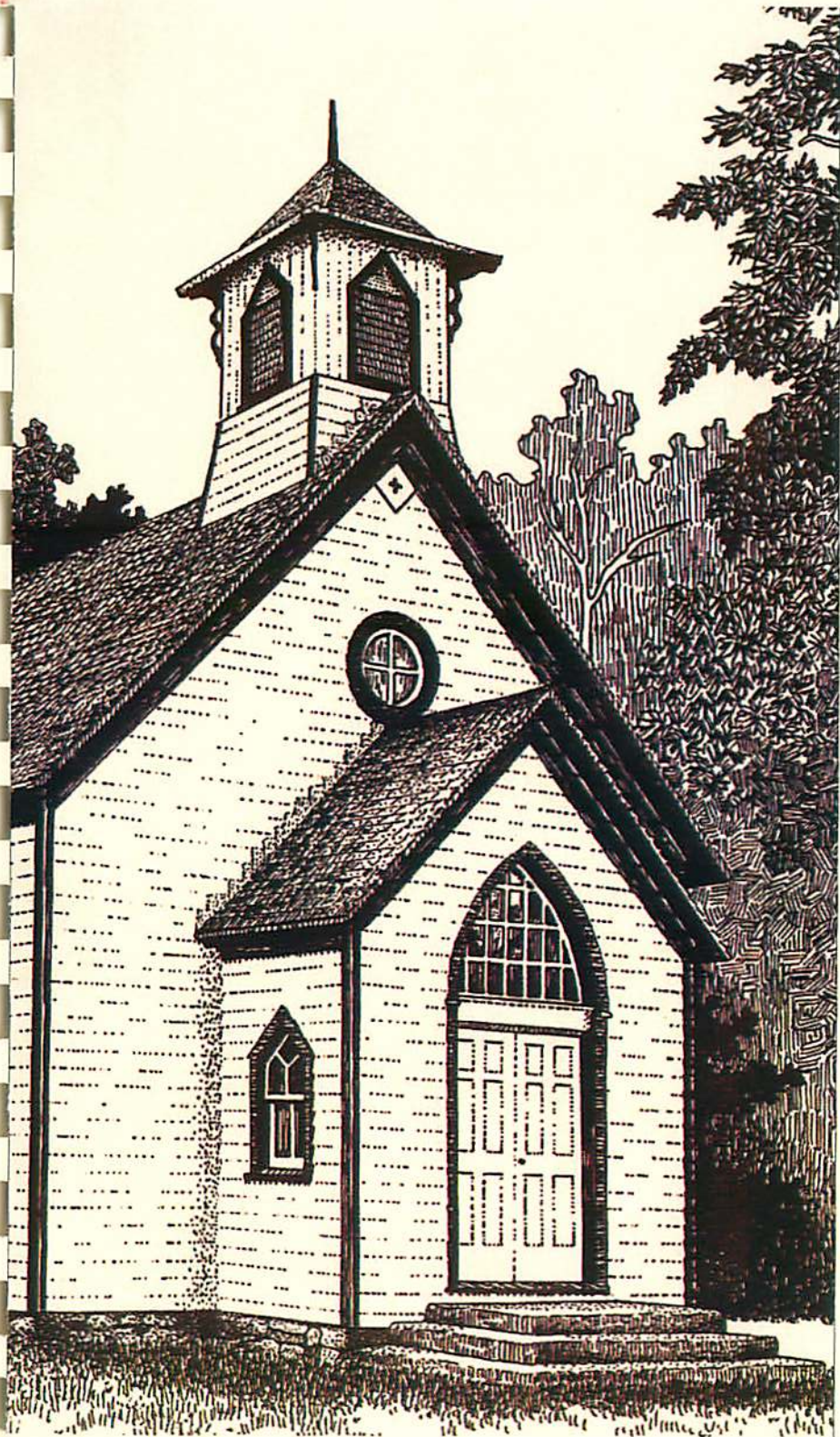


Bonnie Culley

SOME PARTS & PIECES OF
ONE STORY OF
"COFFEYTOWN"
IN AMHERST COUNTY,
VIRGINIA



*Presented to the Coffey Cousins May 3, 2008 in Coffeytown
By John Taylor*



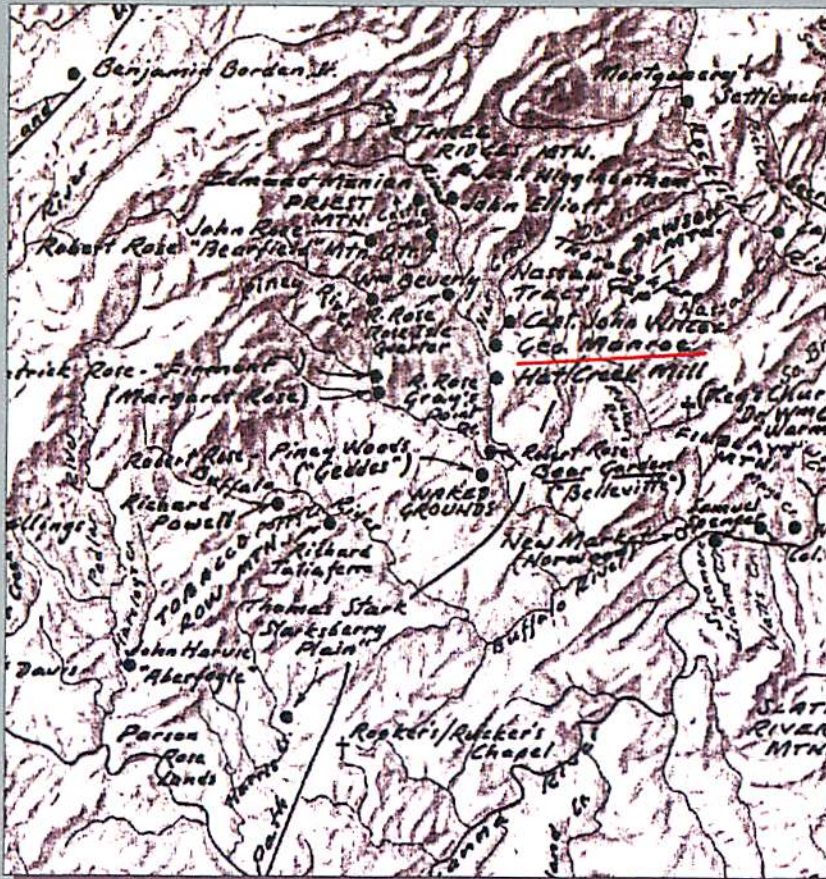
- A. A Photo-Synopsis of a brief history of “Coffeytown”
- B. The Genesis of “Coffeytown” *(published in “Back Roads”, a Nelson County periodical of local folk and folklore)*
- C. The Coffey Family Settlers of “Coffeytown” - *portion of a work in progress*
- D. Old Joe Clark - *discussion of nearby “Clarktown”*
- E. Benjamin Hawkins Fitzgerald: Military Career *(Revolutionary War)*
- F. Will of William Coffey, probated 1828, Nelson County, Virginia



ONE STORY OF
“COFFEYTOWN”
IN AMHERST COUNTY,
VIRGINIA
1827—PRESENT



A brief overview by John Taylor



Old William bought his first piece of property in the Tye River area from George Monroe, whose home site is shown above in a map from Rev. Rose's Dairy.

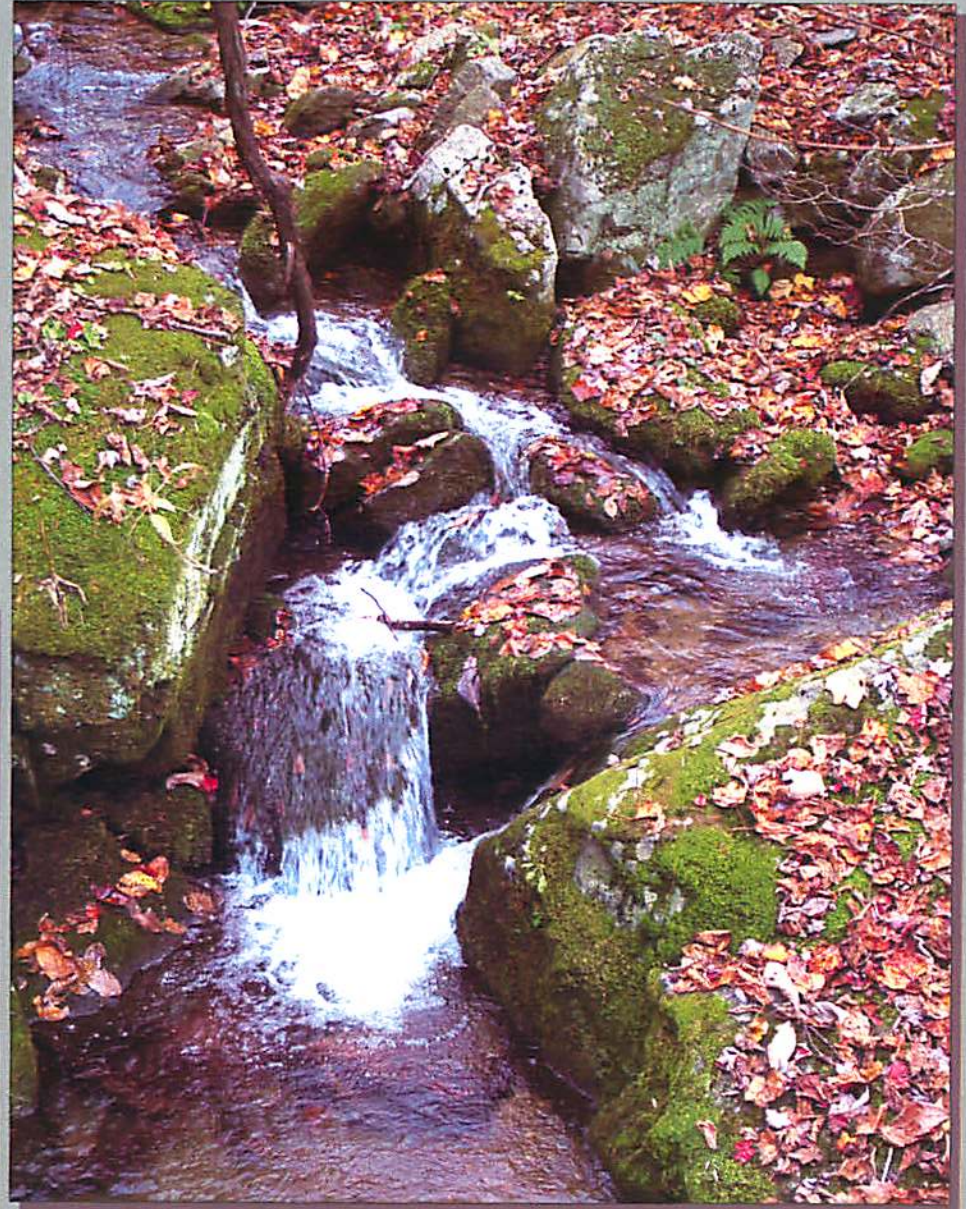
The story of Coffeytown's origins begins with the immigrant Edward Coffey of Essex County, his son John Coffey of Albemarle County, and John's son "Old" William Coffey of what became Nelson County. Tied very closely in the public records to "Old" William was a man named Jordan Coffey, who can be readily identified as the grand patriarch of the single Coffey family which ultimately came to settle in the hills of present day Amherst County. This story is more interesting than any fictional account could ever be. It's a story of a poor family struggling to survive and prosper in beautiful but rugged farm land, to establish itself as a community—a group of supportive, related people in an otherwise hostile environment. From the birth of Jordan Coffey in 1780, it took 120 years to firmly establish itself and to reach its pinnacle.



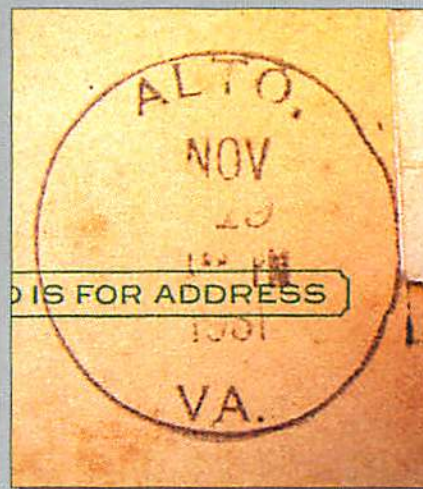
Jordan Coffey's parentage has never been firmly established through public records. However, the weight of the evidence points to his being an illegitimate child of Jane Coffey Fitzgerald, "Old" William's daughter. In the 1800 tax records when he first appears in the public record by name, he is listed as "Jordan Fitzgerald (Alias Coffey)". In 1803, when he married Elizabeth Rippetoe, his guardian is Benjamin Fitzgerald, Jane's husband, and the father of several legitimate children by Jane. Jordan lived on land adjacent to Jane and by 1816 he had several children to feed and clothe.

In 1815 a huge volcanic eruption in Indonesia spewed ashes into the atmosphere, which by 1816 had migrated half way around the globe, creating what was known as "The Year Without a Summer". It snowed in June. Crops failed. Jordan's debt mounted until the local merchant, John Jacobs, required him to sign a Deed of Trust, promising to pay off his \$125 debt by the end of the year, or lose his collateral—"a mare, feather bed, and some furniture". This debt was assigned by Jacobs to David Garland, whose mansion in New Glasgow is shown above. But Jordan could not pay the debt and by 1827 the debt was called due by Garland. Rather than face ruin, Jordan left the jurisdiction of Nelson County and filed a Deed in Amherst County on December 31, 1827. This Deed stated that Hudson Coffey, adult son of Jordan, was making a loan to Jordan of a mare, feather bed and furniture. If it belonged to Hudson, and only on loan to Jordan, it could not be confiscated to pay a debt owed by Jordan.

And so the road to the establishment of Coffeytown began, although it would be over 20 years after leaving Nelson County before the family settled in what is now "Coffeytown".

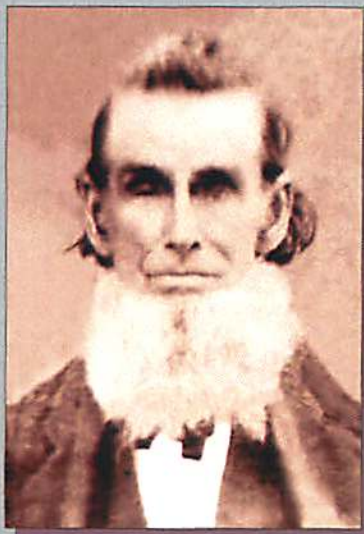


The general area around Coffeytown looks much the same today as it did in the mid - 1800s when Jordan and his family arrived, in search of a new life.



To the left is a group of Coffey relatives, gathered on a hillside for a Whiteside-Coffey wedding in the late 1890's in Coffeytown. When the Postal Service established a post office there, it needed an official name, so the name "ALTO" was selected. It sometimes still appears on county maps. Shown here with a 1931 stamp, the actual post office began several years earlier, but closed before WWII.

Jordan had a family of 3 girls and 6 boys. All 3 of the girls and 3 of the boys can be shown by public records to be biological children of Jordan and Elizabeth. One of those was John Jack Coffey, pictured far left, who figured prominently in the acquisition of land which became Coffeytown. Next to him is Sally Crawford Coffey, wife of William "Billy" Coffey, who also was a productive and prominent figure in Coffeytown history. But it was Henry, the youngest of the group, and probably not Jordan's biological child, who led the way to Coffeytown. Nevertheless, all 6 of the boys contributed children who added to the community in the early days. Some of the Crawfords followed Sally and contributed substantially to the mix.



