

Coffey/Riley Family History: 1860-1930 Censuses

By Brooke Nelson, August 6, 2008

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Who this page is about, and how we're related

Great (x4) grandfather	James Shea =
Great (x3) grandparents	Julia Shea + James Denis Coffey =
Great (x2) grandparents	Mary Elizabeth Coffey + Peter Leo Riley =
Great-grandparents	William James Riley + Anastasia Cheverie =
Grandparents	William Stephen Riley + Mildred Ester Kearney =
Parents	Lynne Marie Riley + Peter Robert Nelson =
Self	Brooke Lee Nelson

James Dennis Coffey & Julia Shea

My great-great-grandfather and grandmother

JAMES DENNIS COFFEY, b. 1844, Ireland; d: 11/29/1885 Nashua, NH
JULIA SHEA, b. 1846, County Kerry, Ireland; d: 12/17/1932 Nashua, NH
Married 11/11/1865 in Nashua, NH

11 children:

- **MARY ELIZABETH COFFEY**, b. 1866; d: 1911
- **DANIEL J. COFFEY**, b. 1868
- **JAMES W. COFFEY**, b. 1870
- **JOHN W. COFFEY**, b. 1872
- **MARGARET L. COFFEY**, b. 1874
- **JULIA COFFEY**, b. 1876; d: 1943
- **NELLIE COFFEY**, b. 1878 - died in childhood
- **EDWARD COFFEY**, died in childhood
- **DELIA V. COFFEY**, b. 1881; d: 1926
- **JEREMIAH "JERRY" COFFEY**, b. 1883
- **ANNA "ANNIE" C. COFFEY**, b. 1885



Julia Shea Coffey (Not sure who the baby is)

Julia Shea reportedly arrived in the United States in 1857 at age 11. **James Dennis Coffey** owned a grocery store and delivered milk. He was killed by a train while delivering milk by horse and cart early one morning. The family learned of the accident when the horse returned home alone. Julia was left with 11 children. The youngest, Anna, was only eight months old. Julia continued to run the grocery store and raise her large family.

Peter Leo Riley & Mary Elizabeth Coffey

My great-great-grandfather and grandmother

PETER LEO RILEY, b. 4/?/1864 New Hampshire; d: 10/19/1934 Nashua, NH
MARY ELIZABETH COFFEY, b. 1/17/1866 Nashua, NH; d: 12/3/1911 Nashua, NH
Married 1/18/1888 in Nashua, NH

11 children:

- **WILLIAM JAMES RILEY**, b. 1888; d: 1950
- **MARION RILEY**, b. 1890
- **PETER LEO RILEY, JR.**, b. 1892
- **JOHN XAVIER RILEY**, b. 1894
- **HARRY RALPH RILEY**, b. 1896; d: 1981
- **RUTH LOUISE RILEY**, b. 1897; d: 1994
- **EUNICE M. RILEY**, b. 1902
- **ALTURA V. RILEY**, b. 1902; d: 1980
- **REBECCA RILEY**, b. 1905; d: 1993
- **HELEN RILEY**, b. 1905
- **RICHARD RILEY**, b. 1906



From left: Peter Leo Riley, Mary Elizabeth Coffey, William James Riley

Peter Leo Riley died in 1934 in Nashua, NH as a result of pneumonia as a result of severe burns suffered when he fell asleep smoking in an overstuffed chair. He was an iron moulder working in Nashua all his life. He married **Mary Elizabeth Coffey** on 1/18/1888 in Nashua. Their marriage license was taken out on her birthday, and they were married the next day. Their first child, **William James Riley**, was born nine months later on 9/21/1888.

John and Julia Shea, 1860 Census

1860 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 5

It is likely that John Shea is Julia's brother, and Bridgett is his wife; James is Julia's nephew, and the other Bridgett her sister.

