

COOK, YANCEY, KING & GALLOWAY

600 COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101

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SIDNEY M. COOK (1962)
CHARLES D. EGAN (1969)
CLARE C. CLARK (1978)

CLARENCE L. YANCEY	F. DRAKE LEE, JR.
BENJAMIN C. KING	CHARLES G. TUTT
SIDNEY E. COOK	JOHN F. CASSIBRY
SIDNEY B. GALLOWAY	JOHN D. COLLINSWORTH
EDWIN L. BLEWER, JR.	W. DERYL MEDLIN
JAMES ROBERT JETER	FRANK M. DODSON
STEVEN H. BEADLES	ALBERT M. HAND, JR.
HERSCHEL E. RICHARD, JR.	JERALD R. HARPER
STEPHEN R. YANCEY	
DEWEY W. CORLEY	
SAMUEL W. CAVERLEE	

May 21, 1980

Mr. Dennis John Yancey
Box 207
Aberdeen, Idaho 83210

Dear Mr. Yancey:

I have your letter of inquiry concerning the Yancey family and I am glad to know of the work that you are doing in tracing the Yancey line. I have been doing genealogical work for over 50 years and have accumulated quite a bit of data concerning our family. I have always heard that all white Yanceys are kin, just as you suggest. As far as I know, they came into Virginia and most of them still live in the South. You will notice from the forms which I completed and am returning herewith, that my great-grandfather was Edwin Washington Yancey, who brought our family name to Louisiana from Virginia. He was born in Cumberland County, Virginia, the son of Robert Jennings Yancey. Your chart does not go back further than that. Robert Jennings Yancey was born about 1776 and my belief is that he was born either in Cumberland or Louisa County, Virginia. He was the son of Tyree Yancey and Sarah Jennings, who married on January 9, 1775. The father of Tyree Yancey was Archelaus Yancey and his wife Mary, who lived in Louisa County. My research leads me to believe that the father of Archelaus was Charles and that this was the second or third Charles in our line. Apparently, we are descended from the Charles Yancey who first appears in Virginia as an immigrant in 1674.

I have done extensive work in the DAR Library in Washington, in the State Archives at Richmond and have visited more than once courthouses in such counties as Cumberland, Louisa and Goochland. The Yanceys might have moved from Hanover County to Louisa County (in earlier days these two counties were known as King William County). In addition, I have corresponded with a great number of Yanceys and the best informed one that I know, at this time, is Mrs. Jean H. Walker, 3101 Walling Drive, Austin, Texas, 78705. She is descended from Robert J. Yancey, Jr., who was a brother of my Edwin Washington Yancey.

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Mr. Dennis John Yancey
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I have heard all my mature life the legend about the four Yancey brothers coming to Virginia about 1640 or 1642 and some say that they came with their cousin, Sir William Berkeley, a Colonial Governor of Virginia. In all the research that I have done, I cannot find anything to substantiate this. I have twice visited Merioneth County, Wales, where the Yancey brothers were supposed to have come from and the word I get is that there is no record of any Yanceys in the archives of the county. Incidentally, they have recently renamed the counties of Wales and I think that perhaps Merioneth no longer exists by that name. The county town is Dolgellau which I have visited. The legend is that the name was Nanney in Wales. The Nanneys are supposed to have lived at Nannau. At Nannau today is a handsome old three-story residence of large dimension which was built about 1775. The Nanney family had lived at this place since the 1100's and this is supposed to be the third house erected on the site. The Nanney name was discontinued when the line ran out of men. Two Nanney daughters married men from the Vaughn family and when I first visited Nannau the great house and a large estate of land was owned by a retired brigadier by the name of Vaughn. His wife was a lovely person known as the Honorable Mrs. Vaughn because her father was a nobleman of the Monck family. She was much more interested in the history of Nannau and the Nanney family than was the brigadier. The family has been of quite some prominence in the affairs of Northern Wales for centuries. One of the most colorful was Hue Nanney Hen. More than one of the Nanneys served in Parliament and one was a Baronet.

As far as I have been able to find out, there were no Nanneys who left Merioneth County along about the 1640's. I have had correspondence with members of the Nanney family and they, while being sympathetic, have not been of any real help. One suggested an interesting possibility, namely, that one or more of the illegitimate sons of Hue Nanney Hen (or Senior) might have come to this country. His legitimate sons are all accounted for in Wales and England. His children were of the right age to have left for America in the 1640's, during the turbulent times in England surrounding the reign of Charles II, so I have to confess that I have nothing of substance that goes beyond my Charles Yancey of 1674 in Virginia.

