

Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #32

Winter 2008

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Dear Cousin,

Life continues to be full. Work life at the University has been its most professionally challenging and I have felt that I have been at my professional best, at least busiest, in my career. I think that when I get to retire, which I hope is late this year, I just may finally know how to do this job...

I was very moved by the article on Doodle Jessee and his brothers, and so glad that Nelda and I, as well as my cousins from home here in Chico, have enjoyed Doodle and Ernie's beautiful home, garden, and gracious hospitality over the years. I am pleased to have met most of Doodle's family and of course many good friends and cousins at their home and at the Reunions. Thank you so much, all.

I am pleased that we have 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. Your research efforts, questions and conundrums are welcome to be shared with the family. Please email and write.

The family database continues to grow with nearly 45,000 records. I am falling well behind on data entry, and have much to do. This I am afraid may also wait until retirement.

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 inter-relatedness of all these SW Virginia families. We are all cousins.

Please check your mailing label. If the expiration is January 2008 or past due, this is the time to renew your subscription for all of next year to January 2009. Those subscribed to January 2008 or beyond will get this Winter 2008 Newsletter as a reminder.

I do consider discontinuing the printed Jessee Newsletter in favor of just maintaining if not developing more the Jessee Website and List. Preparing this newsletter took me many days over Christmas vacation and caused my shoulder and back muscle spasms to flare up again. I need to hear that it is wanted and supported adequately by your subscriptions and additional donations.

We have an interesting newsletter. My spirits are always uplifted by your letters, emails, calls, and renewals. Thank you.

Jim Jessee

Featured This Edition

JOSEPH HAROLD "DOODLE" JESSEE is featured in a Lebanon News article on the service of Doodle and his four brothers, **Robert Trigg, Ralph Stanford, James Pyle, and Lawrence Carroll Jessee**. Nelda and I are lucky to have enjoyed their most gracious hospitality at their home on several occasions.

GIGI ROBINSON shares her research paper, titled *Genealogy-The Trip of a Lifetime*, prepared for an English class at the University she is attending in Muncie, Indiana, and much more about her life.

MARY AKERS shares her Mitochondrial DNA results with the family. and there are more articles on **Genetic Genealogy** and DNA testing, with a request to participate.

SW Virginia Families and Other Jesse/ee/ie/ey Families include several tidbits of information and news from descendants of **John Jesse and Clia Smith**, and **Richard Jesse and Frances Chowning**.

TERRY BICKLEY of Eugene, Oregon shared a wonderful photo of the **James Monroe and Evaline Barte Bickley family of Bickley's Mill** near Castlewood. We ask for help identifying the 13 children.

Find news on Jessee Family Origins and 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. Among our most helpful contributors you will find materials from **Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde, Debra Rookard, Jo Dee Jessie Biddle, Lorraine Gilmer, Sue Wilkerson, Merri Vinton Thelma Jones, Kerry Galcik, Don Salyer, Charlie Jessee, Vernon Salyers, Tom Rudder, Dale McGill**.

Several letters and inquiries regard health issues in the family that may have genetic components. Two of our family discuss their Multiple Sclerosis and ask if there are more family examples.

JHF News & Views and the John Jessee Cemetery and Mill Projects have a summary of information and commentary, but no progress to report.

Missing Links and Correspondence have items of interest and requests for help.

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

The 2008 National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, August 9, 2008
at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center,
300 Stanley Street, Abingdon, VA

The 2008 Jessee Family Research Day
Friday, August 8, 2008
at the Russell County Library
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

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 or
Internet: 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 picnic and silent auction information contact

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

Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

The JHF Board of Directors & Officers
as of 20 October 2008:

Henry A. Davis, Jr., President
Mary H. Akers, Vice-president
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Janice J. Tiller, Randy Williams

Go to 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 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 2007/2008 are due at the Family Reunion or mailed in after June 16, 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 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

Honoring Our Jessee Veterans

The Public Television series *The War* by Ken Burns that aired this fall was ever so moving, and brought to mind our many Jessee grandfathers, fathers, and brothers and sisters who served.

My father died of his WWII disability when I was 10 years old, and Nelda's father survived the worst of those Phillipine campaigns that were so grimly portrayed, but he was never the same and could not speak of what he experienced before his untimely passing, too. After this series we understood better.

This tribute to **Doodle Jessee and his brothers** by **Joe Tennis** appeared in *The Lebanon News*, 9/23/2007, is about one Jessee family from Lebanon and their extraordinary service and sacrifice. One family of so many Jessee veterans that we could honor. We honor them all.

LEBANON, VA., MAN RECALLS SERVING IN WORLD WAR II AS DID HIS FOUR BROTHERS

LEBANON, Va. - Doodle Jessee never used to cry about World War II. Not over the planes he saw crash, or the bombs that fell or the children who begged for food in the streets. "Just remember, if you're 18 or 19, you take it," he said. No matter what, he said.

Jessee fought back a tear. Today, he's 83. And his voice chokes often as he opens his memory bank and withdraws whispers of the war. From 1943 to 1945, Jessee served in the U.S. Army Air Force.

"I never really talked about things until the last few years," he said. "I don't know why us old veterans just never did say much. I think most of us are that way."

Only now are many veterans - including some whose stories are chronicled in a new Ken Burns' documentary, "The War," which debuts tonight - opening up.

Jessee and four brothers, all from Russell County, served in World War II simultaneously. And the one Jessee boy, Lowell, who was not old enough later went into the Army during the 1950s and served in Germany.

At the time, the young men didn't think it was anything special that so many from one family were serving in the military, remembered Larry Jessee, a Navy veteran and one of Doodle's younger brothers. "We didn't know any better," Larry Jessee said. "But, I think we were proud to have served - no question about that."

Born in Honaker, Va., Joseph Harold Jessee earned his nickname - "Doodle" - at the age of 3, he said, as he would "sing to the doodle bugs to come out of their hole." Still, such carefree times were fleeting.

In 1934, Jessee lost his father, Conley Trigg Jessee, who died of cancer at age 49, leaving behind a wife, six sons and four daughters.

The family, somehow, survived. "We all worked," Doodle Jessee remembered. "I was working at 13 at the Piggly Wiggly store - clerking." The Jessees, in turn, moved in with a paternal uncle on a farm in Spring City, just outside Lebanon. "Of course, we had hogs, cows, chickens," Doodle Jessee said. "That's the way we lived." And then came the war, raging overseas.

One by one, the Jessee boys marched into action.

Robert Trigg Jessee served in the Navy.

Ralph Stanford Jessee joined the Army.

James Pyle Jessee signed up for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

And Joseph Harold Jessee - the one called "Doodle" - set his sights on the U.S. Army Air Force.

These four, then, had hoped the draft board "would have a little mercy" and not draft Larry Jessee, "and left him home to take care of

Mom," Doodle Jessee remembered.

But no. "I was the fifth one to go in," said Lawrence Carroll "Larry" Jessee, an 81-year-old retiree in Roanoke.

All the while, the Jessee boys' widowed mother, Margaret Augusta Jessee, remained a "very, very proud woman," said Lowell, 74, the youngest boy in the Jessee clan. Still, she worried over her sons "24 hours a day," remembered Lowell, also a Roanoke retiree. "We were a right close family."

Doodle Jessee joined the Army Air Force on July 28, 1943, at age 19. At the time, he was living in Beckley, W.Va., and "keeping books for a coal company," he said. Yet he knew his draft number was coming up. "And I wanted to fly."

Doodle subsequently soared in training at Texas, Virginia, Kansas and Wyoming. Then came tragedy. "One week, 30 of my buddies were killed - burnt up," he remembered. "That was right here before we went overseas - in training."

It happened on a military base in Nebraska. "They got about 100 feet - and WHAM! They didn't know what happened to them," Doodle said. "I can shut my eyes and see them planes a burning."

The event should have scared him, he said in retrospect, but, back then, there just wasn't a fear of flying.

"You just don't get scared when you're young like that. I didn't," he said. "But what you do, you feel - you have that feeling. In other words, it's imprinted in your brain."

It's imprinted like all those images of Italy - a country where Doodle saw starving children, plus women so desperate they would offer to sell themselves in order to put food on the table.

"The old women and the young kids - that's where war is hell," he said.

The young pilot had arrived in Bari, Italy, as a member of the 15th Air Force. "There was nothing left," he said. "They didn't have any food. In other words, you couldn't go to Bari and go to the store and buy any groceries."

Doodle and his war buddies tried to help. But they also had the war to win. As much as 12 hours a day, he flew planes, dropping bombs on targets in Germany, Poland, Austria and Czechoslovakia. Mainly, he struck railroad yards and ball-bearing plants.

Did he think about what - or who - he might hit?

"You think about it," Doodle said. "But, when you look at it, war is hell."

Doodle Jessee left the service on Oct. 21, 1945.

In all, he was never really wounded, but he did once suffer frostbite - which continues to affect his hands and feet.

Coming home to Russell County, Doodle enlisted himself in a series of careers, like serving as town manager of Lebanon and working as a foreman at the Appalachian Power Co. plant in Carbo.

All of the other Jessee brothers, meanwhile, survived the war.

But after the war ended, James, the member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, was killed in 1946 in a plane crash that also claimed the lives of 20 other pilots.

Today, Doodle Jessee lives in Lebanon with Earnestine, his long-time wife and mother of his three sons.

As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW, he has seen dozens of local World War II veterans laid to rest in recent years.

Still, he has those memories that just cannot fade.

"He still gets upset when he talks about it," Earnestine Jessee said. "He never talked about it a lot." Those haunting memories make him misty-eyed. And, sometimes, he's not sure why. Is it old age? he asked.

And then he gasped, sounding choked-up again. "Now," he said, struggling through tears, "when I look back, I cry."

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The Trip of a Lifetime

GIGI ROBINSON [gigirobinson@hotmail.com] sent me, 12/16/2007, her research paper below, prepared for an English class at the University she is attending in Muncie, Indiana. Gigi is on a new adventure reentering college after many years as a professional hair-dresser and make-up artist in Southern California. She is studying history, and thus a paper on genealogy was a natural. She interviewed me and several others, and of course the conversation was stimulating to say the least.

I thought the paper was wonderful, although very personal, especially at the beginning. I asked if she thought to share it with others in the Newsletter. She agreed, but wanted to speak with her mother first. Below is the email correspondence and her paper.

I spoke with Mom at length. She has no objections and wondered why I asked for her opinion. I told her that I wouldn't tell the world something I felt she should hear from me directly. She laughed and told me she wouldn't dream of censoring me. This is what I thought, but I wanted to give her the choice. I sure do love my mom:-D

Gina Robinson

The Trip of a Lifetime

Genealogy is defined in the dictionary of "Merriam-Webster Online" as 1) "An account of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or from older forms." 2) "An account of the origin and historical development of something" (Homepage). Many genealogists start with this basic premise when they begin researching their ancestors and gathering information. After seventeen years of delving into my family's origins I find these definitions too limited in scope: genealogy has more to offer than a family tree with names and dates.

Let's examine what motivates people to undertake this type of research. The reasons for becoming a genealogist are as varied as the individuals who attempt to trace their ancestral lines. Some people find puzzles fascinating, and historical research has many complex pieces that must be interwoven to complete the picture. Others want to join historical societies, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, for the associations they provide and opportunities for public service. There are also those who would like to compile a more comprehensive family medical history. The dissimilarities in personality between me and my nuclear family spurred my own involvement in genealogy.

As a young child I realized that I was different from my siblings. They were boisterous, aggressive and argumentative. My own nature was quiet, obedient and thoughtful. Growing up in such a household left me feeling overwhelmed and lonely. It gave rise to that classic question,

"Where do I come from?" Confucius once said, "A thousand mile journey begins with a single step." (qtd. in Moncur) Posing that question was the first step in the long journey to find my roots.

Since I could not relate to those in my own home, I began to closely observe my extended family at gatherings hoping to see my character reflected in their familiar faces. The disappointment and loneliness I felt increased with the years: I was not like those I loved and admired.

At the age of nine I discovered that the man I referred to as "grandpa" was not a blood relation, but my grandmother's second husband. This explained why I felt no closeness to a man I had always found to be remote. His wife's grandchildren were tolerated as part of their marriage, but his behavior made it clear he did not find joy in our visits. Knowing the truth piqued my curiosity. Was I like my real grandfather?

My mother seemed disturbed by my questions about her father and I could not understand her hesitancy to speak of him. I was persistent in my questioning for a time, but became fearful. It occurred to me that my grandfather and I were alike, and if my mother realized we had

similar natures she would not love me anymore. Every child craves acceptance from their parents, and I was no exception. I ceased asking questions about my grandfather, but never stopped wondering if we were alike in some substantial way.

By the time I reached my mid-twenties I found my siblings aggressiveness unbearable. I no longer attended family celebrations, or exposed my children to them in group settings. As individuals they were wonderful, but their behavior en masse disgusted me. Their methods of interacting with each other had not changed since childhood, and I could not adapt: my very nature prevented it. And in the back of my mind was that infernal question, "Where do I come from?"

At the age of thirty-one I had an epiphany. I was entitled to know and associate with anyone whose company I found pleasurable. This led me to actively search for any members of my grandfather's family who might still be among the living. I had finally broken through the childhood fear of my mother's rejection.

It was so easy to locate my Aunt Mary Jane. I made one phone call to a relative who had been estranged from my mother since her own childhood, and this person knew exactly how to reach my grandfather's only surviving sibling. The first time I heard Mary Jane's voice I wept--it felt so familiar. This is what I had waited for all my life.

My aunt and I lived quite a distance from each other, but communicated by phone regularly. We were not able to meet in person until four years after that initial contact. As I entered her house for the first time she exclaimed, "Oh my god, I would know you anywhere. Look at those teeth--they are just like mine!" Strange as it may seem, in that instant I knew from whence I came, and my heart had found its center.

It has now been sixteen years since that first phone call. Each story and photograph Mary Jane has shared is like a new piece of the puzzle in my journey of discovery. I now know where I get my gentleness, because I see it in her. We share other personality traits as well: curiosity, a love of nature, a prodigious memory for previous conversations and even spiritual beliefs. I understand that my grandfather also possessed these qualities. This knowledge, and her friendship, has given me a sense of belonging and wholeness that was previously lacking in my life.

