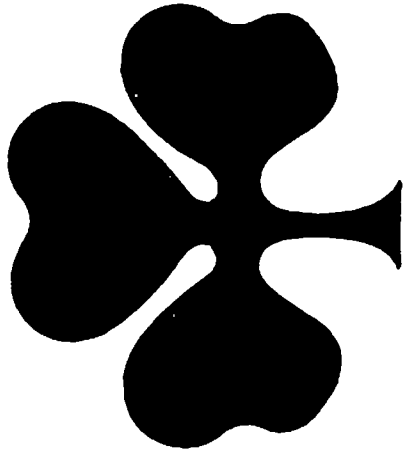


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The Family of Peter Coffee

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The Family of Peter Coffee

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The Family of Peter Coffey

Introduction

The importance of family must be taken into account. It is a good place for babies to start out in life, to grow, have security, and learn the value of home and a good life. It is the seed bed for freedom and democracy. Above all it is the best opportunity for generation after generation to learn the thrill and power of love - the love of mother, the deep care of father, and lasting brotherly love of brothers and sisters. From this we become a part of fellowship, citizenship, and a part of a state where there is freedom. No such state can exist where there is the custom of hate, distrust, suspicion, and suppression. Care and respect for the family is a good reason for putting the time, effort, and anxiety into this bit of history of a family.

Please excuse personal touches that you may find here from time to time. After all, the writer is included in the seventh generation from father Peter's beginning in a new land.

Several years before writing down these words an effort was begun to find reliable information on the forefathers of this family. To begin, in my father's house for years there was an old handmade chest. It could very well have been called a blanket chest. It is fifteen inches wide, forty inches long, and made with poplar wood boards fifteen inches wide. The boards are hand planed and put together in simple manner. According to handed down information, my grandfather, Jesse Ammon Coffey, hand made the chest to hold important papers, as well as bedclothing. This chest always contained an old worn brown folder holding a collection of old papers. The search for a beginning to this story started with this chest and the old papers. There was little hard information, but a great amount of "feel" and temptation to look further. There were names of people (known and unknown), family names and business names, and names of places that existed around the Cifax community before the beginning of the nineteenth century. Impressions were gained on the difficult times and poverty that existed from 1800 to 1900. Small amounts of money like \$1.50 and \$2.00 had to be charged

evil and from all hardships.

He urges his sons, grandsons, and great grandsons for all time to "marry the girl you love - peaceably if you can, forcibly if you must."

Obituary - -, at his residence, in Nelson County, on Friday the 14th _____, Edmund F. Coffey, Esq., in his 68th year, after a protracted illness of nearly three years. In the death of Mr. Coffey his family has sustained an irreparable loss, and society been deprived of one of its most useful members. Jan. 24, 1848.

This story of Edmund Eff Coffey was obtained from the University of Virginia library when I was a student there. The reference of Barrister Whitehead is not very specific as to the source of this story. I apologize for that, but from what is given I believe any one interested in further information can find the reference.

Edmund Eff is mentioned in the story of Peter's family as the father of Amherst County Coffeys. SJC-Nov. 1992.)

Coffeys have reunion

On Saturday, May 15, the surviving children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren of the late Lula and Samuel P. Coffey, met at the original home place near Cifax in Bedford County for a family reunion and homecoming

The first time event was hosted by Donna and Rick Read of Lynchburg. A great time was had in fellowship and renewing old memories of the past.

Of the original six children, two are deceased - Christine and Edward Lewis.

The children who attended were: Louise with husband Roy (John) Arrington of Forest, George (Pernell) Coffey with wife, Lois of Bedford, Earl Coffey with wife Irene of Lynchburg and Lloyd Coffey with wife, Jessie of Nathalie (Halifax County).

The grandchildren who attended were: Dianne Arrington Skinnell with husband, Mahlow of Lynchburg, Larry Arrington with wife, Betty Jean of Forest and Barry Arrington with wife, Dawn of Lynchburg, Shirley Coffey Johnson, with husband Bobby and Dennis Coffey with wife, Anita all of Bedford. Donna Coffey Read with husband, Rick of Lynchburg and Debbie Coffey Cross with husband, Rick of Greensboro, NC.

The great grandchildren who attended were: Kerry Johnson Andrews, Andy and Travis Johnson all of Bedford. Lindsey and Ricky Read of Lynchburg, Kristin Doss all Matthew Cross of Greensboro, NC. Michael and Christina Coffey of Bedford.

One great, great grandchild was also present - Jared Andrews of Bedford.

many times at the local general store and signed for on a piece of paper. These bits and pieces of information created the desire to look further, perhaps for a brighter day. From here a long and tedious search was begun. Letters were written to cousins in my generation. Replies to these letters showed that we all knew little family history. The point was reached where a little luck was needed. Do you believe in luck? Anyhow, little doors began to open.

A Little Bit of Dawn

A friend on a similar search ran across the Name "Coffee" in records of Prince Edward County Virginia Clerk's Office. Following this lead, a look at Bradsaw's *History of Prince Edward County* gave the names of Peter and Joshua Coffee, brothers from Ireland who settled in Prince Edward, then later moved their families to Georgia and Tennessee. Both of these Coffees had sons named John and both Johns became generals in the armies. The account given in this history indicated some conflict occurred between Prince Edward and Amelia Counties over the place of birth of these two famous men. Through further research in the Clerk's Office at Farmville, Virginia, I finally discovered that Peter Coffee never moved his family from Prince Edward. He lived out his life in Prince Edward County, wrote a will, and died in that county. What a shock! How wrong can history books be? Even in Prince Edward County! No record has yet been found to prove that this Peter Coffee had a brother named Joshua. Further searching of records in Prince Edward seem to suggest that a number of Peter's children faded from that county.

Where did they go? After much time, some travel, and anxiety, an article appeared in a magazine concerning restoration of old graveyards. It gave several sources of information on restoring graveyards. One of these references happened to be the address of Georgia Genealogical Society. This rang a bell because there had been a suggestion in Prince Edward County history that a Coffee had moved to Georgia. A letter was written to Genealogical Society, and a reply came back. The

reply opened up the way. The reply said there were volumes of information on General John Coffee housed with the Georgia Department of Archives and History. From this source it was discovered that his father was named Peter and his mother was Sarah Smith, and that they had moved from Prince Edward County, Virginia, to Georgia with their family when John Coffee was a small boy. Names of other children of Peter and Sarah Coffee were not found. Likewise, contact was made with the State Library and Archives of Tennessee for information concerning another General John Coffee. Results were also good. This constituted two major breakthroughs in preparing the story, "The Family of Peter Coffee". For those who might want to know more, there are volumes of information on these two men in the two sources given above. However, for this story they provided the answer for the misleading information given in the *History of Prince Edward County* and opened the way for an accurate structure for the family to follow.

The original Peter Coffee had sons Peter and Joshua. Both of these sons moved out to Georgia and to North Carolina then on to Tennessee. A third son of old Peter Coffee moved to Bedford County, Virginia. The brother of old Peter Coffee, named Joshua, referred to in the *History of Prince Edward County* has not been found or never existed. Another statement found in "Today and Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia" places Generals John and Henry Coffee in Prince Edward. No evidence has been found in this study to support that statement.

A Name Is A Gift

Another tough problem in revealing family history has to do with names. There are published books on family names. How reliable they are is a question. If highly priced means highly reliable, it follows that they are good. Most of the names given here for "Coffee" are taken from books. Cobbthash meaning victorious is one of the original names for which we write "Coffee". Supposedly the Coffee Coat of Arms carries the theme of victory or victorious. It is suggested that Cofer, Coffe, Caughy, etc. could have come from or be related to the original

Coffey

Through the courtesy of Archdeacon Warren of Cork Ireland, the family history prior to the emigration of Edmund Eff Coffey in 1783 was obtained. Barrister Whitehead completed the history down to the present generation after having examined the Virginia records. The following facts were enjoyed by the youthful Coffeys.

Edmund Eff Coffey was the younger son of an Irish "Laird" and, therefore, not entitled to his father's property. He was destined for the priesthood, but he loved the daughter of Hudson Thackeray, a Baptist minister, who was a tenant on his father's estate. At sixteen he was placed in a monastery near Cork, Ireland. Two years of penance and priestly absolution did not eradicate the ruling power in his life - his love for Elizabeth Thackeray. He resolved to leave the priesthood and marry. His father and the girl's father were horrified. His father furnished the money and Rev. Hudson Thackeray and family fled to Virginia. Edmund Eff Coffey ran away and followed on the next ship sailing for Virginia. He and Elizabeth Thackeray were married soon after his arrival in Virginia.

To them five sons were born. These five sons have been erroneously called the five Coffey brothers who came from Ireland. They were native Americans born and reared on Virginia soil.

Having a priest's knowledge of Latin and English, Edmund Eff Coffey taught his five sons according to the methods used a century ago.

He wrote his will upon the blank leaves in their Bible. This will is a unique statement that he leaves no earthly possessions to his heirs, but bequeaths what a long life has taught him, and his will concerning those who shall hand down his blood from generation to generation. He commands his descendants to the end of time to believe in God and His kind providence, be loyal to their Country, loyal to the "clean blood" transmitted to them by their first American ancestors. He further commands them to train their sons in all useful knowledge, all useful labor and manly sports and protect and shelter their daughters from all

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would shoo them out into the morning chill.

"They'd leave their overshoes here," said Marshall, "and pick them up again when the bus let them off in the afternoon. The row of overshoes would be there all day."

Coffey's store sits beside Va. 646, which used to be the main traffic artery between Lynchburg and Roanoke. That's hard to imagine in 1992, as you stare up and down the worn two-lane ribbon of concrete that was built with convict labor and now seems to lead nowhere.

But 646 was once U.S. 221, until that road was moved a mile south. And now, 221 has slid into a subservient role behind U.S. 460.

Technically, Coffey's is located in the Bedford County community of Norwood.

