

Chronology Report

Name: **Mary Coffay**

Parents: **John Coffay, Sr. and Catherine Hanley^{4,15}**
Life Range 1840 Jan-1908 Feb

1840 Jan Birth: Roscommon, County Roscommon, Ireland.
1840 Jan 26 Baptism: Roscommon, County Roscommon, Ireland. **Mary Coffay**
Parish: Roscommon
County: Roscommon
Roman Catholic
Father: John Coffay
Mother: Catherine Hanelly
Sponsors: Martin Coffay, Ann Coffay
Priest: Fr. Martin Rush¹

1853 Apr 5 Emigration from Ireland: Catherine Coffay emigrated with her children. They were passengers aboard the ship "Jane Anderson" which sailed from Liverpool to Baltimore.
Catherine Coffay, age 40
William Manion, age 16
Mary Coffay, age 14
Patrick Coffay, age 11
Catherine Coffay, age 4
John Coffay, age 2⁶

1863 Apr 6 Marriage: **Thomas Lee.**
Baltimore City Marriage Record
Thomas Lee and Mary Coffey¹³

Abt 1864 Son born (#1): **John H. Lee.** Born in Baltimore,,Maryland USA.
Abt 1866 Daughter born (#2): **Mary Ann Lee.** Born in Baltimore,,Maryland USA. Died on 1940 Jan 8 in Baltimore,,Maryland USA.

Abt 1868 Son born (#3): **Hugh Lee.** Born in Baltimore,,Maryland USA.
1870 Aug 9 Census: 8th Ward. Baltimore,,Maryland USA.
Hugh Lee, 33, male, white, laborer, born in Ireland, mother & father of foreign birth.
Mary Lee, 35, female, white, born in Ireland, mother & father of foreign birth, cannot write.
Thomas Lee, 26, male, white, laborer, born in Ireland, mother & father of foreign birth.
Mary Lee, 28, female, white, born in Ireland, mother & father of foreign birth, cannot write.
John Lee, 6, male, white, born in Maryland, mother & father of foreign birth.
Mary Lee, 5, female, white, born in Maryland, mother & father of foreign birth.
Hugh Lee, 3, male, white, born in Maryland, mother & father of foreign birth.
Note: Hugh Lee, age 33, was likely the brother of Thomas Lee, age 26.
Thomas Lee, Mary, and their children were sharing the residence with Hugh and his wife, also named Mary.⁷

1873 Apr 8 Son born (#4): **Francis "Frank" Lee.** Born in Baltimore,,Maryland USA. Died on 1940 Oct 19 in Baltimore,,Maryland USA.

1874 Mar 29 Daughter born (#5): **Sarah Catherine Lee.** Born in Baltimore,,Maryland USA.

1879 Jun Son born (#6): **Thomas Lee.** Born in Baltimore,,Maryland USA.
1880 Jun 14 Census: Baltimore,,Maryland USA.
1) Thomas Lee, white, male, age 41, married, laborer, crippled - paralyzed, born in Ireland, father's birthplace Ireland, mother's birthplace Ireland.
2) **Mary Lee,** white, female, age 42, wife, keeping house, cannot read , cannot write, born in Ireland, mother's birthplace Ireland, father's birthplace Ireland.
3) John H. Lee, white, male, age 16, son, single, at school, born in Maryland.
4) Mary Lee, white, female, age 14, daughter, at school, born in Maryland.

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Name: **Mary Coffay**

Attended school within the Census year.

5) Hugh Lee, white, male, age 12, son, at school, born in Maryland. Attended school within the Census year.

6) Frank Lee, white, male, age 9, son, at school, born in Maryland. Attended school within the Census year.

7) Thomas Lee, white, male, age 1, son, born in Maryland.

Address: Townsend St. This street was one block south of North Ave. near Charles st.