The need to feel connected is a common theme among the researchers with whom I have become acquainted. In response to my query regarding her reasons for becoming a genealogist Ruth Long states, "It's a lifelong hobby which fills my...soul with at least a partial answer to that 'where did I come from' question we all have." Those who responded to my interview questions each worded it differently, but their answers remained consistent with the sentiments expressed by Ruth.

I have noticed a phenomenon among those who continue to research beyond their direct lineage and into collateral family lines (great aunts and uncles, etc.) There is an underlying, and often unacknowledged, emotional component that compels them to make genealogy a lifetime avocation.

Three of the people I interviewed conveyed to me that sorrow had been the impetus for their interest in genealogy. Jim Jessee's father died when he was quite young, while Carmela Di Michael's loss of her father is more recent. All of Kitty Calhoun's grandparents had passed away by the time she was seven years of age. On occasion it is this loss of a loved one that drives individuals to involve themselves in the labor intensive process of genealogical research.

In "Psychology--A Modular Approach to Mind and Behavior" author Dennis Coon discusses Abraham Maslow's "Hierarchy of needs" (Maslow 1970) along with his theory that a "deficit" is created when a person's need for "love and belonging" are not met. (391-392) Mr. Maslow (Maslow 1970) believed that until all our basic physical and emotional needs are fulfilled we cannot reach "self-actualization." (qtd. in Coon 391-392) In other words, a lack of emotional security precludes the ability to realize our full capabilities.

By readjusting their perception of the elements necessary to constitute a family and allowing newly discovered relations to enter their lives Kitty, Jim and Carmela have been able to partially eliminate the emptiness created by these bereavements. They can now spend their energy creating a life that brings emotional, physical and spiritual satisfaction.

Genealogical research often morphs what started as a search for

personal identity or belonging into a way to expand family connections. My cousin Harmon McNabb informed me that like Carmela, Kitty and Jim his research has also enabled him to redefine the word "family." This has created a larger network of intimate relationships for Harmon and solidified those that already existed. My own life has been enriched greatly by the relationships made available to me through my explorations in genealogy.

"Six degrees of separation" is more apropos than I could have imagined when I started my research so many years ago ("six degrees"). I recently received a telephone call from a woman I do not know. Karon Mazie is a genealogist who is helping her friend trace the lineage of one of my great-great grandmother's siblings; we apparently share a common ancestor. Karon located me through a cousin I had lost track of due to computer failures and a change in address, but with whom I am anxious to reestablish contact. This is just a small example of the ways in which genealogists make connections with distant kin.

I have learned that when your family has lived in the United States for a century or more the likelihood you share a common ancestor with strangers is exponential. Or are they strangers?

While searching the internet for ancestors in my Benham family line I located a man I felt might be related to me. By comparing the information I possessed with that of James Benham, and exchanging copies of old tintypes, we were able to confirm our suspicion that a link existed between us.

Although they were male and female, one light-eyed and the other dark, the shared qualities in their facial features were striking. Maryjane and Alfred Benham both had square hairlines, straight brows, under-eye bagging, full noses and luscious lips. Along with the fact that Maryjane honored Alfred by naming her oldest son George Alfred (this name occurs nowhere else in the Benham family during that time period), these physical commonalities peg them as the siblings we already believed them to be.

For the last six years I have spent a portion of each day e-mailing cousins previously unknown to me. Generations of relocation have separated us physically, but our biology has maintained some cohesiveness.

Beyond the physical resemblances, the easily established friendships and compatibility between genealogical researchers (who are related to each other) suggests to my interviewees that the portion of personality they had previously considered individual temperament might actually be encoded in human DNA. In "Psychology: A Modular Approach to Mind and Behavior" Kagan tends to support their theory that temperament is hereditary. "Temperament refers to the hereditary aspects of your personality, such as your sensitivity, irritability, distractibility, and typical mood." (qtd. in Coon 412)

Mary Jane McNabb-Miller credits these commonalities to a collective genetic memory that she believes exists within each family group. My correspondents and I concede that while some of our behaviors are due to environmental influences, others do appear genetically inspired.

In keeping with the theme of genetics I would like to explain some of the medical benefits that come from genealogical research. One of the first things a doctor requests from a new patient is a complete medical history, including any information they might have regarding illnesses in the immediate family. This information may not have been disseminated between generations, which makes it more difficult for a physician to diagnose unusual problems. Those who have studied their family's history extensively often uncover health issues that their elders considered private and withheld from children, or grandchildren.

Because of my genealogical research I now possess a history of my family's health that encompasses six generations. The most serious of these illnesses are alcoholism, depression, gallbladder attacks that require removal of the organ, and colon cancer. Jim Jessee has discovered that his family has problems with their thyroid, colon, heart and lungs. With added awareness of genetic weaknesses we are able to assist ourselves, and our families, in achieving and maintaining better health.

In addition to the emotional and physical aspects of genealogy is the intellectual satisfaction that comes from adding to our store of knowledge. There is no way to avoid gaining greater insight on a country's general history when you meander the path of your ancestors' travels and travails.

Research invariably raises your consciousness to a level whereby you can see the logic employed in the choices they made. Were they on the side of the Tories or the rebels during the American Revolution? Many had come to the Colonies for greater freedom, and instead found themselves bound by the same restrictive laws they left behind in England. If they were rebels you can bet they were not just tired, but resentful of the exorbitant taxes demanded by the British government. Did your family move west after the Civil War? My own great-great grandmother and grandfather had to relocate when the Birmingham, Alabama area became deforested due to over-logging during Reconstruction; they had no way to provide for themselves and their children. Through genealogical research the events studied in grammar and high school are taken out of the realm of memorized facts and become alive in the imagination.

With this change in awareness comes a genealogists sense of pride in their predecessors' accomplishments: life was not easy. There are several historical societies that concentrate on acknowledging the supreme efforts of those who came before us to thrive in times of hardship. One of these is the Daughters of the American Revolution. Their membership brochure says that they exist, "To cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty. (DAR)

They also are also involved in the preservation of historical sites and improving educational opportunities for the less fortunate. (DAR) According to Norma Lasley, regent of the Paul Revere chapter in Indiana, her group supports several schools for abused children in the Appalachian region and two schools for Native Americans.

Even though they have utilized the resources available through a historical society, none of those I interviewed has chosen to become a member in this type of organization. Mark McNabb sums up their lack of participation succinctly, "The McNabbs...know who we are, and if we had gone about documenting everything they want the English or the Cherokee would have wiped us out."

No matter the impetus for the journey, genealogical research has allowed those of us who pursue our origins to locate family members, expand our concept of family, establish friendships and compile essential medical information. In addition, we have become knowledgeable not just about our family histories, but America's too.

Genetic Genealogy

As many of you may know, I share a keen interest in anthropology and the genetic studies that are giving us huge insight into our ancestry. This new field of study is called Genetic Genealogy and I hope to publish from time to time information and the genetic testing results that you may be willing to share .

I would like to recommend the following books which I have read over the last few years which explores this subject from several perspectives.

The Journey of Man-A Genetic Odyssey by Spencer Wells.

Mapping Human History-Genes, Race, and Our Common Origins by Steve Olson.

The Seven Daughters of Eve by Bryan Sykes

The Real Eve-Modern Man's Journey Out of Africa by Stephen Oppenheimer.

The last book is particularly helpful to understand the Mitochondrial DNA study which Mary Akers has kindly shared with us. I have excerpted two charts from this book (pgs. 136 and 137) to help illustrate the genetic journey taken by Mary's maternal ancestors.

MARY AKERS has shared the results of the DNA testing she did through the National Geographic Society, The Genographic Project, dated May 18, 2006. The excerpts below are from a very lengthy report, which provided 9 generations of Mitochondrial DNA mutations which Mary has inherited from her mother, and mother's mother, etc. back to "Eve." Mary's "DNA Haplogroup was determined to be "H" which is likely to be very common among the Jessee and other SW VA families. The Haplogroup sequence of mutations and potential route of migration for Mary's maternal ancestors is:

Eve>L1/L0>L2>L3>N>R>pre-HV>HV>H

I have printed here her results and the explanation for "Eve" and the last Haplogroup H only, but all the others may be explored on the National Geographic Society Web Site for *The Genographic Project*, which has the copyright for the following material.

Your Branch on the Human Family Tree

Your [Mary Akers] DNA results identify you as belonging to a specific branch of the human family tree called haplogroup H.

The map (provided) shows the direction that your maternal ancestors took as they set out from their original homeland in East Africa. While humans did travel many different paths during a journey that took tens of thousands of years, the lines above represent the dominant trends in this migration.

Over time, the descendants of your ancestors spread across Eurasia and today make up the most frequent western European haplogroup. But before we can take you back in time and tell their stories, we must first understand how modern science makes this analysis possible.

How DNA Can Help--The string of 569 letters shown above is your mitochondrial sequence, with the letters A, C, T, and G representing the four nucleotides the chemical building blocks of life that make up your DNA. The numbers at the top of the page refer to the positions in your sequence where informative mutations have occurred in your ancestors, and tell us a great deal about the history of your genetic lineage.

Here's how it works. Every once in a while a mutation a random, natural (and usually harmless) change occurs in the sequence of your mitochondrial DNA. Think of it as a spelling mistake: one of the "letters" in your sequence may change from a C to a T, or from an A to a G.

After one of these mutations occurs in a particular woman, she then passes it on to her daughters, and her daughters' daughters, and so on. (Mothers also pass on their mitochondrial DNA to their sons, but the sons in turn do not pass it on.)

Geneticists use these markers from people all over the world to construct one giant mitochondrial family tree. As you can imagine, the tree is very complex, but scientists can now determine both the age and geographic spread of each branch to reconstruct the prehistoric movements of our ancestors.

By Looking at the mutations that you carry, we can trace your lineage, ancestor by ancestor, to reveal the path they traveled as they moved out of Africa. Our story begins with your earliest ancestor. Who was she, where did she live, and what is her story?

Each segment on the map above represents the migratory path of successive groups that eventually coalesced to form your branch of the tree. We start with your oldest ancestor, "Eve," and walk forward to more recent times, showing at each step the line of your ancestors who lived up to that point.

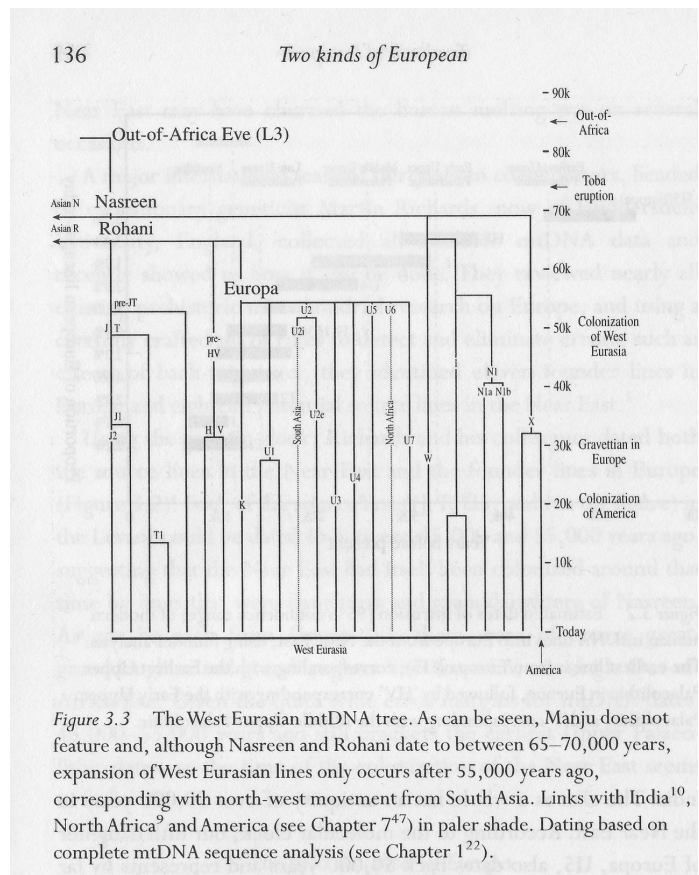


Figure 3.3 The West Eurasian mtDNA tree. As can be seen, Manju does not feature and, although Nasreen and Rohani date to between 65–70,000 years, expansion of West Eurasian lines only occurs after 55,000 years ago, corresponding with north-west movement from South Asia. Links with India¹⁰, North Africa⁹ and America (see Chapter 7⁴⁷) in paler shade. Dating based on complete mtDNA sequence analysis (see Chapter 1²²).

"EVE:" THE MOTHER OF US ALL

Our story begins in Africa sometime between 150,000 and 170,000 years ago, with a woman whom anthropologists have nicknamed "Mitochondrial Eve."

She was awarded this mythic epithet in 1987 when population geneticists discovered that all people alive on the planet today can trace their maternal lineage back to her.

But Mitochondrial Eve was not the first female human. Homo sapiens evolved in Africa around 200,000 years ago, and the first hominids characterized by their unique bipedal stature appeared nearly two million years before that. Yet despite humans having been around for almost 30,000 years, Eve is exceptional because hers is the only lineage from that distant time to survive to the present day.

