

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

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Note for CCC Beginners:

This is Issue #175. We have been producing these reports for 44 years, and we have accumulated many thousands of pages of information. And these newsletters often go off into details that will be confusing to “new members” of the Coffey Cousins’ Clearinghouse, or to those who have not kept up with our activities. If you find our work confusing, we recommend you click on this link, and rapidly skim through the discussion there:

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

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Editor’s Comments

Dear Cousins: Hope none of you live in the tornado areas. We had several go through Missouri but none came to Jefferson City. There were several close by in neighboring towns but as I told the Governor’s wife one day at a party in the mansion, “the hot air from the capital keeps the bad weather away from Jefferson City.” Luckily, she thought it was very funny. She had to tell Mell (Carnahan) that.

I was honored to be invited as a DAR member to a banquet and ball in honor of General Lafayette’s 200 anniversary of his trip back to America. He came and toured the country for nearly a year to see how Democracy was working. The furthest west that he got was St. Louis. We met the reenactor under the Arch on the Mississippi River as he came in on boat and then later in the evening all went to the banquet and ball at a hall on “the Hill”. It’s a well known area of St. Louis. Everyone was in costume. I probably was the oldest one there but didn’t keep me from having fun.

Before I go, it has been worrying me about the Mormon Records. I know most of you know this, but it is important that you treat them as you would treat the Ancestry records. Use any documents but be leery of personal records. They are not required to document their linages. I have run into some really wild ones.

I also want to ask you guys who are better with the computer than I am and that is almost everyone now. I found a web site in Ireland that I have received for a few years, and they have a great database, but I need someone to do some searching for us there. I just read the stories. It's a great source if properly used. The title: *Letter from Ireland*. I hope someone can find it. I will look forward to hearing if it is of any help to us.

Don't forget to share your research with your cousins and what better way to do it than send it to Fred Coffey for the next newsletter.

Bonnie Culley

bonnieculley33@gmail.com

Co-editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

I enjoy working on these newsletters. I like trying to solve genealogy mysteries posed by our readers, I enjoy reading about projects that readers are pursuing. Over the years I have developed some skill in maintaining and searching our very large database of "Coffey" information. There is a mixture of articles in this newsletter that readers may find interesting.

In particular, note below the article about "Artificial Intelligence". I particularly hope one of our readers will take up the challenge and show how AI can help our Coffey research.

Terri Stern sometimes writes articles for these newsletters, and she also manages a "Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse Facebook Group". (See the Information Resource Links section at the end of this newsletter.) I know that CCC Editor Bonnie Culley reads some of the stuff via Terri's link and sometimes encourages people to contact me via email. I am not interested in personally using Facebook, but I am available for discussions via the following email address:

Fred Coffey

FredCoffey@aol.com

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 be contained on a 16-gb USB flash drive. That could be offered to interested Coffey researchers. I call this the "ArchiveStick".

IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USEFUL FOR GENEALOGY??

Questions: By Fred Coffey

In Newsletter 172-3 (Issue 172 on Page 3) I wrote a bit about AI (Artificial Intelligence) for genealogy. For that particular example I felt it was rather useless.

For an update I asked "Google" what was going on and read "*Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly used in genealogy to assist with tasks like record analysis, image enhancement, and even generating ancestor biographies. AI tools can help genealogists analyze large datasets, identify potential matches, and translate documents, ultimately accelerating research and uncovering new family history insights.*"

And I found more discussion from a respectable source, Family Search: (This is sponsored by *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* and provides free access to a vast collection of historical records, a collaborative family tree, and various research tools.) Here's a link:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/ai-developments-genealogy>

I invite one or more of our readers to use AI to research something about Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse related issues. And then write an article for our next newsletter.

CHESLEY SHELTON COFFEY CONNECTIONS:

By Ray Coffey and Fred Coffey

Ray: Dear Cousin Fred: We on my branch of the Coffey Tree still have questions about my Great Grandfather Chestly Shelton Coffey (1818-1869) who married Mississippi Serphine Davis about 1838-40. Their youngest Son born in 1868 Edgar Nathan Coffey D. 1921. His youngest Son Robert William Coffey (1899-1969) was my father.

