

Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #40

Winter 2012

Vol. XXI No.1

Dear Cousin,

Forgive that this Winter issue is a bit late, but not for lack of good information, just time and attention.

We have the very good news that our son, Earl, and his wife are expecting our first grandchild in late July. I share this, because it has been my intention to travel to the 2012 Jessee Reunion, August 4th. Now I have a bit of a dilemma. Birthdays can be a surprise, early or late. It may be very hard to take Grandma Jessee away from the new one, and Grandpa could have extra duty walking the dog with a new baby in the house! So, right now, it is a definite maybe.

I have been thinking to stop doing a printed Jessee Family Newsletter, moving entirely to the Web. Bottom line, I am not Web savvy enough to do that, and many have asked me to continue this newsletter, as they are not on computers and prefer to read a printed copy. I would like to have your thoughts on this. For now, I am invigorated by all the new contribution for this newsletter, and plan to print at least another year, probably more. Please show your support by renewing your subscription and providing comment.

I have been chronicling the major events in our personal family lives in photo albums on Facebook. Please befriend me on Facebook to access my albums, or send me an e-mail, and I will send you the links. Jim@Jessee.org

I continue to get little bits and pieces of new information weekly, and I do these small data entry chores into the Jessee Family Database as they come, but I have literally stacks of other data-entry work to do. I am sorry that I am so behind, and do not see much catch-up in the future. Too busy with retirement.

If you have not recently checked the Jessee Database at Rootsweb, go to www.jessee.org and look up your kin. Often missing are specific locations, and complete dates for births, marriages, and deaths. Please provide me corrections, additions, comments and documentation where needed, I do those as they come in, in small batches and doses, thank you.

I am excited and gratified every time I extend the descendants for the Jessee family and am always astounded as I see increasing evidence that we are all cousins. My spirits are always uplifted by your letters, e-mails, donations and renewals. Thank you.

Jim Jessee

Featured This Edition

THE JESSEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION has lost one of its founders and a stalwart Russell Co. citizen, **Vernon Lee Salyers**. Find his obituary inside.

LARRY JESSEE of El Paso, Texas, shares his wonderful Jessee pedigree and incredible athletic story. He makes us proud.

BOB WHITTAKER shares much information on his ancestor, **Mark R. Whitaker**, and a wonderful map of his **Whitaker and Smyth** family roots in the Castlewood and Bickley Mills area of Virginia.

SW VIRGINIA FAMILIES and **OTHER JESSE(E) FAMILIES** include information and news from descendants of other prominent SW VA families with whom we share roots and history. Additional **Smyth/Smith** family information is shared, as well as for **Bickley** and **Branson** families.

We feature the latest summary on the **Lea families of Caswell County, NC**, from whence our Frankey Lea comes, by Rev. **DR. CYNTHIA FORDE-BEATTY**.

GARY KLINEDINST, responds to our search for **Frankey Lea's Mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA)** by providing it, and wonderful information and commentary on was she Indian, Melungeon, or European? Gary shares the remarkable Russell County pedigree of his mother, **Alta Mae Kiser**, who has **Kiser, Long, Dotson, Bush, Sutherland, Fuller, Childress, Thompson, and Jessee roots**. Her Jessee root is all maternal.

JESSE(E) FAMILY ORIGINS, OTHER JESSE(E) FAMILIES and **JOHN AND FRANKEY LEA JESSEE RESEARCH** have special contributions of interest. See new information and photos of the descendants of their fifteen children. Read heartwarming stories, letters, and meet new cousins inside. We have news for the **John Jr.** (especially **Stanford Lea Jessee**), **Archer, David, Frances Stone, James, George, and Martin Jessee** descendants.

MISSING LINKS and **CORRESPONDENCE** has items of interest and requests for help, and **JESSEE RESOURCES** has a few more Web sites for us geeks, and always the immeasurable contributions of **Jack Hockett** and **Michael Dye** to SW VA genealogists, too.

THE JESSEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION has no news to share and **JESSEE'S MILL** and **JESSEE CEMETERY PRESERVATION** projects are summarized but have nothing new to report.

The 2012 National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, August 4, 2012 (tentative)
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Lebanon, VA
at the Russell County Conference Center

The 2012 Jessee Family Research Day
Friday, August 3, 2012
at the Russell County Library
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

HOPE DAVIS [hwd3188@gmail.com] wrote,
1/24/2012 with this news about the reunion.

They are hoping to have some extra activities this year, such as a "dance" on Friday night so that those coming from a distance will have something to do. Locals should want to attend to hear the Bluegrass Band. That weekend also coincides with the Highlands Festival so there will be plenty to do during other free time.

The JHF holds the National Jessee Family Reunion every two even numbered years, on the first Saturday in August. Families are encouraged to have local and regional family reunions in odd-numbered years. The Jessee Family Research Day is held on the Friday preceding the reunion, at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA. The JHF holds its membership meeting during the reunion.

The Jessee Reunion will be held in the new Russell County Conference Center, an air-conditioned facility, at 139 Highland Drive in the Russell County Government Center. Highland Drive is off of E. Main Street (Bus. Rt. 19) east of downtown Lebanon, the Library and Courthouse.

Please bring a covered dish, enough to feed your family and additional "hungry cousins." You may also bring your musical instruments, family photos and memorabilia to share.

For information about this historic area, lodging, golf courses, etc., please call the Abingdon Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-435-3440.

Phone: 276-676-2282 or Fax: 276-676-3076,

E-mail: acvb@abingdon.com or

Internet: www.abingdon.com/tourism.

The Silent Auction Needs You

Please participate in the silent auction, held on Saturday, to help raise funds for the Jessee Historical Foundation. To make the auction a success, your contributions are needed. Use your imagination to think of items to be contributed. The items for the auctions can be brought to the reunion picnic.

For picnic and silent auction information contact

Mary H. Akers
19246 Oakwood Drive
Abingdon, VA 24221
276-628-9239

Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

The JHF Board of Directors & Officers
as of August, 2011

Henry A. Davis, Jr., President
Mary H. Akers, Vice-president
Norma J. McHone, Treasurer
Patricia S. Jessee, Membership Secretary
Pauline Salyers, Recording Secretary

Members of the Board
James Bray, Beverly Elswick, Nancy Elswick
Diane Fuller, Sandra J. Hood, Carl Jessee
Robert Trigg Jessee, Joy A. Malone
Pauline Salyers, Janice J. Tiller, Helen Reedy

JHF Membership Information

The Jessee Historical Foundation extends an invitation and warm welcome to new members and welcomes your membership renewal.

Membership will run from reunion to reunion every two years. Dues will be collected by mail and at the biennial reunion in August for the following two years. JHF membership dues may be mailed to the Membership Secretary below at any time. The membership dues are \$10 per person.

There are three categories of membership. Anyone age 81 or older may request free lifetime membership.

1. Regular Member: If you have a Jessee, Jesse, Jessey or Jessie surname, or are an adult Jessee descendant you are eligible to be a regular member with full voting privileges. Please provide information to verify your Jesse(e) lineage.
2. Associate Member: Non-voting spouses, related family, or friends of a regular member.
3. Junior Member: Non-voting family members under age 18.

Please become a member: Simply provide the following information: name, street or PO Box address, city, state, ZIP, phone, e-mail address, and how you are related to the Jessee family or a copy of your Jessee pedigree. Please send your application and check, payable to Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc. for \$10 per person, to the membership secretary, at the following address.

Jessee Historical Foundation Inc.
C/O Patricia Stone Jessee
Membership Secretary
PO Box 1617
Lebanon, VA 24266-1617

JHF Loses One of Its Own

VERNON LEE SALYERS, passed away July 26, 2011 at age 69. He was one of the founding members of the Jessee Historical Foundation, their JHF Newsletter editor and Jack-of-all-trades for many genealogy and historical organizations, a valuable citizen of Russell County. Here is his obituary from the Bristol Herald Courier.

Vernon Lee Salyers, LEBANON, Va. A graveside service for Vernon Lee Salyers will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday at Ketron Memorial Gardens in Lebanon with military graveside rites conducted by the Lebanon VFW Post No. 9864. Those wishing to attend are asked to meet at the cemetery. Pallbearers will be the following members of the Mountain View ATV Club, Ronnie Rose, Therman Mullins, Larry Davis, Terry Saddler, Johnny Puckett, Hatler Mullins and also, Dale Elswick and Patrick Kiser. Vernon Lee Salyers, 69, passed away on Tuesday, July 26, 2011. Owens Funeral Service, Lebanon, is in charge of arrangements.

LARRY BAILEY [landsbailey@verizon.net] sent, 4/13/2011 this photo of **Asa Jeter Jessee** headstone.

Went to the Ashby Cemetery on Counts Ridge in Dickenson County today and found Jeter's Tombstone, the husband of Ida Ashby. Also there were tombstones for Yukona Jessee and Claud Jessee, both infants. I am enclosing photos for you.

LARRY JESSEE [ljessee44@hotmail.com] wrote, 1/17/2012 with this wonderful letter, résumé, and photo. I am so pleased to feature Larry, who is a descendant of John Jessee, Jr, via Jefferson and Stanford Lea Jessee. He is a close cousin to many of us.

Hello Jim, I found you by way of your wonderful web site. My aunt, Patty Jessee (she appears in your 2000 newsletter) gave me a genealogy chart about 10 years ago, never paid attention to until recently, wow this stuff is really engrossing!

I think we are cousins. You have a great x ? Grandfather Joesph Jessee, his brother Jefferson was the father of Stanford Lea Jessee (killed in 1862 at the Battle of Mills Creek, Soldier C.S.A) his daughter is Nancy C Jessee my Great-Great -Great grandmother.

A little bit about my family, all the Jessees were from Russell County, Uncle Claude, grandson of Nancy owned the store there by the river. As a young boy, in the late 50's and early sixties, we would often travel from Dayton, Ohio to Cleveland for funerals.

This is how my Aunt Patty traced it, and it seems to coincide with what is on the Genealogy charts on the web

My Father: William C Jessee b 1925 d 1990 son of Clyde E Jessee b1901 d 1935 and Mona E Davis b1906 d 1988

My Grandfather: Clyde Jessee son of William Jessee b 1871 d 1949 and Bertie Buchanon

My Great Grandfather: William, son of Nancy C. Jessee b 1854 d 1925 and Abner Smythe (he left town and never married)

My Great-Great grandmother: Nancy, daughter of Stanford Lea Jessee b 1832 b 1862 and Sallie Fuller b 1833

My Great -Great -Great Grandfather: Stanford Lea Jessee, son of Jefferson Jessee b 1802 d 1866 and Nancy b 1803

My Great x 4 Grandfather ; Jefferson, son of John Jessee Jr. b 1775 d 1834 and Mary Armstrong

My Great x 5 John Jessee Jr.: son of John Jessee b 1750 d 1815 and Francis Lea b 1750's d 1836

My 4x great-grandfather Jefferson was brother to your great-great-grandfather Joseph Jessee, sons of John Jr.

My Grandfather and Grandmother migrated to Dayton, Ohio during the depression, along with my Father and two Aunts Patty (b 1932) and Frieda (b 1928). I grew up in Dayton, but left at age 18 to pursue college and a career in athletics.

I am attaching my athletic record, I was American Champion, NCAA Champion, World Champion and World Record Holder in the pole vault. I competed for the University of Texas at El Paso, and on the USA National Team, 8 times, a favorite for a medal at the 1980 Olympics (Jimmy Carter's boycott ended that) I am in the Ohio Track and Field Hall of Fame, El Paso Hall of Fame and University of Texas at El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. It is ironic now, but in the 1970's I had won the NCAA Championships which was shown live on Wide World of Sports, a few weeks later, some one called saying they had the same last name spelling, they were not from Virginia, so I just let it pass, a few years later, the same thing happen while competing in England, funny that in all my travels around the world, I have never met anyone with the same spelling as us. Back in the 70's there was a black player fir the LA Rams ...a Ron Jessie, and often, when I first came up, the meet announcer would make a mistake and call me Ron on the introduction.

Aunt Patty is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as John Jesse is listed in their Patriot's index.

My Grandmother's maiden name is Davis, I was always told they were of Irish and Welsh extraction. After reading your newsletters about the Moravian roots, this makes more sense, as Welsh people tend to be darker complected, every Jessee-Davis, that I ever met or have seen now on your web are pretty fair, as an athlete, I spent a lot of time in what is now the Czech Republic, and they are fair complected also.





Dan Williams / El Paso Times

El Paso's Larry Jessee just cleared the bar to break the masters record at 17-6.

El Pasoan makes good on \$50,000 pole vault

Jessee goes 17-6 for masters world record

By Dan Williams
 El Paso Times

El Paso pole vaulter Larry Jessee cleared 17 feet, 6 inches on his first attempt Saturday and broke his own world masters record during an El Paso Senior Games competition at UTEP's Kidd Field.

Jessee, 42, accomplished the feat despite cool temperatures and a 39-stitch gash on his head from a pole that broke in practice two weeks ago. But he had plenty of incentive to overcome those obstacles — \$50,000 worth.

The big payoff comes from a Lloyds of London insurance policy that, for a \$3,988 premium, wagered that Jessee couldn't vault as high as he said he could. And Saturday, Jessee surprised them.

The 25-year vaulting veteran, UTEP All-American and U.S. Indoor champion had his doubts at first, falling short on several warmup vaults. But after a cigarette break and the competition began, he easily cleared 17 feet, then broke the world record on his first attempt at 17-6.

The record vault was 2¼ inches higher than his previous record set in April at the Sierra Medical Center/UTEP Invitational meet, but far short of his personal best height — 19-2¾ in 1985. Saturday, he said he found the rhythm and strength for the record-breaker just in time.

The big payday was the second this year for Jessee. His 17-2½ vault in April was worth \$30,000 on a similar insurance policy. Jessee's agent, former UTEP runner Franks Munene, and a group of El Paso sports promoters covered the policy premiums for both record vaults.

ALL STAR CARDS & COMICS
 8" Anniversary Sale
 Sunday Oct 16" 9 a.m.-5p.m.
 Quality Inn - I-10 & Geronimo
FREE ADMISSION

LARRY JESSEE--ATHLETIC RÉSUMÉ

COLLEGIATE CAREER

- N.C.A.A. INDOOR CHAMPION 1974
- N.C.A.A. RECORD HOLDER 1975
- THREE TIME N.C.A.A. ALL AMERICAN 1974 - 1975
- 8TH. MAN IN HISTORY TO VAULT 18 FEET
- MEMBER OF THREE N.C.A.A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS
- N.C.A.A. INDOOR RUNER-UP 1975
- MEMBER OF N.C.A.A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TRIPLE CROWN TEAM
- WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CHAMPION 1975
- WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE RECORD HOLDER 1975
 (Record stood 16 years)
- U.T.E.P. SCHOOL RECORD 18'0" 1975 (STILL STANDS)

Note: At the 1974 N.C.A.A. Indoor National Championships, Jessee led the U.T.E.P. Miners, the championship, going into the last event, Colorado stood at 18 points, the U.T.E.P. had 13, Jessee won the Pole Vault in a dramatic jump-off to give the Miners 6 points and their first ever National Team Championship in track and Field

INTERNATIONAL CAREER

- U.S.A. NATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPION 1977 & 1978
- AMERICAN RECORD HOLDER 18'8 ¾" 1982
- INDOOR WORLD RECORD 19'2 ¾ 1985 (exhibition)
- SECOND HIGHEST VAULT OFF ALL TIME 1980 (18'8" - World record was 18'8 ¼")
- BRITISH CHAMPION AND UNITED KINGDOM ALL COMERS RECORD 1977
- AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION 1986
- AUSTRALIAN ALL COMERS RECORD 1985
- PRE OLYMPIC GAMES (Los Angeles) BRONZE MEDAL 1983
- # 1 VAULT IN U.S. RANKINGS 1979 & 1980
- I.A.A.F. WORLD RANKINGS:
 1975 - 7th, 1976 - 7th, 1977 - 10th, 1978 - 3rd., 1979 - 7th., 1980 - 4th., 1981 - 13th., 1982 - 5th., 1983 - 9th., 1984 - 11th., 1985 - 13th.
- MEMBER OF U.S. NATIONAL TEAM - EIGHT TIMES
- 100 CAREER INTERNATIONAL VICTORIES
- 7 DIFFERENT TIMES, OVER 7 YEARS, NUMBER 1 IN WORLD RANKINGS

* I.A.A.F. RANKED JESSEE AS ONE OF THE TOP TWENTY VAULTERS FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS OF THE 20TH. CENTURY

RANKED NO. 3 IN THE WORLD IN THE 1970'S FOR NUMBER OF 18' JUMPS

MASTERS CAREER

WORLD MASTERS CHAMPION 1995

FIRST MAN OVER AGE 40 TO VAULT 18'0" 1996

OLDEST MAN TO VAULT 18'0" (age 44) 1996

SEVEN WORLD RECORDS FROM 1992 THROUGH 1996

(RECORD STOOD 16 YEARS)

NUMBER 1 IN WORLD MASTERS RANKINGS 1992 THROUGH 1997

COACHING CAREER (UTEP)

AS GRAD ASSISTANT FOR TED BANKS 1976-1981
RECRUITED 23 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS / 40 ALL AMERICANS AND 8 OLYMPIANS

AS ASSISTANT COACH FOR BOB KITCHENS RECRUITED 1 NATIONAL CHAMPION / 7 ALL AMERICANS / EIGHT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS AND COACHED EIGHT OLYMPIANS

HONORS

U.T.E.P. ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME 2007
(Individual Induction)

OHIO TRACK AND FIELD HALL OF FAME 2007

U.T.E.P. ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME 2002
(Inaugural Class) 1975 Team

U.T.E.P. TRACK AND FIELD HALL OF FAME 1999

EL PASO SPORTS HALL OF FAME 1984

BOB WHITTAKER [robert.whittaker@charter.net] wrote, 1/8/2012, with information about **Mark Whitaker of Russell Co. VA**, with tidbits about **Smyth, Jessee and Bickley families**, and a great map, too.

I am a descendant of Mark and Martha "Patsy" Whitaker through their son James O. Whitaker. Their son Mark R. Whitaker married Nancy Smyth. I can't recall if I have sent to you this legal document. Mark Whitaker Sr. died in mid to late 1712. The widow Martha "Patsy" Whitaker lived many years and eventually went to Kentucky with 5 of her grown children [including my James O. Whitaker]. Of course the son Mark R. Whitaker married Nancy Smyth. I believe the son Mark R. and Nancy Smyth Whitaker lived with his mother Martha "Patsy" Whitaker. This location was west of Castlewood about 2-3 miles on the Clinch River.

The attachment Whitaker_Mark_R_bond is a bond posted for the son Mark R. Whitaker to become a Constable in 1833. Note that Jefferson Jesse signed the bond. Mark R. Whitaker died shortly afterward. These guys must have trusted Mark R. Whitaker to guarantee a \$2000.00 bond.