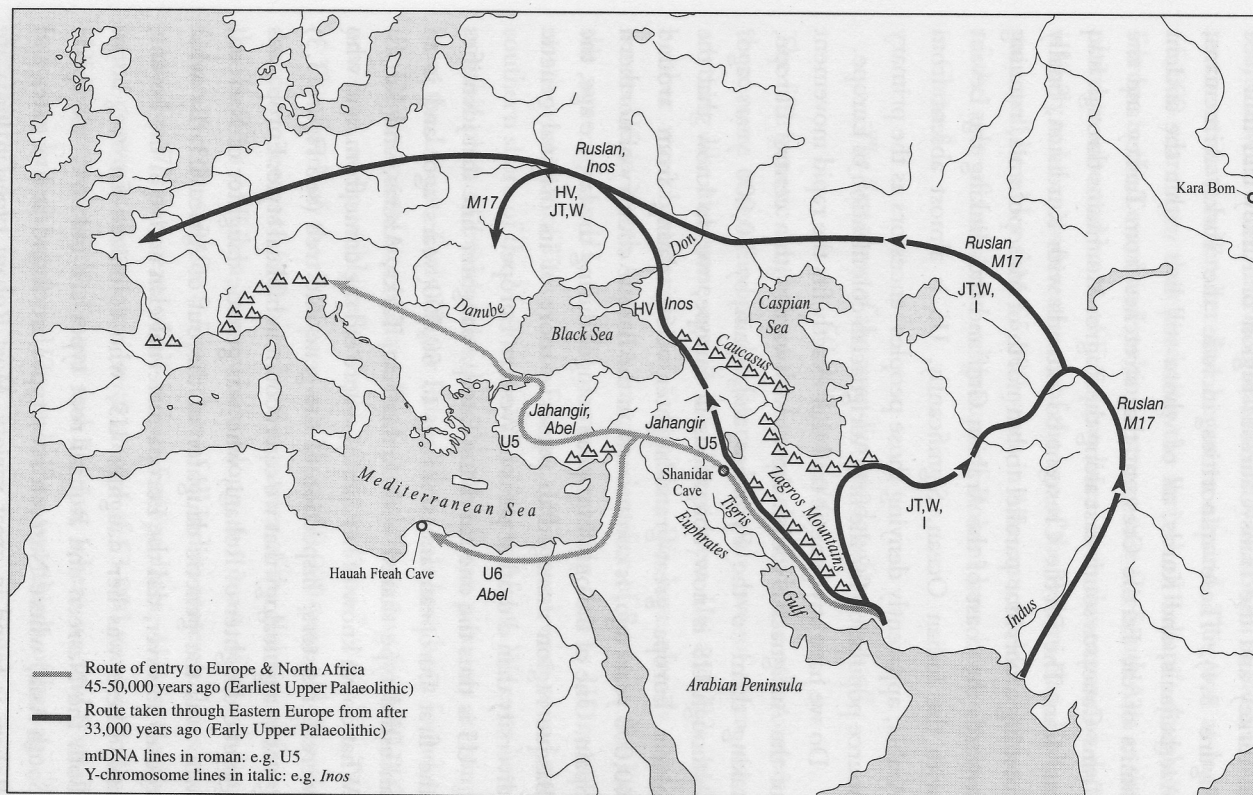
Which begs the question, "So why Eve?"

Simply put, Eve was a survivor. A maternal line can become extinct for a number of reasons. A woman may not have children, or she may bear only sons (who do not pass her mtDNA to the next generation). She may fall victim to a catastrophic event such as a volcanic eruption, flood, or famine, all of which have plagued humans since the dawn of our species.

None of these extinction events happened to Eve's line. It may have been simple luck, or it may have been something much more. It was around this same time that modern humans' intellectual capacity underwent what author Jared Diamond coined the Great Leap Forward. Many anthropologists believe that the emergence of language gave us a huge advantage over other early human species. Improved tools and weapons, the ability to plan ahead and cooperate with one another, and an increased capacity to exploit resources in ways we hadn't been able to earlier, all allowed modern humans to rapidly migrate to new territories, exploit new resources, and outcompete and replace other hominids, such as the Neandertals.

It is difficult to pinpoint the chain of events that led to Eve's unique success, but we can say with certainty that all of us trace our maternal lineage back to this one woman.

....



HAPLOGROUP H

Around 15,000 to 20,000 years ago, colder temperatures and a drier global climate locked much of the world's fresh water at the polar ice caps, making living conditions near impossible for much of the northern hemisphere. Early Europeans retreated to the warmer climates of the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, and the Balkans, where they waited out the cold spell. Their population sizes were drastically reduced, and much of the genetic diversity that had previously existed in Europe was lost.

Beginning about 15,000 years ago after the ice sheets had begun their retreat humans moved north again and recolonized western Europe. By far the most frequent mitochondrial lineage carried by these expanding groups was haplogroup H. Because of the population growth that quickly followed this expansion, this haplogroup now dominates the European female landscape.

Today haplogroup H comprises 40 to 60 percent of the gene pool of most European populations. In Rome and Athens, for example, the frequency of H is around 40 percent of the entire population, and it exhibits similar frequencies throughout western Europe. Moving eastward the frequencies of H gradually decrease, clearly illustrating the migratory path these settlers followed as they left the Iberian Peninsula after the ice sheets had receded. Haplogroup H is found at around 25 percent in Turkey and around 20 percent in the Caucasus Mountains.

While haplogroup H is considered the Western European lineage due to its high frequency there, it is also found much further east. Today it comprises around 20 percent of southwest Asian lineages, about 15 percent of people living in Central Asia, and around 5 percent in northern Asia.

Importantly, the age of haplogroup H lineages differs quite substantially between those seen in the West compared with those found in the East. In Europe its age is estimated at 10,000 to 15,000 years old, and while H made it into Europe substantially earlier (30,000 years ago), reduced population sizes resulting from the glacial maximum significantly reduced its diversity there, and thus its estimated age. In Central and East Asia, however, its age is estimated at around 30,000 years old, meaning this lineage made it into those areas during some of the earlier migrations out of the Near East.

ROGER OWENS [mailto:ric1510@aol.com] wrote 7/10/2007, regarding his interest in a Jesse DNA project.

It has been quite a while since we have exchanged info. I am a descendant of John and Frances Jesse through their son James and on through the Stinson's to Arrington's and to Owens. I have a cousin that is a Long and it is believed (through family tradition) that his great grandfather was fathered by a Jesse. We will be submitting his DNA for testing shortly and I was unable to find a Y-DNA project for the Jesse family at Family Tree DNA. Are you using another company for testing?

I'm participating in the Owen Project at FamilyTree DNA and have been involved for about a year. If you have any questions or need assistance, I would be happy to help. This DNA thing is GREAT for genealogy research. My Owens DNA site:

<http://home.comcast.net/~ric1510/owensdna.html>

Roger, we have not as yet established a formal DNA project with FamilyTree DNA, but wish to do so with other Jesses soon.

I do realize that there are members of our family who may take offense to this material, holding to their Bible based beliefs and living their lives and faith in a way I also admire. I do not mean to give offense, but I find this aspect of genealogy to be utterly fascinating and hope to share more in the future.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES

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

TERRY G. BICKLEY [tg**bickley**@msn.com] began a dialogue, 10/24/2007, and shared information and a photo (that was not reproducible for printing) regarding the family of **James Monroe Bickley who married Evaline Bartee**, whom we share as great-great-grandparents. James was the son of **John Bickley**, son of **Charles William Bickley, founder of Bickley Mills**. We also discovered that we live comparatively near each other, only seven hours away, and hope to meet someday.

My great grandfather is James Monroe Bickley (1830 - 1896).
Great grandmother is Evaline Bartee (1832 - 1896).

My question is, do any of the Jessee/Bickley sites offer any photos of family or family members to view. Or, do you know where any photos may be found. I'm particularly interested in photos of James/Evaline, his parents John Bickley/Elizabeth and any photos of the Bickley Mills/Castlewood areas in the old days. I've searched but can't locate any. Any help would be appreciated.

I answered that I do not know of any specific Bickley sites with photos. I have published in the Newsletters any that I have or have received over the years of the Bickleys, so you might check through the Newsletters. I also descend from James and Evaline Bartee. You can look up my father at www.jessee.org, Earl Wilson Jessee, in the database, and see the pedigree up the Bickley line. My great-grandmother was America Elizabeth Bickley who married John Tivis Jessee. She is buried in the Chico, CA Cemetery.

Photos before James and Evaline Bickley would be hard to find, photography wasn't invented before 1840 or so. I have many photos of their home, the cemetery across the road, and the area of Bickley's Mill in my collection, but my retirement chore is to digitize those, and put them on the Web.

My wife's sister lives outside of Eugene in the Alvadore area, above Fern Ridge Reservoir. We visit every year, and will probably be there next summer. Perhaps we can meet. You are welcome here in Chico, too. I would be interested in learning more about your line, and would be happy to record it in the database.

Terry replied:

1. I have a picture of John Bickley (1790 - 1864) that follows below. Can you verify its authenticity? Photographed in 1850 at age 60. I gleaned this from the home page - family history - Michael J. Lippa site.

2. I'm confused about the birth date of Charles Bickley (James Monroe Bickley's grandfather) born in 1753. On Ancestry.com I find two different dates for his birth. One is June 27, 1753 and the other is Jan. 1, 1753. In both instances his death date and spouse seem to agree. Why do you suppose this is and which one is correct?

I responded: You can find my extensive notes and sources on-line on the Charles Bickley's record at

www.jessee.org. My main source is Gloria Jahoda for all Bickley family information, and she was an extensive researcher. I have used January 1, but June 27 "sounds" more plausible, and if you would share the source for that, I can be easily convinced that mine is in error, and I would correct it.

Attached is the photo you requested. Again I located it by going to google and typing in: bickley mills virginia. When you get the results, you scroll down to: Home Page-Family History-Michael J. Lippa. Click on that and you get their Family History Website. Click on Gibson and a list of photos comes up. Scroll down and you will see John Bickley's name. Click on it and you have the picture. Obviously there are other choices as well. Harriet Love (Bickley) Gibson is one of the choices with her husband Dr. Samuel Wesley Gibson. Harriet was one of John and Elizabeth (Brown) Bickley's children.

My wife Glenna and I would be happy to meet you and your family anytime you're in the Eugene, OR area.

On Christmas Day Terry wrote again with this thrilling bit of news which I hope to share in the next Newsletter. I do not know this photo and ask if there is anyone out there who can help Terry identify the 13 children of James Monroe and Evaline Bartee Bickley in the photo.

I recently have come into possession of a group photo of James Monroe and Evaline (Bartee) Bickley's 13 children. It's very faded but you can still make out the faces. Someone has superimposed (if that's the term) 1 photo, onto the photo of 12 to make the 13.

Are you aware of this photo? Obviously I need to identify each of the faces. What do you suggest? Are there any individual photos out there of James and Evaline's kids that would help us in identifying these faces?

I am going to take this photo uptown to a photography shop to see if they can bring more clarity to the images. I will be more than happy to copy you.

MITZI BURKE (robandmitzi@tc3net.com) posted to RootsWeb the following information about **Nancy Alexander d/o John/Martha (Brawley) Alexander married Isaac Robinson s/o Samuel at Russell Co, VA.**

Nancy Alexander d/o John/Martha (Brawley) Alexander married Isaac Robinson s/o Samuel at Russell Co, VA. After marrying they (Isaac/Nancy) removed to live at Pike Co, KY where they passed away. Nancy, in John's 1860 written Last Will, cited Nancy Robinson, this is she!

Issac/Nancy had a daughter name Rachel Robinson, and she married Hutson "Hut" Justice. This is my husband's direct line.

Has anyone ever located, where in Derry Co, NI [North Ireland] they came from?

Looking forward to hearing from you. Sounds as though this has been a passion of yours to discover the family roots...hats off to you for such wonderful work!

I wrote: Thank you so much for your note and additional information regarding the John Alexander and Martha Brawley family. There are many Jessee descendants who share this couple in their pedigree. To see just one place of intersection with the Jessee and several other Russell Co. families, please go to www.jessee.org, then to the Family Database and search for George G. Alexander, RIN 22530, to see his pedigree. **Your Burke surname is another SW VA family name with deep roots.**



**James Monroe and Evaline (Bartee) Bickley and their family,
at Bickley Home, near Bickley Mills and Castlewood, VA.**

CHAD COUNTS (C_COUNTS@HOTMAIL.COM) posted this notice for **Counts Family Researchers**.

Just wanted to add something to all Counts researchers...maybe we all have been looking in the wrong direction all along in regards to our pre-American history. Remember that connecting us to people named Koontz or Cuntze is only speculation at this time and cannot be verified. My alternative theory, also unverifiable, looks at our name being anglicized perhaps from Kauntz, Kaunz, or Kaunitz. Kauntz is pronounced "Counts", not "Coonts" Kuntz and Kauntz although similar to us Americans are not related in Germany. There are still several Kauntz, Kaunz, Kaunitz people in Eastern Europe today. Hope this opens up a "can of worms" and plenty of research! -Chad

TERRY BICKLEY [tgbickley@msn.com] sent, 1/2/2007, the photo above of the **James Monroe & Evaline (Bartee) Bickley Family**, that he recently acquired and had restored. Terry asks for our help to identify all the Bickley children in this photo.

I just received the above photo back from the photographer. They did a fabulous job restoring it. The big challenge for us now is to identify the individuals in the photo. Here's what I think:

James Monroe Bickley (9/14/1830 - 10/5/1896)
Evaline (Bartee) Bickley (2/12/1832 - 1/11/1896)

1. James Monroe and Evaline are obviously the older couple in the 2nd row.
2. Columbus U. died the same year as his birth so he's not in there.
3. George Cowden died in 1886. He could be in there but I'm ruling him out.
4. In the back row, 2nd from left is a photo that was super imposed into the photo. Which ever one he is he was not there for the photo.

5. Just by looking at their ages and faces I believe the girls to be: back row 3rd from left Mary Alice, back row 2nd from right America Elizabeth, on knees front row left Nora Belle, on knees right Eliza Ellen Bickley.
6. Middle row on Evelines left, Marcus L. Bickley.

I have no clue as to the others. Of course I could be wrong on the ones I'm guessing at but at least it's a start.

Feel free to use this photo as needed. We need to identify these people. Please keep me posted (daily if necessary) with any suggestions that might come in. Hopefully we will be able to come to a consensus as to who's who. Also feel free to give my e-mail address to anyone that's interested.

James Monroe Bickley and Evaline Bartee are the Newsletter author's (Jim Jessee's) great-great grandparents, and this is the first time I have seen a photo of them and their family. Needless to say, I am thrilled and thank Terry very much for this kindness.

The daughter as identified by Terry in the back row, 2nd from the right is my great-grandmother, America Elizabeth Bickley, who married John Tivis Jessee, after his return from the Civil War. About 1870, along with some of her brothers and other Jessee cousins, they moved to the Philo area in Champaign County, Illinois. Later, widow America Jessee, along with other Bickley siblings, moved to Chico, California, where her son Norval Clarence Jessee would raise

eight Jesse boys, including my father, Earl Wilson Jesse. America Jesse's tombstone is prominent in the Chico Cemetery.

Here is the James Bickley family as I have it recorded in the Jesse Family Database at www.jessee.org. I hope that we can match these names to each of the children in this photo.

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, Jesse 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 available online at www.jessee.org for an extensive discussion and summary of what we know so far about the origins of the Jesse(e) families in America. 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 Wight and Devonshire, England.