John Shea	25	M	✓	Laborer
Bridgett "	20	F	✓	House Keeper
James "	9/2	M	✓	
Bridgett "	17	F	✓	works in factory
Julia "	14	F	✓	

Name	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
John Shea	25	Laborer	Ireland
Bridgett -	20	Housekeeper	Ireland
James -	9 mo.		N.H.
Bridgett -	17	Works in factory	Ireland
Julia -	14		Ireland

James Coffey and Julia Shea, 1870 Census

1870 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 5

Coffey James	26	M	✓	Irish Bohemia
Julia	26	F	✓	Keeping house
Gracy	5	F	✓	
Daniel	2	M	✓	

Name	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
Coffey, James	26*	Makes bobbins (?)	Ireland
- Julia	26*	Keeping house	Ireland
- Mary	5		N.H.
- Daniel	2		N.H.

* One of many inconsistencies in age in this and subsequent censuses

James Coffey and Julia Shea, 1880 Census

1880 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 5 - District 147

Address: 29 or 30 (?) High St., Nashua, NH

Coffey James	W 29 30		1	Laborer
Julia	W 29 30	Wife	1	Keep Home
Mary	W 31 14	Daughter	1	Cotton mill op.
Daniel	W 29 12	Son	1	at school
James	W 29 9	Son	1	at school
John	W 29 7	Son	1	at school
Margaret	W 31 6	Daughter	1	at school
Julia	W 29 4	Daughter	1	at school
Nellie	W 31 2	Daughter	1	at home
John	W 29 0	Hubband	1	at home

Name	Age	Relation	Occupation	Birthplace
Coffey, James	30*	head	Laborer	Ireland
- Julia	30*	wife	Keeps house	Ireland
- Mary	14	dau	Cotton mill op.	N.H.
- Daniel	12	son	At school	N.H.
- James	9	son	At school	N.H.
- John	7	son	At school	N.H.
- Margaret	6	dau	At school	N.H.
- Julia	4	dau	At school	N.H.
- Nellie	2	dau	At home	N.H.
- John	50	father	At home	Ireland

Coffey and Riley Families, 1900 Census

At the time of the 1900 Census, **Julia Shea Coffey** (my great-great-great grandmother), who was a widow, lived in Nashua, NH with five of her children: **James** (29), **Julia** (23), **Delia** (18), **Jerry** (16) and **Annie** (14). Next door lived her daughter **Mary** (33), her husband **Peter Riley** and their six children: **William** (10), **Marion** (10), **Leo** (7), **John** (5), **Harry** (3) and **Ruth** (7 months). (Mary and Peter would eventually have five more children, for

a total of 11.)

Julia's three other children also lived nearby in Nashua. **Daniel Coffey**, 32, and his wife Katherine had four children: Katherine (8), James (6), William (3) and Margaret (1). **John Coffey**, 27, and his wife Catherine had two children: Albert (8) and Celestine (4). **Margaret Coffey** and her husband Fred Davis did not yet have children. Julia had two other children, but they both died in childhood.

I can only imagine how wonderful it was for three generations of this large family to all live so close to each other. I am sure that the young cousins spent lots of time playing together, and spending time with their grandmother Julia and numerous aunts and uncles. Julia would be happy to know that the Riley family has maintained this closeness - I am lucky to have had the privilege to grow up surrounded my many aunts, uncles and cousins, just like Julia's grandchildren.

Julia (Shea) Coffey Family & Mary Coffey and Peter Riley Family

1900 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 5 - District 123

Peter and Mary lived next door to Mary's mother Julia and Mary's younger siblings.

Name	Relation	Birth	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Address: 32 High St., Nashua NH					
Coffey, Julia	head	Jan 1855?	45*	Ireland	Grocer (?)
- Julia	dau	Aug 1876	23	N.H.	Milliner
- James W.	son	Aug 1870	29	N.H.	Salesman
- Delia	dau	Dec 1881	18	N.H.	Shoe (?)
- Jerry	son	Jul 1883	16	N.H.	Grocer (?)
- Annie	dau	? 1885	14	N.H.	At school
Address: 34 High St., Nashua NH					
Riley, Peter L.	head	Apr 1864	36	N.H.	Iron moulder
- Mary E.	wife	Jan 1867	33	N.H.	
- William	son	Oct 1889	10	N.H.	At school
- Marion	dau	May 1890	10	N.H.	At school
- Leo	son	Nov 1892	7	N.H.	At school
- John	son	Nov 1894	5	N.H.	At school
- Harry	son	Jun 1897	3	N.H.	
- Ruth	dau	Oct 1899	7 m.	N.H.	