But it seems that we cannot get confirmed data on who were Chestly's parents, but our DNA traces back to the Edward Coffey Tree. So any help on this by you or one of your researchers would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Fred: Here is what we have for your family line:

- (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) Joel Coffey (15 Jun 1789 - 10 Dec 1855) & Sarah Mackey (1795 -)
- (5) Chesley Shelton Coffey (ca 1816 - 10 Feb 1869) & Mississippi Seraphine Davis (21 Apr 1833 - 20 Nov 1884)
- (6) Edgar Nathan Coffey (14 May 1869 - 28 Nov 1922) & Caroline Watson Campbell (24 Jun 1869 - 1955)
- (7) Robert Coffey (Aug 1899 -)
- (8) Raymond W Coffey

There have been previous issues related to this family line. For a long time, we were inserting a "Chesley Coffey Sr" as a son of Edward Coffey Jr. But we eventually concluded that Chesley Senior never existed. In which case the "Chesley Coffey Jr???" above was not really a "Junior". (I've left the "Jr???" label to remind people of the prior confusing discussions.)

The following link will take you into Jack Coffee's "Edward Coffey Project", Jack was the real expert on descendants of Edward Coffey. This link will drop you into the page Jack wrote about your grandfather (6) Edgar Nathan Coffey, and that page named your father Robert and his siblings but included no discussion at that level. (To preserve privacy, Jack would usually not write about living people.)

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/ECP2020Lite/b42878.htm#P42878>

You can click here to enter at this page and then move up to discussions of all your other ancestors. There is a lot of detailed discussion.

But as you note, the most important issue about your line is in the discussion around (5) Chesley Shelton Coffey. Jack wrote that this Chesley is **"NOT A PROVEN SON OF JOEL"**. That is the major remaining uncertainty in your line. Can any reader of these newsletters offer the missing proof?

GENERAL JOHN COFFEE:

By Fred Coffey and Marnica Coffey

On Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 01:22:50 PM EDT, Marnica Coffey <nicia4u@msn.com> wrote:

Hi Leo (Fred), Can you tell me if Coffee County, TN was named for one of our Coffey kin, John Coffee?

Fred: Hi Marnica, Yes Coffee County was named for General John R Coffee. Go to our newsletter archive and call up Issue 143-10. There is an article naming sources of Coffey/Coffee locations starting on page 10, with General John Coffee named on page 11.

General John R Coffee commanded troops under General Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812 (Battle of New Orleans, and the concurrent Creek Wars). Later, in 1830, he worked under President Jackson toward removal of Southeast Native American tribes to lands west of the Mississippi River.

I recall that you (Marnica) were managing genealogy for your husband, Donald Coffey, and that we wrote an article about Donald's ancestry in newsletter issue 156-6. There were some complications. Bottom line was that we could not with confidence prove Donald's detail ancestry. (Curious readers are invited to go back and read the article for background information.)

I took this opportunity to review my information sources and have found some excellent additional information. I am now highly confident that the genealogy presented in issue 156-6 was fundamentally solid. With some minor adjustments, I am now convinced that the following is quite solid for Donald's ancestry:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca 1670 - ca 20 Nov 1716) & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) John Coffey (BET 1699 AND 1700 - BET JAN 1775 AND FEB 1775) & Jane Graves (ca 1708 - 1792)
- (3) Rev. James Coffey (4 Jul 1729 - 1786) & Elizabeth Cleveland (Feb 1727 - BET 1826 AND 1827)
- (4) Eli Coffey (1 Mar 1764 - 5 Sep 1847) & Hannah Allen (ca 1762 - Aug 1849)
- (5) **Benjamin Coffey** (1793 -) & Mary Maddox (1803-1850)
- (6) James Andrew Coffey (1821 -) & Elizabeth Jane Merrick
- (7) James J Coffey (Jul 1844 - aft 1910) & Sarah Jane Hughey (Dec 1844 - Abt 1903)

- (8) Jesse Elias Coffey (15 Sep 1876 - 1 May 1952) & Tabiatha Ellen Manning (Jul 1874 - 12 Sep 1962)
- (9) Simoun Coffey (6 Nov 1896 - 11 Nov 1966) & Catherine Elizabeth Manning
- (10) Roy Ransom Coffey (23 Feb 1922 - 29 Jul 1978) & Elizabeth Ruth Brown
- (11) Donald R Coffey (1943 -) & Marnicia McCarty
- (5) Asbury Madison Coffey (25 Jan 1804 - 28 Nov 1897) & Mary G. Bradford (22 Mar 1809 - 20 Oct 1893)

The big issue in the 156-6 study was that there was doubt about the "**Benjamin Coffey**" highlighted above. Our primary source of detail information was the "Edward Coffey Project" managed by Jack Coffee, and Jack felt that evidence for Benjamin was lacking.