PHYLLIS JESSEY [pjessey@bellsouth.net] wrote, 8/27/2007, with news about the **Jessey Family in eastern Canada** and a request for help.

My husband's father, Albert Jesse, was a French Canadian, born late 1890's, died 1945 or 46. Do you have a recommendation for me to start a search?

HOPE DAVIS [iambored1@gamewood.net] wrote, 7/31/2007 with this clue into our family origins.

I found this somewhat by accident when surfing around in the Library of Virginia website. It can be found in the manuscripts and archives section. Search "Jessee" and the list contains the Bland papers from King & Queen County, Virginia. Who could this John Jesse in King & Queen County in 1824 be? Does this open a whole new bunch of questions?

•Deed, 28 December 1824, for their share in the estate of Henry Dixon from Charles and Louisa Atkinson to John Jesse, Jesse relinquished his claim to John Bland, Jr., 8 December 1825.

James Monroe and Evaline (Bartee) Bickley Family Group Record -

Husband: James Monroe BICKLEY-202

Born: 14 Sep 1830 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA
 Died: 5 Oct 1896 Place: Scranton, , KS
 Married: 3 Feb 1850 Place: , Russell Co., VA

Husband's father: John BICKLEY-311 MRIN: 73
 Husband's mother: Elizabeth BROWN-315

Wife: Evaline BARTEE-203

Born: 12 Feb 1832 Place: , Tyrrell Co., NC
 Died: 11 Jan 1896 Place: Scranton, , KS

Wife's father: Robert BARTEE-316 MRIN: 8805
 Wife's mother: Lucinda POWERS-33205

Children

1. Columbus U. BICKLEY-116

M Born: 25 Jul 1851 Place:
 Died: 8 Dec 1851 Place:

2. William Nelson BICKLEY-118

M Born: 5 Feb 1852 Place: Catlettsburg, Boyd Co., KY
 Died: 23 Jun 1914 Place: McCluskey, , ND
 Spouse: Mary Jane COPLEY-954 MRIN: 357
 Married: 7 Mar 1878 Place: Champaign, Champaign Co., IL

3. America Elizabeth BICKLEY-119

F Born: 9 Nov 1853 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA
 Died: 28 Mar 1929 Place: Chico, Butte Co., CA
 Spouse: John Tivis JESSEE-109 MRIN: 25
 Married: 2 Feb 1869 Place: , Russell Co., VA

4. Marquis De Lafayette "Dee" BICKLEY-120

M Born: 22 Nov 1855 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA
 Died: 30 Jun 1942 Place: Wapato, , WA
 Buried: Place: Tahoma Cem., Wapato, WA
 Spouse: May JOHNSON-960 MRIN: 358
 Married: 28 Mar 1888 Place: , Lyon Co., KS

LORI LEE JESSEE wrote in response to this post-ing, 8/1/2007 and asks if others would like to form a Yahoo Group Forum. I encourage all cousins to join the Jessee List on RootsWeb, too.

I don't think this raises too many questions. This John Jessee of King and Queen County doesn't really mesh with the known fact that most of the family is from around the Southwest, VA. Geographically this doesn't make much sense either but anything is possible. K&Q Co is near Henrico, or the Richmond area, and is nearer the coast. From the knowledge I have, the John Jessee we know to be the father of most of our family is buried in SW VA near known family and I think the definite knowledge better supports the idea that we know who the man is.

I think what Ms. Davis found is just a sign of the family filtering out from SW VA. I know of a few Jessees east of K&Q Co but not many. There may be around 4 Jessee families in our phone book here (Windsor, VA)...including mine and my grandfather's. My grandfather's name is Bill Jessee and there was another Bill Jessee in the Suffolk area that passed away a few years ago. They have since named a driving range or something like that in his honor. There was a picture in a local paper after he passed away of the park and it said "Bill Jessee Park" and I clipped it out to give to my grandfather. I told him he should be so honored that someone named a park after him, even though we know it was for the other Bill Jessee.

Also, I have had a chance to meet some cousins of mine through the website that I have lost touch with and I was curious to know if you would put your feelers out as to how the family would feel about having a yahoo group forum where family members could talk.

Richard and Frances (Chowning) Jesse

Richard Jesse was born in 1768 in Middlesex Co., VA and his descendants have been provided to the Jessee Family database at www.jessee.org by Donald R. Coleman. The following appear to be descendants of this family, based on the Middlesex Co. and Chowning associations, although the Jessee/Jesse/Jessie spelling varies again in these records.

MARY IN ALABAMA (mydesire.gulftel.com) sent along, 10/31/2007, these Jesse facts found in Middlesex Co., VA Court Records to tantalize us.

I've been looking over the original Middlesex Co., VA court records. In it I have several references to Jessee family.

The last one was where James Chowning Jr was paid for building a bridge, 1843, across Jessee Mill stream. Since Jessee families lived in the Middlesex/Essex area I was wondering if anyone knew where this stream was located in 1843?

Middlesex Co., VA Court Records

27 June 1836 Thomas Jesse appointed commissioner of road in place of Thomas J. Green

20 July 1836 William Jesse was did the court records, he adjourned the court that day

5. John Floyd BICKLEY-121

M Born: 1 Feb 1858 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA

Died: 11 Mar 1916 Place:

Spouse: Rebecca Ann ROADY-750

MRIN: 287

6. Mary Alice BICKLEY-126

F Born: 8 Jun 1860 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA

Died: 13 Feb 1916 Place:

Spouse: Alexander RUSH-968

MRIN: 359

7. George Cowden BICKLEY-117

M Born: 12 Jul 1862 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA

Died: 23 Oct 1886 Place:

8. James Henry BICKLEY-122

M Born: 27 Aug 1864 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA

Died: 17 Jun 1941 Place:

Spouse: Ella COMPTON-973

Married: Place:

MRIN: 360

M Born: 1 Oct 1866 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA

Died: 27 Feb 1911 Place:

10. Joseph Seymour BICKLEY-123

M Born: 7 Jan 1869 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA

Died: 22 Sep 1954 Place: Chowchilla, CA

Spouse: Opal -976

MRIN: 361

11. Robert Fletcher BICKLEY-125

M Born: 14 Feb 1871 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA

Died: 28 Nov 1950 Place: Covina, CA

Spouse: Anna SILVER-981

MRIN: 362

12. Eliza Ellen BICKLEY-127

F Born: 12 Oct 1873 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA

Died: 10 Mar 1958 Place: Calgary, Canada

Spouse: Amos WILSON-984

MRIN: 363

13. Nora Belle BICKLEY-128

F Born: 19 Aug 1877 Place: Castlewood, Russell Co., VA

Died: 1969 Place: Urbana, Champaign Co., IL

Spouse: Charles Edwin FLETCHER-762

MRIN: 291

Married: 29 Nov 1899 Place: Worthington, MN

27 March 1837 William Jesse appointed Sheriff
27 March 1837 For Bargain and Sale Wm Jessie and wife Mary S and John Chowning & Catherine his wife to John P. Bristow and Enos Healy
22 Juno 1837 Establish a road and landing on the lands of Wm Jessee and John Chowning

This is from the film rented at the LDS Family History Library. It isn't indexed and I've had to look at every entry and translate it out. So I may have shortened the actual statement. Sometimes the Bargain and Sale says a deed and sometimes it doesn't say anything beside Bargain and Sale. It took me awhile before I understood those words. At first it sounded like they found a bargain or they bargained for it. Does anyone know exactly what could be changing hands or title?

John and Clia (Smith) Jesse

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

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

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

SUSIE TILLER [jets2citys@sbcglobal.net] wrote, 10/20/2007, with this Jesse Family update regarding **Marvin Russell Cox**.

I was looking at your entry on Roots.com for Marvin Russell Cox. He was my grandfather. If you wouldn't mind updating that entry, I can give you the info.

Birth: Nov. 20, 1905; Died: April, 1966
Wife: Winnie Hazel LeMasters

Grandpa Cox was born in California and moved here to Mo. with his mother when she remarried. Grandma was born here in MO. Grandma was born Oct. 23, 1905 and died on May 9, 1995. Grandpa born Nov. 20, 1905 died Easter Sunday 1966.

Children:

Betty Lou born Jan. 27, 1929 (married George A. Albus and had 4 children.)

Thomas Marvin (Tommy) born Jan. 28, 1931 died Dec 23, 1978 (wife Dorothy, 5 sons)

Carol Winnie born March 25, 1933 (married George D. Tiller Jr. had 4 children)

JoAnne born Sept. 7, 1935 (married Charles K. Harris had 5 children)
Grandma, Grandpa and Uncle Tommy are all buried at Laddonia Cemetery, Laddonia, MO.

DALE SNEED (dsneeds@peoplepc.com] wrote, 11/29/2007, with this very interesting inquiry regarding a **HOGAN Family DNA study**. This Hogan family is descended from John and Clia Smith Jesse.

In researching my HOGAN family using RootsWeb, I have discovered your files, which prompts this e-mail message. The Otis Lake Hogan is the same line as my great-grandmother, Emily Jane Hogan.

My particular Hogan line seems to have "daughtered" out and I was delighted to see that there may be a collateral line that may have males who could be interested in participating in the Hogan DNA project.

Would you please contact the living Hogan you have in your database and ask them to contact me directly if they are interested in exchange of information and discussion of the DNA project??

Dale Sneed (405-570-9857

I responded to provide all the information I have on his descendants, many of whom live in Oklahoma, but did not have a contact, as I did not do this original research. Dale responded to this information as follows.

I appreciate this information very much as I, too, live in Oklahoma County. Perhaps with this information we will be able to locate a living Hogan male to participate in the DNA project. Thank you for your help.

SHINEMAN [shinee@rpt.coop] wrote, 6/6/2007:

I am the 5great grandchild of William Morgan Jesse 1798-1857 and Mary Ann "Polly" Parker Jesse 1802-1892. Saw the website and couldn't resist the change to see if there was any relationship.

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.

John and Frankey (Lea) Jessee

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

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. The Winter 2007 Newsletter outlined the facts as Tom presented them. 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.

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).

DEBRA ROOKARD [drookard@carolina.rr.com] wrote, 6/4/2007, with this Lea Family information from Caswell Co., NC, to help us with our search and again on 10/14/2007 with this historical tidbit that may or may not pertain to our Lea family. Please see correspondence for additional contributions.

Hi Jim, I don't know if you monitor the Caswell Co site, but if not - this very interesting Lea post appeared yesterday.
www.rootsweb.com/~nccca/pdf/leafamily/margaretmoffettelea.pdf

REV. DR. CYNTHIA FORDE [spiritsouth@gmail.com] continues to make major contributions to our Lea Family Research, helping us determine to which Lea Family our Frankey belongs. On 10/6/2007 she began this dialogue.

I continue to re-examine my thoughts about the men named James Lea of Caswell County, NC that could have been married for 40 years in the year 1793... and this I have learned:

There were three men about that age ca. 1790 Caswell County US Federal Census.

One was James CL Lea (my ancestor) who married Anne Herndon. To my best knowledge he did not arrive in VA until about 1752 (I have his will and estate settlement). He died in March of 1792 - deceased by the time of the depositions.

Another was James of Cobb's Creek - who was your ancestor (presumably) but not born until about 1743 - and would have been too young to marry about 1746 or 1747.

The third was the one that seemed the most promising - James of Kilgore's Branch - because the deposition was given in the home of Gabriel Lea "because I am too old and infirm to travel." (James Lee/Lea).

Now I am learning that James of Kilgore's Branch did not move to VA until well after 1752 and had already married in Virginia. BUMMER. He may have been deceased by 1792 - but the stuff online is not documented.

And I am having to once again re-think this situation. The James Lea/Lea who gave the attached depositions in 1793, 1794 and 1797 is the same James Lee/Lea who was appointed constable in Old Granville County in 1746 - and he is the same one who signed the petition against a new road in Old Granville County in 1747 - the signatures are identical to the deposition signatures. Yet, he was still living as late as 1797.

Before you change anything on your website - can you offer any direction? I show the tax lists for 1747 - James Lee located near to Lawrence Bankston.

I need some insight into this old James Lee/Lea who was in old Granville County in 1746-1757 living near Lawrence Bankston and who said on the attached depositions: "I married a daughter of said Lawrence Bankston."

Will you read the attached depositions, description of land location etc. and let me know what you think?

I responded:

Once again I thank you for sharing your research and analysis. I

wish I could do more in return. Your analysis seems solid to me, and I sure enjoy reading all that direct testimony of the various parties, piecing together all these relationships. How lucky you are to have such good friends and fellow researchers to share all this "pick and shovel" work of genealogy. I am humbled. May I share this with the Jessee List and in the next Newsletter?

I will be glad to update my records based upon your research, analysis and conclusions, or at least to well include these notes as may be appropriate for other researchers to discover, too. I will wait for you to let me know what needs to be fixed or done to help.

Cynthia responded:

The only thing I am looking for - is to determine which James Lea was in Old Granville County in 1746. If you can post this deposition on line or wherever - and ask that question - perhaps we will all be the wiser and also have discovered Lawrence's daughter, wife of James Lea/Lee.

Feel free to share the deposition giving credit to Bess Antes for discovery and me for the transcription.

Blessings, Cynthia

The deposition to which we refer above is too lengthy to provide in this newsletter, but it was posted on-line via the Jessee List, and for anyone interested in helping us, you may email Cynthia for a copy of this Word document, as well.

REV. DR. CYNTHIA FORDE [spiritsouth@gmail.com] wrote further, 10/16/2007, with these morsels.

Do you know who this James Lee is perchance?

North Carolina Abstract of Wills, 1690-1760, p. 211

January 17, 1731. November Court, 1721. Sons: James ("the plantation whereon I now live"), Robert and William ("a plantation at a place called Kinyard's"). Wife and Executrix: Sarah. Witnesses: John More, Richard More, Jr. Clerk of the Court of Edgecombe Precinct: Rt. Forster.

I found this abstract at the Clayton Library today and found it very interesting.

REV. DR. CYNTHIA FORDE [spiritsouth@gmail.com], 10/16/2007, wrote regarding **James Lee of Bertie Precinct** and other Leas of interest to us.

I have posted some info on the message boards recently.