For the most part, it was Jordan's grandchildren who populated Coffeytown proper. It was Charles E. Coffey, son of John Jack, who contributed land for the church and the school, while Daniel Rufus Coffey provided 14 children by his 2 wives. Billy's children were also productive, and even Nelson Coffey, who died many years earlier, had a son Frederick who married Catharine Ogden, daughter of Elizabeth McDaniel Ogden and Zachariah Ogden, and Frederick's children ("Fed" and "Zack" who married Crawford girls) helped populate Coffeytown and the general vicinity. While the community expanded and contracted, it was for many years predominantly Coffey, Crawford, and Ogden families, who left many imprints in the mountains of Amherst County, VA.



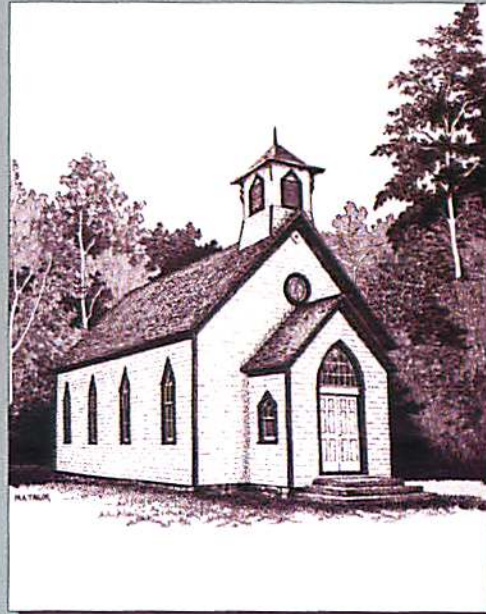
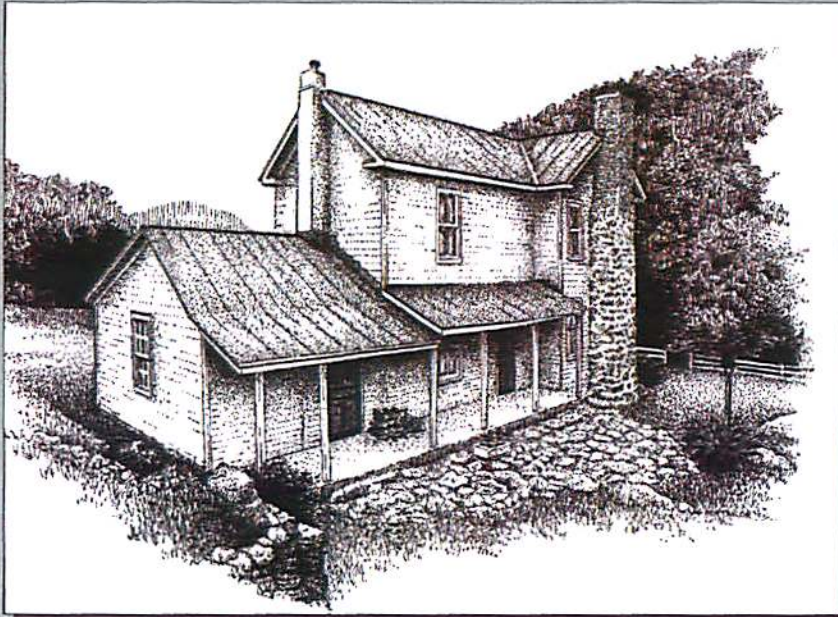
Upper left is Houston Crawford, son of Tom and Mary Frances Ogden Crawford, and his wife Hallie Coffey Crawford. Below them is their son Embree Crawford, who died recently. The family lived in the house above, without running water, until the 1990s, when Embree died.



Up on the hill above their home is the old Ogden cemetery, where Jordan Coffey and his wife Elizabeth may be buried, and where Henry and his wife, among others, may also be buried. There is only one carved headstone there which is for a young Ogden boy. This is the general area in which Zachariah Ogden is believed to have had his farm, later taken over by Henry Coffey when Zach died at a relatively young age, which was the true beginning of Coffeytown geographically.



Houston Crawford's mother is buried in the Wright family cemetery in eastern Amherst County.



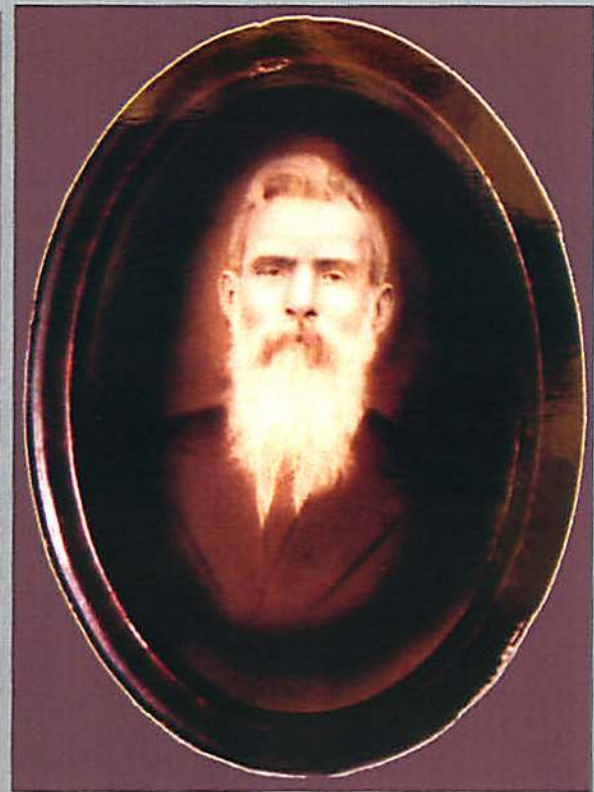
One of the more successful Coffeys was Charles Edward Coffey, son of John Jack Coffey, Sr. Charles (1832—1924), married Sarah Jane Ogden, daughter of Zachariah Ogden and Elizabeth McDaniel, who married Henry Coffey after Zach died. Charles was primarily a cattle and tobacco farmer. Later he donated land for the Macedonia Church (shown above), and still later donated land for the schoolhouse. The church is constructed of Chestnut wood, cut from his land. Charles and Jane had 7 children who lived long enough to marry. Hiter Coffey, his youngest son, was father to Elsie Coffey and 9 others. Hiter ran a store in addition to his farming. He built the house shown upper left around 1888. Charles moved in during his last days. Elsie married Leonard Coffey, descended from William "Billy" Coffey, through Arthur Coffey, and they lived in the old homestead shown in the snow to the left, located approximately 1/2 mile east of where she was born. This house is still occupied today by her family.



Charles' daughter Editha married James Crist. This family lived nearby in Rockbridge County.



The youngest son of John Jack, Daniel Rufus Coffey, had two wives and fathered 14 children who lived in the small cabin known as "Fiddler's Green", shown below in the snow. Nine of his ten children by his second wife, Sallie Cole Black Coffey, are shown in the photo far left. This family is the most active with reunions held at Coffeytown itself, continuing an annual tradition which gathers nearly 200 relatives together for services at Macedonia followed by a music-filled picnic at Fiddler's Green. This is the only house visible from the roadway between Bridge Hill at Coffeytown, and the Pedlar River, along what is now National Forest property. Just below the cabin is Staton's Falls, where Staton's Creek drops approximately 80 feet in several cascades. Once called "the middle fork of the Pedlar River", Staton's Creek continues to offer crayfish and bone-chilling cold water delights for the children.





Hersey Coffey, who died in 1994, was one son of Hugh Nelson Coffey, whose family is gathered for a group photo lower left. Above is "Tip" Humphrey (far left), the town carpenter, with Hugh's parents Harden and Bettie Coffey and their family in Coffeytown, circa 1894. Harden was "Billy" Coffey's son. To the left is the family of Tom Crawford and his wife Mary Frances Ogden, with Houston Crawford (Embree's Dad) in the middle row.



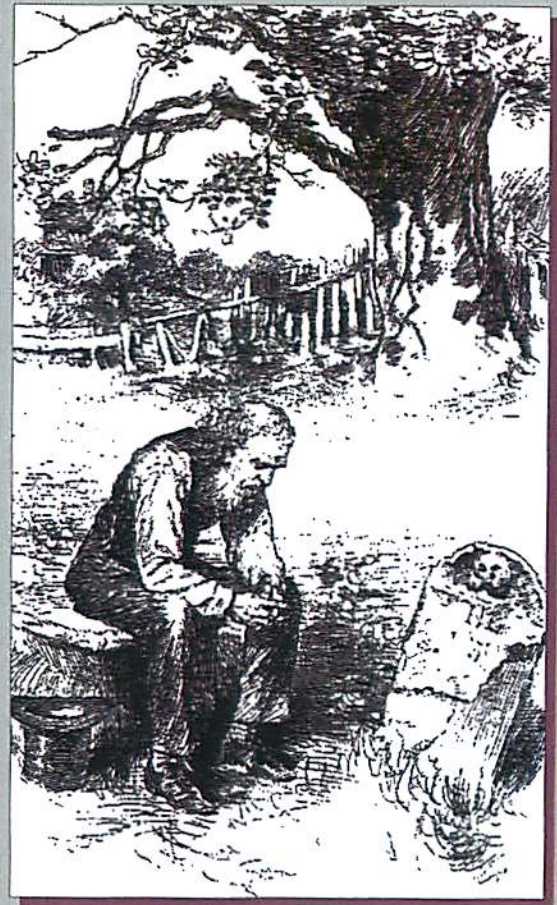
Much of the imprints left by the people of Coffeytown can be found in local cemeteries. Below left is an old cemetery up behind Elsie Coffey's house, which may contain the graves of John Jack and his first wife; Billy and his wife; and perhaps Jordan and his wife. There are just a few carved headstones there. Bridge Hill cemetery is the most accessible and has most of the "core" of Coffeytown's people, although many were buried in Buena Vista. Bottom right is El Bethel cemetery, south east of Coffeytown, where many of Nelson's grandchildren and some of John Jack's great grandchildren are buried. The associated church is abandoned, but is in the process of being restored. Of the many Methodist churches within the same charge as Macedonia (in Coffeytown), El Bethel is the most architecturally interesting.

In Bridge Hill, William Fitzgerald and his wife Indiana Coffey, daughter of Harden and Bettie Crawford Coffey are shown in a picture on their headstone in Coffeytown.





This cemetery includes "Cripple Henry" Coffey and his mother-in-law "Miss Kate", shown on the left in a photo when she was elderly. She was Catherine Lawman Sandidge, now buried near her daughter, Henry's wife.

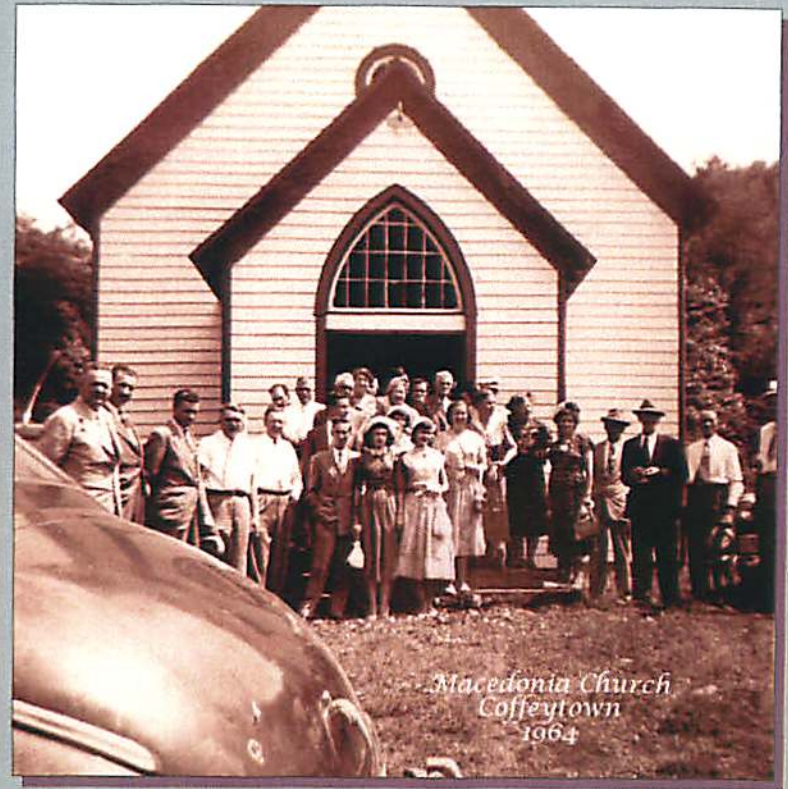




Macedonia Schoolhouse, taken in 1961, by Thurman White, etc.

Cemeteries were not the only imprints left by the inhabitants of Coffeytown. The old two-room schoolhouse is shown in 1961 on the left, and in 1929-1930 below, with the wooden steps loaded with its pupils, some of whom spent their entire lives in Coffeytown. 13 of the children are Coffeys, 9 are Davis, and 3 are Crawford children. These are representative of the community in that time frame. Third from the left in the back is Embree Crawford. Far right in the middle row is Hersey Coffey. Some of these families were extremely poor. Often children would bring only a piece of bread coated with lard for lunch. The schoolhouse has been demolished, but did sit just above and to the east of the church.

In 1964, while Macedonia was still active, a group gathered across the front of the church building for a portrait. The building was restored in the 1990s and continues to serve the community, with Christmas events, weddings, and reunion services once a year. Many of those living nearby today can remember attending services here, and look forward to a crowded congregation each year.



Macedonia Church
Coffeytown
1964



Coffeytown today maintains its mountain and family roots, through its annual Christmas in Coffeytown events (left) and the Fiddler's Green Reunion.

**JORDAN COFFEY
ELIZABETH RIPPETOE COFFEY**



John Jack Coffey

Hudson "Huddie" Coffey
Mahala Green Lane Coffey

James E. Coffey M: Mary J. _____

Schylar Coffey
Elizabeth Hamilton Coffey

Frances A. Coffey; George W. Coffey; Robert H. Coffey—never married
Sophia Coffey M: James "Jim" Coffey
Jordan Coffey M: Rebecca Pettis Grant Coffey
Schylar Coffey M: Isabella Drumheller Coffey & Mary S. Coffey Coffey

John Jack Coffey
Elizabeth "Betsey" Duff Coffey
Virginia "Jenny" C. Campbell Coffey

Charles E. Coffey M: Sarah Jane Ogden Coffey
Mary Coffey
John Jack Coffey, Jr. M: Patra (Patara) F. Tyler Coffey
William Henry "Cripple Henry" Coffey M: Virginia "Jenny" Lawman Coffey
Sarah Jane Coffey M: William W. Davis
Daniel Rufus Coffey M: Mildred Lawman Coffey and Sallie Cole Black Coffey

William "Billy" Coffey
Sarah Anne "Sally" Crawford Coffey

James "Jim" Coffey M: Sophia Coffey Coffey
Roxsinia Belle Coffey M: Bennett Hudson Davis
William Coffey M: Sarah Granville Crawford Coffey
Harden Coffey M: Elizabeth "Bettie" Crawford Coffey
Elizabeth "Bettie" Coffey
Edward Coffey M: Willie Ann Crawford Coffey
Varlana Coffey
Sarah Fannie Coffey M: George W. Coffey
Arthur Coffey M: Virginia Anne "Jenny" Davis Coffey

Three daughters—Jane, Elizabeth and Susanna—are not listed here, as they did not contribute to the development of Coffeytown.