Asbury Madison wrote about his parents: *"Three children were born to them: --- James, Allen, both died in infancy, and the writer, Asbury M., who was born on the 25 of Jan. 1804." This is dated Nov. 16, 1863.*

If Asbury was right that there were only 3 children, then that ruled out the possibility of a brother "Benjamin". But I now suspect that Asbury simply did not remember Benjamin living with the family, because Benjamin had moved out before Asbury was old enough to remember him living at home?

New Evidence: 1820 Kentucky census: Eli and Benjamin Coffey (see the above genology) are found in Wayne County, KY. You can click on "View Record" here and see their census reports:

Eli Coffey: [View Record](#) Benjamin Coffey: [View Record](#)

The entry for Eli's family shows one male "age 45 and over" -- and that would be Eli born 1 Mar 1763. Eli's wife Hannah is about age 58. And there is one male "age 16 to 18" in the family -- and that would be Asbury Madison born 25 Jan 1804.

Benjamin is Eli's other son, who is in 1820 with his own family: He is a male "age 25 to 44", born 1793. His wife Mary is age 17. (There is a puzzle here in that there are 2 males under age 10. Mary seems too young to be their biological mother. Maybe Benjamin had 2 children from a previous relationship?)

By 1830 Benjamin is in Jackson Co., Alabama. Many of the later generations are discussed here:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/472460/person/402386901241/facts>

But one thing is not in doubt. Donald's y-DNA test proves without doubt that he descends from the Edward Coffey who was in America by 1699.

Your note asks if General John Coffee was "one of our Coffey kin". It is technically true that he is "kin", but he does **not** descend from Edward. His connection to your Donald's family is back in Ireland. General John descends from Peter Coffey who arrived in America from Ireland quite separately.

With a little searching, you could probably find a living Coffey-surname descendant of General John. and you could compare his y-DNA to your Donald. The DNA would say you are absolutely Coffey-line relatives. But given the time separation of your lines back to Ireland, you can be no closer than perhaps "10th cousins".

RADFORD REAMS GOODLOE AND FAMILY:

By Fred Coffey and James Goodloe

I got a note from Dr. James Goodloe IV:

James: My first cousin, Radford Reams Goodloe, Jr., was kind to forward your email address to me: Please add me to newsletter distribution list, and please give me the instructions on how to view it.

Fred: You are now on our distribution list. You will receive a notification when the next newsletter is published about the end of June. Meanwhile you can go to this link and see every Coffey Cousins Newsletter ever written:

www.coffey.ws/familytree/CoffeyRoadmap.html

When you get there, just click on the link **Newsletters** and the complete list will pop up.

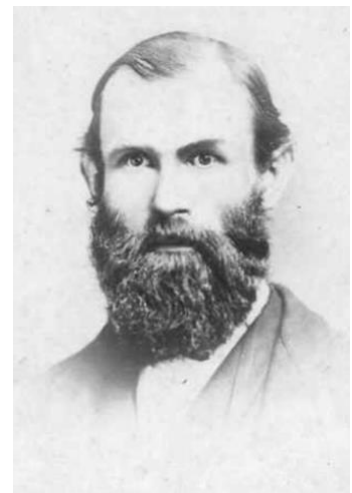
The name "Radford Reams Goodloe (Sr)" is well known to me. He created the first and oldest index to help search for Newsletter topics. That index is still available and quite workable, but I have adopted a different way for searching the newsletters.

