

Coffey Cousins' Clearinghouse

Founded and Published by Leonard Coffey 1981–1989

Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley 1989–2012

Edited & Published by Jack K Coffee 2012–2016

Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley 2017

Edited & Published by Bonnie Culley & Fred Coffey 2022

Helping Coffey/Coffee Researchers since 1981 Issue No.180 ISSN 0749-758X

Note for CCC Beginners:

This is Issue #180. We have been producing these reports for 45 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: Hello everybody. I’m still keeping active with our family genealogy, and I’ve had telephone chats with Fred this month. He keeps me up to date on some of the issues in this current Newsletter. I’m also active with my DAR group, and I’m currently their “librarian”.

And I apologize to Terri Stern for my confusion and complaint about communicating with her Facebook Group last June. See Terri’s article on Page 12, discussing her Facebook Group.

Bonnie Culley

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Co-editor's Comments

Dear Cousins,

We have long known that some Coffey families in Kentucky were involved with slavery. And we know our various families were very divided by the war. A major story in this issue extends our knowledge of Coffey slavery to include Tennessee, Alabama and Missouri. Overall, there were apparently 494 Coffey slaves, owned by 53 Coffey families, when the war started in 1860. I was dismayed to discover this level. But it is part of our family history and based on public information.

Coffey-related events surrounding the Civil War are extremely complicated, with views on different sides. I grew up in Iowa and assumed no ancestor had ever been involved in slavery. Now I know better. Bonnie, on the other hand, has a different perspective. She was born in the Missouri Confederate Soldiers Home (story in Newsletter 148-2).

In the last newsletter Bonnie reported trouble getting around blockage of her efforts to communicate with the 571 members of Terri Stern's Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse Facebook. That problem has been resolved. Various articles in this newsletter now link back to Terri's work.

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 the word **Newsletters** and the list of available issues will pop up! (You may want to 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".

This was intended to preserve information in the event of a "catastrophic" system crash. And part of the risk of a crash may be related to the way I set up the "Roadmap" system. Is there a way to reduce or eliminate the risk? Also, can we re-work the system to make it easier for someone to take over as the primary Editor after age catches up with Bonnie and Fred?

The ArchiveStick was intended to give a future “Editor” all the information he needed to rebuild and restore the “Roadmap”. And what skills would such an Editor need, and who would have those skills? Hey, I offer MYSELF.

My strategy will be to do one more careful and thorough update of the ArchiveStick. And then pretend I am that skilled future editor and rebuild the system along the lines discussed in the previous newsletter, in a way that any other future editor could take over.

WHO ARE OUR READERS?

By Fred Coffey:

Last quarter I discussed that I believed many of the oldest subscribers to our newsletters were no longer actively interested. I asked the 50 oldest recipients if they would acknowledge receipt, simply by replying “I got it!” or “OK”. There were surprisingly few responses.

When I send notices about this current newsletter, I will advise the remainders who DID NOT respond last time that they should NOW respond. If they do not, I will suspend their email addresses.

If anyone finds they are missing copies, they can send me a note “Please put my name and email back on your distribution list”.

READY TO TRY OUT THE “NEWIMPROVED” SEARCH TOOL?

By Fred Coffey

I have developed a new search tool to help find information in Jack Coffee’s ECP (Edward Coffey Project). Searching the ECP has been a challenge because it involves 31,000 names of people related to Edward. Trying to find info on your ancestors (or cousins) can be very difficult if you have to search through 31,000 names in Jack Coffee’s original system! You’re welcome to click on this next link and see what you think of our new search tool.

<http://www.coffey.ws/familytree/ECP2020Lite/ECPFullNameList.html>

YOU (AND/OR) THE ECP MISSED...!

By Fred Coffey

People have been experimenting with the above “New Improved Search Tool” with its ability to search through 31,000 names and discover detailed information about people and family. And they then find that the information is not perfect. Or it is incomplete. I get questions like:

Why does it discuss my great uncle, but misses information on my grandfather who lived at the same time? Why does it name two brothers, but fail to report they had a little sister? I have information down to great-grandchildren. Shouldn’t you include all of them?

Be aware that Jack Coffee searched hard for information on these 31,000 people. But he couldn’t explore every sub-family and missed a few. Or just made a judgement that “the uncle’s obituary explained the family well enough”. And also, the general policy, then and now, is that living people should have privacy and should not be discussed in public documents without their explicit permission. And I consider everything in these newsletters to be public.

