

## Dear Cousin,

**This has been a difficult Newsletter to do, but not for lack of news, views, and genealogy information. This one is chock full.**

**For me it was a very full year, with family deaths, heartbreaks, and illnesses, and I simply found it hard to make the time or find the energy for the newsletter.** We decided to make our two-week winter break a real vacation, and so procrastinated on working on it to the very end. But once I begin, and thanks to the many supporters who provide the content of this newsletter, I rediscover my love for it.

**At this time, Nelda and I do not think we will attend the 2007 Reunion.** We are spending our money and vacation time to go to Israel in the spring. I encourage you to go to the annual reunion and to support the JHF for their immense efforts to plan and manage it. I hear from many newly-discovered cousins who plan to go this summer for the first time, so let's make them all welcome.

**I am greatly saddened by the passing of Richard L. Jessee and Billy L. Jessee, and I feature their eulogy and obituary inside.**

**I am pleased that we have significant new contributions for some of John and Frankey's 15 children, but the newsletter has scant news about some of the others.** That news depends on you. The family database continues to grow with about 45,000 records. I am excited and gratified every time I extend the descendants for the Jessee family and am always astounded as I see increasing evidence of the interrelatedness of all these SW Virginia families. We are all cousins.

**We have an interesting newsletter.** My spirits are uplifted by your letters, emails, calls, and renewals. Yes, check your mailing label; this is the time to renew your subscription to January 2008. I do consider discontinuing the work to do the printed Jessee Newsletter, especially when my disability flares up and I wonder if I can continue, so I need to hear that it is wanted or not, and supported adequately by your subscription.

Jim Jessee

## Featured This Edition

**Vernon Salyers** updates us on the activities at the 2006 JHF Reunion and the dedication of a Revolutionary War Stone for John Jessee.

*The Jessee Family Photo Album* includes more descendants of Old Phillip Jessee, and much more under **Phillip & Gabriel Jessee**.

*JHF News & Views* and the **John Jessee Cemetery and Mill Projects** have some new information and commentary, but no progress.

*SW Virginia Families, Other Jesse/ee/ie/ey Families*, and *SW VA Family Origins* include a tidbit of information on the **Alexander and McReynolds families**, and more descendants for the **John and Clia Smith Jesse family**.

**Tom Rudder** asks controversial questions about our founding father, John Jessee: was he the same person as John Jesse or John Jessey, the Revolutionary Patriot? See his notes and research in "*Will the real John Jessee please stand up?*"

We provide some new **Lea information regarding the origins of our own Frankey Lea Jessee**, with much help from **Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde**, a Lea Family descendant and researcher.

**Find news on John and Frankey Lea Jessee and their fifteen children.** See new information and photos, read heart-warming stories, letters, and meet new cousins inside. Several have sent articles and photographs which I am happy to feature.

**Letters sent to Carlyne Ritter from Vivian Bales** are featured under *Mary Polly Jessee Kiser*.

*Missing Links and Correspondence* have **items of interest and requests for help.** We are still seeking a **Clarence Jessee**.

**Jack Hockett**, who is one of our SW Virginia research treasurers, has had much of his work published. See the extensive list of volumes available. These are essential to SW VA genealogists and invaluable. Thank you, Jack.

*Jessee Resources on the Web* has a few more Websites for us computer geeks and the latest information regarding the development of the *Jessee Family Database*.

# The 2007 National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, June 16, 2007

at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center,  
300 Stanley Street, Abingdon, VA

The 2007 Jessee Family Research Day

Friday, June 15, 2007

at the Russell County Library  
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

Please put the 2007 Family Reunion  
and Research Day on your calendar.

The Jessee Family Research Day is held on Friday, preceding the reunion, at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA. The activities begin at 9 a.m. and end about 4 p.m.

The Jessee Family Reunion and Picnic is held on the third Saturday in June each year, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park, Abingdon, Virginia. The Jessee Historical Foundation holds its annual membership meeting during the reunion.

**To get there:** Take exit 19 from Interstate 81, go north on Route 11-Main Street toward Abingdon, approximately 0.7 mile. Bear right (north) at the second light onto Thompson Street, beside the shopping center. Go about 100 yards, then go right on Stanley Street. Coomes Recreation Center will be around the big curve, over the hill on the right.

Remember to bring a covered dish, enough to feed your family and at least four additional "cousins." You may bring a folding chair. Bring your musical instruments.

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](mailto:acvb@abingdon.com) or Internet: [www.abingdon.com/tourism](http://www.abingdon.com/tourism).

## THE SILENT AUCTION NEEDS YOU

Plan to participate in the annual silent auction, held during the family reunion 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 to be held at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park Grounds, Abingdon, VA.

For more 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, officers, and volunteers:**

The following were elected by the JHF membership for 2005-2009. The membership voted at the annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Reunion and Picnic, Saturday, June 18, 2005.

**Hank Davis, President**

**Mary Akers, Vice-President**

**Norma McHone, Treasurer**

**Karen Hall, Recording Secretary**

**Patricia Jessee Stone, Membership Secretary**

**Board of Directors: Mary H. Akers, Beverly Jo**

**Elswick, Nancy S. Elswick, Diane Fuller, Sandra J.**

**Hood, James "JC" Jessee, Robert Trigg Jessee, Joy**

**Jessee Malone, Irene Jessee Perry, Helen R. Reedy,**

**Pauline P. Salyers, Vernon L. Salyers, Janice S.**

**Tiller.**

Go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) for more information on JHF activities, news, and events. *Please Join.*

## Membership Information

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

**Annual membership will now run from reunion to reunion each year.** Dues will be collected at the annual reunion in June for the following year. JHF membership dues for 2006/2007 were due at the Family Reunion or mailed in after June 17, 2006. If you did not do so, you may need to renew your membership for 2006/07 now to receive the next JHF Newsletter in May, 2007.

**There are three categories of membership.** Anyone age 81 or older may request free lifetime membership. The annual fee is \$10 per person. Ask about lifetime membership, too.

- 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:** Spouses, related family, or friends of a regular member, who are non-voting.
- 3. Junior Member:** Family members under age 18, who are non-voting.

**Send an application.** Get one at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) or provide the following information: name, street or PO box address, city, state, ZIP, phone, email address, and 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

## John Jessee Sr Memorial is a Highlight of the 2006 Jessee Annual Reunion

VERNON SALYERS [vpsaly@naxs.net], wrote to the Jessee List, 7/8/2006, with this report of the **2006 JHF Reunion Activities**

Greetings JHF Family

I just wanted to let all of you know that the 2006 Reunion & activities were well attended and enjoyed. For those of you who were unable to attend, we missed you and hope to see you next year.

The John Jessee, Sr. Marker Dedication was attended by over 60 people and the weather was beautiful. We also had good attendance at the Welcome Reception and over 100 at the picnic.

A new feature was added this year to the events and, hopefully, it will be successful. All 3 events (Military Marker Dedication ceremony, Welcome Reception & Picnic) were videoed by a professional videographer/ photographer from Abingdon. The finished product will be available for sale for \$25 (this includes shipping) on either, DVD or VHF. It will feature interviews & interactions with the attendees as well as the Silent Auction and music. Hopefully, everyone will purchase one of these to keep for future generations to enjoy. To order, make checks payable to and mail to:

Norma McHone  
P.O. Box 7571  
Roanoke, VA 24019-0571

Members of the Memorial Marker Committee on behalf of the JHF Board of Directors express sincere appreciation to all those who had a part in making this day possible. We are especially grateful to Jason Owens, owner of Owens Funeral Services for his generosity in helping to procure the headstone and memorial marker; to Blair Keller and the General William Campbell Chapter, SAR, Jackquetta Fletcher, Organizing Regent and the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter, DAR, Harold "Doodle" Jessee and the VFW Post 9864, George & Lisa Jessee family, and to all the volunteers.

## New Jessee Family Book *Remember When* Needs Your Participation

PAULINE SALYERS (vpsaly@naxs.net) wrote with this request for help.

Jessee Cousins, We still need to your stories & pictures to add to "Remember When". We hope to have the book completed and available at the 2007 JHF Reunion.

Surely, you want your family represented in a book that will be around for future generations. "I can't write", is a phrase we've heard quite often during this project; but if you can remember it, you can write it, or tell it to someone & have them write it for you. This isn't an assignment in which you'll be graded (punctuation & grammar don't matter!) They can be handwritten or typed. Some examples of topics we've received are: plaiting a cow's tail, coon hunting, eulogies, tobacco setting, favorite relatives, etc. Some contain lists of family members and their dates, organizations, schools & churches. Poems. So please take the time to share your memories of and with your family.



### The 15 children of John, Sr. and Frankey Lea Jessee

John Jessee, Jr.  
Archer Lea Jessee, Sr.  
William J. Jessee  
Lea Jessee  
David Wilson Jessee, Sr.  
Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser Chafin  
Frances Jessee Stone  
Sarah A. Jessee Vermillion  
Boadicea Jessee Gose  
James Jessee  
Elizabeth Jessee Gose  
Jane Jessee Fuller  
Rebecca Jessee Burke  
George Lea Jessee, Sr.  
Martin C. Jessee

There's no limit on how many items you submit. Just send them before March 1st, 2007- that is the deadline for receiving them. Mail to:

JHF, PO Box 1617, Lebanon, VA 24266.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact me or Mary Akers (mydante@earthlink.net), Janice Tiller (sul@mounet.com) or Karen Hall (kh\_hfm@yahoo.com).

Thanks  
Pauline Salyers (vpsaly@naxs.net)



# Jessee Family Photo Album

**BRENKDAVIS** [brenkdavis@comcast.net] wrote, 8/5/2006, with much new information and photos of descendants of **Mary Preston Jessee and Thomas Jefferson Davis , of the Philip Jessee family**

Hello Mr. Jessee, Mary Preston Jessee and Thomas Jefferson Davis are my husband's Great Grandparents. I have a whole slew of people to add to Gabriel Jessee's descendants as my husband is one of 9 children. We now have 5 generations who have descended from Thomas Jefferson Davis and Mary Preston Jessee. I would be happy to share them with the other Jessees.

We were in Honaker in May of 2006 and had very little info on where anything is located. We were advised to go to Lebanon to do research. We visited the courthouse (half an hour before closing) and the Lebanon Library, where we did find the parents of Thomas Jefferson Davis on a census. I did look at the sign-in book and saw your name and Nellie's name entered several times. At that time, I did not know about your web site. I was just Googling on my computer and typed in Ethel Cumi Jessee and found your web site.

I have found Ethel Cumi Jessee to be a most interesting person and would love to have some more of her writings.

I have scrapbooks from my husband's grandfather, one has Gabriel Jessee's children's names and birthdays. I have been able to connect a lot of the people through obituaries from my husband's grandfather's scrapbook.

My husband went to a family reunion at the Jessee home in Honaker in July of 1966. I have some pictures from the picnic but I'm afraid the photographer wasn't very good at taking pictures. If anyone has pictures from that event I would love to have copies. Anyone who was there may remember my husband. He was around 15 years old and wore a bright yellow shirt with huge red polka dots.

I also have a picture of Rita or Ritta Jessee Ratcliffe and her daughter. I do not know the daughter's name. I have another picture of 3 people and on the back it says, "Dad's cousins, Jessees, Honaker". "Dad" was Russell Davis, the son of Thomas and Mary. One picture was taken at the July 1966 reunion at Honaker. It is Arthur Davis, in the wheelchair and his sister Alcie Davis who was married to Harvey "Tex" Campbell. The other two pictures are, Gabriel Jessee and John Deward Jessee's Civil War photo.



John Deward Jessee



Gabriel Jessee



Rita Jessee Ratcliffe & Da.



Jessee Picnic 1966



Jessee Cousins

## JHF News & Views

The **Jessee Historical Foundation, JHF**, publishes its own newsletter, *JHF News & Information--The Official Voice of the Jessee Historical Foundation*. The JHF Board has indicated that I am only to publish in this Newsletter and on the Website information formally transmitted to me via their liaison. In addition, I am not to suggest any further JHF involvement in restoration of Jessee's Mill, as well as the Jessee Cemetery, and to remove such references or inferences from the Website and Newsletter. For this and other concerns I have resigned from the JHF Board, but continue as a member and wish to be helpful to the organization.

**I will need you to be my reporters and to contribute stories and photos of JHF events and meetings.** Please do so only with the understanding that I want to publish them on the Jessee List, in this Newsletter, and place them on the Jessee Website, and that I have your permission to do so, now and in the future. I make no profit doing this, so copyright is not an issue, but please know I will be placing your work in the public domain.

**The editors of the JHF Newsletter ask for suggestions and comments for the JHF Newsletter in their *About This Publication*.**

"It was decided by the Board of Directors that it would be a nice idea to communicate with the members in conjunction with our annual Research Day & Picnic. This publication is totally separate from and not to be confused with the Jessee Family Newsletter published by Jim Jessee. Our publication will only be sent out once a year prior to the JHF Research Day & Reunion. Please send any suggestions or comments to either of the publication committee members."

**Vernon Salyers, PR Chairman**

Rt. 1 Box 97, Lebanon, VA 24266-9685  
276-889-0055

**J.C. Jessee**

PO Box 83, Lebanon, VA 24266-0083

I will continue to offer the services of the Jessee Genealogy Service, [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) website, the Jessee List on RootsWeb, and this Jessee Family Newsletter as a vehicle for the JHF board to communicate to the greater Jessee family. I will gladly share JHF news and information of board agendas, minutes, and photos of activities and events.

I get literally hundreds of "hits" per month on my Jessee Genealogy Service website, and dozens of email messages from those who have first learned about the JHF and the Jessee Annual Reunions directly and only from this website. I invite all, and especially JHF board members, to join the Jessee List and to subscribe to this newsletter as one of our means for better communication. When the JHF develops its own website, I will gladly link to it.

## JHF and Other Projects

All of the following projects have been discussed in the **Jessee Family Newsletter and on the Jessee List for many years**. Several were adopted and acted upon by the first JHF board, and several milestones were achieved. I hope the JHF board will consider all the activities and goals listed here.

**The current JHF Board is dedicated to managing the Annual Reunion and Research Day, and that alone 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 leadership and 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 printing or publication.

**3. Creation of a Jessee Book, *Remember When*, with family stories, histories, and photos.** See the May 2005 JHF Newsletter for more information on this new project, too. This is a terrific idea, and given enough time, there are many who would like to contribute, even me. Thank you, Mary and company..