Following is the genealogy of the two first cousins, "James Goodloe IV" and "Radford Reams Goodloe Jr". And it shows how "Radford Reams Goodloe (Sr)" fits in:

- (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) Ambrose Coffey (ca 1762 - Sep 1818) & Mildred Moore (31 Mar 1770 - ca 1812)
- (5) Jesse Coffee (1792 - 14 Feb 1835) & Ann Amelia Hackett (1794 - 1839)
- (6) Chatham Coffee (14 Dec 1825 - 6 Mar 1889) & Mary Evelina Morford (22 Sep 1831 - 25 Jun 1890)
- (7) Jessie Furman Coffee (30 Jan 1868 - 3 Aug 1953) & Radford Monroe Reams (20 Jun 1857 - 21 Oct 1934)
- (8) Mary M. Reams (19 Aug 1896 - 7 Apr 1973) & James Camp Goodloe Jr (19 May 1895 - 7 Aug 1941)
- (9) James Camp Goodloe III (5 Jan 1929 - 7 Apr 2014) & Mary Winton Bailey (3 Oct 1931 - 18 Dec 2019)
- (10) **James Camp Goodloe IV**
- (9) **Radford Reams Goodloe Sr** (14 Jun 1920 - 6 Jan 2018) & Virginia Margaret Smith (20 Jul 1921 - Jul 2008)
- (10) **Radford Reams Goodloe Jr**

James: Thank you for this. The only things that I see are two dates on generation (6) of the information you have for me. I somehow have that Chatham Coffee died on **05** March 1889 and that his wife Mary Evalina Morford died on **26** June 1890. But I may have keyed that in wrong, and you may have access to better?

Fred: Hey, the death dates in the above genealogy are cast in stone. I found Chatham on Find-a-Grave Memorial 27458999, and Mary on FAG 27459018. That offers a photo of their tombstone, which reports death dates of March 6 and June 25. It also provides photographs of Chatham and Mary. Here's a picture of Chatham, who had been an officer in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.



AMY'S COFFEY FAMILY:

By Amy Pullins Satoski and Fred Coffey

Amy: My name is Amy Pullins Satoski. My grandmother was Joyce Coffey Leuthold her father was Hugh G Coffey. His father was John Lane Coffey, son of Ausborn, son of Colby.

Fred: I'm always curious. I did a quick look for your family and saw some promising references! Generally, I would search in Jack Coffee's ECP (Edward Coffey Project) and likely find good info. I could find Colby and Ausborn in Jack's database, and that easily leads me back all the way back to Edward Coffey. Here's the hyperlink straight to Ausborn:

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/ECP2020Lite/b1787.htm#P1787>

If you click on this link, it will take you directly to a very vague discussion about Ausborn and his wife Martha Campbell. Turns out that Jack had never researched any of their descendants, and he knew none of their death dates. For some reason, this was a dead end for Jack.

If you click on Ausborn's name at the top of this page link, it will jump UP to Ausborn's father, and will show a lot of information on his father Colby. It shows the names of Colby's children, and if you wish can explore them in great detail by clicking on each name. Or you can click on Colby's name at the top of the page, and it will jump up to Colby's father John.

You can go up and down and quickly discover all of these people:

- (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) Benjamin Coffey (ca 1747 - 4 Jan 1834) & Mary Hayes (ca 1760 -)
- (4) John Coffey (15 Oct 1776 - 15 Mar 1845) & Elizabeth Rucker (6 Jan 1787 - 22 Mar 1855)
- (5) Colby Coffey (23 Aug 1806 - 17 Jun 1888) & Mary Dalaney (6 Oct 1807 - 26 Sep 1887)
- (6) Ausborn (Osborn) Coffey (Jan 1845 -) & Martha Campbell (9 Feb 1851 -)

But now we're stuck. Where can we go from here? I switched to "Ancestry.com" and searched their "Public Member Trees" for a "Joyce Coffey who had married a man with a Leuthold name". BINGO!

I found multiple trees that knew this family. And here's a link to "Joyce" in one that seemed well documented!

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/61320600/person/122291778706/facts>

And this gave me details from Ausborn down to Joyce, like this:

- (6) Ausborn (Osborn) Coffey (Jan 1845 – 8 May 1902) & Martha Campbell (9 Feb 1851 – 30 Sep 1892)
- (7) John Lane Coffey (11 Dec 1872 - 7 Dec 1930) & Jeanette (Jennie) Long (2 Apr 1878 - 26 Dec 1934)
- (8) Hugh G Coffey (10 Jul 1900 - 25 Apr 1974) & Katie Willis Jones (8 Aug 1894 - 6 Jul 1973)
- (9) Joyce Oneeda Coffey (31 Jul 1928 - 24 Dec 2003) & Jack John Leuthold (2 Feb 1927 - 21 Apr 1997)

And then we can put the pieces together:

- (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) Benjamin Coffey (ca 1747 - 4 Jan 1834) & Mary Hayes (ca 1760 -)
- (4) John Coffey (15 Oct 1776 - 15 Mar 1845) & Elizabeth Rucker (6 Jan 1787 - 22 Mar 1855)
- (5) Colby Coffey (23 Aug 1806 - 17 Jun 1888) & Mary Dalaney (6 Oct 1807 - 26 Sep 1887)
- (6) Ausborn (Osborn) Coffey (Jan 1845 – 8 May 1902) & Martha Campbell (9 Feb 1851 – 30 Sep 1892)
- (7) John Lane Coffey (11 Dec 1872 - 7 Dec 1930) & Jeanette (Jennie) Long (2 Apr 1878 - 26 Dec 1934)
- (8) Hugh G Coffey (10 Jul 1900 - 25 Apr 1974) & Katie Willis Jones (8 Aug 1894 - 6 Jul 1973)
- (9) Joyce Oneeda Coffey (31 Jul 1928 - 24 Dec 2003) & Jack John Leuthold (2 Feb 1927 - 21 Apr 1997)

THE MAINE COFFEYS:

BY Phyllis Goldfarb and Fred Coffey

Phyllis Goldfarb

From: pgoldfarb@law.gwu.edu

To: FredCoffey@aol.com

Phyllis: Hi Fred,

I've been researching the Irish ancestry of my husband, James Warren Fellows. in preparation for a family history trip to Ireland this June. In the process of doing this research, I was delighted to run into the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse, and particularly your article in the September 2018 newsletter on the Coffeys of Maine.

My husband's beloved maternal grandmother was Elinor Coffey Kilkenny, the sister of Ralph Leo Coffey and child of Warren Frances Coffey, who was the grandson of James Coffey, born @1811, the ancestor who emigrated from Ireland to Maine.

Your clearinghouse article on the Maine Coffeys asks who was the family of origin of the immigrant James, and suggests candidates for DNA tests. Were the tests you proposed--for Sue Ann Coffey's brother, James, and Amber Ipock's uncle--ever done? In the past few years, my husband was in touch with Darla Coffey, James Coffey's daughter, so perhaps she would be a good candidate as well. And my husband, a direct descendant of James Coffey, the immigrant ancestor, did have an Ancestry DNA test recently. If that would be helpful to review, let us know and maybe he can forward those results.

My Ancestry research turned up an 1848 citizenship application for a James Coffee in Portland, Maine. It states that James left Dublin on May 28, 1829, arriving in Newfoundland in July, and from there made his way to Halifax and St. John, then Lubec, Maine, before arriving in Portland, Maine in October, 1830. The next four generations, up to and including my husband's mother, Anne Coffey Kilkenny, in 1921, were born in Portland, Maine. James himself died on April 3, 1886 in Portland and is buried in Calvary Cemetery in South Portland with his wife, Ellen or Elinor or Eleanor Murrin Coffee who died on Feb. 17, 1875.

James Coffee's US citizenship application names his birthplace in Ireland, but it is illegible. (The names were possibly even fabricated). On an Irish genealogy website, I found a baptism certificate for a James Coffey from 1811 in Dublin in the Clondalkin parish, stating it is on digitized microfilm in the National Library of Ireland (Book 2, p. 6, record identifier DU-RC-BA-6817) and listing his parents' names as Peter Coffey and Ann. We will look for that baptism record when we're in Dublin in June.

We plan to consult genealogy advisors in Dublin, though I have no idea if they can help us. I would like to try to verify whether the immigrant ancestor of the Maine Coffeys who filled out the US citizenship application is the same James Coffee/Coffey listed in the baptism certificate. If so, who are his listed parents, Peter Coffey and Ann? And maybe the advisors can help me decipher the listed birthplace on James Coffee's citizenship application.

If you have any suggestions for where else to look or how to find out more to investigate the ancestry of the Maine Coffeys, either from here or when we're in Ireland, please let us know and we will definitely follow up. If we find out anything of value to help solve the mystery of James Coffey's family of origin, we will definitely pass it on. And thanks for all you've done to document the ancestry of all the Coffey cousins. It's a lot of work and incredibly helpful.