COOK, YANCEY, KING & GALLOWAY

Mr. Dennis John Yancey
May 21, 1980
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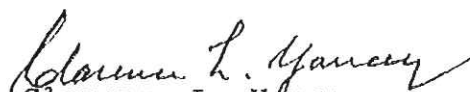
As you no doubt know, the Yancey family was of considerable prominence in Virginia. They were generally large landowners and men of substance and patriotism. Many fought in the Revolutionary War. As you will recall, William Lowndes Yancey was known as the orator of secession. He served in Congress during the period of the great debates on slavery. He was quite gifted as a speaker but was a real hot head. He fought a bloodless duel with Representative Clingman of North Carolina. I think that perhaps this arose as a result of Yancey flinging an inkwell across the Chamber of the House of Representatives during the course of a hot debate with Clingman. This Yancey married a Miss Bird, as I recall, who was an extensive landowner of Alabama and Yancey's career took place when he resided in that state. There is a Yancey County and a Yanceyville in North Carolina, both of which I have visited. I think that both were named for Bartlett Yancey, an early member of Congress from North Carolina.

As to my own line, I enclose herewith copy of my biography as it appears in Who's Who in America. My father was a businessman of Sicily Island, Louisiana. He was Stephen Richard Yancey. His father (my grandfather) was Captain Richard Edwin Yancey who was a merchant, businessman and steamboat owner of Jonesville, Louisiana. His father was a Methodist minister who was born in Cumberland County, Virginia, and moved to Louisiana by way of Tennessee. His older brother was Robert J. Yancey who, in the early 1800's, edited a paper in Oxford, North Carolina. Edwin W. went to work for him as a young man and when Robert J. moved to Lagrange, Tennessee, Edwin W. went with him and they started the newspaper known as the Western Whig. Lagrange was a small rivertown on the Wolf River in Shelby County, Tennessee, near the present site of Memphis. It is said that the Western Whig was a forerunner of the Commercial Appeal of Memphis. After his retirement, Reverend Edwin W. Yancey died near Jena, Louisiana.

If you publish the material which you are now gathering, I would be much interested in having a copy.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,


Clarence L. Yancey

CLY:fw

Delgellian

Delgellian

We visited Vron Goch, a country settlement, walked around the church yard (saw no Nanney headstones), and talked to a farmer who lived in an ancient stone house, but he had never heard of the Nanneys. We then drove to Delgellian (or Delagellian) and found and found Nannau about three miles away. It is an estate of a thousand or so acres and has an imposing three story stone Georgian house on top of a hill and owned by Brigadier Charles Hilory Vaughan, a direct descendant of Cadwgan, who built the first house here in 1100 and was called the first Lord of Nannau. The present house is the third built on the spot and was erected in 1796 by Robert Vaughan.

The name Nanney derives from Nannau which, in Welsh, is the plural of Nant meaning stream. In the house is a treasure of art work, including portraits of Hugh Nanney the younger, born 1688, grandson of Hugh Nanney Hen (or Senior) who built a very large house here in 1681, and many other members of the Nanney and Vaughan families. The last owner by the name of Nanney was Hugh Nanney (1661-1701). Having no male heir, Nannau passed through his twin daughters, first to the Vaughans of Goresgedol and then to the Vaughans of Hongwrt. It has been owned and occupied by the Vaughans ever since.

Vaughan

Brigadier is retired from the British Army and is a busy country squire. His wife, Honorable Mrs. Mary Patricia Monck Vaughan, is most attractive and well informed. She is the sister of Viscount Monck.

The Nanneys and the Vaughans have figured prominently in the history of Wales and Britain and are among the most prominent Welsh families. Mrs. Vaughan said there were seven Hugh Nanney. The last Hugh Nanney was a Colonel of the Militia and Vice-Admiral of North Wales. Robert Howell Vaughan (1724-1792) was High Sheriff of Merionethshire and was created Baronet in 1791. On the death of the third Baronet Vaughan, the title disappeared in the absence of an heir. Sir Robert Williams Vaughan was a member of Parliament for 44 years. Major General John Vaughan (1871-1956) was succeeded as proprietor by Brigadier Vaughan.

The Vaughans were not acquainted with any Yanceys of America, and she expressed much interest in what had happened to the members of the Nanney family who had gone to America. The Blue, rampant lion of the family arms was in evidence on Nanney portraits, and she was interested that this was the Arms of the Yanceys. She has heard of the motto "Ne touchez pas le chat sans avoir le gant" which I have seen on the Yancey Arms.

Clarence L. Yancey

February 6, 1962

W.H. Norwood
1818 Sycamore
Gorsioana, Texas

COPY COPY COPY

COOK, CLARA, EGAN, YANCY, & KING
Attorneys

Shreveport
2/14/62

Mr. James D. Yancy, Jr.