**4. The establishment of Virginia State highway, Russell County historical, or private markers for Jessee's Mill and other appropriate family sites.** The first of these, a private highway sign for Jessee's Mill has been accomplished, and now a commemorative marker for John Jessee, Revolutionary War Soldier at the cemetery behind the Mill Creek Baptist Church. This approach may set a precedent for developing further private directional, commemorative, and historical signs for additional family landmarks, cemeteries, and the like by the JHF. I hope so.

**5. 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.



Sadly missing from this list of JHF activities is any official support, be it money, volunteers, or leadership, 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 the current board have refused to consider further. There needs to be separate efforts distinct from the JHF and most probably other Russell County public or private historical or genealogy organizations, to achieve the following projects. If you feel different about this, please tell the JHF Board. I will continue to report on these efforts in this Newsletter.

## John and Frankey Lea 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. Mr. Herndon, who lives on the property, has indicated that he is not willing to cooperate with the Jessee family at this time. I believe we will 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. **I ask that we not bother Mr. Herndon with unauthorized visits to his farm and 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 agrees, 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.

**JHF efforts to establish a John Jessee memorial at the cemetery behind the Mill Creek Church are welcome, but do not mitigate the above goal.**

## Jessee's Mill Declared National Historic Landmark

JOE JESSEE (joejessee@yahoo.com), our JHF founding president (2001-2005), provided this terrific news for the Summer 2005 Annual Reunion.

**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 May 5, 2005, and the article appeared in the *Lebanon News*, 5/11/2005.

This is an historic event for the Jessee Family, Mill Creek Community, and Russell County. 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. Please see articles to follow regarding the next steps for restoration of Jessee's Mill, perhaps as an anchor for a Mill Creek Historic Community someday.

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](http://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

**Kathryn Greever, Joe Jessee, Sherman Wallace and I, among many others, 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 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.

In addition, Mill Creek Community members, landowners, and Russell County families with roots there, could seek land use zoning or historical designation to help preserve the character of the area. The Mill Creek Baptist Church and its members' support and participation would be highly valued.

I have asked various individuals, board members of the JHF and local history and genealogy groups in Russell County to consider how this project might happen. I asked whether the JHF, Russell County government, Chamber of Commerce, Genealogy or Historical Society, or other group would be willing to look into creating a Russell County or Mill Creek Historic Community with a renovated Jessee's Mill as its centerpiece. The response has been and continues to be nil, so 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. I would like to form a committee that could become the core of the new board of directors for such an organization.

The first chore is to determine whether there are enough interest, volunteers, and potential support to proceed further. If so, the group will need a lawyer to help us with the formalities, and I hope those family lawyers who have offered such help before will step up on this one.

I would like to see a complete proposal developed by this committee, with the purpose of the proposed organization well defined, and procedures for membership, election of a board and officers, done in accordance with Virginia law and those board procedural requirements, or by-laws, I outlined earlier.

**We have had many positive responses from others outside of Russell Co. offering modest donations and moral support but no offers of joining us or offering leadership from anyone nearby.** Sherman, Joe, Kathryn and I are disappointed to say the least, and may just have to shelve this dream until another time. May the Jessee Mill last so long.

## **Jessee's Mill Preservation**

**Whether a Mill Creek Historic Community with a restored Jessee's Mill ever comes to be or not, the "preservation" of Jessee's Mill remains a major concern.** As a historic Russell County landmark, you would think someone there would also care, especially since the owner is willing to cooperate with any public or private entity to stop deterioration, preserve it, and restore it someday. I am willing to do what I can to encourage such an effort through this Newsletter and the website and will donate to the cause.

**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 Frankey 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.

**See the July 2005 and January 2005 Jessee Family Newsletters regarding our having secured State and Federal recognition of Jessee's Mill as an historic landmark.** Here is the background and some of what needs to be done to preserve the Mill.

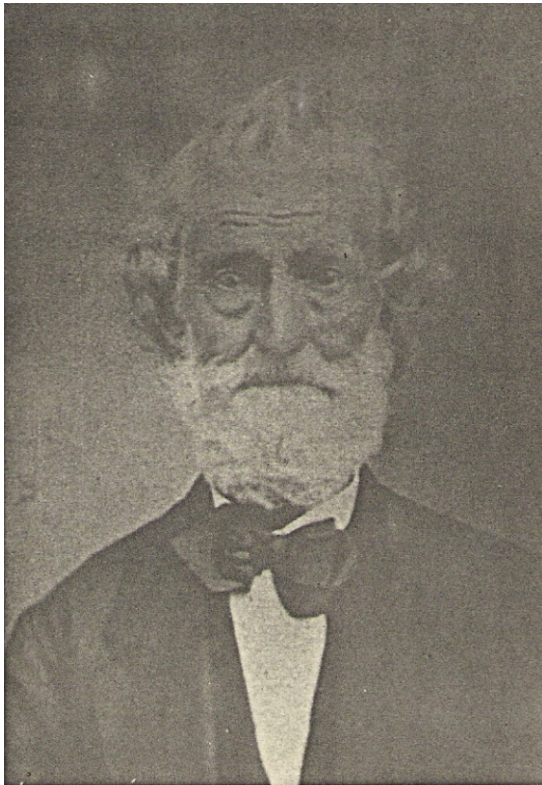
During spring 2003, Joe Jessee and Sherman Wallace submitted a preliminary application to the VA Dept. of Historical Resources for State historical status. On June 16, 2003, Joe and Sherman toured the Jessee Mill with Mike Pulice, the Architectural Historian, Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, Virginia 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. Clearly his comments were true, and his help was instrumental, as we have now secured that recognition. 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 prior newsletters and on the website. There has been as yet little direct response to Sherman, although I and a few others have made donations to help Sherman take some action on the Mill now to forestall further deterioration. 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.



William Alexander 1802-1806

**DEBRA ROOKARD [drookard@carolina.rr.com]** wrote, 11/17/2006, with continued encouragement for us.

Hey Jim,  
I ran across this cool site from a Chester Co, PA link. How about sending him Jesse's Mill?

<http://millpictures.com/index.cfm>

*Great things have been affected by a few men well conducted.*  
George Rogers Clark to Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia.

## SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES

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

**DEBBIE ALEXANDER [Energyproducers@aol.com]** wrote, 8/25/2006, about these Russell Co. ancestors of the William Alexander and Mary Moore McReynolds Family of Golden, Illinois.

Dear Jim; I reviewed your research at rootsweb. I would be interested in sharing information. Mary Moore McReynolds was my husbands gr great grandmother. As you already know Mary was born on March 12, 1809 in VA and died March 4, 1880 in Illinois. She is buried beside her husband William Alexander at Mt. Horeb Cemetery in Golden, Illinois. William Alexander was born in VA on June 20, 1802 and died Oct 19, 1886. The couple had 13 children. I have attached a photo of both of them for you and have a copy of Williams last will and testament should you be interested. I hope to hear from you.



Mary Moore McReynolds 1809-1880



## JESSE(E) FAMILY 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, perhaps, Gesse, Gessey, 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 family name, I shall adopt the convention of using "Jesse(e)" in reference to the larger family.

Please see Newsletter #10 for an extensive discussion and summary of what we know so far about the origins of the Jesse(e) families in America. The many clues there lead us to several new avenues of research on the origins of the Jesse(e) families in, at least, Amelia Co., Cumberland Co., Essex Co., Isle of Wight Co., King and Queen Co., King William Co., Lancaster Co., Nansemond, Co., Middlesex Co., and Spotsylvania Co., VA, not to mention the Isle of White and Devonshire, England.

**MADALYN SCHOTT** [meschott@houston.rr.com] wrote, 8/22/2006, with new and separately gathered information regarding descendants of **John and Clia Jesse**, whose extensive genealogy can be found in our database by the work of **Harry and Bev Jesse Shuptrine**. Here is her note and the first generations of her descendants chart, with several more researched. Those in this family may wish to contact Madalyn.

I have been doing a little family research and have some information that I would like to compare to anything you might have that could verify my info. I am attaching a genealogy report that shows that I am a descendant of John and Clia Jesse. Some of this is based on stories from my mother-Ruth Jesse Elliott. I have included some of the notes that seem to match the information I found at Roots Web. If you can direct me to further information, I would appreciate it.

### **Descendants of Thomas Hall Jesse Generation No. 1**

1. THOMAS HALL<sup>2</sup> JESSE (JOHN<sup>1</sup>) was born 11 December 1791 in Cumberland County Virginia, and died in Shelby County Kentucky. He married NANCY DOLLINS. She was born 12 December 1790 in Orange County Virginia, and died 1876 in Humansville, Missouri.

Notes for NANCY DOLLINS:

Source: Ruth Elliott Jesse

Nancy moved to Miller County, Missouri in abt. 1851 according to a letter to her children, John and Thomas, in Shelby County, Kentucky. Ruth has the letter that was written in 1852 to John D. Jesse. The greeting is Dear Children and it is signed, Your mother, Nancy Jesse.

Source: RootsWeb's World Connect Project Brian Foster

I found this item in Jim's Jessee Family Newsletter #10 from 1997: ".....Thomas Hall Jesse (born Dec. 11, 1791). His wife, Nancy Dollins, was born Dec. 12, 1790, in Orange County, Virginia. ...They made their home in Kentucky. Thomas Hall Jesse died there. In 1852 his wife, Nancy Dollins Jesse, went from Shelby County, Kentucky to Southwest Missouri with her daughter,

Martha Smith Flood and her husband. Her son James Jesse and his family, went at the same time. He died soon thereafter. During the war both families were refugees in Montgomery County, Missouri. My grandmother visited them there. They returned to Southwest Missouri in 1867. Mrs. Jesse died at Humansville in 1876, aged eighty-six years."

Children of THOMAS JESSE and NANCY DOLLINS are:

- 2.
- i. ELIZABETH H.<sup>3</sup> JESSE, b. 21 January 1827; d. 22 December 1899, Orange County, Indiana.
- 3.
- ii. MARTHA SMITH JESSE, b. 1813, Kentucky.
- 4.
- iii. JAMES M. JESSE, b. 26 September 1816; d. 27 July 1859, Miller County, Missouri.
- 5.
- iv. JOHN DOLLAS JESSE, b. 10 April 1824, Virginia; d. 06 September 1910, Shelby County, Kentucky.
- v. THOMAS JESSE, b. 1831, Virginia.

Notes for THOMAS JESSE:

In the 1850 Census Thomas lived with his brother John Dollas, and was a wagon maker.

### **Generation No. 2**

2. ELIZABETH H.<sup>3</sup> JESSE (THOMAS HALL<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>) was born 21 January 1827, and died 22 December 1899 in Orange County, Indiana. She married JOHN H. BUCHANAN. He was born 17 September 1817 in Fayette County, Kentucky, and died 02 October 1904 in Orange County Indiana.

Notes for ELIZABETH H. JESSE:

Source: Madalyn Elliott Schott - 2000

Madalyn has a linen bedspread made by Elizabeth. It was made from flax grown on their farm, which she spun into thread, wove into fabric, and made into the bedspread. It was handed down from Lydia Buchanan to Arthur Jesse to Ruth Jesse Elliott to Madalyn.

Children of ELIZABETH JESSE and JOHN BUCHANAN

are:

- i. CINDERILLA<sup>4</sup> BUCHANAN, b. 1850.
- ii. MARTHA J. BUCHANAN, b. 24 April 1852.
- iii. HENRIETTA BUCHANAN.
- iv. ANNA E. BUCHANAN.
- v. BELLE BUCHANAN, b. 1867.
- 6.
- vi. LYDIA BUCHANAN, b. 1865; d. Aft. 1946, Orange or Crawford County, Indiana.
- vii. JOHN R. BUCHANAN.

3. MARTHA SMITH<sup>3</sup> JESSE (THOMAS HALL<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>) was born 1813 in Kentucky. She married THOMAS ANTHONY FLOOD 19 December 1836 in Shelby County, Kentucky. He was born Abt. 1808 in Buckingham County, Virginia, and died in Texas.

Notes for MARTHA SMITH JESSE:

Source: www.hill-ky.org/

Residence 1860, Miller County, Missouri

Children of MARTHA JESSE and THOMAS FLOOD are:

- i. ELIZA JANE<sup>4</sup> FLOOD.
- ii. JEFFERSON PRICE FLOOD.
- iii. JOSEPH MONROE FLOOD.
- iv. NANCY ELIZABETH FLOOD, b. May 1842, Kentucky; d. Aft. 1920.
- v. MARTHA ELLEN FLOOD, b. Abt. 1843, Missouri.
- vi. MARY ANN FLOOD, b. Abt. 1843, Kentucky.
- vii. ZERELDA ALICE FLOOD, b. Abt. 1849, Kentucky; d. Aft. 1920.
- viii. JOHN THOMAS FLOOD, b. Abt. 1857, Missouri.

4. JAMES M.3 JESSE (THOMAS HALL2, JOHN1) was born 26 September 1816, and died 27 July 1859 in Miller County, Missouri. He married LOUISA FLOOD 06 February 1840 in Shelby County, Kentucky. She was born 31 March 1819 in Shelby County Kentucky, and died 1896.

Notes for JAMES M. JESSE:

Source: Ruth Jesse Elliott 1990

James went on down the river to Missouri, but his brother John stayed in Kentucky. Nancy, his mother went to live with him and died there.

Source: [www.hill-ky.org/](http://www.hill-ky.org/)

Louisa and James Jesse went to Edgar Springs, Missouri. He died soon after 1896. They had several children. The youngest was John Jesse who lived at Edgar Springs in 1900.

Children of JAMES JESSE and LOUISA FLOOD are:

7.

- I. JAMES M.4 JESSE, b. June 1846, Kentucky; d. 1929.
- ii. GEORGE W. JESSE, b. 1848, Kentucky.
- iii. MARY E. JESSE, b. Abt. 1848, Missouri.
- iv. JOHN W. JESSE, b. Abt. 1857.

5. JOHN DOLLAS3 JESSE (THOMAS HALL2, JOHN1) was born 10 April 1824 in Virginia, and died 06 September 1910 in Shelby County, Kentucky. He married (1) WIDOW OF PATRICK BAILEY. He married (2) SARA CATHERINE PACE 14 May 1849 in Franklin County, Kentucky, daughter of JOHN PACE and SARAH BECKLEY. She was born 1833 in Shelby County, Kentucky, and died 23 May 1888 in Shelby County, Kentucky. He married (3) MARY VARDAMAN 1897 in Kentucky. She was born January 1850 in Kentucky.

Notes for JOHN DOLLAS JESSE:

Source: Ruth Jesse Elliott 1990

After the death of his wife, John Dollas Jesse and his son James took care of Arthur from the time he was a baby until he was about seven years old.

Ruby O'Mara has a copy of the death notice of John Dollas.