THE ANCESTRY OF JESSE SMITH:

By Jesse Smith & Fred Coffey

From:jrsmith79@sbcglobal.net

Jesse: Hello Cousin Fred! I was reading and enjoying the newsletter as always, and I tried the new search tool for the ECP as mentioned on page 4 of the latest newsletter. One question I've always had is how I can add or update information on my grandfather **Carlton William Coffey**? On virtual every source, the bio for his older brother **Clyde Richard Coffey** (who went by Richard) is filled out, but there is almost nothing on my grandfather,

not even his date of death in 2003.

Since his death, two of his children have passed and the only one left is my mother, Janice. I think it would be beneficial to add my grandparents, aunt, uncle's death's/bios, even my mom, brother's and my information and add a couple of new names of the great-grandchildren on my uncle Richard's line since they would now be 8th generation! You can see what i mean about wanting to fill in the blanks. It's important to me, especially if any family out there would like to connect or update for their own records. I know i like to do that. I mean, my brother and I unfortunately don't have any children and my grandfather's direct line, I'm sad to say, will end.



Thank you!

Fred: Yes, I think I can help you accomplish your wishes. But as I will explain, I don't think you want to seriously "add or update" information into our Roadmap application. You already have a start on a much BETTER place to do all this. You have a web page on Ancestry.com which has a huge amount of very valuable information that you will not want to lose. And particularly valuable are the pictures and detail discussions in that Ancestry.com page. Once I found your web page, I extracted the two pictures above. The second picture is your grandfather Carlton William Coffey and his wife (your grandmother) Ruth Joanne Compton. And you know their birth and death dates, and all about their families.

You and I were involved with an article in Newsletter #174, pages 3 & 4, that was focused on a "famous uncle" of yours, and it showed a summary including your own genealogy. I won't repeat that. I'll now offer another way to look at your family roots:



Jesse Smith

Eureka, Humboldt, California, USA
Age: 40-49

You mentioned your grandfather was the 8th generation down from Edward and mentioned that you were using the new ECP search tool. Here are hyperlinks to the discussion pages of each of those 8 generations: You can click on the "Narrative" for each of the 8 and jump to a discussion page.

The first one illustrates your concern that your grandfather got only a passing mention, and his brother Richard got a huge obituary. That obituary was what Jack Coffee was able to find at the time he did his ECP research:

COFFEY Carlton William (1928-) . . . [Narrative](#)
COFFEY William Adolph (1898-1976) . . . [Narrative](#)
COFFEE William Perry (1857-1926) . . . [Narrative](#)
COFFEY William E. (H.?) (1817-1878) . . . [Narrative](#), [Narrative](#)
COFFEY George (1782-1861) . . . [Narrative](#)
COFFEY Benjamin (1747-1834) . . . [Narrative](#)
COFFEY John (1699-1775) . . . [Narrative](#)
COFFEY Edward (1670-1716) . . . [Narrative](#)

Your Ancestry page only covers the first 4 generations above, and indicates the last 4 are "unknown", But they are very well known, and you could use the last 4 links above to develop a more complete discussion.

Here's a link to your public tree as it now stands. You can use the above hyperlinks for more info. You can work whatever you like into your next update:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/178103707/person/212311286779/facts>

MIDDLE NAMES, & MY LEGAL AGE:

By Carolyn Curtis <carolynjcurtis@gmail.com>

Hi Cousins: Bonnie asked me to send you information I had sent to her with my comments on Researchers (???) adding middle names to deceased relatives.

One example I cited was my gg-grandfather, **Smith W. Coffey**. I see him on the various genealogy sites on the Internet, with the middle name of William. I contacted the person who had posted that information and asked their source. First, I was told that that is what his tombstone says. Incorrect. I took the picture of the tombstone that everyone uses. It says, Smith W. Coffey. Next, I was told that his military records show him as Smith William Coffey. Again, incorrect. I have copies of all of his Military records and all indicate his name was Smith W. Coffey. Next story was that that it's what his Death Certificate says. We all know that Death Certificates are only as good as the Informants Information! Once again, I disputed the claim because I have copies of his Death Certificate and it shows Smith W. Coffey as does both of his marriage licenses. (I actually think that Smith's middle name was Webb. His mother was Ella/Allie/ Webb and it was a common practice back then to use the mother's maiden name for a son.)

Same family but this time, I'm talking about Smith's son, who is my g-grandfather, **Charles C. Coffey**. Someone decided to assign him the middle name of Michael. Not true. His middle initial was C. In my many yews of research, long before the advent of computers, I have never seen a middle name for him.

Going back to Smith W. Coffey's grandfather, **Smith Coffey** (no known middle initial) b. 1775 married to **Hannah Boone**. Someone decided that he must have been Smith William Coffey also, so they have him also listed as Smith William Coffey. Grrr!!

