

Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #34

Winter 2009

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Dear Cousin,

This has been an eventful year, with with milestone birthdays, devastating fires, sad funerals, happy reunions, a glorious wedding for my son Earl and wife Meegan (Condon) Jessee, and a Ben Torah and retirement for me, too. Please see "The focus of my 2008 year" comments on page 9, for more on the latter two very personal events.

The devastating Butte County California fires this summer literally began on my wife's Meline family ranch, burned it and then 26,000 more acres and some 100 homes before that fire was contained. Nelda was having a family reunion there with relatives from North Dakota when the arson-caused fire began. We had 35-40 MPH winds and less than 10% humidity. Within 30 minutes their entire ranch was ablaze. Eleven fire engines and crews took a stand and saved their vehicles, home, barns, corrals, horses, and lives. The fire had burned across their only way out. Fires continued two more months, burning 20% of our county and came within 3 miles of our cabin in Butte Meadows, where we were under mandatory evacuation much of the summer, too.

Two of my first cousin died this year, John Tivis Jessee who was 70, and Stephen Norval Jessee, who was only 60, my age and with whom I had grown up and gone through school. Several of you met Stephen's father, Richard Jessee, and his brother and nephew, Larry and Peter, when they came with Nelda and me to the Jessee Family Reunion in 2003.

This, and the DNA studies I have just done, got me to looking at the age my Jessee male line grandfathers died. They were 40, my father, 66, my grandfather, 54, 43, 59, and 66 for our common ancestor, my gggg-grandfather, John Jessee. Most of the mothers lived longer, but my father's seven brothers died in their 40s, 50s, and 60s, and now my first cousins are going young, too. This certainly gives me and most Jessee men something to be concerned about. Most of the health issues are heart attacks and strokes, and complications of diabetes. Many could have lived longer had they gotten early medical attention and follow doctor's orders, but we Jessee men are pretty stubborn about doing both of those things...

I am pleased that we have many new contributions in this newsletter. Your research results, questions and conundrums are always welcome. I am excited and gratified every time I extend the descendants

for the Jessee family and am always astounded as I see increasing evidence that we are all cousins. My spirits are always uplifted by your letters, emails, additional donations and renewals. Thank you.

Because of the significant increases in postage and printing, I am asking for a new subscription rate of \$20 a year for two issues of the newsletter. If you have already paid at the old rate of \$15 per year, I will honor that. I still do not break even, so additional donations are always welcome.

Jim Jessee

Featured This Edition

I feature the results of my own DNA study, and share the male Jessee line Y Chromosome DNA results. All direct line Jessee males should share this same Y Chromosome inheritance which traces our father's father's line back to Adam via a long sojourn in Europe and, most likely, the British Isles.

The Jessee Family Reunion has been rescheduled for every two years beginning in 2010. See JHF News

John Darst provided photos and asks for our help in identifying the Jessees included. There are additional dialogues throughout the Newsletter with **William Foster, Michael Dye, Vinson Holbrook, Janeen Puckett, Betty Jo Grizzle Gribble, Carol (Jessee) Allred, Carol Roman, Beth Onan Huguenot, and Kent Pusser**, that greatly illuminate our efforts, and show what a small world it can be.

SW Virginia Families and Other Jesse(e) Families include information and news from descendants of other Jesse(e) families, and other prominent SW VA families with whom we share roots and history.

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.

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 has items of interest and requests for help, and **Jessee Resources on the Web** has a few more Web sites for us geeks.

The 2010 National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, August 14, 2010
at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center,
300 Stanley Street, Abingdon, VA

The 2010 Jessee Family Research Day
Friday, August 13, 2010
at the Russell County Library
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

The JHF is now scheduling the National Jessee Family Reunion every two years, beginning in 2010. Families are encouraged to have local and regional family reunions in odd numbered years. The Jessee Family Research Day is held on Friday, preceding the reunion, at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA.