The attachment Whitaker_Restraining_Order_Nancy Smyth shows a summary of a series of legal documents. Mark Whitaker Sr [referred to as Mark M. Whitaker] had died intestate in 1812 and left an estate. Then the son Mark R. Whitaker died 1833-34 and his widow Nancy Smyth Whitaker would inherit a part of Mark Whitaker Sr. estate. Someone thought Nancy Smyth Whitaker was disposing of estate assets. A court order was issued preventing her from doing this.

I made many trips from SC up to Russell Co. VA. We were researching, locating property and eventually set a memorial marker for Mark Whitaker Sr. We tromped over a lot of ground and got to know S. A. Fraley that owns land that was part of the original Fraley land grant. There was an old Gose Cemetery in that area and Smyth/Smith graves were there [most unmarked/unreadable]. S. A. Fraley had for many years kept this cemetery cleaned up. Sadly, S. A. Fraley is now in very poor health [memory]. I am attaching Whitaker_Mark's_Land_Map. From looking at many deeds and maps I think [no documents copied] I have identified where the Mark Whitaker and John Smyth family lived.

We eventually set a memorial marker for Mark Whitaker Sr. in Castlewood VA. Note that another child of Mark and Martha "Patsy" Whitaker also married a Smith/Smyth. The child Mark R. Whitaker married Nancy Smyth and the child Mary "Polly" Whitaker married Robert A. Smith/Smyth. I have never found who this Robert A. Smith/Smyth was. A fellow researcher and descendant of Robert A. Smith/Smyth and Mary "Polly" Whitaker told me she believes they divorced.

I hope some of this helps with you Smyths. Note, in the memorial file is a picture my son, grandson and me. The Smyth land would be off to the right viewing the photo. This area [view in the photo] is pocked with sink holes with no outlet and no standing water. They are formed from underground rivers dissolving the limestone deposits. This is cattle country.

I asked permission to share and he responded:

You have my permission [to share these materials]. After considering several sites we placed a memorial marker for Mark Whitaker at the Temple Hill Memorial Gardens. The Fort Gibson United Methodist Church and I place a bronze plaque at the church. I went up this past August when the church members celebrated the 225th anniversary of the founding of the church by Mark Whitaker. It took nearly a year to get it all done. I think on hindsight the most enjoyable aspect of the project was hiking over Mark Whitaker's land with my son and grandson.

MARK R. WHITTAKER, BOND

Know all men by these presents that Mark R. Whitaker, Jefferson Jesse and Benny Evans are held and firmly bound unto John Floyd Governor of the commonwealth of Virginia in the _____ sum of \$2000 to be paid unto the said Governor for the time being and his successors for the payment whereof well and timely be made we bind ourselves jointly and severally our joint and several heirs, executors and administrators, by these presents witness our hands and seals this 2nd day of July 1833.

The conditions of the above obligations is such that whereas the above bound Mark R. Whitaker has been duly appointed by the Court of Russell County to serve as constable within the said county for the term of two years, from the 2nd day of July 1833. Now if the said Mark R. Whitaker shall well and truly discharge the duties of the office of constable in the said county during his continuance therein, thru the above obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

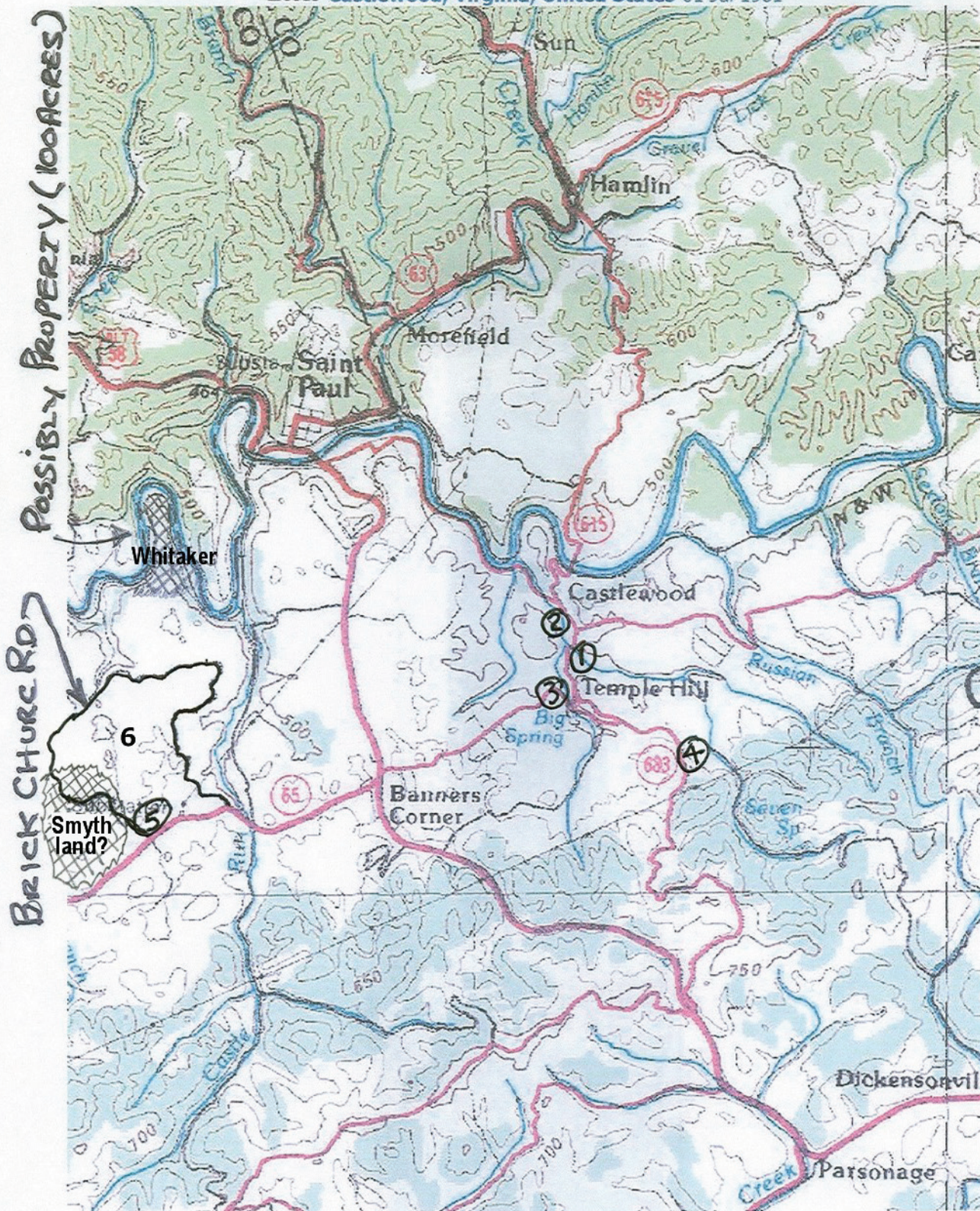
Acknowledged in court and Ordered recorded	Mark R. Whitaker Jefferson Jesse James P. Carroll Benny Evans	seal July 2 nd 1833 seal seal
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Copied Bond Books Russell Co.

SOME EARLY RUSSELL CO VA MARRIAGE CLUES

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WHITAKER, Mark R.; m. Nancy, legatee of John Smyth (RCV LOB 9:184, 05 Jan 1830... Mark Whitaker, Giles Lee, John Ervin, Jane Smyth, Henry Smyth, & Jane Smyth restrained from paying out estate funds; see also RCV LOB 10:101, 08 Jan 1834..."..from Castle Woods Road at Jane Smyths via Nancy Whitakers to KY Road..."; RCV LOB 8:265, 07 Feb 1827, Henry Smyth ags. Mark M. Whitaker...)



⑤ BRICK CHURCH
 ⑥ PROBABLE LOCATION OF MOORES FORT

- ① FORT GIBSON CHURCH
- ② BICKLEY MILL
- ③ CHARLES BICKLEY MARKER
- ④ PRESENT TEMPLE HILL CEMETERY

The Mark Whitaker Memorial Story Castlewood, Virginia

Mark Whitaker is both my 3rd and 5th great grandfather. I am descended from his son James O. Whitaker and his daughter Susannah who married Morgan R. Puckett. As I have studied his life I have come to admire him.

On Easter Saturday in 2006, we met to dedicate his Memorial, honor him and contemplate the life he lived. I spoke these words at the dedication:

Mark Whitaker My Third Great Grandfather

I have begun to know my Third Great Grandfather and have come to respect and admire Mark the man. He was a man of deep faith, devoted husband and beloved father. He earned this stature by his deeds to mankind and to his God.

Mark Whitaker began his Ministry in Castle's Woods, Va. about 1780 to a small congregation. Francis Asbury admitted him as an Itinerant preacher in 1783 and he later served the Southern Seven Districts. During the period 1783 to 1793 he established many churches, included in these churches was one at Bickley's Mill in 1786. It is today the Fort Gibson United Methodist Church in present Castlewood, VA, just up the road a couple of miles.

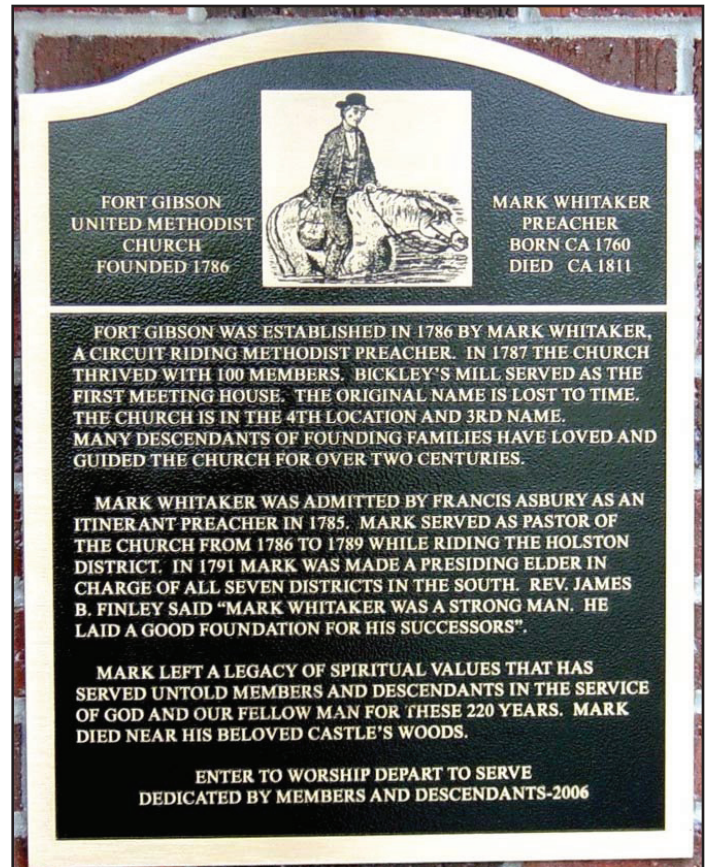
Francis Asbury knew the life of a Circuit Riding Minister was a hard life, with long rides on a mule or horse with another in tow to carry supplies. The cold nights sleeping on the ground if a bed at someone's home was not to be, sparse food and the Indian dangers made the body and spirits weaken. Asbury was not in the practice of appointing married men as his Circuit Riders for all these reasons.

Mark Whitaker rode this circuit with a conviction to his Ministry and was "on trial" from 1783 and appointed by Asbury to full "Connection" in 1786. It could be he was appointed at the Charleston, SC Conference in January of 1786 as Mark is credited with establishing the first Methodist Church in SC in January 1786. During the time 1791-1793 Mark was over the Southern Seven Districts. He introduced innovations in Camp Meetings that would last for 3-5 days comprised of preaching, prayer, singing and fellowship, was adopted by other denominations in the late 1790s and continues today.

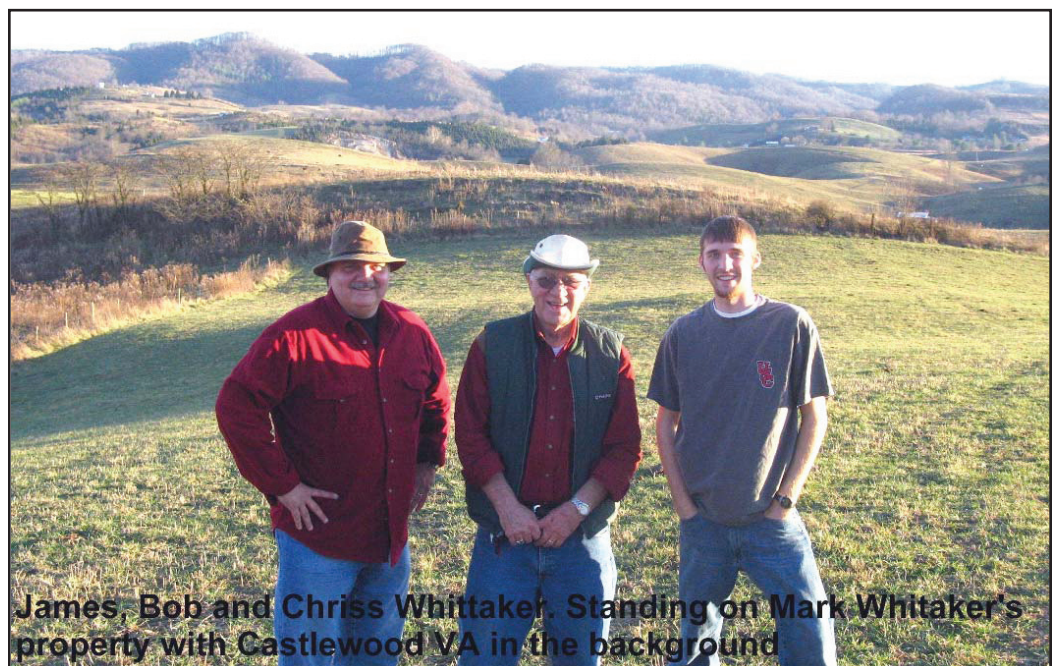
Mark Whitaker purchased a 100-acre tract of land of the south side of the Clinch River in what was known as his beloved Castle's Woods. Mark Whitaker married the love of his life Martha "Patsy" sometime between 1793 and 1795. Asbury wrote of Martha "Patsy" in one of his Journals that he wished "she did not love him to death". It is assumed that at this time Mark had "Located", a term used by Asbury when a preacher married and stopped riding the circuit to become a minister at a local church.

Mark and Martha began their family in Tennessee and moved to Castle's Woods on the Clinch River and this union gave seven children. They farmed with the benefits of a spring nearby to give them water for their gardens and animals. In Mark's will were items left from the loom room and a loom would indicate sheep from which yarn was woven for clothing.

In 2005, with my son James and grandson Chris, we walked the land Mark once owned and felt the presence of Mark Whitaker my Third Great Grandfather. The choice for him to locate in his beloved Castle's Woods was an easy one. Watching the waterfall break across the rocks and hear the water rushing down the Clinch River, imagining the site where he made their home, I say gave him peace. I honor and admire this man Mark Whitaker and I am proud to call him grandfather. I suspect he would want to be buried on that land.



After the dedication of the Memorial Marker we moved about two miles up the road to the Fort Gibson United Methodist Church. I had met with the church board some months before and proposed a bronze plaque be placed at the church. They approved "conditionally" based on a final review of the size and wording on the plaque. I met a second time with a "mocked up" foam board with lettering. They approved and I ordered it. Betty and I drove to Castlewood, VA and mounted it on the brick wall. The church paid for the plaque with contributions from descendants.



James, Bob and Chriss Whittaker. Standing on Mark Whitaker's property with Castlewood VA in the background

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES

Here I will feature articles, documents, and other information about Southwest Virginia families who have intermarried with the Jesse(e) Family over many generations. Your contributions are welcome.

SMYTH/SMITH FAMILY OF RUSSELL COUNTY AND ILLINOIS

PAM SMITH [psmith1952@yahoo.com] wrote, 1/7/2012 regarding her family history, **JAMES SMYTH** 1828, Virginia to Illinois, which we speculate may share common ancestry with the **Smyth family of Russell County** through **John and Jane Smyth** who would be both Pam's husband's and my 4g-grandparents, as well.

James, I saw one of your post on Rootsweb today and wondered if you might take a look at some information I have on my James Smyth family. I have this information from an old settler from Irving, Illinois. This James Smyth family was mentioned in a book compiling a collection of newspaper clippings from about 1883 about early settlers of Montgomery County, Illinois.

Your Rootsweb database [www.jessee.org] lists 10 children of Jane and John Smyth Esq (1852-1826) in Russell County, Virginia.

The last child is listed as James Smyth. The location and time period looks perfect to me. You or someone named Mike mentioned a problem with James Smyth not having a son named Soloman. [Michael Dye differentiated his James Jeams Smith family from this one] Well, one of my James Smyth's sons is Soloman. I used to even be in contact with a descendant of that Soloman Smyth. This Smyth contact feels like our James Smyth, who had a son named Soloman, who has a connection from Russell County, Virginia, during the same time period, would make us the James and Soloman mentioned in John Smyth's will. I feel like that is correct also, but would love to have the proof from a census or something. Here is the old settler's information.

"Among the early settlers of what in later years was called Fawn Creek or Lips Settlement, was James Smyth. He came to this county about the year 1828 or 1825, from Virginia, and settled with his large family on the east side of Shoal Creek, and about eight miles from Hillsboro (Illinois). He commenced there among the deer, wild turkeys and wolves, and soon succeeded in opening a farm on which they raised the necessaries of life in abundance. He and his good old companion Aunt Polly, as she was called, were excellent neighbors - good, kind, accommodating, obliging. He lived on that place some 17 years, in an easy and quiet manner, and died in 1845, one of those terribly sickly seasons. Mrs. Smyth died in Alabama three or four years ago at her brother's. They (James and Polly) had twelve children, six boys and six girls. The boys are William H., Liberty, Soloman, Richard, Henry, and James W. Smyth.

William lived a bachelor, and died a few years ago, perhaps in Scott Co., Illinois.

Liberty married Eliza Holbrook, of Bond Co., and one of the best kind of women. They lived on a farm near the old homestead, and prospered finely till 1852, when Liberty died. His widow died in 1853. Of several children, only two now are living; John W., who lives in Kansas, and William Russell, who lives near Irving, in the county. Both are married and are raising families.

Soloman married Jemima Brown, daughter of the late Richard Brown. Soloman lived in this county till about the commencement of the Late War, when he with his large family went to Kansas, where he died a year ago. Also his son -grown - died there.

Richard died in 1845 - never married.

Henry married in Scott County, perhaps raised a family in part in this county, but now lives at Minorck (probably meant Minonk?) in Woodford County, and is doing well.

James N. (N ?) never married. He volunteered and served

through the Late War, and died in Springfield, Illinois, in 1865.

The girls were: Nancy, Matilda, Martha, Sarah, Jane, and one other who died young, whose name the writer does not remember.