Children of JOHN JESSE and SARA PACE are:

- I. EDNA J.4 JESSE, b. May 1850.
- ii. ELIZABETH JESSE, b. 1852; d. 22 December 1895.8.
- iii. SUE MORRIS JESSE, b. 1856.9.
- iv. LAURA E. JESSE, b. February 1860, Kentucky.10.
- v. JAMES ALEXANDER JESSE, b. 25 August 1862, Shelby County, Kentucky; d. 23 March 1914, Shelby County, Kentucky.

## Phillip and Rachel Jessee

**Phillip Jessee (1742-1858)**, wife **Rachel**, and his son **Gabriel Jessee (1804-1886)**, of still unknown relationship to John Jessee (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 Jessee, their son Gabriel, and their descendants. Your contributions are welcome.

**Gabriel Jessee descendants Irene Jessee Perry, Janice Jessee Tiller, Carl Jessee, and J.C. and wife Nellie Jessee have been generous supporters and stalwart workers who have helped establish the Jessee Family Foundation and volunteer for many other Russell County history, cemetery restoration, and genealogy projects.** For their work, we thank them. I invite family members to submit photos and other articles of interest for us all to enjoy.

**CYNTHIA HAMILTON** [[chamiltons@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chamiltons@sbcglobal.net)] wrote, 12/7/2006, with extensive new information for the **McKinney and Phillip Jessee Families**.

Dear Mr. Jessee, I am Winston Pershing McKinney's first granddaughter. He is the last living child of John Gant McKinney. As far as I know, no one has discovered the answer to Charles McKinney's first wife yet. There is a book being written about this line of McKinneys by Judy McKinney.

Charles McKinney/Rane Chastain McKinney/William Franklin McKinney/John Vardiman McKinney/John Gant McKinney/Winston Pershing McKinney - He had 5 children, all living, 2 daughters and 3 sons (one was adopted in Germany.)

Cyndi (Frazier) Hamilton

I wrote in response: With your permission, I would like to include your note on my Charles McKinney, born 1700 record, assuming we are beginning with the same Charles. I assume you have visited my database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) and looked at all my McKinney records. Some are married to Jessees, and the name Rane occurs three other times there, unless one is this Rane disconnected or they are duplicates of the same person. Do you see any other names that fit into this line in my database? I often record spouses, without knowing how to knit them into their own family lines. Would you have this family line recorded in a genealogy program, such that you might share a GEDCOM file with me, or at least birth, marriage, and death information? There may be other connections in my database. Cynthia responded:

At this time, all I have done is on my website: [www.usgenealogy.net/members/chamiltons/index.html](http://www.usgenealogy.net/members/chamiltons/index.html)

My website is a work in progress. I am hoping to surprise my father and his mother (my grandma turned 89 on 12-07-06), and my Granddaddy McKinney with it for Christmas. I am currently taking a weekly class on writing life stories with my Grandma and plan to include our story assignments on the website. We just started the class and only have one story and there is only one more class this year so I won't be adding until next year. I would be happy to send you the story files if you are interested.

I am attempting a GEDCOM but it sure takes a lot of work! There may be a GEDCOM on my website but it is most likely a combination of work done by distant cousins and will eventually be replaced with work done by me and any work done by distant cousins will list them as sources where applicable.

I discovered your GEDCOM on rootsweb and then went to your website before I wrote to you which is how I recognized that we are related McKinney's starting with the same Charles McKinney. I will take some more time browsing your site more thoroughly and let you know if I come up with any more information. ...

I did just a few minutes of checking [on [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org)] and I am especially intrigued and would like to look into the Frazier and Hall ancestors in your database.

My GrGr Grandfather is Phineas Frazier (the Frazier dead end maybe - see Phineas parentage theory on my website). Elmer Samuel Frazier/Virgil Frazier/Thomas Frazier from Ohio.

Granddaddy McKinney is married to Ruth Frances Hall (his 2nd wife) b.16 Oct 1944 Bellingham, Washington. She is daughter of James Hall and Nell Carroll Hall.

Are you familiar with a McKinney website called Roots by Jen? I have found some information included there to be helpful. And, another McKinney GEDCOM file that I sometimes refer to is Barbara Henkle's. Links to both are:



<http://www.rootsbyjen.com/>

<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=:984215>

In looking at Henkle's GEDCOM I noticed there is a Jane Jessee married to a Rane C. McKinney although the spelling is Jessey.

Some obvious connections here I would say.

**CRAIG JESSIE** [craig\_jessie@yahoo.com] wrote, 9/4/2006, regarding **Sam Henry Jessee and Elizabeth Witt (Louisa E. Witt)**.

My name is Jeffrey Craig Jessie. From the best I can tell, I am a descendant of Sam Henry Jessee and Elizabeth Witt (Louisa E. Witt). I have attached the RootsWeb info that I hope is incorrect concerning the death of John Jessee in 1878 (John Henry Jessie, son of Samuel and Louisa E. Witt, born in 1877 is definitely my Great Grandfather). I got the 1880 Federal Census info from Ancestry.com. I will try to attach that also, but if you have access to this info look for Samuel H Gessey.

Craig Jessie (Son of Charles Jessie, son of Robert Jessie, son of John Henry Jessie, son of Samuel Jessee) Reidsville, NC.

I wrote in response:

Thank you for writing and providing this documentation. I believe you are correct, and that death date I recorded must be very wrong, so I will gladly delete that. I welcome your information providing the correct birth, marriage, and death information for John Henry Jessee and his descendants. Your help is welcome, and may help others discover their roots, too.

Since you descend from Old Phillip Jessee, and we hear scant little from that family, would you like to write a little story or a few paragraphs about your branch of the family that we might include in the Newsletter someday? The last Newsletter had information from another descendant in your line. See most Newsletters on-line at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org).

To which Craig responded, with information about the spelling change from Jessee to Jessie.

Thanks for your quick reply. My brother and I believe that Sam Henry or his son John Henry changed the spelling of the name sometime between 1900 and 1920. Both Sam Henry and John Henry are buried in Oak Ridge, NC. The NC Death Records list Samuel Jessee for Sam Henry, but John Henry's last name is recorded as Jessie. I have personally been to John Henry's gravesite to verify his birth date when I started researching my family history. Two of John Henry's children are still living. Charlie Jessie and Foley Jessie. I will try to get you more information about other relatives soon.

Do you know of any other information about Old Phillip?? My 'branches of the tree' just kinda dry up with him. I thought I read he MAY have been John Jessee's brother???

Again, it was great to hear from you and I will be in touch soon. When me and my brother get the tree close I will send you the link.

**CAROLE ECKSTROM** [allie\_macie@yahoo.com] wrote, 11/5/2006, in response to the above providing more detailed information. Carole is Craig's sister.

Hello, I am a Jessie by birth married to an Eckstrom. My brother Craig Jessie recently contacted someone in the clan regarding (I believe) Samuel Jessie. I am very interested in the our family tree and have traced my mother's family back to the mid 1700's and now I would like to know more about my father's side.

Here in N.C. I have a couple of great uncles and a great aunt of Jessie heritage left.

Foley Jessie -- Summerfield

Charlie Jessie -- Danbury

Elnora Jessie Earles -- Greensboro

My aunt Karen Faith Jessie lives next door. I live in Reidsville on the farm. I have two brothers Chris and Craig Jessie. My children are girls and the oldest is named for Allie Jessie. (Allison (Allie) Jessie Eckstrom and Maison Nicole Eckstrom)

My brother Craig has 3 children Zachary Michael Robert Jessie, Devin Jessie, and Arabella Rosemary Jessie.

I have a nephew Christain Corey Jessie who is named for Cora Jessie (my great grandmother). My sister is not a birthed Jessie she was adopted by my father when he married my mother.

Dad-- Charles Leonard Jessie

Mother -- Elizabeth Virginia Campbell

My grandparents were Robert Leonard Jessie and Dorothy Callie Elizabeth Sands Jessie. Robert and Allie were half brother and sister. Allie was Dorothy's mother.

## JOHN AND FRANKEY 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.**

## WILL THE REAL JOHN JESSEE PLEASE STAND UP?

**I have wondered when would come the day that someone would seriously question if our John Jessee is the same John Jesse or Jessey who served as a musician in Yarboro's Regiment, NC Continental Army. I can feel the shudder across the family, as all John Jessee based DAR and SAR applications are dependent upon this fact.**

**Our master researcher and myth debunker, TOM RUDDER, has dared to ask the question and has been researching it for some time.** Here are several of his email messages and research notes, sent to me and some others over time, outlining his question, concerns, and case. Tom has girded his loins to go public with these questions to the family.

**JIM: I'm not sure whether or not I've ever told you that I do not believe that our John Jessee was in the NC Continental Army.** While deleting some old sent mail I ran across this Email. It covers well why I feel that way. I think the clincher is the Pierce Register which shows that a John Jessey was issued certificate # 90278 which was in the group of #s issued to Thomas Clark of the 1st. regiment while Yarborough was in the 3rd. Someone will have to show me more convincing evidence to change my mind. It might shake up the Jessee Clan if this question somehow got in your News Letter.

**With Tom's permission here is his case, provided in notes to me and others over time.** Tom and I ask for further research to prove who is our John Jessee.

From: tomr  
To: Michael@michaeljessie.com  
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2005 3:50 PM

Hi Michael: Since we are both descendants of David Jessee I thought I would ask you about John Jessee Sr. and the belief that he was a Rev. War Soldier. I've spent quite a bit of time on this subject and have not found anything that leads me to believe he served in the Continental Army.

First of all I am not convinced that a man with a wife and 3 or 4 children would spend a year in the Continental Army that paid hardly enough for one person to live on.

And now the "Pierce's Register" data. A John Jessee was issued certificate No. 90278 and was paid \$24.80 back pay Certificate NO's 89501-91855 were issued to the Regiment under Thomas Clark (who had the 1st. Reg.) Capt. Edward Yarborough was in the 3rd. North Carolina and the John Jesse (musc. under Yarboro) does not reflect a cert. In other words he is not in the Pierce Register. I'm sure that John Pierce, Pay-master General would have checked the records thoroughly before he issued a certificate to anyone.

I went through the archive files for NC Rev. War soldiers and found no record for a John Jesse. Now you can see why I have my doubts.

Tom Rudder in Sacramento

Jim, all I'm asking for is any evidence that connects the John Jesse(e) of Caswell Co. NC to the John Jesse in "The Roster of North Carolina Soldiers" or the John Jessee in "Pierces Register". For all I know those two, the John Jesse and John Jessee were the John Jessie who lived in Rowan Co. NC during the Rev. War. I know that someone had our John listed in the DAR Patriot Index but I don't know who it was or how they did it. I asked the DAR to tell me who initiated that action but all they sent me was the last data they had received from a Jessee descendant. I don't think that what I'm asking for is an unreasonable request, do you. Tom

### **Tom's research supports both sides of the matter and gives us paths to follow.**

Jim I still maintain that John would not have enlisted in the Continental Army for a year, but look at this [See quote below]. If he was in the militia at the time he would have no choice in the matter. The state assembly called up the militia for a years service as Continentals. I've searched the Caswell Co. records over and over and still have not found him in the militia or any other service. Tom

"After Guilford Courthouse, because Nathaniel Green claimed, somewhat unjustly, that the North Carolina militia had fled, the state assembly called up the hapless militiamen for a year's service as Continentals in "punitive" battalions. Officers were sent to Halifax, Edenton, Wilmington, Smithfield, Hillsborough, and Salisbury to "receive the men into Continental service on 25 April."

From "Fortitude and Forbearance: The North Carolina Continental Line in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783" by Lawrence E. Babits and Joshua B. Howard. Published by the Office of Archives and History of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, 2004. For more information visit [www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hp/](http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hp/)

Researcher Brooke Cain searches journals and other sources for talk about the South. She can be reached at (919) 829-4579 or [bcain@newsobserver.com](mailto:bcain@newsobserver.com).

Upon my question that I believe John Jessee enlisted some months after the Battle of Kings Mountain, and that, based on the above, is it plausible our John Jessee was called up in the Militia Call-up April 25, 1781, and discharged April 22, 1782, the presumed year of John's service. Tom wrote:

Jim the Battle of Kings Mt. was in Oct. 1780 and the Roster of NC soldiers indicates that he served from Apr. 81 til Apr. 82. That date, 25 April, is what I noticed about the Militia call up. My 3rd gt grandfather, Wm. Dorton, and his two brothers were in the Kings Mt. battle.

What I'm saying is that John would have been called up to serve one year in the Continental Army on the 25th of Apr. 1781. Which would match the discharge of 22 Apr. 1782 shown in the Roster of NC Soldiers. If he was in the Militia at the time. Tom

Jim, this is the data from the DAR records. It really doesn't tell us much. Then again it tells me a lot. I've always wondered why Frankey, or none of the children, applied for a pension. It appears to me that just about everyone who was, or believed they were entitled to a pension, applied for one. All Rev War veterans or their widows were entitled as a result of the 1832 law passed by congress. If he had Rev War service then why didn't at least one of the family apply. The fact that the DAR records such data tells me that it is one of the factors used to determine eligibility. Tom\

- Original Message ----

From: <autoreply@dar.org>  
To: <tomr@infostations.com>  
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2006

Subject: DAR Patriot Lookup:  
Reference Code RZAFZJJK

> JESSE, John

> Birth: Circa 1750

> Service: NC

> Rank: Mus

> Death: VA Before (ante) 17 Nov 1815

> Patriot Pensioned: No Widow Pensioned: No

> Children Pensioned: No Heirs Pensioned: No

> Spouse: (1) Frances Lea

>

> Original Request

> Requestor: Thomas Rudder (tomr@infostations.com)

> Patriot First Name: John

> Patriot Last Name: Jessee

> Birth: 1750

> Death: 1817 Russell Co. VA

> War Time Residence: Caswell Co. NC

> Spouse First Name: Frances Lea

> Comments: How can I find out who provided the data, and what that data was, that resulted in the inclusion of John Jesse in the DAR Patriot Index.

I won't be convinced until I see a legal or reliable document that ties him [our John Jessee] to the military. That would be something that ties John Jesse of Caswell Co. to a certain military unit, and commander. If he was in the militia the call-up data would explain why he was in the continental army for a year. So far all that I've seen is a John Jesse listed in the Roster of North Carolina Soldiers and John Jessee who received back pay for serving in the army. I have no way of knowing if either one was John Jesse(e) of Caswell Co. NC.