"At least, that's what it was always called," Vernie Coffey said. "The problem was, there's also a Norwood in Nelson County. People would get off the bus here, thinking it was the other Norwood, and the bus would take off and leave them standing here. A lot of them would get pretty upset."

The store opened in 1920, shortly after

more."

Those shelves are lined with canned goods and other survivors of an omnivorous inventory. A bookcase contains faded math texts from the 1920s. Old calendars form a mosaic of time on the walls, a minister's coat (belonging to the Rev. Charles Edward Derby, an uncle) slumps on a corner hook.

"I'm continually fascinated by this place," said John Muniz, a freelance writer who profiled Coffey's store in the May edition of "Scene."

He pointed out an ancient cash register, a primitive set of scales, a device for planting corn. The lamp hanging over the counter was fueled by acetylene piped in from a storage tank outside.

For the most part, from what Coffey and Marshall said, life at the store was simply a matter of matching commerce to the predictable, measured rhythms of the community. But there were moments of excitement.

"With the old gas tanks," Marshall said, "you had to lift the seat to get to them. One night, a man brought a lantern out to check the level in the tank, and it exploded. Just a horrible thing. Mama ran out and put the

the family moved all its belongings from nearby (nearby by car, but not walking; alongside a heavily-laden farm wagon) Cifax, which was six miles further back into the mountains.

"We had the store, and we had a farm," Vernie Coffey said, "and all of us kids pitched in. Everybody worked. I remember once when Papa offered us a penny for every tobacco worm we could pull off the leaves. He almost went broke by the time we got finished."

The store was open from 7 in the morning until 9 at night, six days a week.

"I used to go over about 6:30 in the morning and build a fire in the stove so the place would be warm for Mama," said Coffey, who still lives two houses away from the store. "She ran it for years after Papa died, and even in her last days, the grocery men used to go over to her house to get her orders. She wrote a check to one of them three days before she died."

Now, Lillian Coffey's rocking chair remains next to the stove. The gas pump out front reads 57 cents a gallon. The place is immaculately clean — except, Vernie Coffey admits, for "some dust up there on the high shelves, where we can't reach any

fire out with baking soda and salt, and the man survived."

Then there was the tribe of gypsies that camped out in the back lot.

"A couple of them asked Papa if it would be alright," Coffey said, "and he said yes, and before long, a whole bunch more came along. They set up tents, and we were a little nervous about it."

The next morning, as the gypsies were leaving, Lillian Coffey walked in the store and found one of the women talking to her husband in a low, singsong voice. He appeared mesmerized, and she kept edging closer to the cash box.

"Mama kicked her out the door," Vernie Coffey said. "She was trying to hypnotize Papa, and it was working. We were scared for a long time that the gypsies would come back."

The highway was moved in 1957. H.D. Coffey died in 1958. And for the next 20 years, his widow kept the store going.

"Live One Day at a Time," reads one of her cross stitches on the wall. "and Make it a Masterpiece."

Lillian Coffey's final masterpiece is still on display.

Coffee, whatever it was. A trip to Ireland or elsewhere might be required to trace the evolution of this name. Regardless of this problem, here in this account will be two spellings of this name, Coffee and Coffey. The best that we know is that Peter's family spelled the name Coffee down to the sixth or seventh generation when some broke ranks and changed to Coffey. The author, in the seventh generation, changed his when he got tired of being "good to the last drop".

Actually we are writing about a problem involved in writing a family history. On given names in this family there are six or more Jesses counting down to the ninth generation. There are as many Johns, several Banisters, and several Purnells. When you run across a loner one feels as if something has gone wrong. At several points in this search there are so many Jesses and Johns that fathers could not be sorted out and found for them. They all may not be in the right place in this account. There is some of this problem with females but not as much. They had some interesting names but not as many repeats. There are Siberia, Celenia, Delaney, Clesia, Oshaelen, Arianna, Dorethea, and those more familiar like Mary, Elizabeth, and Eliza. An interesting question arises. Why so many repeats of a name? Could it be love and respect among family members that was expressed in naming a new baby, or perhaps there were so many babies and a shortage of names? Whatever, it is hoped that the greater part of all the names are put in the family at the right place.

Another problem faced in reconstructing the family of Peter Coffee involved the daughters. There is no intent to forget about daughters; however there is not the necessary information needed to follow their lives, as there is the family name for the sons which assists greatly in bringing them together. There must be many descendants of Peter and his daughters in Virginia and other states that are very difficult to identify. In Peter's will there are Catherine Thomas, Mary Thindal, and Hannah Weakly, considered married daughters of Peter at the time of his death. Three other daughters still had the family name. Elizabeth was designated to receive the plantation at the death of her mother. This could suggest that Elizabeth might not marry and would

One Favorite Coffee Name



Jesse Ammon II
Lottie Abbott Coffey
50th Anniversary
Married Nov. 7, 1906



Little Jesse
Radford supported
by father
Samuel 1952

--- and ---

Little Jesse
Aaron on
"Little Jesse"
from above
1993



Staff photo by Jimmy Ripley

The late H.D. Coffey opened his country store on Va. 646 in 1920.

H.D. Coffey's Store filled with 58 years of memories

By Darrell Laurant
Staff writer

H.D. Coffey's Store isn't really a museum, because it's not open to the public. It is, more accurately, a shrine.

In 1978, Lillian Coffey died at the age of 92. That day, the country store she ran died with her.

"We just closed it up," said Vernie Coffey, one of nine children of H.D. and Lillian, "and left it exactly the way it was."

Every so often, Coffey and two of

her seven sisters — Morcelle Marshall and Ralphine Overstreet — will unlock the store on request. On this cold, crystalline morning in early December, there was a fire in the wood stove and a glass jar filled with penny candy on the counter.

"Cold days like this remind me of when the schoolchildren used to wait in here for the bus," Vernie Coffey said.

Unless they got "too rowdy," in which case either Mr. or Mrs. Coffey

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remain at home caring for the mother. However, the nine children did not share equally from the will. This raises speculation that circumstance of each was taken into consideration. Marriage, education, interests, occupation, and other possible things may have been considerations.

Regardless of the conditions of the will, the names are the important items. There were daughters and their names. Although silent, the daughters are important. They cause much speculation themselves and as do their descendants. We will try to follow the sons through their name Coffee.

Coffee and the Irish

Several sources have suggested that Peter's family was the beginning of all the Coffees in the United States. This is hardly true even for the state of Virginia. There had been a large family of Coffees in Amherst County. Amherst and Nelson Counties were originally a part of Albemarle. In this way the Coffee family had a beginning in all three counties. In Amherst there is a place called "Coffee Town" that is and was the place of many family members. This family may have Edmund Eff Coffey as a founding father. A connection between this family and the family of Peter has not been established. However, knowing members of both families makes it difficult not to believe there is a blood tie extending back perhaps to Ireland. Edmund Eff came to America in 1783 and Peter came around 1730. Some studies suggest that there were others, perhaps not many, who came earlier than Peter or Edmund Eff. Edmund Eff must have spelled the name Coffey.

Why did they come? Ireland was dominated by England, more or less, as far back as 1100. This rule by England existed until around 1920. People who lived there had their properties confiscated, and many farms and properties were in the hands of absentee English landlords. Irish people became so poor that the English actually put some of them on boats and shipped them out of their own country. Some were shipped to the West Indies and eventually found a way to the Southern part of America.

The Coffee immigrants were no doubt some of the victims of these conditions. They had the courage to move out and try to find a better place to live. As the saying goes they did not "land running" in America, but they tried, they had determination.

They were Irish, they were kind, they were volatile, and they hated oppression. Many teachers are Irish, many labor leaders are Irish, and many American politicians have been Irish. A little book The Chronicles of America, Allen Johnson, Editor has a chapter entitled "The Irish Invasion" in which he accounts for the Irish in America. Some notes from this book suggest that in some northern cities a majority of school teachers are of Irish descent. They have a spirit of caring and kindness that goes well with teaching. Irish are known for a gift of gab which is useful to politicians. Many policemen have been Irish. The conditions in their native land had made lasting marks on them. They had been pushed around, and they did not go to the trouble of leaving homeland under terrible circumstances and going other places to be pushed around. Many of them were Catholics, and that with some other of their characteristics caused prejudices against them in their new world. A Catholic could not be elected President in America until John Kennedy in the '1960's. Regardless of all the traits of an Irishman, there are more American citizens springing from that foreign blood than any other. There are millions of Americans that can claim kin with the Irish. Check the reference given above.

Peter's Will and the Home

In the County Clerk's office of Prince Edward County of Virginia you find the will of Peter Coffee in Book I page 132.

A sketch of the essential contents of the will follows.

Location - Prince Edward County and the Parish of St. Patricks

Being very sick and low condition

Thanks to God for being kind

-touching my worldly estate from above far beyond my deserts to be bestowed upon

-all debts to be paid soon

To my beloved wife Susannah Coffee, land, plantation, stock, horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, and moveable effects during her widowhood. Should her management of same be careless or wasteful the executor should dispose of the same in ways that would best benefit the surviving children.

I give to my son William 150A of land being on Vaughan Creek (which had already been deeded)
To my son Peter five shillings sterling
To my son Joshua five shillings sterling
To my daughter Catherine Thomas five S. S.
To my daughter Mary Thindale five S. S.
To my daughter Hannah Weakley Ten pounds
To my daughter Bettie 15 pounds current
To my daughter Lydia 15 pounds current
To my daughter Elizabeth - I give the plantation where I now live, at her mother's decease. If anything left afterward-all sold and divided among my grandchildren.

Note: November 16, 1786, estimated to be about fifteen years later, Susannah, widow of Peter signed an agreement with James Weakley for him to manage her estate and to allow her five pounds yearly. James Weakley could have been the husband of Hannah, Susannah's daughter.

Peter, from the text of his will, gives the impression of a man of character. In addition to character, the will opens a door to Coffees who would like to know "from whence did I come?"

