# 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 N V - 9 Lobner
Bridgett "	20 3 Mouse Hechen
James "	72 M
Bridgett .	17 3 a works in Jacking
Julia .	14 3 ~

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

Coffy James	26	2	n	makin Bollins
- Julia	26	4	2	Keeping house
- many				
- Dami	. 2	2	2	1

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

<sup>\*</sup> 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

Coffy James 1 7 30		/	Lulner
Julia N 580	nife	./	KeepHon
- may h 5,14	Sayhta	/ 1	at fehrer
- Lames to h 9	Line	7	atschine
- John Wm7	Len		at Schul
- mayer h 316	Janght	44	at School
- Julia NJ4	Benght	,	attchive
- fullie WF 2	Father		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 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.

ledby Rulia of	o Head	n	7	0-	1850	45	Na
Golfen Julia	Mant	·w	1.	au	1116	28	8
- Farmes We	son	40	cha	aug.	-		_
-Delia	Saught	-	*	Dec	160	18	5
- Juny	son		44	aul	1983	_	_
- Annie 91	dan.		À.	amen	1995	W	S
Rily Peter J. P.	8 Head	4		apr	1864	36	m
Meren E.	mil	-	*	100	1867	33	14
- William	un	-	-	Coc	1505	10	1
- Marion	dau	-	7	heary	1884	10	1
- du	ion .	-	de		1872		
- John	son	-	411	No.	1419	5	5
- Hours	in	-	44	u	/212	3	5
- Ruth	dayalete		*	Dec	1823	19/	

Name	Relation	Birth	Age	Rirthnlace	Occupation				
Address: 32 Hig		-	Agc	Dirtiplace	Occupation				
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 Hig	gh St., Nash	nua NH							
Dilan Datas I	la a a al	A 10C4	20	NI II	Iron				
Riley, Peter L.	head	Apr 1864	36	N.H.	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
Coffey, Daniel	head	Apr 1868	32	Vermont	Iron
				vermont	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

Colley John 754	Heange	7. M	auc	1872	27
Coffey John Hy	wite	77.75.	efr.	1813	27
" albert	den	m.m	Feb.	1893	7
Celestine	Sough	r. 4.	dec	1895	4

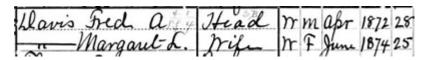
Name	Relation	Birth	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Coffey, John	head	Aug 1872	27	N.H.	Clothing clerk
- Catherine	wife	Apr 1873	27	N.H.	
- Albert	son	Feb 1893	7	N.H.	At school
- Celestine	dau	Dec 1895	4	N.H.	At school

#### 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



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	Herst of I Www
annie	Doughter FW 25
Riley auth	Gandanglite TW 10

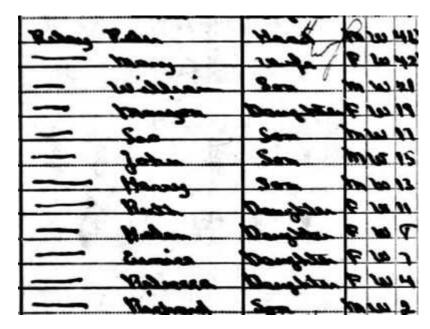
Name	Relation	Age	Occupation
Coffey, Julia	head	62	
- Annie	dau	25	Teacher, public school
Riley, Ruth <sup>1</sup>	granddaughter	10	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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



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 <sup>1</sup>	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

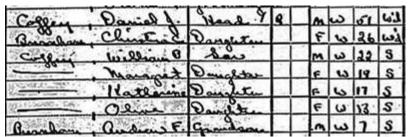
Collei	Chelia	Beadl	97	7	7/	72
	muas.	Dengliter		7-	X	34
Belen	Ruth 2	Grand Dought		F	1	21
Leute	Cohn &	Head	RI	m	X	38
F	Delia	Vile		17-	1	38
	Pulia	Smaller		F	x	.8
	Colin.	Lon		m	11	8

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



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

Her. Demo	Delisi 2/8	- Mhr 14
- Thing	-will	FW 45
Many Gillians	neice	TW 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

Colley John W	Head	10	F	M	W	47
- Katherine F	Viche	- /		Ē	w	46
- albert	Son			H	W	27
- gohn (Brul	Som			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

aila William	2.	sead 3	R	14	w	31
- anastasia	Ë.	mile	14	F	w	24

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	. Chas &	Head!	0	F	M	w	56
	Frederice	wife			F	w	5~
	, Chester	Som			M	w	2#
	Nelen	Day of the it			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

Sycette, John	Thead	R	\$30		700	m	W	49	Wd.
- Julia	Pauge to-H		1000		V	7	W	18	S
- golmin	Son			1.5	V	m	10	11	S
Coffey Julia	Thead-It	0	\$5000	P	no	3	W	80	W
anna C.	Daughter		1	Ľ	V	3	W	45	S
Piley, Richard	Grandson				V	m	w	23	15
Manofield Julia	Daughter	L			V	7	W	53	M4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Julia's son-in-law - his wife, Delia Coffey, died in 1926

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This is Julia Coffey, whose husband, John Mansfield, died in 1927. She had no children.

Name	Relation	Age	Marital	Birthplace	Occupation
John Lycette <sup>1</sup>	head	49	widowed	Mass.	Proprietor,
Joini Lycette	Heau	49	widowed	IVIdSS.	plumbing est.
- Julia	dau	18	single	Mass.	none
- John Jr.	son	11	single	N.H.	none
Caffan India	head	80	widowed	Irish Free	
Coffey, Julia	nead	80	widowed	State	none
- Anna C.	dau	45	single	N.H.	School
- Anna C.	uau	45	single	IN.⊓.	teacher
Riley, Richard <sup>2</sup>	arandsan	22	single	N.H.	Cutter, shoe
Kiley, Kichard	grandson	23	single	IN.⊓.	factory
Mansfield,	da	- 2	:	N	
Julia <sup>3</sup>	dau	53	widowed	N.H.	none

#### Ruth Riley and Harold Herrin Family

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

Address: 14 Maple St., Nashua, NH

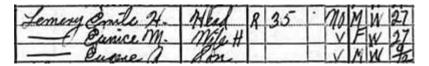
Herrin Harold a	Bead	Q 845	R	No	m	W	27
- Ruth S.	Wile-14	F 138		V	3	W	27
- John 14.	Son			IV	m	W	物

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



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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Richard Riley is the youngest son of Peter Riley and Mary Coffey, who died in 1911.

# Helen Riley and Chester Dame Family

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

Address: 15 Eastman St., Nashua NH

Dane, Charles	Head	0 46	00 R	ho	М	W	66
- Brudence	Wile-H			V	F	W	12
, Chestre H	San			V	m	W	35
- Helen	Davelturile			V	14	6	25
- Robert	Send don		400	V	M	W	9
- Coment	brend don		10	V	m	W	18
- Sunge a.	Grendler			V	h	W	43
- Rogel a	brandson			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 <sup>1</sup>	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

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  This is Helen Riley, who lived with her father-in-law, mother-in-law, husband and children.