Nancy married first in Virginia, Mark Whitaker, who died, leaving three children. She married in the county, the late William R. Christian, by whom she had three children, none of whom are living except John Henry Christian, a thrifty farmer living near Irving. Of the three Whitaker children, the oldest, Harry, died when 16 years old. William married Jane King, daughter W.T. King, and died in 1856. His only child living is a son, Minten Whitaker, now 21 years old. Mary Ann married John King, now deceased. She is a widow, has three living children, all boys. The oldest, Mark King, being a man of his own. They are all doing well, making a good living by honesty and industry.

Mrs. Nancy Christian, though getting old, active and lively. She lives near Irving - is the best kind of neighbor, and in any business transaction, her word is all that is asked by any one acquainted with her.

Matilda Smyth married a Mr. Milton Jeroitt, and they have lived in the northwest part of this state, and raised a large family.

Martha Smyth never married, but died in 1881.

Sarah married Preston B. Knight, son of Rev. Joel Knight, and died more than 20 years ago. None of her children are now living.

Jane married Mason Jeroitt, a brother to Milton Jeroitt. They raised a large family, and all went to Kansas some ten years ago, where Jeroitt and his boys have been helping to hold the offices in township, county and state.

The sixth girl died when perhaps eight or ten years of age, and as was stated, her name is not remember by the writer.

The Smyth family was prominent in Fawn Creek Settlement, thirty and forty years ago. The old log school house, the corn-husking, the play party, the wolf hunts, and in fact, every gathering had its Smyths!

In conclusion, it may be stated that the Smyths, for some ten or twelve years, ran what we called in those days, an oil mill, and bought all of our castor beans."

James, I hope you will take a look at this information and see if it fits your family's time line. I have heard my James Smyth might be the son of John Smyth, but have had a hard time finding a family they might fit.

My husband is a great, great, great grandson of this James Smyth. His line comes through James' son Liberty Smyth, to Liberty Smyth's son William Russell Smith, to William Russell Smyth's son Perry Monroe Smith, to Perry Monroe's son Perry Walter Smith, to Perry Walter Smith's son, Danny Stuart Smith (my husband) and 'we' hand down two more generations of Smith sons.

Also, I have a location in Virginia that this James Smyth had to have lived close to, Castlewood, Virginia. Because this information mentions, Virginia, and it mentions Nancy Smyth being married to Mark Whitaker in Virginia we have been found by that Mark Whitaker family. The Whitaker and Smyth families had to have lived close to each other for the two to marry. It also seems that your Smyth family would have lived close by also.

I have no idea of birth order of James and Polly Smyth's family, they just list girls and boys.

Anyway, I hope this will match with your family. I have been trying to find out for sure who James Smyth's parents were for a long time. Also, our family bible has this family listed from Liberty and Elisa Smyth down to this generation. Thank you for any help you can offer.

I responded that I cannot verify anything here, although all sounds more than plausible, if my data is correct. The cautionary note by Michael Dye in my database on John and James Smyth indicates a prior confusion of this James Smyth and Michael's James "Jeams" Smith, who did not have a son Soloman. I

asked permission to post this.

Jim, thank you so much for looking over my Smyth family info. I would appreciate your posting this any where you think it would help the Smyth family.

I have been thinking about trying to contact a genealogist from Virginia, but not sure how to get started. Maybe your posting this info would help.

We are planning a trip to Virginia hopefully next month. I would love to drive through the lower SW or Russell County area. I was told by another researcher the area the Smyth family 'hopefully' left in Castlewood, VA was an area with a sink hole.

John and Jane would be my husband's 4 great grand parents also. As James Smyth was a farmer, we are sixth generation direct line Smyth/Smyth farmers. If I can connect our line to yours we can take that a lot farther back. Thank you so much for your reply

RUTH OSBORNE PRICE [hp403a@embarqmail.com] wrote, 3/31/2011 with more **Smith & Smyth** details. All of this is in accord with our database, as well, and ties her into many of the founding families of SW VA.

John Smyth Jr. listed in Russell Co. Va. Census as the father of Elizabeth Smyth Counts. She was the wife of John Counts and Mother of David C. Counts, my Great Grandfather. John Smyth is said to be buried in the Bush Cemetery, Castlewood Va.

John Smith of Russell Co. Va. was the father of Elizabeth Smith who married Solomon Osborne, b. 1795 d. 1857. Elizabeth Smith and Solomon Osborne were my Great Great grandparents.

These were two people often confused, but John Smyth was my ancestor on my mother's side of the family (Counts & Gose), and John Smith on my father's side (Osborne).

To clear up confusion (if any) about John Smith and John Smyth. Jim, I had just found your website, and it is loaded with good information! My sister and I sure would like to come to the next Jessee reunion you have! We know a lot of the Jessee names I have read so far. Ruth (Osborne) Price

About John SMITH of Russell Co., Castlewood Va.
My father: William B. Osborne b. 9 Nov. 1908 d. 14 Aug. 1979
Mother: Anne Virginia Gose Osborne b. 2-2-1911 d. 2-3-1995
My Grandfather: Samuel Marion Osborne m. Verda Jenkins
My Great Grandfather: Squire Osborne, m. Sarah Dorton
My Great-Great Grandfather: Solomon Osborne b. 7 Feb. 1795 d. 5 July 1857
My Great-Great Grandmother: Elizabeth Smith b. 28 March 1799 d. Sept. 1852
Elizabeth Smith was daughter of John SMITH b. 1748, Augusta Co. Va. d. Castlewood Va., 7 Feb. 1826. and wife Jane Smith.
This is documented information used when my sister and I became members of the DAR.

John SMYTH of Russell Co. Va.
My Mother: Anne Virginia Gose Osborne b. 2-2-1911 d. 2-3-1995
My Grandmother: Nancy Elizabeth (Nannie) Counts Gose b. 3-28-1878 d. 12-31-1960
My Grandfather: John Aaron Gose b. 1-25-1876 d. 3-21-1957
John A. and Nannie are buried in the Brick Church Cemetery, Castlewood Va. (I have picture of tombstone)
My Great Grandparents:
David C. Counts b. 6 Nov. 1844 d. 4 May, 1920
Tennessee Self Counts b. 8-23-1854 d. 2-12-1932
Buried in Reynolds Cemetery, on Hagan Reynolds Rd. off Old Hwy 70, Persia, Tn.. (I have picture of tombstone)
My GG Grandparents: (David Counts Parents)
Elizabeth SMYTH Counts b. 5-20-1819 d. 10-4-1900
John Counts b. 10-8-1792 d. 6-8-1872
My GGG Grandparents (Parents of Elizabeth Smyth)
John Smyth b. 1785 d. 1837
Tabitha Porter b. 1785 d. 1847.
GGG Grandparents (Parents of John Counts)
James Counts b. 10-8-1792 d. 6-8-1872
Evaline Banner b. 1-18-1795 d. 10-23-1894

Some of these names and dates are taken from family records written by my Grandmother Nannie Gose and my Mother. Or I know, because I was there when my grandparents and parents died and were buried.

Also I have used information taken from Russell County Census and marriage records at Russell County genealogy website. I will send you some more info later. When I get it together, I had no idea when I started looking in to my ancestors that it would be a job that will never be finished! Thanks! Ruth Osborne Price

COUNTS FAMILY TREE

1. Anne Virginia Gose Osborne b. 2-2-1911 d. 2-3-1995..Buried: Temple Hill Cemetery, Castlewood, Va. My Mother.
2. Nancy Elizabeth Counts Gose b. 3-28-1878 d. 12-31-1960. Buried: Brick Church Cemetery, Castlewood Va. My grandmother
3. David C. Counts. b. 6 Nov. 1844 d. 4 May 1920. Buried: Reynolds Cemetery, Rogersville, Tn. Great grandfather
4. John Counts, b. Feb. 9, 1815, d. Mar. 24, 1899
5. James Counts b. 10-8-1792 d. June 8, 1872
6. John (II) Counts b. 1765 d. Oct. 1, 1843
7. John (I) Counts b. 1720 d. 1803



14/11/2010 10:08 am

TERRY BICKLEY [bickley@msn.com] wrote, 11/18/2010, with this note about famous relatives of **Charles William Bickley (1753-1839)**, of Bickley Mills, Russell County, VA. Terry and Glenda discovered a service which finds your links to famous and infamous people, and there are many for the Bickley family, including William Henry Harrison, Lady Byrd Johnson, Johnny Ringo and Jesse James. Here is one, **William Williams, signer of the Declaration of Independence**.

Glenda has been doing some more genealogy work and has come across info that indicates that William Williams (a signer of the Declaration Of Independence) and our side of the Bickley's are related. He is my 6th cousin 7X removed and your 6th cousin 8X removed. Boy, if I can't stop her, she'll have us back to Adam and Eve before long.

Attached are documents that support that find. If this doesn't look right to you or, you see something that is incorrect please let us know so we can correct it. You may already have this information. Is this anything new?

Hope all is well with you, Nelda and family.

LESLIE MESSER [tigers330@bellsouth.net] wrote, 11/6/2011 regarding the **Branson** family and other SW VA families.

I have been researching the Branson family of Russell and Washington Counties for years. I noticed that you posted on your website with Rootsweb of William J and Temperance Branson. This is my family.

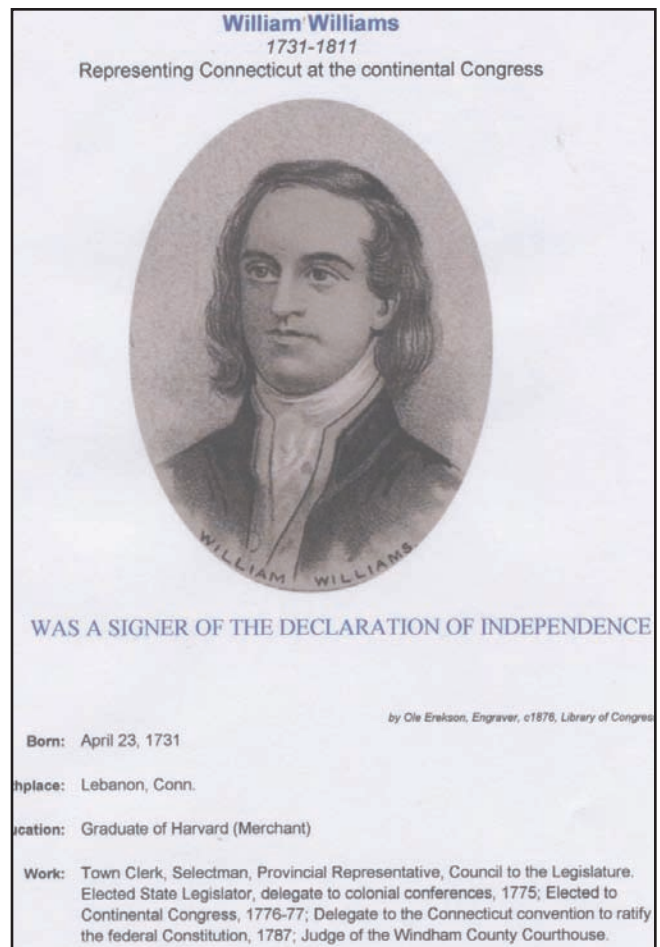
My grandfather was Ray Branson, his father was William H Branson, his father William J Branson, and his parents were Brisco and Eliza Stevens Branson. While researching the wives of these men, I came across Dickenson information. William H Branson married Rachel White, daughter of Henry/Henly White and Susan Dickenson Dunford. Susan was the illegitimate child of William Dunford and Rosannah Dickenson. This court record can be found at <http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/> under Wise County with Thomas Morris vs Branson, Carty, Dickenson, Dunford, Morris and White. This record lists the Dunford and Dickenson children.

JESSE(E) SURNAME ORIGINS

There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," and "Jessie" families in the United States and Canada that we know are descended from families whose American origins are in Virginia. There are many Jesse, Jessee, Jessie, Jessey and, Gesse, Gessey, Jessup, Jeshy, Jaci, Jacy, and Jacie families in the world whose kinship is unknown. I believe we are all cousins. As "Jesse" and "Jessee" are the two most frequent spellings of this name, I shall adopt the convention of using "Jesse(e)" in reference to the larger family.

Please see Newsletter #10 available online at www.jessee.org for an extensive discussion and summary of what we know so far about the origins of the Jesse(e) families in America.

FAMILY TREE DNA includes the Jessee surname in the derivatives of the surname Jessup. A newsletter contributor sent a document from THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER that provides a **Family Name History for Jessee**, which also suggest this Jessup/Jessep/Jessop origin as well as others.



JESSEE: There are a number of explanations as to the origin of the surname **Jessee**. One is that it is a variant of **Jessep** which is patronymic. This means that it is derived from the first name of a father. In this case **Jessep** is a pronunciation of **Joseph** which itself means 'he shall add.' **Jessee** therefore would simply mean 'son of Joseph.'

Alternatively, **Jessee** may have developed independently of the surname **Jessep** and may mean 'son of Jesse.' **Jesse** comes from the Hebrew word meaning 'Jehovah is'. Finally, it is possible that **Jessee** is, in fact, a French surname which was brought into England in the wake of the Norman invasion of 1066. The French 'lessee' is occupational in origin and developed to describe one who worked on the land. It has its origins in the French word 'gesse' meaning 'sweet pea'.

An early record of the surname in England includes one Joan Jessop who is mentioned in the Subsidy Halls in Suffolk in the year 1524. Much earlier, in 1379, John Jesup appeared in the Poll taxes for Yorkshire.

JOHN AND CLIA (SMITH) JESSE

Descendants of John and Clia (Smith) Jesse, and two of their sons, especially William Morgan Jesse, are well documented in the book, *The Jesses, 1601-1928* prepared by J. S. Jesse.

HARRY AND BEVERLY JESSE SHUPTRINE in their book *William Morgan Jesse and His Descendants* (July, 1995. Revised August, 1996), Gateway Press, Inc., of Baltimore, Maryland, August 1995, detail over 6200 descendants of William Morgan Jesse. This book is a major revision to and update of *The Jesses, 1601-1928* by J. S. Jesse.

I get steady inquiries and bits of additional information from descendants of this JESSE family. We owe so much to the work of Harry and Bev Jesse Shuptrine, but due to health reasons they have retired from genealogy. I will continue to provide updates for this family in the database at www.jessee.org.

Richard Jesse

Richard Jesse was born in 1768 in Middlesex Co., VA, and married Frances (Chowning). Their descendants have been provided to the Jesse Family database at www.jessee.org by **Donald R. Coleman**.

Samuel Jesse

Samuel Jesse, born abt 1770, who married Catherine George, is another distinct Jesse family in America that we report on from time to time. I have 11 children recorded.

William Jesse

William Jesse, born before 1745, we speculate had at least four children that we have recorded, John, Lucy, Thomas, and Elizabeth Jesse.

THOMAS JESSEE

RICHARD A. THRIFT [rathrift@gmail.com] wrote, 2/23/2011 with another Jesse family which may share common origins.

I've been doing research on my family's genealogy and came across a connection on my mother's side to the Jesse family. I hope I'm correct in my research for when I went to check your database, I didn't see my research meshing up with yours.

I have been able to go back as far as Thomas JESSEE (b. before 1800) and his marriage to Amelia Sophia MONTAGUE (b. before 1800) of Essex Co. I have that they had at least one child John A. JESSEE (b. about 1817) who married an Elizabeth HOSKINS (b. 1825. Sometimes showing up in census as Betty or Bettie). They had two daughters: Lucy Reavis JESSEE (b. about 1855) and Mary E. JESSEE (DOB-UNK). It is Lucy who would be my 2nd great grandmother. She married a Morton Boyd EVANS (1856-1934) and one of their children, Callie Hundley EVANS (1884-1963), married Sadie L. HEALY of Middlesex Co. Virginia 1889-1956). One of their daughters, Lucy Jesse EVANS (1907-1987) married Thomas Wilton POWELL (1902-1984). The last two would be my grandparents on my mother's side.

BTW, John A. Jesse appears to have been a Sergeant in Captain John H. Thurston's Essex Reserves. He also appears in Confederate Citizen Records as having supplied the army with goods (eggs, chickens and the like). His name is attached to a petition sent by the citizens of Essex and Middlesex counties, requesting that General Robert E. Lee release a Dr. John M. Hundley back into civilian service in order to care for the local citizens.

As I mentioned above your data base gives no descendants for Thomas JESSEE and Amelia Sophia MONTAGUE. I hope the information I have provided might be a start for completing that section.

JOHN JESSEE

RICK AND KATHY WISEMAN [<mailto:dixie25@hughes.net>] wrote, 10/29/2010, regarding a John Jesse(e) of Franklin Co., VA whose origins we do not know.

Sir you posted a comment on my post on Ancestry.com back on June 16 about my 5th great grandfather John Jesse. I am trying to find information on John Jesse who was born about 1821 in Franklin County Virginia. His birth and the place he was born I was able to get from the 1850 census record when he was living in Floyd Co. Va. I have that he married Elizabeth Napier on Nov. 16, 1848 in Floyd Co Virginia. Bird Jesse who is John and Elizabeth's son was born 1849

in Floyd Co. I found the 1850 census record for John Jesse and the marriage record is all I can find. I have determined that he might have died after the 1850 census record since he does not show up after that. Elizabeth and Bird do not show up on the 1860 record from what I can find. Bird doesn't reappear until 1870 census when he is living in Franklin Co. Elizabeth reappears in 1880 in Giles County living with apparently another one of their sons, Benjamin. The reason I know this is Elizabeth's mom Catherine Napier was living with her in 1850 and also shows up on the 1880 census. Hope this information gives you some background to help answer my question. I would like to find out what happened to John Jesse and also why Elizabeth doesn't appear until 1880 and why Bird doesn't appear on the 1860 census record.

Richard A. Thrift [rathrift@gmail.com] wrote 2/24/2011 with more information.

John had two daughters with his second wife, Elizabeth Hoskins, but he also had a son with his first wife, Francis Catherine Montague. Thomas Philip Jesse was born about 1840 and, outside of the 1850 census, he does not appear in any subsequent family census. There is a T.P. Jesse which appears in the 1860 US census, of 20 years of age, but living in Spotsylvania Co. in the city of Fredericksburg (page 18 of that county's census). The age fits but there's nothing else to associate him as John A. Jesse's son.

Also on page 47 of the 1860 US Census for Middlesex county there is a Thomas Jesse, 73 years of age. There's a slight chance that this is John A. Jesse's father who's name was Thomas. There is a woman named Frances Jesse living with him of 39 years of age. While she could have been his wife (the census at that time did not specify relationships) she could also have been a care-giving relative. Still there is nothing to link him to John A. Jesse other than he fits the age his father might have been if still living.

The two daughters, Lucy and Mary, married brothers by the way. Lucy married Morton Evans and Mary married William T. Evans. Nothing like keeping that genetic pool clean!!