One gets the feeling from reading the full content of the will that Peter believed in God and His goodness. He was a pioneer. He came from Ireland and worked his way into Prince Edward County. According to land records, on September 20, 1748, he bought 220 acres and on September 28, 1748, he bought another tract of 192 acres. It is a puzzle as to how he had the money to buy this much land.

There is an immigration record that shows a Peter Coffee at Potomack, Maryland, in 1731. There is a good chance that this is the same man. If so, he had seventeen years here to raise some money.

At this point we are in a sense at the beginning, 1731 and 1748. To get a good feeling of how far back this is, let us set up a few mileposts. George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, and became our first President in January 1789. Peter Coffey lived in Prince Edward from 1748 when Washington was about sixteen. Peter's will was presented in court September 16, 1771, indicating that Peter died shortly before that time. According to this record, he lived during much of the lifetime of Washington but died before this country was organized under the present constitution and before Washington became the first President in 1789. From 1748 to 1771 Peter apparently lived in the same place, on the land originally purchased. His land was described as being on both sides of Mill Fork on Vaughn Creek and near Appomattox River. The land was about eight miles from Farmville near a road running west to Lynchburg. The total of 412 acres seems more than ample when farming had to be propelled by oxen or, at best, horses. During the lifetime of the family there were a considerable number of exchanges of land. Land records show several land transfers among family members. It is not clear whether the original two parcels of 220 and 192 acres had been carved up or additional land had been purchased. One exchange that carries some significance is that 220 acres were transferred to Joshua Feb. 1, 1771, and then transferred by Joshua again on Nov. 18, 1771, to Lawrence Smith. Peter's will was presented in Court September 16, 1771, indicating that Peter had died before that date. His son Joshua moved to North Carolina in 1775. Lawrence Smith, the purchaser of the land, was probably related to the family by marriage. Joshua's brother Peter married Sarah Smith. Peter Jr. moved his family to Georgia in 1800. The other brother, William, sold the land in 1771 that he had received as a gift or an inheritance from old Peter in 1758. William bought land in Bedford County on Otter River and Bear Branch in 1774. Between 1775 and 1825 most of the male members of old Peter's family moved from Prince Edward County.

Except for his will and land transfers the only other place we have light on Peter is in Bradshaw's history of Prince Edward County where he is noted as being a Processor in the area where

three children, Edmund, Kay Beryl, and Jesse. Kay blessed us with two grandchildren plus two adopted grandchildren, and Jesse has given us Rachel and Jesse Aaron. A convincing argument for divulging this about the author was to put on record another Jesse. Jesse Aaron is of the ninth generation and carries a favorite Coffey name.

It has been rewarding to make this search and compile this brief history of our family. I am proud to be a part of this family. If I were younger than eighty plus I would pursue it much further. There is much more that can be brought to light. It is regrettable that more has not been done on the daughters of Peter, and more could be done by delving into the Irish background. Very little has been done on the families that went south to Georgia and Tennessee.

Maybe I have started something that some other descendant can continue. Just another Coffee, Coffey, etc.

Samuel Joseph -
 Samuel J. and Thelma Padgett
 Married June 2, 1938

Samuel Edmund	October 22, 1942
Unmarried	
Kay Beryl	October 5, 1944
Married Matthew A. Henderson-	Jan. 28, 1967
Children - Joshua Matthew -	Oct. 6, 1970,
Hope Kay-	Oct. 18, 1974,
Bethany Grace -	Dec. 6, 1989 adopted,
Anna Ruth -	June 12, 1991 adopted.
Jesse Radford	July 17, 1952
Married Martha B. Stafford -	July 27, 1974
Children - Rachel Marie -	November 15, 1984
Jesse Aaron -	April 6, 1989.

14. Hardesty's Historical to Geographical Encyclopedia, R. A. Brock
 15. Personal Histories of Bedford Co.
 16. Old Church Histories, Ministers and Families of VA, Meade Voe II
 17. Hardesty's Historical & Geographical Encyclopedia
 18. History of Churches -
Oakland United Methodist
Timber Ridge Baptist
Records of Nazareth Methodist
- Appreciation is expressed for help from family members.

About the Author

This is written for the purpose of extending the information in a small way on the family of Peter.

Samuel Joseph Coffey was born December 16, 1907, the son of Jesse Ammon II and Lottie Abbott Coffey. The place of birth was the Old Coffee Place written about in this document. My first fifteen years of life were spent living and working on the farm until 1926. In addition to learning the value of hard farm work, my parents sent me to public schools from elementary through two years of high school. Public school opportunity ran out at that point for lack of bus transportation. It was a struggle to get even this much public education before 1925.

For some reason I had a desire to go to school and get an education. My parents helpfully supported me in this endeavor. To complete high school I applied to Randolph-Macon Academy in Bedford. I was accepted and on a wing and a prayer I enrolled. I graduated from RMA in 1927, Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia with BA degree in 1931, and from the University of Virginia with an MA degree in 1942. Further studies were halted by service in the Army from 1942-46.

A professor at Randolph-Macon College influenced me in becoming a teacher. Due to his inspiration I spent over forty years as a teacher, principal, and administrator mostly in Fairfax County, Virginia.

In the course of all this I married Thelma Padgett and we had

he lived. This position must suggest some recognition of his ability and good standing in the community. This position seemed to involve adjusting property lines and disputes among the landowners. It could also have involved evaluating property in the settlement of wills, etc. The appointment to this position came from the St. Patrick Parish which actually administered many functions which the government now oversees. The Parish apparently had the responsibility for maintaining peace and morality among the people. Being a Processor indicated to some extent that Peter was a positive figure in the community. He probably had some education and would be a father who sought education for his children. The only schools available would have been private instruction, home teaching, or possibly the parish. We know at least two grandsons held high positions of responsibility and their deeds are a matter of record.

St. Patrick Parish

According to "Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia, Meads Vol. II 1966" St. Patrick's Parish of Prince Edward County consisted of three churches which were established before the formation of Prince Edward County. Believing that this Parish meant so much to Peter and his family, it seems appropriate to give recognition to it here.

In 1758 Rev. James Garden was minister at 2160 pounds of tobacco a year. Fifteen years later he was still the minister. For a while after that there was no minister until Rev. Archibald McRoberts appeared and remained until 1779. At that point Episcopal services ceased in Prince Edward County.

In Rev. McRoberts's time there were three churches in the Parish. The Chapel, or Watkins Church located about eight miles from the court house of Prince Edward County westward on the road to Lynchburg. It is reasonable to assume that this was the church of Peter's family. This church was involved in Mr. McRoberts's movement for an independent church, which occurred the following year. We should keep in mind that the people were moving away from old ties and experiencing a birth in a new nation.

The other churches of St. Patricks Parish evidently fell victim to the same movement. The French Church about one mile from the court house has disappeared completely. Sandy River Church on Sandy River about eight miles from the court house on the road to Petersburg went through a struggle. The Baptists and the Methodists apparently fought over this matter for some time. Around 1830 both groups laid claim to the church. For a while they worshipped together. They had two ministers in the pulpit at the same time. The congregation would vote on whether they would have Baptist or Methodist preaching. One would have doubts about this procedure lasting very long. The question of ownership of the property at one time went before a judge. His ruling is not certain, but at one time a line was drawn down the middle aisle and one half awarded to the Commonwealth and the other half to the church wardens.

While all this was taking place Presbyterians were moving in around 1775 and soon initiated the beginning of a school which is today Hampden-Sidney College.

Maybe some or all of this happening with the Parish gives us a little peep at a developing democratic society. Peter's church seemed to be a leader in this movement and certainly Peter did not live to see the full blossom of what he might have been seeking when he left his homeland in Ireland. However, his contribution to this endeavor was immeasurable. Even today his descendants are seeking good in the world, while working for freedom and democracy.

A Reunion of Peter's Children On Paper

Peter 1731-71 and Susannah Coffee

<u>William</u>	<u>Peter</u>	<u>Joshua</u>	<u>Daughters</u>
Abner	John	John	<u>Catherine Thomas</u>
David	and	Thomas	<u>Mary Thindal</u>
Pleasant	other?	Mary	<u>Hannah Weakley</u>
John			<u>Bettie</u>
Bannister (Grandchildren)			<u>Lydia</u>

Great Teacher comes with the words "a hidden treasure, the light of the world, and salt of the earth." These two extremes describe the bounds of life. Perhaps too many experience Shakespeare's description, and few reach the goal set by the Master, but honest effort to reach the light is every person's privilege. From what can be uncovered Peter Coffee was salt and light passed on to his children. The goodness that I have seen and the love I have shared from his people have told me so. Peter, you are being introduced anew to many of your descendants.

Sources of Information and Help

1. Limited family records
2. Prince Edward County records
3. History of Prince Edward Co., Bradshaw
4. Hearld, PE of Today and Yesterday
5. Georgia Genealogical Society
6. Georgia Department of Archives and History
7. State Library and Archives of Tennessee (There is a brief Ph. D dissertation at Vanderbuilt University Library on Gen. John, which was not consulted for this paper.)
8. Chronicles of America, Allen Johnsons
9. Bedford Library - for rented tapes, etc.
10. Bedford Museum - family records and history
11. Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA
12. Bedford Co. Clerk's Office - births, deaths, marriages, land deals, wills, etc.
13. On-site observations etc.
Hatcher Road & surrounding lands
Coffee Place & Coffee Cemetery
Poindexter Cemetery
Ivy Chapel Cemetery
Land boundaries
Old roadbeds
People - Velda Poindexter Noell
George Purnell Coffee
Mrs. Thomas Hicks

Cemetery, I visited the cemetery and read the headstones. The stone of Aunt Eliza Logwood reads, "To know her was to love her." I do not know who selected the line. Whoever did must have known her. Eliza was eighteen years old at her father's death and must have known her father very well, but none of us that I know ever asked her for such information about her father.