I inclose copy of memoirs of E. W. Yancy and my own memoir the Yancys of Wales after my visit there Xmas.

In your letter to me of 10/10/60, page 2, you refer to a Robert Yancy who was killed at Vicksburg in 1863. On last page of E.W.Y. memoirs, he mentions his son Robert Yancy finding a soldier's grave (died 11-6-62). Could this be the same?
in 1862
11/8/62

Regards,

Clarence L. Yancy

* - - - - *

I have a son, ✓ Stephen Richard Yancy II who is spending a year in England as a student in Lancashire, which is a boy's Public school. I visited him Xmas, spending two weeks. I had been to England twice before but never had the chance to go to Wales to see about the Nanny family, which is supposed, as you know, to be the fore runner of the Yancys of America.

I had understood that the four famous Yancy ^(Nanny) Brothers, who supposedly came to America about 1642 with their cousin, William Berkeley, Colonial Governor of Virginia, lived at Vron Goch in Merionethshire, near Bala. I had also understood about Nanny deriving from the place-name, Nannau in Merioneth. So Steve and I, after duly inspecting such landmarks as Hadrian's Wall, Durham Castle and Cathedral, The York Minister and Chester, crossed over into North Wales and made it into Bala where we spent the night at the White Lion Royal Hotel. The Manager, Mr. Souple, a Scott, was an unusually fine person and intelligent person. He had heard of the Nanny family and said that no body by that name had lived in the area for many years. He introduced me to an old resident, Mr. Roberts, who told me many tales of the Nannys and suggested that I go to Nannau, some 15 miles southwest, as some Nanny descendants still lived there. He knew Vron Goch, and said it was only four miles northwest of Bala, but said that there were no people there who know of the Nanny family, that the old Quaker Meeting house still stands, and many quakers moved from there to Pennsylvania with William Penn. He asked if the Nannys were Quakers, and I told him that I had never heard of any members of the family being of that faith and always understood that the four brothers who came to America, arrived in Virginia and (not) Pennsylvania.

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LAW OFFICES OF

COOK, CLARK, EGAN, YANCEY & KING

COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

POST OFFICE BOX 77
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SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

SIDNEY M. COOK (1988)
CLARK C. CLARK
CHARLES D. EGAN
CLARENCE L. YANCEY
BENJAMIN O. KING
SIDNEY E. COOK
FRANK M. COOK
SIDNEY B. GALLOWAY
JAMES E. CLARK
EDWIN L. BLEWER, JR.

November 25, 1963

County Archivist
Merioneth County
Dolgelley
Merioneth, Wales,
United Kingdom

Dear Sir:

Two years ago I visited Wales and had the pleasure of meeting Honorable Mrs. Vaughan of Nannau, and she suggested that you might possibly give me some information.

It has been long understood in the Yancey family that four or five Nanney brothers came from Merioneth County to Virginia in 1640 or 1642. A Mr. O. E. Ruck, who I think is or was a genealogist in Wales, believes that these brothers lived at Vron Goch (Frongoch), a little settlement three miles from Bala. The name is supposed to have been changed from Nanney to Yancey after arrival in Virginia. These Nanney brothers of 1640 are supposed to have been cousins of Sir William Berkeley, a colonial governor of Virginia, who at one time resided in Wales.

I have consulted some authoritative sources but have not been able to find these brothers on any ship passenger lists. The records in Virginia at that early date are very hard to trace. The connection between the Yanceys and Nanneys has been handed down from generation to generation, and present evidence consists only of old letters from different branches of the Yancey family in this country. Some of the early Yanceys had in their possession the Nanney Arms (Or, Lion Rampant, Azure).

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COOK, CLARK, EGAN, YANCEY & KING

County Archivist

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November 25, 1963

I would greatly appreciate it if you will advise whether your records show any sailings of Nanneys from Merioneth to Virginia in the seventeenth century. A rather thorough search has been made for the name Yancey in Wales and none have been found.

Mrs. Vaughan thinks that perhaps these Nanney brothers were unhappy with Charles, II and were fleeing from his autocratic rule. She thinks possibly they were children of Huw Nanney Hen who died in 1623. Any light you might shed on this problem would be much appreciated. Please let me know if a fee should be paid to anyone doing this research and if copies of pertinent documents might be obtained, their cost, etc.

Assuring you of my appreciation for any information you might give in connection with this, I am

Yours sincerely,

CL Yancey
Clarence L. Yancey

CLY:jcf

A. Lloyd Hughes, B.A.,

Officer-in-Charge.