PHILLIP AND RACHEL JESSEE

Phillip Jesse (1742-1858), wife Rachel, and his son Gabriel Jesse (1804-1886), of still unknown relationship to John Jesse (1750-1816) but assumed to be a brother or cousin, are among the historic Russell County, VA pioneering families. Phillip, who is reported to have lived to be 116, is sometimes referred to reverently as "Old Phillip." Here I will feature articles, documents, and other information about Phillip and Rachel Jesse, their son Gabriel, and their descendants. Your contributions are welcome.

Gabriel Jesse descendants--the late Irene Jesse Perry, Janice Jesse Tiller, Carl Jesse, and the late J.C. and wife Nellie Jesse--have been generous supporters and stalwart workers who have helped establish the Jesse Family Foundation and volunteer for many other Russell County art, history, cemetery restoration, and genealogy projects. For their work, we thank them.

SARAH NUZUM [butterfly.kevorkian@yahoo.com] wrote, 6/18/2010, regarding Beverly Johnson McK-inney.

I think I can help you with the McKinney genealogy. I'm Beverly McKinney's great, great granddaughter. The "living McKinney" listed after Agnes [in the Jesse database at www.jessee.org] was a woman named Roma. She married Charles Franklin Nelson and they had 5 children. Elwood Jack Nelson in 1929(deceased), Janice Lou Nelson(deceased-my maternal grandmother), Joy Sue Nelson, Judy Ann Nelson, and Karen Lynn Nelson. I can tell you about their kids and some of the grandkids as well.

JOHN AND FRANKEY (LEA) JESSEE

Many, if not most, Jesses in America are descended from John (1750-1815) and Frankey Lea Jessee (1752-1836) of Cobb's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina and Carr's Creek (today Mill Creek) in Reed's Valley, Russell County, Virginia. They had fifteen children. There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," even "Jessie" families in the United States and Canada who are known descendants of those fifteen children. All of us living descendants are about fifth or sixth cousins, or even closer kin. Here I will report new information for John and Frankey Jessee descendants and highlight news and significant contributions regarding each of their fifteen children.

Frankey Lea Research

The 2006 research of the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde speculates that Frankey is the daughter of George Lea, son of William Lea and Lucy Tolbert, born in 1761. This is one of the possible candidates we have outlined on the Frankey Lea record in the database, that we have found through much mutual research. If true, it would mean she is the *granddaughter* of William Lea and Mary Barnett, not their daughter, as I and others speculate. It would mean she was 14 when she married John at 25. I do not see the alignment of names and other characteristics to make this the leading candidate to be our Frankey Lea.

This research also attempts to differentiate Col. George Lea RIN 5301, that Tom Rudder and I have speculated to be a brother of Frankey who married Jeanette Logan Douglas and has a son William Archer Lea, from the George Lea RIN 5287, who married Lucy Tolbert. The latter, Dr. Forde's researchers and some others speculate, are the real parents of our Frankey Lea. The good news is that with all these overlapping names and generations, they are all in the same William and Mary Barnett Lea family, unless of course our Frankey Lea isn't!

Tom Rudder asserts, and I concur, that our Founding Mother Frankey is the unrecorded daughter of William Lea of Cobb's Creek and wife Mary "Polly" Barnett (or possibly Archer), making her a sister of Col. George Lea and several others who are well recorded in Caswell Co., NC. Frankey's names for her children are most consistent with this assumption, because most of the names she uses are only found in this branch of the Lea family. John and Frankey name their children as follows: John Jr., then Archer (possibly her mother's maiden name), then William after her father, Lea (after her own maiden name), David (source unknown), Boedicia (after an alleged sister, see below), Mary "Polly" (after her mother), Frances (after herself), Sarah (after her sister), James (after her brother), Elizabeth (after her sister?), Rebecca (source unknown), George Lea (after her brother who was a prominent citizen and tended to

many legal issues for John and Frankey in Caswell Co.), Martin and Jane (sources unknown).

In my exploration at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City in spring 2010, I found that another Jessee researcher had identified Frankey Lea's mother as Mary Archer. While I have always believed this to be the case, and the origin of Archer Jessee's name, I did not see any evidence or proof.

REV. DR. CYNTHIA FORDE-BEATTY [spiritsouth@gmail.com] wrote 8/28/2011 with this summary of research regarding **James Lea**, one of whom, James "of Cobb's Creek," we speculate was the son of **William "of Cobb's Creek,"** and a possible brother of our Frankey Lea.

Someone asked me why I changed my mind about Lawrence Bankston's daughter marrying James Lea of Kilgore's Branch. She wanted a simple answer. This is my response:

"The simplest answer is that a deposition was found (an amazing discovery) in the library archives in North Carolina where a man named James Lea was deposed three times.... 1793, 1794 and 1797 in which he states, "40 years ago (1793) I married Lawrence Bankston's daughter." I decided to try to find out which man named James Lea married Lawrence's daughter. There were only three men named James Lea living in Caswell County in 1790 U.S. Federal Census who had been living there ca. 1750-1753 which included the man who married Lawrence's daughter.

1.) James Lea (Country Line) who is my direct ancestor and married to Anne Herndon. But - he was dead by 1792 with probate papers to prove it.

2.) James Lea (Kilgore's Branch), married an "Anne" whose last name is in question. While some researchers James Lea of KB a death date of 1788 I had serious doubts because there are no probate papers... just a quote from a book that someone said he was deceased. I believed James Lea (KB) to have married Lawrence's daughter when I wrote my book. About four years later, ---- doing additional research and showing the deposition of the mysterious James Lea to Betty Fitzgerald, Caswell County Historical Society and historian... I became convinced, too, that James Lea of Kilgore's Branch really was deceased in 1788.

3.) James Lea of Cobb's Creek is the remaining one of the three men named James LEA old enough to have married in 1750-52... except the age of his birth as given by some published accounts would have made it nearly impossible. Once again I consulted with Betty Fitzgerald and asked her WHO could this be... if not James of Cobb's Creek... that married the Bankston daughter? Betty said it had to have been James Lea of Cobb's Creek; she agreed that the birth date for James of Cobb's Creek has always been a guesstimate and not based on documentation. James Lea of Cobb's Creek was definitely married to a woman named "Elizabeth" but her parentage is unknown; Ben Rose indicated he was making a guess. James Lea of Cobb's Creek remains the only one left who was "too old and infirm to travel" (the deposition reads) who had been living in the area that became Caswell now Persons County in 1750-1753. This is the James Lea who married Lawrence's daughter. What we do not know is if it Elizabeth was Lawrence Bankston's daughter; nor do we know if Lawrence's daughter was James first marriage and she died... therefore marrying Elizabeth, widow of James brother, Henry Lea later. We don't know the answer to that question.

I am writing another book on the three men named James Lea of Caswell County. I plan to be in NC in November and December to meet with Betty to research and examine the documents. We two, are in agreement with Heritage Consulting, my research team, that the answer to the question of who married Lawrence's daughter is James Lea of Cobb's Creek.

I hope this helps and is simple. I plan to note my changes on several websites to alleviate the confusion and help folks see why discovery caused the change from Kilgore's Branch to Cobb's Creek.

Previously, 10/23/2010, Cynthia shared the following note from **BETTY FITZGERALD**, who is now Cynthia's partner in research. This note reveals the difficulty of such research, as well as illuminates the land acquisition policies and practices of the time, including our own Jessee and Lea Family roots. Several Russell County original families came to Russell County from here at this time.

First: A few comments about the early Land Grants. The 45 shareholding heirs of the remaining Proprietors, wanted the money from king James II, to invest in the raging stock bubble, "The East Indies Co." It was shares, not specific land that had to be divided. Since the largest share belonged to General Monk; holding titles of Lord of Derby, King's champion, Honor of Clitheroe, which meant that he ruled N/W England, & thus was made the Duke of Albemarle, plus other honors. Note: Over 80% of the people who came into the Granville land grant came from his area in England. My Stanfields were his Lt. General, made Lord of East Lothian, Scotland & Lord of Townley, namely, Lancaster. As he was also Admiral of the Fleet with James II, he was busy so combined his shares with Lord Granville, making their share the largest.

I do not believe that any one of today knows of that connection. It is what I am developing.

To sell the shares, they first had to give a portion to Granville, so they gave him the part that was still in question. But first the dividing line had to be settled on. Through Durham, was too far south the many thought it was already in VA/ So that between the two possible lines became the "Granville Land Grant." Byrd was given the right to draw up the claims. So many were already on the lands. Remember, they thought that Country Line Ck. was the border with VA. Now, they were in a position to make the claims legal. My "old" William Sergeant of the Hyco, was already on land with a road, and a creek called Sergeants creek. He had ridden off to the Cape Fear to answer the Gov's call in 1745 to meet up with the Spanish invaders. The State at that time had divisions, which had Militias of 100 men. 100 rode out from The Orange Co. area. He returned three days later. I believe that is what happened to the early George Lea & others. The Cape Fear bunch had only 10 return. The British sent off a force after the Spanish, into Cartagena and lost 10,000 men. It was called the "War of Jenkins Ear". Three wars at once, folded into one. Next came the Seven Years War, which sent many frontier persons fleeing the French & Indians from the Ohio, into the Dan r., and Rockingham co., there are several of their forts still there.

This deposition is full of absent people. Impossible to answer questions. Like, when did they move on to their land? One thing is certain, as soon as they got on to their land, legally, they immediately began filing for more. As in the last paragraph, where he states he had land "lying on the south side of a larger tract of land lying on the waters of "Panther Creek", where he now resides." This would indicate that he held title to the land. Now, so many had moved out of Caswell co., for better lands. "Called the Great Migration". (KKKendall said that the land was worn out after about seven years.) I have not run into many where the land was resold after being confiscated. Only those who sued from the "Royal courts", could give us some record. Most Colonials, as my Col. Robert Payne & his Father, Col. which Josiah Payne in VA, who appeared in court to ans, these Royal claims, that I have read, leave a record of total "denial" to the Royal courts. They had suffered too much depredations from the British army.

All of the witnesses are careful not to make any direct statements that could bring the ire of other relatives down on their heads! I would like to know the courts decision. But it is good for getting the family members in the right order.

There is a noteworthy observation, tho small, set off the entire "Ben Rose" theory that his ancestor, James Lea of "Country Line" died at the home of his son [William] Lea, in Leasburg. That, of course is nonsense. His VA ancestor had made a written note, on the back page of his bible, was very disintegrated, and showed only two lines, and three dots, but Ben swore it was a "W" for William, & not an "M" for Major. [Spent over half a century trying to prove it.] The old man, James Lea, over 110 years of age, died in the smaller house on his plantation, that had been his son's, Majors, during his younger years. While Major

lived in the former "big" house. Old James was too infirm to travel to Leasburg. But Ben was unaware that in the "Secretarial" writing style, taught at that time, the W's & M's are made almost identical! All three writing books of the time that I read warned of that.

It sounds like someone wants that land, and clear title cannot be granted. This is long after the war. Any confiscation would have been long settled. It is not that invisible.

All of the above needs continued research and proof. We ask for research help and contributions.

John Jessee Research

JESSICA FINE [jessicarae.fine@gmail.com] wrote, 4/16/2011 regarding possible new information regarding the **parents of John Jessee, whom she identifies as Henry Jessee of Wales.**

Hello! I am a descendant of Sarah Sallie Jessee trying to find more info on the family. I am wondering if you have any knowledge of John's father being Henry Jessee b. 1710 in Wales. His wife's name was Elizabeth (possibly Browning). I know that John and Franky witnessed Henry's will in 1781 but the will does not say how they are related. Any information you can give me would be very appreciated. Thank you.

I responded: This relationship is what we show in our database at www.jessee.org, for the same reason, that will they signed. But it does not prove Henry is his father, and we do not know more. Please see John Jessee (Founding Father) in the database and see the notes there. May I please add your note below to these notes?

You have added two more new bits of information, that Henry may have been born in Wales in 1710, and that his wife Elizabeth may be a Browning. This is keenly of interest to our family researchers, so I am sharing this with the Jessee List. Please share your source for this new information. We are excited to learn this.

Jessica responded on 5/23/2011.

Jim, I'm sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you. Unfortunately, that Henry was born in Wales was just something another researcher had on their family tree on ancestry.com, yet they had no sources cited. It may be a good place to start looking for more information, though. As far as his wife, there is an electronic database of marriage records that includes record of a marriage between a Henry Jessee and an Elizabeth Browning. Unfortunately, being an incomplete record, it does not give the date or any other information. I will include the citation from ancestry.com. Thank you and I will keep in touch!

Source Citation: Source number: 15330.000; Source type: Electronic Database; Number of Pages: 1; Submitter Code: JJ2.

Source Information: Yates Publishing. U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

Original data: This unique collection of records was extracted from a variety of sources including family group sheets and electronic databases. Originally, the information was derived from an array of materials including pedigree charts, family history articles, querie.

TOM RUDDER continues to dog the John Jessee research to prove or not that he was a Revolutionary War soldier. Here is what he has learned about the NC Sheppard 10th Regiment, the regiment to which our John Jesse allegedly belonged.

Jim. Here is information on Sheppard's 10th Regiment. I guess you noticed that the Sheppard 10th organized in Kinston with men from the northeastern part of the state which would not have included Caswell Co.

The Sheppard's Additional Continental Regiment in the Revolutionary War (aka 10th North Carolina Regiment)

UNIT LINEAGE

* Authorized on April 17, 1777 in the North Carolina State Troops as Sheppard's Regiment.

* Organized on April 19- July 1, 1777 at Kinston to consist of eight companies from Northeastern part of the state.

* Adopted on June 17, 1777 into the Continental Army as Sheppard's Additional Continental Regiment and assigned to the Main Army.

* Disbanded on June 1, 1778 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
Lineage taken from "The Continental Army" by Robert K Wright
FURTHER READING

* The North Carolina Continentals by Hugh F. Rankin

* A Time of Terror: The Story of Colonel Jacob Klock's Regiment And The People They Protected, 1774-1783 (Paperback) by AJ Berry

John Jessee Male DNA Line

I submitted my DNA to FamilyTreeDNA.Com, under the Jessup surname project, which includes our Jesse, Jessie, and Jessee surnames as variants. If indeed my Jessee male line is unbroken, then all John Jessee male descendants should have the same. The Jessee Y DNA Haplogroup is R1b1b2.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia and FamilyTreeDNA resources. In human genetics, Haplogroup R is a Y-chromosome DNA haplogroup, a subgroup of haplogroup P, associated with the M207 mutation.

Origins: It is believed to have occurred somewhere in Central Asia between 30,000 and 35,000 years ago.

Distribution: The majority of members of haplogroup R belong to the Haplogroup R1, defined by marker M173. R1 is very common throughout Europe and western Eurasia. Its distribution is believed to be associated with the re-settlement of Eurasia following the last glacial maximum. Its main subgroups are R1a (SRY1532) and R1b (M343). One subclade of haplogroup R1b, R1b1b2-M269, is the most common haplogroup in Western Europe. [We, in fact, descend from Cro-Magnon man-Jim].

The above assures us that our Jessee male ancestors were of recent European origin, with high probability that our Jessee male ancestors came from the British Isles. England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales are all in the hunt.

Frankey Lea Jessee Female MtDNA Line

If we can find a daughter of a daughter of a daughter only descendant of one of the seven daughters of John and Frankey Lea Jessee, we can discover Frankey's Mitochondrial DNA heritage, and determine if Frankey has European, Indian or Melungeon origins.

GARY KLINEDINST, wrote, 7/23/2011, with major news regarding finding the **MtDNA of our Frankey Lea**. It has been identified thanks to Gary and his mother, **Alta Mae Kiser**, their willingness to share their DNA results, and their deep Russell County pedigree. **Alta Mae Kiser** is a direct maternal descendant of John and Frankey Lea Jessee through their daughter, **Mary Polly Kiser**.

Dear Mr. Jessee, We are distant cousins through our shared ancestors, John and Frankie (Lea) Jessee. I am descended from them through my mother, who was born in Russell Co., VA in 1919. Through the intermarriage of cousins, she is descended from this couple through her paternal grandmother's line, her maternal grandfather's, and her maternal grandmother's, so she probably has a lot of Jessee DNA in her.

I had started researching my ancestry about 30 years ago, and like everyone else researching this couple I ended with lots of speculation

and no definitive links to their parentage. So I gave researching them about the time the first Jessee Family Newsletter was written and I had no knowledge of its existence until about a 7 months ago, when I decided to renew my research at the urging of a cousin who found out that I was the family genealogist.

I was delighted when I found your website, with its large family database as well as the back issues of the family newsletter. I read each issue from the first to the last. I was very intrigued by all of the findings that have been made over the years, but I was disappointed when I got to the last issue without a firm resolution of the ancestry of John and Frankie (Lea) Jessee.

I am sorry to say that I do not have any new historical documentation to contribute. However, when I got to your Summer 2009 newsletter, I realized that I could be of help when I read the following:

"If we can find a daughter of a daughter of a daughter only descendant of one of the seven daughters of John and Frankey Lea Jessee, we can discover Frankey's Mitochondrial DNA heritage, and determine if Frankey has European, Indian, or Melungeon origins."

Now I don't know whether since your last issue you have found anyone who fit this bill, but you have now. My mother's mother was Hattie Kiser (1887-1983), who was the daughter of Mary Elizabeth Kiser (1859-1928), the daughter of Martha (Childress) Kiser (1828-1906), the daughter of Frances (Kiser) Childress (1805-1887), the daughter of Mary (Jessee) Kiser (1786-1836), the daughter of Frances (Lea) Jessee (ca 1752-ca 1836). Furthermore, my mother is still living and I have had her DNA submitted to both Family Tree DNA and 23andMe for testing for both mtDNA and autosomal DNA. Would you be interested in learning the results?

You might also be interested to know that my mother's father (a Jessee descendant) had one of the traditional Jessee names-- Archer. Archer's mother's name was Frances (Sutherland) Kiser, named after her grandmother Frances (Kiser) Childress, named after her grandmother Frances (Lea) Jessee.

I responded and asked permission to share his letter and their DNA results in the Jessee Newsletter. He replied:

Yes, you can certainly share my information with the exception of my email address. I don't like the idea of that being publically posted, since it may invite spam and scammers. If any real researcher or cousin wants to contact me, you can be my go-between.

I compared your line of descent with my mother's and by my reckoning, you and my mother are 5th cousins.

Shortly thereafter Gary provided his mother's MtDNA results which includes our Frankey Lea Jessee DNA, and reveals her maternal origins and roots

OK, now I have the results to share with you. My mother's (and thus Frankey's) haplogroup as tested by Family Tree DNA is "H." They wanted more money to narrow it down further and I wasn't prepared at the time to pay it. Their results were confirmed by 23andMe who narrowed it down further (at no extra charge) to "H4a1a." Here is what 23andMe has to say:

"Haplogroup H [Helena in the *Seven Daughters of Eve*] is the most common in Europe, reaching peak concentrations along the Atlantic coast. Although its origins are unclear, the haplogroup rose to prominence during the Ice Age, when Europe was blanketed by glaciers and its population squeezed into a handful of ice-free refuges in Iberia, Italy, the Balkans and the Caucasus."