Nelson Coffey
Rebecca Hamilton Coffey Clement

Frederick Coffey M: Catharine H. Ogden Coffey
Pauline Coffey M: Edward Drummond
Nancy Coffey M: Holman Delaware Lawhorne
Julia Coffey M: Benjamin Rogers
Matthew Coffey M: Mary M. Coffey
Nelson Coffey

Henry F. Coffey
Elizabeth McDaniel Ogden Coffey

Avarilla Coffey M: William W. Davis
Henry L. "Big Hill" Coffey M: Lilly Belle Burch
Mary F. Coffey M: Joseph M. Crawford

Henry was guardian to these children of Zachariah Ogden:
Margaret Ogden
Elizabeth Ogden
Sarah Jane Ogden M: Charles E. Coffey
Zack Ogden M: M. E. Ogden
Catharine Ogden M: Frederick Coffey
Levina H. Ogden
Paulin J. Ogden

The Genesis of Coffeytown Amherst County, Virginia

Coffeytown had its roots in Nelson County, and is one product of the special lives led by the adventurous souls who first came to Nelson County when it was full of arrowheads and wild animals.

There is a map from Rev. Robert Rose's diary, showing some of the first inhabitants of the area. Near Hat Creek Mill were Capt. John Wilcox and George Monroe. George sold one piece of property to William Coffey, whose brother Edmund purchased land in the vicinity as well, in the mid-late 1700s. William and George, along with William's eldest son Osbourne, went off to fight Indians. Osbourne later served with Daniel Morgan's Riflemen. William became a sergeant, and George a private under his command. Less than two months after joining, George was killed in battle. Old William came home to live next door to his widow Margaret. When he finally wrote his will in 1825, he was in his nineties, but still remembered Margaret in his will, which was probated in 1828.

Old William had many children, one of whom, Jane Coffey, married Benjamin Hawkins Fitzgerald (probably in Albemarle County where the marriage records are lost). She is known to have had at least one illegitimate child, believed to be "Jordan Fitzgerald (alias Coffey)" as his name appears in 1800 on the tax records of Amherst County.

Jordan married Elizabeth Rippetoe in 1803 and took up residence in Nelson County on property owned by old William, and near his mother Jane, and uncle Young William Coffey, who had married "Polly" Rippetoe, later called "Frankey", sister to Elizabeth. Jordan and Elizabeth were, like most of the folks in Nelson County, subsistence farmers, scratching a living out of the rugged mountainous terrain they couldn't even afford. The couple eventually came to have 9 children, some of whom cannot be proven to be biological offspring. Nevertheless, the family survived by hard work and perseverance, no doubt with some help from their neighbors and family members. But even hard work would not be enough to sustain the rag-tag family forever.

In 1815 a huge volcanic eruption occurred in Indonesia, spewing ash 27 miles into the sky, and killing some 50,000 people, some immediately, others by starvation. By 1816, the cloud of ash had worked its way around the globe. In Europe and in America, 1816 was known as the "year without a summer". It snowed in June. Crops failed or gave forth pitiful yield. The economic impact was so great, it contributed to the "Panic of 1819" across America. Jordan was forced to borrow money from the local general merchandise store, run by John Jacobs. By 1817 his bill amounted to a staggering \$125, a great deal of money in those days, so he signed a Deed of Trust with John Jacobs whereby Edmund F. Coffey, a family member and the Justice of the Peace, would confiscate Jordan's collateral — "... a horse, feather bed and some furniture" - sell it at Public Auction, pay off the debt and, if any remained, turn it over to Jordan, if Jordan did not pay off the debt by the end of the year. The end of the year came and there was little change. This giant of the earth continued to have its effect on most everyone, especially those in higher elevations, and

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especially subsistence farmers who had little or no reserves when the big bang blew off the top of that mountain. By 1818, 59 year old Benjamin Hawkins Fitzgerald was in court, testifying to his infirmity and his right to a pension as a Revolutionary War soldier. While the pension helped Benjamin, it did nothing for Jordan, who was born in 1780, in the midst of the War.

John Jacobs assigned the Deed of Trust to David Garland, often called “King David” because he owned more property in 3 counties than anyone else, he was a State assemblyman, and had ties into the mining operation at Clarktown and in many other ventures. If there was anyone within 100 miles who didn’t need \$125, it was David Garland. But the debt wouldn’t go away. This was in the days before the Homestead Act which would have allowed Jordan to protect his meager assets. Garland needed his money, and the debt was extended, year after year for 10 years, until it was finally called due. By this time, old William Coffey had written his will and was on his deathbed. He left Jordan his “wish and desire” that Jordan rent the property on which he was currently living, for 5 pounds of tobacco a year, obviously a token rent; but, had he left Jordan anything of value, his creditors would have confiscated it also, and old William wanted to protect the property he had gained over his lifetime, for the benefit of his children. So in 1827, Jordan took his family and his feather bed and with his little band of outcasts and orphans stumbled into Amherst County, out of the jurisdiction of the Nelson County Justice of the Peace. While blood might be thicker than money, the law was thicker than blood.

On December 31, 1827 a new deed was filed in Amherst County. It was signed by Hudson Coffey, eldest son of Jordan. “For love, and the benefit of Jordan”, Hudson loaned his father “ ... a horse, feather bed, and some furniture”. If it belonged to Hudson, it could not be confiscated to pay Jordan’s debt.

Jordan and his growing family spent the next 20 years renting housing in Amherst County, working their way toward the western edge, in the hills they found so special , which would one day become “Coffeytown”. There was very little contact between the Nelson County Coffeys and the Amherst County Coffeys in those days, and it would be many years before any of the other Coffeys born in Nelson, would come to marry their cousins.

In the 1830 census report, Jordan and his family are shown living in the same neighborhood as William McDaniel, Benjamin Taliaferro, Joshua Duff, and Henry Ogden, not far from John Staton, Garland Richerson, Aaron Higginbotham, James Clements, John Allen and Robert Hamilton and his family, all names which would become important to the Coffeys over the next few years.

By the 1840’s most of Jordan’s children had found spouses in Amherst County. John Jack married Elizabeth Duff, Billy married Sarah Crawford, Schylar married Elizabeth Hamilton, Nelson married Rebecca Hamilton, Susanna married John Crawford, Jane married Meredith Allen, and Elizabeth married John Hamilton. Hudson, the eldest son, married a widow in 1855, but only after his parents died in Amherst County around 1852-1853.

Nelson Coffey purchased his father-in-law's property in Amherst in 1842, but the land was too small to support the whole group, and Nelson died within 3-5 years, before anything could be established. The rest of Jordan's children, starting with essentially nothing, were too busy with survival of their own families to purchase land. It was Henry Coffey, the youngest of the clan, and probably informally adopted, who would lead the family to the hills of Amherst County.

In the 1840 Census, John Jack, Billy, and Schylar were clustered in the same neighborhood with Meredith Allen (Jane Coffey's husband), William W. Davis and Pitt Woodroof, a future preacher at Coffeytown's Macedonia Methodist. Jordan, Henry, and Hudson were living together elsewhere in the county, but surely there was plenty of interaction among the family members.

Sometime in the early 1840's we believe Henry went to work as a farm hand for Zachariah Ogden, who had married Elizabeth McDaniel some 12 years before. In 1842, Henry had earned enough money to buy a silver watch, so he was old enough to be working for wages. Zachariah had 340 acres of land straddling Staton's Creek to farm, and in 1843 when he died, Elizabeth was left with 6 children, all female except Zach, Jr. who was about eight years old at the time, and Elizabeth was expecting her final Ogden son, Paulin, in 1843. Surely Elizabeth needed help in handling 340 acres and almost as many children. "Farm-hand" Henry seems to have invited his "brothers" and their families to join in, live rent-free, perhaps share in the harvest, and to help with the daunting tasks at hand.

In 1848 Henry owned nothing for which taxes were due. By 1849, after marrying his damsel in distress, he owned one horse, two slaves, and 4 metallic clocks. By 1850, reality had set in, and Henry was down to one horse. In the 1850 census, Henry, Jordan, John Jack, Billy and Schylar were all living in a row, with their families, most likely on Elizabeth's property.

Henry was apparently a welcomed step-father, and the family stayed together over the years, with at least 5 of the group marrying spouses who settled in Coffeytown, and they all contributed substantially to the population. In 1851, Henry paid Elizabeth's father \$1000 to "own" the 340 acres, but the deed had a rubber string attached. When Henry died, the land would revert to William McDaniel, her father. Some dowry.

As soon as he could afford it, in 1859, John Jack Coffey bought some of the Richerson acreage, which expanded Henry's tenuous holdings. When Henry died in 1871, the rest of the Coffeys had a nearby place to hang their hats, although it wasn't very large. A few years later, in 1874, John Jack and Billy bought 1335 acres of land, the "Cooper's Place", and Coffeytown was finally able to erect its own sign, almost 50 years after they had been driven out of Nelson County by an unforgiving debt, which in turn had been caused by an unrelenting volcanic eruption, halfway around the earth, a connection which no one of the era could have understood.

While Henry had been laid to rest before the full expanse of Coffeytown was established, his step-daughter Catharine married Frederick Coffey, Nelson's son, and they had "Fed" and Zach who married Crawford girls, both of whom contributed many children to the Coffeytown community. Sarah Jane Ogden, another daughter of Zachariah Ogden, married Charles Edward Coffey, son of John Jack Coffey. This couple prospered after the Civil War and gave land and lumber for the construction of the community church and the two room schoolhouse, both in the late 1800's.

4 *Genesis of Coffeytown*

Henry's daughter Avarilla married William W. Davis (his second Coffey wife) and this couple had 13 children. Henry's son "Big Hill" Henry married Lillie Burch and they had 10 children. So the influence of young Henry Coffey and his love for a Scottish damsel in distress originated and continued to affect Coffeytown for many years.

Jordan's daughters married men who eventually took them away from Amherst County, but Hudson Coffey married a widow and that couple had one son, late in life. James E. Coffey moved to Campbell County and lived with his mother and his own family after Hudson died, sometime before 1880.

Schylar Coffey, probably Nelson's brother, drowned in Staton's Creek, and most of his family moved to Rockbridge County. He lost two children to battle wounds in the Civil War, the heaviest loss for any of the Coffeys of Amherst County. His daughter Sophia married Jim Coffey, son of Billy Coffey, and they lived in Coffeytown.

Nevertheless, it was primarily John Jack and Billy Coffey whose children settled what became a vibrant little community, planted on a plateau, beside a meandering creek. With children like John Jack's Daniel Rufus Coffey who had 14 of his own, and Billy's "Roxie" who had 11 children of her own, the population grew rapidly, and supplemented Henry's step-children, children, and grandchildren.

In some ways the Genesis of Coffeytown is in the love story of Henry and Elizabeth, the love of Jordan for children, and the love of his children for each other. But it is also a simple triumph over tragedy.

In spite of the odds, Coffeytown became a comfortable place in which to live, although it took many years, and there were many disappointments along the way. Eventually it became a community of supportive kin, an almost self-sufficient village. Because of the continued efforts of its more prosperous inhabitants, instead of a still, Coffeytown had a two-room schoolhouse, and instead of a Jail, it had a Church, which continues to support its present community some 110 years after the first pew was sanded and nailed to the floor, by "Tip" Humphrey, the town carpenter, whose wife was a Coffey.

The achievement of Coffeytown is that ordinary people accepted a series of social and natural tragedies, struggled with the land and with themselves, and turned it all into a tight-knit community of caring families, and solid people — because they wanted to. Coffeytown is a microcosm of the American Experience of yesteryear.

This is only one part of a story of one family in the mountains of Virginia. Of course there are many more. The successes of yesteryear continue to enhance the lives of all who are fortunate enough to live in their own little "holler" of land in Coffeytown, nestled in their egg crate cavities, content with the civilization their ancestors created and the rich heritage left by people who intuitively understood the values of nature, of family, and of the individual human beings with whom they lived.

End of the Beginning

The Coffey Family Settlers of "Coffeytown"

The Coffey settlers of Coffeytown are described by family legend, and somewhat supported by the public records, as Hudson, Schylar, John Jack, William ("Billy"), Nelson, and Henry Coffey. Jordan's three daughters were Jane, Susanna, and Elizabeth. After their marriage, some of the daughters stayed in the general area for a while but never were involved in the settlement of "Coffeytown", which we define as land along Staton's Creek, which at one time (1894 map) was referred to as "Coffie Creek". This chapter explores the emergence of Coffeytown as a geographic entity and discusses the lives of the Coffey family settlers to the extent we can find written documentation in the public records.

PART I – GETTING SETTLED

Overview – the Census Reports and the People

The first census taken after Jordan left Nelson County, the 1830 Census, shows Jordan Coffey as the only Coffey in present day Amherst County. This was also the first census taken, after Nelson county was formed, which shows any Coffey in Amherst County. Jordan and his wife and 9 children are shown. John Jack was the first in this group to marry, in January, 1830, and by the time the census was taken was probably not living with the family (his wife doesn't show in the statistics). He doesn't show as the head of a household either, but this could be because he was living with a different family, as a boarder, possibly with her family. If John Jack was not at home in the summer of 1830, this would mean that 10 children existed. There is no proof that all of these were Jordan's, as the listing is only for the head of the household and others by age range, which was typical of census reports until 1850. One boy child is listed as being between the ages of 0-5. None of the known Coffeys listed above were that young in 1830, and it was too early for John Jack to have a child. If this was Elizabeth's child, she would have been between 47 and 52 years of age when the child was born, which is unlikely. It is likely that such a child, if it existed, may have died before the 1840 census. It could also be that a neighbor's child was present during the census, and was inadvertently counted. Not enough information to be certain, but whatever really happened, a tenth child shows nowhere else and did not figure prominently in the family affairs. Public records are not always as clear as we would like them to be.

In 1830, the Census shows Jordan Coffey living in the same basic neighborhood with Ambrose Rucker, Lindsay McDaniel, and Henry Ogden. A few doors away is William McDaniel, Benjamin Taliaferro, and Joshua Duff with his family, probably including Betsey

COLD MOUNTAIN CABBAGE

Duff and John Jack, Sr. who were married in January, 1830. In what appears to be a different part of the county not too far away, the census reads like a who's who of Coffey family and Amherst County history: Anderson Sandidge, John Staton, Joseph Dodd, Garland Richerson, Willis White, Aaron Higginbotham, James Clements, John Allen.

By 1840, John Jack, Nelson, Schuyler, and William are listed in addition to Jordan as the heads of households. This leaves Henry and Hudson unaccounted for by name in 1840. There were two males, aged 20-30 in Jordan's household that year. This is strange because Hudson was too old (35) and Henry was too young (18) to fit into that category. Neither of them is listed anywhere in Virginia as the head of a household in 1840; but in 1839, the following Coffeys paid their taxes in sequence on the same day: John, Schylar, Jordan, Henry F., Hudson, and William. It is likely that the census age range is incorrect and that both Henry and Hudson were living with Jordan in 1840. The first mention of Henry by name is in the Amherst County tax records for 1839 when he would have been 22 years of age. It was 1842 when he paid taxes the next time, for a silver watch. Throughout the next seven years he declares for taxes but owns nothing being taxed. In 1849, after he married the widow Elizabeth (McDaniel) (Ogden) Coffey, he arrives in style with four metallic clocks, 2 slaves and one horse, logging in at the staggering amount of \$0.76 taxes for the year. Given all that and the fact that Henry shows nowhere else by name in any census report, it is likely that he was the ninth child indicated in the 1830 census as well, giving some credence to the family legend that Henry was thought of as Jordan's son. According to his confusing death record, he was not Jordan's biological son, but he could have been and probably was informally adopted by Jordan prior to his leaving Nelson County.