We know that Jesse was a very good carpenter. It has been mentioned before that he greatly improved the house on the Coffee Place. There is some variation on the story of his death. John Coffee's son, Alden, tells the story that Jesse was building a house and was in the process of putting plaster on the inside walls when he caught pneumonia from the dampness and cold. A slightly different version of this story says that he lived about five miles from the site of the building in progress. There being no fast transportation in those days he decided to sleep at night in the building under construction. From this he developed pneumonia and died. Pneumonia in those days was the cause of many deaths. Jesse's death, no doubt, was a great loss to the family. Cleo, also called Patry or Pate the widow, carried a heavy burden for years. All of her children deserve high marks for their devotion to each other, as well as their love and devotion to their families.

Peter Has Been Remembered

At the end of 244 years Peter Coffee has been brought out of the darkness of the various books and records and remembered not for battles won, speeches made, or political moves, but for facing the maze of life in a new world and for the beginning of a family that extends its life down through the South, and Southwest in particular, and most likely, throughout the United States of America. Peter, you have done no small thing. Let us who still carry a little bit of your Irish in our blood remember what a pioneer you were.

One of Shakespeare's interpretations of life is expressed in these words, "Out, out brief candle. Life is but an empty dream, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and is heard no more." The opposite view of life expressed by the

Thomas Elizabeth
3 daughters (Census Verified the number)

Notes: William was probably the oldest son. He first appears in land deal 1758. He obtained 150A from his father. Very likely it is the same tract listed in Peter's will as inheritance. This may also be the same tract involved in a deal between William and Abner. Fortunately in this deal Abner is noted as the son of William. This record helps establish the credibility of this study. It is the only evidence found that establishes substantially the line of Coffees going into Bedford County.

All other children listed under William as father are placed there because of dates (age range) and most of them are found only in Prince Edward records. It is of special note that all three sons of Peter had sons named John. The name of William's wife was Mary and the names of daughters were not found.

William, without much doubt must be the beginning of Coffees in Bedford County. To determine this beginning was a special goal of this study.

The first Joshua found for this story is the son of Peter and brother to William and Peter Jr. Joshua married Elizabeth Graven (1751-1804) and they had three children. Elizabeth was from Hanover County and was a granddaughter of a John William born in Wales on January 26, 1679. The son named John of Joshua and Elizabeth was born in Prince Edward County in June of 1772. The family moved to Granville County, North Carolina, in 1775. Joshua served as Captain in the Revolutionary Militia. At the end of the Revolution the family moved to Rockingham County, N.C., where he died in 1797. After the father's death his son Thomas moved to Alabama, and the others, his brother John, sister Mary, and Mother Elizabeth moved to Madison in 1798 a few miles above Nashville, Tenn.

The following sketch highlighting the events in John's life from this point are provided by The Tennessee State Library and Archives.



General John Coffee found in materials from Tennessee State Library and Archives, One of Two General Johns

Grand Children Continued

Jamison William Mable Overstreet

10 Jesse Ammon had five children

Samuel Joseph 12/16/87 Endora Holmes Patgett

Arnold Dugton 1/4/13 Margaret Johnson

Cora Elkins 10/19/15 Ferris W. Cooke

Lois Abbott 6/28/21 H. Maynard Howell

Merl Radford 3/30/26 Elsie Ovesta Forbes

Code + Fe (Family Country) + W.B. (Walnut Grove) + N.W. (Norwood)

+ S.H. (Spring Hill L.) + H.B. (Hearwood, Ark.) + M.C. (Methodist, Lynn)

As of January 20, 1991, twenty-two of these fifty-three grandchildren are still living. The oldest is Vestine Virginia Hawkins Leftwich, and the youngest is Merl Radford Coffey.

There is an interesting mixture of Grandma's name among the grandchildren, Cleo, Cleopatra, Patry, and Patra. I think Patry is used in this paper because Patry is the name written on her marriage certificate.

Next is a parade of fathers and sons (Peter - William, Abner, Holcomb - Jesse). Jesse is in the fifth generation of Peter's family in America. There is only a limited amount of information about Jesse. His life was cut short at forty-four years. He married Patry and in less than twenty years they produced ten children. Certainly, he wore a black hat. There is a ticket showing that he bought a black hat for two dollars, a very high quality hat for that time. Records or relics show that he belonged to the Republican Party. Family records reveal correspondence from a Tinsley who was an officer in the Republican Party in the Lynchburg vicinity. He owned a farm since there is a record of his purchasing the homeplace. He loved children since the record shows he fathered ten in less than twenty years. We could take a guess that he loved Patry also.

A good friend and first cousin who is the daughter of Aunt Dora tells the story that Jesse loved this little girl Dorethea so much that he always called her Adorable. Adorable was four years old when her father died. She bore name Dora, derived from Adorable, for the rest of her life. No one deserved it more.

A short while ago while I was writing about the Coffee

Great Children Continued

Bulah Patsy	1/12/07 - 1/5/1930	died Age 21
Hallie Mae	7/16/11 - 9/14/1985	
Paul	7/1/09 - 12/19/89	Margaret Hutchison
Elsie	1/6/17	Hubert B. Witt
6. <u>Lara Blunt had ten children:</u>		
Lovely Christopher	2/7/1896	Marguerite Krumholler - Baithen
Eva Belle	4/24/1897	Claude H. Smart
Janie Lee	7/20/1898	Samuel Burford, Geo Parker
Richard Henry	10/12/1900	Janie Haynes
Corrine	5/19/01	Claude Jennings → Foster
William John	6/5/03	Evale Jack - Ed Talton
Helen Eliza	12/29/09	Brexel Shultz
Norma Cleo	2/10/10	Herbert C Baulon → Lyons
Edith Blanche	6/23/12	Gilbert L. Moore
Chessie	10/12/22	Thomas M. Harvey
7. <u>John Daniel had six children:</u>		
Lairy Emma	7/25/06	A. H. Arthur
Herbert Edward	5/11/08	Evelyn Saunders
Rosaline Amanda	1/1/10	George Bolling → Fred Barnett
John Alden	6/16/13	Frances Mills Good
Loy Ellie	5/15/21	Mabel DeWitt
William Allen	1/1/24	Virginia Covert
8. <u>Mary Ellen had no children.</u>		
9. <u>Baithen had five children:</u>		
Fressie Pauline		Tom Witt
Willie Anna		Sam Woodford
Goldie Haynes		Plymale - Henry Walker
Sarahy Cleopatra		Elton Mc Bee

Continue -

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Coffee

- 1772, June 2 Born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, the son of a farmer, Joshua and Elizabeth Graves Coffee
- 1775 Moved to Granville County, North Carolina, with his parents and then to Rockingham County, North Carolina
- 1798 Moved to Davidson County, Tennessee, with his mother
- 1802-1807 Engaged in partnership with Andrew Jackson in mercantile business which later became insolvent
- 1806 Fought a duel with N. A. McNairy
- 1807 Appointed a surveyor of public lands on the Elk and Duck Rivers
- 1809, Oct. 3 Married Mary Donelson, daughter of John Donelson and niece of Rachel (Donelson) Jackson (Mrs. Andrew Jackson)
- 1809 Moved to Rutherford County, Tennessee, to a farm given to his wife by her father
- ca. 1810 Elected a Clerk of Rutherford County Court and held that position until the Creek War
- 1812 Raised a calvary of six hundred volunteers, of which he was elected Colonel, and went under the command of General Andrew Jackson

Helped raise many volunteers for the Creek War

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE (continues)

John Coffee

- 1813, Sept. Commanded a regiment of calvary under General Jackson in the Creek War
- 1813 Promoted to Brigadier-General
- 1813 Fought in the Battle of Tallaskehatches and many other important battles in the Creek War
- 1815 Promoted to Major-General
- 1815, Oct. 4 Appointed a commissioner by President Madison for running Indian boundaries of the Treaty of Fort Jackson under the Act of March 3, 1815
- 1816, May 6 Appointed commissioner with John Rhea and John McKee to treat with the Choctaws
- 1817, Mar. 3 Made Surveyor-General of the Mississippi Territory and moved to Huntsville
- 1818, April 20 Appointed by President James Madison Surveyor-General of the public lands of Alabama
- 1819 Moved to Florence, Alabama
- Member of the Cypress Land Company which laid out the town of Florence
- Helped survey and lay down the boundary line between Tennessee and Alabama, and Alabama and Mississippi
- 1826, May 24 Appointed with General Clark and General Hinds to treat with the Choctaw Indians

Grand Children of Jesse & Cleo

1. Walter never married
2. Eliza Holcomb had three children:
 Lizzie Marian 9/27/1900 Frank Abbott
 Daisy Royal 10/17/1905 Waddel Abbott-Brooks
 Clarice Edmonia - infant death
3. Betty Sue had nine children:
 Vestine Virginia 6/26/1895 Harry H. Leftwich
 Ruby Sue 2/6/1898 May J Newman
 Vera Patry 2/15/1900 Warren M. Burford
 Yalmage Emmitt 9/8/01 Estelle Hodsey
 Tom Coffey 11/6/03 Olene Hodsey
 Annie Frances 4/12/05 Victor O. Woodford
 Wosie May 12/30/07 Lived less than two years
 Willie Pauline 1/16/10 James Hawkins
 Victor Otis 7/2/14 Audrey Adams
4. Hugh Travis had nine children:
 Scala Mae 5/19/02 Olney Wilson
 Tray Frankkin 3/13/04 Louise Howard
 Annie Ralh 1/31/06 - 12/30/91
 Gladys Pearl 2/25/08 Frank Wells
 Orlin Davis 8/10/10 Rev. Edward Farley
 Vernie O'neil 4/15/13
 Ralphine Velora 4/20/15 Maurice Overstreet
 Lillian Marcell 2/17/17 Evan Marshall
 Mary Virginia 1/11/26 Robert Basham
5. Lura Ann had six children:
 Russell La Fayette 7/27/01 - 8/6/87 Alpha Rush
 Jesse Lee 12/28/03 { Lived less than 6 mos
 continue - Buried - Mt Hermon Church