9th December, 1963.

Clarence L. Yancoy,
Commercial National Bank Building,
Shreveport 61,
Louisiana, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Yancoy,

Thank you for your interesting letter of the 25th November enquiring about the Nanney/Yancoy connection.

I forwarded your enquiry to my predecessor, Mr. D. R. Parry, now of the Caernarfonshire County Record Office, and have received a reply from him yesterday. Mr. Parry wrote a dissertation on the history of the Nannau family in candidature for the M.A. degree of the University of Wales in 1953, and therefore would know whether any members of this family emigrated to U.S.A. in the seventeenth century. I quote the relevant portion of his letter:-

"...While I would be only too pleased to find I'm mistaken I can only say that I found no evidence of any Nanney connections with the New World..... Huw Nanney Hen's sons can all be accounted for in this part of the world. He only had five (the other five offspring were girls), and of these one was his heir Gruffydd who died before him, another - Robert - is recorded as living in London, Rhys o.s.p., Richard became rector of Llangelynin and Vicar of Towyne, and Edward became the founder of the Hanneys of Maes y Pandy (Talyllyn)."

I may also add that there are no records here that show any sailings of Nannoys from Merioneth to Virginia in the seventeenth century.

I have consulted a pamphlet written by Professor A. H. Dodd on The Character of Early Welsh Migration to the United States, but I regret to say that Dodd does not refer to any emigration of Nannoys to U.S.A. in the period you specify. I am sure that if any Nannoys emigrated from Merioneth at this time, Dodd would surely have mentioned them in this work.

2.

May I humbly be permitted to correct the Hon. Mrs. M. Vaughan on one point, i.e. her suggestion that these Nanney brothers (?) fled from "Charles II's autocratic rule" in 1640 - 2. This cannot be so as the Restoration of the monarchy did not take place until 1660, (further Charles II is not reputed to have been an "Autocratic" ruler). Whether the brothers fled from the rule of the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell is another matter, and if any Nanneys emigrated to Virginia in this period I doubt whether they left Wales for Religious reasons, for as Professor Dodd tells us:-

"...The Reassembling of Parliament in 1640 raised Puritan hopes at home and brought many exiles back to help in the rejuvenation of the old country..."

I have too, referred to the Dictionary of National Biography for information concerning Sir William Berkeley, who you claim to be a cousin of the Nanney emigrants. I see that Berkeley returned to England from Virginia, of which he was Governor in 1641, in 1677. (It is interesting to know that Sir William was deprived of office by Parliament, but was reappointed at the Restoration). The D.N.B. does not mention his connection with Wales, and his name does not appear among the Welsh notables in the Dictionary of Welsh Biography. Knowing Wales to be primarily a Royalist stronghold during the Civil War (and I suspect the Nanney's supported the King's cause), would it be too fanciful to assume that the family suffered losses during the Cromwellian period and that certain members sought a better deal abroad? Certainly their relative, Sir William Berkeley suffered repercussions during Cromwell's assumption of power as indicated above. All this, however, is just a surmise, and one cannot at present be more specific.

I would very much like to write to Professor T. J. Morgan, University College, Swansea, who is engaged on a historical and analytic study of Welsh surnames, to inform him of this Nanney/Yancey change of surname. If Professor Morgan should find this historically interesting, I shall correspond with you further.

I trust that all this detail will interest you.

Yours sincerely,

"Officer-in-Charge."

LAW OFFICES OF

COOK, CLARK, EGAN, YANCEY & KING

COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

POST OFFICE BOX 77
TELEPHONE 423-0277

SHREVEPORT 1, LOUISIANA

December 20, 1963

Mr. A. Lloyd Hughes
Officer-in-Charge
County Record Office
County of Merioneth
Lombard Street
Dolgellau, Merionethshire
Wales, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Hughes:

I am grateful to you for writing me on December 9 relative to the Nanney/Yancey family.

I am, of course, disappointed that neither you nor Mr. B. R. Parry knows of any sailings of Nanneys from Merioneth to Virginia in the seventeenth century.

The late Mrs. Tempe Hill Carraway of North Carolina, who was a Yancey descendant, assembled a considerable amount of material and corresponded with a Mr. O. E. Ruck of Wales, who was, among other things, a genealogist. Perhaps you know of him. She attributes this statement to Mr. Ruck:

"Vron Goch, just North of Bala, Merioneth, was the home of the Nanney Brothers, who emigrated to America in or about 1640. I sent you a little map in which Vron Goch is marked, in the Valley of the River Dee, which rises in Bala Lake. At Vron Goch were many Nanney clans."

