

Genealogies of  
The Caffey, Iseley & Ireland  
Families of Rockingham,  
Guilford & Alamance Counties  
In North Carolina

by  
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&

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Descendents of John Caffey  
of  
Guilford & Rockingham Counties  
North Carolina

**Background:**

The tradition among the Caffeys who are descended from Guilford and Rockingham settlers of that name is that the family came from Maryland, and more specifically from "Tuckahoe."

Tuckahoe as a placename in Maryland is found on Tuckahoe Creek, which flows southward into the Choptank River on Maryland's eastern shore. The creek forms the boundary between Talbot and Caroline counties. A large park in Caroline County, on the banks of the creek, is called Tuckahoe. Historically, "Tuckahoe Hundred" is mentioned in older records of Talbot County.

However, it was in Dorchester County records that our Caffeys appear to be mentioned. Both Dorchester and Queen Anne were parent counties of Caroline.

In 1741, William Caffey and Thomas Pearson, planter, and his wife Jean or Jane, jointly sold part of a tract of land in Dorchester County, land called "Pearsons Lott." One of the witnesses to the document was Henry Hooper. [MCA, DOD, 10 Old 225] \*

In 1754, Michael Caffey of Dorchester County left a will naming his wife Sarah and sons William, Charles, John and Henry [DOW, 29:142].

Two years later, mention is made of property owned by John Ennalls, son of William Ennalls, deceased, and one plantation is described as the one where Sarah Caffy "lately lived." [MCA, DOD, 15 Old 413]

In 1761 and 1762, depositions were sought out which would "perpetuate the bounds" of a piece of land called "Ennalls Inheritance." One of the statements was made by David Poole who stated that Michael Caffey and William Ennalls, both deceased, had shown Poole the bounded tree of "Ennalls Inheritance" where Michael Caffey and William Ennalls had lived. [MCA: DOD, 18 Old 80]

\* A key to all abbreviated citations will be found at the end of the book.

Depositions taken between March 1764 and June 1767 in Dorchester County included that of John Caffey, planter, about 39 years old, who had lived on land of Rosannah Hodson, widow of John Hodson, about 13 or 14 years earlier . [MCA:DOD,21 Old 382]

In 1767, Charles Caffey and William Caffey, "Gent.", bought part of a tract called "Grimes Range" from Peter Grimes. All parties were of Dorchester County. [MCA: DOD,21 Old 423]

John Caffey in 1774 bought part of a tract named "Wright's Venture" from James Wright and Nancy, his wife. In October 1777, John Caffey and Suffiah, his wife, sold the same tract to Daniel James Brooks. [MCA:DOD,27 Old 328]

No further references to Caffey's were found in the McAllister Abstracts of Dorchester Land Records, and no records were found in microfilm indexes to Caroline County land records.

Very early mention is made in Gustavus Skordas' The Early Settlers of Maryland (Baltimore, 1968) to Rebecca Coffee, who had been "transported to Maryland" in 1675. Also noted is Robert Coffee, shoemaker, who immigrated to Somerset County Maryland in 1680. Somerset County on Maryland's Eastern Shore was erected in 1666, and (with Talbot) was a parent county of Dorchester, which was formed in 1699.

Whether or not Robert and Rebecca are pertinent to our research, it does seem very likely that the John Caffey who bought land in 1774 and sold it in 1777 might be the same John Caffey who gave his age as 39 between 1764 and 1767. That would place his date of birth at between about 1725 and 1728. And that makes him a likely son of the Michael Caffey whose Dorchester County will was dated 1754. It also seems to make him, possibly, the John Caffey who died in Guilford County, North Carolina in 1785, founder of the family to be considered in the following work.

1. JOHN<sup>1</sup> CAFFEY

JOHN<sup>1</sup>, possibly the son of MICHAEL CAFFEY who died about 1754 in Dorchester County, MD, may have been born about 1729 in Maryland. He died about 1785 in Guilford (now Rockingham) County, NC, where his will is on file. [GUW,A:41]

He probably married first, about 1750 in Maryland, Suffiah or Sophia, last name unknown, who died sometime after 1777. Estate papers of John Caffey in the North Carolina Archives refer to his widow Nancy and say she was the step-mother of Michael (#3, below). Suffiah was probably the mother of John Caffey's children, who were named in his will:

- +2. JOHN<sup>2</sup>, born 1752 in Dorchester Co, MD [ALD].
- +3. MICHAEL<sup>2</sup>, probably born about 1754 in MD [ROC-1800].
4. ELIZABETH<sup>2</sup>, probably born about 1756 in MD; married prior to 1783 Mr. Milford [GUW,A:41].
5. NANCY<sup>2</sup>, probably born about 1758 in MD; married prior to 1783 Mr. Bell [GUW,A:41].
6. SOPHIA<sup>2</sup>, probably born about 1760 in MD; married prior to 1783 Mr. Baines or Barnes, perhaps James Barnes who was a guardian for MARGARET (#10 below). [GUW,A:41]
7. SARAH<sup>2</sup>, probably born about 1762 in MD; married prior to 1783 Mr. Beach [GUW,A:41].
8. MARY<sup>2</sup>, probably born about 1764 in MD; married prior to 1783 Mr. Dimon [GUW,A:41].
9. REBECCA<sup>2</sup>, born about 1766 in MD; married prior to 1783 Mr. Norman [GUW,A:41]. In 1782 Charles Norman bought land on Benajah Creek in Guilford Co, his deed appearing in the book listed just before three deeds registered by John Caffey [GUD,2:263].
10. MARGARET<sup>2</sup>, probably born about 1768, who probably never married and died about 1845. She was a ward of various members of the family, including James Barnes (see #6, above), John Caffey (#20), Michael Caffey (#22) and finally of her nephew Robert Caffey (#24), in whose household she lived in 1840. Robert was appointed in Feb. 1845 to administer her estate. [GUE; GUC-1840] MARGARET may have been the deaf and dumb individual "over 25 years of age" in Robert's household in 1840.

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First generation

11. SEMY/LUCY/LACY<sup>2</sup>, who was a minor at the time of her father's death, and about whom no more is known [GUW,A:41].
12. THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, probably born about 1771. Thomas probably married Rody Norman, taking a marriage bond in Guilford Co. 31 March 1795.

Second Generation

2. JOHN<sup>2</sup> CAFFEY

JOHN<sup>2</sup>, son of JOHN<sup>1</sup> CAFFEY, was born in 1752 in Dorchester Co, MD and died 19 Aug. 1826 in Montgomery, AL where he was buried in the family burial ground on the Woodley Rd. near Montgomery. His remains were removed several years ago to Oakwood Cemetery in Montgomery, and a DAR marker was placed at the grave which is in the Masonic Section of the cemetery near Rosemont Garden. [ALD]

John served in the Revolution as a private in the 6th Independent Maryland Line. He was under the command of both Washington and Lafayette. "After the war," he settled in Guilford Co, NC, and moved to Montgomery Co, AL in 1817. [ALD]

He married in 1778 Mary Buchanan [ALD], probably in MD.

The children of John and Mary were:

+13. HENRY<sup>3</sup>, born about 1780 [GUC-1840]

14. THOMAS<sup>3</sup>, born 24 June 1784 in Rockingham (then Guilford) Co, NC. He died 25 Oct. 1878 in Ramer, Montgomery Co, AL [ALD]. Thomas's marriage bond is dated 6 Dec. 1807, Rockingham Co, NC, and names Mary Patrick [ROM]. Mary was the daughter of Hugh and Nancy (Davis) Patrick, born in 1786 and died in 1851 [ROW, B:28; ALD]. Thomas probably moved to Montgomery Co, AL from Guilford Co, NC about 1828-1830 [GUC-1820/30; Robertson; GUD]. There is a tradition in the Guilford Co. Caffey family which verifies his move at about this time: When Thomas and John Caffey, the same ones who married the Patrick sisters, decided to go south, Thomas Yancy<sup>4</sup>(#47), son of Robert<sup>3</sup>(#24), planned to go with them. Yancy is thought to have been about twelve at the time. When John and Thomas came to Robert's house to fetch Yancy, however, it was early morning and Yancy was still asleep. They wouldn't wait for him and Yancy was left behind. Until now, it has not been understood what relation Yancy was to John and Thomas, but apparently they were first cousins of his father. (See appendix for continuation of Thomas's line.)