Name	Relation	Birth	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Address: 32 High St., Nashua NH					
Coffey, Julia	head	Jan 1855?	45*	Ireland	Grocer (?)
- Julia	dau	Aug 1876	23	N.H.	Milliner
- James W.	son	Aug 1870	29	N.H.	Salesman
- Delia	dau	Dec 1881	18	N.H.	Shoe (?)
- Jerry	son	Jul 1883	16	N.H.	Grocer (?)
- Annie	dau	? 1885	14	N.H.	At school
Address: 34 High St., Nashua NH					
Riley, Peter L.	head	Apr 1864	36	N.H.	Iron moulder
- Mary E.	wife	Jan 1867	33	N.H.	
- William	son	Oct 1889	10	N.H.	At school
- Marion	dau	May 1890	10	N.H.	At school
- Leo	son	Nov 1892	7	N.H.	At school
- John	son	Nov 1894	5	N.H.	At school
- Harry	son	Jun 1897	3	N.H.	
- Ruth	dau	Oct 1899	7 m.	N.H.	

Daniel Coffey Family

Daniel Coffey - Julia (Shea) Coffey's oldest son; Mary Elizabeth's brother.

1900 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 3 - District 121

Address: 8 Jackson St., Nashua NH

Name	Relation	Birth	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Address: 8 Jackson St., Nashua NH					
Coffey, Daniel	head	Apr 1868	32	Vermont	Iron moulder
- Katherine	wife	Dec 1867	32	Vermont	
- Katherine	dau	Dec 1891	8	N.H.	At school
- James	son	Apr 1894	6	N.H.	At school
- William	son	Oct 1896	3	N.H.	
- Margaret	dau	Jun 1898	1	N.H.	

Name	Relation	Birth	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Address: 8 Jackson St., Nashua NH					
Coffey, Daniel	head	Apr 1868	32	Vermont	Iron moulder
- Katherine	wife	Dec 1867	32	Vermont	
- Katherine	dau	Dec 1891	8	N.H.	At school
- James	son	Apr 1894	6	N.H.	At school
- William	son	Oct 1896	3	N.H.	
- Margaret	dau	Jun 1898	1	N.H.	

John Coffey Family

John W. Coffey - Julia (Shea) Coffey's third son; Mary Elizabeth's brother.

1900 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 9 - District 129

Address: 38 Central St., Nashua NH

Coffey, John	Head	M. N.	Aug. 1872	27
" Catherine	Wife	W. F.	Apr. 1873	27
" Albert	Son	W. N.	Feb. 1893	7
" Celestine	Daughter	W. F.	Dec 1895	4

Name	Relation	Birth	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Coffey, John	head	Aug 1872	27	N.H.	Clothing clerk
- Catherine	wife	Apr 1873	27	N.H.	
- Albert	son	Feb 1893	7	N.H.	At school
- Celestine	dau	Dec 1895	4	N.H.	At school

Margaret Coffey and Fred Davis Family

Margaret (Coffey) Davis - Julia (Shea) Coffey's second daughter; Mary Elizabeth's sister.

1900 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 1 - District 117

Address: 34 Merrimack St., Nashua NH

Davis Fred A.	Head	M. N.	Apr 1872	28
" Margaret L.	Wife	W. F.	June 1874	25

Name	Relation	Birth	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Davis, Fred A.	head	Apr 1872	28	N.H.	Manager
- Margaret L.	wife	June 1874	25	N.H.	

Coffey and Riley Families, 1910 Census

Julia (Shea) Coffey Family

1910 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 6 - District 167

Address: 20 Beech St., Nashua NH

Coffey Julia	Head - 07	F. N.	26	62
" Annie	Daughter	F. N.	25	
Riley Ruth	Granddaughter	F. N.	10	

Name	Relation	Age	Occupation
Coffey, Julia	head	62	
- Annie	dau	25	Teacher, public school
Riley, Ruth ¹	granddaughter	10	

¹ Ruth Riley is listed twice, at her grandmother's house and her parent's house. Maybe she was just visiting her grandmother when the census taker came?