Both of my maternal grandparents were Coffey's. My grandfather's line which has Smith W. Coffey was from Watauga County, NC and my grandmother's line was from the Globe area of Caldwell County. Her father was **William Pinkney (Pink) Coffey** and her mother was **Nancy Caroline Gragg**. I am fortunate enough to have known all four of my gg-grandparents. I was born at home in Foscoe but have lived in Maryland most of my life.

You may find this interesting: I was born in my aunt's house in Foscoe and delivered by a Midwife. My original birth certificate lists my name as **Baby Girl Davis**!! My dad received a draft notice in 1942 and was required to provide birth certificates for his 3 children. It was at that time, that my name was added with a note that said "At the request of the Father". So, I guess I became legal when I was 3 years old.

. I'm now 87 but still looking at the grass from the top down as opposed to the other view. I have been widowed for 14 years and live alone on 14 acres which I mow and maintain by myself at age 87! I like to mow and won't let anyone else do it! (Smoke and smog are finally gone so I can go outside today, Have a great day!) Carolyn Davis Curtis (Aka Baby Girl Davis)

CAROLYN CURTIS' COFFEY CONNECTIONS by Fred Coffey (Click "[Narrative](#)" for discussion.)

Smith W. (1776-1841) . . . Narrative	Married Hanna Boone
Squire (1803-1846) . . . Narrative	Married Nancy Moore
Smith W. (1832-1916) . . . Narrative	Married Elizabeth Redmond
Charles C. (1874-1944) . . . Narrative	Married Sophronia Phipps

AMANDA JONES FAMILY:

By Amanda Jones & Fred Coffey

From:ajlacy0404@gmail.com

To:FredCoffey@aol.com

Sun, Aug 2 at 5:56 PM

Hello! I was given your email in the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse group on Facebook. I understand you have databases for the Coffey lines? I have a Coffey brick wall that I'm working on. Perhaps you can share the needed info to connect my dots.

Working backward from **George L Coffey 1861-1920** whom I think was sibling with **Mary E Coffey (married E W Lacy)**. I believe their parents were **John W Coffey 1832-1863 and Martha Huffaker 1837-1918**. I am trying to go beyond John W and find his parents. They MAY be Joel William Coffey 1807-1885 and Sara Elizabeth Grubbs 1811-1880. Joel Williams parents MAY be Cleveland Coffey 1780-1844 and Martha Elizabeth MNU.

Thank you for any guidance you can provide! Amanda L Jones

From Fred: Yes, we do have a huge database on "Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse" with many thousands of names. Much of it goes back to an "Edward Coffey Project" (ECP) researched by Jack Coffee and other writers. The first thing I did was turn to the ECP and search for the names in your note above. **There were NO good matches.**

The ECP gave us 31,000 names who relate to Edward Coffey. It could be that your family is not an ECP descendant, but I think that is quite unlikely. I think it's a function of Jack Coffee's work process. He started with Edward Coffey and worked his way carefully down from there. If he could not determine a CLEAR link to a specific family, he would not report ANY connection. Your known family roots are in Dekalb County, Alabama, and Jack couldn't see a clear link to your Dekalb County family.

I will ramble on for a bit longer, but I do have one specific recommendation for you, Amanda:

Try to find a living male-line descendant of your "George L Coffey 1861-1920" and persuade him to do a y-DNA test. I think it highly likely that will prove to be a match to other tested descendants of Edward Coffey. That would firmly prove your family's ancestral link. And you will at least be sure who is on the far other side of your "brick wall"!

Here are links to two Ancestry.com trees that fit a lot of your family information. They do have some missing information and other flaws but are good starting points. The first links to the Mary E Coffey who married E. W. Lacy, and the second links to your George L Coffey:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/211606113/person/172785007055/facts>

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/113740007/person/210115877602/facts>

NEITHER seem to know how to go farther back in time, as was your "brick wall" removal objective. Here are some names and dates extracted from the above. Don't assume they are perfectly accurate:

George L Coffey

BIRTH 6 APRIL 1861 • Alabama, United States

DEATH 1920 • Milton, Santa Rosa, Florida, Usa

Georgia Ann Taylor (Married George L Coffey)

BIRTH MAY 1861 • Winston County, Alabama

DEATH 21 MAY 1939 • Milton, Santa Rosa, Florida, USA

William A. Coffey) (Younger Brother of George)

BIRTH ABT 1866 • Alabama, **DEATH** Unknown

John Coffey

BIRTH ABT 1828 • Tennessee, USA

DEATH 23 JUL 1890 • Alabama

Martha Hufaca Coffey (Martha Hufaca Married John Coffey)

BIRTH ABT 1837 • Alabama, United States

DEATH 1918 • Dutton, Jackson County, Alabama, United States of America

COFFEY FAMILIES: SLAVERY CONNECTIONS – KY / TN /AL / MO:

By Fred Coffey

The Coffey/Coffee families we are discussing were initially concentrated in southern Kentucky, in Russell and surrounding counties. But over time many moved south and occupied Tennessee and Alabama. And a small group went to Missouri. And many of them owned slaves.