Based on the listing in the 1840 Census, John Jack, William and Schylar were living in the same "neighborhood", Nelson was off elsewhere in the county, and Jordan lived between the two groups. Jordan lived between John Cash and Thomas Mahoney. We didn't recognize any of the other "nearby" names either. William and John were living next to each other, 3 doors down from Schylar who lived next to Meredith Allen, Jane Coffey's husband. Meredith and Jane had two young girls and one boy, all less than 5 years old in 1840. Patsy Cooper was a neighbor and 14 houses down the road was William W. Davis. Not too far away was the Methodist Reverend Pitt Woodroof with his wife and eight youngsters. Pitt is believed to have lived near Oronoco. From the names and the groupings, it appears that Coffeytown was beginning to form itself into a community.

Reubin P. Coffey was living in a different part of Amherst County - just him and his wife. By 1850, he seems to have moved to Augusta County, and Joseph Coffee (59) and his wife Ruth (48) replaced Reubin P. as the "non-Jordan" Coffey in Amherst.

In 1850, Henry, John, Jordan, Schylar, and William were living in the same "neighborhood", while Frederick and Jesse were living in different parts of the county. Eliza Wilson lived next to John Coffey who lived next to William H. Ogden. Jordan, William, Schylar

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and Henry lived all in a row with James Dodd and Cornelius Clement at the end. This may have been the cluster which ultimately became Coffeytown, but in 1850 clustered on or near Henry's property (McDaniel property in 1850) on both sides of Staton's Creek. Some 100 houses away, Frederick was living with Abram Clement and Rebecca, the widow of Nelson Coffey, along with her children by both marriages. William Hamilton (Hambelton), with James P. Hamilton living in, lived next to Abram Clement.

Even Frederick Coffey (Nelson's son) joined the Coffeytown cluster by 1860. Rebecca and Pauline, with 15 year old Nelson were still living with Abram Clement, in Nelson's old house, in the same neighborhood as William Sandidge, and next door to James Taliaferro. Charles E. Coffey, son of John Jack, was living near 36 year old Edward Drummond who ended up with Pauline Coffey before 1870, and next door to John Whitesides and his family. The cluster which Frederick joined consisted of the following men and their families: Henry Coffey, John Coffey, William Coffey, Frederick Coffey, William W. Davis, Ben H. Davis, Hudson Coffey, and Nelson Clark flanking Hudson. This was all probably within the general area of present day Coffeytown. Meredith Coffey and family were next to James Taliaferro and Peter Lawhorne. Schylar Coffey was still farther away from the cluster, but still in Amherst County, probably way up Rt. 634. Coffeytown had finally taken a firm shape, only to face the tragedy of the Civil War in the first half of the next decade, which substantially affected the ability of all southerners to grow and prosper.

After the War, in 1870, Reubin C. Coffey and wife Margaret, sons Augustus (23) and Marcellus (27), along with her mother Martha Bolling (60) and a black cook named Victoria Briggs, lived in the Courthouse district of Amherst, probably near Thrasher's Creek since he and Edgar Whitehead bought 467-3/4 acres from John R. Haden in 1869 (DB "JJ"/pg 170). Meredith Coffey and his wife Martha, and four young children lived in the Temperance District of Amherst County. Pauline was living with Edward Drummond and her two children Moses (6) and William (2). They were also in the Temperance district. All other Coffeys were in the Pedlar District and seem concentrated in one area, which surely by 1870 had somewhat recovered from the War, and was a well-defined little "Coffeytown".

Listed in a cluster in 1870 were Coffeys as follows: **Schylar** and "Mary" Coffey (perhaps her name was Mary Elizabeth), with **Fanny (Frances)**, **Jordan** and **John Coffey**; **Hudson** and Mahala Coffey, with 16 year old **James E. Coffey**; **Daniel** and Mildred Coffey, with one year old **Ella** and Catherine Sandidge, 43 years old at the time (she was Mildred's mother and the "Kate" featured in Maryon Harper's book Old Cold Mountain Tales); **John** and Elizabeth Coffey (60 and 62 years of age); **John** and Patara Coffey, with **Marcia, Henley, Lena, Emma Jane**; 30 year old **William Henry** and Virginia Coffey; **James** (son of Billy) and Sophia (daughter of Schylar) Coffey, with **Andrew** and **Edmund**; **William "Billy"** and Sarah Anne Crawford Coffey, with **Edward, Bettie, Sarah Fannie**, and 11 year old **Arthur Coffey**; **William "Buck"** and Sarah Granville Coffey, with **Willis** (3 years old at the time); **Harden** and Elizabeth Crawford, with **Nathan** (listed as 3 years old); **Charles E.** and Sarah Jane Ogden, with **Pitt, Charlie, Mary Jane, and Eleanna** Coffey;

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Henry and Elizabeth McDaniel Ogden Coffey, with Henry F. Coffey; Frederick and Catherine Ogden Coffey (daughter of Elizabeth McDaniel and Zachariah Ogden), with *Tressa, Marble, Rebecca* and one year old *Lucy S. Coffey*; and Mary M. Coffey, 32, with *Mollie Coffey* (this was probably Mathew Coffey's widow and their daughter *Mollie*. Mathew was Nelson's son, who died in the War).

Delayed by the War and its aftermath, Coffeytown would eventually develop into a self-contained community, as the population grew and became large enough to support its fundamental needs with a store, church, school and even its own post office. It never was large enough to support its own doctor and full-time preacher. Daniel Rufus Coffey's mother-in-law, and William Henry "Cripple Henry's" mother-in-law as well, Catherine Sandidge, functioned as the town midwife, doctor, "assistant pastor", and generally was the person everyone in need could depend upon. If Coffeytown ever had a Mayor in those early days, it was "Miss Kate". She was a role model for "the best neighbor you ever had", a true unsung heroine who lived to be over 100 years old.

It was in 1888 (same year that pensions were first available to Confederate Veterans and their survivors) that Charles E. Coffey deeded land to the Methodist Church, and built himself a new home, and 1896 when the present church, in the process of restoration, was constructed of chestnut lumber cut from Coffey land. The schoolhouse (land deeded by Charles E. Coffey in 1899 to Pedlar School Board - DB "YY" pg 405/ 498) was located just up the hill from the church site, and the post office was down by the road, next to the church. The southern economy was finally beginning to stabilize and people felt more comfortable about the future. This concentration of Coffeys continued through the peak of Coffeytown's existence as a family town, but it too would find its optimum size and strength, and ultimately decline in population as the world around it changed.

"Coffeytown" – Deeds and the Land

There seems to be some controversy as to when Coffeytown was actually settled by the Coffeys. The earliest deed in present day Amherst County, which we could find relating to the Coffey family, was the 1827 Deed of Trust by Hudson to his father Jordan. This document is discussed in detail in the chapter "Jordan Fitzgerald (Alias Coffey)", and briefly again under the heading HUDSON COFFEY in this chapter.

The next earliest deed is dated 1842, when Nelson bought his father-in-law's property for \$475 from the estate. Our guess at this time is that he was living with his wife Rebecca on or near this property on Thrasher's Creek in 1841 when Robert Hambelton, Rebecca's father, died. Census reports indicate that he was next door to Robert in 1840. Nelson died sometime between 1845 and 1847 (based on tax records). His wife Rebecca Hamilton married Abram Clement in 1849. Toward the end of Stonewall Jackson's Valley campaign,

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Abram was killed near Harrisonburg in 1862 during the Civil War. It appears that Rebecca stayed on the property for some time, but Frederick and Nancy each sold their share of the land 20 AUG 1859 to James P. Hamilton. This land was related only to Nelson and his family and did not contribute to the overall development of Coffeytown. Had Nelson lived, however, Coffeytown would probably have been developed along Thrasher's Creek, which is more like rolling hills than the mountainous area around Coffeytown. Family legend has it that the Coffeys bought into Coffeytown land because the land they wanted was not available. It may have been the land around Thrasher's Creek they would have preferred, or it may have been the Allen land, but with contiguous land the other property owners were not willing to sell.

In 1848, William Coffey signed a deed of trust for \$225.00 for Eliza White, his neighbor, who bought 230 acres with the money. This lien was released 12 April 1855. Also in 1848, William bought 105 acres from Meredith Allen and William's sister Jane, lying on the south side of Fork Mountain. The land was adjacent to property owned by Aaron Higginbotham and Anderson Sandidge. This is probably the date the Allens left the area and eventually ended up in West Virginia, although they owned other property in the area which we have not tracked. Meredith and Jane were in Tazewell County in 1850, with six children. William sold this 105 acres to Willis White for a \$10 loss on 6 October 1851, a few months after Henry's land was purchased.

The Allen land was no doubt sold because Henry Coffey, freshly married to Elizabeth (McDaniel) (Ogden) Coffey, bought 340 acres on both sides of the middle fork of the Pedlar River (Staton's Creek) on 8 May 1851 (DB "BB"/pp 188-189), having paid \$1000 to William McDaniel, Elizabeth's father. The deed had the will built-in, so that when Henry died, it went back to Elizabeth. Sort of a rubber string attached. McDaniel then wrote his will (5 JUNE 1851) leaving his plantation to his son Lindsay McDaniel, Elizabeth's brother. The property bought by Henry was previously purchased by McDaniel from Benjamin Sandidge in 1811. This is the earliest deed for Coffey land which mentions Staton's Creek, even in such cryptic terms. It is likely that Jordan, Hudson, John Jack, Schylar, and William, since they were living in the same "neighborhood" in 1850, may have been living on McDaniel land, used by Elizabeth and her husband Zachariah Ogden, until Zachariah's death, as Henry married Elizabeth in 1848, although there are indications he was there earlier. Even before Henry bought the McDaniel property on both sides of the middle fork, all his Coffey cohorts came with him, looking for similar property in the same area where they could stay together and support each other. 340 acres could contain, but not support, six families in those days, especially when much of the land was very steep.

Cognizant of Henry's "rubber string" deed, in 1859 John Jack purchased land from Thomas, James, and R. Richerson (DB "HH"/329), which was probably northeast of Henry's property. This was expanded, 14 years later in 1873, when William and John Jack jointly purchased 1335 acres along Staton's Creek for the sum of \$4000 from the estate of Jesse Richerson. This was the same year John Jack married 25 year old Virginia C. Campbell of Rockbridge County. Jesse had purchased it from Richard and John Cooper; Captain

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Benjamin Taliaferro's heirs, and James Taliaferro. This land, which we believe became a larger part of Coffeytown, was known as "Cooper's Place" and included land which was around and behind Hersey Coffey's place. In 1874, William and John sold a small portion, 275 acres, to McDaniel Crawford, then split the remaining land between themselves, and John Jack sold portions to Charles E. and John Jack, Jr. By the time the land was split, each had already built a cabin. The next few years are filled with land deals among the children and with a few outsiders, no doubt all centered around Coffeytown. (See Deed book "JJ" and later in Amherst County Courthouse.)

From several different indexes, these are the earliest deeds we have been able to find. Since other researchers seem to have the same problem with earlier Coffey property in Coffeytown area, we assume that 1851 was the first Coffey foothold along Staton's Creek, but 1859 was the first year Coffeys freely owned land at Staton's Creek. The census supports the idea that the Coffeys settled in the area in the early days, but were probably renting. Jordan and Elizabeth were most likely dead by this time, but they did live to see Henry's land and probably saw the general area before it developed into "Coffeytown". Henry, we believe, lived south of Bridgehill Cemetery, in the general area of Embree Crawford's present house but probably up the hill off the roadway. There is still an Ogden cemetery on the hill behind Embree's old house. Since Henry lived on what was Ogden/McDaniel land at one time, and Jordan and Elizabeth died around 1852-1854, it is possible that Jordan and Elizabeth may be buried within the largely unmarked Ogden cemetery, as this was the only land they owned any part of when Jordan died. Henry Coffey's land extended on both sides of Staton's Creek, and although the creek itself was more recently relocated, a portion of this property may also have included the hill behind Elsie's home, which is where Jordan and Elizabeth are said to be buried. The other Coffey children crowded around on Henry's land, possibly to help him with his instant family, and saved their money until 1859 and beyond – determined to accomplish what Jordan had been unable to do – own land free and clear.

It had been more than 30 years since Jordan left Nelson County. None of these Coffeys ever went back to Nelson County to live. The strong family ties which developed between the six Coffey boys, probably as a result of so many difficulties they faced together, left them and their families determined to stay close together and support each other in a way which had not occurred in Nelson County, as they perceived. The Coffeys must have felt they had been essentially abandoned by their family in Nelson County, and were determined to establish their own identity and supportive community. They succeeded, but it took them over 30 years, some good luck, and involved many hardships. It took more than rugged independence. It also took many daily sacrifices for the good of their own children and the overall community. It took cooperation.

"Clarktown" and "Oronoco" were other communities in the general area. Each had its own genesis and developed differently than Coffeytown. Clarktown developed as a mining town along Irish Creek in Rockbridge County and spilled over into Amherst County

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along the Pedlar River. A rough and tumble town, it mostly came and went with the mines, most of which were owned by David Garland, the same man to whom Jordan's debt was assigned. Oronoco (which is a name for harsh Indian tobacco which John Rolfe, of Jamestown fame, learned to blend with "sweet-scented" tobacco of European origin and saved Jamestown from economic doom) developed as a farming community centered around Asberry (as it is often spelled) Methodist. Both communities also had their one room schoolhouses and churches, and both peaked and declined a little earlier than Coffeytown, but there are still remnants and relics of each community along the roadways and back in the woods, silent reminders of an era of almost self-sustaining groups of closely related family and friends, usually splinter groups from an earlier generation, who set out to make their own way in life, and who stuck together to support each other in times of hardships and celebrated together in times of harvest. These communities were very different from the gold rush towns of the West, or "company" towns where the essential bonds holding people together were money, not blood.

Having reviewed the evolution of Coffeytown from a census perspective, and then as a real estate transaction, we turn attention now to each of the six "Coffey" boys whose relationships throughout these years held the family together and finally culminated in a tight-knit, more or less self-contained community of children and grandchildren. Family charts for each of these is located at the end of this chapter, to enhance comprehension of the family structure of these early settlers in Amherst County.

HUDSON COFFEY (Ca 1804/5 - >1870 <1880)

Hudson "Huddie" Coffey was the eldest son of Jordan and Elizabeth Rippetoe Coffey. He was born in 1804-1805, approximately two years after their marriage, in what is now Nelson County, probably along the Tye River in the general area of what is now Tyro. Nothing is known of Hudson's early life, since no one is living to tell it and since he was too young to do things which made their way into the records.

Apparently, Hudson, and perhaps Schylar, left Nelson County to come to Amherst, probably to make some money. They were still in Nelson in 1826 so they hadn't been living long in Amherst County when William the elder died (before March, 1828).

Hudson deeded some of his property - a mare, feather bed and some furniture - to his father in 1827. This deed of trust is listed in the Amherst County files, and is dated Dec. 31, 1827. It is prepared as a "loan" from Hudson to Jordan, not for money but for "love and benefit of Jordan". Most likely it relates to Jordan's Deed of Trust, written in 1817 in Nelson County, where he promised to pay his

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debt by the end of the year, or Edmund F. Coffey, acting in his official capacity as Constable of Nelson County, and a signer of the note, was to confiscate the collateral and sell it at auction to pay off the debt, and give Jordan anything which might remain after the note was satisfied. In 1817, Jordan put up as collateral “ ... a mare, feather bed, some furniture” and some animals. After many postponements, the note was due and Jordan couldn't pay. This 1827 Deed was intended to circumvent the original Deed of Trust. Jordan couldn't pay it off, and couldn't live very well without his horse, feather bed and some furniture. This occurred years before the Homestead Act, which allowed similar exclusions from creditors. That Act was intended to prevent just this sort of devastating collection, which happened to many in the early 1800's. Nevertheless, Jordan outfoxed his creditors. If the mare, feather bed and furniture actually belonged to Hudson, it couldn't be confiscated to pay a debt owed by Jordan.