This is where my clues have led me thus far until I found this James Lee - :

William Lea - d. 1762 (the earliest inhabitant of Cobbs Creek) had a son named James Lea of Cobbs Creek (and his birth dates online are not at all accurate).

James Lea of Cobbs Creek was the oldest living man named James Lea in Caswell (now Person County) NC on land that was originally Edgecombe then Granville then Orange then Caswell. And the James Lea of that deposition said flat out, "I married Lawrence Bankston's daughter." Sure wish he would have said her name!

The one thing I know for certain... is that the James Lea or Lee of Caswell County had been married for over 40 years to Lawrence Bankston's daughter in 1793 and this guy is still living in 1797. The next thing I am absolutely certain of is that this same James Lea or Lee was living in Edgecombe County and then Granville County where in 1747 he was constable.

I responded:

William Lea, referenced, is our most likely candidate for the "mother" of our Jessee Family, Frankey Lea, so this James could be her brother. Wish he had named not only his wife, but his sisters! Thank you for sharing your Lea research with all of us.

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 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.

LORRAINE GILMER (taximomof4@aol.com) posted this obituary for **Hugh Gilmer** published in the Bristol Herald Courier on 11/13/2006. Hugh was a **John Jessee, Jr** descendant, and in my gg-grandfather, **Joseph Jessee**, branch of the family, too.

ROSEDALE, Va. - Hugh M. Gilmer, age 92, died Saturday, Nov. 11, 2006, in the Russell County Medical Center.

Born March 16, 1914, in the Hansonville area of Russell County, he was a retired farmer. He was a long-time member of Elk Garden United Methodist Church, where he had served at one time as chairman of the administrative board, was a trustee of the church and as Sunday school superintendent.

He was a son of the late Joseph Axley and Lou Browning Gilmer, and he was preceded in death by two brothers, Joe Browning Gilmer and James Pierce Gilmer Sr.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Evelyn McClellan Gilmer; and three sons, Hugh M. (Monty) Gilmer Jr., Joseph Michael Gilmer and Roger Keith Gilmer.

The funeral service will be held Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, at 4 p.m. in the Combs Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Harry W. Hight Jr. officiating. Burial will follow in Russell Memorial Cemetery. The family will receive friends an hour prior to the service. Pallbearers will be Frank Hess, Terry Powers, Fred Garrett Jr., John Whitaker Jr., Mark Trinkle, Greg Turner, Paul McClellan Jr. and James Gilmer Jr. Honorary pallbearers will be Robert W. Cox, Claude R. Johnson, Fred C. Garrett Sr., Charlie Poston, Garnett Musick, Robert Farmer and Janie and Rob Edwards. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Building Fund of Elk Garden United Methodist Church; or to a charity of one's choice.

Combs Funeral Service, 591 Fincastle Road, Lebanon, VA 24266, (276) 889-4444, is serving the Gilmer family.

JO DEE JESSIE BIDDLE [jdbiddle1@yahoo.com] wrote, 2/2/2007 with information and questions regarding the two or three **George Cowan and Cowan Jessee's** that are in the family database. Jo Dee descends from **George Washington Jessee**, son of **Archer Jessee and Eleanor "Nelly" Smyth**. Archer is the son of John Jr.

Hey Jim...I noticed as I was reading through the database trying to pick up some new clues that there was some question that George Washington Jessee and Andrew Jackson Jessee might be twins or the same person (sons of Archer Jessee and Eleanor Smyth).

I don't think there's any doubt that they're twins. The 1850 census has them both listed in Russell County, Virginia living with Nelly age 40...I'm pretty sure Nelly would be a pet name for Eleanor. And, it seems as though the census taker made a notation on the census indicating they were twins (there's a curly bracket connecting both names). I think brother and sister, John and Mary, are also twins because

they're the same age, and similarly notated.

Both George and Andrew are living in Carter County, Kentucky by the 1870 census...Andrew is there as just Jackson Jessee. Interestingly enough, they both have first daughters born very closely together and both named Martha Ellen.

If you remember, I descend from George Washington Jessee...I'm filling in holes now.

Also, you have some notes of mine listed under Robert Lee Jessie where I'm referring to stories about my grandfather...Robert Lee was my great-grandfather and the stories refer to his son, George W. Jessie. Don't know that it matters but wouldn't want the readers to get confused.

I would like to add to the debate regarding George Cowan Jessee and who's son he actually is. I would uphold that a George Cowan Jessee born abt 1859 is a son of Andrew Jackson Jessee and Rachel McKinney. I just find it highly suspect that a George Jessee b. abt 1859 was living with and amongst all of Andrew and Rachel's children in the 1870 census, and a Cowan Jessee b. abt 1859 was still there amongst all those Jessee children of Andrew and Rachel in 1880.

In the 1870 Census with George Lee Jessee and Eliza, there is also a Cowan. In 1880 that Cowan's age is 18, which makes him born closer to 1862. That's close enough for mistakes on a death certificate but I'd hate to see the son of A.J. and Rachel completely disproved. I'm pretty sure he existed. Maybe he died in another state or before 1911. Does anyone have the marriage certificate of Cowan and Hannah? Maybe that would tell more. At any rate, I think we have two of these Cowan's running around that are really close in age. I will do more digging and see what other evidence I can find.

JOHN C SWEENEY [retporkey@yahoo.com] wrote, 2/13/2007, about his family who descends from **Benton C. Jessee**, grandson of **James Mathias "Mack" Jessee**, son of **Jefferson Jessee**, son of **John Jr.**

My name is John Sweeney. Your address was given to me by my Cousin Allen Fruenrich who lives in Princeton, Texas. I am wondering if you could somehow help me with the Family Tree. This is what I have so far:

My Grand Father: Born Benton C JESSEE, DOB- 01-16-88.

His Mother was Minnie JESSEE born in Virginia in 1870, no DOB. She died in 1946 in Los Angeles, Calif.

Her Father was Henry JESSEE and her Mother was Ellen FRALLEY. Henry JESSEE's Father was James M .C. JESSEE.

My Grand Father was raised by his Grand Mother Catherine JESSEE, wife of James JESSEE. Sometime in the late 20's Benton changed his name to Earl Clifford SWEENEY. He had married Nany Melvina FRUEDENRICH and had 5 children.

All five carried the JESSEE name until the early 30's when the last names were changed to SWEENEY at various times. My older sister and I were both born as JESSEES and our names changed in the late 30's.

My Mother kept the family information and I was given the book after her death. I have just become interested in the information and am trying to follow up on the paper work. There is only one surviving member of my Father's siblings. Her name is Martha Ula Mae and is 87 years old. We are looking for her Birth Certificate and until now have traced her birth name to JESSEE. If this info coincides with some of your history I would appreciate the sharing of information.

KATHRYN KELLY MOORE [kkbmoore@gmail.com] wrote, 4/23/2007, with more descendants for James Mathias "Mack" Jessee.

I had contacted you years ago when the Internet was just getting popular. Raising three children and a move from Indiana to Florida took much of my time and so genealogy was placed on the back burner. I am a descendant of Margaret Louise Jessee, James Mathias Jessee, Jefferson Jessee and so on. Margaret L. Jessee married, Calvin Free-land Trent. (My ggrandparents).

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, Arch-able, 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.

GEORGE YEARDLEY SCARBOROUGH wrote, 7/16/2007, to provide us the obituary for **Mary Jane Jessee Scarborough**. We again extend our sympathies to the family and wish them well.

Mary Jane Jessee Scarborough, loving wife and mother, died May 11, 2007 at Ft. Sanders Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee. She is survived by her husband of 50-years, George Yeardley Scarborough, and her sons Jessee Americus Scarborough, 45, of Asheville, North Carolina, and Edmund Lee Scarborough, 39, of Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. Scarborough was born in St. Paul, Virginia in August 1928, the second child and only daughter, to Charles James Jessee, Sr. and Angie Bell Semones Jessee. Her brother, Charles James Jessee, Jr., a retired attorney resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Forthright and moral in all of her affairs, she was active in the community until shortly before her death. As she was compassionate to family, friends, and strangers, all whose lives were touched by her were blessed. She will be missed. A private graveside service will be held at the Highland Cemetery in Norton, Virginia.

TOM JOHNSON [thomas.johnson@rogers.com] wrote, 10/28/2007 with these greetings and information about his ancestor **Frank Jessee who married Mildred Sargent**, a descendant of Archer and Nancy Browning Jessee

I happened upon your website and in drilling down have located my wife's relatives. The last mention of her lineage is Frank and Mildred with 5 living children out of Alberta, Canada. Frank and Margaret are both buried in New Westminster, BC. This would have been Susan's grandfather and grandmother, and her father was David Lloyd who was born in Edmonton, served in the Canadian Navy on an escort in the North Atlantic during the Second World War. He married Patience Edna Joyce Scott from Britain at the end of the war and then moved to Comox British Columbia where he ran a business. They had 3 children, Stephen (deceased), Mark (Sherry) and Susan. Frank and Mildred's other children are Allan, Lottie, Raymond and Betty. Allan last lived in Comox, Raymond was in Bremerton WA, and Lottie (Charlotte) and Betty (Elizabeth) were in Oregon we believe. I know that David and Allan are both deceased, and likely that Raymond is as well. Raymond, Frank's brother, also lived in Comox with his wife Anna. Susan and I have 4 children: Thomas Scott David, Erik Raymond, Anna Elizabeth Joy, and Gregory Mark and are currently living in Ottawa ON after moving from British Columbia 2 months ago.

I see that there is a gathering in June of 08, we are a mere 1400 kms away, might be a good excuse to see Virginia.

KARLA ARCHULETA [thegenealogists@sbcglobal.net] wrote, 8/11/2007, to inquire about **Jack Lighthill**, a descendant of **Frances and Elizabeth Jessee Howard**. Elizabeth is one of Archer's daughters.

I found in your family file on rootsweb and ancestry that you have a Jack Lighthill listed with a death date of 29 April 1987. Do you have any idea where he died or is buried? I also found reference that he may have had children with a wife, ? HIGHBY. Jack is my Step-

Mother's brother and since the passing of their brother Richard, she has been thinking about him alot. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank You,

Karla A. Archuleta ,Genealogy Researcher
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LORRAINE GILMER (taximomof4@aol.com) posted this obituary for **Benjamin Gilmer Jr.** published in the Bristol Herald Courier on 6/2/2007. His wife **Peggy Ann Jessee** is an Archer Jessee descendant.

LEBANON – Benjamin Franklin Gilmer Jr., 75, passed away Friday, June 1, 2007, at his home on Big Cedar Creek while surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Russell County, to the late Benjamin F. Gilmer Sr. and Elizabeth Cowan Gilmer, where he lived and raised his family in Lebanon. For the last 15 years, he lived in Abingdon where he was a member of Pleasant View United Methodist Church.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a sister, Virginia Crumpler.

Franklin was a graduate of Lebanon High School and received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech. He was employed by the Russell County school system, Clinchfield Coal Co., Island Creek Coal Co., Virginia Department of Mines and, most recently, by the Virginia Department of Corrections. Franklin's greatest love was for his family. He enjoyed sharing his musical talents, fishing, and spending time outdoors.

Franklin is survived by his wife of 52 years, Peggy Jessee Gilmer; five children and their spouses, Ben and Denise Gilmer of Abingdon, Vincent and Betsy Gilmer, Jenny and Randy Fields, David and Jamie Jo Gilmer, all of Lebanon, and Wesley and Jackie Gilmer of Roanoke. He is also survived by a brother, Charles Hayes Gilmer of Lebanon; nine grandsons; one granddaughter; one great-grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

In honor and celebration of Franklin's life, a memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2007, 3 p.m. at Pleasant View United Methodist Church on Lee Highway, Abingdon, followed by a time of fellowship in the church fellowship hall.

It is the family's wish that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his memory be made to Hospice of Southwest Virginia at 301 E. Valley St., Abingdon, VA 24210.

JOY WILSON (BU2241T@aol.com) posted this information for **Jefferson Jessee who married Martha A. "Mattie" Johnson.**

Jefferson Jesse and Martha A "Mattie" Johnson had another child. She was Margaret Amy Jessee, b 10/5/1880 in Russell Co VA. m 1899 to Charles C Lewis. She died Jan 30, 1947 in Dante VA and is buried at Temple Hill Cem in Castlewood VA

JUDY EASLEY SHUTTS [sshutts@neb.rr.com] wrote, 1/7/2007, with interest in the **Archer Jessee** line.

I would like to have my name listed on the Jessee Family website as a Jessee researcher. I am researching my grandmother's family.

My line is:

Cornelia Ellen Jessee, b 1868, Russell Co., Va.
Fullen Heburn Jessee, b 10 Nov 1840, Russell County
William Jessee, b 28 Dec. 1801, Russell County
Archer Jessee b 8 Aug 1776, Caswell Co, NC.

SUE WILKERSON [suew6735@houston.rr.com] wrote, 1/11/2007, about **Taze J. Howard**, who married **Elizabeth Thompson**, and provided important pedigree information for the descendants of **Francis Howard who married Elizabeth Jessee, daughter of Archer and Nancy Browning.**

For 35 years, I've researched the Howard family from which Taze descends. Francis Howard, the father of Johnston, Larkin, & Frances, was born 30 SEP 1739, York Co., VA, according to York Co birth records. I have about 200 researchers who have shared info with me over the years, but this is the first time we have found info on Taze. Some show him as John Taze Howard; others Tazewell. His lineage is:

John (1) & Margaret Howard (there's different opinions about this couple...some think Margaret's maiden name was Clarke, however I can't find any proof in the VA records to that fact. Only one Margaret Clarke Howard shows in the records & none of the Howard children are listed in her Father's will. Also, the Mormans have about 6 fathers listed for John, with no proof I can see. It looks as tho, some researchers have him coming into the Colonies at a different time than I believe he came. I'll send you some newsletters I've written in the past, if you would like. We need to find the land records for the land he left his son. It is my belief that will tell us from whence he came or at least at what period of time he came.)

William (2) & Mary (Groves?) Howard
William (3) & Sarah Pinkethman (Widow Hawkins) Howard
Francis (4) and Sarah Johnston Howard
Johnston (5) and Nancy Cowan Howard

Thanks, again, for answering. I have many listings on Genforum, etc., under other e-mail addresses, but can't seem to get the e-mail address changed. Hopefully, that will be worked out soon. You can pull up my listings by my name.