I'm interested in the census reports for slave schedules in part because the Civil War was the major American conflict of the 1800's. And the Coffey families were very divided, with strong feelings for both sides in this war. A few family members declared their opposition to slavery and moved to Illinois, where they supported Abraham Lincoln. Others remained in the south or moved farther in that direction, and many of them supported the Confederacy.

Following is a series of four tables, showing Coffey family slave ownership in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Missouri. These are all for the year 1860, the year the Civil War started. They show the names of reported slave owners, the number of slaves owned, and the residence location.

The first one is for Kentucky. And most of it is for the cluster of 16 counties surrounding Russell County. These 16 were part of the Edward Coffey Project and report 80 slaves. But the last 3 were outside of the ECP and report 26 slaves. Most of these were in Ballard County in far western Kentucky. (It is not clear if Jack Coffee simply missed these three, or if he learned they were not descended from Edward Coffey.)

KENTUCKY: SLAVES WITH "COFFEY" OWNERS IN 1860		
Owner's Name	Slaves	Residence Place
Benjamin F Coffey	9	Wayne, Kentucky
B F Coffey	9	Wayne, Kentucky
Lewis Coffey	1	Wayne, Kentucky
Henderson Coffey	10	Wayne, Kentucky
Joseph Coffey	2	Wayne, Kentucky
Sarah A Coffey	6	Wayne, Kentucky
Thomas C Coffey	10	Wayne, Kentucky
Shelby Coffey	7	Wayne, Kentucky
A J I Coffey	2	Wayne, Kentucky
Jane Coffey	1	Division 2, Adair, Kentucky
Benj S Coffey	3	Division 2, Adair, Kentucky
Nathan Coffey	8	Casey, Kentucky
C R Coffey	6	Full Division, Casey, Kentucky
Humphrey Coffey	3	Russell, Russell, Kentucky
Elijah Coffey	1	Russell, Russell, Kentucky
Polley Coffey	2	Russell, Russell, Kentucky
Francis J Coffee	10	Blandville, Ballard, Kentucky (NOT IN ECP)
William M Coffee	15	Blandville, Ballard, Kentucky (NOT IN ECP)
Jae Coffy	1	Lincoln, Kentucky (NOT IN ECP)
	106	

The next two are for Tennessee: and Alabama:

TENNESSEE: SLAVES WITH "COFFEY" OWNERS IN 1860		
<u>Owner's Name</u>	<u>Slaves</u>	<u>Residence Place</u>
J W Coffey	5	Western Division District 19, Bedford, Tennessee
John D Coffey	13	District 7, Henderson, Tennessee
Henry Coffee	7	District 3, Bedford, Tennessee
Hugh Coffee	2	District 3, Fayette, Tennessee
Osborne Coffee	1	District 11, Grainger, Tennessee
Samuel Coffee	11	District 6, Maury, Tennessee
W G Coffee	7	District 6, Maury, Tennessee
H W Coffee	4	District 6, Maury, Tennessee
E Coffee	2	District 7, Maury, Tennessee
Calvin Coffee	11	District 11, Maury, Tennessee
Joseph P Coffee	6	District 8, Overton, Tennessee
Joel S Coffee	2	District 8, Overton, Tennessee
C Coffee	2	Warren, Tennessee
Mary Caffey	3	Western Division District 19, Bedford, Tennessee
T W Caffey	2	Western Division District 19, Bedford, Tennessee
Total	78	

ALABAMA: SLAVES WITH "COFFEY" OWNERS IN 1860		
<u>Owner's Name</u>	<u>Slaves</u>	<u>Residence Place</u>
Edmond Coffey	3	Division 1, Cherokee, Alabama
J H Coffey	41	Northern Division, Lowndes, Alabama
Ben B Coffey	25	Township 2 Range 6 East, Jackson, Alabama
John R Coffey	16	Township 3 Range 7 East, Jackson, Alabama
R N Coffee	4	District 1, Lauderdale, Alabama
C M Coffee	1	District 1, Lauderdale, Alabama
John C Coffee	3	District 1, Lauderdale, Alabama
R S Coffee	20	District 1, Lauderdale, Alabama
Alexander D Coffee	17	Florence, Lauderdale, Alabama
B F Caffey	37	District 1, Montgomery, Alabama
H M Caffey	89	Division 1, Montgomery, Alabama
Elizabeth Caffey	8	District 2, Montgomery, Alabama
Thomas Caffey	25	District 2, Montgomery, Alabama
Total	289	