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE (continues)

Family of Jesse A + Cleopatra Coffee

1/17/1868 Jesse Ammon Coffee 1843 - April 6, 1887
 Cleopatra Padgett May 5, 1844 - Oct 15, 1930



- 1 Walter Lee Coffee + FC Nov 13, 1868 - Aug 20, 1948
- 2 Eliza Holcomb C + FC Nov 11, 1869 - Mar 10, 1955
 Charles Edward Logwood - Jan 26, 1847 - Jan 4, 1929
- 3 Bettie Lee C + SHL Apr 23, 1871 - Dec 23, 1958
 William Emmet Hawkins Jan 15, 1879 - June 22, 1959
- 4 Hugh Davis C + NW Nov 2, 1872 - May 22, 1946
 Lillian Mae Cooke Feb 6, 1886 - Nov 18, 1978
- 5 Sara Anna C + WC Jan 15, 1875 - Oct 7, 1945
 Elouga Lee Roop Apr 10, 1874 - June 29, 1948
- 6 Cord Blunt C + MCL Mar 7, 1876 - Oct 26, 1942
 Alexander Henry Logwood Sept 27, 1869 - Feb 10, 1934
- 7 John Daniel C + FC Oct 1, 1878 - Sept 27, 1941
 Ethel Maude Mason June 10, 1886 - Feb 5, 1951
- 8 Mary Ellen C + FL July 4, 1890 - May 27, 1965
 William F Stone Jan 5, 1860 - Nov 9, 1939
- 9 Katherine C + GWB Jan 22, 1883 - Apr 31, 1931
 Junious F Hawkins Feb 14, 1881 - Sept 25, 1938
- 10 Jesse Ammon C. + GWB May 2, 1887 - Mar 3, 1959
 Lottie Abbott Sept 28, 1890 - Oct 7, 1975

Notes: All "C's" above stand for "Coffee"
 This marriage produced ten children during
 19 years and 82 days.
 The father Jesse Ammon died 24 days before the
 last one was born, Jesse Ammon the eldest.
 Continue

John Coffee

- 1827, Jan 10 Re-appointed Surveyor-General of public lands in Alabama for four years by President Adams
- 1830 Appointed with General Eaton to treat with the Chickasaw Indians at Franklin and the Choctaw Indians at Dancing Rabbit; succeeded in obtaining a tract of country from Choctaw nation
- 1831, July 9 Re-appointed again as Surveyor-General of public lands in Alabama by President Jackson
- 1831, Oct. 19 Appointed with General Eaton to treat with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians
- 1832, Jan. 12 Authorized to treat with the Chickasaw Indians for their country. Held a treaty with them in October and November and succeeded in obtaining all their land
- 1833, July 7 Died at Florence, Alabama; buried in the family cemetery at Florence

The children of General John Coffee are: Mrs. Mary Hutchings, John Donelson Coffee, Elizabeth Coffee, Andrew Jackson Coffee, Alexander Donelson Coffee, Mrs. Rachel Jackson Dyas, Emily Coffee, Catherine Coffee, William Donelson Coffee, Joshua Coffee

John Coffee and Andrew Jackson were close friends. They were at first in business together. John married a niece of Mrs. Jackson. Later John and Andrew were in military service together. They fought the Indians. They fought the British as far south as Florida. There were some episodes, such as the time Coffee carried Jackson away on his shoulder from a horse

betting spree. Jackson was a little wild and about to break himself financially. At another time Jackson was caught in a conflict and was about to be killed and his friend Coffee came to his rescue. This could have been the lead up to the duel mentioned above. Jackson gave the eulogy printed on John's tombstone located at Florence, Alabama. John was praised as a skillful and brave general and a distinguished patriot, a man with character. Other than military, Coffee had been a good father and husband. He had a part in establishing a school for females and was supportive of his church.

Peter, the son of old Peter, lived in Prince Edward County until 1800. From there he moved to Hancock County, GA, with wife Sarah Smith Coffee and family.

John Coffee, the son of this Peter, relocated to Telfair County, GA, in 1807 becoming one of the first settlers. He carved out a plantation in the wilderness near the present town of Jacksonville. Between 1807 and 1809 he married Ann Penelope Bryan.

The following sketch on this John Coffee was extracted from Men of Mark in Georgia edited by William J. Northern LLD, Ex-Governor of GA.

John E. Coffee, Indian fighter, planter, and Congressman was born in the State of Virginia in 1782.

John moved with his family to Georgia when he was a small boy.

The family was said to be of Irish descent.

Two brothers each had a son named John who both became well known generals causing much confusion in the public mind.

General John Coffee of Georgia had a first cousin, General John Coffee of Tennessee, discussed above.

Both fought Indians, both were close friends of Andrew Jackson, both negotiated treaties with Indians, and both were early pioneers in the states of Georgia and Tennessee.

John of Georgia in 1807 moved from Hancock County to Telfair where there was a population of approximately 750.

A road he cut out through forests for moving military sup-



Jesse Ammon Coffee

Probably in early
20's before
marriage

An only picture



Cleopatria Padgett
Coffee

Nearly 40 years
after husbands
death

Name of Messenger, 1st day of January 1868
 Name of Messenger, 2nd day of January 1868
 Full Name of Father of Married, John Coffee & Family
 Age of Married, 22 years
 Name of Wife, 22 do
 Occupation of Husband, Single
 Occupation of Wife, Single
 Place of Husband's Birth, Bedford County Va
 Place of Wife's Birth, 187 180 180
 Place of Husband's Residence, 187 180 180
 Place of Wife's Residence, 187 180 180
 Name of Husband's Parents, Abraham & Elizabeth Coffee
 Name of Wife's Parents, William & Hannah Coffee
 Description of Husband, Farmer
 Signed under my hand this 1st day of January 1868
 Thomas H. Brownland Prefect of
 to the age of Peter, Prefect

J. A. Coffee

plies to Florida became "Coffee Road" by act of Georgia legislature in 1822.

He married Miss Connelopy Bryan, a member of a prominent North Carolina family. They had five sons and two daughters - John, William, Columbus, Jackson, Bryan, Susan and Ann, (could be great grandmother, Susannah's name divided).

John served in the Georgia Legislature for twelve years as Representative and Senator.

He served in the twenty-second Congress of the United States. He was elected to the twenty-third Congress but died before serving the term. He was a true Jackson Party democrat.

On February 9, 1854, in appreciation of Coffee's services against the Creek Indians the Georgia legislature named a new county for him located in South Central Georgia.

He died September 25, 1836 and was buried at his home near Jacksonville. In 1921 his remains were moved to Oak Grove Cemetery in McRae, GA.

Places in South Georgia that bear his name are the Coffee Bluff on Ocmulgee River, Coffee County, Coffee Community, Old Coffee Road, and Coffee Branch in Telfair County.

These two men named John briefly described above are established in the history of this nation. They testify to the qualities of life passed on to them beginning with Old Peter and Susanna Coffee, their grandparents. Family descendants might be interested in pursuing further the history of these two men. Much more information is available, especially in Georgia and Tennessee references given with this account. The Vanderbilt University Library has a doctoral thesis on "The Life and Activities of John Coffee" of Tennessee which has not been used for this writing.

It can be assumed that most people by the name of Coffee and many other Coffey relatives by other names in the South and Southwest are descendants of these two Johns. There are Coffee counties in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kansas. There are Coffeevilles or places in Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, and Kansas. The two generals themselves lived in three of these states plus North Carolina. The writer has found only one

picture which is probably General John of Tennessee, a copy from one at the Hermitage in Nashville, Tennessee.

Turn to William and Son Abner

William Coffee in assumed to be the oldest son of Peter and Susanna Coffee. He also may be the only one that remained strictly a farmer without getting involved in the military and other activities. He followed a course that did little to propel him into wealth or fame. The observation can be made that large landowners were often from high ranks of the military. The military was a profession which perhaps provided some cash flow, making possible the purchase of land and slaves. If this course succeeded we created different levels in society. William remained a farmer, and farmers at this period in our history worked to make a simple living for their families like old Peter who thanked God for helping him do this much. In this manner, William and his descendants seemed to have gone along at a lower level in society and may not have enjoyed the prosperity and acclaim of his brothers and their descendents. This is not to say that they were less important or less productive. Who is wise enough to judge? What is notable is that we see a family dividing and going in different directions. William's family is somewhat different from the others who followed a different course. He was the "boy who stayed home".

According to all the research on William, he is credited with nine children. Most of the names appear in Prince Edward County records. The age range helps group them and a census report gives a total of six males and three females. All with known names are Abner, David, Pleasant, John, Bannister, and Thomas.

In 1774 William appears in Bedford County records buying land in the vicinity of Otter River and Bear Creek. The total amount bought was about 270 acres. In 1788 a John Coffee started buying land at what is judged to be the general area of Body Camp. He continued to buy land in 1789-94-96 amounting to a total of nearly 500 acres. Some of this land joined a neighbor named Pidgeons. There are records in Bedford Clerk's

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

VIRGINIA *Bedford County* *At Bedford* Do wit:
To my Union Licensed to Celebrate Marriage.

You are hereby authorized to join together in the Holy State of Matrimony, according to the rites and ceremonies of your Church, or religious denomination, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

William Coffee and
Petey P. Budgett

Given under my hand, as Clerk of the *County* Court of
Bedford this *13th* day of *January* 1868
A. A. Arthur Clerk

CERTIFICATE TO OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE.

To be annexed to the License, required by Act passed 20th March, 1862.

Time of Marriage, *14th day of January 1868*
Place of Marriage, *Bedford County Virginia*
Full names of Parties Married, *Wm Coffee & Petey Budgett*
Age of Husband, *24 years*
Age of Wife, *22 do*
Condition of Husband, (~~single~~)
Condition of Wife, (~~single~~)
Place of Husband's Birth, *Bedford County Virginia*
Place of Wife's Birth, *Do Do Do*
Place of Husband's Residence, *Do Do Do*
Place of Wife's Residence, *Do Do Do*
Names of Husband's Parents, *Abner & Elizabeth Coffee*
Names of Wife's Parents, *William & Amanda Budgett*
Occupation of Husband, *Farmer*
Given under my hand this *13th* day of *January* 1868.
A. A. Arthur Clerk

MINISTER'S RETURN OF MARRIAGE.