Sue (Howard) Wilkerson
La Porte, TX

III. William Jessee

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

IV. Lea Jessee

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

RICHARD R. JESSEE, 80, of Hayfork died Thursday at Mercy Medical Center in Redding. Arrangements are pending at Forrest Funeral Home in Weaver-ville (623-4144). Published in the Redding Record Searchlight on 7/14/2007. Richard was a descendant of **Archer Catron Jessee**, the first Jessee to migrate to California before the Gold Rush.

Dick was a charter member of the Hayfork Volunteer Fire Department, a member of the Trinity County Fair Association, vice president of the Trinity County Cattlemen's Association, a member of the Farm Bureau, and a member of the Hyampom Rod and Gun Club. He was a man of few words, but his thoughtfulness and generosity touched everyone who knew him. Those who knew him well remember his stature that filled a doorway and hands that reflected years of hard work. The community of Hayfork will miss his infamously slow driving and brief coffee visits. His family and friends will forever love and cherish the memory of Dick sitting on his back porch and smoking his pipe. Many viewed Dick as a legend in the Hayfork Valley and his passing is a loss felt by all.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Lonnie; daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Jeff Allan; daughter, Melisa; sons, Nathan and Matthew; grandson, Samuel; sister, Millicent Sunday; nephew, Bob Ow; nieces, Debbie Startt and Melinda Brophy; numerous great-nieces and great-nephews; and many friends. The family held a private burial on the ranch. There will be a memorial service for family, friends and

the community at the Jessee Ranch on Saturday, July 28, at 2 p.m. The Trinity County Cattlemen's Association and the Mule Committee will provide food after the service. Because Dick was a charter member of the Hayfork Volunteer Fire Department and loved his community, in lieu of flowers or gifts, the family believes he would like all donations to be made to the HVFD, P.O. Box 613, Hayfork CA 96041. The donations will be used for equipment and medical supplies.

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.

MERRI VINTON [merzi@arvig.net] wrote, 8/4/2007, regarding **Francis C. Allen and Eliza Cloud, whose son Francis C. Allen married Sarah Jane Jessee, daughter of Rev. John Jessee, son of David.**

We corresponded some time back about Francis C. Allen and Eliza Cloud [who share intermarriage with the David Jessee family]. I have made it my mission to track down descendants from each of their children in hopes that I can find someone who can firmly place Francis in the correct family so I can put him to bed and move on!! This Allen research is really tough....especially when there were so many different families of them in Augusta, Lee, & Russell counties. I know at least 2 other people who claim the same "John" as the one I'm claiming! So it goes. I see you added my challenge on WorldConnect...maybe that will bring someone out of the woodwork. I should have mentioned that I do have sources to back my reasoning.

I don't have record of my having sent you the information (my notes) that I have collected so far (other than what you have posted). Are you interested in having that...or is that beyond the scope of what you wish to accumulate?

I read the information from the Jessee website and share your enthusiasm for sw Virginia. We hope to travel back through there this fall. I recently order a CD that you would enjoy if you haven't already viewed it on the Public Television Network. I saw the 1st of 3 installments and couldn't wait to order the whole set. So far, I've watched it 3 times! It really sums up all of my family research & the history in that little corner of the world. It's called "The Appalachians" produced by Nashville Public Television. <http://www.wnpt.net/appalachians/>

Let me know and I'll send you probably more than you want to know, but probably nothing you don't already know. Sometimes two heads are better than one and you may see something that I have missed. Thanks for all of your great contributions.

VI. Elizabeth Jessee Gose

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

VII. Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser

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

VIII. Frances Jessee Stone

Frances Jessee (1789-1860) married William Stone (1789-1860), son of Jeremiah Stone. They had ten children. This family is believed to have moved to Missouri, 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 (Ketron) 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.

THELMA JONES [thelma0502@yahoo.com] wrote 11/27/2007 with this dialogue regarding her ancestor, **Nancy Jessee who married James Marion Monk**

Jim, I have just recently got a computer and I found a correspondence about Nancy Jessee Monk and a picture that was available. She is my greatgrandmother and I'm very interested. I'm researching the Monk tree so can supply names of her children. Her husband was James Marion Monk, grandfather of my dad, James Marion Monk. I also read that you were having back trouble and Dr.'s orders were to cut back on your work on your genealogy, so hope I'm not asking too much. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

I wrote in response: Thank you for your note. Please visit www.jessee.org where I have posted most everything I know or have available to the public. See especially the Newsletters. Where did you read about Nancy Jessee Monk and a photo? What exactly would you like from me? You can download most GEDCOM pedigree and descendants information from the RootsWeb FamilyConnect site reached from my Website. Do you need something else? I would very much appreciate receiving information about her descendants, too.

In the Jessee Genealogy Service, Michael Dye[madye@fuse.net] posted on VARussel-L@RootsWeb.com, 4/17/2001 in response to an inquiry by Anita Singleton [anita3@mindspring.com]. She said she had a picture of Nancy E. Jessee born May 08, 1844. Mike responded he would like a picture and would like to send a copy to you. My son-in-law copied this off for me and I have no scanner to send you. The page shows Entries: 44285 Updated: 2007-10-04 if this will help you

locate it.

It did, I provided the photo and Thelma provided the following response and additional information.

Jim, Thank you so much for the pictures.

James and Nancy lived near Telephone, Texas, Fannin Co. Their children were:

i. Mary Elizabeth Monk, b. abt. 1879; m. Johnson. d. abt 1956 in Fannin Co. She lived north of Bonham with a granddaughter for many years.

ii. Martha Ann Monk, b. May 1872, Va.

iii. Charles Marion Monk, b. 02 April 1875

iv. Christopher H. Monk, b. 13 Sept. 1878, Tenn.

v. George Monk, b. abt. 1879 died at birth

vi. Vester Monk, b. Sept. 1882

vii. Pearl M. Monk, b. 26 July 1888, Tenn. d. Jan. 9, 1924, Fannin Co., Texas

viii. Lonnie Palmer Monk, b. July 26, 1889, London, Laurel Co. Ky. --This is my grandfather

Jim Monk [monkbegats@aol.com] supplied me with decendants back to Russell Co. Va. so I would suggest you contact him since both families originated there. He could not find any conection to this family of Monks.

I responded: Thank you for sharing all this, I recorded it today in my database. Any idea if my 7th child, Laura Monk also died as an infant, or is this just an error, and Laura is Lonnie? I added Lonnie as my missing and last child of this couple. I would love to record the descendants of your grandfather, Lonnie Palmer Monk. Would you be able to share a GED-COM file of his marriage and descendants.

Thelma replied:

While re-reading the letter from Nancy to her brother Jim Jessee she says Laura is 14, so she did exist. She was left off my records, which I got from my aunt and from monkbegats@aol.com.

DARLENE MELTON [darlene.melton@gmail.com] wrote, 11/2/2007 with information regarding **Jennie Jessee**, who married Fred Harrigan, and was a daughter of **Flemming Jessee & Alfa Thomas**, a descendant of James Jessee.

In researching the Harrigan family, I found Fred Harrigan had married Jennie Jessee on 5-25-1920 in Spokane, WA. The marriage certificate states:

Fred Harrigan, 26, living in Marcus, WA
Son of Charles Harrigan & Margaret Cavers
Jennie Jessee, 18, living in Marcus, WA
Daughter of Flemming Jessee & Alfa Thomas

Do you have any more info on Jennie? (Did she have children with Harrigan ? Did she remarry ? Pass away ?) Thanks for your help. Darlene Melton in Bend, OR

KERRY GALCIK [klgalcik@hotmail.com] wrote, 8/6/2007, to inquire about **Ira Jessee or his brother Harrison Jessee**. Their father was **Flemming Burke Jessee Jr.** She updates the database and also shares and inquires about family health issues and problems.

Does anyone have any information on Ira Jessee or his brother Harrison Jessee? I know that their father was Flemming Burke Jessee Jr. They also had a sister and a brother named George Jessee. Their mother died and their father remarried and had several more children after these four. My last information was that Ira moved to California but we are not sure how accurate this information is.

I received the latest newsletter and read about your recent health issues. I am sorry to hear that you have not been feeling well. If you do not mind me asking, you mention that you have disability issues, can you share what the medical issue is? I am only asking because I am doing a research study on my family. The Jessee's are my mother's

side. I am trying to find out if any other blood relatives have any autoimmune issues. I wrote to you a while back and told you that I was diagnosed with MS. The disease has been a challenge for me over the last couple of years. My disability was getting rapidly worse so we took drastic measures to try to slow down the progression...I started chemo a little over a year ago and have had success. I will never be running again but at least I am still walking.

A quick family update for the records: Under my brother Christopher Pittmann; he has a little girl named "Amanda Jean Pittmann" born August 2003. That gives him Leighton and Amanda now.

Have you received any recent info or inquiry regarding Ira Jessee? I am still looking for information regarding him and his family. He was my great grandfather (George Jessee's) brother. I found some old pictures recently of some of the family. As soon as I am able to, I will scan them over to you for the newsletter. If you get a chance, would you please ask if anyone has any information on Ira or Harrison Jessee?

PRISCILLA STANLEY [cillaron@hughes.net] wrote, 12/9/2007, regarding **Margaret F. Jessee**, daughter of **Fleming Burk Jessee**, who married **John Stanley**.

I have been researching my husband's family and believe that his great-grandmother was Margaret F. Jessee (c1853-c1886), who married John Stanley in Scott Co., VA on 12 Jan 1872. Their son, William Emmett Stanley was born 12 Sep 1874 in Scott Co., VA and died 25 Oct 1961 in Harlan Co., KY. His death certificate lists his mother's name as Margaret Jessee. William Emmett Stanley married Sudie Sergent about 1899 and had several children, including my husband's father - William Claud Stanley.

I noticed that William Emmett Stanley appears as the son of John and Margaret (Jessee) Stanley on your website, although it lists William Emmett's wife as J.C. Callett. I was wondering if you had any documentation on the marriage of William Stanley and J.C. Callett? I can only assume that this was a first wife since he was married to Sudie Sergent from at least 1900 until his death in 1961. He was about 9 years older than Sudie. Any nformation would be willing to share would be appreciated.

I have additional information on William Emmett Stanley, as well as his sister, Ella Jemima Stanley, if you are interested. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

JOAN JESSEE SHORTRIDGE [rethashortridge@yahoo.com] wrote, 4/25/2007, with this note regarding her father **Hop R. Jessee**, son of **Robert Fleming Jessee**, a descendant of **Fleming Burk Jessee**.

I am Joan Jessee Shortridge . My father was Hop R. Jessee, his father was Robert Jessee of Russel County Va. His ancestors came to North Carolina from England and helped settle a town there and Russel County. My aunt(now deceased) said we were Jewish but that we had some other name there and changed it to Jessee for protection during the holocost. Have you ever heard of this? I have heard my father talk of a John Jessee. I have 2 sons, Moses and Joshua, three brothers, and four sisters, one deceased brother and two deceased sisters. My aunts on the Jessee side were Ida, Enie, Alla or Hollie. My uncles were Chasten, Lee, and Dewey. My grandfather, Robert, owned a bunch of farms and his father was wealthy when he came to America and had many slaves. This is about all I know.

To answer her question, unless a Jessee man has married a Jewish woman along the way, the Jessees would not be Jewish. That is in part why there is such an interest in knowing whether Frankey Lea or any other Jessee wives over the years may be of Melungeon origin, as it is believed they may a people with Jewish roots, as well. In my case, I am Jewish because my mother was.

XII. Rebecca Jessee Burk

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

Kathryn Burke Greever, Jack Hockett, Imogene Burke Verbal, and Rue Burke Stevenson published *Some Descendants of John Burk, 1656-1699*, Middlesex Co., Virginia, available from the Iberian Publishing Co. Order online at www.iberian.com. All royalties go to the Russell Co. Historical Society and Russell Co. Library Family History Room.

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

XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

Jane Jessee (1797-1869) married Henry Fuller (1792-1872), son of Abraham Fuller and Mary Sargent. They had ten children. This family moved to Illinois. While I have a scant amount of descendants' information, I do not correspond with any descendant of Jane Jessee Fuller. 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.

JANIE CAROLINE GIBSON JESSEE, 105, of Lynchburg, died Tuesday Jan. 30, 2007, at The Summit Health and Rehabilitation Center. Her obituary published in *The News & Advance* 1/30/2007.

Janie was born in Castlewood, Feb. 17, 1901. She was the second oldest child of 13 born to the late Homer Luther Gibson and Nancy Pippin Gibson. She married Dewey Alderson Jessee in 1924 and they had three children. She enjoyed nearly 60 years making a home for her family until Dewey's death in 1984. Janie was a member of Fort Hill United Methodist Church for over 70 years, a member of United Methodist Women, and she belonged to the Eleanor Watson Sunday School Class. She made her home for the last fourteen years at Valley View Retirement Center.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Nancy J. Woodward. Janie is survived by a daughter, Josephine J. Thompson Griffin; a son, Rodney Alderson Jessee; son-in-law, H. Manning Woodward Jr. and his wife, Eleanor; sister, Patsy G. Speth

and her husband, Arthur; sister-in-law, Dean Gibson; seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

RUSTY COUNTS [dbcounts@bellsouth.net] wrote 7/26/2007 with this eulogy written by the **Rev. William Lea Jessee**, son of George Lea Jessee.

I was looking through an old book from my father's library today when a leaf from a desk calendar (1913-1914) fell out. It is a little eulogy by the late Rev. William Lea Jessee, a Baptist minister of southwest Virginia. He was the son of George Lea Jessee and Elizabeth Counts Jessee, and the grandson of John Jessee and Frances "Frankie" Lea Jessee. He was known to family as "Uncle Will". He was my great great grandfather. It is written in pencil, and the paper is dark with age. I am copying the text instead of trying to reproduce the page itself. It reads as follows:

A Departing Christian

She long has tried the scenes of earth
Where hopes both fall and rise
And, finding all of little worth
She leaves and seeks the skies
She drops this teniment of clay
And bids farewell to pain
As angels waft her soul away
She'll never die again.
W.L. Jessee

I thought this might be of interest to you. I still hope to meet you some day.

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.