MISSOURI: SLAVES WITH "COFFEY" OWNERS IN 1860		
<u>Owner's Name</u>	<u>Slaves</u>	<u>Residence Place</u>
Willis Coffey	1	DeKalb, Missouri
A M Coffey	2	Washington, Johnson, Missouri
O N Coffey	12	Wayverly, Lincoln, Missouri
E M D Coffey	1	Green, Platte, Missouri
Austin Coffey	1	Adair, Missouri
John L Coffee	4	Center, Dade, Missouri
	21	

The above tables report only the number of slaves. There is actually more detail in the slave schedules. I have picked one owner in the Alabama group, Mr. Ben B Coffey, who had 25 slaves. The table to the right here shows the details for Ben's slaves.

There are no names offered for the slaves. Each line is for one slave. The second column gives the age of each slave, going down from the oldest to the youngest. The next column is the gender, Male or Female. And the last column indicates race, either Black or Mulatto. Ben's oldest is a black female age 45. His youngest is a black female age 4 months.

There are a large number of general articles printed in our historic Newsletters. And from reading these those we know that Jack Coffee and other writers were quite AWARE of the situations in Alabama and Tennessee. But this detail never made it into the ECP, because Jack could never PROVE an exact link to his satisfaction.

When the war started in 1860, there were 494 slaves in the above owned by 53 families. When the war ended, many of the freed slaves began to use the surnames of their previous owners. If we look at the 1870 census, we will see a number of blacks with the "Coffey" surname.

In the previous article, we were discussing the family in Dekalb County, AL. I see no evidence that this Dekalb family owned any slaves in 1860. However, Dekalb shares a lengthy border with Jackson County, and Jackson had 41 slaves owned by two men. (One of those was the **Ben B Coffey** named above.)

All of the names referenced in all of the CCC Newsletters are captured in the Roadmap and linked to Newsletter articles. You can go to the Roadmap, click on "Newsletter Discussion", then click on on [Text Search](#) and search for "Alabama" and then for "Tennessee" "There are 183 references to Alabama, and 486 to Tennessee. Many of these discuss families, dates, names and locations.

16	Ben B Coffey	1	45	F	B
17		1	35	M	B
18		1	34	F	B
19		1	33	F	B
20		1	27	F	B
21		1	26	M	B
22		1	23	M	B
23		1	17	M	B
24		1	16	F	B
25		1	13	F	M
26		1	12	M	B
27		1	12	M	B
28		1	11	M	M
29		1	11	M	B
30		1	8	M	M
31		1	8	F	B
32		1	7	M	B
33		1	6	M	M
34		1	5	F	B
35		1	5	F	B
36		1	4	M	M
37		1	3	M	B
38		1	2	F	B
39		1	1	F	B
40		1	1/2	F	B

Given the ECP, we already have good genealogical data on most of the families who lived in Kentucky. And we have done an analysis of Kentucky slave ownership over years 1810-1860 in **Newsletter #146 pages 9-10**. At one point I thought to dig in and try to construct a similar comprehensive family tree covering all the Coffey people living in Tennessee and Alabama over multiple years. But a few of hours digging through the text searches and other resources left me OVERWHELMED. I'm not ready to tackle a job that big.

By the way, I had a quick look at the "**Lacy**" families in the 1860 slave schedules. They also had large numbers of slaves

LISA HERTENSTEIN'S FAMILY:

By Lisa, with Fred Coffey:

From: letstalklisa@aol.com

To: Fred Coffey, Sep 16, 2026

Lisa: Good evening, Fred, I was given your contact information to request the Coffey newsletter. My grandfather was William Edward Coffey and was born in Oklahoma. His parents moved from TX to Oklahoma. His brothers and sisters were Nora, Noble, Ollie and others. He was in the military and is buried in Jefferson Barricks cemetery in St Louis. My mother was Carolyn Renee Coffey. Any information you can provide would be appreciated. Sincerely, Lisa Hertenstein

Fred: I told Lisa how to find and read the newsletters in our archive , and I set things up for her tp be notified whenever a new one was issued. And I asked her for more details on her family. She shared an extremely well-organized report on her William Edward Coffey. I did a bit of searching via Ancestry.com and learned considerable additional details.