Jim just try to cover the questions, why can't we find his name on a military roster, why would a man with a wife and 3 or 4 children join a service that was not paying enough when they paid at all, to support even one person and if he was in the NC



Continental Line why did not one single descendant file for pension benefits when the federal government authorized them. For example the brother of my 4th g grandfather was an officer in the Virginia Dragoons and when that law was passed you can't believe the number of "Rudder's" that applied for his pension benefits. He and his two brothers lived in Lunenburg Co. but some of those claiming benefits claimed he was from Norfolk Co. and was from a different family. Of course there were none available since he had received them after he left the service. Land Warrants for over 2600 acres. Then there is the info I sent you showing that 65% of those filing claims for back pay in NC could not be found in a military roster. Anyone could have used his name. I would just like to see some evidence that John Jesse(e) of Caswell Co. was in the military. After all NC was famous for the fact that there were a awful lot of Tories there. They even came to south-west Virginia and stole the horses of the settlers. They were quite a problem. If I'm not mistaken some of the Lea's were Tories. You can see why I'd like to see some proof. Tom

## WILL THE REAL FRANKEY LEA PLEASE STAND UP?

**The 2006 research of the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde speculates that Frankey is the daughter of George Lea, son of this William Lea, and Lucy Tolbert, born in 1761.** This is one of the possible candidates we have outlined for many years in previous Newsletters, on the Frankey Lea record in the database, and 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, but it must be further researched.

This research also attempts to differentiate **Col. George Lea RIN 5301**, that Tom 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 Cobbs 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).

**REV. DR. CYNTHIA FORDE** [spiritsouth@gmail.com] wrote, 11/3/2006, with additional information to help us with "sorting them out..."

Hi Jim, I am trying to get documentation for the death date of James Lea of Kilgore's Branch, father of Gabriel Lea. He must have been the one who gave the deposition simply by subtraction. Read on:

The numbers 1-5 represent the men named James Lea in Caswell county, NC 1790.

William Lea b. 1714 was the son of Capt. John Lea and Ann Taylor

William Lea b. 1714 married Mary Barnett

Children:

Zachariah m. Mary Ann; their daughter married a Bankston

William (may have had a widow named Mary in Caswell county, NC)

George

Sarah

1.) James b. 1743 James of Cobb's Creek.

Richard

John

Barnett.

William and his brother, [incomplete transmission here]

2.) James Lea b. ca. 1716 VA, .

This James moved to NC and later to Kilgore's Branch in Caswell County... and married a woman named Anne.

James and Anne had the following children:

William b. 1747 m. Cathy Van Hook (see below)

3.) James Jr. (one of the five named James Lea in 1790 Caswell County).

Polly

Phoebe

Gabriel (Deposition of James Lea was taken in his home)

William b. 1747, son of James Lea and Anne LNU, m. Cathy Van Hook

They were the parents of :

Lawrence Lea

Madison Lea

William Lea

Phoebe Lea

Artimissia Lea

4. James Lea b. abt 1770

Eunice Lea

That is four of the five men named James Lea in Caswell County, NC 1790. Now onto the fifth one:

Capt. John Lea

father of William b. 1714 at the top of the page, had a brother named William Lea/Leigh.

And that William Lea/Leigh was born 1680 in VA; he married Francis Major.

Their oldest son was number five: James Lea b. before 1718. The two cousins were continually confused because they were so close in age and both married women named Anne, so they were

nick-named: James (Country Line Creek) and James (Kilgore's Branch) because of the geographic location of their property.

This number five James Lea married Anne Herndon. They had a daughter named Adelphia Lea, who married Joseph I. Henderson and became parents of Nancy Ann Henderson.

The deposition of James Lea was written in Caswell County in 1793 and 1797 taken in the home of Gabriel Lea "because James Lea was too old and infirm to travel."

The deposed James Lea stated in 1793 that he "married a daughter of said Bankston 47 years ago. " He was still living in 1797.

Now, to go back to the five men named James Lea that lived in Caswell County in 1790...

1. James Lea of Cobb's Creek b. 1743 d. 1820
2. James Lea of Kilgore's Branch b. ca. 1714-1716 d. 1788 (if this is valid!!!) m. Ann ???
3. James Lea, Jr. b. ca. 1747 d.?
4. James Lea b. 1770 d. ?
5. James Lea b. bef. 1718 m. Anne Herndon d. FOR CERTAIN: March 1792.

Out of this group, only two were old enough to have married in 1747. And number five was dead in 1792. I have his probate papers - he is my ancestor.

We have the voice of a James Lea from the grave telling us his wife's maiden name: Bankston.

This James Lea was living in Granville county before it was divided next door to Lawrence Bankston about 1748.

I have found websites that have totally confused the two older James Leas. I have a death date of 1788 for Kilgore's Branch: James Lea and a death date of April 1792 as an additional death date for the same man. In addition, some folks have given that same man my ancestor's death date.

The whole point of my note is to find out if you have additional data or a source to get an actual document for a death date of the older James Lea from Kilgore's Branch (#2 above). There is no question that #5 was dead and was not the James Lea who gave the deposition in 1793 and 1797.

And there is no question that the other three men named James Lea were not the deposed either; they were babies when this man married Lawrence Bankston's daughter.

If James (Kilgore's Branch) was not the deposed James Lea, there was a sixth man named James Lea who died after 1797 and before 1800 census.

Blessings, Cynthia Forde

**GRADY LEA** [ugh.lea@cox.net] wrote, 7/28/2006, to share his own **Lea Family research** and has the following personal pedigree, and his version of the pedigree for Frankey Lea, as far as he researched it, too.

Jim - - my [Lea Family descendants] breakdown is as follows, beginning with William Lea (Col) & Mary Green where we split.

#### **GRADY LEA:**

**William Lea & Mary Green**

William Haines Lea & Francis Major

James Lea & Ann Herndon

Alexander B. Lea & Mary Ann May

Alexander J. Lea & Lucetta Strickland

(to Grady from this point)

Robert Edward Lea & Laura (Sauls) McClendon

Joseph Elias Lea & Avis (Smart) Rainwater

Grady Lea (Me)

I have been trying to collect and fill in as much of the Lea history as I can from Sir John Leigh - 1530 up through today.

#### **FRANKEY LEA:**

**William Lea & Mary Green**

John Lea & Ann Taylor

William Lea & Mary Barnett

George Lea & Lucy Tolbert

Frankey Lea & Unknown

This research supports the idea that Frankey is the daughter of George Lea and Lucy Tolbert, granddaughter of William and Mary.

#### **And now to change the subject!**

**DOROTHY SIMPSON** [dsimpson52@tampabay.rr.com] wrote, 11/2/2006, with some pleasant and confirming news about John and Frankey's settlement in Russell County, where Thomas Price sold John Jessee the family land we know today.

I was doing some research on the internet and came across your page about one of your fore-fathers John Jessee. My mother's family was from Russell Co. Va. and actually Thomas Price who sold John Jessee the 200 acres in 1791 in Russell Co. Va was one of my long time ago kinfolk. My great, great, great grandfather's named was Elisha Price. My great, great grandmother was born in Willow Springs. She was born in 1850. The Prices go back pretty far. I have found records dating as far back as 1772. Do you happen to have any info on any of the Prices or have you seen the Price's chapel or cemetery? Like the Jessee family there were quite a good number of them. they were mostly from the Willow Springs area, Moccasin Territory. Thanks for any info you could share, I hope to get there one day, I live in Florida and am thinkin on goin on my vaca. Looking at the Topography map the Jessee and Price families lived very close.

[She wrote later] It will be very exciting to hear anything at all about the Price family. Thomas Price, the man who sold John Jessee 200 acres, I believe him to be my great, great, great, great grandfather, but don't know for sure. I know he is definitely related to me but I don't know if he is my 4th great grandfather or his brother. My 3rd great grandfather is Elisha Price. My great, great grandmother, Matilda Jane Price watched a brutal Indian killing of her aunt, when she was just a child. She was helping to milk with her aunt when the Indians came upon them and she ran and hid and was spared, but her aunt died. I would really like to know more about her, I've often wondered her name. I have read through some ledgers of that time and area regarding incidents with the Indians but haven't found anything regarding the Prices' specifically.

Thanks again for any info and thanks for your web page, it was a real pleasure to read it.

## **John and Frankey's Children**

**I enjoy corresponding 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 Jessee Newsletter but do record it in the family database. Please visit the family database at [www.jessee.org](http://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.

**I am sorry to report that my first cousin, and family patriarch, RICHARD L. JESSEE passed away this summer.** Richard and his son Larry, and grandson Peter Jessee accompanied Nelda and me to the 2004 Jessee Family Reunion, where he was made to feel



more than welcome by our Russell County cousins. Thank you Bill and Fay, and Doodle and Ernestine for the special times there Richard always spoke about. I was fortunate to be asked by the family to do his eulogy. Here are excerpts.

**Richard Leslie Jessee**  
**April 3, 1930 - August 7, 2006**

I wish I could say Richard was a typical Jessee man - an archetype - he wasn't. As Betty said, "He was sweet," and, as too many of us Jessee cousins witness, sweetness comes few and far between... Uncle Jack, Uncle Mutt, maybe a couple more...

Richard was kind and loving and sensitive, and that characteristic is widely shared in the family... but we all got to cover that up!

Richard was so well liked, respected, and loved by many friends, family and all he met - as is well evidenced here, today. He was affable, easy-going, sociable, a great storyteller, and funny - with a sense of humor and infectious laugh that tickled ya.

He was honest and completely trustworthy. He did all his business as manager of N.R. Jessee Well Drilling and his own affairs on a handshake - no contracts, no deposits - even did loans with the banks on the same basis. He was a man of integrity.

Richard's grandfather, N.C. Jessee, a plumber and entrepreneur, started the well drilling business not long after his arrival in Chico about 1908, but N.R. Jessee Well Drilling was the business best known in Northern California, and the largest of only two or three Northern California well drilling businesses, drilled at least one-third to one-half the wells in these parts over several decades. Richard worked there as a boy and then again running drilling rigs out in the field after his return and "sufficient" recovery from Korea. Later he took over the management of the company, ran the office and handled sales. They sold, installed, and serviced Byron Jackson pumps, and Larry has continued in the family business to this day, working for Byron Jackson pumps many years, and now selling them and other well drilling and irrigation equipment to companies like N.R. Jessee Well Drilling as a wholesale distributor.

Uncle Bob worked with Richard for N.R. Jessee Well Drilling, as did most of the uncles and several cousins, as well as assorted in-laws, friends, neighbors, and others from the old neighborhood, at one time or another. My dad worked there, too. All these Jessee fathers and sons, brothers and sisters, uncles, aunts, and cousins, helped each other with their businesses, farms, and building their homes, too. And that tradition carries on to this day.

N.R. was one of five founders of the Associated Drilling Contractors in 1949 and Richard continued this tradition as its president in 1971 and 1972. The ADC is now the California Groundwater Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving California ground water. We know how important this is today. Richard was honored with lifetime membership for his years of service. ...

Richard was a "strapping" and athletic young man, not to mention "handsome", which Betty, and a few other classmates I have spoke to will testify. According to Chico High classmate Jack Meline, when Richard was once teased about wearing his overalls with big, high cuffs, Richard backed up against the wall and asked who wanted to roll them down! No takers...

This was made all the more tragic when they brought Richard out of Korea so crippled with Rheumatoid Arthritis that he could not walk. Then months of time in a hospital in Japan and later therapy at Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he was discharged. More years later and months of time spent in VA hospitals, where he was for a time with my dad at Ft. Miley Woods Hospital in San Francisco. He was subject to experimental "X-Ray" therapy, which may have done more harm than good. He ended up with



Richard Jessee with Doodle and Ernie

spondylitis, and a permanent curvature of the spine which gave him the stooped over appearance and walk all these years.

Richard has survived many health crises through the years and we may have been lucky to have him this long time. Among his health problems and harrowing experiences is heart disease, for which Richard had a pacemaker installed - more on that later - but the gist of it is that Richard's pacemaker was recalled many years ago, but his health had been too fragile to go in and replace it. So he has had that sword hanging over his head for years, too.

For all this, Richard was no sissy - he was a man's man. That he worked physically hard for N.R. Jessee Well Drilling his whole working life, as well as building and taking care of his own home, orchards, roses, yard and garden, right to the end, is testimony. He loved athletics and sports his whole life, and would not miss a game of his sons or grandsons if able. You usually found Richard watching a game on TV. He hunted and fished with the best of 'em, bearing his own pain and disability through all. Never a complaint.

Steve, Darrell, and Larry tell stories of their dad's most effective "disciplinary methods," about how he taught them so much, trusted them to be their own men, and his unfaltering and unconditional love. That he was smart enough to pay Larry to hoe weeds by the tree and not the hour is testimony to his character and intelligence, too. They can thank their father for their own significant work ethic, values and capabilities, and the true grit that makes them masters of their own trades, recognized for the same honesty and integrity as their dad.

Can you imagine what these three boys were like to raise for Richard and Betty. Then add in the "dog pack" of Jessee brothers, uncles, cousins, and in-laws, all in the neighborhood. Jay, Gary, Julie, and I all grew up on the Jessee Home Ranch on old Nord Avenue, just across Sandy Gulch from Richard and Betty's home and orchard on Fern Avenue. The Jessee home place was the magnet for all the Jessee family: the eight Jessee brothers, our Uncles Norval, John, Gene, Jerry, Mutt, Bob, Toby and Jack, and the cousins: Donald, Richard, Billy, Johnny, Dodie, Nancy, Tony, Donna, Bobby, Jay, Gary, Jim and Julie - were all in the neighborhood or nearby. The families in that Sandy Gulch area, the old Bidwell School neighborhood, helped each other, worked for each other, relied on each other, and trusted each other with their lives and livelihoods unlike anything we know today. Richard was part of that world.

Now, we all know that these family businesses with relations between fathers and sons, brothers and sisters, even cousins and in-laws, are often no picnic and conflicts arise. Like any family, there were enough hard feelings, fights, and grudges to go around at one time or another. But we all survived and love each other in spite of ourselves. Richard was there with and for his brother Don in his last years, and both were grateful for it.

Like I said, Richard was a "man's man," and nowhere was this more evident than his love for spending "time with the boys."

During the summers, Richard would take a well-drilling rig to the family cabin in Almanor to drill wells in the area. He would be sure to quit by 3 p.m. every day so he and his boys could go fishing, water skiing, and just play. He loved that cabin at Lake Almanor, the family times, memorable reunions, the neighbors, friends and good times. ...

But most of all Richard loved hunting with the boys - with that Jessee dog pack, his father and mother, brother, uncles, cousins, sons, in-laws, neighbors and friends. Much of that hunting was on the Jessee Ranch in Cohasset.