"Several branches of haplogroup H arose during that time, and after the glaciers receded most of them played a prominent role in the re-population of the continent. With the subsequent spread of agriculture and the rise of organized military campaigns, the haplogroup achieved an even wider distribution. It is now found throughout Europe and at lower levels in Asia, reaching as far south as Arabia and eastward to the western fringes of Siberia."

"The H4 branch appears to have arisen in southeastern Europe or the Black Sea region about 12,000 years ago, during the final stages of the Ice Age. It soon spun off its own sub-branch, H4a, which spread north and west from the Caucasus region or neighboring Turkey into eastern Europe about 10,000 years ago, possibly in association with

the spread of farming. The haplogroup is most common today in Poland, where about 5% of the population carries it.”

“The next highest concentration of H4a is in Ireland, where about 3% of the population falls into the category. Those people may be descended from women who migrated to Britain and Ireland with 5th- and 6th-century Saxon invaders or during the later Viking period.”

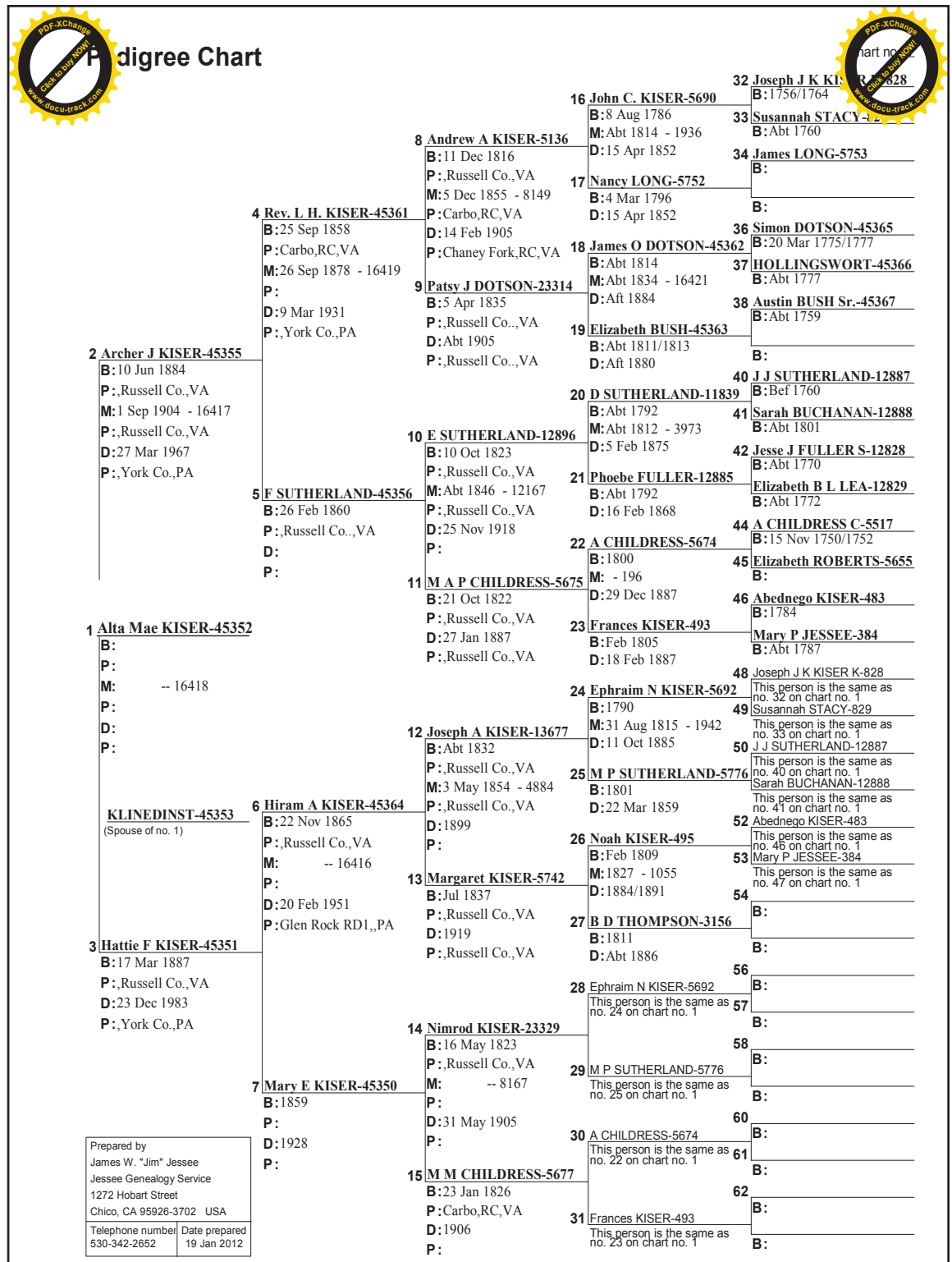
I then did a google search for “H4a1a” and found a site called The mtDNA H Haplogroup Project. This company says H4 is “quite rare,” found in all of Europe except Russia, but highest in Iberia. However, for the full sequence of “H4a1a,” they just show a map with the British Isles and Finland highlighted in red.

Finally, Family Tree DNA, gives tables showing haplogroups & their subclads and the number of matches they have. For “H4a1a” they list the following:

- England - 3
- Germany - 2
- Ireland - 7
- Morocco - 9
- Norway - 1
- Scotland - 2
- United Kingdom - 1

For your mtDNA matches they list a country, the total number of people you match from that country, the total number of people who have reported this as their country of origin, and the percent of the people we have tested from this country who match you. (Since I didn't have a full genome test, the matches for my mother are only approximate.) I list the top 13 here in order from highest to lowest percentages:

Portugal,	9,		
245,	3.7%		
Scotland,	26,		
1,200,	2.2		
Czech Rep.,	5,	268,	1.9
Ireland,	45,	2,248,	1.8
Austria,	4,	229,	1.7
Netherlands,	6,	368,	1.6
England,	46,	3,341,	1.4
United Kingdom,	27,	1,967,	1.4
Denmark,	3,	213,	1.4
Norway,	7,	509,	1.4
France,	1.2,	1,035,	1.2
Germany,	36,	3,384,	1.1
Morocco,	2,	176,	1.1 (Sephardic Jews)



Now what can we conclude from the mtDNA results and literature, tables, and maps that I've found? Well, we can rule out that she's a full-blooded American indian. (Of course, she could have had an indian father.) Her maternal ancestors were most likely European, although there is a slight chance she could have been descended from Sephardic Jews from Morocco. I also doubt that very many Finnish, Czech, or Polish people were emigrating to America in colonial times.

There does seem to be a good chance that her ancestors were from the British Isles. Then again, the high percentage of matches from Portugal could indicate Melungeon heritage. So the mtDNA results are tantalizing, but inconclusive. I welcome any of your thoughts on all of this.

Gary wrote later with more information, several photos of Mary Polly Kiser descendants, one of which, Polly Childress, is featured here, excellent discussion, and conclusions.

Now I would like to discuss what has been learned from my mother's autosomal DNA, that is the DNA in the chromosomes other than the Y-chromosome and the mitochondrial DNA. I don't know if you are familiar with the background of this relatively new type of test or not. It turns out that when we inherit our genes from our parents, they are not mixed 100% thoroughly, as I imagined years ago when I was a kid in school. The mixing occurs randomly, but long blocks, or segments, of DNA tend to stick together, often for several generations. People who share identical segments, most likely inherited them from the same person. Of course with each generation, the segments have a greater chance of breaking apart into smaller pieces. Some short matching segments may just be coincidental. But a statistical analysis can tell the difference and predict the degree of relatedness. The more segments you share and the greater the length of those segments, the more closely related you are. Relationships out to the second cousin level are virtually certain to show up. The chance of finding a match with a particular relative begins to decline slightly with third cousins. It can still detect many of your relatives at the fourth and fifth cousin levels and occasionally beyond that. At least two companies use autosomal DNA testing to match their customers with other people that they have tested and to predict their degree of relatedness. Family Tree DNA calls their matching tool Family Finder, whereas 23andMe calls theirs Relative Finder.

Another use for autosomal DNA testing is to determine someone's ethnic ancestry. Both of the above-mentioned companies offer this as a feature of their autosomal DNA testing. Family Tree DNA and 23andMe call theirs "Population Finder" and "Ancestry Painting" respectively.

Ok, now bearing in mind that unlike mtDNA, my mother's autosomal test results would not be the same as Frankey (Lea) Jessee's, here is what was concluded:

23andMe's Ancestry Painting shows my mother to be 100% European. However, Family Tree's Population Finder determined her to be 95.79% +/- 1.13% Western European and 3.38% +/- 1.12% Middle Eastern. (Why the difference? Family Tree DNA says "FAQ: I had my Family Finder results analyzed using a third party service. Why do the results differ from Population Finder? Answer: If you use a third party tool, it is natural for there to be minor differences for the Population Finder Beta due to either different methodologies or different population sets.")

The company 23andMe has an additional tool which they call "Native American Ancestry Finder." Here's their description:

"This feature scans a person's Ancestry Painting for distinctive signatures that indicate a Native American ancestor up to five generations in the past. It also takes into account the maternal and, if available, paternal lines, looking for Native American ancestry at any depth along those two branches of the family tree. Generally, it will only discover Native American ancestry within the last five generations of the participant."

The test determined that my mother had no evidence of Native American ancestry. Now although they say it generally only detects this back as far as 5 generations, I think my mother would be an exception in the case of her ancestors John Jessee & Frances Lea. She is 6 generations removed, so in most instances that would mean 64 different fourth great-grandparents and that each one would have contributed only 1.56% of their DNA. But in my mother's case, John Jessee and Frances Lea are each repeated 3 times through 3 different lines and so they each contribute 3/64 or 4.688%. (more than a non-repeated third great-grandparent, who would contribute only 1/32 or 3.125%).

This finding corroborates with the mtDNA results that show Frankie Lea as not being American Indian. It also corroborates with your Y-DNA results showing John Jessee's paternal line to be of Western European descent.

My gut feeling also is that Frankey is from the British Isles, but we have to leave open the Iberian/Melungeon possibility until we can find a way to disprove it.



I have some pictures of my mother, her siblings, and various ancestors scanned into my computer. I'll pick out a few later and send them to you and you can pick what you want.

I welcome any comments that you may have on these findings.

JOHN AND FRANKEY'S CHILDREN

I correspond with many descendants of John and Frankey's fifteen children and constantly glean much new descendant and pedigree information. I cannot provide all of it in the Newsletter but do record it in the family database. Please visit the family database at www.jessee.org to see many new additions.

I. John Jessee, Jr.

John Jessee, Jr. (1775-1834) married Mary "Polly" Armstrong (1780-1840) and they had six children. This is the editor's line.

CAROL FRALEY LAFERTY wrote, 7/18/2011, with this information for the **Stanford Lea Jessee** descendants, and others who had family in the 29th Virginia Infantry. Carol is a descendant of John Jr., Mary Polly, and George Lea Jessee.

Hello Jim, Thanks so much for sending the Newsletter. When I get all my facts together, I have something you might put in the next issue. I know a man in Hazard, KY who runs WSGS Radio Station. He is part of a Civil War group who do reenactments, etc. He mentioned the last time I saw him that they had done a ceremony for a Civil War soldier killed at Middle Creek Battle site in Floyd, Co. KY.

This is where Stanford Jessee was killed. I'm not descended from him directly, but I told him someone might be interested doing the same for Stanford. He said to let him know. I'll do my research on this and perhaps contact others to see if they are interested.

JOSEPH JESSEE [josephjessee@ymail.com] wrote, 7/9/2011 with his **Stanford Lea Jessee** pedigree, too.

Hi Jim: My name is Joseph Jessee and I live in Richlands VA. I just found your site it is great. My ggrandfather was Thomas Jefferson Jessee; my grand father Dewey Jessee; My dad was Jack Eugene Jessee who died Aug. 27 1987; I have 1son Jack Carl Jessee born Aug. 31 1996. Keep up the good work.

BENJAMIN JESSEE [binks_182@yahoo.com] wrote, 3/12/2012, with additional details for our John Jessee, Jr. descendant, Acie Frederick "Asa" Jessee.

* ID: I6320
* Name: Acie Frederick "Asa" JESSEE
* Birth: JUL 1879 in Lebanon, Russell Co., VA
* Death: 1945

In regards to the list of children you have a child listed as Living Jessee The child was born February 15 1910 and his name was Garnet Franklin Jessee. He was married To Hattie Victoria Hubbard. He had 12 children as follows Malissa Kathleen, William Vade, Mary Ethel, William Franklin, Janice Madeline, Bonnie Sue, Jo Anna, Roy Lee, Barbara Carol, James Hamilton (of which I am the son), Deborah Yvonne Victoria Joyce.

If you would like more information on this side of the Jesse family let me know. We have many old photographs of the family. Some very old possibly of Noah Jesse and his wife.

SAMUEL MCINTYRE [sammcintyre85@gmail.com] wrote, 10/23/2010, with genealogy information on his **McIntyre branch** of the John Jessee, Jr. family, descended from **Anna Marie Jessee**, a gg-granddaughter of **Stanford Lea Jessee**.

Hello my name is Samuel Edward McIntyre. I was just recently doing some research on my family heritage and I found out that I am a descendant of the Jesse family. My father's name is Edward Duncan McIntyre III and his mother and father's names were Edward Duncan McIntyre Jr. and Anna Marrie Jessee. I'm not sure who to contact about this or who to give my information to, but I do have some information that might be helpful. Please feel free to contact me at any time with what I should do. Thank you so much and I look forward to talking with you.

ROBBIN ANDREWS [vball_4_97@yahoo.com] wrote with news of her branch of the family. Her great-grandmother **Dovie Lee Jessee**, is the granddaughter of **James Mathias Jessee**, a son of Jefferson Jessee.

I got to see the information posted about grandma Julia. I do have a couple of corrections for you and some new information. Julia's husband Norman Miller is deceased, however we are not sure on the year. We do not know if Benny Hastings is living or not. Also Leslie Robinson is also deceased. Julia is buried next to him in Ft. Worth. Jasper & Dovie (Jessee) Henslee's son Johnny passed at the beginning of June. He had been in poor health for sometime, and the Lord called him home. Leota or "Sadie Leota" passed away back in November 2010.

MICHAEL DYE [madye@zoomtown.com] wrote, 8/24/2011, asking if I know who **C. J. Jessee** is.

Do you know who this is?

Jessee, C. J. - of Carterton, VA; d. 20 Mar 1910, Glen Alum, WV, killed in train wreck (*Lebanon News*, 25 Mar 1910)

RUSSELL BOY AMONG DEAD: C. J. Jessee Killed In Train Wreck: Sunday morning about 4 o'clock another disastrous wreck occurred at Glen Alum, due to lapped orders. Two firemen were killed at their posts while two engineers were badly injured. The dead, C. J. Jessee, Carterton, Va., D. R. Martin, Narrows, Va. William Hatcher and Leonard Akers were injured. They were given medical attention and are now in the hospital. It is not thought that their injuries are serious. Eighteen loaded cars on one train were wrecked while a number of empties on the other were also smashed up. The wrecked trains were an extra and No. 84 was being pushed by engine No. 875, while engines 1091 and 406 pulled the extra. No. 84 was eastbound while the extra was going west. Conflicting orders were issued with the result that the wreck occurred while both trains were making fairly good speed. Both firemen were throwing coal into their engines when the head on collision came and they were buried underneath. The engineers saw the smash coming and Hatcher and Akers were injured although they succeeded in jumping. Engineer J. W. Buchanan, who was on the pusher, jumped and was not injured, although four cars in front of the engine were all smashed up. Fireman Martin's remains were taken to his home Sunday night on No. 16 while those of Mr. Jessee were taken (unreadable) morning. Train No. 4 was delayed for several hours while all movement was delayed until the wreckage could be cleared up. The wreck was one of the worst which has occurred in some time on the road. Cars were smashed and thrown on all sides while three engines

were put out of commission: - Bluefield Telegraph. Source: Lebanon News, 25 Mar 1910

I speculated that this is **Charles J. Jessee**, son of John Tivis Jessee, son of Joseph Bishop, son of Jefferson Jessee. Michael Dye responded:

That would be him, and his tombstone does in fact list 20 Mar 1910.

VICKIE BAGBY [albatross.1313@hotmail.com] wrote, 8/4/2010 with extensive descendants information for **Ida Lillian Davis** who married **Vince Jordan**. Ida was the daughter of **Asa Davis**, son of **Doc Caleb Davis** and **Nancy C. "Nannie" Jessee**, daughter of **Stanford Lea Jessee**.

Hello, it's me again. I was looking at the descendant chart and I can give you names to fill in the spots that you have for the children. Actually, you are missing a few.

Ida Lillian Davis married Vince G. Jordan

The children are

Altha Ann Bagby [the writer's mother-in-law]

Lacy Lee Jordan- He went by Lee

Acie Gilmer "Bud" Jordan

I can tell you that two of the children, Altha and Bud have passed.

Altha passed I believe in Dec 2001

We don't know about Lee. He was a recluse in every sense of the word. Bud passed away under unusual circumstances. I can't say since we don't know the facts but Ann said it was always suspected of foul play. He died in San Gabriel CA. Once I find the birth and death dates of the rest I can give you those.

Lillian married Al Berman later to whom she stayed married to until he died of Alzheimer's. Lillian died of complications brought on by diabetes. Ann told me it was frowned upon by her family to marry Vince Jordan because he was Cherokee Indian.

I thanked her and asked for dates and permission to share. She shared much more about her mother-in-law, **Altha Ann Bagby**.

My mother-in-law was probably the only one that kept up with dates. If I didn't have her bible, I probably wouldn't have known as much as I did.

Sure, you can share this info. Maybe it might trigger someone's memory. I have a picture of Ann when she was little. She is with some friends and one of her brothers I believe. They lived in Tazewell, Bristol VA, and Abingdon. When Ann married her first husband, they lived in Tennessee where George (her husband) worked in Jordan's Grocery.

When she married the second time, I'm not sure how her and Darrell met but they lived in Pomona, Ca and had my husband. Darrell's job changed and travelling became part of their lives. They moved to Georgia and had Loren and Matt. They moved several times, including a move to Iran in the 70's. Eventually, they settled down in Georgia.

Ann was an old soul. It's funny, but I knew her before I knew my husband. We met through a mutual friend and before that, when I was very little, she had her own salon and my grandmother went there. I remember playing on her floor with some toys while waiting for grandmother to be finished. She was very spirited and understanding. When her brother died, it took a lot out of her and then her son, Jim, died it changed her forever. It almost killed her. I didn't know her then but my husband said she just lost it. He died in 1971 or 72. I'll email you with the dates.