From Mr. William Shepard, a genealogist of Virginia, comes this statement:

"Sir William Berkeley who lived in Cardiganshire, Wales, and was a descendant of a Welsh family was evidently in touch with the Nanney"

#6
SIDNEY M. COOK (1902)
CLARK C. CLARK
CHARLES D. EGAN
CLARENCE L. YANCEY
BENJAMIN C. KING
SIDNEY F. COOK
FRANK M. COOK
SIDNEY B. GALLOWAY
JAMES E. CLARK
EDWIN J. BLEWER, JR.

Mr. A. Lloyd Hughes

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December 20, 1963

brothers of Merionethshire, the adjacent County. And they came with him to Virginia. Sir William Berkeley was a connection of the Nanneys through his ancestor, Bleddyn Cynfyn of the Third Royal Tribe of Wales."

Mrs. Carraway said, "My theory is that the Nanney Brothers of Yron Goch, four or five, emigrated to America about 1640 and did not leave their new address. Gradually becoming known, perhaps first as Yanney or Nancey, and finally Yancey, for people were not particular as to spelling in those days."

Thirty years ago, I received from the Media Research Bureau of Washington, D. C., a writing on the Yancey family, and it says, among other things:

"The origin of the name YANC(E)Y is obscure, although it is generally believed to have been of Welsh derivation. One writer asserts that the family was of Huguenot ancestry and went into Wales at an early date, but no authority for this belief has been found. The most likely theory is that the name was originally Nannau or Nanney and was taken by its first bearers because of their residence at Nannau, in County Merioneth, Wales.

"Strength is given to this theory of descent by the following quotation, which is from a letter written by Samuel Shepard, of Virginia, to his brother Robert in the year 1805: 'Since I last wrote you my wife has been very sick at the home of her cousin, Charles Yancey... She was delivered of a fine boy before my coming. The boy even now resembles that old Welsh stock... While visiting Yancey... we discussed old Welsh stocks. He tells me Mr. William Evans, of Cumberland County (Virginia), says he is Welsh and descended from some outlandish prince of that country. Mr. Evans... says he does not believe the Yancey name is the proper one, that it was Nanney... Charles Yancey has heard something of the kind from his folk, and my wife has an old arms of the family that Mr. Evans says he thinks belongs to some Nanney family...'

Mr. A. Lloyd Hughes

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December 20, 1963

"According to some authorities, four brothers, Charles, William, Joel and Robert Yancey, came to this country from Wales about 1642 and settled in the James River section of Virginia. The early records of the family in America are most incomplete, but it is sometimes asserted that the emigrant Charles settled on the Rappahannock River and was the progenitor of that Emsign Charles Yancey who served as an officer in the Colonial and French and Indian Wars."

A member of the Yancey family from Dallas, Texas, writes, "There have been several fairly well isolated branches of the family from before 1800 and yet in each one of these there has been a tradition that the name Yancey originated in 1642 when four brothers, Charles, Robert, Joel and William landed in Virginia from Wales. In the old country the name was supposed to have been Nanney. No one has yet been able to establish a direct connection, although later descendants have found the old Nanney arms among family relics." This arms is "On a lion rampant azure. Some of these arms bear the motto, 'Ne touchez pas le chat, sans avoir le gant.'" I mentioned this to Mrs. Vaughan and she had never heard of the motto. The arms are the same.

I knew that I was in error in saying that the four brothers were supposed to have fled from the autocratic rule of Charles II. I wanted to write you immediately to say that I meant Charles I, but other matters claimed my time. Perhaps that sovereign was not autocratic, but, at least he was unhappy and ineffective and a great many people were not pleased with him. I saw some official Virginia papers recently and they indicate that Governor William Berkeley began his official tenure in 1641.

Mrs. Vaughan writes, "They (the brothers) most likely descended from one of the 13 children of Huw Nannau Hen who died in 1623." Mr. Parry thinks that there were only ten children of which five were sons and he has placed all five. I believe that Huw Nannau Hen lived at Nannau. If the four brothers came from Vron Goch, they must have been from another branch.

#9

Mr. A. Lloyd Hughes

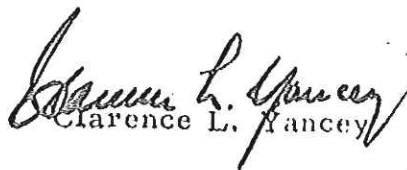
-4-

December 20, 1963

In case you write to Professor Morgan at the University College, Swansea about this problem, I would be grateful for any ideas he may have and for anything else that may come to you which would be helpful.

With best wishes to you for a happy Christmas season, I am

Sincerely yours,


Clarence L. Yancey

CLY:jcf