DON SALYER [alliedon@hotmail.com] began a dialogue, 7/18/2007, that helped us extend the Martin Jessee family information, with the descendants of **Archer Lee Jessee who married Lydia C. Meade**. Archer Lee was the son of Martin and Virginia Jane Price.

Jim I am searching for a Bob Jessee and this is what I know about him: Born in Russell County Virginia, 1900, + or - 10 years. One of his sisters married a Helbert. From this Helbert marriage there was at least a son born. This son was named, according to my 80 yr. old mother, Russell. But folks called him "Fuller". Russell/Fuller married Irene Rose. Irene's father was Oscar. My dad told me that Bob Jessee moved to Memphis, TN., true or false, I don't know for sure. "Bob" could have been a nickname. I think there are only one or two Bob's in the census reports at Ancestry.com. Bob Jessee was the father of my dad. Dad was born 1924 and died in 2000. These families lived in the Castlewood area, probably from Copper Creek to St. Paul and Dante.

I responded and was able to locate this family in the Jessee Family Database at www.jessee.org, and Don was able to make all the connections. He wrote later as follows.

Jim I'm just sorta keeping in touch. Sandra and I work on these trees daily, a never ending job. The attachment [below] is Jessee data that I thought I'd send along to you. I added a line or two of red text to give you a hint that some additional Jessee data is close at hand. However only the parents have passed on.

Archer's 3rd wife was Lydia C Meade Born: 30 May 1876 in Virginia
Died: 25 Dec 1951 Marriage: 12 Aug 1895. Their children were:
Joe Wolfe Jessee 1 Jun 1896
Henry Wheeler Jessee 26 Nov 1897 in Scott, Virginia
William Kent Jessee 5 Nov 1901 in Virginia
Carson Jessee 1902

Earl W Jessee 19 Sep 1903 in Virginia
Carlos Nelson Jessee 11 Jan 1906 in Scott, Virginia,

Claude McKinley Jessee 3 Jun 1910 Claude McKinley had a daughter named, Claudette, (spelling of her name may not be right.) and at least one son, maybe more and maybe another daughter or two. The son that I know is Jerry Lee Jessee. Jerry and I went to school together, neighbors, high school baseball team, and currently good friends.

Kermit Wilson Jessee 26 Nov 1912
Emmitt O Jessee 5 Jan 1916
Arthur T Jessee 11 May 1917
Robert Jackson Jessee abt 1918

VANESSA JESSEE JOHNSON [vdj11@sbcglobal.net] wrote 4/4/2007 regarding her family and that of her friend and possible cousin, **Jimmie Ray Jessee Jr.**

Jim, my name is Vanessa Jessee Johnson. I spoke to you via email a year or so ago. I am trying to research my Jessee roots. I have traced my family back to Archer L, Martin's son, John is his grandfather. I just returned from visiting my parents in Kingsport, Tenn. I went to the Lebanon library and the Scott County courthouse. I did not have a lot of time but I found out at least a lot of information about my relatives. The answer I am trying to find out now is if my friend Jimmie Ray Jessee Jr. is related somehow to me. His father Jimmie Ray Jesse Sr. is deceased so we only have some information to go on. Jimmie Ray Sr. was born Feb 20, 1948. His father was Harold Jessee but I am wondering if Harold is his middle name. I found that a lot in my search. I can't locate a Harold Jessee. Harold was married to a Lillian Hurley, her family was from Abingdon. Harold was from Wise, VA. Harold has a brother Gale living in Monterrey, VA. Any help would be greatly appreciated. I wish that I could make the reunion but since I just visited my parents and plan to return in July it is too much traveling. I live in Illinois.

I responded: Go to the database at www.jessee.org and search for Harold Jessee, see record # 7718. I have one born after 1915 who married a Lillian, but do not have any other marriage or children's information, but you will find his pedigree. This Harold descends from Martin's son, Martin Van Buren Jessee, brother to Archer Lea Jessee. If this is the right Harold, I would appreciate learning about all his descendants. Do you think this is the one?

Vanessa responded: I was researching more and I think that I had the wrong Martin Van Buren Jessee. From what I can tell Jimmie's great grandfather was Martin Van Buren, son of David William Jessee whose father was Martin Van Buren Jessee born in 1843 died May 1930. We do share the connection with Martin Jessee (the first Martin V's dad) born 1800 died 1889 who was married to Jane Price. They are the parents of Martin Van Buren Jessee born 1843 and Archie L. Jessee my great grandfather. Thank you so much for all of the help it has been fun. I will get more info from Jimmie about his dad's siblings.

MARY E. JESSEE GRAMLEY [Mejfg92@aol.com] wrote, 1/15/2007 with this inquiry to learn more about her Jessee ancestor who include **Martin Van Buren, David William, and Wilburn Calvin Jessee**, descendants of Martin and Jane Price.

I am the daughter of Wilbur Chapman Jessee, born 1917 in Norton, VA to Mary Glen Chapman Jessee and Wilburn C Jessee. Wilburn's parents were Rosa Beverly Jessee and David Jessee of Wise, VA. David Jessee ran a dairy farm in Wise (the hurricane area) in the early 1900s. David had other children:

Opal, Jack, Martin Van Buren. He had a son, Samuel by his second wife, Gladys. David had a brother Jim who also lived in Wise.

My father, Wilbur Chapman and mother Clara B. Williams Jessee had 5 children. (both are deceased).

I am the eldest: Mary E. Jessee Gramley (IL), others are Robert W. Jessee (MN), Thomas Jackson Jessee (PA), Wilbur C. Jessee, Jr. (MN),

and Marlene F. Jessee (IL).

We would be interested in further information about searching for additional Jessee relatives.

SHELIA NALLY [sjnally@hotmail.com] wrote, 1/18/2007, with a story about her family, her mother's loss of her home to **Hurricane Rita**. Shelia and her mother descend from **Ballard Thomas Jessee who married Ida May Lillian Meade**. Ballard is a descendant of Martin Jessee and Mary Jane Darnold.

Just wanted to let you know that I love the JESSEE FAMILY NEWSLETTER. Just got one today! It made my day! We have just had four days of freezing weather with rain and sleet and a few snow flurries. Think it got up to forty degrees today in Austin. I live a little northeast of Austin so I expect we may have gotten up to thirty-eight or thirty-nine. Ice is falling off my trees like leaves do in the fall. I hear that California is having some unusual weather this year also.

2006 sorta started for me in late September of 2005. Mother, Loletta Jessee Abernethy, lost her home to Hurricane Rita. I am her only child and just turned sixty. Mother stayed with me in Round Rock for six months. She wanted to be home so badly that we fell prey to a con-man or two. So much damage and so few people to help with the cleanup. Most companies had sent their crews and anyone else they could spare to Louisiana. You hear very little about the damage to the Southeast Texas coast.

Mother was with me when the hurricane hit. Then I spent many days, weeks, months, trying to get things done so that Mother could move back home. The end of March, 2006, Mother was able to return to her place. She, we, still had problems. We filed charges against one man who took Mother's money and did not do the work, we wrote and visited the man that sold Mother the used manufactured home, still trying to get a clear title on the manufactured home. It is hard to believe how vulnerable one can be when everything has been lost.

Mother said this was the first time in her life that she did not have a roof over her head. Mother was eighty when the hurricane hit. Mother will never be the same. She seems defeated at times. The used manufactured home needed many more repairs than either of us ever thought of.

My mother, Loletta Aline May Jessee Abernethy, was born Lodeda Aline May Jessee on August 22, 1925. Mother says she remembers having coffee with her father, Ballard T. Jessee, in the mornings. Mother says her father died from an accident in the coal mines just about a month after going to work in the mines. Mother says that prior to that time, he was a railroad man and had taken a job in the mines to be home everyday to be near the children. Mother thinks she remembers that he was reading books on law. According to my mother's birth certificate, Ballard T. Jessee, was 29 years old when she was born. Mother says he died when she was about five.

Mother has no idea when the spelling of her first name changed because she only remembers being called "Lo girl". Mother's older sister was called "Pauliney" and Pauliney was the apple of their grandfather's eye (Thomas Ballard Jessee). Mother's younger sister was called "Tootsie" and Tootsie is deceased.

CHARLIE JESSEE posted this notice on the Jessee List, 2/26/2007 regarding the passing of **Dora Jane Jessee** at age 99.

Dora Jessee, daughter of Joseph Jessee (Hurricane section of Wise, Va) died last week. She was 99, and a lady much ahead of her time... BS from Radford College, and an MS from Duke University. She was my grade school Principal... Her dad and my grandfather were brothers, and sons of Martin VanBuren Jessee.

DORA JANE JESSEE

WISE - Dora Jane Jessee, 99, passed away Monday, Feb. 19, 2007, at the Indian Path Medical Center in Kingsport.

She was a graduate of Wise High School and Radford College with a B.S. in education and Duke University with a master's degree in education.

She worked for the Wise County school system as an elementary teacher, elementary supervisor and principal of Wise Elementary School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jesse; a brother, Earl Jesse; two sisters, Ollie Katherine Hancock Yeiser and Nona Belcher.

Surviving are a sister, Ethel J. Hubbard of Owensboro, Ky.; two nephews, Phillip Jesse of Kingsport and Danny Jesse of Bristol Virginia; two nieces, Sandra H. Miles of Dandridge, Tenn., and Elaine H. Commings of Owensboro; several great-nieces and great-nephews and greatgreat-nieces and great-greatnephews.

Funeral services for Dora Jane Jesse will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007, at the Sturgill Funeral Home Chapel in Wise, with the Rev. Robert Addington and Pastor Paul Davis officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:30 p.m. till time of services at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Sturgill Funeral Home in Wise. Burial will follow in the Beverly Cemetery.

Sturgill Funeral Homes, 1621 Norton Road SW, Wise, VA 24293, is in charge of arrangements.

DAVID & SANDRA JESSEE [djessee@tampabay.rr.com] wrote, 1/2/2008 with this information about Martin Jesse descendants, and another case of MS in our family line, asking if there are more.

I am Sandra L. Whitman and have been married to David W. Jesse, Jr, who is the son of the late David Wayne Jesse, for 35 yrs. We have no children. He has Multiple Sclerosis and has had for 20 yrs. We would be interested in knowing if any other Jesse's have M.S.

His sister Janeen K. Jesse, is married to Gary A. "Buddy" Gragg. They have 24 yr. old twin daughters, Kerry and Holly. Kerry recently married Ischon Prescott.

Also David and Jan's mother, Betty, maiden name is spelled Sulfridge. George L. Jesse has passed away. If you would like more information such as DOB's and deaths and more information on the children of Jackson and Nora Jesse please let me know.

Missing Links & Conundrums

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

PAMELA JESSEE MORKUNAS [jesseep1@yahoo.com] wrote, 1/5/2007, asking for help to locate in the family tree her ancestors **Samuel Archer Jesse** or **Kermit Jesse**.

Hello Mr. Jesse. My name is Pamela Jesse Morkunas of Raleigh, NC. I would love to become a member of the Jesse Genealogy. I have for many years now, been trying to find my uncle, which I haven't seen for probably 25 years or more. I'm really not sure where to start, all I know is that Samual Archer Jesse, may have been my great Grandfather. My grandfather was Kermit Jesse, which had 3 children, Marshall Kermit Jesse, Mary Jesse, and my father Leland Michael Jesse. I may be way off, but I know that Samuel had two children, one Kermit and one Leland. I would love to donate whatever I may to the Jesse Foundation and become involved to learn all I can. ... Thank you for the kindness to bring this wonderful information to people like me. I do look forward to hearing back from you soon.

DEBRA ROOKARD [drookard@carolina.rr.com] wrote, 10/16/2007 with reference to a **Carter County History Website** with this photo that includes an **Ernest Jessie**.

Ernest Jessie is pictured here mid 1930's Carter Co, KY - 3rd from the right standing. Website: www.rootsweb.com/~kycarter/photos/group/general_refractories_set_gang.htm



DEBRA ROOKARD responded to an earlier inquiry regarding the different Larkin Herndons in my files.

There are 3 Larkin HERNDONS.

Larkin #1: s/o Richard HERNDON & Lucy POE b bef 1743 Caroline Co, VA d 1771 never married to my knowledge.

Larkin #2: s/o David (son of Richard & Lucy) HERNDON & Frances PIERCE b 1749 Caroline Co, VA d Dec 1850 RCV m1 Elizabeth (Betsy) TERRELL d/o Jonathan TERRELL & Anne BUTLER 13 Feb 1790 Caswell Co, NC m2 Sophia JOHNSTON d/o Larkin JOHNSTON & Mary ROGERS 22 Aug 1802. [Their daughter Rachel m Archer JESSEE, Sr. 26 Sept 1826 RCV.]

Caswell County NC Marriage Bonds

Larkin Herndon Elizabeth Terrill 13 Feb 1790

Larkin Herndon Sophia Johnston 22 Aug 1802

Larkin #3: s/o Martin Pierce HERNDON (b/o David and Larkin #2) and Elizabeth T. HURT d/o Garland HURT & Mateshia THURSTON) b 2 Jun 1832 d 15 Mar 1905 RCV m Mary PENNINGTON abt 1857 CV.

I hear their whispers ... ethereal, soft and still.
Daughter, if you do not remember us, who will?

DEBRA ROOKARD [drookard@carolina.rr.com] shared this interesting historical tidbit that may or may not relate to our family.

I do not know if this record is referring to Thomas LEE or Thomas LEA. I'll leave it to you and the family to decide.pg 33

THE DROWNING OF THOMAS LEEA

The First October, 1661

Being Summoned by the sheriffe of Yorke County and sworn by Capt Daniel Parke to enquire how Thomas Leea came by his casual Death, wee find the said Thomas Leea was drowned by accident, and not willfully. John Page, foreman, Peter Efford, Ashwell Batten, George Gill, Xopher Persie, Otho Thorpe, Ralfe Elken, John X Dickenson, Giles X Thurloe, William X Bell, Willm X Morris, Ben X Buck

The ffirst October, 1661

The examinacon of John Symmons taken by mee, Daniel Parke, this 27th day of September, 1661.

The said Symons saith that going for Oysters the 24th of this Instant in Mr Whithares (my master) boat, and one Thomas Leea with mee, who was a servant to my Mr Robert Whithare also, and being uppon ye Creeke a little below Oyster hole bancke about Gerrard Hawthornes, wee fell out about Rowing, and hee told mee hee would throw me overboard for my Uncles sake, George Lee, in England, and soe hee did, and did hold me by ye legg till I was almost stifflid, & I swam to ye shore, & what became of him I know not.