Ann had the most wonderful sense of humor. She could make anything seem funny. After Jim died her marriage to Darrell basically fell apart. She really went through alot including a fire that claimed everything she had. In the 90's, she moved to Abingdon to take care of her parents until they passed. When her mother died, it wasn't too much longer after that that she died. She died of a staph infection. My husband has a memory of her that when he was little, they would pretend that a 3ft ceramic poodle at the end of the hallway was a preacher and they would walk up to the poodle and get married. It sounds kind of dorky, I know, but that is his best memory of her. He said she was the perfect mom that everyone dreams of having.

II. Archer Jessee

Archer Jessee (1776-1862) married three times: Nancy Browning (1781-1826); Rachel Herndon (1790-1833); and Mary Jane "Polly" Owens (1803-1884) and had fifteen children.

Archer is variously referred to as Archa, Archable, Archibald in various family pedigrees and other sources. It is my opinion that his name is Archer, and I further speculate that Archer was the surname of his grandmother, or g-grandmother, perhaps in the Lea family. Furthermore, his three wives are buried with him in the Archer Jessee Cemetery, and their stones indicate each as the wife of Archer.

CHARLIE THOMPSON [thomps@taktel.com] wrote, 7/30/2011 with this note and documentation. Charlie is a descendant of Archer Jessee and many other Russell County families: Thompson, Fletcher, Fuller Wallis, McFarlane, Kendrick, Browning, Candler, Stovall, Gilmore and Edmonson to name a few. Balfred Harvey Thompson married Louisa Lucinda Jessee, daughter of Vincent Jessee, Jr and Virginia Ann Gilmer.

Dear Jim. We have not talked since you and your wife visited us here in North Dakota. I often wondered if you mentioned your wonderful visit in The Jessee Newsletter. [I sure did and in our Holiday Letter, too]

I just re-found a document in my "hardcopy" records that may end the controversy of my paternal grandfather's name. It is a copy of his application for a Account Social Security Number. The application is dated December 4, 1936. He entered his full name as Balfred Harvey Thompson.

This should over ride the use of first name "Ballard" and the middle name "Henry". I have records showing that his father's middle name was Henry.

ARCHIE JESSEE [aejessee@wavecable.com] wrote 3/3/2011 with this inquiry and some other news. I was able to determine that **Lilburn Wyatt Jessee** descended from Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning, via son William Jessee, Sr.

I have been corresponding with a couple of sisters and wondering how they fit in to the Jessee family. The sisters are Vivian Jessee Vang and Beverly Jessee Piper. Their father is Lilburn Wyatt "Wyatt L." Jessee, b. 1915. Mother is Alice L. Buckelew, b. abt. 1910. It looks like their grandfather is Lilburn Arvel (Orville) Jessee, b. Feb. 1895. Do you know how they may be connected to John Jessee, 1750?

Jan. 21st Doris and I attended the memorial service in N. Hollywood of a cousin, Margie McPeters Levin, my father's sister's daughter. We haven't seen that part of the family for 9 years. We happened to be in Palm Springs area in our motor home when we learned she had passed away.

We visited another cousin in Riverside. They had pictures on their wall I hadn't seen before. One of my father and his parents when he was a about 7 years old. Another of my grandfather and one of his brothers. I'm hoping I can get some copies made.

You did a good job on the newsletter. I know it isn't as easy as it used to be to. Hang in there and keep it going. I appreciate what you are doing.

MICHAEL DYE [madye@zoomtown.com] wrote 1/16/2012, with with information and inquiry regarding who is **Sarah E. Jessee** who married **Isaac McCarty**.

TRANSFER FROM PREVIOUS APPLICATION		U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT	
TRANSFERRED FROM PREVIOUS APPLICATION		APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER	
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	BALFRED HARVEY THOMPSON	DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)	18 1896
ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE)	550 PEMBERTON AV. LEXINGTON KY	SEX	M
CITY, STATE, ZIP	LEXINGTON QUARRY CO. KY	COLOR	
DATE OF PREVIOUS APPLICATION		OTHER	
DATE OF THIS APPLICATION		IF REGISTERED WITH THE U.S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, GIVE NUMBER OF REGISTRATION CARD	
IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS, STATE DATE	Dec 4 1936		

Check out the transcriptions of the below death records from Texas for Isaac M. McCarty and 3 of his children. Note that Isaac was from Russell Co., VA and the death records of his children indicate his wives name was Sarah Jessee. I don't see any of them in your database. I suspect McCarty may have been Carty in Virginia, but can't place Isaac either. You know who they are?

name: Isaac M. McCarty
death date: 07 Aug 1932
death place: Celeste, Hunt Co, Texas
gender: Male
race: White
death age: 83 years 4 months
estimated birth date:
birth date: 12 Apr 1849
birthplace: Russell Co, Va
marital status: Married
spouse's name:
father's name: John T. McCarty
father's birthplace: Belfast, Ireland
mother's name: Amanda Dickinson
mother's birthplace: Belfast, Ireland
occupation: Merchant
place of residence:
cemetery:
burial place: Celeste, Tx
burial date: 08 Aug 1932
additional relatives: X
film number: 2135921
digital film number: 4030476
image number: 2350
reference number: cn 35046

[three additional document for three sons was also provided]

I responded: The Sarah E. Jessee married to Isaac McCarty, whose name only appears in these records as Jesse or Jessie, in question, is problematic for me. I have several in the database at www.jessee.org, who are in the probable range for her birth estimated 1860-1875, if her children was born in 1891, 95 and 98, but with no family information. So I can't specifically identify her.

Later, we found her as the **daughter of Robert Stinson Jessee, son of Elder David, Little Dave, Jessee son of Archer and Nancy**. Michael agreed:

I finally found them in the 1900 & 1910 censuses in Texas which gave me a marriage year of 1889. This is from the 1889 Russell Co., VA marriages:

24 Apr 1889:
Isaac M. Carty, 24, single, b. Russell Co., s/o J. M. & Amanda Carty, m. Sallie Jessee, 22, single, b. Russell Co., d/o Robert & Sarah Jessee.

J. M. Carty is John M. Carty. Amanda I have found was most likely a Dunford, d/o Josiah & Alcey Dunford of Smyth Co., VA and not a Dickenson as indicated on Isaac McCarty's death certificate. The Dickenson name was giving me fits as I couldn't find where it fit in anywhere.

NANCY & GARY HILL [Nancy_hill09@comcast.net] wrote, 8/21/2011, about her Archer Jessee genealogy interests and the DAR.

I am Nancy Hill and descended from Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning through their daughter, Elizabeth, who married Francis Howard. Several years ago, I sent you a gedcom with our family history which you acknowledged in your newsletter. My husband and I have since moved to Alexandria, Virginia and had the opportunity to visit Russell County, Virginia last fall. It was a lovely trip and we were excited to see the mill and John Jessee's grave. This is really important to me since I have been a member of the DAR since 1999 through other ancestors. I am still in the process of attempting to document Elizabeth Jessee to Archer Jessee, which is a requirement to be able to claim John Jessee as an ancestor in DAR.

III. William Jessee

William Jessee (1779-1841) married Mary "Polly" Vermillion (1785-1879), and they had fourteen children. This family moved to Lee Co., VA.

IV. Lea Jessee

Lea Jessee (1781-1852) married Barbara Gose (1796-1862), da. of Stephen Gose and Barbara Catron (Ketron) Gose, and they had ten children. This family moved to Missouri, and includes among descendants Archer Catron Jessee, the first Jessee to migrate to California before the Gold Rush.

V. David Jessee

Reverend David Jessee (1783-1856) married Catherine "Katie" Banner (1788-1860) and had thirteen children. See also Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

See Merri Vinton contributions under Other SouthWest Virginia Families for information for Rev. David and his son Rev. John Jessee descendants

JACK HOCKETT [Tlas101@aol.com] wrote, 4/3/2011 with this obituary for **Harry Lee Samuel Jessee**. He is a descendant of David Jessee, via, **David Wilson, John Skaggs, Oscar, and Willey Lee Jessee**.

Harry Lee Samuel Jessee CASTLEWOOD, Va. Funeral services for Harry Lee Samuel Jessee will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday, March 28, 2011, in Castlewood Funeral Home Chapel, Castlewood, with the Rev. Jim Stanley and the Rev. Allen Porter officiating. Giving special memories will be Carl Castle. Entombment will follow in Temple Hill Memorial Park, Chapel of Love Mausoleum, Castlewood. Masonic Rites will be conducted by the Coeburn Masonic Lodge No. 97, A.F. & A.M. Pallbearers will be John Michael Byerley, Jim Ball, Carl Castle, Tom Dickenson, Joe Jordan, and Jonathan Finch. Honorary pallbearers will be Uncle Frank Tompa, Larry Gibson, Bobby Hill, James White, Scotty White, and the Staff and Employees of Mountain Materials Inc. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ronald McDonald House, 418 N State of Franklin Road, Johnson City, Tennessee 37604. Online condolences may be sent to the Jessee family through our website and a video tribute may be viewed at www.castlewoodfuneralhome.com Harry Lee Samuel Jessee, 59, died Thursday, March 24, 2011, in Lee Regional Medical Center, Pennington Gap, Va., from injuries received in a car accident. Castlewood Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

VI. Elizabeth Jessee Gose

Elizabeth Jessee Gose (1785-1827) married George Gose (1786-1861), son of Stephen Gose and Barbara Catron (Ketron) Gose, and they had twelve children. See the Gose Family discussion under Lea Jessee above, as well as additional information under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

VII. Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser

Mary "Polly" Jessee (1787-1836) married Abednego Kiser (1784-1814), who died in the War of 1812. They had four children and are the ancestors of many a Kiser from Russell Co. She later married James Chafin, whose abuse may have caused her death.

VIII. Frances Jessee Stone

Frances Jessee (1789-1860) married William Stone (1789-1860), son of Jeremiah Stone. They had ten children. This family is believed to have moved to Missouri. We know so little about these descendants that any tidbit of information is big news, even an error correction to what I have recorded.

ANGELEE MULLINS FYNAN [omoonbeam@yahoo.com] wrote, 8/12/2010 regarding corrections needed on the family records of **Lewis Stone**, son of **William and Frances Stone**, who married **Pernetta Reed**.

You seem to have Pernetta Ann's info mixed with her sister Cynthia Catherine Stone. Pernetta married John B. Newberry in 1872 and Cynthia married Richard "Dick" Mullins which I apologize that I do not have the date on that marriage.

Name: Lewis Stone
Parents: William Stone (Abt 1784-Abt 1853) and Frances Jessee (Bet 1787-Aft 1860)
Life Range: May 1825 - 3 Jan 1912
Age: 1825 May Birth:
Spouse: Pernetta Reed (1825-1915). Died on 4 Jul 1915.
20 1845 Aug 5 Daughter born (#1): USA, Kentucky, Pike. Pernetta Ann Stone (1845-1939). born in , Pike, Kentucky, USA. Died on 10 Oct 1939, buried in Newberry Ridge, Dickenson Co, VA..
21 1847 Mar Son born (#2): USA, Virginia, Russell. William Riley Stone (1847-1923). born in , Russell, Virginia, USA. Died on 21 Dec 1923 in Skeetrock, Dickenson County, Virginia.
Marriage: _____ Pernetta Reed (1825-1915).
24 1849 Daughter born (#3): USA, Virginia, Russell. Nancy Stone (1849-). born in , Russell, Virginia, USA.
25 1850 May 10 Daughter born (#4): USA, Virginia, Russell. Elizabeth Stone (1850-1926). born in , Russell, Virginia, USA. Died on 19 May 1926.
28 Abt 1853 Death of Father: Missouri, Sullivan. William Stone (Abt 1784-Abt 1853).
33 1858 Daughter born (#5): USA, Virginia, Wise. Cynthia Catherine Stone (1858-). born in , Wise, Virginia, USA.
35 1860 Son born (#6): USA, Virginia, Wise. Lewis Stone (1860-). born in , Wise, Virginia, USA.
35 Aft 1860 Death of Mother: Missouri, Sullivan. Frances Jessee (Bet 1787-Aft 1860).
38 1863 May Daughter born (#7): USA, Virginia, Wise. Mary Stone (1863-). born in , Wise, Virginia, USA.
39 1864 May 10 Daughter born (#8): USA, Virginia, Wise. Polina Stone (1864-1946). born in , Wise, Virginia, USA. Died on 9 Jun 1946, buried in Branham Cemetary, Dickenson County, Virginia.
54 1879 Nov Son born (#9): USA, Virginia, Wise. Thomas Stone (1879-). born in , Wise, Virginia, USA.
86 1912 Jan 3 Death: _____.

IX. Sarah Jessee Vermillion

Sarah "Sallie" Jessee (1790-1851) married Wilson Vermillion, son of Jessee Vermillion, Sr. and Mary "Polly" Scott. They had three children.

JANET MC MASTER [jannypooh5@msn.com] wrote, 3/27/2011, with this inquiry and request for family photos in her Jessee, Vermillion, and Brown-

ing lines.

Dear James, It's been a while since I've contacted you. Hope all is well. Since you have so many connections in genealogy I wanted to ask you if you ever come across family who have pictures of our ancestors I'd love it if they could scan and e-mail me a copy. I haven't been able to find a picture of Wilson and Sarah Jessee and their family: Issac and Martha Vermillion; Rebecca and Andrew Ferguson; Elihu and Eliza Vermillion. Since you are a Jessee you are the best person to ask about Wilson and Sarah. I have tried to reach Harry Ferguson in Lebanon to see if he has a picture of Rebecca and family. So far I have had no luck. I don't know who to contact about Eliza (Browning) Vermillion and family. I am from this line and no one in my Vermillion family had a picture. I thought maybe someone in the Browning family might. If you know of any contacts I'd greatly appreciate any help.

X. Boedicia Jessee Gose

Boedicia "Dicey/Dicy" Jessee married Stephen Gose Jr. (1792-bef. 1842), son of Stephen Gose and Barbara Catron (Ketron) Gose. They had eight children. This family moved to Iowa.

See the Gose Family discussion under Lea Jessee, and Rebecca Jessee Gose above, as well as additional information under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

XI. James Jessee

James Jessee (1794-aft 1846) married Jane Burk (1795-aft.1846), d. of Fleming Burk, Sr. and Rebecca Miller. They had four children. See also discussion under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

DAVID JESSIE II [dj85chevy4x4@aol.com] wrote, 3/29/2011 regarding June Mabel (Jessee) Merritt daughter of Otis Jessee, a James Jessee descendant.

Jim, Sorry it took me so long to get back with you on this but I was trying to find out more information on Otis. My grand father was Estel Lee (June's oldest brother) and Otis was their father. I was able to find out that he was born on October 7 1907 and passed away July 20 1985 and he was born in Tazwell, TN. His father was Charlie Jessee and all I was able to find out about him was that he came down to TN from VA. After speaking to one of my great aunts I found out that a lot of my tree has been done. A lot of it has been done by a cousin J.K. Jessee, I was told I have met him but I can't remember. Also from what I was told Charlie Jessee had a brother Lee and another son named Dallas. As far as the age at death goes....my father had Multiple Sclerosis and his father died in a logging accident and his father lived to be around 77. My Great-grandfather Otis had 8 children 5 girls and ...Estel Lee (my papaw) Hollis (not sure if spelling is correct) and my great aunt June are the only ones that have passed away the rest are still alive and the youngest is 62 I believe. My great aunts Pauline and Shirley are supposed to be gathering up the information that they have and emailing it all to me or snail mail. My Great aunt Shirley thinks she has a lot of the family pictures and possibly pictures of headstones from an old family cemetery that is essentially impossible to get to now. But they did get the names off the markers and headstones when they were there years ago. Hopefully over the next few months I will be able to get with them and collect all the data they have collected over the years and make some sense of it all.

XII. Rebecca Jessee Burk

Rebecca Jessee (1796-1860) married William Burk (1797-1850), son of Fleming Burk, Sr. and Rebecca Miller. They had ten children.

Kathryn Burke Greever, Jack Hockett, Imogene Burke Verbal, and Rue Burke Stevenson published *Some Descendants of John Burk, 1656-1699, Middlesex Co., Virginia*, available from the Iberian

Publishing Co. Order online at www.iberian.com. All royalties go to the Russell Co. Historical Society and Russell Co. Library Family History Room.

This 502-page book details the descendants of Fleming Burk, Sr. Four of his children married Jessees, two children and two grandchildren of John and Frankey Lea Jessee. Jane Burk married James Jessee; William Burk married Rebecca Jessee, Fleming Burk, Jr. married Nancy Ann Jessee, daughter of David Jessee; and Robert Burk married Anna Gose, daughter of Elizabeth Jessee and George Gose. This book includes over 1000 descendants of Rebecca Jessee and William Burk.

XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

Jane Jessee (1797-1869) married Henry Fuller (1792-1872), son of Abraham Fuller and Mary Sargent. They had ten children. This family moved to Illinois. While I have a scant amount of descendants' information, I do not correspond with any descendant of Jane Jessee Fuller, except Vins Holbrook, previously featured in this newsletter, who is a Fuller descendant. This is a family that needs much research.

XIV. George Lea Jessee

George Lea Jessee (1798-1882) married Elizabeth "Betsy" Counts (1799-1880), da. of John Counts, Jr. of Glade Hollow and Margaret "Peggy" Kelly. George and Betsy had fourteen children.

Many George Lea Jessee descendants are subscribers and have contributed very much information to the database. It is one of our best researched and recorded branches of the family.

EMILY WISE [ejwise7708@gmail.com] wrote, 7/10/2011, with an inquiry about having any **Jewish roots in the Jessee Family Tree**. Please see my lengthy response under Correspondence.

MICHAEL DYE [madye@zoomtown.com] wrote, 8/24/2011, regarding the **2nd wife of Samuel Jessee, Elizabeth "Bettie" Finney Campbell Jessee, and other corrections to the Finney pedigree**.

I've got some updated/corrected info on the second wife of Samuel Jessee. Elizabeth "Bettie" Campbell was her widowed name from her previous marriage. She was actually the d/o James Finney & Dorcas Lockhart. Here's a copy of her death notice from the Lebanon News along with my annotations. I'll assume you'll be able to interpret them and plug everything in where it goes, but if you have any questions, just ask away.

Jessee, Bettie – d. 1 Mar 1910, Coeburn, VA; m. 1st William Cambell; m. 2nd Samuel Jessee; d/o ? ? Finney; bur. family cem. south of Lebanon (Lebanon News, 4 Mar 1910) (Elizabeth Finney, b. abt 1842, d/o James Finney [s/o George Finney & Phoebe Puckett] & Dorcas Lockhart [d/o William Mitchell Lockhart & Catherine Scott], m. 1st, 06 Feb 1866, RCV, William Francis Marion Campbell, s/o Joel Campbell [s/o Henry & Jane Campbell] & Rachel Elliott [d/o James Elliott & Obedience Parsley]. m. 2nd 08 Jan 1891, RCV, Samuel Jessee, s/o George Lea Jessee [s/o John Jessee & Frances Lea] & Elizabeth Counts [d/o John Count s & Margaret "Peggy" Kelly] – mad)

I responded: Thank you Mike. I have made these corrections and other updates with the information

included in your notes. However, I did show James Finney as the son of George Finney and Nancy Fletcher, 2nd wife, is that incorrect? Mike replied:

I can't say 100% with certainty that Phoebe was James' mother as I have him born abt 1809. But I do know for certain that Phoebe was still alive in late 1807 from the following two deeds abstracted from RCV Deed Book 4.