Mary Coffey and Peter Riley Family

1910 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 7 - District 169

Address: 8 Marshall St. Nashua NH

Riley Peter	Head	M	46
Mary	Wife	F	42
William	Son	M	21
Marion	Daughter	F	19
Leo	Son	M	17
John	Son	M	15
Harry	Son	M	13
Ruth ¹	Son	F	11
Helen	Son	F	8
Eunice	Son	F	7
Rebecca	Daughter	F	4
Richard	Daughter	F	2

Name	Age	Occupation
Riley, Peter	46	Moulder, foundry
- Mary	42	
- William	21	Machinst, machine shop
- Marion	19	Paster, shoe factory
- Leo	17	Cutter, shoe factory
- John	15	
- Harry	13	
- Ruth ¹	11	
- Helen	8	
- Eunice	7	
- Rebecca	4	
- Richard	2	

Coffey and Riley Families, 1920 Census

Note: I could not find the Peter Leo Riley family for 1920 or 1930. His wife, Mary Elizabeth Coffey, died in 1911, and he died in 1934, so I don't know where he was between the time his wife died and the time he died.

Julia (Shea) Coffey and Delia (Coffey) Lycette Families

1920 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 6 - District 145

Address: 20 and 22 Beech St., Nashua NH

Coffey Delia	Head	F	72
Anna C.	Daughter	F	34
Riley Ruth R.	Granddaughter	F	21
Lycette John J.	Head	M	38
Delia	Wife	F	38
Julia	Daughter	F	8
John	Son	M	8 mo.

Name	Relation	Age	Occupation
Coffey, Julia	head	72	
- Anna C.	daughter	34	Teacher, school
Riley, Ruth R.	granddaughter	21	Clerk, dry goods
Lycette, John J.	Head	38	Plumber
- Delia	wife	38	
- Julia	daughter	8	
- John	son	8 mo.	

Daniel Coffey Family

1920 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 1 - District 137

Address: 51 Broad St., Nashua NH

Coffey, Daniel J.	Head	9		M	W	51	W
Burnham, Christine C.	Daughter			F	W	26	W
Coffey, William B.	Son			M	W	22	S
—, Margaret	Daughter			F	W	19	S
—, Katherine	Daughter			F	W	17	S
—, Olive	Daughter			F	W	13	S
Burnham, Andrew F.	Grandson			M	W	7	S

Name	Relation	Age	Marital	Occupation
Coffey, Daniel J.	head	51	widowed	Molder, iron shop
Burnham, Christine C.	daughter	26	widowed	Spinner, cotton mill
Coffey, William B.	son	22	single	Surveyor, lumber yard
- Margaret	daughter	19	single	Laborer, ? factory
- Katherine	daughter	17	single	
- Olive	daughter	13	single	
Burnham, Andrew F.	grandson	7	single	

James Coffey Family

1920 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 7 - District 146 (See full size >>)

Address: 11½ Marshall St., Nashua NH

Coffey, James	Head	2		M	W	44	
—, Mary	Wife			F	W	45	
—, Lillian	Niece			F	W	24	

Name	Relation	Age	Occupation
Coffey, James	head	44	Machinist, foundry
- Mary	wife	45	
M?, Lillian	niece	24	? grocery store

John Coffey Family

1920 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 8 - District 148

Address: 392 Main St., Nashua NH

Coffey, John W.	Head	1	O F	M	W	47	
—, Katherine F.	Wife			F	W	46	
—, Albert G.	Son			M	W	27	
—, John Paul	Son			M	W	15	

Name	Relation	Age	Occupation
Coffey, John W.	head	47	Retail merchant, men's clothing
- Katherine F.	wife	46	
- Albert G.	son	27	Doctor, dentistry
- John Paul	son	15	

William Riley and Anastasia Cheverie Family

1920 U.S. Census: Massachusetts - Essex - Beverly

Address: 5 Grant St., Beverly MA

Riley, William J.	Head	3	R	M	W	31	
—, Anastasia E.	Wife			F	W	26	

Name	Relation	Age	Occupation
Riley, William J.	head	31	Shoemaking
- Anastasia E.	wife	26	

Helen Riley and Chester Dame Family

1920 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - Ward 8 - District 148

Address: 15 Dunstable Rd., Nashua NH

Dame, Charles E.	Head	1	O F	M	W	56	
—, Prudence	Wife			F	W	52	
—, Chester	Son			M	W	24	
—, Helen	Daughter-in-law			F	W	19	