I certify, that on the *14th* day of *January* 1868, at *Bedford* *Virginia*, I united in marriage the above-named and described parties, under authority of the annexed License.

James A. Davis, Minister of the Gospel

NOTE: The Minister celebrating a Marriage is required, within ten days thereafter, to return the License to the Clerk who has issued the same, with an endorsement thereon of the fact of such marriage, and of the time and place of celebrating the same.

John Corbin Oct. 15, 1879 - May 15, 1942

Married to Bessie Coffee 09/28/22

Notes:

1. This information was taken from family records in the Bedford Museum.
2. A number from this family are buried in Timber Ridge Church Cemetery.
3. Hillary Blunt is buried in the cemetery at Bethamy Church.
4. Henry served in Co. F 17 of the Va. Calvary

The fourth child of Holcomb and Eliza was a daughter, Arianna, born April 29, 1840. On December 5, 1865, she married Charles E. Padgett, the son of James A. and Lucy (Goodwin) Padgett. Charles was born Oct. 2, 1842 and died Oct. 16, 1923.

Their children were

Emma J.	Born	Sept. 8, 1866
David Holcomb	Born	Nov. 17, 1867
Irene	Born	Feb. 17, 1869
George Wallie	Born	Aug. 17, 1870
Charles Aubrey	Born	Dec. 29, 1871
John Downing	Born	Sept. 20, 1873
Josephine	Born	April 29, 1875
Chatman	Born	June 29, 1878
Omao	Born	Aug. 5, 1880

Notes:

1. All of the family were born in Bedford County.
2. They lived on a farm near Goode Crossing.
3. Charles E. served in the Army Co. F 28th Virginia Infantry. He was twice wounded.
4. Charles Edward and wife Arianna are buried in the Bethany Church cemetery at Norwood.

More research is necessary to find children for John Bannister, Thomas, and Oleana. It is already recorded that Daniel and Mary Ellen died before being married. This plus the following information on the family of Jesse A. completes the chapter covering Holcomb's grandchildren.

office that tell of a John Coffee, processioner and a Pidgeons appraising property for purposes of settling an estate. A good conclusion from this record is that John was a son of William and the same John may be the father of a family found in Brown's records of a family of John and Rachel Coffee 1786-1793 with children William, John, Joseph, Rachel, and Mary. This statement is made with reservation; however, William, John, and Mary are popular Coffee names. Also, the date wraps around the date when John bought land near Body Camp in 1788. If these deductions are correct, we have blessed William with five known grandchildren.

From Here to There

William Coffee - Deeded land in 1758
Prince Edward County
└ Abner (a son) married 1791 in P E to
Christina Kelly
└ Holcomb 1806 +/- to 9/30/1860
Eliza Padgett
└ Jesse Ammon 1843 - 1887
Cleo Padgett
└ Jesse Ammon 1887 - 1959
Lottie Abbott

Abner Coffee, with written records, the son of William married Christina Kelly in 1791 in Prince Edward Co. Record of this marriage is in Clerk's office.

The children of this marriage are listed as follows:

Delaney	Married	James P. Milam	11/5/1832
Celina		Elisha W. Tinsley	4/23/32
Lenia	Campbell Co.	Charles Fowler	1823
Jesse	Bedford Co.	Kathy Gaddy	12/16/32
Purnelle W.	Bedford Co.	Amelia Snead	1/2/32
Holcomb L.	Bedford Co.	Eliza Ann Padgett	11/29/32
Bannister	Bedford Co.	Polly Snead	2/24/1828
Joshua		Mildred ? (Census)	

All of these children of Abner married in Bedford County except Lenia who married in Campbell, and Joshua remains a

question. The 1810 Census records five males and three females for Abner's children. This account is fairly well documented.

Celina's children and Abner's grandchildren are:

Gano Ann Tinsley	6/27/1836
William B. Tinsley	1/07/1838
Mary C. Tinsley	2/09/1840
Abner R. Tinsley	4/22/1842
Sousy B. Tinsley	4/28/1844
Pansy L. Tinsley	11/18/1846

These children barely made this record. They were found in the back of an old record book that was found with the papers in the old family chest referred to previously in this study. The writing of these names was barely in sight, but the information gathered was very helpful in putting this family together. This old piece of cardboard was actually the back of a notebook passed down, no doubt, by Holcomb L., a brother of Celina. Elisha Tinsley died in 1850 and Holcomb Coffee held certain monies in trust for Celina's children. Celina was left with less than thirty dollars after all settlement of estate was made. Some of this information came from records in Bedford Co. This information also confirmed Holcomb as brother of Celina and, therefore, son of Abner who was listed as father of Celina in Bedford County marriage records. The move of Coffees from Prince Edward to Bedford County is not explained in found records. Nearly all of Abner's children are found in the vicinity of Forest in Bedford Co. Celina married Tinsley, Purnelle W. and Bannister married Sneads, Purnelle W. and Amelia Snead were married at St. Stephen's Church according to church history. Holcomb married a Padgett and there are several Padgetts buried in Ivy Chapel Cemetery. Relationship of Eliza to these has not been established; however, Holcomb seems to have had his start in the general area of Ivy Chapel. Jesse married a Gaddy and Gaddys for a long time lived on Perrowville-Forest road.

In the 1850 census Joshua is listed as father of Samuel 27, Sogar 25, Pleasant 21, and Sarah 18. All of these are assumed unmarried. Bannister (assumed son of Joshua), married to

George Purnell married
Susan Poindexter

G. Purnell bought 714 acres of land at the foot of Lone Pine Mountain on the present Route 669. This location from date of purchase to the present remained the homeplace for the Purnell and Susan family. Children are as follows:

Estelle	married	Will Logwood
Blanch	married	Peter Saunders
Lizzie	married	Aubrey Padgett
Bessie	married	Corbin Coffee
Lottie	married	Frank S. Hatcher
Samuel P.	married	Lula Logwood
Dillard	married	Sanderson
Harry	married	Cora Noell
Frank	married	Unmarried
Willie	married	White

Notes:

1. Will Logwood was a brother to Alex who married Orrin V. Hunter and then Cora Coffee.
2. Peter Saunders was related to Russel C. Saunders, perhaps a brother.
3. Corbin Coffee was a son of Henry C., son of Holcomb.
4. Outside of his brothers and sisters, Uncle Purnell, was about the only relative that I heard my father speak of. He could have been a father substitute.

Henry Callohill Coffee

Mary B. Goodman	Married 1868
Roberta D. (Bertie)	Dec. 18, 1869 - Dec. 1937
Married William W. May	
Hillary Blount	Nov. 5, 1870 - Sept. 28, 1907
Married Anna Eliza Tankersley	1895
Laura B.	Feb. 1872 - 1934
Unmarried	
Minnie H.	Feb. 1876 - 1934
Married B. B. Stringfellow	
Adolphus S.	Jan. 1878 -
Married Rose Baird	1904

No Children
 Thomas Chester 04/15/1882 - 03/28/1958
 Married Lizzie Witt
 No Children
 Richard 11/25/1883 - 12/08/1897
 Died at age 14
Dolly Margaret 09/04/1885 - 03/15/1975
 Married 9/16/08 to George D. Goode
 07/22/1882 - 12/15/1975
 Children - Bruce, Charles Wesley, Ralph,
 Odessa, Margaret, Meda (Hicks)
Ralph 04/24/1890 - 06/12/1928
 Married Goldie Davidson
Ocie Ellen 05/31/1892 - 08/02/1985
 Married Roger Goode Witt
 Children - Bulah and Doris
Elizabeth Beatrice 08/19/1895 - 10/23/1978
 Married Alexander Brown Witt
 Children - Arelen and Jeanette
Charles 08/21/1897 - 11/01/1918
 Never Married
James Street 08/22/1899 - 08/12/1935
 Never Married

Notes:

1. Amazing things confront you in this research. There is no memory of any of these people ever being mentioned in my family. They were unknown to me, although my father lived from 1887 to 1959 during the same period of time as people in this family.
2. It is disappointing that Oleana remains a mystery.
3. Worth noting the spread of Coffee names Holcomb, William, John, Thomas, Ocie, Purnelle, and Elizabeth.
4. Another observation of interest may very well be a repeat of an earlier statement. This Andrews family moved from Cifax (Sycamore) to the southern part of Bedford County. Coffees moved to the Forest area to No Business Mountain in Sycamore (Cifax), Goode, and Body Camp as far back as 1775.

Elizabeth Ellis, were the parents of Robert W. Coffee. Also, Mary J. who married Andrew Bryan on 1/8/1842 was a daughter of Joshua. From the census report we learn that Joshua was a wheelwright by occupation. His grandson Robert W., son of Bannister was written about in the Southwest Virginia and the Valley in 1892 by A. D. Smith of Roanoke. He was given the status of the most noted inventor of Virginia. According to this writing he was born April 15, 1843, in Bedford County the son of Bannister and Elizabeth Coffee. He was educated in the old field school and at the age of seventeen worked in Carriage Manufacturing. His grandfather Joshua was a wheelwright for eight years. He drifted into making wheel spokes and tool handles. A good business resulted and in 1883 he organized a business into a stock company in Bedford City. Following this he had more time to experiment and many useful patents were developed. In 1890 he invented a machine for atomizing water, one for treating fine cut tobacco, and a heating device for public buildings. He also invented a rectal pessary for the radical cure of hemorrhoids. In 1868 he had married Miss Sallie Miller of Bedford County.