This would make all but the last 3 children in your database for sure children of Phoebe. In order for James to have been a son of Nancy, Phoebe would have had to have died shortly after the dates of these deeds and George re-marry right away to Nancy. I would guess that James probably belongs to Phoebe. I'm less certain of the last two, Rebecca and Elizabeth, especially Elizabeth as there is a 5 year gap between her and Rebecca's birth.

Page 147 - November 30, 1807 between George Finnell & Pheby and Solomon Litton...108 ac on both sides of Horns branch, the waters of Cedar Creek, branch of Clinch River...Signed: George Finnell & Pheby Finnell. No witnesses

Page 148 - November 30, 1807 between George Finnell & Pheby and Solomon Litton...50 ac land conveyed to George Finnell by Enos Browning...Signed: George Finnell & Pheby Finnell. No witnesses

XV. Martin Jessee

Martin Jessee (1801-1879) married first Virginia Jane Price (1801-1853), da. of David and Jane Price, and they had eleven children. He married second Mary Jane Darnell (1834-1907), and they had seven children. Martin, with a total of 18 children, may have the most Jessee descendants in America.

KERRIE ANNE LOYD [kloyd@uga.edu] wrote, 8/27/2011, with up-to-date information regarding her branch of the Martin Jessee family via her mother-in-law **Betty Carole Jessee (Loyd)**.

Hi there! We named our baby girl Jessee Genevieve, in memory of my mother-in-law Betty Carole Jessee (Loyd). I was working on the family section of her baby book and came across your website! My husband, Justin Loyd, is a great, great, great, great grandson of John Jessee. I have a little more info that you are missing if you want to add to the ancestry portion of your website. I believe the nameless person here: [Jessee database at www.jessee.org] is Justin's grandfather Bascum Slemple Jessee, son of Charlie W. Jessee and Sarah Cooper, their 11th child. He died in the mid nineties. Bascum and (second) wife Delia had 4 girls: Mary Lou, Betty (died 2007), Lois (died as a child) and Glenda. Since Mary Lou, Betty and Glenda all married, the Jessee name was lost. Betty married James Lee Loyd and had just 1 child, my husband Justin, born in 1975. The living family remains in Virginia.

Anyway, I found the jessee.org website to be fascinating even though it's not my own family! Thanks for all of the work you do!

Kerrie Anne Therese Loyd
PhD Candidate
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
The University of Georgia

MICHAEL DYE [madye@zoomtown.com] wrote, 1/6/2012 regarding **Sally J. Jessee Minton**, daughter of Martin Jessee and Jane Price.

I thought you might be interested in this death certificate I found for Sally J. Jessee Minton, d/o Martin Jessee & Virginia Jane Price, especially since she isn't listed in the census with them. You have her listed in your database based on my marriage extraction from the marriage records with husband listed as Wilburn Milton. I have found Wilburn living with his parents, James & Jane Minton in the 1870 Russell Co. census and Wilburn and Sally living in the 1900 - 1920 Scott Co. censuses listed as Wilburn (or William) & Sally Minton, so I assume the true name is Minton instead of Milton.

Missing Links & Conundrums

The following are only a few of the e-mail I am fortunate to receive. These, in particular, give color to our work, address problems, provide new information, corrections, or updates, and both answer and ask new "missing links" questions or other conundrums.

ARCHIE JESSEE [aejessee@wavecable.com] wrote, 8/29/2011 to ask about the following article and photo.

Do you know where Cristi fits in to the Jessee family?

Bakersfield, News Directors: Cristi Jessee Will Join KBAK-KBFX As News Director

By Merrill Knox on July 26, 2011 5:04 PM

Cristi Jessee is set to join KBAK-KBFX on August 16. She will be the news director at the Fisher Communications duopoly in Bakersfield, CA.



Jessee has been the news director at KSAX, the ABC affiliate in Alexandria, MN, since 2009. Prior to that, she was a multimedia journalist at KXTV in Sacramento.

"As the local news landscape broadens to include various content platforms, Cristi's work with social media and her experience as a multimedia journalist will strengthen the stations' commitment to bringing viewers news when and where they want it," KBAK-KBFX vice president and general manager Teresa Burgess said in a statement.

Jessee began her career as a production assistant at KARE in Minneapolis. She has also worked at WDAZ in Grand Forks, ND, KTHV in Little Rock and KCBS in Los Angeles.

MARSHA RAYMOND <brianraymond@sbcglobal.net> wrote, 2/8/2011 regarding a finding a photo of **Harvey Salyers**.

I found your email on the Internet, I hope it is still valid. I saw that you had posted that you have a picture of Harvey Salyer born 1855 in VA, died 1938 Lawrence Co KY. Here is how I am related to him:

He had a son John Salyer b. 1879, John married Eliza Ison and had Bertha Salyer b. 1914- Bertha is my grandmother, she died in Akron OH in 1994. he married Clarence Cockrell and had John Cockrell, my dad.

I am trying to determine if Harvey Salyer's father was Jesse Salyer born 1816 who married Nancy Castle. His father was Jeremiah Salyers who married Elizabeth Rose Conley. Do you know if this is the right one?

Could you scan the picture you have of Harvey Salyer? If not, I could send you a self addressed stamped envelope and money to make a copy of the picture and mail back. I appreciate anything you can do to help. Thank you, Marsha Raymond of Suffield, OH

I responded: Thank you for writing, I wish I could be more help. Please tell me exactly where you saw I had a picture of Harvey Salyer. I do not know this name, nor do I know where I have a picture, and I do not have this name in my database at all, nor any of these names you list below. You might wish to share your inquiry on the Russell County List on RootsWeb.

ETTA BRUCE HERMAN [willetta2@cox.net] wrote, 8/23/2010 “**Hunting for a F. N. Jessee.**” of Grayson Co., TX.

My Grandmother, Octavia Hudson, married an F.N. Jessee on 17th of December 1890 in the County of Grayson, State of Texas. A son was born of this union, my Dad.

His birth date was 16 of Jan 1894. On the 24th of Dec 1896, Grandma Hudson married James Samuel Bruce. My Dad became a Bruce. I would like to find info on F.N. Jessee.

Do you have any suggestions. Thank You, Etta Bruce Herman

I wrote in response: Thank you for writing. Etta is also a family name, both sides, and we almost named our daughter Etta... we named her Emma.

I do not have an F. N. Jessee or Octavia Hudson in my database, but many Hudsons, and many Jessees who I have recorded with a first name only starting with F. So this is hard, but not impossible. Can you get their marriage certificate from Grayson County. Try Google “Grayson County TX Marriage records. I would also go to FamilySearch.com and Rootsweb.com and try finding Octavia Hudson first.

With your permission I would like to share this with the Jessee List and in the next Newsletter if we don't figure it out sooner.

Etta replied: I have the marriage certificates for both of the marriages of Octavia Hudson. Her parents were William Ballard Hudson and Elizabeth Smith. Please feel free to share any info.

No further info of any kind. No names, nothing. I just want to find out what happened to him. Was he killed in some manner or what. I am still searching through the census in hopes of finding his parents. It would help if there was a 1890 census. Do you know the origin of my name? No one in my family history has my name. My Mother was Irish and German and my Father Scot. Oh, I was born in Salinas, CA and have five generations of CA's in my line. I do my family history for fun. Thanks again. Etta

Correspondence

TOM CARTNER [homeofcleancars@yahoo.com] wrote, 4/18/2011 with several miscellaneous tidbits and connections to SW VA Genealogy.

Hello again James, We had a few communications abt a year ago and I gave you a little info about my great grandfather Emmett Richmond from Russell Co who had been shot around 1896. I never found a Jessee connection, to myself but was just surfing thru your genealogy tree and noticed a connection to my wife:

Mary Spencer Cartner

Her parents Amos Spencer & Bernice Dotson, Buchanan Co

Johnny Dotson 1895-1962 + Frances Justice died 1975

George Wheeler Dotson died 1868 + Matilda “Sug” Estep born 1875

Uriah Jack Estep born 1845 + Mary Polly Fuller born 1843

Elijah Fuller 1818-1899 + Frances Thompson 1821-1878

John Fuller 1797-1860 + Crissy Rasnick

George Fuller abt 1757-1848 + unknown

Henry Fuller 1717-1788 + Catherine Salling 1725-1788

I'm a more distant cousin, but my wife is more direct. Her & I share as 6X great grandfather Thomas Short thru two of his daughters the one to my wife's side Permilia married Richard Thompson and to my side Mary married Augustine Berry

Good luck cuz, Tom Cartner in Southern Md

EMILY WISE [ejwise7708@gmail.com] wrote, 7/10/2011, with an inquiry about having any **Jewish roots in the Jessee Family Tree.** Emily is a George Lea Jessee descendant.

Hello, My name is Emily (Owens) Wise. I am the grand-daughter of Barnabus “Barney” Jessee (Vernon Cecil's Brother) and I am Second Cousin to Arlene Jessee. I happened across some basic information about family members on the website Ancestry.com just by my mother-in-law trying out the website. I then started researching back on our Jessee family tree and found it to be very interesting. I have also spent several hours on the phone with my grandfather finding out about this part of my family. I understand that there is belief that our family may be of Jewish Descent and was just wondering if you had information on this that you could share with me so that I may share with my grandfather and other members of my family. I would greatly appreciate any information you may have that you could share with me. Thank You.

I wrote:Emily, Please see the Jessee Newsletters at www.jessee.org for much discussion of this over the years. I would say that genetically, based on my own Y Chromosome DNA Testing, the male Jessee line is not of Jewish origin.

It is all British Isles and Cro Magnon man before that in Europe for at least 10,000 years. Our forefathers arrived in Europe and the British Isles as soon as the ice melted from the last Ice Age.

Various of us Jessees may have Melungeon origins via our mother's lines, see also Mitochondrial DNA testing for our mother's lines discussed in last few newsletters. Melungeon origins may include Jews who escaped the Spanish and the Inquisition out of Spain, Portugal, North Africa. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella also expelled all Jews from those lands in 1492 and Columbus's crew and subsequent Spanish conquistadors included escaping hidden Jews. Other “hidden Jews” who were the object of the Spanish Inquisition in both the old and new worlds, came out of very early Florida Spanish colonies, and Jewish pirates, too, and moved into interior Appalachia some 300-400 years ago. There they intermarried with Native Americans, perhaps largely Cherokee. Look up Melungeon on Google to learn lots more about this. Some have said our Frankey Lea Jessee may have been of Melungeon origin, but I don't think so. Some of their children and grandchildren did intermarry with families of probable Melungeon descent.

Otherwise, I don't think there are any Jewish origins for the Jessees within many hundred years.

My case is unusual. Judaism is strictly matrilineal. That is you are Jewish if, and only if, your mother is Jewish, and her mother, and so forth back for 4000 years. My mother was in fact Jewish, and her parents got out of Poland before the Holocaust, but some 30 of my mother's aunts, uncles, and cousins and their wives and children were killed in the Holocaust. My MtDNA, Mother's Line, testing shows that I come from a very Jewish line of mothers for 10,000 years who originated in the land of Abraham, Iraq today. So I am definitely Jewish, but most Jessees, if not all of them, are not. If there is another Jessee that has a

Jewish mother, I do not know one. Do you?

JULI GALLUP [jquizekidmom@aol.com] wrote, 11/11/2011 with information about Jackson genealogy - Jane and Nancy Jackson.

My name is Juli Gallup and I live in Nashville, TN. I am the 5g granddaughter of Jane Jackson and William Ferrell. Jane also had a sister named Nancy.

One of my aunts has done extensive genealogy on the family and was stopped at Jane Jackson with little information about her parents. The confusion has been that there were two Jane Jacksons. The two possibilities were that her parents were either Barbra/Barbara Jackson and Richard Lynam or Simeon Jackson and Martha Smyth.

It appears that the two sets of sisters may have been second cousins. Barbara Jackson was the daughter of Jacob Jackson and Lydia ? and Simeon's parents were John Jackson and Anna Priddy. Their grandparents were John Jackson and Anna Chavis.

I have a friend who is researching the family to see if she can find any records of the family in Melungeon records or Cherokee tribe records, too. It will be interesting to see what she finds out.

Maybe this is helpful in your genealogy efforts.

I responded: Thank you so much for sending this. I will post it to the Russell Co. and Jessee Lists, and as a note on their record. In my database at www.jessee.org I have a Nancy Jackson married to John Ferrell (who I show as a brother to the William) who marries Jane Jackson, and they have a son William S. Ferrell, who marries Frances C. Bailey. Is that correct?

Juli replied: I haven't researched Nancy Jackson and John Ferrell's children since I am a descendant of Jane Jackson and William Ferrell. My challenge has been in trying to figure out who Jane Jackson's parents were and there were two Jane Jacksons from the same area and both had sisters named Nancy. It was fun to figure out that it looks like the two Janes were second cousins.

JACK HOCKETT [Tlas101@aol.com] wrote, 8/17/2011 regarding a **Jessee FPC (Free Person of Colour)**.

p. 324, RCV Law Order Book 10: Ordered that the Sheriff hire out Andrew Jessee a free negro for such time as may command the County levies and poor rates charged against him for the year 1835.

Resources

Attendance at the National Genealogical Society Conference and our experience at the LDS Family History Center has convinced me that genealogical computer research databases and search software are bounding into an exciting future. I recommend use of both Ancestry.Com, a fee-for-service organization, and/or FamilySearch.Org and RootsWeb.Com, both still free services, as starting places for your research. All have added huge amounts of data and improved their services, most especially Family Search. Their new search tools and database will knock your socks off. Go to familysearch.org.

JACK HOCKETT [mailto:Tlas101@aol.com] is a very regular helper, who sends on nearly a weekly basis, basic research items and documentation for our Jessee database. Several appear in the Newsletters, and all are incorporated into the database. I thank Jack for his indefatigable work, his help, and friendship.

MICHAEL A. DYE created **The Russell County Page** of the VAGenWeb division/USGenWeb Project.

This is an award-winning site, and a terrific resource for all families whose sojourn in America included time in Russell Co., VA. Michael has been instrumental in assembling a vital online depository of Russell Co. records, indexes and abstracts, genealogical data, historical maps, local history, and lore. You can join the Russell Co. List Server. This is a must-see site for Jessee researchers.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~varussel/>.

MICHAEL A. DYE provides the most excellent genealogy resources for SW VA genealogists. I recommend you explore his work now available on DVD and CD including complete publications of the following: *The Southwest Virginian* magazine; a *Southwest Virginia Historical Book Collection*; the *Southeast Virginia Ancestors* publication, and collections of SW Virginia Family Genealogies.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE-CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS SYSTEM, can be found at the following URL: www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html, and provides wonderful information and complete Regiment Rosters. Look up the **29th Regiment, Virginia Infantry** to find 20 Jessee family members who served, including my great-grandfather, John Tivis Jessee. Here is how this unit is described.

CONFEDERATE VIRGINIA TROOPS

29th Regiment, Virginia Infantry

29th Infantry Regiment was authorized in November, 1861, and was to contain seven companies under Colonel A.C. Moore and three companies at Pound Gap. However, this organization never took place. Moore's five companies from Abingdon and companies raised in the spring of 1862 evidently made up the nine-company regiment. It was assigned to the Valley District, Department of Northern Virginia, then moved to Kentucky where it was engaged at Middle Creek. Later it saw action in Western Virginia and for a time served in North Carolina under General French. In March, 1863, it totalled 732 men. Attached to General Corse's Brigade the unit participated in Longstreet's Suffolk Expedition and during the Gettysburg Campaign was on detached duty in Tennessee and North Carolina. In the spring of 1864 it returned to Virginia and took its place in the Petersburg trenches north and south of the James River and ended the war at Appomattox. Many were lost at Saylor's Creek, and only 1 officer and 27 men surrendered on April 9, 1865. The field officers were Colonels James Giles and Alfred C. Moore; Lieutenant Colonels Alexander Haynes, William Leigh, and Edwin R. Smith; and Majors Ebenezer Bruster, William R.B. Horne, and Isaac White.

VARUSSEL-L@ROOTSWEB.COM posted this information: Russell County was organized from Washington Co VA in 1786. This is a Message Board Post that is gatewayed to this mailing list.

THIS IS HOW ALL THOSE COUNTIES CAME TOGETHER!

Russell County was organized from Washington Co VA in 1786; Lee Co was established from SW Russell in 1792-3; Tazewell from Russell and Wythe in 1799; and Scott from Russell, Lee and Washington in 1814-5. In 1855, Wise was formed and in 1858, Buchanan (In 1880, Dickenson was formed from Wise and Buchanan). Kentucky lay to the East and Tennessee to the South.

JHF News

The **Jessee Historical Foundation, JHF**, publishes its own newsletter, *JHF News & Information--The Official Voice of the Jessee Historical Foundation*. They have asked me to differentiate this newsletter from their "official one" for the JHF.

I am no longer a JHF Board member, but I continue to offer the www.jessee.org Website, the Jessee List on RootsWeb, and this Jessee Family Newsletter to share JHF news and events. I invite all JHF members to join the Jessee List and subscribe to this Jessee Family Newsletter, as well.

Jessee Genealogy Book

The Jessee Historical Foundation is proposing to publish a book on Jessee Genealogy, as noted above. I think this is a terrific idea and wrote the following to Hank Davis and Vernon Salyers to share this with the JHF quite some time ago. I have not heard of any progress or anyone picking up this project in earnest, but would still be willing to help.

The Jessee Historical Foundation (JHF) is interested in doing a Jessee Family Genealogy Book, for John Jessee (1750-1816) and Frankey Lea Jessee (1852-1836), who moved from Caswell County, NC to Russell County, VA in 1790, and established a family of 15 children.

My genealogy records are available at our Website www.jessee.org, but the "public" RootsWeb version seen there excludes the names and information of living people. My private database includes full information for living and all I have recorded (I have boxes of data entry to do) about the descendants of John and Frankey's 15 children. My records also include the descendants of Philip and Gabriel Jessee, who settled in Russell County at the same time. I believe Phillip is a brother or cousin of John Jessee.

I welcome your scrutiny of my database and your help with additions and corrections for at least the first three to five generations for both families. I have over 20,500 direct-descendant records for John and Frankey Lea Jessee including their spouses. When you include the spouses' parents and related, I have well over 35,000 records. There are 45,000 total records in my public database which also includes many sons and daughters of other founding SW VA families over many generations.

I am willing to help and contribute my database to this effort. I suggest that the JHF produce a book that includes only the first three to five generations at this time. It should include the descendants and related families of the two Jessee family roots in Russell County, John and Phillip Jessee. This will still be a huge book, and we need to carefully consider how to publish so much information and make it interesting, readable, inexpensive and accessible.