Name	Relation	Age	Occupation
Dame, Charles E.	head	56	Bookkeeper, ? foundry
- Prudence	wife	52	
- Chester.	son	24	Plumber
- Helen	daughter-in-law	19	

Coffey and Riley families, 1930 Census

In 1930, **Julia** was 80 and shared her home with her widowed son-in-law John Lycette (husband of **Delia**, who died in 1926) and two grandchildren, her single daughter **Anna** (45), widowed daughter **Julia** (53) and orphaned grandson, **Richard Riley** (23). Julia's three granddaughters, **Ruth**, **Eunice**, and **Helen**, who were married with their own families, also lived in Nashua.

Julia (Shea) Coffey Family

1930 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - District 95

Address: 20 Beech St. Nashua, NH

Lycette, John	Head	R 530		70	M	W	49	Wd.
— Julia	Daughter-in-l			✓	F	W	18	S
— John Jr.	Son			✓	M	W	11	S
Coffey, Julia	Head-in-l	O 85000 R	No	✓	F	W	80	Wd.
— Anna C.	Daughter			✓	F	W	45	S
Riley, Richard	Grandson			✓	M	W	23	S
Mansfield, Julia	Daughter			✓	F	W	53	Wd.

Name	Relation	Age	Marital	Birthplace	Occupation
John Lycette ¹	head	49	widowed	Mass.	Proprietor, plumbing est.
- Julia	dau	18	single	Mass.	none
- John Jr.	son	11	single	N.H.	none
Coffey, Julia	head	80	widowed	Irish Free State	none
- Anna C.	dau	45	single	N.H.	School teacher
Riley, Richard ²	grandson	23	single	N.H.	Cutter, shoe factory
Mansfield, Julia ³	dau	53	widowed	N.H.	none

¹ Julia's son-in-law - his wife, Delia Coffey, died in 1926

² Richard Riley is the youngest son of Peter Riley and Mary Coffey, who died in 1911.

³ This is Julia Coffey, whose husband, John Mansfield, died in 1927. She had no children.

Ruth Riley and Harold Herrin Family

1930 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - District 95

Address: 14 Maple St., Nashua, NH

Herrin, Harold J.	Head	R 845	R	70	M	W	27	
— Ruth L.	Wife-in-l			✓	F	W	27	
— John H.	Son			✓	M	W	11	

Name	Relation	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Herrin, Harold J.	head	27	Maine	Manager, tire shop
- Ruth L.	wife	27	N.H.	none
John H.	son	11 mo.	N.H.	none

Eunice Riley and Emile Lemery Family

1930 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - District 97

Address: 126 Vine St., Nashua NH

Lemery, Emile H.	Head	R 35		70	M	W	27	
— Eunice M.	Wife-in-l			✓	F	W	27	
— Eugene A.	Son			✓	M	W	9	

Name	Relation	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Lemery, Emile H.	head	27	N.H.	Stitcher, shoe shop
- Eunice M.	wife	27	N.H.	none
- Eugene A.	son	9 mo.	N.H.	none

Helen Riley and Chester Dame Family

1930 U.S. Census: New Hampshire - Hillsborough - Nashua - District 102

Address: 15 Eastman St., Nashua NH

Dame, Charles	Head	0	4600	R	no	M	W	66
—, Prudence	Wife-H				V	F	W	62
—, Chester H.	Son				V	M	W	35
—, Helen	Dau-in-law				V	F	W	25
—, Robert	Grandson				V	M	W	9
—, Edward	Grandson				V	M	W	8
—, George A.	Grandson				V	M	W	4
—, Roger A.	Grandson				V	M	W	2

Name	Relation	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Dame, Charles	head	66	N.H.	Bookkeeper, office
- Prudence	wife	62	Mass.	none
- Chester H.	son	35	Mass.	Plumber
- Helen ¹	dau-in-law	25	N.H.	none
- Robert	grandson	9	N.H.	none
- Edward	grandson	8	N.H.	none
- George A.	grandson	4	N.H.	none
- Roger A.	grandson	2	N.H.	none

¹ This is Helen Riley, who lived with her father-in-law, mother-in-law, husband and children.