Hudson seems to have devoted himself to the care of his parents. In the 1850 census report, where person's names are first listed, Hudson is living with Jordan and Elizabeth in Amherst County. He was probably also there in 1840, taking care of his elderly parents. Before 1860 both his parents presumably died, as they do not show in any later census reports, and he was free to marry.

On 20 September 1855 Hudson married Mahala Lane, a widow. We don't know if there were any children by her first marriage, but census reports (1860 and 1870) show a James E. Coffey, presumably the son of Hudson and Mahala, living with the family in the Pedlar District of Amherst County. James was 5 in 1860 and 16 in 1870 when the census was taken. His father may have died in the early 1870's when he was very young, and he may have left to make a living elsewhere. If Mahala had other children, they were apparently too old to be living with the family in 1860. Perhaps Hudson continued living in his parent's house after they died. His place of residence would be interesting to discover since it is likely that this is where Jordan and Elizabeth lived out the latter portion of their lives, but since other dwellings, known to have been constructed later, have all rotted away, it is very unlikely that anything remains. And since it was built on land they did not own freely, it was probably a temporary log cabin, on a wooden foundation.

Census reports show both Hudson and Mahala as illiterate. Probably most of the Coffeys prior to this time were also illiterate, but it simply didn't get recorded, because the census takers didn't ask. The whole county, indeed most of the state, was peppered with illiteracy. The government wanted to get a handle on the depth and extent, so it could devise a plan to reduce illiteracy. Being illiterate by no means implies that they were stupid or ignorant. It simply says they were too busy with survival to spend the time to learn to read or write. In their lifetime, the ability to read and write was a luxury. If modern day census takers were to test everyone on their knowledge of agriculture, most people today would end up being listed as “illiterate”.

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James Coffey, son of Hudson, shows in the 1880 Census in Campbell County, next to Lynchburg, with his mother Mahala, wife and children. He was too young and Hudson too old to have been involved as soldiers with the Civil War. There is no specific mention of James in connection with Coffeytown history. Hudson is not listed in the Amherst County death records through 1896, and we don't have later census reports clear enough to establish his death date. He was 66 or 68 years old in 1870, and does not show in the 1880 Census. Presumably he died between 1870 and 1880. Place of burial is unknown. He may be one of the early settlers of Coffeytown buried with only a boulder for his marker. The cemetery behind Elsie Coffey's house is the oldest known "Coffey" cemetery, but there may be some scattered farther north for these very early settlers without permanent markers, and long since forgotten. The property bought by John Jack and William in 1873 may have been owned by Coffeys when Hudson died, or he may have been buried with his parents, who are most likely buried in the Ogden cemetery. (Bridgehill was not used until about 1907.) The use of headstones was not as popular then as it is today, largely because of the economic conditions prevalent at the time, but boulders were used to mark the spot, as a measure of respect.

SCHYLAR COFFEY (Ca 1806 - >1870 <1880)

Schylar may have been the second son of Jordan and Elizabeth Coffey, born around 1806. The marriage records do not list his parents, and death records have not been found for him. Schylar and Nelson (and Henry) are the only ones of the original 9 for whom no specific listing of parentage has been found. When Nelson married in 1833, Schylar gave permission, not Jordan and Elizabeth, although they were alive and living in Amherst County at the time. When Schylar married in 1832, he was over 21 and did not need permission from his parents, but we believe it was deeper than that.

The ancestry of Nelson and Schylar is not firmly established. Both of these names relate directly to Nelson County geography, and are not traditional "Coffey" names, like the other children's names. They were both born around the time when a portion of Amherst was about to be split off as Nelson County. One district in Nelson County is Schuyler District. On occasions, Schylar's name has been written exactly that way. He and Nelson may be brothers (implied by their actions), but only cousins to John Jack and Billy. They may be descendants of some of Edward the twin Coffey's people, or more likely, "excess" children from one or another neighbor. This was not unusual. Historically in the colonies, when even one parent died, the court would sometimes "bind out" the children to ensure their welfare. At age 14, a "bound out" child had the right to choose his guardian. But all of this was much less formal in rural land which, 50 years earlier, had been frontier. Informal guardians were commonplace in those days and even later. The courts did not appoint a guardian unless there was an estate to protect, Henry was so much younger it is difficult to believe he came from the same parentage as Nelson or Schylar (if they were orphans, for instance). NO records have been found which conclusively prove parentage of Schylar

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or Nelson, and Henry's parentage is not clear from the records we do have. We understand that the absence of proof positive does not automatically prove a negative. But, in the absence of such proof, it is necessary to look at other reasonable alternatives. There is not enough evidence to conclusively prove that any of those three were or were NOT children of Jordan and Elizabeth. They were all treated as if they were, and as far as we know, accepted by the family as such, whether biologically related or not, but the records (understood to be sometimes incomplete) do not reflect a biological relationship, and therefore leave the question open. Perhaps someday more definitive records will be located.

Schylar married Elizabeth Hamilton, daughter of Robert "Hot-headed" (Hambelton) Hamilton, and sister of Rebecca Hamilton who married Nelson Coffey, on 30 January 1832. Schylar and Elizabeth had 7 children (see chart). Sophia, Jordan, Schylar and John all married.

No information regarding marriage of any of the older three has been found. All three - Frances, George and Robert - were still living with their parents in Amherst in 1860. Frances Coffey, 40 at the time, was still there in 1870. She is believed to have died 18 FEB 1908 and is buried at Timber Ridge in Rockbridge County. The boys had a different experience within that decade.

George Coffey is believed to have enlisted as a Private in Co. B, 49th Regiment, VA Infantry, Confederate States of America on 23 April 1861. He died from wounds and typhoid fever either 1 or 5 March 1862 in camp along the Rapidan River in Madison County. Robert Coffey also served as a Private in the same regiment, from his enlistment on 21 August 1862 until his death in July 1864 from wounds received 12 May 1864, the same day his cousins were listed as "captured". This was the last day of fighting at Spottsylvania Courthouse. He received a Certification of Commendation prior to his death. Jordan Coffey enlisted in Richmond, VA on 25 June 1864, assigned to Co. B, 3rd VA Cavalry. No record regarding his service in the cavalry has been found; but he also enlisted 1 March 1864 in Amherst County, VA, later transferred to Co. I, 49th VA Infantry on 27 June 1864; listed as AWOL as of 1 October 1864. No doubt the death of his brothers and the realization of the lost cause in the mud holes at Petersburg contributed to his absence. Jordan's enlistment in Richmond may have been his attempt to collect a fee for enlisting. There were very few ways to make money in Richmond in June, 1864. No record of Schylar, Jr., nor John serving in the CSA has been found, as both were too young to serve.

One lesson of the Civil War resulted in deliberately "mixing up" recruits from different areas when creating regiments. All too often during this War, brothers, cousins, and townfolk, assigned to the same regiment, would be wiped out in a single battle, with devastating results back home. Schylar and Elizabeth were the only "Coffeytown" settlers to lose more than one child in the War. And the only other one lost was Nelson's son Mathew. Coupled

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with the loss of Abram Clements, who took care of Nelson's children after his death, as well as his own with Rebecca, this was even more devastating to that branch of the family. Losing the breadwinner often meant "poverty".

Life in the military has been described as "long periods of boredom and inactivity, punctuated by moments of sheer terror". It was during those long periods of boredom when soldiers would read – or have read to them – desperate letters from home describing the hardships faced by the women and younger boys left to tend the farm, in an atmosphere of shortages of all kinds, and occasional "visits" by foraging armies, which were often worse than locusts. It was these letters and their sense of personal and family responsibility, coupled with the growing sense of futility in the War itself, which often led the men to desert their units. The men knew the War was over long before their leaders did.

Schylar Coffey, Jr., married twice. His first wife, Isabella Drumheller died 17 February 1870. He then married Mary Coffey, daughter of Reubin W. and SJB Coffey in 1880 and she must have also died fairly young, but there may have been at least one child by the second marriage, *Anne Belle Coffey*, who died of fever in Rockbridge County 12 OCT 1895 at the age of 14. This sets her birth about a year after Schylar's second marriage. Her "mother" was listed as Elizabeth, but this may have been her grandmother, old Schylar's wife, which implies that Mary died sometime before 1895. Elizabeth Hamilton Coffey would have been too old to have had Anne Belle herself. This Elizabeth died in August, 1895, also of fever. No further record regarding Schylar, Jr. has been found.

Sophia Coffey married Jim Coffey, Billy's oldest son, and they had several children which are discussed and charted under the "Billy" section.

Jordan Coffey married Rebecca Pettis (Grant) Coffey in 1876 in Rockbridge County and they are known to have had five children: *Alexander Coffey*, born at Irish Creek in 1876, married twice, first to Viola Walker (4 children), then Frances Schreve (1 child). Alexander died in WV in 1960; *Florence Coffey*, born in 1881, in Amherst County. She married James Ramsey and they had eight children. Florence died in Augusta County in 1959. *Fary Letcher Coffey*, also born at Irish Creek in 1888, married Elias Coffey, son of John and Annie Ogden Coffey, and they had four children. Two other children of Jordan, died fairly young: *Uriah "Rye" Coffey* fell from a train and died in Buena Vista in 1909, and *Finley Coffey* died young of pneumonia.

John Coffey married Annie Mariah Ogden in 1875 and they had eight children: *Elias Coffey*, born in 1875, married Fary Letcher Coffey in 1906 and they had 4 children; *Nathaniel Coffey*, born 1879 who married Ruth Mays in 1906; *Ollie Coffey* married James Lee Hamilton in 1901; *John Franklin Coffey* who married Hayden Davis in 1906; *Celestial Coffey* married Saylor Marshall Coffey, Sr. in 1905, son of Alford Coffey and Martha Bradley of Nelson County. Celestial and Saylor had 10 children. *Walter Herbert Coffey*,

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born in 1890, married Gertrude Carr. *William Coffey*, born in 1894, married twice, first to Virgie Mays, and then to Tina. *Sanford Dewey Coffey*, the last child, was born in 1898 and he married twice also: Florence Sterling and then Clarabell.

JOHN JACK COFFEY (Ca 1808 - 14 December 1888, Amherst County)

John Jack Coffey was born around 1808/9, according to the census reports. He was probably the second son of Jordan and Elizabeth Coffey, but he was third oldest of the group. In 1827/28 when his family came to Amherst County, he was around 20 years old.

On 18 January 1830, John Jack married Elizabeth "Betsey" (Duff) Coffey, the daughter of Joshua and Besley Duff of Fluvanna County. His parents were not listed in that document, but Jordan and Elizabeth were listed as witnesses. Census records imply that this couple had 7 children, including William Henry, who was 10 years old at the time.

John Jack's sons Charles E. Coffey, John Jack Coffey, Jr., William Henry Coffey and Daniel Rufus Coffey all lived in Coffeytown proper and provided much of the population of the western and northern portions of Coffeytown. No record of marriage has been found for Mary Coffey, but Sarah Jane (Coffey) Davis married William Davis in 1859. They had two children: John Edward Davis, and William Henry Davis, both named after Sarah's brothers. After she died, Davis married Avarilla Coffey, Henry Coffey's daughter. They had children who are discussed and charted under HENRY COFFEY. Sarah and Avarilla Coffey's children contributed to the population of "Coffeytown" as well. William Henry and Daniel Rufus married sisters in a double wedding on 6 April 1868. True to the old wives' tale, it was bad luck. Mildred (Lawman) Coffey died and Daniel later married Sallie Cole (Black) Coffey in 1880. William Henry had already had his bad luck.

Between the two of his wives, the youngest son Daniel Rufus Coffey had 14 children: By Mildred: *Ella Rue Coffey* who married Benjamin Dean Lucas; *Alice Loving Coffey* who married Edwin Henry Wood; *Cora Coffey* who married Patrick Clements; and *Bascom Walker Coffey* who married Cora Lee Sprouse. By Sallie: *Nannie Lou Coffey* who married Philip Kanear Vest; *Daisy Coffey* who married Clark; *Myrtle Shepard Coffey* who married William Bell Mowry; *Massie Johnson Coffey* who married Stephen Lewis Loving, Jr.; *Early Brown Coffey* who married Gertia Bliss Davis; *Talmadge Ivey Coffey* who married Mary Elizabeth Lawhorne; *Robert Mahood Coffey* who married Mena Carolena Mays; *Helen McClung Coffey* who married Elmer Hill Loving, Sr.; *Mary Melissa Coffey* who married Robert D. Davis; and *Farrow Lawton Coffey* who married Mary Willie Godsey.

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William Henry Coffey married Virginia Lawman in 1868, and they had 8 children: *Willie Anne Coffey* who married Benjamin Carpenter; *Lillie "Walker" Coffey* who married Walter Crist; *Frank Anderson Coffey* who married Minnie Crawford; *Irvine Coffey* who married Bertha Gilbert; *Laura May Coffey* who married William P. Barnes; *Minnie Coffey Chaplain* who married (2nd) Clarence Campbell; *Nellie Coffey* who married Orrie Green; and *Hattie Coffey* who married Henry Jennings.

John Jack, Jr. married Patara Tyler (pronounced pay - tra), who was listed as a 24 year old "domestic" in Charles' household in the 1860 census, and they had several children: *Marcia "Molly" Coffey* who married Joseph Dodd; *Henley Coffey* who married Avarilla Ogden; *Lena Coffey* who married Pet Campbell; *Emma Jane Coffey* who married Howard D. "Jack" Campbell; *John E. Coffey* who married Mattie Dodd; *Lutia V. Coffey* who married Charles D. Gilbert; *Elizabeth "Lizzie" Coffey* who married Charles D. Gilbert after her sister Lutia died in childbirth; *Ambrose Rucker Coffey* who married Mattie Miles Higginbotham; and *Mary Coffey* and *Jane Coffey*, both of whom died as infants.

Charles Edward Coffey, the eldest son, married Sarah Jane Ogden, daughter of Zachariah Ogden and Elizabeth McDaniel Ogden Coffey, on Valentine's day, 1854. They had *John and Irvin Coffey* who are believed to have died young; *Hiter Webster Coffey* who married twice, first to Blanch H. Crist, then Mary Fannie "Mamie" Higginbotham; *Edwin Horsely Coffey* who married Mary Virginia Rucker, who had previously married Dr. Rucker; *Pitt Coffey* who married Lucy White; *Charles "Charlie" Coffey* who married Sallie M. White; *Mary Jane Coffey* who married Albert Waggoner Stratton; *Editha Coffey* who married James Crist; and *Eleanna "Eleanor" Coffey* who married first to George Baxter Stratton, then to Fletcher Higginbotham.

