and ended up in Burlington, Iowa where he married Fairy Violet Secord. The marriage was unhappy, and he wanted a divorce, but couldn't get one. He changed his name to Edward Preston Wilson, moved to Hannibal, MO, met my grandmother there, and married her. The theory is that he was worried about being charged with bigamy, so he changed his name. In 1920 they had one child, my father, Joseph Edward Wilson. Meanwhile Fairy Violet had run off to Utah and married someone else without a divorce from Eugene. So my sisters, brother, and I are all really Coffey's, as was my father in reality, and that's a surprise! The other surprise is that before Eugene's family lived in Mississippi they had lived in NC In Mecklenburg Co, NC which is the area where my husband grew up and why there have been DNA matches for me and my family members with people in that area of the NC/SC border.

EXTENDING PART OF THE "EDWARD COFFEY PROJECT"?

By Fred Coffey

I received the following note:

My name is Jacob Coffey. I was doing some ancestry work and think there is a possibility of our relation. Just wanted to connect!

My Father is Brian Coffey of Dardanelle Arkansas

His Father is Thomas Coffey of the Same

His father is Gerald Coffey

His is George Coffey

His is George S Coffey

His is George Coffey

His is Landon H Coffey

His is Chelsey Coffey Jr

and the last I have is his father Chelsey Coffey Sr

Fred: Jacob gave me a link to his Ancestry family tree. My first step was to see if any part of that tree connected to Jack Coffee's ECP (Edward Coffey Project)! There was a connection. But only the last four of his listed ancestors were in ECP! Here is a direct link to the page in the ECP:

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/ECP2020Lite/b15173.htm#P15173>

From there, a reader can step upward through the ECP to see what Jack wrote about each of the “RED” names. Note that if you read all the discussion related to “Chelsey Coffey Jr” and to “Chelsey Coffey Sr” you will see there is a fair bit of uncertainty discussed. The big problem is that most of us do not believe “Chelsey Coffey Sr.” was a real person. He was a misinterpretation by an early genealogy researcher.

That of course means that the one we call “Chelsey Coffey Jr” was not a “Junior”. He was probably a son of Edward Coffey Jr. who was simply named “Chesley Coffey”. We recognize him as a real person but put big question marks behind the “Jr???” label.

I called up Jacob Coffey’s Ancestry tree and found that he offered a well-documented extension beyond what was covered in the ECP. I think this shows how it might all now be extended:

- (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 Mary Baldwin (Sep 1759 - abt 1820)
- (4) Landon Coffey (1794 - 1888) & Mary “Polly” Tate (1785 - ca 1848)
- (5) George Coffey (ca 1830 - 11 Jun 1880) & Nancy Louise Morrow (1841 - 1912)
- (6) George Samuel Coffey (Dec 1864 - 3 Sep 1930) & Sarah Ann Fpster (3 Dec 1868 - 23 Jan 1950)
- (7) George Lester Coffey (18 Jan 1895 - 10 Feb 1972) & Era Viola Jones (26 May 1899 - 25 Oct 1968)
- (8) Gerald Lemoyne Coffey (17 Oct 1922 - 5 Mar 2012) & Margie Lee Lynch (2 Dec 1927 - 13 Jun 2012)
- (9) Tom Coffey (Jun 1946 -) & Franciene Juanita Huelle (25 Jul 1949 - 4 Feb 2014)
- (10) Brian Lemoyne Coffey
- (11) Jacob Matthew Coffey

TOM SMITH: NOT AN EDWARD COFFEY DESCENDANT!

By Fred Coffey

Tom Smit wrote:

“Last year I found an autosomal DNA match to a “Donald Lee Coffey”, indicating he might be as close as a second to fourth cousin”, and I found that name in your CCC newsletter issue #132.

I don't have any lines that he would descend from, which is unusual since I thought I had all the lines accounted for.

I suspect that Patrick Coffey (New Brunswick) mentioned in your article as being a brother or 1st cousin of my great grandfather Andrew. They come from Ferbrane to Cloghan. If Patrick Coffey is from Ballyhale townland, Galway then that's certainly within distance of my Coffey line. Your article also mentions that Patrick lived in the USA in RAHWAY and New Brunswick. So perhaps he lived for a while with my Coffey sept and got work in New Brunswick.

Regards, Tom Smith”

From Fred: Tom, when the article in newsletter #132 was written, we noted that Donald Lee Coffey had a basic DNA match to Edward, and assumed he must be a descendant of Edward.

But we subsequently did some “Big-Y” testing, and learned to our surprise that Donald Lee Coffey clearly did NOT descend from Edward. His connection to Edward goes back to far before Edward came to America, and his ancestry is actually in our “Keogh” group.

For more discussion, you might want to read this complicated paper:

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

The reference to Donald Lee Coffey is on page 5, in Block Tree (6). I don't know how to analyze any farther than to say "Donald is NOT an Edward descendant". His genetic ancestry is "Keogh", and you will need to search for someone with that surname.

ANTHONY COFFEY FAMILY:

By Fred Coffey

Hi Fred, my name is Anthony Coffey. I'm interested in my Coffey history and ran across your page while searching for info about my great grandfather, Monroe Coffey of Collettsville, NC. He was married to Dovie Jane Coffey, Daughter of William Henry Clark. I'm interested in joining your project. Thanks for all the great info!