After finding the information given above in the Bedford Museum much searching and asking was done in effort to locate the site of this business. All of the ones interested in the past contacted seemed to know nothing about this business enterprise. Recently by accident a casual look at a Bedford City Land and Improvement Picture of 1891 revealed the location of R. W. Coffee Company. It was located on the first block west side, on the south end of the railroad bridge on Bridge Street. Evidently this bridge is no newborn baby. The railroad construction reached Bedford City around 1851. The bridge could have been built in the early 1850's or before.

Coffee Road Bedford County

"The Streets of Lynchburg" by Martha Helen Cleveland Craddock states that Coffee Road running southwest from Boonsboro Road parallel to the Bedford County line is surely derived from a family name. An examination of "Old Roads of

Bedford County," a WPA project by Nora Carter, sheds no light on the history of this road; therefore, it seems appropriate to at least make a reasonable assumption about Coffee Road.

Coffee Road may be described as an extension of State Road Number 644. It runs between Perrowville and Boonsboro. It has its beginning along the way from old Mt. Carmel Methodist Church and ends at State Road 501 in Boonesboro.

The area surrounding the location of this road is significant to the story of this family. There is ample evidence that the part of the family moving from Prince Edward County into Bedford County settled in the general area of Forest, Perrowville, and No Business Mountain.

As shown above Bannister Coffee married Polly Snead and Purnelle W. married Amelia Snead. The brides were sisters, and daughters of Evan Snead. Evan's will recorded in Bedford County Clerk's office shows that Bannister and Polly Coffee received 160 acres of land located along Ivy and Blackwater Creeks and in the area of the present Ivy Chapel building. Incidental to that Purnelle W. and Amelia chose to take two slaves. The slaves were valued at more than the 160 acres and also more than the fair share of the estate; therefore, Purnelle W. had to pay cash to make up the difference. This information has no particular significance to this story except to lead us to the idea that Purnelle W. was not too far away and must have had land and needed slaves. However, Purnelle W.'s obituary calls him a machinist who died in August of 1845.

The land inherited by Bannister and Polly is the setting for the beginning of the name of Coffee Road. The location of Old Coffee Post Office is probably on a part of this inherited property. Bannister and Polly are credited with only two children, Henry H. and Siberia. The records are a little confusing on this. There is a slight possibility that Siberia is a daughter rather than a sister to Henry. The military records have this to say about Henry.

Henry H. Coffee son of Bannister, who came to Bedford Co. in 1825 and married P. Snead. Henry H. born in Bedford Co. June 28, 1832 and through the years of war was a soldier in Co. G. 11th Va. Calvary. Henry married Rebecca Ervin of Highland

Coffee. (A picture of Delaney show her as a very pretty girl.)

Charles Henry Brown

Rosa Hunter Brown

Children

Gilbert Henry Brown

Calloway Brown

Otho Brown

Harry Lee Brown

Frank Brown

Charlie Brown 11/4/1904 - 6/77

Lillie Mae Bowles 2/27/03 - 11/30/61

Holcomb has been credited with daughters name Oshaelen born 9/15/1854 and Oleana born in 1856. The nickname Ocie could be derived from either. Ocie had been the one married to Wesley Andrews. There was a spot of information on this family having been deeded a 27 acre tract of land by Jesse and Cleo. They then disappeared from written records and no further information seemed available. And then a discovery was made. A granddaughter of Ocie was to be Oshaelen, and Oleana the youngest child of Holcomb and Eliza remains a mistry. The granddaughter of Ocie, Mrs. Meda Goode Hicks (Mrs. Thomas Hicks), provided the following information on Oschaelen (Ocie) Coffee Andrews.

Wesley P. Andrews 10/22/1847 - 05/10/1918

Ocie Coffee 09/15/1854 - 07/06/1933

Married 03/11/1874 had 12 children

Lillie 04/4/1875 - 07/25/1953

Married J. Crawford Arthur 2/29/1896

John, Holcomb, Zenith, Theodore, Edward,
Rufus, Bessie, Catherine

John Edward 12/30/1876 - 01/11/1949

Married Addie Tankersley

Marvin and Frances

Purnelle 08/26/1878 - 02/02/1930

Never married

William Bennett 07/04/1880 - 10/23/1940

Married Illia Womack

manner in this history.

Grandchildren of Holcomb and Eliza

It is difficult to find full information on the grandchildren of Holcomb and Eliza. This search for information was begun a generation too late. However, the account given here will help any one who may want to continue the story more fully. This is a gathering of grandchildren of Holcomb and Eliza.

Delaney F. Coffee, a daughter, married Joseph E. Hunter in 1868. Their children were

Joseph Leonard Hunter

Fredonia E. (Married twice)

Rosa A. married Charles Henry Brown

Mary Lou married Samuel E. Poindexter

Orrin Virginia married Alex Logwood

Orrin died young leaving one daughter Loula V. who married Samuel P. Coffee. Mary Lou had four pretty daughters. They first lived in a place called Saw Pit located on the present Route 669 which once went through the mountains to meet 638. It is very likely that neither road had a number in the 1800's. This road no longer goes all the way through to 638. These roads and mountains are more or less in the foothills of No Business Mountain. Saw Pit was probably the location of an early sawmill on the Poindexter plantation. This Poindexter family moved to Mary Lou's home place, the Hunter place, around 1920. Delany, Joseph E. Hunter, Mary Lou, Samuel E. Poindexter and Orrin are all buried in the Cemetery behind Old Nazareth Church.

At other points in this history there are statements indicating the lack of handed down information from parents to children. There was definitely little communication among the various Coffee families. Maybe that was a general custom in the early nineteenth hundreds. My father did have a considerable amount to say about Uncle Purnelle and Cousin Rosa. For this special reason I am departing from the children to great grandchildren of Holcomb L. Coffee.

The family of Rosa A. Hunter, the daughter of Delaney

Co. Henry was successful in business, P.O. address Boonsboro, Bedford Co.

Henry H. is buried in the Ivy Chapel graveyard located on Coffee Road and Ivy Creek.

There is a land record that Siberia sold the Bannister estate of land to Brockenbrough in 1899.

Further evidence in suggesting the origin of the name Coffee Road follows. In the land records of Bedford Co. we find that Holcomb L. Coffee bought on Sept. 19, 1829, 169 1/2 acres of land on a spur of No Business Mountain. The mountain has many spurs and this one is difficult to identify. Holcomb held this land for a very short while. A history produced by the Bedford Co. schools "Two Centuries of Bedford County School Days" describes the Hermitage School located very near Old Coffee Post Office as being in sight of Coffee Mountain. It seems to follow with all the Coffees running around in this neck of the woods that they should have made some impression. In fact, it seems that they had a special affection for No Business Mountain and stayed near it for a long time.

Bannister, Henry H., and Siberia are most likely the forerunners in giving a name to Coffee Road of Bedford County, Virginia.

Holcomb Arrives at Sycamore (Cifax)

One of the objects of this story is to highlight the family stemming from Holcomb L. Coffee. Holcomb was the son of Abner and the grandson of William recorded in Prince Edward and Bedford Counties. There has not been the strength to turn over the Holcomb Rock on James River to find a connection between the rock and Holcomb L. The first uncovered record of Holcomb is the purchase of 169 1/2 acres of land on a spur of No Business Mountain on Sept. 14, 1829, and sold a year or two later. The plot of this land is vaguely described and difficult to locate. After having been married to Eliza Ann Padgett on Nov. 29, 1832, he purchased another tract of land of 188 1/2 acres at the foot of No Business Mountain between the headwaters of Sycamore and Elk Creeks. An approximate location of this tract would place it near the present State Road 638 and Rock

Church. This road now runs along the foothills of No Business from Perrowville to Sedalia. This tract was also sold March 26, 1844. The records indicate that in both purchases Holcomb had difficulties in making payments. However, before long on April 29, 1844, Holcomb and Eliza bought a 192 1/2 acre tract of land from John Poindexter, son of Samuel Poindexter. This land was John's inheritance from the Poindexter plantation at Cifax (at that time called Sycamore). In recent times the point of this plantation is called the Cedars. This parcel of land bought by Holcomb in 1844 through thick and thin provided living for many Coffees. It was, according to the saying, a "rough row to hoe" that ran for about eighty six years. It rightly deserves to be called the Coffee Place. In spite of many difficulties, that family home is one of few that remained so long with the same family.

Holcomb's Family

Holcomb L. Coffee 1806-9 - Sept. 30, 1860

Eliza Ann Padgett - Daughter of Fredrick

Married Nov. 29, 1832

All ages geared to 1850 Census (birth +/-)

Daniel F.	16 (1833)	Unmarried - died 8/7/1853
John Bannister	14 (-36)	Mary Ramsey 1865
Mary Ellen	11 (-39)	Unmarried - died 8/20/1870
Aariana	10 (-40)	Charles E. Padgett 12/5/1865
Thomas	9 (-41)	
Jesse Ammon	6 (-44)	Cleopatria Padgett 1/16/68
Henry Callohill	5 (-45)	Mary Goodman 1868
George Purnell	3 (-47)	Susan Poindexter
Delaney F.	1 (-49)	Joseph A. Hunter 1868
Oshaelen (Ocie)	(-54)	Wesley P. Andrews 1874
Oleana	(-56)	

Notes:

1. Holcomb died at 53 years old of fever leaving a large family at time of war.
2. Daniel F. Oldest child died with fever at 20.
3. Mary E. Oldest daughter died with fever at 33.

those buried there. To establish a historical record names and dates will be given here. Also, this account will add others who are not identified by markers who are assumed or known to be there.

Jesse A. Coffee	1843-1887
Cleopatria	1844-1930
Walter Lee Coffee	1868-1948
Eliza H. Logwood	1869-1955
John D. Coffee	1878-1941
Ethel Mason Coffee	1886-1951
William F. Stone	1860-1939
Mary E. Coffee Stone	1880-1965
Joseph J. Abbott	1862-1937
Cora Lee Abbott	1864-1936
Waddell B. Abbott	1897-1936

Infant son of Sidney and Sallie Metts 1902-no Coffee relation.