The Jessee Ranch in Cohasset was established by N.R. Jessee and was the other "center of the universe" for this family. N.R. raised Devon cattle, originally from Devonshire, England, where interestingly enough the Jessees may also hail. Norval specialized in Devon bulls, breeding, sales, and bull shipping. I said "shipping." Darrell continues that tradition today on the ranch. The Ranch was also where their hunting cabin was, and their cattle range that stretched five miles across Rock Creek to Tehama County is all prime deer-hunting country.

Richard loved to deer hunt his whole life, and it just wasn't that time with his buddies. Darrell said he loved the hunt, and he was a tireless tracker and terrific shot. He out walked all of them in his youth, and in his later days, he would perch himself on "Dad's Rock" at a strategic spot on the deer trails while the boys worked the deer toward him. Those "hunting buddies" included Norval and Beth, brother Don, his uncles and cousins, friends and neighbors, including Dick and RJ Chambers, John Hoptowit, and many others [show of hands]. And most importantly of all, he loved to hunt with his sons and grandsons.

When Richard had that pacemaker put in, they put it in his upper right chest, where he rested his rifle or shotgun to shoot. When the doctor learned of this, he told Richard he would have to learn to shoot left-handed and use a lighter gun. Darrell said he was still a good shot.

When the old family hunting cabin was sold as part of the settlement of the estate, Richard, with his brother-in-law Bill Thomas, Bob Carr, Steve, Darrell, and Larry hauled all the building materials for the "new hunting cabin" five miles across Rock Creek Canyon, up a steep and narrow trail with a jeep and trailer, and Richard with the pedal to the metal, and the boys hanging on for dear life. They built a dry two-bedroom, big living room/kitchen with wood stove hunting cabin and retreat...

From the photos Darrell shared of the cabin and the hunting and good times there, Richard clearly loved it. He loved the rustic life far away from civilization, the distinct terrain, vegetation and wildlife, the smell of the earth, and ever-changing weather. They had many a successful hunt, and Richard would fry up the fresh liver and heart in bacon grease as their due reward at the end of the day. I understand why Uncle Jack chose to be there, in an old jeep, hunting deer with Richard, on his day to die. [26 years ago] ...

While Richard worried that being wheel-chair-bound might be a drag to the kids when they went to Disneyland, it turned out that wheelchair was a passport - they got 1st-Class treatment throughout the Magic Kingdom. We found the same courtesy when Richard, Larry, Peter, Nelda and I went to the National Jessee Family Reunion in Russell County, Virginia three years ago. We had many plane changes and connections to make, but we were in Richard's entourage and were whisked through security, rushed to departure gates and even taken care of first when they cancelled our flights and had to keep us overnight in a hotel.

It was a great privilege to travel with Richard to that Family Reunion in Russell County. We visited all the Jessee and Bickley family historic sites. Peter visited the grave sites of two of his 6-times great-grandfathers, both Revolutionary War soldiers and met dozens of cousins. Richard was immediately liked and charmed them all. The photograph of Richard at Jessee's Mill has been in the Jessee Family Newsletter for several issues. All you Jessee cousins who have been getting a complimentary copy of the

Jessee Family Newsletter can thank Richard for his encouragement to me and generous support of the Newsletter.

Lastly, Richard and Betty were married for 58 years. Through thick and thin, better and worse, in sickness and in health, they were the best of friends, and the loves of each other's lives. They are an inspiration for us all. May the love you have for each other sustain you now, Betty, for much time to come.

Richard Jessee was a wonderful person, friend, neighbor, colleague, brother, cousin, son, husband, father, and grandfather... and the sweetest man you could ever know.

**VICKY SINGLETON [vicky114@hotmail.com]**  
wrote, 7/20/2006, with this information regarding  
**descendants of Stanford Lea Jessee and his son  
George Cowan Jessee with additional information  
about the Morgan, Breeding, and Artrip genealogy.**

Hello Mr. Jessee! I was thrilled to hear from you and to find out we are indeed related. My sister & I attended the Jessee Family Reunion this past June and had a great time meeting all the people.

So to get to the info you wanted.....My name is Vicky Lynn (Webb) Singleton, I married Marty Lynn Singleton in 1980 and we have one son, Travis Lynn born in 1982. My mother's name is Doris Lynn (Sizemore) Webb, b. Nov. 9, 1943, She married Raymond Louis Webb, b. Sept. 6, 1940.

My maternal grandmother was Lela Belle Morgan Sizemore, b. Feb. 10, 1920, in Morristown, Hamblen Co., TN and died Sept. 2, 1998. She married Albert Jesse Sizemore of Kyles Ford, Hancocke Co. TN. He was born Jan. 28, 1921 and died June 24, 1993. Lela & Albert were married Sept. 5, 1941, both are buried in the Hamblen Memorial Gardens, Morristown, TN.

Lela was the daughter of Sterlin Elliot Morgan, b. Mar. 8, 1883, in Morristown, TN, d. Dec. 19, 1957, in Morristown; and Sallie Lillian Jessee, b. April 28, 1887 in Artrip, Russell Co., VA. Sallie died May 22, 1953 in Morristown. Sterlin and Sallie were married Sept. 1, 1917 and both are buried in the Mt. Airy Methodist Church cemetery in Morristown. They had 4 children, Lela, being my grandmother, her twin sister, Reba Nell (Morgan) Hawk, (Reba died in 2005), Leona Virginia Morgan, b. Aug. 9, 1918 and d. Aug. 1, 1921. According to my grandmother, Leona's birth was difficult, being the first child. The attending doctor used forceps to aid in the delivery which caused head trauma. Leona never recovered from this and died a premature death. She is buried with Sallie and Sterlin. They also had another child that was still born. The child wasn't given a name and is buried in an unmarked grave here on the farm.

Sallie is the daughter of George Cowan Jessee, b., 01/29/1852; d., 05/04/1926 & Virginia Elizabeth Breeding, b., 05/11/1847; d., 05/12/1911. They had 10 children: John Allen Jessee, b., 02/10/1871, d., ?. Martha Elizabeth Jessee (Aunt Marth) b. 11/27/1873, d., 04/30/1951; Mary Cassaway Jessee (Aunt Cass) b., 10/09/1874, d., 05/14/1944; George Jessee ( don't know birth & death, but he married a Gertrude Childress, d/o Archer Jessee Childress & Leah Kiser); Thomas Jefferson "Tom" Jessee, b., 09/16/1876, d., 12/21/1954; Elijah B. (Uncle Pard) Jessee, b., 08/16/1878, d., 05/23/1897, he was killed in a sawmill accident. Charles (Uncle Coonie) Jessee, (don't know birth & death). Maude E. Jessee, don't know birth & death, but she married a Lawrence Artrip. Finally, Newton Roy (Uncle Newt) Jessee, b., 03/1883 d., 1950. Grandma always told us that Uncle Newt was her Mama's favorite brother. Sallie kept a picture of him in his military uniform on her dresser. I still have that picture.

I am fortunate to have pictures of Sallie's family, I have one of her mother, Virginia. I'm sure you can trace from Cowan, his father was Stanford Jessee.

Virginia was the daughter of Elijah Breeding and Susannah Artrip. I have a copy of the "Artrip Family Genealogy" that was given to my grandmother some 30 or more years ago. This was

given to her by Herbert Clayton (H.C.) "Red" Jessee, son of Thomas Jefferson Jessee. It was documented by a Phyllis Artrip of Fresno, California. She writes that she and her husband, Ray Artrip, visited Artrip, VA in 1952.

This genealogy goes back to James Artrip and Polly Kiser, Virginia (Breeding) Jessee's grandparents. Polly Kiser was the daughter of Joseph and Susannah (Stacy) Kiser. James & Polly raised 14 children and owned 3,000 acres.

As for the farm where I live. It has been passed down through my grandmother's family since 1867. I have the original, hand written deed dated Feb. 1867 and deeded to a Hannah Morgan, 7 acres. Hannah then left it to Wm. R. Morgan, who died very young and his wife, Mary Ann Elizabeth Reese, inherited it. Sterlin Morgan obtained 5 more acres making a total of 12 acres. My grandmother inherited the farm and when she died, the farm was divided among her 3 children. As they already had their homes, they were not interested in keeping the farm. I, my sister and our first cousin have built homes on the farm and we all live here now raising our families.

I hope this is not too much. I'm sure you have some of this information. I am beginning research on the Morgan's and Reese's, no one has done this as of yet. Thank you for writing to me. I realize and appreciated all the hard work you have put into the Jessee genealogy. I hope to hear from you.

**DEANNA JESSIE** [djess0@uky.edu] wrote, 11/15/2006, about John Jessee, Jr. cousins, not to mention **Counts and Kiser cousins, from Olive Hill, KY**, and shared this information about **Arch Jessee** who married **Eleanor "Nelly" Smyth**, both of whom are my gg-grandparents, Joseph Jessee and Cynthia Smyth's brother and sister, respectively. We are double cousins.

I am 48 years old and started genealogy at age 13... I have a great deal of family history on the local Jessee's... Grandpa was a Jessee until his 2nd grade teacher told him that his name was spelled wrong and we became an "ie"....

I have a 8 year old daughter that I have taken a nearly 8 year vacation from my favorite pastime.... Research... I'm hoping she will take an interest... I am not sure how much you have on the Kentucky Jessee's... but I am willing to share what I have.... I am looking forward to spending so time on your website... I am proud of your interest in the family.... The older Jessee's told me that our people came here from Old Virginia because they didn't want to have to choose between the sides during the Civil War.... Though old stories speak of how the Jessee men liked to fight....

My lineage comes down thru Arch and Eleanor "Nellie Smythe" Jessee of whom she came to Kentucky with the Counts and Kisers. Arch and Eleanor's son John married Eliza Williams Jessee and had a son Arch Lee Jessee my Great Grandfather... Mom said my Great Grandma got mad when they didn't put Lee in my Brothers name.... every generation had a Lee somewhere ....

Well... I am at work and just had to send you an email.... I look very forward to future writings... you must visit Kentucky sometime....

**RONALD WALKER** [absolamjoe@sympatico.ca] wrote, 6/7/2006, with this information about **Thomas D. and Catherine (Jessee) Long**. Chatherine is the daughter of John Jessee, Jr.

I have just found your information on the Jessee family on ancestry.com. My great grandmother is Eliza Jane Long. For about 30 years I have been trying to find her family and have never been able to find anything until this past two weeks. The only information that I had about her was that she was born April 2, 1843 in Indiana, she died February 9, 1898, in Carl, Jackson

County, Kansas, and is buried in the Boan Cemetery, Jackson Co., Kansas. I was searching the 1860 census and I finally found her in Saylor Township, Polk Co., Iowa. I then found Thomas D. and Catherine Long in the 1850 census of Howard County, Indiana, and it has the same names of their children that you have listed on your page except it lists all of their children except Mary J. as born in Indiana.

This past week I was in Des Moines and I found them again in the 1856 Iowa state census. In the 1856 and 1860 censuses Thomas D. was not listed and Catherine was listed at the head. I looked in the probate records and found Thomas D. Long died in 1851. In the settlement of the estate the following children are found: Jefferson Long, Richard D. Long, Clarence Long, John W. Long, Sarah A. Watson, Eliza Long, Elizabeth Palmer, and Pricilla Close. Except for Clarence, these names are the same names that you list as their children. All of the other children must have been dead when Thomas D. died.

One of the things that I have noticed is that almost everyone in this family died young. (My grandmother died when she was 26 and her mother, Eliza Jane was only 54, Thomas D. Long was 46 and Catherine, his wife, was about 55.) Catherine sold land in 1868 but she was not in the 1870 census. Both Thomas D. and Catherine Long are buried in the Pine Hill Cemetery, Saylor Township, Polk County, Iowa. However, there is no headstone there.

So do you think that my Catherine might be the Catherine Jessee in your family? [I do] I would be interested in getting a copy of the deed you have listed with the source D.B. 10, 244, Russell County, Virginia. Is that Deed Book 10, page 244?

Thank you any information that you might share.

## 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.

**I have learned that BILLY LEE JESSEE, son of Beecher Burke Jessee, married to Fay Christine Jessee of Lebanon, has passed away.** Bill was an Archer Jessee descendant, and Fay is a John Jessee, Jr. descendant. I am saddened, as Bill and Fay were always one of my main stops whenever we visited Russell Co, and we enjoyed many an afternoon with them, looking at photos, talking about old times, and family of course. Bill and Fay were dear ones who I met many years ago because of a random kindness, when someone told me, in one of my first visits to Russell County many years ago that some Jessees lived on the corner of Lively Street, and I just stopped by to introduce myself. Needless to say their hospitality then and many more visits since was a double Jessee treat indeed! We have had a wonderful albeit distant friendship. Bill's siblings, Warren, Jean, and Peggy





Billy Lee & Fay Jessee, Jim Jessee & Peter Jessee, 2004

also showed us kindness and that Jessee hospitality. Nelda and I offer condolences to Fay and all her family.

**GLORIA JONES LYLES** [gjyles@ftc-i.net] wrote, 12/28/2006, to share this obituary.

I am sure you will have a flood of responses to your request for his obituary, but here is my file which I saved. I think this was on the Coalfield.com web site.

**Bill L. Jessee, age 82, died on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2006, after an illness at Russell County Medical Center.**

A veteran of World War II who served in combat in Germany, France and Belgium for three years in the 134th AAA Gun Battalion in the First U.S. Army, he retired as manager of Russell County Cooperative, served on the Lebanon Town Council, the Russell County Electoral Board, as a deacon at Lebanon Presbyterian Church and was actively involved in various community and business activities in his lifetime. He was an avid golfer and amateur (ham) radio enthusiast, going back to 1955. He was an animal lover and enjoyed his pet, Schroeder.

He is survived by his wife, Fay Christine Jessee; and children, Priscilla J. Smith of Lebanon, David Lee Jessee and wife Debra, of Roanoke and Thomas Christopher Jessee and wife Nancy, of Winter Haven, Fla. Grandchildren are Jessica Fay Smith, Sarah Elizabeth Jessee, Krista Lorraine Jessee, Catherine Emory Jessee and Meghan Russell Jessee. Surviving siblings are Warren Jessee, Jean Jessee Gilmer and Peggy Gilmer.

He was preceded in death by his father, Beecher B. Jessee, his mother, Hazel Bundy Jessee, and a brother, Burke Jessee.

The family extends a special thanks to Dr. Dwight Bailey, Sandy Cozzolino and the nursing staff of the Russell County Medial Center, Intensive Care Unit.

The family received friends at the Combs Funeral Service in celebration of his life on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 6 until 9 p.m. A service was held at Lebanon Presbyterian Church on Friday, Nov. 10, at 2 p.m., with the Rev. Eddie Nash and the Rev. Guy Hunt officiating. Burial followed in Russell Memorial Cemetery, with military rites conducted by the Lebanon VFW Post 9864.