Wishing you well. Warmly, Phyllis Goldfarb

From Fred: You asked if the DNA test I recommended in the 2018 article had ever been done. You will recall that I proposed a y-DNA test, and identified four individuals that would be excellent choices, and we felt that Sue Ann Coffey's brother James Coffey would be ideal. But any of the four would be excellent. But so far, no y-DNA test has been ordered.

I strongly recommend you try to get a sample from any one of these four individuals and submit it to FTDNA (Family Tree DNA) for a 37-marker y-DNA test. Cost today is \$119, but often on sale. Usually takes 3-6 weeks to complete after test sample is returned.

I have a large number of y-DNA tests on Coffey-name individuals with Irish roots. If your Coffey man has a match to any of the individuals I follow, it will greatly narrow down your search. Would be best if you could get the test result before you travel to Ireland.

In your paragraph above you suggested that maybe "...*Darla Coffey, James Coffey's daughter, would be a good candidate as well.*" Absolutely NOT! Only a y-DNA test, on a male from your family with the Coffey surname would work. Only males have y-DNA, and it is passed down from father to son. From Ralph, to James, to James Jr. Can't do Ralph since he died in 1945. But James Sr. would be fine, and so would James Jr.

I recommend a bit of background reading. Here's something I wrote describing what you can learn from DNA testing. And also talking about "Coffey" diversity in Ireland. [CCCRewiew2022](#)

WHAT TO DO WITH FAMILY PHOTOS FROM ESTATE SALE:

BY Fred Coffey & Becky Byrns

Note from Becky: reb948@aol.com

I was given your website by a Coffey descendent in the hopes you may be able to help me. I came across some Family photos at an estate sale that are for children of a Mary Elizabeth Coffey (1871 - 1965). I am trying to find some of her descendants to return the photos to. Unfortunately, I am locating only distant cousins via Ancestry.com. Can you help me.?

Fred: I have a lot of information about **Mary Elizabeth Coffey** and her family. Here's a quick summary of her Coffey family connection:

- (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) Thomas Coffey (7 Mar 1742 - Apr 1825) & Sarah Fields (ca 1750 - 21 Nov 1828)
- (4) McCaleb Coffey (22 Aug 1803 - 17 Feb 1881) & Elizabeth Collett (8 Mar 1809 - 6 Jul 1887)
- (5) Thomas Jefferson Coffey (3 Dec 1828 - 11 Jun 1901) & Mary Elizabeth Greer (6 Mar 1846 - 6 May 1926)
- (6) **Mary Elizabeth Coffey** (14 Aug 1871 - 28 Aug 1965) & Judge William Ballard Council (11 Aug 1858 - 1940)
- (7) Howard Folk Council (May 1895 - 31 Jul 1926)
- (7) Gordon Stuart Council (Oct 1896 - 5 Mar 1953)
- (7) William Thomas Council (14 Sep 1898 - 15 Apr 1947)
- (7) Stedman Cilley Council (29 Jun 1901 - 11 Mar 1957) & Marion Elizabeth Epps
- (7) Alan Ballard Council (28 Apr 1904 - 12 Sep 1923)
- (7) Elisabeth Agnes Council (28 Apr 1906 - 11 Aug 1998)

The family is well-known in Jack Coffee's ECP (Edward Coffey Project). Here's a hyperlink that will drop you into the middle of the ECP at the page where Elizabeth is introduced. There is a LOT of discussion here that you can dig into. And there are dozens of footnotes!

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/ECP2020Lite/b2609.htm#P2609>

You need to find a LIVING person to give your Family Photos to. The ECP generally only deals with deceased persons, and you can see that all her children above are deceased.

I also went to "Public Member Trees" on Ancestry and found that there were 134 trees that referenced Mary Elizabeth Coffey. Another overwhelming amount of information! I did a superficial look at a few and wasn't able to identify a living descendant.

So, I can bury you in information but can't offer anything really useful. I'll turn this note into an article for our next Coffey Cousins newsletter, coming out at the end of June. Maybe one of our readers has some ideas. And I'll send you a note explaining how to read the Newsletter when it is available.

Becky: My interest in the Coffees came about by my buying named family photos -a habit of mine, that I then try to find their families for them. I was only able to buy a few, out of a ton of them but I have ones for all of Mary's children and she and her husband - William Council. Descendents are probably few as these three never married: the oldest, Howard died in an airplane crash he was piloting, the youngest Alan died in a car accident and the daughter, Elizabeth, was single her whole life to what knowledge I could find. The other three brothers, if they had children, were few or impossible for me to locate.