NOTE: This census indicates that Mary's husband was paralyzed, probably due to some kind of accident. Thomas was listed in the Baltimore City Directories of 1875 - 1878 as a laborer, so we can infer that his disability (paralyzed) occurred within a year or two prior to this census.⁸

After 1880
1884 Oct 18

Death of Spouse:
Police Record:

Thomas Lee. In Baltimore,,Maryland USA.
Baltimore,,Maryland USA.

Offender: **Mary Lee**, 1:25 a.m.

Officer: Brown

Offence: Charged with being Drunk. Disorderly, dismissed.

Directly beneath the above record, on the same page, is an additional record:

Offender: **Mary Lee**

Officer: Brown. Witness: **Michael Coffay**, Boundary Ave. near Falls Road.
Off. Brown.

Offence: Charged on the acct. of **Michael Coffay** with being an habitually disorderly person (not insane). Committed to the Maryland House of Correction for three months.

NOTE: Michael Coffay was Mary Lee's youngest brother. Also, on the same day at the exact same time, 1:25 a.m., a William Manion was also recorded on the same page of this police record

Offender: **William Manion**

Officer: Bailey

Offence: Drunk and Disorderly on the Street.

Fine: 50, Cost: 1.50.

Manion committed in default of payment of fine and costs.

NOTE: This William Manion could have been Mary Lee's half-brother, William Manion, or William's son, William Mannion, Mary Lee's nephew.⁹

1884 Oct 21

Prison Record:

Maryland House of Correction. Jessup, Anne Arundel, Maryland, USA.

Name: **Mary Lee**

Number: 3009

Place of Nativity: Ireland

Age: 41

Complexion: White

Hair: Black

Eyes: Gray

Stature: 5'1 1/2

Place of Residence: N 74 Charles St. Ave.

Occupation: Dom

Where Committed:

Crime: Drunk and disorderly

Date of Reception: Oct. 21, 1884

Duration of Servitude: 3 mos.

Expiration of Servitude: Jan. 19, 1885

How Occupied in Prison: Laundry

When Discharged: Jan 9, 1885

NOTE: Mary's sentence was reduced by 10 days.¹⁰

1886 Mar

Prison Record:

Maryland House of Correction. Jessup, Anne Arundel, Maryland, USA.

Name: **Mary Lee**

Name: **Mary Coffay**

Number: 4128
 Place of Nativity: Ireland
 Age: 45
 Complexion: White
 Hair: Dk Brown
 Eyes: Blue
 Stature: 5'1
 Place of Residence: 148 Boundary Ave., Balto.
 Occupation: Laundress
 Where Committed: Balto. Co.
 Crime: H. Dis. (*habitually disorderly*)
 Date of Reception: Mar. 29, 1886
 Duration of Servitude: 3 mos.
 Expiration of Servitude: Jun. 29, 1886
 How Occupied in Prison: Laundry
 When Discharged: Jun 19, 1886

NOTE: Mary's sentence was reduced by 10 days. Also, Mary's children were probably living with relatives on Mount Royal Hill. In the 1886 Baltimore City Directory, her sons. John and Frank Lee were listed as laborers living on Mt. Royal Hill.¹⁰

1889 May 13 Accident: Sun Paper. Baltimore,,Maryland USA.
 Mrs. **Mary Lee**, 45 years old, a servant in the home of Mrs. Browning, 118 West North Avenue, fell through a skylight from the second to the first floor. Her skull was fractured and other injuries received. She is at the City Hospital in a precarious condition.

NOTE: This could possibly be Mary "Coffay" Lee. The address at 118 North Avenue was very close to the address in the 1886 prison record, 148 Boundary Avenue. Boundary was North Avenue's previous name. This area was also very close to Mount Royal (Grasshopper Hill). The 1886 prison record listed Mary's usual occupation as: laundress. It makes sense that Mary was working as a servant (because of her husband's disability) in the wealthy homes along North Avenue - yet very close to her family on Mount Royal Hill. Her age is given as 45 and although she was listed as age 45 on the prison record of 1886, three years prior, this could still be her.¹¹

1896 Jun 19 Death of Father: **John Coffay, Sr.** In Baltimore,,Maryland USA.⁴
 1899 Jul 5 Death of Mother: **Catherine Hanley.** In Baltimore,,Maryland USA.⁵
 1900 Jun 2 Census: Baltimore,,Maryland USA.