Dossie May, infant child of Bettie Coffee Hawkins, is buried here without known marker.

Unconfirmed graves here:

Daniel F. Coffee	1853
Holcomb L. Coffee	1860
Mary E. Coffee	1870
Eliza Ann Coffee	1876

As indicated the Cemetery is the resting place for others having no markers. Dossie May infant child of Bettie Coffee Hawkins is buried here. The date is not known except the year was 1909. In addition, the assumption is made on the basis that no other place seems as logical as this site. Holcomb and Eliza A. moved to the Coffee Place in 1844. This marks the beginning of the Coffee Place. Daniel F., the oldest child, died in 1853. Holcomb died in 1860, Mary E. died in 1870, and Eliza Ann died in 1876. The first family member to have a headstone was Jesse Ammon in 1887. This was only 10-11 years after Eliza's death. These four and the baby are the least number of unidentified graves here. There is no place more likely for these to have been buried than in this, the beginning of the Coffee Cemetery. It is good to remember and honor our forebears and kin in this

thunder, but if you said, "Mama, I owe you some money, there was no loss of hearing." Maybe this speaks for one quality that helped raise this family of ten. Writing this is cause for tears as I think about the hardships she must have experienced and overcome. My father also told me about a travelling salesman who sold her a wheat fan. (I saw the fan and turned the handle.) It was a plaything to me, but she bought the thing and could not raise the money to pay for it. She was forced to sell land or borrow on trust the money to pay for the fan. Records show that one time Charles Padgett, a brother-in-law, had fifty acres in trust. This trust may have been part of the deal on the wheat fan. These acres were redeemed.

As a testament to Grandma's sensitive nature I recalled the following boyhood story. Grandma had two very pretty black horses. A thunderstorm came and the horses were under a tree that the lightning struck. Grandma wept streams of tears. I was too old and too young then to cry, but now I can. She raised a big family of honest, hardworking, and kind men and women. The struggle and hardships that she experienced make the Coffee Place a point of light for her descendants. My fondest memory of her was the day I paid her a visit in her room where she watched the burning fire in the fireplace and asked me one riddle after another. She had a sassy-like sense of humor. I was about twelve years old at the time and I have carried this picture of grandma for a long time. Such peeps into the past are good for the soul.

The Coffee Cemetery

The Coffee Cemetery is located on the southeast corner of the Coffee Place. It is out in front of the Nazareth Church building a hundred yards or more. It is surrounded by yard fencing wire and contains several large trees. There is a faithful descendant, Harold Abbott, son of Daisy Logwood Abbott and Waddell Abbott, who spends time mowing the weeds and grass and keeping the place from being abandoned. This shows that someone cares. We can hope that this will always be true.

There are twelve gravestones giving names and dates of



Delaney Coffee
and
Husband J. F. Hunter



Delaney's
Daughter
Fredonia

4. Aariana married Charles Padgett. Charles at Crucial times helped save the Coffee homestead.
5. No information on Thomas except that he served in the military.
6. John Bannister was injured in the Military. Mother Eliza requested his release for him to help her, but no release. John later married Mary Ramsey sister of Albert. They lived near Big Otter River. (Ref. Land records).
7. Henry Callohill (middle name worth saving) married Mary Goodman - lived in Goode area. A family picture is in the history of Timber Ridge Baptist Church.
8. Jesse Ammon served in military - married Cleopatria Padgett - bought the homeplace.
9. Oleana - no information to date.
10. Holcomb, the father, lived 53 years, had eleven children in 21 years of marriage.
11. It is likely that the name Holcomb L. came from a Philemon Holcomb (a vestryman of the St. Patrick's Parish in Prince Edward Co.). The "L" could be Lee, "Lighthorse Harry" Henry Lee 1746 - 1818. One of Holcomb's grandsons was named Walter Lee.
12. Eliza Ann (wife & mother) lived until 1876-77. Her estate was settled in 1877.
Eliza Ann's household property was sold at an auction. Articles were bought by R. D. Buford, A. S. Thomson, William Padgett, Jesse A. Coffee, Joseph A. Hunter, Charles Joplin, Nat Joplin, Thomas F. Goodman, and Wesley P. Andrews who bought a family history for ten cents. That family history, if available, would be a glorious addition to this writing. The homeplace (Coffee Place) was sold at auction by a Commissioner, and Jesse Ammon, the son, was the highest bidder and bought the land for \$5.35 per acre. The date of this land sale was Jan. 8, 1879, and again this homeplace remained in the hands of the Coffee family. Before this and several times during the life of Holcomb and later after his death, the place had been in the hands of trustees for lack of payment on land or accumulated debts. The trusts covered the whole or parts of the original 192 1/2 acres.

house there have been two or three houses. Parts of an old chimney bear witness to hearsay that there was a fire. After that an old house was there lived in by the Hunters. There exist pictures of the Hunter family taken in front of this house. Around the year 1920 Will Emmet Poindexter, who married Mary Lou Hunter, obtained the place and built a new house. Delaney Coffee, daughter of Holcomb L. Coffee married Joseph E. Hunter and was deeded this property behind the church by Jesse and Cleo.

The third house on the original place was north-northwest of the house number one and west of the Hunter house number two. There has been in the lifetime of the writer an old roadbed Hatcher Road that begins at the present 644 between house one and the family cemetery and runs north toward Sycamore Creek. Travelling north about one-half mile on this roadbed you find the site of an old house. The writer passed this house twice daily attending school at Cifax. People lived in the house at that time. Recently an on site inspection did not produce a single piece of old lumber or scrap from that house. However, deed book description of property lines are not clear enough to definitely declare this the property deeded to Ocie Andrews, daughter of Holcomb L. Coffee. A deed for twenty seven acres was made to her by Jesse and Cleo in similar manner as that made to Delaney Hunter. The road ran from near Coffee Cemetery to Lone Pine and Noell's Mill. The exact direction it took after crossing Sycamore Creek is not determined. An additional piece of information given by Velda Poindexter Noell, daughter of Mary Lou Hunter Poindexter, is that Alex Logwood who married Orrin Hunter and afterwards Cora Coffee at one time lived in this house on Hatcher Road. Hatcher Road has been a reference point a number of times in a study of this community. It was a year or more before it was substantially discovered. Finally it was found in Will Book L-11, page 216, Bedford County Clerk's Office.

Grandma Cleopatria, whom my father often lovingly or teasingly called Pate, is the one so important to the Coffee Place. When I knew her she could not hear very well. My father would say that if you asked her for money she could not hear it

During the ownership of Jesse 27 acres were deeded to Ocie, wife of Wesley Andrews, and 57 acres were deeded to another daughter of Holcomb and Eliza, Delaney, wife of Joseph Hunter. These tracts seemed to be partly purchased and partly inherited. During all this trading other tracts were bought. Without trying to untangle all the transactions, selling and buying plus deeds of trust, the end tally when the place left the Coffee family showed that there were 137 acres of land. On December 30, 1931, a deed was made to Frank E. Abbott for a 50 acre tract plus a 87 acre tract making a total of 137 acres. In one sense the place was not completely out of the possession of the Coffee family. Frank's wife was a granddaughter of Holcomb L. Coffee.

In the development of this story some relatives have commented on the subject of being poor. Why such a struggle to live and keep a home? The same things are happening today. The reasons or conditions are different. There is more opportunity now for education and more things to do to make a living. Also, then there were serious things happening in the country. In the 1840's there was a financial recession or worse. There was the slavery question leading to war. Holcomb died in 1860 at the beginning of the war between the states. Four of Eliza's sons went to war. One son had died. Frederick, her father, at some point gave her two slaves to help her and the children. It is difficult to think how this could help her at such a time. In 1860 Eliza had four children less than fifteen years old. The war between the states was on, and the country was unsettled economically and in other ways. The oldest son had died in 1853, husband in 1860, Mary E. in 1870, and Eliza Ann, wife and mother in 1876-77. There are no visible graves or headstones to mark where they lay. Somehow it is gratifying to find these words to place in memory those who were hit by these hardships of life. They passed on a spirit of determination and love for life.

The Coffee Homeplace

Jesse Ammon Coffee bought the place and lived there for less than ten years with his wife Cleo and children. He died of

pneumonia in 1887 at age forty-four. Cleo was left with nine children and one about to be born. At their father's death Walter the oldest, was 19, Eliza 18, Bettie 16, and Hugh 14. Somehow it seems that Hugh was the man of the house. Jesse, my father, who never had the privilege of knowing a good father himself, told me that brother Hugh was important in keeping the family together.

From the death of her husband Jesse until 1931 when the place was sold, a total of 44 years, Cleo kept firm control of the homeplace. The home was in possession of Jesse and/or Cleo approximately 53 years. The prior ownership by Holcomb and Eliza was for thirty-five years. Altogether the place was a Coffee home for approximately eighty-eight years.

It has been assumed that John Poindexter or the Poindexters built the house. This assumption can be questioned. The original was a log house probably with a lean-to. During the ten years that Jesse was living he built a two-story addition of two large rooms. While he was doing that he was compelled to add a large kitchen and dining room. This addition left an in-between room between the new part and the log part.

In 1909 Cleo had a well drilled or dug, whatever they did in those days, which called for a convenient well house room closed in by vertical slats. This was an attractive and useful addition. The old handwritten contract between Cleo and Coffman, the well digger, still exists. The thing that creates a question as to who built this house and who had lived in it is the description of the plat line of the property. The line passing the approximate point of the house says, "a nearby shop building". This could be a surveyor's mistake or the guessers mistake. Anyway, there was a building there when the boundary line was surveyed to carry out the Poindexter will.

The big question concerns who lived where. John Poindexter who sold the land to Holcomb had owned the land only a short while, but being a son of Samuel he could have lived there before he inherited it. Another good guess is that there were three houses, such as they were, on this tract of land. House number one is discussed above, and another was an old house below or behind the old Nazareth Church. On the site of this