Fred: So, I told you pretty much nothing that you didn't already know! Oh well, the search was fun!

UPDATE FOR "ROB COFFEY AND FAMILY IN IRELAND":

BY Fred Coffey

The last newsletter (#174 Page 6) discussed Rob Coffey and his family, who live in Ireland. They were interested in whether DNA analysis could support their family research. I proposed that a y-DNA test might prove some connection to known Coffey male, lines that we had previously tested.

After our discussion, Rob ordered FTDNA's 111-marker y-DNA test. His test results included excellent matches to four men for whom we already had test results. He had excellent matches to Coffey men John Willard, Alan Roderick, David Lynn and James Joseph.

Here's a table from my files that includes these names in the "County Meath" area. You'll see those four names in the "A" group:

The interesting thing is that this table is for men who are “Ui Neill”, That means they are descendants of Niall Noígíallach (Niall of the Nine Hostages), a historical King of Tara who died c. 405. It is believed that about one in twelve Irishmen are

			MEMO: "UI NEILL" REFERENCE											
			13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
COUNTY MEATH "A" GROUP			REFERENCE											
121709	John Willard Coffey II	R-M222	13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
965271	Alan Roderick Coffey		13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
85718	David Lynn Coffey		13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
(Ancestry)	Jeffrey William Coffey		13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
(Ancestry)	Johnnie A. Coffey		13	26	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
127425	James Joseph Coffey		13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
COUNTY MEATH "B" GROUP			REFERENCE											
207121	Lawrence Elwyn Coffey	R-P312	13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
72279	Vernon Christopher Coffey		13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
IN55163	John O'Farrell		13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
45425	Will Coffey		13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
9601	Bradley Knowles	R-M222	13	25	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
416168	James M Coffey (C-GROUP)		13	24	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
350771	Daniel James Coffey (C-GROUP)		13	24	14	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	
	"Best Match" Egan		13	25	13	11	11-13	12	12	12	13	14	29	

The interesting thing is that this table is for men who are "Ui Neill", That means they are descendants of Niall Noígíallach (Niall of the Nine Hostages), a historical King of Tara who died c. 405. It is believed that about one in twelve Irishmen are

descendants of King Niall. The first line lists the 12 STR markers that are considered indicative of Ui Neill men. The only test results for these men that are NOT typical Ui Neill are marked in pink.

FTDNA has a “time predictor” that can estimate the time back to a “Most Recent Common Ancestor” (MRCA) for Rob and any of these men. Here’s the conclusion for two of the matches:

Based on a Genetic Distance of 2 at the Y-37 test level, Rob Coffey and James Joseph Coffey are estimated to share a common paternal line ancestor who was, with a 95% probability, born between 1250 and 1850 CE. The most likely year is rounded to 1650 CE. This date is an estimate based on genetic information only.

Based on a Genetic Distance of 5 at the Y-67 test level, Rob Coffey and Laura Ellis Lefler are estimated to share a common paternal line ancestor who was, with a 95% probability, born between 900 and 1750 CE. The most likely year is rounded to 1400 CE. This date is an estimate based on genetic information only.*

***Note:** Laura Ellis Lefler name appears, but the tested person is Laura’s first cousin David Lynn Coffey.

The bottom line: Your FTDNA matches here are looking way back in time. This is interesting, but it will not help you identify near-term matches within recent years. If you find a promising candidate and persuade him to do a y-DNA test, then you should see a very impressive match.

Your sister ordered an autosomal DNA test, that is superb at identifying people out to the third to fifth cousin level. If that shows a male-line match, that is a person you should try to recruit.

POSSIBLE BACKGROUND READING FOR “ROB COFFEY AND FAMILY IN IRELAND”:
BY Fred Coffey

Hi Rob and Edwina: You may already have considered all the following, but I’ll put it out there anyway. I recommend you click on this hyperlink. The report is kind of out of date, but I can use the material for discussion. I recommend you look at the [CCCReview2022](#) report.

This discusses DNA testing, but of particular interest will be the discussion of geographic locations in Ireland. That discussion is all covered on pages 24-33.

Within that, when you get to pages 30-31, you will recognize this is talking about the data for the County Meath area as discussed in the above article, and you will recognize the relevant names from your y-DNA matches.