Address: Mount Hope Retreat
Mary Lee, insane patient, white, female, date of birth - unknown, age 58, widow, born in Ireland, both parents born in Ireland.
NOTE: The census record has "single" as marriage status. This was crossed out and "widow" was written over. The record also says "0 children." Other widowed patients on the same record are also marked as 0 children. I think this was **Mary Coffay Lee**. The age is about right as well as birth country for Mary and parents. With the troubles Mary faced, this was probably where she ended up. I may be wrong, but no other records turned up for Mary. Mount Hope Retreat (formerly called "Asylum") was run by the Sisters of Charity. It was originally right next to the Mount Royal Hill area and later moved to Reisterstown Road.¹²

1908 Feb Death: Baltimore,,Maryland USA. Certificate of Death - Maryland

Mary Lee
 Died at Mt. Hope Retreat, Baltimore County
 Date of Death: Thursday, Feb. 20, 1908, age 66, female, white, birthplace: Ireland. Occupation: none, widowed
 Name of husband: Don't know

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Name: **Mary Coffay**

Father's name and birthplace: Don't know

Mother's name and birthplace: Don't know

Name of person giving information: Recds Mt. Hope Retreat

Cause of Death: Primary: Chronic Mania. How long? Many years

Immediate Cause: Pneumonia. How long? 48 hrs.

Name of Physician: Frank J. Flannery, Mt. Hope Retreat.

NOTE: It's possible that this was Mary Coffay Lee, but it's not certain due to the missing information on the record. The information came from the Mount Hope Retreat files, and it's suprising that they had so little data on their patient.²

1908 Feb 22 Burial: Baltimore,,Maryland USA. Buried in New Cathedral Cemetery, Section B, Lot 8, Grave 1³

Source Citations

1. Irish History Foundation, "Roscommon Heritage & Genealogy Co.," database.
2. Maryland Board of Health, *Baltimore County Certificate of Death* (Baltimore County Maryland).
3. *New Cathedral Cemetery Records* (Interments and plat books, 1793 - 1977, Baltimore, Maryland. All records are on microform at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. The plat records only are available at New Cathedral Cemetery, Baltimore).
4. *Baltimore Sun Paper Death Notices - Enoch Pratt Library Archives*; microfilm.
5. Baltimore City Health Department, Maryland, death certificate ; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.
6. Ancestry.com. Baltimore Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1872 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004., "Original data: Baltimore, Maryland. Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Baltimore, 1820-1891. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. Micropublication M255, rolls # 1-19."
7. 1870 U.S. census, Baltimore City, Maryland population schedule; digital images; citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M593.
8. 1880 U.S. census population schedule, Baltimore City 8th Ward, 5th Precinct, enumeration district (ED) 83; digital images; citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T9.
9. Baltimore City Police Department, *Baltimore City Police Department (Criminal Docket, Northwestern District) 1881 - 1900* (Maryland State Archives Citation: CM1260 - 8), October 18, 1884.
10. Maryland House of Correction Prisoners Record (Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD).
11. *The Baltimore Sun*, online archives.
12. 1900 U.S. census, Baltimore City, Maryland population schedule, Baltimore, Mount Hope Retreat, enumeration district (ED) 329; digital images, *Ancestry.com*; citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T623.
13. *Baltimore City Court of Common Pleas Marriage Records 1865 -1919* (Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD).
14. Baltimore City Health Department, Maryland, death certificate no. F64771 (1940); Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.
15. Genealogybank.com, "An Unsightly Landmark," *The Baltimore Sun*, June 23, 1896, online archives, p. 10.