John Jack Coffey, Sr. was too old to be directly involved in the Civil War, but his sons were just the right age. On 22 April 1862, many of the Coffeytown boys were in Gordonsville, possibly selling tobacco or fruit (prices in Gordonsville were artificially inflated since it was a railroad center for the Confederacy and there were many soldiers hungry for non-military food). Up until this time the boys had stayed out of the war. As long as Stonewall was in charge, they weren't too concerned. Charles E., John Jack, Jr., Henry L. (son of Henry and Elizabeth Coffey), James (oldest son of Billy), and William (son of Billy) all enlisted as Privates in Co. E, 13th VA Regiment Infantry. Col. Walker enlisted them, perhaps at gun point. The Confederate States instituted a draft in April, 1862 and these Coffeys stumbled into some serious recruiters in Gordonsville. The record shows that most attended one or a few of the drills and then disappeared, some being listed as deserters. Charles was AWOL on 1 June 1862 and there is nothing in their records until May, 1864 when he "re-enlisted". Family legend has it that they hid from the recruiters but were discovered, routed out of the bushes and drafted. They were farmers, not soldiers. Stonewall Jackson, who had kept the Yankees confounded for some time, especially in the Shenandoah Valley, was mortally wounded 11 May 1863. This was a severe blow to the Confederacy, and his absence soon allowed Sheridan to ransack the Valley, bringing the War to the doorstep of Coffeytown. In 1862 it was all about States Rights. In 1864, it was personal.

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Somehow, John Jack Coffey, Jr. and Charles E. Coffey were "transferred" to Co. F, 50th Regiment, VA Infantry in May, 1864. According to the Compiled Service Records at the Archives, Charles E. and John Jack were captured 12 May 1864 at Spottsylvania Courthouse (some records show the place of capture as The Wilderness, which coincides with family legend. The Wilderness Battle, which extended into the battle at Spottsylvania Courthouse, was over by 12 May, and it may have been only then that they were noted by Confederates as missing. During these battles, Lee was not aware of the exact number of Confederates he had available). They were taken to Belle Plains, VA and shipped to Elmira, NY as Prisoners of War. The record shows John Jack shipped on 30 July 1864, but Charles was sent 2 August 1864. They were both released 23 June 1865, about 2 months after Lee's surrender at Appomatox, under General Order #109, after taking the "Iron Clad Oath" of allegiance to the United States. John Jack is listed as having auburn hair, blue eyes, 5'-9" tall, and fair complexion. Both Charles and John Jack, Jr. were married before the war began and were probably happier than most upon their release.

William Henry Coffey served longer and paid a heavier price. He enlisted 15 August 1861 at Millner's Store by Capt. William Higginbotham and he was mustered into service 24 September 1861 in Staunton, VA. He was promoted to Corporal 1 May 1862, in the 2nd Corp, Co. F, 58th VA Infantry, Stonewall Jackson's outfit. On 28 August 1862, he was sent to the Richmond Hospital. In March and April 1863 he was admitted to the hospitals in Staunton as well as in Richmond. By August 1863 he was a "1 Corporal", which he remained until he was captured 12 May 1864 at Spottsylvania Courthouse/the Wilderness. From there he was sent to Fort Delaware from Belle Plain, VA on 21 May 1864. He was released after taking the oath on 19 June 1865, under the same general order. His complexion was dark, hair dark, eyes dark, and 5'-6" tall. Nicknamed "Cripple Henry", he suffered as a result of his wounds during the war. Legend has it that he walked home from Fort Delaware and could barely make it down the road toward home. Some of the family had lost hope and given him up for dead, but Betsey Duff, his mother, had never given up on old "Hen". She lived to see her faith fulfilled.

Daniel Rufus Coffey served in the local defense (Virginia Reserves) and is not known to have ever seen action. He was 15 when the war began.

In August of 1871, Betsey died of Cholera. Henry Coffey, same generation as John Jack, died in June of the same year of Colic. About 1-1/2 years later on 1 April 1873, John Jack took a young wife, 25 year old Virginia C. Campbell of Rockbridge County, called "Jenny". Virginia had come to the cabin, so the legend goes, to take care of Betsey during her sickness. Apparently there were no children by the second marriage, but the couple is thought to have informally adopted some Staton children. In this marriage record, John Jack's parents are listed as J and E Coffey, Jordan and Elizabeth. At the time, he was 64 years old. A few months later, he and "Billy" bought the 1335 acres called "Cooper's Place" evidently named after John Cooper, an early trapper who lived in the area. It was this purchase which firmly fixed Coffeytown as a defined piece of real estate in Amherst County. This was John Jack and Billy's solidification of the family as a group, by ensuring, finally, full control over the land on which they lived. Now more permanent

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houses could be built.

John Jack Coffey died 14 December 1888 at the age of 80, of cancer. We have no specific place of burial for either him or Betsey from public records, but they may be buried behind Elsie Coffey's present house in an unmarked grave, as some believe.

WILLIAM "BILLY" COFFEY (23 April 1815* - 26 July 1897*)

* = See Charts

William "Billy" Coffey was probably the third son of Jordan and Elizabeth Coffey, but fourth in age of those in the family. He is not William B. Coffey, who lived his life in Nelson County. According to his headstone he was born 9 April 1815. Other information indicates 23 April 1815 as his date of birth.

He married Sarah Ann "Sally" (Crawford) Coffey on 24 September 1835 in Amherst County. His parents are clearly listed as Jordan and Elizabeth Coffey. Her mother was Sarah Crawford. This couple, along with John Jack, Sr., had most of the population of what became Coffeytown.

Billy and Sally had 9 children:

James "Jim" Coffey married Sophia Coffey (Schylar's daughter) and they had 2 children who married: *Edmund F. "Ned" Coffey* who married Mary Jane Gilbert and they had 8 children; *Andrew Coffey* who married Sallie Jane Ogden. They had no children.

Roxsinia Belle Coffey married Bennett Hudson Davis in 1858 and they had 11 children: *Sarah Catharine Davis* who married William Henry Ogden; *William Edward Davis* who never married; *James Madison Davis* who married Mary Jane "Molly" Tomlinson; *Martha Jane Davis* who married William Henry Coffey; *Paulus Lee Davis* who married twice, first to Magel Agnor, then Alice R. Wheeler; *Daniel Davis* who married twice, first to *Amanda Coffey* (daughter of "Buck" Coffey), then to Dora Margaret Sorrells; *Roxsinia Belle Davis* who married *Willis Coffey*, son of William "Buck" Coffey; *Lou Ella Davis* who married *Nathan Coffey*, son of Harden Coffey; *Laura Davis* who married Uriah Houston Grant; *Eleanor Anna Davis* who married John William "Jack" Whiteside; *Harden McDowell Davis* who married twice, first to Myrtle Fitzgerald, then Catharine Miller.

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William "Buck" Coffey married Sarah Granville Crawford and they had 2 children: *Willis Coffey* who married *Roxsinia Belle Davis*; and *Amanda "Mandy" Coffey* who married *Daniel Davis* who later married Dora Margaret Sorrells after Mandy died in childbirth with their third child.

Harden Coffey married Elizabeth "Bettie" Crawford and they had 9 children: *Nathan Coffey* who married *Lou Ella Davis*; *Hugh Nelson Coffey* who married Ora Wills Crawford; *Nora Coffey* who married Champs Lee Ogden; *Sarah Catharine Coffey* who married Harding Lewis "Tip" Humphreys; *Indianna Coffey* who married William O. Fitzgerald; *Pidgie Coffey* who married John Cale Camden; *Sophia Coffey* who married Issac G. Taylor; *Flora Coffey* who married Luther M. Taylor (Issac's brother); and *Bertha Lee Coffey* who married Donald Grant.

Elizabeth "Bettie" Coffey did not marry. She was very close to her mother "Sally"; and shortly after Sally's death, Bettie died of what is believed to be a broken heart.

Edward Coffey married Willie Ann Crawford and they had 8 children: *Signora Coffey*; *Loula Coffey* who married Pitt F. McDaniel; *Willis E. Coffey*; *William A. Coffey*; *Blanch Coffey*; *Clinton B. Coffey*; *Oscar M. Coffey*; and *Harden R. Coffey*. No further information about this couple is known.

Varlana Coffey about whom nothing is known, as she may have died as an infant.

Sarah Fannie Coffey married George Washington Coffey, son of Rubin W. and S.T. Coffey of Nelson County; and they had 7 children: *Cora E. Coffey* who married Herbert Ogden; *Beatrice Coffey* who married Walter J. Crawford; *Reubin Jones Coffey* who married Effie Davis; *Sally J. Coffey* who married Samuel Cumming Parrent; *Beulah B. Coffey* who married John Bunyan Fauber; *Mary Flotelle Coffey* who married Reuben Franklin Douty; and *George Dewey Coffey* who married Lula Dodd.

Arthur Coffey married Virginia Anne "Jenny" Davis and they had 10 children: *Mabel Irene Coffey* who married Emmett Humphries; *Hiram Randolph Coffey* who married Susie A. Catlett; *Ernest Webster Coffey* who married Ethel Stratton; *Alma Gertrude Coffey* who married T. Powell Crawford; *Hallie Pearl Coffey* who married J. Houston Crawford; *Fletcher Beadles Coffey* who married Maggie Harris; *Mina Lee Coffey* who married twice, first to Thompson Massie Davis, then James William Gibson; *Sally Coffey* who married twice, first to Wallace Palmer, then Glenn Wyatt; *Leonard Carlyle Coffey* who married twice, first to Elsie Sales, then to *Elsie Coffey*; and *Essie Rose Coffey* who married Emmett Sales.

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Billy and his family built a house just north of Staton's Creek to the immediate west of Elsie Coffey's present house, where the family grew up. It was not until 1897 that the house Elsie lived in was constructed. This may have been his second house in the general area of Coffeytown. His first purchase of land was made in 1873 when he and John Jack jointly purchased 1335 acres of property in the area. Up until that time, he may have lived on Henry's property or John Jack's land which he purchased in 1859.

Billy was too old for the Civil War but some of his sons were of the proper age, including Jim and William. Harden was about the same age as Daniel Rufus and was not known to have been involved. Edward was about 10 years old and Arthur was only two or three years old when the War began. James Coffey was enlisted 22 April 1862 in Gordonsville, VA by Col Walker for 3 years or for the duration of the war, whichever was longest. He was a Private in Co. E, 13th VA Infantry. This is the same group John Jack, Jr. and Charles joined. He is listed as deserted 13 August 1862 (Charles was AWOL in June, 1862). William Coffey has the same record. Evidently, they all came home because the farms needed attention. Later John Jack and Charles joined the 50th Regiment VA Infantry. There are many James Coffeys involved in the war from Virginia. The one record of service later in the War which looks most like it would be Jim's is for a Jim Coffey who joined the same group - 50th VA, and that James is listed as being captured at The Wilderness/Spottsylvania Courthouse and sent to Elmira 30 July 1864, but then that James is listed as having died 14 October 1864 from chronic diarrhea, and they have him buried in grave #714 at Elmira. Independent records confirm there is a Jim Coffey from Virginia buried there. Fortunately, "our" Jim Coffey lived until 1915. (The 1910 Census shows him alive and well). The military records for none of the other James Coffeys seem logical for this man, and it is possible that he never re-joined after the episode in Gordonsville. The same may be true for William.

Billy's headstone shows a death date as 11 May 1896. Death records show a William Coffey, unlisted parents, dying 26 July 1897. Evidently Billy's death came as a result of falling down the stairs at the original house, after he had returned from the new house. If this is true and the new house was not built until 1897, the 26 July date may be accurate. Otherwise, it could have been over a year since his death when it was reported in Amherst Courthouse, and the record shows the reported date, not the actual date; or the listed William is not the right one. However, the listed Billy was 81 years old, which is right for his age. No other William of that age was known to be in Amherst County at the time.

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"Sally" and Billy Coffey are buried on the hill behind Elsie Coffey's house in a fenced-in area which includes Bettie Coffey, their unmarried daughter. Bettie evidently died of grief, as she was very attached to her mother. Others in the cemetery include Walter Campbell, perhaps related to John Jack's second wife, or to one of John Jack Jr.'s two daughters, Lena and Emma Jane, who married Campbell men in sufficient time to have had Walter. Robert H. Coffey, great-grandson of Billy Coffey, grandson of Harden Coffey and Hersey Coffey's brother, has the only other marked grave (1903-1907) in this cemetery. John Jack and his wife Betsey Duff are also believed to be buried in this vicinity, although there is no marker.

NELSON COFFEY (Ca 1810-1820, died 1845-1848)

Nelson Coffey's birth date and parents have not been pin-pointed. It seems clear (although still speculation) that Nelson was Schylar's brother, but the two of them were probably not brothers with the others. Like Schylar however, Nelson was fully accepted by the Coffey family as one of their own.

Nelson married Rebecca Hamilton, daughter of Robert Hamilton, on 5 February 1833 in Amherst County. Schylar Coffey gave permission for Nelson to marry. We believe this was his older brother, not his father. Jordan and Elizabeth, although they were in the area, are not mentioned as being part of the ceremony. Surely they were there, perhaps as best man or something, but not as listed witnesses. Since they had no possessions, they also could not provide security. They could have been listed as parents, but were not.

Nelson and Rebecca had Frederick, Nancy, Julia, Mathew, Pauline, and Nelson Coffey. Nelson the older must have died sometime between 1844, when little Nelson was conceived, and 1849, when Rebecca remarried, to Abram Clement. According to tax records in Amherst County, Nelson paid the taxes in 1845, Rebecca paid in 1848, no one in that family paid taxes in Amherst County in 1846 or 1847.

In the 1850 Census, Frederick was a 16 year old farm laborer, living with Rebecca and her new husband. Rebecca and Abram had 2 children - Missouri (female) and John Clement - before Abram was killed in Civil War action in Harrisonburg in 1862. Missouri married late in life, after she had 2 children, to Levi Truslow. John J. married Elizabeth Hamilton. By 1870, Rebecca is alone again as the head of the household. Robert Hamilton, father of Rebecca and 2 others who married into the Coffey family, died in 1841. Nelson and others filed petition in Amherst County court to have the court appoint an executor to sell the assets. In 1842, Nelson paid \$475 for 170 acres of land along Thrasher's Creek. This is the first recorded deed of Coffey land in present day Amherst County which we

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found. Rebecca continued to live there with her new husband and even beyond his death. In 1859, Frederick and Nancy sold their 29 acres to James P. Hamilton, who lived nearby and was a young son of Robert Hamiltons who had his older brother John P. Hamilton (he married Elizabeth Coffey, Jordan's daughter) appointed as his guardian when Robert died. Another young son, Robert Lewis Hamilton, had Nelson and Rebecca appointed as his guardian. The Hamiltons and Coffeys were very close in those days in Amherst County, having left behind some of the court cases of assault and battery between the two families in Nelson County.

Apparently Frederick Coffey settled on a farm near or in Coffeytown, and Nancy (Coffey) Lawhorne settled south of Dodd's Ford, with her family centered around Allwood (El Bethel) Methodist. Two of Frederick's sons, "Fed" and Zack were in Coffeytown in 1900, living next to "Big Hill" Henry, behind what is now Steve Wright's property. Zack was married to Mary Catherine Crawford, but "Fed" was still a bachelor at that time. He eventually married Mary's sister Susie Massie Crawford and they had at least four children, one of whom was *Thomas F. Coffey* who lived only 26 years, but married Flarie Taylor. They had one child George W. Coffey who lived only two months. Thomas, Flarie, and George are buried at Bridgehill Cemetery in Coffeytown. Mary Catherine and Susie Massie were sisters of Ora Wills Crawford who married Hugh Nelson Coffey.