In the previous newsletter #174, you gave me Edwina’s Ancestry tree, going back to Patrick Coffey (1760) who married Ellen Walsh.

You have expressed an interest to learn if you might have an ancestor among the list of ancient poets you provided. If we had enough information on the genealogical descendants of some of the poets, we might find that one of them leads down to your ancestor Patrick Coffey (1760). I don’t know how to do that, but maybe in the future something will turn up?

The first geographic mention in your family tree was “County Cork”. I recommend you read pages 24-25, which suggests the probability that many of the families in Cork may have been displaced from County Kerry. You will see origins listed for many DNA tests.

You have asked if upgrading your DNA test to the “Big-Y” might be useful. I am skeptical, but if you are not put off by the extra cost, it might be worth a try. Big-Y has been helpful for my own Coffey line, and there is discussion on pages 28-29.

I observe that some of the men you matched with your 111-marker test have done the Big-Y, and there is a chance of a surprise useful match for yourself to one of the Big-Y tested men.

Any thoughts or questions?

Fred

INTRODUCING “TAYLOR HAGEMAN”:

BY Fred Coffey & Taylor Hageman

Taylor: Hello Cousin Fred! My mother is Cheralyn Coffey, daughter of William Carl Coffey, the son of Tillman Taylor Coffey, the son of John Taylor Coffey.

I’m a commercial fisherman like my grandfather and his father were in the past. I’ve recently taken great interest in our shared genealogy. Anything you want to publish about our side is more than welcome!

Fred: I recognized your family down as far as William Carl Coffey. I added your mother and yourself, and here is the result:

- (1) Edward Coffey (ca 1670 - ca 20 Nov 1716) & Anne Powell (BET 1683 AND 1685 - BET OCT 1744 AND DEC 1744)
- (2) Annister Coffey (ca 1708 -) & James Samuel (14 Jun 1690 - 16 May 1759)
- (3) James Coffey (BET 1735 AND 1736 -) & Sarah ? (abt 1773 -)
- (4) James Coffey Jr (abt 1774 - bef 1840) & Nancy (12 Jun 1785 - 7 Jun 1848)
- (5) Lewis Moses Coffey (1 Nov 1798 - 18 Jun 1844) & Delilah B. Turpin (27 Jun 1802 - 1873)
- (6) James Wilson Coffey (10 May 1822 - 15 Jul 1889) & Louisa Tennessee Norman (23 Jun 1826 - 24 Dec 1912)
- (7) John Taylor Coffey (May 1847 - 6 Jun 1926) & Sarah Adeline Gates (31 Jul 1860 - 28 Nov 1929)
- (8) Tillman Taylor Coffey (23 Mar 1897 - 1 Aug 1990) & Gladys A. Mooers (9 Jul 1899 - 1965)
- (9) William Carl Coffey (1934 - 2020) & Darlene Nyberg (1940 -)
- (10) Cheralyn Rea Coffey (1963 -) & Carroll Gene Hageman Jr (1963 -)
- (11) Taylor Hageman

The interesting thing is that this descent is through Edward’s daughter, Annister, via her relationship with James Samuel. The males in this line have “Samuel” y-DNA. If you go to our “Roadmap” and scroll down to “Edward Connections” you will find the start of discussion about Annister.

For what it’s worth, here is a hyperlink to the ECP page for Tillman Taylor Coffey. It has a discussion of Tillman and his wife Gladys. You can move up and down through the tree pages by clicking on the **Blue** names and see their ancestors and children. And there are lots of footnotes that can be clicked on.

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/ECP2020Lite/b7452.htm#P7452>

Oh, the footnote links (#37381, #37382) to the 1920 and 1930 census confirm that Tillman was a fisherman, like yourself. (Note: The 1930 census shows “Gladys A” is the mother age 31, and “Gladys E” is the daughter age 10.)

INFORMATION RESOURCE LINKS:

We're 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 manages the newsletter distribution list. Contact him if you wish 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).

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 Cousins Clearinghouse Facebook Group is thriving and now has 314 members. **(MEMO from Fred: As of June 28, 2025, she had 383 Members!)**

Also note that the Hugh Coffey Project is looking for male descendants of Hugh who would like a free DNA test from the Project. Please contact me and I would be happy to fund their Big Y test and autosomal test.