I learned that her grandfather was William E Coffey (19 Mar 1914 – 12 Dec 1975). And William's father was Robert Lee Coffey (20 Dec 1870 – 20 Dec 1939). Both were born in Missouri. And this Robert was a "brick wall", in that nobody had figured out his ancestry. But there was one interesting clue: Robert was found in census reports for 1900, 1910, and 1930. And those census years asked where his father was born. The answer was "Kentucky". Hey, I know a lot about huge numbers of "Coffey" in Kentucky, and I knew of some who moved to Missouri at the right time to be Robert's father!

Specifically, I had previously looked at a "Willis Coffey" who was born in Russell County KY and moved to Missouri, along with some of his family. Several of his family were born in KY and moved to Missouri at the right time to be involved in the birth of Robert Lee Coffey.

Other articles in this current Newsletter show that the Coffeys from Kentucky were closely related, and were moving all over Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. And now Missouri. I jumped in and started digging through genealogies and census reports -- and found myself quite confused about conflicting details. I can't spend any more time on this just now but will plan to dig in before the NEXT newsletter at the end of December.

I offer two hyperlinks which might be helpful for any reader who wants to look more closely right now. Just click on the word "Narrative" for each. I am quite convinced that Lisa's family somehow descends from the patriarch Edward, and I put him first. I just don't yet know the details.

I'm much less confident about Willis, because there could be other relevant family groups from Kentucky. But when you look at "Willis", you should also click on Willis' sons Nebuzaradan, Jackson and James. These sons were in Missouri at the right time.

Coffey, Edward (1670-1716) . . . [Narrative](#)

Coffey, Willis (1804-1893) . . . [Narrative](#)

Footnote: In 1860 Willis Coffey lived in DeKalb County, Missouri, and owned a slave. That slave was a black child, 7 years old. *Census* 1860: Willis age 57; Loty age 55; Jackson age 21; Nancy age 16; James C age 13; **Black Slave Age 7** DeKalb Co location is about 60 miles north of Kansas City, MO.

THE COFFEY COUSINS CLEARINGHOUSE FACEBOOK GROUP:

By Terri Stern

The Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse Facebook Group – a great place to share information and ask questions of fellow Coffey Cousins.

Bonnie and I are 2 of the 571 Facebook users who have joined the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse Facebook Group. Fred is not a Facebook user and has expressed his distaste for the website many times, but that's OK. Facebook is not for everyone. What makes the group fun and useful is that any Coffey willing to be on Facebook and hoping to get help with their genealogy search can find the group and join the discussion, ask a question, get help or see if they have any cousins in the group. Bonnie found out that when she gave people Fred's email address to get help from him, she was inadvertently triggering an anti-spam feature of Facebook that helps protect us all. Sharing your email address on Facebook is a no-no, but now if she tells them to reach Fred at "Fredcoffey@aolcom" the antispam tool is not triggered. Without the "dot" in her response she is no longer sharing an email address and Facebook has no problem with it. So, if you have a question or would like to connect with your fellow Coffey research enthusiasts, please join us. It's a great way to meet your cousins! And if Bonnie thinks Fred can answer your question, she'll let you know how to get in touch with him. The group also has the link on the front page to Fred's Roadmap. Here's the weblink to find the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/160379567933944>.

ANOTHER GREAT WEBSITE: WIKITREE:

By Terri Stern

Another Great Website: WikiTree – the free collaborative world tree with the power of DNA, Speaking of websites that can help with your Coffey/Coffee Research – Have you checked out WikiTree yet? Here's the link to try out the website and search it www.wikitree.com. It's a free world tree where genealogists and family historians like you collaborate on the profiles of their ancestors, much like the FamilySearch tree managed by the Mormon Church. Like FamilySearch users are collaborating by adding sources for their ancestors and merging duplicates. The goal is to have only one profile for each person. But WikiTree goes a step further by adding the power of DNA. WikiTree members can add their DNA test information. That helps us all confirm or refute the paper trail records for our ancestors. At WikiTree there

are 6,431 Coffey profiles with over 17,000 DNA connections and 1,329 Coffee profiles with over 2700 DNA connections.