The Jessee Family Reunion and Picnic is held the second Saturday in August every two years, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park, Abingdon, Virginia. The Jessee Historical Foundation holds its 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 additional "cousins." You may bring a folding chair and 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 2007:

Henry A. Davis, Jr., President
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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 membership renewal.

Membership will run from reunion to reunion every two years. Dues will be collected by mail and at the bi-ennial reunion in August for the following two years. JHF membership dues may be mailed to the Membership Secretary below at any time.

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

Jessee Male Line Y-DNA Haplogroup R1b1b2 Determined

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

Here is what I have learned From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia and FamilyTreeDNA resources.

Haplogroup R

Time of origin	26,800 years BP[1]
Place of origin	Iran or Central or South Asia
Ancestor	P
Descendants	R1a, R1b , R2
Defining mutations	M207

In human genetics, Haplogroup R is a Y-chromosome DNA haplogroup, a subgroup of haplogroup P, associated with the M207 mutation.

Origins: It is believed to have occurred somewhere in Central Asia between 30,000 and 35,000 years ago. However, most of the rare forms of Haplogroup R chromosomes, as well as most cases of the closely related Haplogroup Q, are found among populations of Europe, Central Asia, South Asia, Egypt, Australia, Siberia, and Cameroon.

Kivisild et al. (2003) “suggests that southern and western Asia might be the source of this haplogroup”: Given the geographic spread and STR diversities of sister clades R1 and R2, the latter of which is restricted to India, Pakistan, Iran, and southern central Asia, it is possible that southern and western Asia were the source for R1 and R1a differentiation. The highest levels of haplogroup R1b are found in Europe, where frequencies of 70% or more have been found in populations from Ireland,[2] Spain,[3] and the Netherlands,[3] and where, according to the Genographic Project conducted by the National Geographic Society,[4] R1b originated on the Iberian Peninsula, being the LGM refuge from which the gene spread.[2] However, another study notes low DYS390 diversity in Iberia, suggesting that R1b in this region is in fact the “youngest” in Europe. The study indicates that R1b likely originated in Central Asia (Kazakhstan) and then migrated to Russia. R1b in Russia is significantly more diverse than in Iberia, suggesting increased age.[5] Correspondingly, the underpinning, undifferentiated R complex has been attributed a huge upper paleolithic dispersion.

Distribution: The majority of members of hap-

logroup R belong to the Haplogroup R1, defined by marker M173. R1 is very common throughout Europe and western Eurasia. Its distribution is believed to be associated with the re-settlement of Eurasia following the last glacial maximum. Its main subgroups are R1a (SRY1532) and R1b (M343). One subclade of haplogroup R1b, **R1b1b2-M269, is the most common haplogroup in Western Europe.**[6]

Individuals whose Y-chromosomes possess all the mutations on internal nodes of the Y-DNA tree down to and including M207 (which defines Haplogroup R) but which display neither the M173 mutation that defines Haplogroup R1 nor the M124 mutation that defines Haplogroup R2 are categorised as belonging to group R*. Some instances of Haplogroup R* have been reported from samples of Australian aboriginal populations. Haplogroup R* has also been found in 10.3% (10/97) of a sample of Burusho and 6.8% (3/44) of a sample of Kalash from northern Pakistan.[7]

R* is found in both Central and South Asians, including 10.3% (10/97) of Burusho and 6.8% (3/44) of Kalash.[7] Some instances of R* have been reported from samples of Australian aboriginal populations.

Haplogroup R1 contains the majority of representatives of haplogroup R in the form of its subclades, R1a and **R1b.**[4][3][2]

Haplogroup R1a (Y-DNA):

The highest levels of R1a (>50%) are found along the Eurasian Steppe: the Ishkashimi (68%), the Tajik population of Khojant (64%), Kyrgyz (63.5%), Sorbs (63.39%), Poles (56.4%), and Ukrainians (54.0%)[9] [10][11][3] and in the extreme north of India among the untouchable saharai tribe of North india (72%). [12]

R1a has been variously associated with:

- * the re-colonization of Eurasia from the Ukrainian LGM refuge following the end of the last ice age[13][3]

- * the expansion of the Kurgan people from the Pontic-Caspian steppe, which is associated with the spread of the Indo-European languages,[10][3] or

- * Indo-Iranian, Balto-Slavic, Ugric, or even Turkic languages

R1a1 provides genetic corroboration of the Kurgan theory of Indo-European origins, and suggests that the Sredny Stog and Yamnaya cultures of the Pontic Steppe region north of the Black Sea in modern day Ukraine were the Proto-Indo-Europeans.