Pallbearers were his nephews, David Cowan Gilmer, Vincent Gilmer, Ben Franklin Gilmer, Wesley Gilmer, Dr. Burkie Jessee, W.B. Jessee, Steve Spence and Eddie Spence. Honorary pallbearers were Bill Cook, Willard Odum, Roger Waugh, Joe Edwards, David Angle and Vance Richardson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Lebanon Presbyterian Church USA, P.O. Box 2665, Lebanon, VA 24266.

**CAROLYNN GAWTHORP** [heirlooms@a5.com] wrote, 2/1/2006, regarding **Conley Trigg Jessee**, an Archer and Nancy Browning Jessee descendant.

First, I must tell you that (as far as I know) I am not a blood relative of the Jessee family. We reside in DeWitt County, IL. Our daughter who resides in McLean County, IL, is engaged to a gentleman in your Jessee line. About two years ago, his mother was trying to research her husband, Donald Bowden Jessee's lineage. She couldn't seem to make much headway and then she became ill and was not able to continue the research. She did pass away last summer. I thought I would try to do a little research for her husband & family, She had told me that his father, Bowden had been born in Texas to a Conley Trigg Jessee.

I began with the 1920 Census in Lee County, IL, where Bowden was born and I found Bowden and his wife there.

The 1910 Census of Lee Co. IL showed Bowden and another brother, Ballard with their father, Conley T. (born TN).

Then I found Conley T. in 1900 Census, Coleman TX with his entire family, stating he was born in TN.

In 1880 Census I located Conley Trigg Jessee in Claiborne TN with his father, John Trigg (Taz) Jessee, born VA.

I was stumped at that point, and did a Google search on "Jessee VA" and to my surprise, came up with your outstanding "Jessee Genealogy Service" Website. You know the rest ! We now know that the goes on back from John Trigg Jessee to Vincent to Archer ( brother to your John Jessee Jr.) and then John, the "founding father".

I read with interest, the biography of Dr. Robert E. Lee Jessee of Champaign County, Illinois, who is in your own line. My Jessee friends have resided in McLean County Illinois for many years and our daughter's fiancé and his sister both graduated from the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana. Just as we have found in research of our own families, it is indeed a small world !

Your site supplied all those generations back. Needless to say, this Illinois Jessee family is thrilled ! All your years of research is so much appreciated. My husband and I have been doing research on our many lines since 1973, so we can imagine all the time you have given this project. You are to be highly commended for your efforts. Certainly enjoyed the picture of your family.

I am trying to set all this Jesse information up in a "Family Tree Maker" data base for my friends. When I get this done, I would like to send you a copy of my friends & future son-in-laws lineage for your files.

Carolynn Gawthorp heirlooms@a5.com

Former librarian and retired from the office of the County Clerk. (Working with genealogist in both jobs. Wasn't I Lucky !!)

### 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** (1788-1862), 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 the discussion under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

**JAMES D. STALLARD** [jdstal@mounet.com] wrote 12/6/2006 with this inquiry about **proof that David W. Jessee, Jr. who married Hannah Skaggs, was the son of our David Jessee.**

Mr. Jessee, I have been working with Joe Culbertson and Peggy McClain on a line to John Jessee who was a Revolutionary war Patriot. I have good information on John to son David and from David's granddaughter Sara V. B. Jessee who married Elbert S. Salyer. I need documented proof that David W. Jessee, (Jr) who married Hannah Ann Skaggs is in fact David's (Sr) son. I have a copy of a deed where the heirs of David deeded land. However it only said "Heirs by law". As you know the Sons of the American Revolution have strict blood line proof. Any assistance that you could provide to prove David to David would be appreciated.

Jim Stallard (Overmountain Men Chapter, SAR)

## VI. ELIZABETH JESSEE GOSE

**Elizabeth Jessee Gose** (1785-1827) married **George Gose** (1786-1861), son of **Stephen Gose and Barbara Catron (Ketrion) 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.

**GINGER RICHARDSON** [grichardson@buckeye-express.com] wrote, 12/13/2006, regarding **Charles Gilmer Gose.**

My name is Ginger Richardson. I am wondering if you can shed any light on a Charles Gilmer Gose. I think his father would have been George Gose and his mother Elizabeth Cowan but George may have been married to Elizabeth Jessee first. Charles G. Gose was b. approx. 1835 in Castlewoods Dist., Russell, Virginia. Married Mary Banner.

I would like to find some members of the Jessee family if in fact Charles G. Gose was married to Elizabeth Jessee. (I am just starting this research so I am not very good.) The reason I would like to find some descendants of Elizabeth Jessee's family is because I think Charles G. Gose may have the biological father of my great-grandmother's 3 children. Her name was Sabre Kennedy (Talbert), b. approx. 1836. She had 3 children by James Talbert but was divorced from Talbert in 1866. She had 3 more children, Mary, Laura Belle, and Winfield. Winfield Scott Kennedy would be my grand-father. I never knew him but I am very curious as to who his biological father was.

I recently met a cousin online that is a descendant of Laura Belle Kennedy. On Laura Belle's birth certificate it lists Gost as the father. From other clues I have found, I think Charles Gilmer Gose might have been the father of possibly all 3 children.

Sometimes the best information comes from information from the families involved. Since I am not a very good researcher and I don't live in VA where it would be easier to seek out information, I am trying to gather information on Winfield's life but it has been most difficult.

Would you know of any Jessee family members who might be related to this line?

I saw your name on your newsletter. What a great way to communicate with your family. Thanks for any help you could give. Have a good day.

## 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.

**CARLYINE RITTER** [2ritters@oregonfcu.com] provided another gem of a letter from **Vivian Bales**, may God bless her, and it was translated by my assistant Richard Houchin, as best he could do, errors, typos, and all.

Dear Carlyne:

See the page I filled in some, about Henry Dickenson, Russell Co., a., etc. Once upon a time I had a large box of material that I had copied thru' 40 years of -research. Bonnie Ball was a popular person and had hundreds of people writing her and paying her/etc. A great lot was about the Dickensons.

She would write and ask me to look what I might have. Well, I finally got sick and tired of that, so I sent her the whole box. She immediately realized she could make money from it in book form. She skipped around, and put together some, using a mimeographe it to put the info on and send to her publisher in some western state. She made so many errors, and misprints, it was disgusting. The Dollar sign in the eye isn't just right.

She sold a lot of those books. People called her asking questions, and she answered none but gave them my address and phone number. I could not answer questions because I didn't know what she put in it, or how well she wrote.

I finally became disgusted and told her to quit giving my name to anyone. She published the book and got the money. Not me.

Well she said she was going thru the box and put everything in sequence and then publish a book. Someone came up from a southern state and went to see her about researching her Dickensons.

Bonnie had a reunion and a full week, so she gave the woman the box full and it was a big box, (to go thru') and then send the box back to her. And you know exactly what I am going to day. She never heard from the woman again. Not even after writing and calling her. Someone answered the phone number she gave to Bonnie. But no word from the you know what.

The address above. I ran across that months ago, and stuck it on this page. Then I would misplace it, an/resurface and etc., until I layed it in plain view. I think you have Parsons in your names. If so, you have the address of one who claims to be a genedolbgist. She is in the country of ancestors The early ones.

She claims to be a Bolling desc. and goes back to Pocahantis. Well, I too have bolling but from all that I studied, and that was a lot of records and books, I think

many on the shirt tail, because of the Indian Princess Pocahantis. I have Indian, but plain Indian in my ancestry. So I don't think I need to stretch the truth to have Indian bloodline.

I don't know how the lady got my name and address, but she wrote/me about the Tacketts. She had stuff she didn't know, a tr was this book said so and so and so and so mad, so and so and some very wrong dates. Each latter she sent I correct her work and sent it back. She one day told me that she didn't send her work to me to be proof read, but to help me. I wasn't exactly real nice. I said I knew from whom I descended. have the records to prove it. and I didn't like for someone to try to brain wash me.

I am not a person who latches onto what ever I read and claim it. I dig for the facts.

You know, jaw bone history has some merits in it, but a feller has to find the facts and separate it from ther fantasy.

I learned that that- -real -quick  
Gotta quit toddy. THIS is hard on my heart. A little things as  
this. Am on dif kinds of heart medicine, plus all the other  
prescriptions. But I am 86 plus, and the body wears out too.  
My brother -in-law, now deceased used to say" we just rip,  
ravel, run down hill, all the way."  
Have a good Thanksgiving, Happy Christmas.  
And God BLess you always. My prayer.  
Vivian

The ages in the census records cannot be sure the exact ages,  
unless it is the children. One never knows who turned in the info to  
begin with,  
Also thru the years, I have noticed if a big gap or even more than 2  
yrs between children, in time one will turn the couple had lost a  
child.

I was rereading some info someone had written and they  
thought ?? Rankey Lea Jessee was from some one of the N.C. Leas  
she was an unnamed daughter.  
Why would anyone come up with such a suggestion without even a  
hint or a shred to go by .../??

Then proceed the say who she had named her sons after/etc.  
One was Archer, that I recall. Archer was not a surname. (I studied  
records for 40 yrs.) Archer was short for Archibald/Archabald. Not  
only that in a bunch of papers, I sent to Jim Jessee, he copied and  
then returned them to me. The Bible record said plainly Archibald  
Jessee. [NOTE: Vivian was wrong, it is Archer on his gravestone.]

My grand father Dickison, he was named Griffith Archibald  
Dickison. Originally it was spelled Dickenson/Dickinson.

The civil war period the change was made. Gr.Uncle John  
whom the family adored and leaned on (Levi, the father d. 1852  
suddenly, leaving 12 children.) The oldest son Benjamin) enlisted  
in the Confederate and used Dickerson. John enlisted in the Union  
and signed Dickison.

You already know too, that how ever someone thought a name  
should be spelled, that is how it was. We had many nationalities to  
arrive here, with better educations in reading and writing ?  
who were used and hired and elected to do the work.

There is Tacquette, French who came here in the 1690's.  
Today it is Tackett. Some early ones spelled it Tackitt.

My Zorn... 99% now spell it Zornes. A few Zournes.

Social Security was written into law, how the name was  
spelled that you claimed, that is what it stays at... you are identified  
by it, with your number.

ea a product from settlers of the Applachian Mountains foot  
hills, en today, they all haven't lost some of the old old way of  
pronouncing words and names.

In going back, and after I got older, if there was 2 or 3 year  
gap, some of their words was foreign, but in a few days, I was back  
in the mold again and talked like them too.

Times have change Too many people mixing, coming. going,  
moving in or moving out.

In E. Ky and along those counties, they areven changing the  
lands. The old land marks are gone. The mountain and foot hills  
are getting the bull dozer at work. Where my grandpa Tackett &  
many of his, are buried, was once high on a steep hill. They cut it  
down and is is close enough to the road, the names can be read  
most of them , from the road that goes by.

The Cem., that my grandma Dickison is bu. was once only  
reached by foot on a steep steep mountain. It was called Corey  
switch. The trains that built to ride the rails up, they used 2 engines.  
To Get the load to the top of the Hill Mountain. Then the extra  
engine was switched off, the train went on with it-s load, and the  
Engine went back down the hill to get the next one up the  
Mountain.

Now they have roads cut in all over the place. One goes right  
by the cemetery where my grandma is buried. It was once called  
the McKinney Chem. Now it is called The Mountain top Cem.

There was a swift booming creek behind grandpa's house,  
wound down around. called Henderson Br. Now, is no more than a  
ditch in places, and some places houses are built where once was  
this big flowing swift branch of water.

Time rolls on and things change.

Hi List Members,

I do have a little info on Henry Dickenson,,,,of course I would  
like more! Henry Hamblin and his wife Mary Polly Dickenson  
were my 4th great grandparents. Mary Polly was the daughter of  
Henry Dickenson, Sr. and Angie) Jennings. Mary Polly also had a  
brother, Henry Dickenson Jr., who Dickenson Co. was named in  
honor of. He was a deligate to the Virginia Constitutional  
Convention Ratification, Richmond June 2nd, 1786. He mustered  
troops, in the Revolutionary War, fought in the Dunsmore War  
against Indian Chief Cornstock and the Battle of King's Mountain  
Mary Polly was scalped by Indians in 1990, along with some  
of her children. One child Francis (Frank) was captured . He was 10  
at that time and returned some eight years later. Two sons, Charles  
(My ancestor) and John were saved by a giant slave, who later was,  
given his freedom (1822) and a farm.

Henry Hamblin's 2nd wife was killed by Indians several years  
later. There is some controvesy about the dates involved in the two  
incidents. Several people have questioned the validity of "a nice  
story , but is it true". Since then I have found a copy of the Deed of  
Emancipation for Swan Hamilton and copy of his Deed to land next  
to the family. Any further info would be appreciated.  
Nancy Morris Brown

I ran across the above, from 2 or 3 yrs ago., that you sent to  
me. You already know that I am a stickler to the exact records,  
dates and names. 35 or 40 yrs ago, I had the work of a lady in Fla.,  
who compiled her Dickenson records. I gave her works to another  
lady in Fla., Mary Jane Knisely, who died about 3 yrs ago at age  
87. Mary Jane was a desc..of both Henry and his brother Archelus  
Dickenson..

The first one mentioned above, her names slips my memory  
right off.

She was from Mary(Polly) daughter of Henry & his wife  
Agnes. (Not AnGie, but Agnes.)

In some Augusta Co., Va., records is mentioned some about  
Henry Hamblin. and also Rev. Archibald Scott, whose wife was  
FRances(Fanny) Dickenson, dau of Henry and Agnes. Fanny was  
taken prisoner and escaped/etc Her husband and children killed by  
the maurauding Indians.

At the time these records were made, Augusta Co., covered a  
mighty lot of the country, from Orange Co., west. So we cannot  
state the precise location where they lived. Archibald Scott was  
listed as a Rev., in the Augusta Co., records.

I came in contact with Mary Jane some how and don't recall  
how. Mary Jane descended from Henry, Jr., and his older brother  
Archelus. Henry's son Thomas, m. Nancy dau of Archelus. They  
had 2 children and Thomas died.

In time the girls grew up and married. The dau Elizabeth, m.  
John Erwin. and eventually they went to Carter Co., Ky. Where  
they died.

Mary Jane's grandmother was a dau of Elizabeth and John  
Erwin. And she m. and went to Kansas to live and died there. Mary  
JAnes mother when Mar Jane was 7 yrs old. She grew up and  
graduated from the University of Kansas. Mary Jane was a very  
well educated and talented lady.