15. JOHN<sup>3</sup>, born 20 Sept. 1786 [ALD], died 17 Jan. 187\_ [Catts]. John married Elizabeth (Betsy) Patrick, the Guilford Co. bond dated 21 Dec. 1811 [GUM]. Betsy was the daughter of Hugh and Nancy (Davis) Patrick, and sister of Mary who had married John's brother Thomas (#14, above) [ROW, B:28; ALD]. John

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Second Generation

- married, second, Mrs. Hardeman in Al. and had one son by her. John moved to Al. at the same time as his brother, which is to say, about 1828-1830 [GUC-1820/30]. The traditional story told above (see Thomas, #14) includes John. (See appendix for more about this line.)
16. CHARLES<sup>3</sup>, born prior to 1790. Charles married Nancy Lewis, his Orange Co, NC marriage bond dated 27 Nov. 1811 [NCM;ALD]. He moved to Montgomery Co, Al. prior to his brothers John (#15) and Thomas (#14), apparently before 1820 [GUC-1820; ALC-1830/50].
  17. MICHAEL<sup>3</sup>, is said to have married five times. His fourth wife was Miss Merrit, his fifth Miss Nixon [Catts; ALD]. He lived in Montgomery Co, Al. [ALC-1830/50].
  18. HOOPER<sup>3</sup>, born 1 Jan. 1793, and married Mary Shelcott [ALD]. Hooper was bondsman for two Rockingham Co, NC marriages, that of John Stokes and Jane Guerrin in 1814, and of Thomas Stokes and Penelope Averett in 1815. [ROM].
  19. NANCIE (ELIZABETH), who married Mr. Bell [ALD]. Since John<sup>1</sup> (#1) named a daughter Nancy Bell in his will, it seems possible that two generations are confused in this case.

3. MICHAEL<sup>2</sup> CAFFEY

MICHAEL<sup>2</sup>, son of JOHN<sup>1</sup> CAFFEY (#1), was born prior to 1755 according to the 1800 census of Rockingham Co, NC. He was probably born in MD. He died prior to Aug. 1806 when his will went into probate [ROW, A:35]. He was head of a household in 1790 and in 1800 in Rockingham Co, according to censuses of those years.

He married Margaret (Flowers, by tradition), probably about 1776. Margaret was born prior to 1755 [ROC-1800], and survived Michael, but apparently died prior to Nov. 1820 since her son John<sup>3</sup> (#20), who died in Nov. 1820, had been appointed administrator of her estate just prior to his death [ROE].

The children of Michael and Margaret:

- +20. JOHN<sup>3</sup>, possibly born about 1780
- +21. SOPHIA<sup>3</sup>, born about 1782 [FBG]
- +22. MICHAEL<sup>3</sup>, probably born about 1784
23. MARY, probably born about 1786. A Rockingham Co. marriage bond dated 5 Aug.

1806 names John Rozsell and Polly Caffey, bondsman John Barns (see Sophia, #6) who may have been a cousin. A share of the estate of Margaret Caffey, Mary's mother, went to John Rozsell [ROE]. The 1810 census of Rockingham shows the John Rozel household with three little girls under 10 years of age, but the name is not found in later censuses of the county.

+24. ROBERT<sup>3</sup>, born 9 March 1791 [FBG].

25. THOMAS<sup>3</sup>, probably born about 1794. Thomas lived in Guilford Co. in 1821 when he appointed James Davis, his brother-in-law (see Sophia, #21), to recover the remainder of his inheritance from the estate of his recently deceased mother in Rockingham Co [ROD, V:207]. He may have left the state soon after since nothing more is known of him here. A Thomas Caffey, born between 1790 and 1800, is found in Meigs Co, TN in 1840 with a large family. Living nearby is Robert Caffey, born between 1810 and 1820, possibly a son, with a young family. In 1850, James Cafer (sic), Thomas Caffee, William Caffer and Levin Caffy lived in Meigs Co. Thomas may have married Rachel, daughter of Hannah (Flack) and John Dougherty of Rockingham Co, NC, since John Dougherty named daughter Rachel Caffey in his will written in 1836 [ROW, B:195]. (Hannah Flack Dougherty was a sister of Jane Flack, first wife of Robert<sup>3</sup> Caffey, #24.)

26. MARGARET<sup>3</sup>, probably born about 1796, married Turner Harrell (Harel) prior to 1822 when he received a portion of the estate of Margaret's mother, Margaret [ROE]. Sophia<sup>3</sup> (#21, above) named her sister Margaret Harel and Margaret's three daughters in her 1845 will [GUW, C:288]. Turner Harrell's household is listed in the 1820 census of Rockingham Co, but not in that for 1830.



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Third Generation

Third Generation

13. HENRY<sup>3</sup> CAFFEY

HENRY<sup>3</sup>, son of JOHN<sup>2</sup> and Mary (Buchanan) CAFFEY, was born about 1780, according to the Guilford Co, NC census of 1840. He died about 1859 in Choctaw Co, MS, according to Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi... (Chicago: Goodspeed, 1891). The same source gives his birth date as about 1786, but this is not borne out by any census statistics. *see copy of Goodspeed - (pg. 86)*

Henry married Levina (Vina) Thompson, probably about 1801. Levina was the daughter of Robert Thompson of Guilford Co, NC [GUW,C:1773]. She was probably born about 1784 [GUC-1820/30/40]. She died "several years previous" to 1859 [Goodspeed].