Haplogroup R1b (Y-DNA): Haplogroup R1b originated in Central Asia or Anatolia prior to or during the last glaciation. It is the most common haplogroup in Western Europe and may have survived the LGM concentrated in refugia in southern Europe and the Aegean.

It is also present at lower frequencies throughout Eastern Europe, with higher diversity than in western Europe, suggesting an ancient migration of R1b from the east.[5] R1b is also found at various frequencies in many different populations near the Ural Mountains and Central Asia, its likely region of origin.

It is also found in North Africa where its frequency surpasses 10% in some parts of Algeria[14]. In south-eastern England the frequency of R1b is about 70%; in parts of the rest of north and western England, Spain, Portugal, Wales and Ireland, it is as high as 90%; and in parts of north-western Ireland it reaches 98%. The R1b clade appears to have a much higher degree of internal diversity than R1a, which suggests that the M343 mutation that derives R1b from R1* may have occurred considerably earlier than the SRY1532 mutation that defines R1a.

R1b (previously called Hg1 and Eu18) is the most frequent Y-chromosome haplogroup in Europe. It is an offshoot of R1 (M173), characterised by the M343 marker.[15] An overwhelming majority of members of R1b are classified as R1b1 (defined by the P25 marker), the remainder as R1b*. Its frequency is highest in Western Europe (and due to modern European emigration, in parts of the Americas). The majority of R1b-carriers of European descent belong to the subclade R1b1b2 (M269)

The above assures us that our Jessee male ancestors were of recent European origin, but the following information narrows the probability that our Jessee male ancestors came from the British Isles. England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales are all in the hunt. By far, the exact DNA matches of others who have submitted DNA to Family Tree.com are from the British Isles.

Recent Ancestral Origins: Welcome to the database of RECENT ANCESTRAL ORIGINS (RAO), at FamilyTreeDNA.com. . The results below show the ancestral origin of those you match or nearly match [our JESSEE R1b1b2] in the RAO. Exact matches show people who are the closest to you genetically. The ancestral origin information is provided by each testee, and is only as accurate as the testee's knowledge. Testees are instructed to answer "Unknown Origin" when their ancestor's origin is uncertain or not known.

The Ancestral origin shows where they have reported to have lived. Since many persons migrated over the past few centuries, you will typically see matches in more than one country.

If you see "MDKO" and a country name of "Unknown Origin", it means that the country informed by the testee is not the ancestral country of origin, but rather the "Most Distant Known Origin".

Incorrect origins provided by testees may lead to search results that do not seem logical. for example: Assume your ancestors are from England, but your

search results show the ancestral origin of your matches as England, France, AND one match shows an origin of Native American. Does that mean that your ancestors relatives may have lived in England and France? Yes. Does it mean that your ancestor was also a Native American? No. This means that a settler in America had a child (likely with a Native American woman), the child was brought up as a Native American, and that, over time, the family has "forgotten" the European ancestor, and believe their ancestry to be Native American.

Over the span of generations people tend to move, as do borders, so nationality or ethnicity becomes subjective. For example, testees may enter Germany for ancestral origin, because the land of their ancestors is Germany today, but the land could have been held by Denmark for many centuries.

For information purposes, the Recent Ancestral Origin search also displays results for those who are near matches.