She took all that I had collected, and each year she spent 3 & 4  
months in Va., searching in the many counties, going back to  
GRiffith Dickinson to NO. America 1659.

Long before I came across Mary Jane, I had hired a lady in E.  
Va., to do research for me. She found for me the land Henry.Sr had  
bought, from the money he sold the land he inherited from his  
father. He was giving his sons acreage as they became older. His  
a dif



His son William Jennings, who must have been the oldest, and never married, died. I forget the exact year now. 1785 I think, he had a will. He named 3 men as executors of his will, but they refused to be administrators... and his brother Archelus went back, and took care of things. In his will, he said he gave back to his father Henry, all his lands, and to his mother Agnes Jennings, all his personal property.

The county he died in, only had a reference to his will, but not the rest. They told me to write to the Va, State Library, as all records prior to a certain date was sent there. I got it, and then sent it to Giles Dickenson a gr. grandson of Henry, Jr. in Lebanon, Russell Co.

He was such a nice man. He was quite old too. Giles had never heard of William J. or Archelus. That was strange, for Archelus became disgusted in Russell Co., and moved back to Washington Co. and died there.

Remember, Archelus dau) Nancy m., her cousin Thomas Dickenson, son of Henry, Jr. They m. in Washington Co., Va.

IN Washington Co., is a record where Henry Sr., gave his grandson John, a slave and some money. He said, for the love I have for my grandson John Dickinson, son of Humphrey.

Archelus and Humphrey had gone to S.W. Va., first. Humphrey was killed and they thought it was maybe Indians. His body was left on a rock in a branch/water way in the area.

(Could have been by white man or men too, for the Dickenses fought in the Revolution, and there were Tories there too who didn't take part.

Archelus, Humphrey, and Henry, Jr., all were in the battle, where Charleston, W. Va., now stands. This was a decisive battle and they won it. Against the Indians instigated by the British.

Henry, Sr. said when his father was, when he bought his land in another county. Since his children were grown, and began to go westward; Agnes died but no date, and Henry then followed his sons west too.

Russell Co., became saturated with Dickenses. Look at the land record books. At one census was so many it was called Dickenson Valley.

I know much more and names/also the father of Henry, Sr.

## 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, and we know so little about these descendants that any tidbit of information is big news, even an error correction to what I have recorded.

## 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.

## X. Boedicia Jessee Gose

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

See the Gose Family discussion under Lea Jessee, who married Barbara Gose, 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.

## 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](http://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. I would like to work with any volunteers who would be willing to help key this information into an appropriate genealogy database.

## 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. 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.

KATHY STEVENSON

[jkastevenson@msn.com] wrote, 8/6/2006, with this obituary for **Evelyn Lea Jessee Garrett Cooke**, daughter of **Howard Huston Jessee**, a George Lea Jessee descendant.

I thought you might be interested in this Jessee obituary. Aunt Evelyn was married to my uncle Samuel Barrett Garrett from 1943 until my uncle's death in 1960. She was always a lively addition to our Garrett Family Reunion's. Since I work actively on my Garrett-Scott Genealogy I thought you might like to add this information to your files.

## 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.

## MISSING LINKS, PROBLEMS AND OTHER CONUNDRUMS

KATHRYN KEITH [ckandkk2@bellsouth.net] wrote, 9/10/2006, with a followup on a previous inquiry, by an adoptee seeking biological biological father **Clarence Jessee**. I have very much kept this inquiry in mind, but have lost contact with the original inquirer. Can anyone help us find her to share this new information?

Jim-I recently acquired a request sent to you by [anntaylor@cox.net](mailto:anntaylor@cox.net), posted April of 2003, inquiring about her grandparents, Clarence Jessee and Myrtle Bradley Jessee. I sent an E-mail to the address but wasn't sure if she is still using that one. I have some info. that may help her, if she is still interested

### Glennda and Terry Bickley

[gpbickley@msn.com] wrote, 11/13/2006, with this inquiry about **James Monroe Bickley**, who is also the gg-grandfather of Jim Jessee, regarding the correct identification of his wife, **Evaline Bartee**, as I have it recorded, or a **Mercedes**, as their family history suggests. The Bickleys intermarried with the Jessee family over many generations, too. Please go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) and look up James Monroe Bickley, grandson of Charles William Bickley. James Monroe lived in the Bickley Gibson Home in Castlewood, just across from where Charles William Bickley is buried.

My name is Glennda Bickley, My husband is Terry G Bickley Eugene Oregon. He is the Great Great grandson of James Monroe Bickley. ...My husband has contributed to your site a few years ago but at that time he did not give all his children's names I guess because only Marc is listed. I will have him send you the info. he and his brother and sister have traced their family back quite a ways. There is one controversy and that is this: they know James



**Evelyn Garrett Cooke**

Memorialized by:  
Smith & Williams Funeral Home, Norfolk, VA



## Biography

Norfolk-

Evelyn Garrett Cooke, 85, passed away peacefully July 31, 2006 at Chesapeake Health Care. Born June 23, 1921 in Norton, VA to Howard and Elvina Jessee; Mrs. Cooke was a retired clerk with the Norfolk Public School System. Evelyn's faith was very strong. She was a lifelong member and organist and pianist for Colman Place Presbyterian Church where she was active in the Ladies Bible Class and was made an honorary member of the Men's Bible Class. Her family and friends will always remember her for her wonderful sense of humor, her outgoing personality and her love of the church, family and friends. She will be deeply missed.

Left to cherish her memory is her loving daughter and best friend Nancy Lynn Garrett Leedy and husband Joseph of Virginia Beach; two grandchildren Jennifer B. Lindley, Clair "Tripper" Morgan III; three great-grandchildren Cody and Alex Lindley and Emma Morgan; and several cousin, nieces, and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband Samuel B. Garrett, Jr.; both parents; and a sister Kathryn J. Austin.

The family will receive friends from 4:00-5:00 p.m., Sunday, August 6, 2006 at Smith and Williams Funeral Home, Norfolk Chapel. A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday August 7, 2006 at Coleman Place Presbyterian Church with burial to follow at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Condolences may be expressed at [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com)

<http://www.mem.com/display/printPage.asp?ID=1465601>

8/5/2006

Monroe Bickley is their great grandfather. They have been told by elders that are no longer with us now, that James's wife was a Mercedes, could that have been the middle name of Eveline or a nick name? Would you know any reason for this name?

I believe my husband got that info from his older brother Charles. "Chuck" was doing a family tree in school years ago and asked who his great grandmother was (married to James Monroe) his Aunt Effie Bickley-Holmes, told him a name like Mercedes. Effie is passed now so we can not ask her. Effie was a sister to my husbands father Charles D who was the son of Marquis de lafayette, who was the son of James Monroe.

We live in Coburg Oregon just north of Eugene. My husband Terry, is retired. I am still working for 2 more years. I am a police dispatcher for Junciton City PD. My husband father has passed (Charles Bickley) as well as his mother and aunts and uncles. So you see we have not to many relatives to asked questions of.

We really want to go to Castlewood VA for a visit next year and are really going to try to time it for their reunion.

Hope to hear from you about the Mercedes issue. Any information would be appreciated.

## CORRESPONDENCE

The following are only a few of the many communications 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.

### SANDY TROGDON LEHMAN

[wbstlehman@alltel.net] wrote, 9/21/2006, with this inquiry about **Celia Finney and the Grizzle family.**

First, a big thank you for the tremendous amount of information you have made available through your Jesse Family website. I hope your good deeds return to you a hundred fold.

I am a descendant of William and Rebecca Hamon Grizzle through my paternal grandfather, Lee M. and Minnie Ada Hutchinson Grizzle. My great grandparents were George and Elizabeth Billups Grizzle. I have found information that George was married to Celia Finney, a daughter of Reuben Finney (ID:15587 on your World Connect site), prior to his marriage to Elizabeth. Their marriage is listed in the Russell County marriage register. However, no living family member can recall Grandpa (who lived to be nearly 97) speaking of his father being married prior to marrying his Mother and I had been unable to find any records denoting divorce, death, births of children, etc. regarding George and Celia until I came across a notation on your World Connect website regarding Celia's father, Reuben Finney. Alas, it looks as though the post of five years ago came from an unknown source who states they are descendants of Celia. I am obviously very curious about this relationship. You probably, of course, have no way of knowing who posted this notation, but my question is what would be the best way to reply to this post in hopes of making contact with this person.

Thanks for your time and consideration and thanks again for all your efforts. The Jesse family is lucky to have you.

Sandy Trogdon Lehman

My Line

Erie Geneva Grizzle m. Leo Trogdon

Lee Marion Grizzle m. Minnie Ada Hutchinson

George H. Grizzle m. Elizabeth Billups

John H. Grizzle m. Mary Crabtree

William Grizzle m. Rebecca Hamon

**GEORGE J. EMMEL** [George@KrasGrossLaw.com] wrote, 8/31/2005, with this follow-up inquiry about the **Tivis Jessee place in Reeds Valley**, and recently contacted me again to see if anyone had any information to help him.

Greetings, I am interested in learning a bit about the above person as I have purchased some land in Reeds Valley where there is an old 4 room 2 story house. People refer to the hose as the Tivis Jessee place.

**JACK HOCKETT** [Tlas101@aol.com] wrote, 12/6/2006, with an announcement about the **publication of much of his research on Washington County records and other publications of interest to all of us.**

Dear All: I thought you would like to know that Thomas Colley's ANNOTATED CEMS OF WCV is out! 3 volumes with almost 1500 pages - a work which took quite a few years and for which you have obviously been waiting for years and years... See near bottom of long list (will clip up front for ease). Enjoy!

**All are available from the New Papyrus Publishing Company's On-Line Catalog:**

### Washington County, Virginia

Washington County was formed in 1777 from part of Fincastle when the latter was abolished. It is the first locality in the United States known to have been named for George Washington. Within six months of its creation, the eastern boundary was altered for better convenience of those settlers living in the area. Russell County was cut off in 1787, another part of Washington was taken to form Scott County in 1815, and finally a part was cut off in the formation of Smyth County in 1832. In 1974, nine square miles of Washington's territory was annexed to the independent city of Bristol. A fire set by Union troops burned the county courthouse on 15 December 1864. Lost were the county court minute books, 1786-1819, and 1821-1832. Also destroyed were the chancery records for 1777-1835.

To order by phone, call 1-706-546-6740 M-F 8a-6p EST.

You may call the number above during business hours to check the status of an order, or E-mail us.

We specialize in records for Virginia 1650-1900.

SEE LIST OF AVAILABLE TITLES BELOW

COMPENDIA: ANNOTATIONS OF WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA CEMETERIES by Tom Colley & Jane Fleenor Colley. Three volumes, 2006, 8 1/2x11, xii, 1417 pages, maiden name index index. This is a monumental work covering 289 cemeteries within Washington County's boundaries from their beginnings up to circa 1950. These three volumes contain, in alphabetical order, all those published surviving interments in Washington County, Virginia listed in cemeteries 1 thru 289 to c1950. The annotations were gathered from various primary records; published works; Bible records; internet resources; family genealogies and secondary research. In using secondary research ... the standard warning applies.... verify these annotations. Headstone names appear as written without regard to conventional spelling. Those women interred under their husband's name and identified by maiden name on the headstone are listed in this record in a conventional font. If the maiden name is identified by any other source, it will appear in Italic Font in the "Maiden Name" column. An Index to maiden names is provided. Marriage dates are primarily from the W. P. A. microfilm copy of Washington County, Virginia marriage records and may reflect the issue date of the marriage license and not the exact date of marriage. The death registers of Washington & Smyth County, Virginia contains many errors regarding birth dates, death dates and transposed names.

This is a MASSIVE work and is destined to become the standard reference for Washington County for decades to come. The work is fully annotated from a variety of document sources. [Wscac] Three volume set \$95.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 1, 1777-1792 Originally published by Shelby Ireson Edwards, 1984; retypeset by Victoria Heath Cuddy, 2005. 8x10, vi, 61 pages. This first will book of Washington County, VA is back in print after a hiatus of 21 years. Washington County was the progenitor of a number of southwestern Virginia counties, including all or part of Russell, Scott, Smyth, Wise, Buchanan, Dickenson, Tazewell, Lee, the independent city of Bristol, and a portion of the disputed boundaries with Tennessee and North Carolina. Included in this work are: Abstracts of Will Book 1, 1777-1792 (1-45); Index (46-56); Index of Slaves according to owners (56-57); Index of Slaves according to first names (57); Types of documents included (57-58); A message from the compiler (58); Genealogy of Washington County, Virginia (59); Genealogy of Washington County North Carolina/Virginia (60); and Washington & Montgomery County Line (61) [WSW1] \$20.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 2, 1791-1806 Jack Hockett. 2005, 8x10, iv, 161 pages. In completing these abstracts, the author has concentrated on the names of individuals rather than material goods, amounts, etc. The abstract consists principally of last will and testaments, administration of estates,



estate inventories, estate sales, manumissions, powers of attorney, ad quod damnum, etc. The author has also transcribed the original index which accompanies the register [WSW2] \$35.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 3, 1806-1812 Victoria H. Cuddy. 2005, 8x10, ii, 131 pages. See description above. [WSW3] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 4, 1812-1820 Jack Hockett. 2005, 8x10, iv, 148 pages. See description above. [WSW4] \$32.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 5, 1820-1827 Jack Hockett. 2005, 8x10, iv, 157 pages. See description above.