Here are a few interesting links to see more about the Coffey lines at WikiTree:

Alphabetical List of 6,431 Coffey Profiles and their 17,631 DNA test takers at WikiTree

(<https://www.wikitree.com/index.php?title=Special:DNATests&s=COFFEY>)

Alphabetical List of 1,329 Coffee Profiles and their 2,727 DNA test takers at WikiTree

(<https://www.wikitree.com/index.php?title=Special:DNATests&s=COFFEE>)

Profile of Edward Coffey 1670-1716 of Essex County, Virginia (Earliest known Ancestor of R-Y46776 Haplogroup) (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Coffey-5>)

Profile of Peter Coffee 1705-1771 of Prince Edward County, Virginia (Earliest known Ancestor of R-BY69385 Haplogroup) (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Coffee-716>)

Profile of Hugh Coffey 1700-before 22 Aug 1767 of Augusta County, Virginia (Earliest known Ancestor of R-FTB71717 Haplogroup) (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Coffey-2480>)

WORKING WITH WIKITREE:

By Fred Coffey:

In the previous article Terri Stern reported that WikiTree was a truly great website. I had never worked with WikiTree, but after some review I now agree with her assessment. WikiTree is indeed great! But it is very massive and can be complicated!

Bonnie and I are highly focused on “Coffey” studies. And WikiTree goes way beyond Coffey. But I have now learned that the focus can be narrowed. Here is a hyperlink. Click on this, and spend a few minutes examining what appears:

<https://www.wikitree.com/genealogy/COFFEY>

WikiTree invites people to post information on their Coffey connections. This link offers the 300 most-recently added or edited Coffey ancestors, cousins, and community members. (There are actually more than 6000 profiles that anyone can look at!)

Something to watch out for: If you become interested any one of these 6000 ancestral profiles, have a look at their “family tree” and see if the paternal line leads back to “Edward Coffey Sr”. If it does, that means that the ECP is nearly certain to know at least part of that line. Make a note of the ancestral path. You can later go to our “Roadmap”, enter at “Edward”, and track down.

I looked over a few of the recent postings and decided I knew a lot about some of them. And I think there is room for Bonnie or myself to contribute to the analysis. I picked two examples posted 12 Sep 2026. The people were connected to Owen County, Indiana, and that is a known community of “Coffey Cousins”:

Arthur Eugene Coffey

02 Jun 1920 Owen, Indiana, United States - 12 Jul 1991 Owen, Indiana, United States • [managed by Bill Vincent](#) • last edited 12 Sep 2026

Bessie Julia (Coffey) Bean

01 Feb 1886 Spencer, Washington Township, Owen, Indiana, United States - 01 Sep 1964
Spencer, Washington Township, Owen, Indiana, United States • last edited 12 Sep 2026

I recognized both of these as part of the Edward Coffey Project (ECP), You can click on the following Narrative link for each of these to link to the ECP. And that allows you to open up the ECP and extract the data to create the following detailed overview:

Coffey, Arthur E. (1921-) . . . [Narrative](#) (Arthur is person 11571 on this page)

Coffey, Bessie (1885-1964) . . . [Narrative](#)

(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) & Elizabeth Smith (- BET 1775 AND 1780)

(4) Elizabeth Coffey (25 Oct 1765 - Oct 1852) & David Allen (May 1765 - Apr 1848)

(5) Martha Allen (22 Oct 1804 - 13 Dec 1887) & John Candler Corder (8 Jul 1800 - 22 Sep 1852)

(6) Rachel Corder (15 Jun 1832 - 25 Jan 1912) & (5) Jason Coffey (16 Aug 1829 - 12 Sep 1871) [HALF 1C1R](#)

(6) Rev. Cyrus V. Coffey (23 Oct 1857 - 3 Nov 1897) & Elizabeth Ella Brown (Jul 1864 -)

(7) Charles Iomer Coffey (3 May 1883 -) & Mary Ann Hendricks (4 Nov 1885 - 15 Nov 1967)

(8) Arthur Eugene Coffey (2 Jun 1920 - 12 Jul 1991)

(3) Thomas Coffey* (7 Mar 1742 - Apr 1825) & Sarah Fields (ca 1750 - 21 Nov 1828)

(4) Larkin Coffey (18 Feb 1800 - 12 Jan 1881) & Catherine H. Wilson (1802 - 24 Jun 1857)

(5) Jason Coffey (16 Aug 1829 - 12 Sep 1871) & (6) Rachel Corder (15 Jun 1832 - 25 Jan 1912) [HALF 1C1R](#)

(6) Rev. Cyrus V. Coffey (23 Oct 1857 - 3 Nov 1897) & Elizabeth Ella Brown (Jul 1864 -)

(7) Charles Iomer Coffey (3 May 1883 -) & Mary Ann Hendricks (4 Nov 1885 - 15 Nov 1967)