Frederick Coffey married Catherine H. Ogden, daughter of Zachariah and Elizabeth McDaniel Ogden, in 1856 in Amherst County. This couple had 8 children which show in the public records, although "Fed" and "Zack" are the only two known to have been involved in Coffeytown. *Masero, Tressa, Marble, Rebecca* who married Thomas Widdiefield, and *Lucy S. Coffey* who married Thomas H. Kilpatrick are all children shown to have been born between 1856 and 1867. Family legend has it that Marble froze to death when very young, although there is no death record for him or the others, and they don't seem to have figured prominently in the family. *Frederick "Fed" Coffey*, born in 1868, married Susie Massie Crawford and they had 4 children, including Inez Coffey who married Herbert E. Wright. The Wrights settled in the northeast corner of Amherst County, where there is a cemetery on the backside of the Shadow Ridge golf course which contains many family members of Fed and Zack, and both of them. "Fed" also had Nettie, Thomas F. who married Flarie Taylor, and Owen L. Coffey. Owen was the only one not to marry. *Zachariah "Zack" Coffey* married Catherine Crawford, Susie's sister, and they had 6 children: Taliafero who married Annie Byrd Tomlin; Annie M. who married Wiley Brichett; Drewry, Lucy, Rawley who married Mamie N., and Mary Coffey, all of whom married. The birth index shows an eighth child of Frederick and Catherine – *James Coffey* - born 29 AUG 1873, but there is no further record of him.

Frederick Coffey was a Private in Co. I, 49th VA Regiment Infantry, having enlisted 1 March 1864 in Amherst County for 3 years. He appears on the final disposition of Conscripts at Camp Lee, VA (in Petersburg) on 14 March 1864, no further record. There is no record for Nelson, son of Nelson and Rebecca, which we could find, although he would have been the right age if he lived.

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Nancy (Coffey) Lawhorne married Holman "Delaware" Lawhorne in 1867, but prior to that she had *Isaiah "Zet" Coffey* who married and had one daughter and 3 sons. Nancy and Delaware had *Sarah Elizabeth Lawhorne* who married James Burley; *Emma Lawhorne*, and *Ollie A. Lawhorne*; *Phelia Lawhorne* who married Will W. Wheeler; *Sam Lawhorne* and *Andrew Lawhorne*.

Julia (Coffey) Rogers married Benjamin Rogers 10 November 1856. They had six known children. Both Julia and Ben are buried in the Asberry Cemetery at Oronoco. They had *Sarah M. Rogers* who married Benjamin L. Tomlin; *Mary Jane Rogers*, who married Palantine Byas (Byers); *Ida Ross Rogers* who married Isaiah S. Coffey; *Calvin Rogers* who did not marry; *Lucie Ella Rogers* who did not marry; and *Benjamin F. Rogers* who died as an infant in 1880.

Pauline Coffey's marriage record has not been located by us. She had 2 children, *Moses* and *William*, both named Coffee. She was living with Edward Drummond in Amherst County for a while, perhaps as a domestic - he was much older than she. Application was made for a marriage license when she was 36 years old, and her children were teenagers. According to others, she married Edward Drummond 24 MAY 1878 in Amherst County. By 1880, there were additional children: *Marie (10)*, *Julia (7)*, and *Lawrence G. (2) Drummond*. Lawrence married Olivia Corbin.

Mathew Coffey, son of Nelson, was a Private in Co. I, of the 58th Virginia Infantry, CSA. He died of measles in the spring of 1862 at Stribling Springs, VA, but he married Mary M. Coffey near Buffalo Springs in Amherst County on 21 March 1861. In 1870, she was living in Coffeytown, next to Frederick Coffey, with her nine year old daughter *Mollie Coffey*. She was living in Madison, VA, near Lynchburg in 1888 when she applied for Confederate benefits.

Little Nelson Coffey was born about 1845, but nothing is known of him. No military record or death record was found.

HENRY COFFEY (Ca 1822 - 10 June 1871)

Although **Henry Coffey** shows for the first time in the 1850 Census as the head of a household, he may have been one of 2 boys his age living with Jordan and Elizabeth in 1840. According to Census reports, Henry was born around 1822. He married, at the "adjusted" age of 31, Elizabeth (McDaniel) (Ogden) Coffey, who was slightly older than Henry, and she had several children of her own from a previous marriage to Zachariah Ogden. Henry seems to have acted as guardian to her older children and they took his surname, at least for the census reports, but, except for Paulin, they are believed to have used their own surnames later. Henry F.

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Coffey died 10 June 1871 of Colic, in Amherst County, according to the Amherst County death records. The information on the death record, including naming his parents as "Charles and Jane Coffey of Nelson County", was given by Henry's son, Henry L. Coffey. His place of burial is unknown, but is probably up on the hill behind Embree Crawford's house, in an unmarked grave, perhaps with Elizabeth.

Henry shows in the public tax records for the first time in 1839 when he paid personal property taxes in Amherst County in line with John, Schylar, Jordan, Hudson and William Coffey. For this reason and others, he is believed to have been informally adopted by Jordan and Elizabeth, and has always been accepted as part of the Coffey family. This likely occurred in Nelson County before the family left in late 1827 or in 1828. At that time, he would have been a pre-teenager. By 1839 he needed to pay taxes.

It seems that the first Coffey settler in the Coffeytown area (geographically) was the youngest of the Coffey clan, Henry Coffey. It was his actions in the 1840's which would have a substantial effect on both the settlement location and the content of Coffeytown.

Henry married Elizabeth (McDaniel) (Ogden) Coffey on 10 March 1848 in Amherst County, although he was obviously there earlier. In 1848 Henry had nothing and paid no personal property taxes. By 1849, he owned one horse, two slaves, one over 16 and another over 12 years of age, and 4 metallic clocks. By 1850, he was down to one horse and seven children. Reality had set in. On 8 May 1851 he bought 340 acres on both sides of the middle fork of the Pedlar River from his father-in-law William McDaniel. William had bought it in 1811 from Benjamin Sandidge. This deed had a built-in will. That is, Henry paid \$1000 for the use of this land during his lifetime. When he died, ownership would revert to William McDaniel or his son Lindsay. Nevertheless, Henry was happy to have his own land to work. This is the first piece of land adjacent to or near Staton's Creek (middle fork) which we have found to be "owned" by anyone in the Coffey family.

The same deal may have been made with Zachariah Ogden, when he married Elizabeth. Henry may have been working on Zachariah's farm when Zach died, then stayed on to help out, since Elizabeth was pregnant at the time with Paulin and had at least 6 other children to care for, only one of whom, "Zack", was male; and he was only about 8 years of age at the time. Coffeytown was not frontier in 1850, but it was still very rugged living. Someone had to chop the firewood, till the soil, repair the roof. Elizabeth needed immediate help upon the death of her husband. In those days, the death of a husband was often synonymous with poverty. With an instant family, Henry hit the ground running. Caring for an infant is a full time job today. Go back 150 years, add six children and 340 acres of steep, rocky land from which all of the food and cash had to come in order to care for 9 people, 7 of them young children. Henry had his hands full, and he could not have expected to have much time alone with his new wife. He probably knew that the property would not

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come with her, so there was only one reasonable explanation for all of this – Henry was in love with Elizabeth McDaniel Ogden and her children.

It seems perfectly appropriate to us that the establishment of Coffeytown as a dot on the map would be tangled up in a complicated love story between a man with an enigmatic connection to the Coffey family, and a pregnant damsel in distress. Nothing else in Coffeytown history was easy, straightforward, or simple. The only constant was the family's love for each other and their intent to stay together as much as possible.

Henry and Elizabeth had three children of their own, and Paulin apparently never knew his father Zachariah Ogden, who died before he was born. Paulin J. Coffey names Henry as his guardian in his will. He died evidently without marrying, at the age of 24, continuing to use the Coffey surname, obviously proud of Henry's guardianship. His will named the three children of Henry as beneficiaries. He is believed to be that P.J. Coffey who enlisted as a Private in Co. E, 13th VA Infantry in Culpepper on 28 October 1863. The record has him as a deserter in December 1863. At this time, desertions ran about 10% for both sides. It would increase dramatically for the south in 1864 and 1865.

Avarilla (Coffey) Davis listed Henry as her father on her marriage application. She married William Webster Davis, who had previously married Sarah Jane Coffey, daughter of John Jack Coffey. By that marriage there were two children. Avarilla gave him 13 more, as follows: *Virginia Ann "Jenny" Davis* who married Arthur Coffey; *Ida Penn Davis* who married John Edward Johnson; *Cornelia Catherine Davis* who married Thomas McDaniel; *Elizabeth Pendleton Davis* who married Stephen Mallory Johnson; *Amanda Ellen Davis* who married Samuel Johnson; *Houston Carlyle Davis* who married Docia Ridings; *Mary Lee Davis* who married twice, first to Henry Carter, then Aubrey Sales; *Callie Tucker Davis* who married Powell Stinnette; *Tully Ashby Davis* who married Margaret Williams; *Chester Cleveland Davis* who married Jessie Zenobia Johnson; *Royal Wilbur Davis* who married Beulah Woodson; *Harry F. Davis* who died as a child; and *Edna Belle Davis* who married Taylor Casey.

Henry L. Coffey married Lillie Belle (Burch) Coffey on 3 December 1873 in Amherst County. They lived in Coffeytown and had a number of children, including *Georgiana Coffey* who married James Seay; *Mattie Bell Coffey* who married Woody McDaniel; *John Woodson Coffey* who married Nevie Clements; *Emmett Hamilton Coffey* who married Katie Childress; *Bernard J. Coffey* who married Mary Nash; *Albert R. Coffey* who married Caroline Gills; *Harriet "Hassie" Coffey* who married Charles Jones; *Elvira Coffey* who married Elbert Smith; *Ruth P. Coffey* who married Claude Watts; and *Camm Littleton Coffey* who died at the age of three.

COLD MOUNTAIN CABBAGE

Henry L. was called "Big Hill" Henry, leaving little doubt as to the topography of his house site. Henry was probably drafted as a Private into the 13th VA Infantry on 22 April 1862 in Gordonsville, along with others in the family, except that Henry was only 14 years old at the time. He is listed as deserted 17 June 1864, but was AWOL much earlier. Most likely he came back to Amherst County, where he and Paulin were needed by their family. It does not appear that he rejoined in another regiment. The battlefield is no place for a 14 or a 16 year old, although it was fairly common in the South.

Mary F. Coffey married Joseph Crawford on 5 December 1866 when she was very young. Nothing is known of this couple.

By the end of the Civil War, Jordan Coffey's "sons" were elderly, and it was his grandchildren who now had the opportunity to shape the community to meet its needs and aspirations.

While Jordan's life was influenced by his social status and memories of Indian attacks and the Revolutionary War, his grandchildren were now influenced by a devastated southern economy and memories of the Civil War. The main difference is that now his descendants controlled the land upon which they lived and depended. But they did not control the limits of the resources they owned, the national shift away from an agrarian society to a market economy, or those "Malthusian Mathematics" their ancestors had faced some 150 years earlier in Essex County. The next chapter examines these influences on the continuation of Coffeytown.

End of this chapter



Old Joe Clark

In 1780, William Clark, Sr. purchased land at Pedlar (along Rt. 605)*. He and two brothers brought their families to the area. By 1800, they owned land along Irish Creek, just over the mountain into Rockbridge County. While most of the Clark family left the area and went west, in the early 1800's Joseph Clark, Sr. had a sawmill operation on his 2,561 acres of land. He willed the sawmill to his two sons, Joe, Jr. and James Clark. At local stores in Rockbridge, wood shingles were used as credit (by 1876, 500 shingles were good for \$2.00). The sawmill did very well until the latter Civil War years, when the southern economy was badly ruined. Nevertheless, the Clark family hung on and eventually was involved in local mining operations (iron and manganese) along Irish Creek, and somewhat of a comeback in the timber business.

The Clark family who lived alongside Irish Creek in Rockbridge County near Coffeytown, has been immortalized by a musically inclined, illiterate horse team driver named Sam Downey. Joseph Clark, Jr. and Betsy Brown were real people, as was Downey. Betsy is thought to have been romantically pursued by John Pultz whom she rejected. To forget her and get on with his life, he moved to Irish Creek. There he met and married Sarah Clark, Old Joe's daughter. Downey worked for the sawmill which was run by Joseph Clark, Jr., "Old Joe Clark".

**Old Joe Clark had a mule,
His name was Morgan Brown,
And every tooth in that mule's head,
Was sixteen inches round.**

**Old Joe Clark had a cow,
She was muley born,
It takes a jaybird a week and a half,
To fly from horn to horn.**

**Sixteen horses in my team,
The leaders they are blind,
And every time the sun goes down,
There's a pretty girl on my mind.**

**Eighteen miles of mountain Road,
And fifteen miles of sand,
If I ever travel this road again,
I'll be a married man.**

**Fare you well, Old Joe Clark,
Goodbye Betsy Brown,
Fare you well, Old Joe Clark,
Fare you well, I'm gone.**

SOURCE:

Fare Thee Well. Old Joe Clark, by Donna Huffer, a descendant of the Clark family; Rockbridge County Library, Lexington, VA.

* Other family names which appeared in the area in the 1797 tax list include Staton, Higginbotham, Clements, Crawford, Tomlinson, Davis, McDaniels, Huffman, Hartless, and Martin. In those days the area was called the "Ware Settlement" for John Ware, a war hero who lived in the area. The northern part of Route 605 is presently called "Clarktown Road" and there are still Clark family members living there.

Benjamin Hawkins Fitzgerald: Military Career

By 1818 in Nelson County, Benjamin Fitzgerald and Jane Coffey his wife were not doing very well. Benjamin applied for pension as a Revolutionary War veteran. Appearing in court to give testimony, he was 59 years old, had a 57 year old wife, and three young daughters; he was infirm, unable to take care of himself, deeply in debt and living on rented land.

To qualify for the pension voted in by Congress, Benjamin spelled out much of his military engagements. Following is a listing of those engagements and a brief description of each battle he listed, beginning with activity north of Virginia and ending in the deep south. After Eutaw Springs, General Greene returned to his camp at High Hills along the Santee River where Benjamin Fitzgerald is believed to have stayed until his release early in 1782.



A typical colonial soldier; this may be similar to the appearance of Benjamin Fitzgerald in 1777. (If he could find a uniform.)

If Benjamin Fitzgerald's testimony is correct, he would have been 16 years old at the time he entered the War. Prior to his entry, Lexington and Concord had already happened, Paul Revere had made his ride, Nathan Hale had already been captured and hanged as a spy in New York, and the Declaration of Independence had been written, signed, and delivered. The War was not going well for the Patriots. Washington and his troops were freezing in the winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge. Benjamin Fitzgerald joined, as Benjamin Hawkins, and was sent to Valley Forge.

1777: Entered War: 7th VA Regiment; Captain Garland Burnley (Orange County) under Brig. General William Woodford, who was camped at Valley Forge with George Washington and General Anthony Wayne.*

28 JUNE 1778: Battle of Monmouth Courthouse under Burnley and General Woodford. George Washington relieved General Lee or command, "Molly Pitcher" took over firing cannon after her husband had fallen from the intense heat. Washington saved the day, but only to a "draw". Woodford's brigade collapsed from the heat (>100) and never made a charge.

16 JULY 1779: Battle of Stony Point on the Hudson as volunteer under General "Mad" Anthony Wayne and 1300 troops, a brutal bayonet fight. Wayne a hero this time. Colonel Daniel Morgan resigned in a dispute over who should have the assignment.

1780: Joined Colonel William Washington's cavalry. This was after a brutal defeat by British Colonel Banastre Tarleton at Waxhaws, SC on May 29, 1779, for which he was nicknamed "Barbarous Ban".

16 AUGUST 1780: Battle at Camden, SC; Americans were defeated. Virginians threw down their loaded muskets and fled the battleground.

17 JANUARY 1781: Battle of Cowpens, SC; Daniel Morgan out of retirement (famous Indian fighter) under General Greene. There were two significant battles in which Col. Washington's cavalry participated between January and September of 1781, but these were not mentioned in Benjamin's testimony: Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 March 1781; and Battle of Hobkirk Hill, 25 April, 1781.