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 6, 1827-1834 Jack Hockett. 2005, 8x10, iv, 84 pages. See description above. [WSW6] \$20.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 7, 1834-1838 Jack Hockett. 2005, 8x10, iv, 121 pages. See description above. [WSW7] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 8, 1838-1841 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 89 pages. See description above. [WSW8] \$20.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 9, 1841-1845 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 125 pages. See description above. [WSW9] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 10, July, 1845- 3 February 1848 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 99 pages. See description above. [WSW10] \$24.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 11, February, 1848- 1850 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 82 pages. See description above. [WSW11] \$20.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 12, November, 1850- June, 1853 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 73 pages. See description above. [WSW12] \$20.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 13, June, 1853- April, 1856 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 108 pages. See description above. [WSW13] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 14, May, 1856- 1859 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 108 pages. See description above. [WSW14] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 15, Jan.1860- July 1863 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 106 pages. See description above. [WSW15] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA WILL BOOK 16, 1863- 1866 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 105 pages. See description above. [WSW16] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA CIRCUIT COURT WILL BOOK, 1840- 1903 Jack Hockett. 2006, 8x10, iv, 70 pages. See description above. Although the original Circuit Court Will Book did not contain an index, the author has provided one similar to the other

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LISTS, VOLUME ONE: 1782-1786, 1788-1790 Jack Hockett. 2005, x, 201 pages. The author has transcribed (with occasional annotations) the personal property tax lists for this southwestern county. A complete series is planned, and the current volume covers what is perhaps the most difficult lists to read. Property taxes offer a glimpse into the social status of a county resident, as well as offering possibilities of father-son relationships as young men reach the age of military service (16) and their majority (21) and the tax reporting changes from father to son. This is the first volume of a major reference collection for Washington County, Virginia [WPT1] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LISTS, VOLUME TWO: 1791-1799 Jack Hockett. 2005, x, 263 pages. Continuation of the series described above [WPT2] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LISTS, VOLUME THREE: 1800-1807, 1809-1810 Jack Hockett. 2005, x, 290 pages. Continuation of the series described

above. NOTE: No taxes were collected in Virginia for the year 1808 [WPT3] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LISTS, VOLUME FOUR: 1811-1820 Jack Hockett. 2005, x, 336 pages. Continuation of the series described above. [WPT4] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LISTS, VOLUME FIVE: 1821-1830 Jack Hockett. 2006, x, 374 pages. Continuation of the series described above. [WPT5] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LISTS, VOLUME SIX: 1831-1840 Jack Hockett. 2006, x, 295 pages. Continuation of the series described above. [WPT6] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX LISTS, VOLUME SEVEN: 1841-1850 Jack Hockett. 2006, x, 394 pages. Conclusion of the series described above. [WPT7] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 2, 1797-1802 Jack & Rubiette Niemann. 2005, ii, 56 pages, index. This is an abstract of the second deed book for Washington County. The authors provide the essential genealogical data without reproducing the formulary of most deed books. For examples, from page 280 of the original deed book:

p. 280 1800 Jacob Anderson and wife Ann to Isaac Anderson (son of Jacob) with "love and affection" 30 acre plantation where Jacob now lives on the Middle Fork of Holston River from patent of 1753, "One negro wench named Jody and her child Sony" [WDB2] \$17.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 3, OCT.1802-JAN.1808 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 143 pages, index. One can locate considerable information on the county's history and genealogy by referencing its deed books, containing not only deeds (Indentures of Bargain & Sale) but relinquishment of dower, powers of attorney and Deeds of Gift, Deeds of Trust, etc. This includes the all-important location of female surnames and also valuable clues to the misconstrued and translated (Anglicized) German and Swiss German names. This is a faithful transcription with the original deed book index provided. [WDB3] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 4, JAN.1808-NOV.1811 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 121 pages, index. As described above. [WDB4] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 5, NOV.1811-NOV.1814 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 124 pages, index. As described above. [WDB5] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 6, NOV.1814-NOV.1818 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 199 pages, index. As described above. [WDB6] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 7, 1818-1822 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 161 pages, index. As described above. [WDB7] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 8, 1822-1825 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 179 pages, index. As described above. [WDB8] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 9, 1825-1829 Jack Hockett. 2005, iv, 231 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB9] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 10, 1829-1831 Jack Hockett. 2005, iv, 184 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB10] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 11, 1831-1834 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 184 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB11] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 12, 1834-1837 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 181 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB12] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 13, 1837-1839 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 161 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB13] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 14, 1839-1841 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 167 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB14] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 15, March, 1841- October, 1842 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 158 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB15] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 16, 1842-1844 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 145 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB16] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 17, 1844-1846 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 153 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB17] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 18, 1846-August 1848 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 167 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB18] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 19, August 1848- May 1850 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 142 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB19] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 20, May 1850- February 1852 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 159 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB20] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 21, February 1852- December 1853 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 182 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB21] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 22, December 1853- March 1856 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 198 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB22] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 23, March 1856- January 1858 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 221 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB23] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 24, January 1858- March 1860 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 204 pages, original internal index. As described above. [WDB24] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 25, March 1860- April 1863 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 247 pages, index. As desc  
WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 26, April 1863- December 1866 Jack Hockett. 2006, iv, 216 pages, index. As described above. [WDB26] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DISTRICT COURT DEED BOOK A, 1789-1801 Transcribed by Tom Colley & Jane Fleenor Colley. 2004, iv, 183 pages, index. The Judicial District Court was held at Montgomery County Courthouse prior to 1792 and at Washington County Courthouse after 1792; it heard cases originating in Montgomery, Russell, and Washington Counties. The record here contains the abstracted transcript of this region. It includes indentures, trust deeds, powers of attorney, wills, and transfers of real property. [WsdA] \$35.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DISTRICT COURT DEED BOOK B, 1801-1840 Transcribed by Tom Colley & Jane Fleenor Colley. 2004, iv, 266 pages, index. Continuation of Deed Book A above. [WsdB] \$35.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA SURVEYS AND COMMISSIONERS; CERTIFICATES, 1781-1797 Tom Colley. 1999, iv, 405 pages, index. Washington County was created in 1777 from Fincastle County. At the time of its creation, Washington contained the territory for the later counties of Russell (1786), Lee (1793), Scott (1814), Smyth (1832), Wise (1856), and a portion of Dickenson County (1880). The author has carefully abstracted the first surviving land book for this important county, and included all of the significant genealogical and land references. Eighteenth century survey records are quite rare, and this record should add to the sources for genealogical research in southwestern Virginia. [WscC] \$35.00

1870 CENSUS OF WASHINGTON CO. VA Transcribed by Jack Hockett, 147 pages plus introduction and every-name index (8.25" x 10.75" paperback). The first census following the Civil War, this census presents significant and detailed information on

every member of the household. A thorough and meticulous transcription taken from two microfilms [Population Schedules of the Ninth Census of the United States 1870, Roll 1681, VA, Vol 28 (1-312) Film #0553180 [LDS/FHC] and Microfilm Copy M593, in order to circumvent the visual problems from one and the other. [Ws70] \$29.95

WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA MARRIAGES: MINISTERS' RETURNS, 1776-1859 by Marty Hiatt & Craig Roberts Scott. 1995, 315 pages, index. Washington County was formed in 1777 from part of Fincastle when the latter was abolished. In 1787 Russell County was cut off, with Scott County following in 1815, and part was taken to form Smyth County in 1832. The information is extracted from the sole surviving early marriage register (No. 1). [Wash] \$25.00

WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR, 1826-1863 by Jack Hockett. 1997, 151 pages, index. The author abstracts all of the data found in the records of the Board of Overseers of the Poor, an organization which supplanted the Anglican Church's duties following the disestablishment of the church. These records are especially important because of the paucity of records currently published on Washington County. surviving deed and will books tend not to contain mention of less affluent citizens of the county. [WcvM] \$2

WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA MARRIAGES, 1853-1880 by Thomas Colley. 1997, 511 pages, index. The author abstracts all of the data found in the Bureau of Vital Statistics forms for Virginia marriages, which was begun in 1853. A wealth of information, including ages, occupation, parents' names, etc. can be gleaned from these marriage records. Arranged alphabetically and contains both a bride and parent index of names. [Wsh2] \$30.00

**JAMES GOODE [jjg26@hotmail.com] sent, 9/12/2006, this inquiry regarding information needed for NSSAR documentation regarding the Hale, Dickenson, McCloud, and other Russell Co. families.**

Hi: I spoke to your wife today and I am sending this email to request help in some information that I would like to File with the NSSAR. I am a member on Jacob Rhudy of Grayson Co Va and Daniel Bentley of Ky. I am trying to work up a double application, Henry Dickerson (var spellings ) who had a daughter Nancy Dickerson who married James M Hale. James Hale is the son of Thomas Hale and Nancy Wood, they were married in Franklin Co, somehow James M Hale and his sisters and brothers ended up in Russell. One of the children of James M and Nancy was Mary Hale, who married Henry McCloud.

They had Elizabeth McCloud who married Isaac Mc Boys and they had a number of children, one of which was Cooney Rickets Boys, Isaac and Elizabeth are buried in what was our farm, we now only have the Cemetery. Cooney Rickets Boys was my grandfather, who had Ethel Elizabeth Boys (Goode) who is my mother.

...I have been to the DAR and they have Thomas Hale and Nancy Wood, but James M Hale is not listed. Henry Dickerson and Mary Powell are DAR but Nancy Dickerson does not come up. There are minor problems in the next few names. Russell County Clerk does not want to "fool around with Birth, Death, they say it takes too much of their time. I did look at your files and they are excellent, but matching up on some marriages I did not really try.

Your comments, Please.

## RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

The Internet is a remarkable resource for genealogists. From time to time I will provide here pertinent information regarding Web resources and other links of interest to the Jesse(e) family. I invite you to provide me with addresses for Web pages developed by family members and other resources of interest, too. Do a Google search for Jesse, too.

**MICHAEL A. DYE** has created **The Russell County Page** of the VAGenWeb division of the 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. We thank you. You can join the Russell Co. List Server. This is a must-see site for Jesse researchers at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~varussel/>.

**TOM RUDDER** provided this link to the **Department of Veterans Affairs "A Sacred Trust" Nationwide Gravesite Locator**.  
[http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL\\_v1](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1)

Search for burial locations of veterans and their family members in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, various other military and Department of Interior cemeteries, and for veterans buried in private cemeteries when the grave is marked with a government grave marker.

The Nationwide Gravesite Locator includes burial records from many sources. These sources provide varied data; some searches may contain less information than others. Information on veterans buried in private cemeteries was collected for the purpose of furnishing government grave markers, and we do not have information available for burials prior to 1997.

## THE FAMILY DATABASE

The Jesse 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, and allows people to download GEDCOM files. It is public and easy to use. Do a search for one of your favorite 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 Jesse Genealogy Service home page.

**Please go to: [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org)**

Our database is now over 44,000 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 over the years. 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 the filters provided by the World Connect project 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 so 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 other's genealogy, 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, and you who are receiving this newsletter have been very generous in that regard.

Some feel the need to wag their finger at me, too, just to make sure I know how important it is to get this right. I do get down when I have been given a good scold, but perk up when the next inquiry is made. **I think there is no greater gift than to help people learn where they come from. I cannot "not help" someone on this quest. Please forgive me for the rest.**



## OUR PURPOSE

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

I research my own JESSEE ancestors, including the ARMSTRONG, 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, and may he live so long! The fun is in the learning and the friendships I develop along the way. I am rewarded all the time by the e-mail, calls, visits, conversations, and correspondence I have with you.

The purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate the exchange of information and documents relative to the genealogy of the Jessee and related families whose roots may be found in Southwest Virginia. I wish to enter all data provided me into the JESSEE FAMILY DATABASE discussed above. In return for information shared, I will share charts or GEDCOM data files with you on request.

I am afraid I am now accumulating more information than I can key into the database on my own. After 30 years of working intensively at a keyboard, I have developed a permanent disability which makes any prolonged time typing very painful. My computer time has been significantly limited and, in particular, 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 will need help with data entry into the database in the future if it is to grow.

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, preferably in the form of a GEDCOM file you will allow me to integrate into the database. 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.

While limited in my ability to type, I will continue the newsletter, although I would welcome help. I am finding new ways to capture materials and avoid typing. I welcome the submission of pedigree and descendants charts, letters, manuscripts, electronic or scanned images of source documents and photos in JPG or TIF formats (600 dpi TIF files are best), as well as any word-processor or text files.

## 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. 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 25% of readers actually 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 \$15 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 \$75 for copies of any and all back issues still in print, and a subscription to the current year.**

## *The Jessee Family Newsletter*

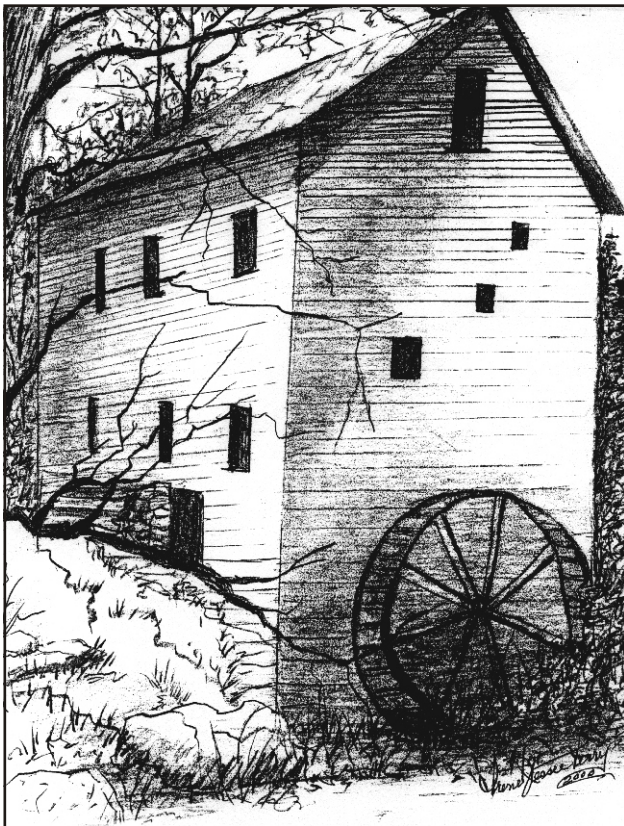
**Edited and Published by  
James Wilson "Jim" Jessee  
1272 Hobart Street  
Chico, CA 95926-3702  
Telephone: 530-342-2652  
E-mail: [Jim@Jessee.org](mailto:Jim@Jessee.org)**

**Website: [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org)  
Webmaster: Earl Wilson Jessee  
E-mail: [Earl@Jessee.org](mailto:Earl@Jessee.org)**

**Copyright--All Rights Reserved.**

THE JESSEE FAMILY NEWSLETTER  
1272 HOBART STREET  
CHICO, CA 95926-3702

James W. "Jim" Jessee, Editor  
jim@jessee.org  
www.jessee.org



A rendering of Jessee's Mill by Irene Jessee Perry.

**The mailing label above indicates the status, expiration date or last issue of your subscription.** It is based on your current subscription, donations, or assumed interest. **I provided you the first issue of the new subscription year free as a reminder to please renew for the remainder of 2007 at the new rate of \$15 per year, for two editions.**

**Please inform me of any errors or corrections needed regarding your expiration date or degree of interest in receiving this newsletter.** I have continued to provide a copy to some whose subscription has lapsed, because I believe you want it, wish to be informed about JHF and other family news, or have specifically asked to receive it gratis. I have indicated those as "sponsored." Please inform me if you wish to continue receiving it gratis or if you wish it to stop.

**A special thank you to those who have provided those precious additional gifts and donations that keep me going.** These donations allow me to provide complimentary copies to history and genealogy societies, libraries, major contributors of research materials, and to sponsor to those who cannot afford to subscribe.