(8) Arthur Eugene Coffey (2 Jun 1920 - 12 Jul 1991)

(3) Reuben Coffey (7 Mar 1742 - 1825) & Sarah Scott (ca 1750 - Oct 1837)

(4) James D. Coffey (23 Oct 1786 - 27 Oct 1869) & Hannah Alloway Strange (18 Feb 1790 - 14 Feb 1871)

(5) Archelaus Coffey (1 Mar 1810 - 27 Dec 1900) & Rachael Wilson (abt 1815 - 3 Feb 1885)

(6) Levi W. Coffey (Apr 1860 - 1943) & Laurel V. Thomas (Jul 1860 - 1931)

(7) Bessie Julia Coffey (1 Feb 1886 - 1 Sep 1964) & William Bean (11 Sep 1884 - 22 Sep 1964)

Footnotes: (3) Thomas Coffey* was married twice (to Elizabeth Smith then Sarah Fields)
There is a marriage between "[HALF 1C1R](#)" cousins noted.
The cousin relationship between Arthur and Bessie is "[4C1R/4C2R](#)",
WikiTree entry managed by "[Bill Vincent](#)". Could I get his Email & invite his review?

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

By Fred Coffey:

In the previous newsletter we began to discuss the possibility of redesigning the Coffey Cousins Clearinghouse web page. We developed some thoughts working with Sabrina Allen and others. (Current readers may want to go back and review part of that previous newsletter.)

Here is my tentative plan for developing an upgraded "Roadmap" for use by future "Coffey Cousins Clearing House" Editors:

This following table shows the amount of information we presently have in our Roadmap backup files. I have used **YELLOW** highlighting to show things that will never change, and **GREEN** to show areas that I, or any future Editors, would need to manage:

		FILE SIZE INFO		
		Size	Number of	
File		MB	Items	DISCUSSION
RMBACKUP		13,110,203	29,910	This is the "big picture" for our "Roadmap" backup efforts.
(Edition July 31, 2026)				Green entries are likely to change over time
				Yellow entries are likely to never change.
A00 Discussion Document		565	3	Minor discussion entry
A01 RoadmapEntry		784	13	Minor discussion entry
A02 Newsletters		431,883	197	Old Newsletters preserved, new ones added quarterly
A03 BonnieCulleyLibrary		568,779	101	This will never change, it is old but valuable info.
A04 Coffey-YDNA		19,522	4	May change if new info develops
A05 ECP:	ECP Total =	11,956,220	29,566	The Yellow parts of ECP will not change
	ECP2020Lite	53,712	9,962	This is the ECP as developed by Jack Coffee
	ECPBackupImages	10,996,638	19,532	Jack had backup information on nearly 20,000 names.
	ECPNames	21,916	12	Includes "FullNameList" application
	RussellCountyKY	5,423	26	This is an old study, will never be changed.
	AnnisterCoffeyNotes	46,379	27	Very slight chance of some small changes
	FredsWritings	832,152	7	If I want to comment on an ECP entry, I may put it here.
A06 Edward/PeterDeepAncestry		18,994	3	Changes likely -- new info now being developed
A07 Edward Connections		2,290	14	Uncertain, but there may be a chance of changes
A08 FredsGenealogyProgram		49,104	4	Likely to change very frequently
A09 Freds Toolbox Collection		62,062	5	May change as new info develops

In the above, only about 10% is **GREEN**, and only a tiny fraction of that will actually involve routine changes. In the last newsletter, we outlined an objective to create a new version of the Roadmap that focused only on "Coffey/Coffee", without huge distractions from non-Coffey families and non-genealogical reports. I propose to create a new "Domain" on GoDaddy that includes only the information in the above table, including various analytical "tools".

Since I created the original Roadmap, I believe I have the skill to manage this. I have already started working in that direction. Once I have accomplished this to my satisfaction and tested the result, we can return to discussions about long-term management after Bonnie and Fred “retire”.

My focus will be on “preserving and expanding” the Roadmap developed by the people named in our newsletter letterhead over the last 45 years. As part of the background, I will identify other information sources that future editors might want to consider. These include Ancestry.com, Latter Day Saints (Mormons), WikiTree, and the HughCoffeyProject. Many of these extracted information from our Roadmap.

Acknowledgement of original sources is often confusing and/or incomplete. For example, WikiTree makes a big effort to acknowledge sources. And it often gives credit to me (Fred). But the REAL source is often the Edward Coffey Project (ECP) as documented by Jack Coffee. See the YELLOW sections in the above table and see the “Working With WikiTree” article.

INFORMATION RESOURCE LINKS:

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. 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

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 571 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.