8 SEPTEMBER 1781: Battle of Eutaw Springs, SC; last significant engagement of the War; considered a "draw"; Colonel Washington and 40 of his men were captured.

Early 1782: Discharged at a Ferry on Santee River.

SOURCES:

1. Clipart copywrite-free: *The American Revolution. A Picture Sourcebook*, John Grafton; Dover Publications, 1975.
2. Nelson County Court Order Books, 1820-1822, pg. 21. (Benjamin Fitzgerald's testimony)
3. Several reference books concerning the battles, listed on the following sheets.

* General Woodford does not show as a commander in any major battle until Monmouth, but his camp is clearly identified at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778.

Benjamin Fitzgerald: Military Career Detail A



To most Americans, "Valley Forge" is such a cliché we have completely separated it from the harsh reality of what it meant to the Patriots. The War started in 1774. The Continental Congress had no power to levy taxes. Provisions were light, food scarce, and warmth unattainable.



It was a hard winter. Washington had lost nearly every engagement he had fought. His men would drop their guns and run whenever they were charged. He had volunteers who were farmers and millworkers and sheepherders, not soldiers. Most of them had no idea why they were fighting, except to avenge some of the British mischief.

Washington himself had never been more discouraged in his military career. He needed blankets. Congress appointed a committee. He needed soldiers, Congress sent him scoundrels. He needed guns, ammunition, horses, cannon, wagons, shoes for his men, and everything else it would take to drive the British out of the colonies; Congress debated.

But two important events occurred which would eventually turn the tide: 1) Inspector General Baron Von Steuben devised a drill guide and began constant drilling of the volunteers and drafted citizen soldiers; and 2) The French had finally agreed to become involved in the War on the side of the Patriots. Benjamin Franklin's charm had finally worked its magic in Paris.

The Patriots continued their encampment at Valley Forge until the British left Philadelphia in mid June, 1778.

Benjamin Fitzgerald: Military Career Detail B

The first major conflict after Valley Forge was another attempt by Washington to inflict the maximum damage on the British forces as possible, while avoiding a direct frontal confrontation. When Sir Henry Clinton, British commander in Philadelphia, was ordered to New York, he elected not to go by sea because the French had recently signed a formal agreement with the Patriots. Marching overland left him open to attack. General Charles Lee, an officer who had seniority over Lafayette, took charge and nearly got every one of the Patriots killed, including "Mad" Anthony Wayne. Charles Lee would be most accurately described as "Goofy". By the time Washington arrived and fired Lee, it was all Washington could do to rally his men, cut his losses, and fight to a draw.



"Molly Pitcher", whose husband lay fallen at her feet from the intense heat, took over his position with the Artillery and blasted the British. "...the heat claimed more lives than musketry or round shot."* Woodford's brigade, probably including Benjamin Fitzgerald, attacked, but collapsed from the intense heat before inflicting any damage.

This was one of the most confused battles of the War, and led to a court-martial of General Lee. In spite of his ineptitude, the rigors of Valley Forge and the training of Von Steuben had so hardened the men that they knew instinctively what to do during battle. It was this fortitude that kept the battle from becoming a complete rout for the British.

* *Battles of the American Revolution*; Curt Johnson, 1975, pg. 97.

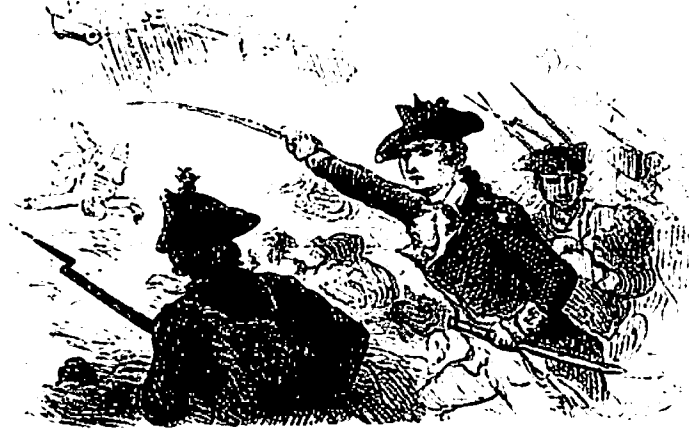
The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse; 28 June 1778



Benjamin Fitzgerald: Military Career Detail C

General George Washington needed to drive the British out of Fort Stony Point on the Hudson River. Situated about 150 feet above the water, the fort was on a rugged, rocky foundation, an island at high tide. Washington planned the assault himself and General "Mad" Anthony Wayne carried it out successfully. Three columns approached the fort, 2 with bayonets only, the frontal assault with loaded muskets and bayonets. Six hundred eighty prisoners were taken, with only 15 Patriots killed. Von Steuben's drilling at Valley Forge paid off. Benjamin Fitzgerald volunteered for this assignment.

Stony Point; 15 July 1779



General Anthony Wayne leads the charge.

Camden was a devastating defeat for patriot General Gates. 2300 men, of a total force of 3000 were casualties. The Virginia militia, on the left flank, advanced early for a bayonet attack, but were promptly repulsed by the red-coats. A British bayonet countercharge created a panic. The Virginians threw down their loaded muskets and fled. Cornwallis had out-generaled Gates. Gates had been appointed by Congress as the Southern Commander. Washington had wanted General Nathanael Greene in charge, which later proved to be a wiser choice.

Sources:

Battles of the American Revolution and American Revolution, the Picture Newspaper of the American Revolution in 12 issues.

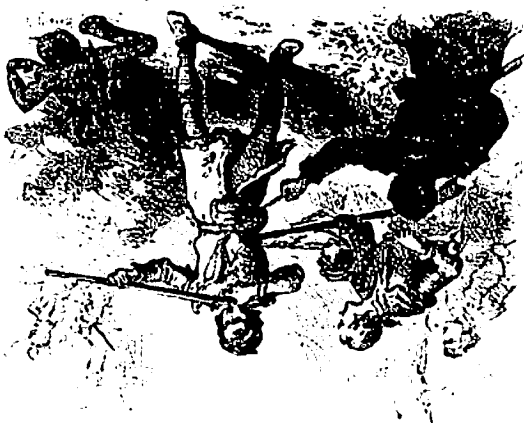
Battle at Camden, SC; 16 August 1780





Battle at Cowpens, SC; 17 January 1781

The two leaders clashed in an open field, usually used to pen up cows, and the result was a devastating blow to the arrogant Tarleton. Washington's cavalry, probably including Benjamin Fitzgerald, came over the hill and slashed the British troops badly. Colonel Washington actually chased Tarleton, who turned and shot him in the knee as Washington cut Tarleton's hand with the saber that had routed the rest of his men. Less than 300 of Tarleton's force escaped. The whole battle was over in an hour.



Daniel Morgan's Riflemen

British Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton, now called "Barbarous Ban" by the patriots, who in fact would have hanged him as a war criminal if he had been captured, had with him some 1100 of the redcoat's best soldiers. General Nathanael Greene, now in command of the southern patriot army, recognizing that throwing his army at the face of the British was destructive and counterproductive, had devised a scheme for a slightly different approach - a "flying army". His hand-picked General, Daniel Morgan, fresh out of retirement, slightly gray and suffering from rheumatism, was already renowned as the irrev- erent leader of Morgan's Riflemen, who had distinguished themselves over the previous 30 years as un- conventional but effective fighters.

Benjamin Fitzgerald: Military Career Detail D

Benjamin Fitzgerald: Military Career Detail E



**To the Memory of the *Battle at Eutaw Springs, South Carolina; 8 September 1781*
Brave Americans**

At Eutaw Springs the valiant died;
Their limbs with dust are covered o'er -
Weep on, ye springs, your tearful tide;
How many heroes are no more.

If in this wreck of ruin, they
Can yet be thought to claim a tear.
O smite your gentle breast, and say
The friends of freedom slumber here!

They saw their injured country's woe;
The flaming town, the wasted field;
Then rushed to meet the insulting foe;
They took the spear - but left the shield.

Now rest in peace, our patriot band;
Though far from nature's limits thrown.
We trust they find a happier land,
A brighter sunshine of their own.

Under General Nathanael Greene, the Patriots fought valiantly and inflicted serious damage upon Cornwallis and his troops, hastening the end to the War. The militia was commanded by Francis Marion, known as "The Swamp Fox" for his stealthy raid tactics. Colonel Washington, and presumably Benjamin Fitzgerald, were involved as cavalry.

The battle started when some unarmed redcoats, out on a "rooting party" to gather sweet potatoes, accidentally ran into Greene's forces. A battle involving about 4500 men ensued. It was going well for the patriots until a portion of their troops plundered the British tents and raided the rum, sacrificing a partial success. As Colonel Washington's men attempted to dislodge the re-formed gunners of Majoribank's troops, Washington was wounded and he and about 40 of his men were captured. Both armies were so damaged, there was no more field action. Greene's plan of a "flying army" had gradually picked at the British troops. There were not enough remaining to rescue Cornwallis at Yorktown. General Greene retired his men to the hills for recuperation, but the British surrender at Yorktown came on 19 October 1781.

From: The American Tradition in Literature; edited by Bradley, Beatty, Long; 1962, W.W. Norton & Company; Part of a poem by Philip Freneau (1752-1832); poem written just after the battle and published in November, 1781.

Benjamin Fitzgerald: Military Career Commanders

General "Mad" Anthony Wayne (1745-1796)

Anthony Wayne was born in Pennsylvania and became a successful General in the Revolutionary War. Later he distinguished himself as an Indian fighter in the northwest territories. Fort Wayne, Indiana is named after a fort he built. His most successful action came at Stony Point, NY during the Revolution, when he surprised the British and captured most of the troops who were left to guard the outpost. As commander of light infantry corps, he was involved in Canada, Brandywine and Germantown in 1777. He encamped at Valley Forge and suffered along with Washington and the soldiers. After the War, a series of defeats of the American Army occurred in the northwest - Wayne was placed in charge. He drilled the troops for two years, then, in 1794, he won a decisive victory over the native Americans, led by Little Turtle and Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawnee. The Treaty of Greenville, 1795, opened much of the northwest to white American settlers.



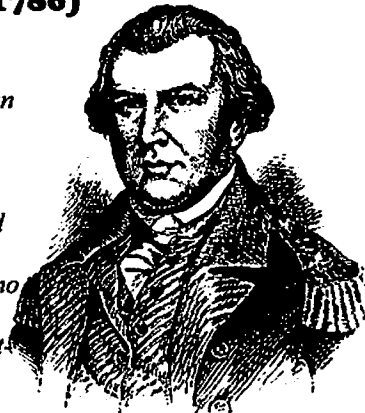
Lt. Colonel William Washington (1752-1810)



Born in Virginia, William Washington, a cousin to George, was studying for a career in the church when the Revolutionary War began. In 1776, he was commissioned as a captain in the original 3rd Virginia Regiment, which during the early years of the War, fought in New York and New Jersey. In southern fighting he became the leader of several "dragoon" regiments. As a part of Daniel Morgan's army at the Battle of Cowpens, Washington severely beat Tarleton, his British equivalent who had earned a reputation for brutality. He even chased the redcoat and cut a piece of his hand, almost caught up with him until Tarleton's final shot killed his horse. Washington was captured at Eutaw Springs. He was confined in Charleston, where he met his future wife, until the end of the War. He settled in Charleston after the war where he also served in the State Legislature. His rank was frozen by Congress during the Revolutionary War, but he later made Brigadier General.

General Nathanael Greene (1742-1786)

Thought to be the best general in the Revolutionary War, next to George Washington himself, Nathanael Greene was born in Rhode Island, the son of an ironmaster. He was made Brigadier General when the War started, served ably in the north, where he participated in Washington's surprise attack on Trenton. He was appointed Quartermaster for two years 1778-1780, during which time he improved much of the supply logistics problems which plagued the patriots. Greene was appointed commander in charge of the southern army. His tactics succeeded in weakening the British to the point they could no longer fight, and were unable to assist Cornwallis at Yorktown. Although he lost many battles and skirmishes, he put his "flying army" to work to lose battles but win the war. He died in Savannah on his plantation, which was given to him by a grateful state.



Will of William Coffey

I, William Coffey of the County of Nelson and State of Virginia being of sound mind and disposing memory do make, declare and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form as followeth viz:

Item - I give to my son Edmund F. Coffey and to his heirs forever that tract of land that I purchased of Joseph Burger which is the same tract that the said Edmund now lives on containing by estimation two hundred fifteen acres be the same more or less, also a negro boy named John.

Item - I give to Edmund F. Coffey and James Montgomery in trust and to their successors, for the benefit of my daughter Jane Fitzgerald and the legitimate children of her body, one-half of my tract of land in Nelson County on Cub Creek containing by estimation two hundred fifteen acres the said tract of land to be equally divided according to quantity and quality.

The other moiety of the said last mentioned tract of land I give to my said trustees herein before mentioned and to their successors for the benefit of my son William Coffey during his natural life, at his death to return to the rest of my children or those which I shall name hereafter, each to hold the part they now live on.

Item - I give to Margaret Monroe that tract of land called Briges Place in Nelson County containing by survey one hundred acres be the same more or less. Also one hundred dollars cash to be paid by my executors hereafter named to the care and management of George Monroe, nevertheless the said Margaret is at liberty to dispose of the said land as she pleases, also one horse of the value of \$40, 1 cow and calf.

It is my desire and request that my Executors hereafter named shall rent to Jordan Coffey my tract of land whereon the said Jordan has lived, he the said Jordan paying to them for the benefit of my estate five pounds per annum so long as my executors shall think it prudent to rent to him, but if my executors shall think it right to sell the said tract of land the proceeds of the said is to go to the rest of children hereafter named.

Item - I give to Edmund F. Coffey and James Montgomery in trust for the benefit of Elizabeth Bridge and to their successors as also for the benefit of the heirs of her body forever one moiety of my tract of land in Augusta County on Back Creek, the said tract to be equally divided according to quantity and quality.

Item - I give to Elizabeth Coleman, Anney Coleman, James Coleman, John Coleman, Patsey Coleman and Lucy Coleman (who are children of Mildred Coleman, deceased who was Mildred Coffey) one dollar each to be paid by my executors out of my estate.

All the rest of my estate both real and personal of what kind or nature soever after my just debts and funeral expenses are paid I give to Osborn Coffey one-eighth part, to Edmund F. Coffey one-eighth part, to Edmund F. Coffey and James Montgomery trustees and to their successors for the benefit of Mary Coffey and Elizabeth Bridge one-eighth

part each; also to my said trustees and their successors for the benefit of Jane Fitzgerald and the legitimate children of her body, and Winey Hays I give one-eighth part each; also to my said trustees and their successors for the benefit of Frankey Coffey one-eighth part; also to my said trustees and successors for the benefit of William Coffey during his natural life one-eighth part, at his death to return to the rest of my children and my trustees to be divided among them in the same manner as the property heretofore given that was not especially given. Nevertheless all those that have received any money or other property neretofore must bring the same into Hotch pot before any division takes place on their part. Except Edmund F. Coffey who is not required to account for anything received, all the property herein given in trust is to be under the management and sole control of my trustees herein before named and their successors. It is my desire that the County Court of Nelson shall appoint trustees to act in place of those appointed by me in this last will whenever it appears they are unable to act.

Hereby revoking all former wills made by me, I do constitute and appoint my friends Edmund F. Coffey and James Montgomery my Executors of this my last will and testatment. In witness whereof I do hereunto set my hand and seal this second day of March, 1825.

William Coffey, Seal

Acknowledged before us

John Hughes, Moses W. Hughes, Benjamin Hughes, Peter C. Coffey