JOHN SYMONS

The following letter shows the time when John Symonds came to Virginia.

London, the 2d of May, 1660

Brother, I doe hereby desyre you to deliver unto Mr Robert Whithaire or Richard Merritt, and in their absence then unto Mr Xopher Harris, in Queenes Creeke, in Yorke River, pg 34 ffive hogshhead of mault, marked H V No 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and also Tenne barrells of salt marked ditto, & no 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, No 37, 38, 39, 40, and a young man named John Symonds, all aboard John Lymbrey commandr of the John & Sarah, the danger of the seas & mortality, & escapes excepted, being upon ye proper Accompt of my friend, George Lee. Witness my hand the day & yeare aforesaid

WM. NEVETT

Recorded 24 June, 1661, pg 37

SERVANT FREED

November 24, 1673/74

Whereas, John Jones this day in court produced a Lre from Mr. George Lee of London, his Uncle, whereby his said Uncle ordereth him to provide & shift for himselfe, thereby petitioning for his freedome, It is the courts opinion that by vertue of the said Lre hee is free, & therefore is acquitted & discharged from all manner of service due to the said Lee. (George Lee was "citizen and grocer of London," and dealt largely with Virginia. Among the servants shipped by him were two nephews, John Jones and John Symonds. In 1660 he sent George Underwood of London, "his brother," to collect all dues in the hands of his "brother, Dr. William Lee," of York county, VA, "or Xopher Harris, or any other person in Virginia." Afterwards Mr. Robert Whithaire, of York county VA, was his agent, with Capt. Daniel Parke as successor in case of the

former's death. In 1674 he appointed Capt. Richard Johnson of New Kent, his agent. In 1645 Richard Lee, ancestor of Gen. Robert E. Lee, and Henry Lee were residents of York county. What relations they were, if any, to George Lee does not appear.)
Proceedings in York County Court, pp 33-37
William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, Vol 11, No 1, Jul 1902

WILLIAM SUTHERLAND [dickensoncountybooks@verizon.net] wrote 10/9/2007 with this.

We have decided to have a limited number of *Pioneer Recollections* reprinted. They are scheduled to be available before December 1, 2007. If you wish to buy it as a Christmas gift we can ship it directly to the person you want to give it to. Bill Sutherland

STEVE SANDERFER [dallasattorney@msn.com] wrote, 4/16/2007, with his memories of various Jessee relatives, including his grandmother, **Lucille Jessee Miller**, and **Colonel Howard Gilmer Jessee and Dean Jessee**.

My name is Steve Sanderfer. I live in Dallas, Texas. My grandmother is Lucille Jessee Miller. My mother, Sylvia Jean Smith, is a genealogist. I have a cousin, now deceased, who was named Howard Jessee who was also a genealogist. I also have spoken years ago to Dean Jessee in SLC, Utah.

I was a member of the Children of the American Revolution from 1968-1982. My ancestor was John Jessee who, I am told, was a bugler. I think it is the same John Jessee on your website. I was Texas State President, Regional VP, and National VP before I aged out. Mother and grandmother are members of the DAR using the same ancestor. I just wanted to say hi. I saw the website and was interested. Anyway, I would love to know more about the family. Thank you for your time.

DALE MCGILL [mcgills4@verizon.net] wrote 9/28/2007 regarding her new Website. Dale is the daughter of Sherman Wallace.

www.blueridgereproductions.com.

I just want to let you all know I have a website [above]:

It's nothing fancy but just something for a hobby, some of you know about my slight obsession with Blue Ridge China! Also, if you're interested in my Mom's artwork, there is a link a website where a lot of paintings will be posted. They look neat on the computer screen! You can print them on your printer and tack them on your wall if you want to! If you want bigger ones you can buy them from imagekind.com or take the file to a print shop. They come out really nice, almost identical to the originals. I'll be posting more paintings as I get them uploaded to the site. Check it out!

JESSEE-BOUNCES@rootsweb.com On Behalf Of DL-HGLH, posted, 7/1/2007, this to the Jessee List.

I found this on E-Bay and am posting it to this list in hopes that it will find it's family. I am in no way affiliated with this auction.

E-Bay Item number: 330141718290

You are bidding on a beautiful set of Daguerreotype Portraits of Dr. T. H. Rucker and his wife Sarah. The provenance states that Mrs. T. H. Rucker (Sarah McCracken Jessee) was married to T. H. Rucker, M.D. Dr. Rucker was born in 1815 in Lexington, Kentucky and died in 1894 in Evansville, Indiana. These deguerreotypes are in their original frame. Dr. Rucker is holding a cane with a gold tip and Mrs. Rucker has a gold pin on her lapel and her wedding ring shows up clearly. There is a set of 2 hooks and 2 eyes on the side of the frames that allow them to lock together. They are in good condition with no cracks or chips to the glass frame. There is a little piece of the paper attached to the back of the frame on which the history of Dr. & Mrs. Rucker was written. Someone was nice enough to transfer the information to an index card. This would make a nice research project to trace the history. I don't have any information about degauerreotypes and acquired these at an estate sale.

JHF News & Views

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

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

While I am no longer a JHF Board member, I will continue to offer the services of the Jessee Genealogy Service, the 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 about JHF news, views, and events. I will gladly share JHF board agendas, minutes, plans and programs, and photos of events.

I get literally dozens of email messages from those who have first learned about the JHF and the Jessee Annual Reunions 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.

I 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.

VERNON & PAULINE SALYERS [vpsaly@naxs.net] wrote, 5/7/2007 announcing the first volume of *Jessee Stories & Remembrances*, for purchase.

Greetings Jessee Cousins, the first edition of your Jessee memories is finally in print! It contains 182 pages with 72 stories and 120 black & white pictures & drawings with comb-binding. The front & back cover features original colored artwork of Carl B. Jessee (this alone makes it worth owning). Below is an excerpt from the book's introduction by Janice Jessee Tiller.

"This book has resulted from the dedication, cooperation and enthusiasm of many people. These include everyone who wrote a Jessee family story and those that ordered a book. Working on this book has brought all of us closer to our own ancestors and to early life in Southwest Virginia. In addition, it is a description of this area as it is in present time, prepared for our grandchildren. It is a tribute to our Jessee forefathers and a legacy to our descendants. Our ancestors were as tough and supple as the hickory out of which they fashioned the handles of their axes.

I think you will find that reading this book is like coming home again, to find everything just as you remembered: worn quilts on the brass bed, Grandpa dozing in the rocking chair by the fire, and Grandma's peach cobbler baking in the oven. These stories are just the sort of friend we want to find waiting for us. Woven into these stories are many of the fabled characters of Southwest Virginia, independent,

hardworking people whose pride transcends poverty. Above all, it reminds us of the everlasting pull of the Virginia mountains and hollows themselves.

This is dedicated to anyone who has ever carried a coffin to a family plot high up on a ridge, because mountain folk know it is best to lie where breezes from the hills whisper, "You're home". Although scattered far and wide, Jessee families will always call these Virginia mountains home."

They are \$25 plus \$5 per book if mailed. Please make check payable to JHF & mail to: If you have any questions contact me 276-889-0055 or through e-mail or mail.

Pauline Salyers
5074 Green Valley Road
Lebanon, VA 24266-6553

VERNON & PAULINE SALYERS [vpsaly@naxs.net] wrote 10/22/2007 with this JHF update.

The JHF Board of Directors met on Saturday, October 20, 2008 and set the following dates for 2008 meetings. All Board meetings are to be held at the Quality Inn in Abingdon, 10:00 a.m. The annual Membership Meeting & Picnic has been moved to August 9th. Details of additional activities, i.e. library research day or others, will be sent as they are planned.

Board Meeting Dates

February 02, 2008; May 03, 2008; October 04, 2008

JHF and Other Projects

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 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 publication.

3. Creation of a Jessee Book, Remember When, with family stories, histories, and photos. This too has been accomplished, the first volume was available at the 2007 Reunion. Please contact Vernon Salyers for more information.

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 (see photo). This approach may set a precedent for developing further private commemorative signs for additional family landmarks.

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.

Missing from this list of JHF activities is any official JHF support 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. There needs to be separate effort to achieve the following projects. If you feel differently about this matter and the potential support and leadership the JHF could offer to these projects, please tell the JHF Board.

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 agreed, the new JHF Board would again undertake and fund this project.

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

Jessee's Mill Declared National Historic Landmark

JOE JESSEE (joejessee@yahoo.com), our JHF founding president (2001-2005), 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 5/5/2005, and the article appeared in the *Lebanon News*, 5/11/2005.

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

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

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

Mill Creek Historic Community

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.

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. 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.

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

Jessee's Mill Preservation

Whether a Mill Creek Historic Community ever comes to be, the "preservation" of Jessee's Mill remains a major concern. As a historic Russell County landmark, you would 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.

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.

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

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

Resources On The Internet

The Internet is a remarkable resource for genealogists. 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 of interest, 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. You can join the Russell Co. List Server. This is a must-see site for Jessee researchers.

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

FAMILY TREE DNA (www.familytreedna.com/)

As of December 30, 2007, Family Tree DNA hits new milestones solidifying its leadership with the largest DNA databases in the field of Genetic Genealogy with 173006 records:

Why the database size is important? If your goal is to verify relationships, or discover more about your recent or deep ancestral origins, the size of the database where your results will be is of fundamental importance, as you want your results to be compared to as many others as you can. That is an additional strength of Family Tree DNA. Our databases are several times larger than all of the other databases on the market - combined!

What you will get when you are tested? Each member of Family Tree DNA will receive their own kit filled with materials to help you continue the search through your family's history. Take a look inside. Search for your family surname in the largest DNA database in the world:

Since its inception, in April of 2000, Family Tree DNA has been associated with the Arizona Research Labs, led by Dr. Michael Hammer, one of the world's leading authorities in the field of Genetics. Having other renowned scientists on its advisory board, Family Tree DNA is the world leader and only organization in the field of Genetic Genealogy that has been constantly developing the science that enables many genealogists around the world to advance their families research.

The Geno Graphic Project: Family Tree DNA provides the tests for this partnership between the National Geographic Society, IBM and the Waitt Family Foundation. Click here to learn more about the Genographic Project.

THOMAS RUDDER [ruddert@sbcglobal.net] sent, 5/27/2007, this Web link to explore **Will Fleenor's**: www.jesseefamily.com.

The Family Database

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

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

This World Connect Website provides an index to multiple genealogy databases, provides excellent display and print options for pedigree and descendants charts, and allows people to download GEDCOM files. 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 Jessee Genealogy Service home page. Please go to:

<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. 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 public. It is already clear that errors in this database, even when later corrected, show up all over the Internet in other people's work, too often uncredited. Others, many unknown to me, have used and cited this database as an authoritative source. Beware, it is not!

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

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

Some feel the need to wag their finger at me, 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 your e-mail, calls, visits, conversations, and correspondence.

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.

Unfortunately after 30 years of working I have developed a permanent disability which makes any prolonged time typing very painful. My computer time has been significantly limited and my regular data entry routine has all but stopped. While I continue to plink at it, I am not denting the perhaps 3000-4000 records piled high and waiting to be keyed in. I 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. I will filter out living individuals in the version of the database that is made public. Please feel free to correct any errors found. I wish to have a correct and trustworthy database as a resource for the family.

I welcome the submission of pedigree and descendants charts, letters, manuscripts, electronic or scanned images of source documents and photos 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 50% 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 \$90 for copies of 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**

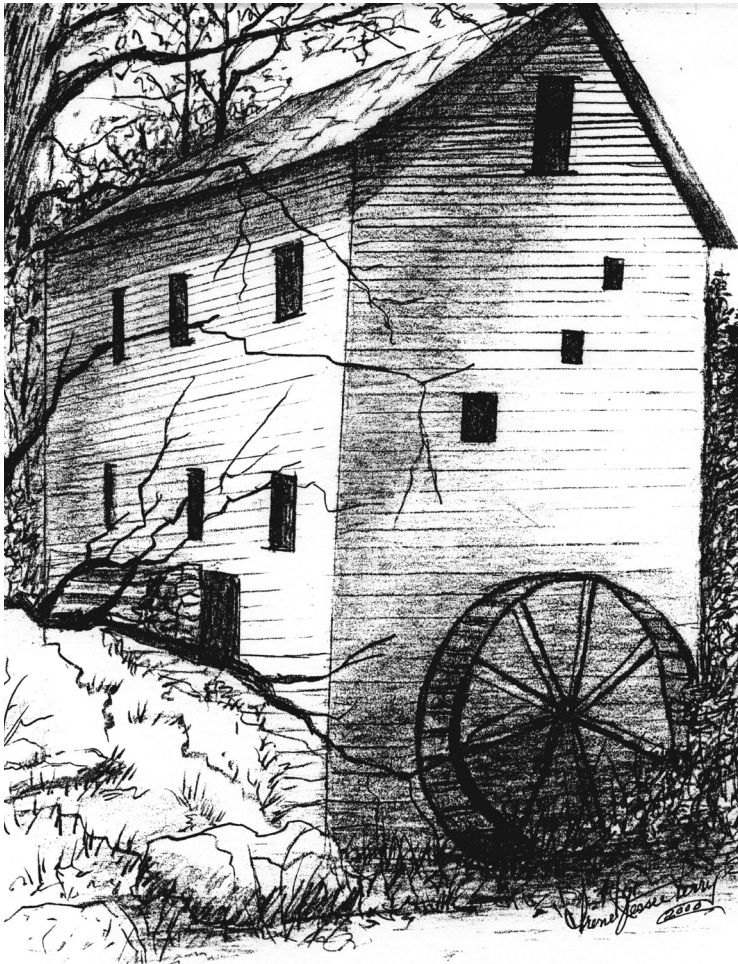
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The mailing label above indicates the status or last issue of your subscription. If it is January 1, 2008, your subscription expires with this issue.

This is based on your current subscription and donations, or your expressed or assumed interest. I will provide you the first issue of the new subscription year free as a reminder to renew each year. Please renew now for the remainder of 2008 to January 2009, at the rate of \$15 per year, for two editions.

Please inform me of any 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 those who cannot afford to subscribe.