ANGIE ROBERTS posted on varussel@rootsweb.com, 9/18/2009, the following in response to an ongoing Russell County discussion about genealogy research and the use of psychics, if not prayer. This quote is a good inspiration for our work, and blessed be those distant cousins who help us.

I personally like to think that God appoints someone from each family branch to be the family historian and the nudges are from Him. I love the way He keeps leading me to find the historians in our family that are 2nd and 3rd cousins, who are also the only ones in their family who have been impressed to do the family research.

JHF Projects

The current JHF Board is dedicated to managing the Annual Reunion and Research Day. That is a great deal of work and deserves our thanks, support, and hands. I believe the JHF support the following worthwhile projects. Whether you are a JHF member or not, these projects need volunteers.

- 1. Planning for National Jessee Family Reunions, Research Days, and Annual Meetings.** This is the first and foremost goal of the JHF. A dedicated few are doing more than their fair share in organizing and managing these activities. They always need volunteers to help with the details of providing a Welcome Reception, Research Day, Annual Meeting and Reunion Picnic.
- 2. Creating a Jessee Family Cook Book II.** By the effort of Mary Akers and several other volunteers, who have been featured in previous newsletters, the first cookbook has been published and sold out. Let Mary know if interested in another publication.
- 3. Creation of a Jessee Book, *Remember When*, with family stories, histories, and photos.** This too has been accomplished, the first volume was available at the 2007 Reunion.
- 4. Creation of a Jessee Genealogy Book or Books.** (See article)
- 5. The establishment of Virginia State highway, Russell County historical, or private markers for Jessee's Mill and other appropriate family sites.**

A private highway sign for Jessee's Mill and a commemorative marker for John Jessee, Revolutionary War Soldier at the cemetery behind the Mill Creek Baptist Church (see photo) have been accomplished. These accomplishments may set a precedent for developing further private commemorative signs for additional family landmarks.

- 6. Clean-up and preservation of Jessee cemeteries and historical sites.** There are so many that need our time and attention. I still hope that the JHF, working with local government, youth groups and organizations, can provide leadership for such efforts, raise and give money where and when appropriate. See also JHF News.

Any support for efforts to restore Jessee's Mill, or to be involved with efforts to protect, preserve, and provide access to the John and Frankey Lea Jessee cemetery. These will need to be separate efforts.

In October 2007, the JHF Board voted to pay (not exceeding \$500) for the purchase or repair of headstones for any of all of the 15 children born to John and Frankey Jessee, and those born to Old Phillip Jessee. If interested, please contact any of the committee members below for information and assistance.
Carl Jessee: 276-669-6352; Norma McHone: 540-362-9385; Jim Bray: 423-246-7157; Sandra Hood: 276-676-2348.

John Jessee Cemetery

Protection and restoration of the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery with family access, is a desire of many. This cemetery is owned by Mr. Jimmy Herndon, a Phillip and Gabriel Jessee descendant. I believe we need to seek the cooperation of Mr. Herndon to provide or pay for his costs for cleaning up, mapping and fencing this cemetery.

We need to work with Mr. Herndon to find a way to hold him harmless for any liability and to protect his privacy, property and farming activities from those who may wish to visit this cemetery.

It is clear that Virginia law (see the Summer 2005 Newsletter) makes it illegal for Mr. Herndon to do harm to the cemetery and he is obligated to provide descendants access. I continue to hope that if Mr. Herndon were asked and agreed, the new JHF Board would again undertake and fund this project.

We still need to get John Jessee formally recognized as a Revolutionary War Soldier and this cemetery acknowledged as a Revolutionary War grave site. We know that it is also a Civil War soldier grave site, and may need this formal recognition too. We need the cemetery surveyed and marked, if not fenced. Volunteers are needed to pick up this baton.



Jessee's Mill Declared National Historic Landmark

JOE JESSEE (joejessee@yahoo.com), our JHF founding president (2001-2005), was a key player in achieving our finest accomplishment to date, but so much work needs to be done to take it from here.

The US Department of Interior Park Service, has declared Jessee's Mill in Russell County to be a National Historic Landmark.

This follows similar State of Virginia action to list Jessee's Mill on the Virginia Landmarks Register last December (see Winter 2005 Newsletter and the *Lebanon News* article, 12/15/2004). Joe sent the press release with this good news to the *Lebanon News* on 5/5/2005, and the article appeared in the *Lebanon News*, 5/11/2005.

This action opens the way for an appropriate non-profit corporation to seek grants and other funding for the acquisition and restoration of Jessee's Mill. It will open other avenues for recognition and support, too. This was the necessary first step.

Several JHF members, Russell County historians and friends, did research and gathered the critical information necessary to document the history of Jessee's Mill used in the applications. Most of this body of knowledge and credit to those who contributed to it have been published on the Jessee Website at www.jessee.org and in the Newsletters over the last decade. I thank all those who helped along the way.

Joe Jessee, with support and help from Sherman Wallace, Mill owner, spearheaded this successful effort with the formal State and Federal applications. These declarations are tremendous accomplishments to add to Joe's success at the renaming of the County Road to Jessee's Mill Road and establishment of the Jessee's Mill Historic Highway Marker. It was a very productive end to Joe's service as founding President of the JHF organization.



Mill Creek Historic Community

Many of us believe that an appropriate organization or benefactor should acquire Jessee's Mill along with the dam above it and the Jessee School for a Jessee's Mill restoration project, as the anchor for a Mill Creek Historic Community.

We have had hopes to acquire enough land around the mill, dam, school, the Andrew Jackson Jessee home and the miller's home to preserve a sense of the historic Mill Creek Community. Sherman Wallace, the owner, indicates he is willing to work with a group or organization regarding these ideas. This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve these significant historical landmarks and perhaps create a small historical community around it for Russell Co. and all its sons and daughters across America. I continue to offer the following plea.

The Virginia State and Federal declarations of Jessee's Mill as an historic landmark provide us the opportunity to form a separate public non-profit tax-exempt organization for the purpose of acquiring, preserving, and some day restoring Jessee's Mill, Dam, and School as the centerpiece for a Mill Creek Historic Community.

Donors have offered to cover the costs of creating such a private non-profit charitable corporation. One of our family lawyers has also volunteered to help with the legal paperwork, and others are prepared to donate more to the effort. Sherman Wallace is willing to help, and others have offered to give modest amounts of money. At this time I would like to hear from any individuals who can offer time to help organize and participate in a small working committee there in Russell Co. This first group would discuss and set the goals and objectives of forming such an organization, outline strategies and means to achieve our goals, and determine the legal procedures and costs to form a public non-profit corporation dedicated to this purpose. We have many responses from others outside of Russell Co. but no offers of leadership from anyone or any organization nearby. We may just have to shelve this dream until another time. May Jessee's Mill last so long.

Jessee's Mill Preservation

Whether a Mill Creek Historic Community ever comes to be, the "preservation" of Jessee's Mill remains a major concern. As a historic Russell County landmark, you would hope that Russell County leaders would share interest, especially since the owner is willing to cooperate with any public or private entity to preserve it and restore it someday. To our friends in Russell County, we need your help.

Here is a summary of what we know about the Mill from the many who have contributed. The water-powered Jessee's Mill is located 2.5 miles north of Route 71 on Route 645, Jessee's Mill Road. It is believed the dam and first mill were built before 1791 by Aaron Van Hook on Carr's Creek, now Mill Creek. It is mentioned in a survey of this land dated, 13 June 1791. It was sold in 1792 to William Gilmore.

The mortar-free stone dam, based on a Peruzzi design (Italy), strengthens with stronger water current. Handmade wooden gears for the mill wheel, believed to be an Oliver Evans design, were installed about 1814. In 1890, the mill was enlarged to a three-story building with automated roller process machinery from Salem Machine Works (Virginia). Mill operations ended in 1932.

In 1794 William Gilmore sold the land and mill to John Jessee, a Revolutionary War musician and soldier. The mill was improved by John Jessee and later owned by his son Archer Jessee. John and his wife Franky Lea Jessee raised a family of fifteen children and are buried on this land at West longitude 82° 09' 23", North latitude 36° 55' 04." The current mill was constructed by Andrew Jackson Jessee, John's grandson, whose 1878 brick home is located just across Mill Creek.

Mill Creek once was a thriving community with a school, church, general store, and blacksmith, centered on the Jessee mill and businesses.

During spring 2003, Joe Jessee and Sherman Wallace submitted a preliminary application to the VA Dept. of Historical Resources for State historical status (later approved). On June 16, 2003, Joe and Sherman toured the Jessee Mill with Mike Pulice, the Architectural Historian, Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Mike Pulice believed the Mill to be fully eligible for both State and National Historical Register status, and commented on its remarkable integrity. He also advised Sherman Wallace on appropriate preservation measures, some of which are needed immediately.

SHERMAN WALLACE wrote, 2/19/2003, with a request for donations to help him preserve at least the status quo at Jessee's Mill until some other arrangement for its long-term restoration is made. You may find his complete letter in the Summer 2003 Newsletter and on the website. He is proceeding with evaluation and some work, but it will take a good deal of money to do what is needed, even for just preserving the status quo. I have requested that members of the family and other lovers of Mill Creek and Russell County history to communicate directly with Sherman Wallace about preservation of the Mill. Sherman owns Jessee's Mill, Dam, and land around it, and is a Jessee descendant, as well. I have toured the Mill and Jessee lands (including the cemetery when he leased it) with him, and know of his interest in preserving the Mill, Cemetery, School and lands around them. My wife and I were guests in his mother's home, and enjoyed his generosity and hospitality. I find him to be an honorable man, sincerely interested in the preservation of Jessee's Mill.

Last year there was new interest and activity with an offer from a metal worker and millwright, John Mark Carter to work with Sherman Wallace to first preserve, then later restore the mill. I also spoke with Sherman Wallace and he had been doing repairs of the Mill roof and painting. He is excited about this prospect below and will arrange for John Carter to visit the Mill, but to date nothing has come of it.

JACK HOCKETT [Tlas101@aol.com] wrote, 7/31/2010, with a nice piece of writing about Jessee's Mill. Jack Hockett is a regular and hardworking contributor to SW VA History and Genealogy.

The Jessee Mill

The Roller Process Jessee Mill was built between 1889 and 1900, by Andrew Jackson Jessee. It is located on Mill Creek four miles southwest of Cleveland on Route 645 and about six miles from Lebanon, in Russell Co., VA.

The mill was built from lumber grown and sawed on the Jessee farm which consisted of several hundred acres of land. Most of the lumber was yellow poplar and has not deteriorated with age. The machinery in the mill was made in Salem, VA. All the cogs or gears in the machinery are wood. Prior to the building of the present mill there had been a grist mill near the site of the present one for around fifty years.

The building consisted of three floors and the machinery was installed through the three floors. For several years the Jessee Mill was the only roller mill in Russell Co. People came from all over the county and surrounding counties to have meal and flour ground. Huge storage bins were located in the mill for storing grain for the farmers.

Mill Creek during that time was a thriving settlement. There was a general store, a one-room country school and a church.

The mill was owned and operated by Jack Jessee until his death in 1922. His son, Wiley E. Jessee operated it for ten years. The mill closed in 1932.

Mr. Joe Axem served as the first miller at the Jessee Mill. Melvin Kestner operated the mill for twenty-five or thirty years. He lived in the white house just below the Jessee home. Jamie Chafin operated the mill for sometime, also Tilton Jessee. Other men who served as millers some time during the life of the mill are as follows: Vince Fields, Malcom Buchanan, Red Joe Jessee, Clint Fields, Bruce Campbell and Newton Massie.

Jack Jessee built a large brick home in 1883 and lived there until his death, which house is still standing. The home is located just below the mill. The lumber was sawn on the place, and the carvings on the doors and wood work was hand carved. Located on the second floor hall is a red stained glass window which Mr. Jessee imported from England when the house was built.

In Mr. Jessee's later life, he was unable to go to the mill, but he would lie in bed and see people coming to the mill through a large mirror near his bedroom window. He always wanted everyone to come in and talk with him.

The Family Database

The Jessee Family Genealogy Database is on the Web at the RootsWeb World Connect Project. RootsWeb is the foremost volunteer-based non-profit genealogy resource on the Internet. Please go to:

<http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com>

This World Connect Website provides an index to multiple genealogy databases, provides excellent display and print options for pedigree and descendants charts. Do a search for one of your distant ancestors. Look for data records submitted by "jimjessee," and if you select one it will take you to our database. You can also navigate to the database directly from our Jessee Genealogy Service home page. Please go to:

<http://www.jessee.org>

Our database has over 45,000 records. I do mean "our" database, as it is made up of the tens of thousands of hours of your research, the results of which you have generously and kindly shared with me. I have concerns about the downside of this computer revolution, the Internet, and the ethics of genealogy research, but still conclude that greater good is done by making our work public. However, I am using filters to delete information on living persons.

I know that by the standards of some, I have violated best if not ethical practice, by making so much unverified information public. It is already clear that errors in this database, even when later corrected, show up all over the Internet in other people's work, too often uncredited. Others, many unknown to me, have used and cited this database as an authoritative source. Beware, it is not!

I very much regret it when I see known errors, which appeared in this database in earlier years and have since been corrected, show up in others' genealogies, and quoting me as the source! I shudder at the fact that I know there are many unknown errors in the database, along with ignorant speculations, fantasy and plain lies.

Nevertheless, I have had so much expressed gratitude from dozens, if not hundreds, of people who have been helped in their research by our database, that I persevere. I certainly do welcome corrections, updates, additions, and documentation of information.

Our Purpose

I believe that we are, indeed, all cousins, and that we can be colleagues and friends, too. By sharing information and helping each other, we come to know what it means to be part of an extended family and to appreciate our common heritage.

I research my own JESSEE ancestors, including the ARM-STRONG, SMYTH/SMITH, PORTER, DUNCAN, BICKLEY, RICHMOND/RICHMAN, BARTEE and BARRICK families; and many other SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES who have intermarried with the Jessees, including the BANNER, BROWNING, BURK(E), COUNTS, FULLER, GOSE, KISER, STONE, and VERMILLION families. I have an abiding interest in family history.

I would like to discover all of the descendants of the fifteen children of JOHN AND FRANKEY LEA JESSEE, and assist other Jesse(e) family members with their research. This is admittedly a monumental chore. I am giving myself the rest of my life to accomplish it. The fun is in the learning and the friendships I develop along the way. I am rewarded all the time by your e-mail, calls, visits, conversations, and correspondence.

I am asking you to respond to this newsletter with answers to questions, documentation, your own materials, and, of course, current information about your branch of the family. I will filter out living individuals in the version of the database that is made public. Please feel free to correct any errors found. I wish to have a correct and trustworthy database as a resource for the family. I welcome the submission of pedigree and descendants charts, letters, manuscripts, electronic or scanned images of source documents and photos.

How To Help

I am operating on subscriptions and donations and don't even break even on out-of-pocket costs. The labor is all volunteer.

Unfortunately after 40 years of working I have developed a disability which makes any prolonged time typing very painful. My computer time has been significantly limited and my regular data entry routine has all but stopped. While I continue to plink at it, I am not denting the perhaps 3000-4000 records piled high and waiting to be keyed in.

I provide the newsletter free to anyone who has asked for it, provided me information, or has expressed interest and cannot afford to subscribe. I am providing the newsletter free to several historical and genealogical organizations and libraries. You are welcome to provide addresses of others that may be interested in our effort. I am looking for those willing to exchange information or represent their branch of the family or area of the country.

I am sometimes disappointed to find that less than 50% of readers subscribe or donate anything. I do need help, even if it is simply informing me to stop sending you the newsletter if it has become junk mail. I am steadily reducing my mailing to include those who have subscribed, provided donations, helped in some other way, are sponsored by someone else, or are a family treasure. If you are getting this newsletter, you are at least a family treasure. If I drop you in error, just let me know. Please inform me of address changes as returned and re-posted mail costs me too.

Annual Subscription

I am asking for a minimum subscription of \$20 a year for two issues of the newsletter. I need and appreciate your additional donations in defraying the considerable cost of research, printing, and postage of the newsletter and other materials I send without charge to inquirers. Additional donations also support those who can't afford to pay.

Newsletter Reprints

Back editions are available on the Website, and you are free to print them from there. I have some separate original sets of prints: #1-7, #8-9, #10-11, #12-13, #14-15, #16-17, #18-19, #20-27 (although I am out of certain years and without some attachments that have become obsolete). You may request these for \$100 for copies of all back issues *still in print*, and a subscription to the current year.

The Jessee Family Newsletter

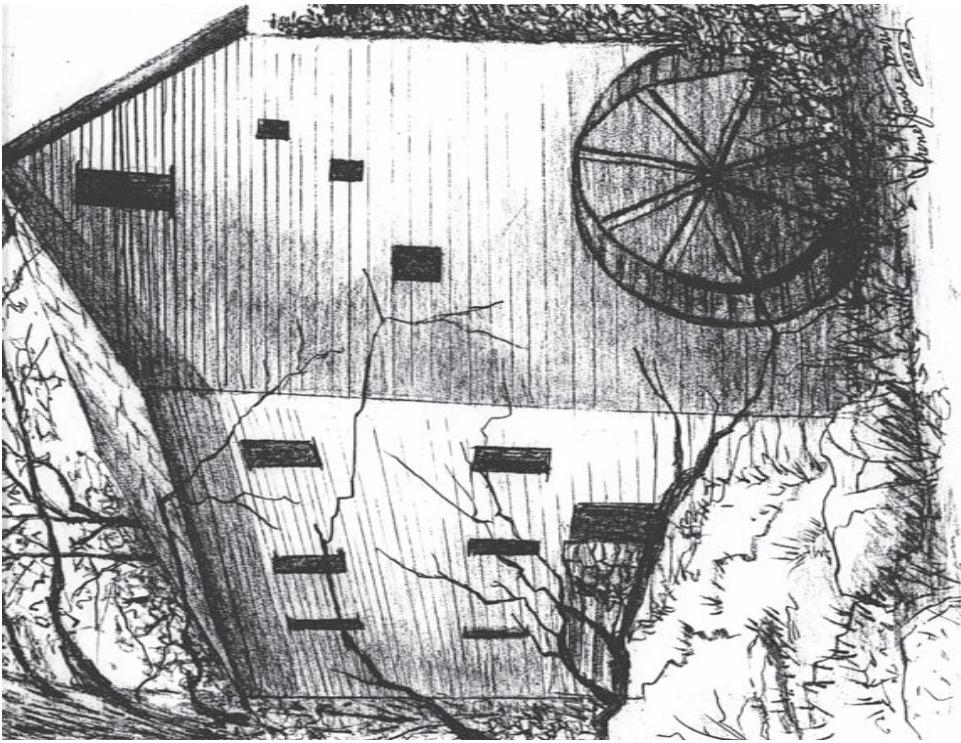
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The Jesse Family Newsletter
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