Henry was a farmer, living in Rockingham Co, NC, and then by 1820 in Guilford Co. In 1844, he removed to Choctaw Co, MS [Goodspeed]. Census records show a large family of thirteen children, eight daughters and five sons, probably born between 1803 and 1835, although some of the later children in his household might have been grandchildren. We don't know the names of all his children. The Choctaw Co, MS census for 1850 lists Gilbert Caffey, Patrick Caffey, J.T. Caffey and W.W. Caffey, all of whom might be his descendants. Three marriage bonds in Guilford Co. may be for daughters of Henry: Betsy Caffey and Eli Blakely, 4 Apr. 1828; Deviney Caffey and John Brewer, 20 May 1839; Lizzy Caffey and Anderson Tindel, 7 Jan. 1832.

Information about these is more substantial:

?27. JOHN T.<sup>4</sup>, probably born about 1817. He married Levina Brown, marriage bond dated 15 Aug. 1838 [GUM]. Levina may have died prior to 1840, since the census of Guilford Co. taken that year does not show her in the household. It does show a son under five years of age, probably born about 1839. The Choctaw Co, MS census for 1850 shows J.T. Caffey, so John T. may have moved south with his father. *and wife Adeline Mc Math?*

28. ZILPHA (ZELPHI)<sup>4</sup>. Zilpha was named as a granddaughter in the will of Robert Thompson. She married Alfred M. Dillon, the Guilford Co. bond dated 30 Nov. 1844. Dillon is not found on the 1850 census of Guilford Co.

29. HENRY M.<sup>4</sup>, born 5 Aug. 1823 in Guilford Co, NC. Henry moved to MS with his father in 1844, living first in Choctaw Co., and in 1881 moving to Duck Hill in Montgomery Co, MS. He married 3 Apr. 1849 Mary Tindell, born in NC,

the daughter of James Tindell. Henry and Mary had one son, William. [Good-speed]

20. JOHN<sup>3</sup> CAFFEY

JOHN<sup>3</sup>, son of MICHAEL<sup>2</sup> and Margaret (?Flowers) CAFFEY, was born between 1778 and 1780 [ROC-1820], and died 17 Nov. 1820 [RR, 1 Dec 1820]: "Died... On the 17th inst. in Rockingham County, Mr. John Caffey, a very respectable farmer in that neighborhood. Mr. Caffey was in the prime of life, and has left a wife and family to deplore his early death."

He married Betsy Caffey, perhaps a cousin, the bond dated 12 March 1803, and Henry Caffey (#13) serving as bondsman [GUM]. Elizabeth married, second, William E. Suiter in Rockingham Co, bond dated 9 March 1826 and bondsman Andrew Martin. Betsy was probably born about 1785 [ROC-1810]. She and William Sutor petitioned in 1826 for a division of John Caffey's estate [ROE]. William E. Suitor's will, probated in Aug. 1832, named a grandson given as "Guy" Caffey in the index to Rockingham Co. Wills, but appearing in the original to be Henry or Hugh, and apparently referring to a child of John D.<sup>4</sup> (#32, below) [ROW, B:60]

Joseph and Samuel Young served as guardians for several years for the four younger children of John<sup>3</sup>. Robert<sup>3</sup> Caffey (#24) was guardian for Margaret and Melinda following the death of Samuel Young in 1831, and until the children came of age [ROE].

The children of John and Elizabeth:

30. SALLEY<sup>4</sup>, born about 1805 [ROC-1810/20], who married John Wilson, bond dated 28 Nov. 1822 [ROM].
31. MARGARET<sup>4</sup>, born about 1807 [ROC-1810/20], who married John Young [JRC, IV, 2:85].
32. JOHN D.<sup>4</sup>, born about 1809 since he is noted as coming of age in Rockingham Co. court records for May, 1830. He apparently had married and had a son by 1832 when his step-father, William E. Suiter, mentioned a Caffey grandson in his will. The child's name was probably Guy, Henry or Hugh. [ROW, John D. lived in Henderson Co. TN by 1850 [HEC-1850].
33. DRUSILLA<sup>4</sup>, born after 1810 [ROC-1820]. She lived in Henderson Co, TN by 1837 [ROD, 2K:184].
34. MELINDA (BELINDA), born after 1810 [ROC-1820].