From Fred: Here's what I can find about your genealogy. Note that Dovie Jane Clarke and Monroe Coffey are second cousins, so there are two paths back to Edward.

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca 1670 - ca 20 Nov 1716) & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) John Coffey (BET 1699 AND 1700 - BET JAN 1775 AND FEB 1775) & Jane Graves (ca 1708 - 1792)
- (3) Reuben Coffey (7 Mar 1742 - 1825) & Sarah Scott (ca 1750 - Oct 1837)
- (4) Joseph Coffey (ca 1785 - ca 1835) & Isabella Lindsay
- (5) Enoch Coffey (ca 1809 - 3 Oct 1893) & Martha Calloway (abt 1818 -)
- (6) Martha L. Coffey (Sep 1846 - 24 Mar 1942) & William Henry Harvey Clarke (26 Dec 1841 - 12 Sep 1938)
- (7) **Dovie Jane Clarke** (15 Sep 1890 - 3 Jul 1968) & (7) **Monroe Coffey** (26 Jan 1883 - 3 Nov 1955)
 - (8) Ruby Coffey (28 Jul 1911 - 1 Sep 1967) & Oscar D. Frye
 - (8) Ruth Coffey (10 Feb 1913 - 5 Feb 2008) & Jay Greene (ca 1910 -)
 - (9) Nolan Greene (ca 1935 -)
 - (9) Mary Lu Greene (ca 1936 -)
 - (8) Bruce Coffey (21 Sep 1915 - 24 Jul 1988)
 - (8) Sarah Nell Coffey (31 Jan 1919 -) & James Dewey Rhodes (ca 1916 -)
 - (9) Sarah Jane Rhodes (7 Jan 1940 -)
 - (9) Carolyn Cordillia Rhodes (16 Feb 1943 -)
 - (8) Jack Coffey (1921 - 29 Jun 2008) & Sadie Alice Huffman (3 Feb 1923 - 10 Oct 1984)
 - (9) Frederick Coffey
 - (10) **Anthony Coffey**
 - (8) Blanche Coffey (1923 - 26 Apr 2013) & W. B. Garren (ca 1930 -)
 - (8) Martha Louise Coffey (1925 -) & Robert Haywood Steele Jr. (6 Oct 1920 - 30 Apr 2003)
 - (8) Clyde Hedrick Coffey (26 May 1928 - 1 Apr 2001) & Rebecca Jeanette Estes (1928 -)
- (5) Bryce Brisco Coffey (5 May 1824 - 7 Apr 1910) & Susannah Gragg (ca 1822 - 1896)
- (6) Thomas M. Coffey (6 May 1856 - Oct 1914) & Cordelia Gragg (ca 1857 -)
- (7) **Monroe Coffey** (26 Jan 1883 - 3 Nov 1955) & (7) **Dovie Jane Clarke** (15 Sep 1890 - 3 Jul 1968)
 - (8) Ruby Coffey (28 Jul 1911 - 1 Sep 1967) & Oscar D. Frye
 - (8) Ruth Coffey (10 Feb 1913 - 5 Feb 2008) & Jay Greene (ca 1910 -)
 - (9) Nolan Greene (ca 1935 -)
 - (9) Mary Lu Greene (ca 1936 -)
 - (8) Bruce Coffey (21 Sep 1915 - 24 Jul 1988)
 - (8) Sarah Nell Coffey (31 Jan 1919 -) & James Dewey Rhodes (ca 1916 -)
 - (9) Sarah Jane Rhodes (7 Jan 1940 -)
 - (9) Carolyn Cordillia Rhodes (16 Feb 1943 -)
 - (8) Jack Coffey (1921 - 29 Jun 2008) & Sadie Alice Huffman (3 Feb 1923 - 10 Oct 1984)
 - (9) Frederick Coffey
 - (10) **Anthony Coffey**
 - (8) Blanche Coffey (1923 - 26 Apr 2013) & W. B. Garren (ca 1930 -)
 - (8) Martha Louise Coffey (1925 -) & Robert Haywood Steele Jr. (6 Oct 1920 - 30 Apr 2003)
 - (8) Clyde Hedrick Coffey (26 May 1928 - 1 Apr 2001) & Rebecca Jeanette Estes (1928 -)

ANOTHER “COFFY” FOUND:

By Janet Tepera

I am attaching an interesting picture. My husband and I caught a sailing ship out of Barbados in Late January to early Feb 2024. We stayed in a little hotel down near the port before we sailed off. This little establishment sat across the street from our hotel. I was drawn to it. We met the African bar owner who was very kind. He is a Coffey. I suppose this opens a lot of questions. Sure was a beautifully decorated dining place.



Your Thoughts?

Fred: I think you should go back and ask him for the story about how his family ended up on a Caribbean island with an Irish name like “Coffy”! Could make a great story.

There are many blacks in the USA with a “Coffey” name, and perhaps one of those found their way to Barbados? I wrote an article about that in [Newsletters](#) issue 146-9,10. Anyway, I wanted some color to put in the next newsletter, and that picture certainly qualifies!

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.).