12 Marker Y-DNA Exact Matches to R1b1b2:

Belgium (356)	1
Brazil (46)	1
Canada (170)	1
Denmark (580)	2
England (16935)	46
France (2335)	4
Germany (8267)	22
Greece (529)	1
Iran (174)	2
Ireland (9533)	50
Italy (2434)	9
Lithuania (690)	1
Mexico (628)	6
Netherlands (1162)	3
Norway (940)	3
Poland (2511)	1
Russia (2342)	1
Scotland (7648)	42
Spain (2253)	11
Spain (2253)	1
Sweden (1201)	1
Switzerland (1176)	4
Turkey (287)	1
United Kingdom	18
US (1265)	1

If additional Jessee males would submit their DNA to this same FamilyTreeDNA Jessup Surname project, we can confirm this information and narrow our Jessee male origins even further.

JEFFREY GERBER [jeffrey.gerber@gmail.com] wrote, 6/30/2008, with specific **MtDNA information about the Surname Coons and Melungeon origins.** He referred to a specific record in my database at www.jessee.org, for **Johannes or John Cuntze**, the father of **John Counts of Glade Hollow**, the founder of the Counts family in Russell Co., VA,

[In reference to John Cuntze] What I am finding is my mtDNA matching people who know their maternal line to be Melungeon. I have a Mary Coons living with the Wolf family in 1850 in Pennsylvania, supposing this is the mother-in-law, this is my maternal tree

- Mary (?) Coons (b1791)
- Martha (Coons) Wolf (b1805)
- Anna Eliza (Wolf) Kennedy (b1824)
- Martha M (Kennedy) Eckard

... etc.

Except for Kennedy, the surnames are German. All were born in PA according to census data. In fact if I look at 1800 I see the majority of Coons were in NY while two were in Huntingdon Co., PA.

So far I see nothing that bridges the Cumberland Gap to Pennsylvania in my lineage though my mtDNA says different. What are your thoughts?

I wrote in response.

Thank you for your note. The RIN 19301 record you refer to is Johannes or John Cuntze, the father of John Counts of Glade Hollow, the founder of the Counts family in Russell Co., VA.. Many a Jessee and my wife, is also a Counts/Kuntze/Coons, etc. descendant.

Your information below will be of interest to several folks on both the Jessee and Russell Co.1 List so I will share this with them, and ask that they respond directly to you, as, I assume, you are not a subscriber to those lists.

We are very interested in any and all Melungeon connections with our family, as we believe there to be many such intermarriages over 200 years or more in SW VA and environs. I have nothing to add to your thoughts, but hope others may pick up on this, too.

JOHN DARST [johndarst@sbcglobal.net] wrote, 11/8/2008, with this request to for help in indentifying this photo of a Joseph Jessee and his wife and shared others for identification, too.

I appreciate all the great work you and all the Jessee relatives and allied families have done to preserve history and create a wonderful resource with your website.

My two main family lines from Russell Co., VA. are Dickenson and Browning family. Naturally, we have some great ties with marriages to Jessee family members.

I have an old photo that was marked Joseph Jessee. In my opinion it is either Joseph B. Jessee b. Sept. 22 1828 – d. December 26-1904 and his wife Anna Browning or it is Joseph H. Jessee b.10-25-1834 –d.? and his wife Mary E. Dickenson. I'm hoping that some of the Jessee family descendents can help me identify exactly who it is. If someone feels it is a different Joseph Jessee than one of the two I have named I am happy to get their input.

Finally, I have also attached several other Jessee pictures. One picture is who I believe, based on what was written in the old photo album, to be Carrie and Kate Jessee. The small girl was marked Nora Belle Jessee.



I think these girls may be daughters of Elihu Kiser Jessee and Catherine Priscilla Dickenson. Carrie and Kate may be middle names for Bessie C. Jessee and Nancy K. Jessee. If correct they would also be Nora Belle Jessee's sisters.

The picture of the small boy was marked Charlie Jessee. I believe Charlie to be the son of Thomas Sherman Jessee and Mary Quillen Dickenson, My records have Charlie b. 4-5-1899 & d. 12-19-1970.

I hope that everyone will enjoy the pics and can also confirm identities and parents. Please contact so we can share and / or compare information you may have on Browning, Dickenson and Montgomery connections to your Jessee or other allied family lines.

I am happy to share these for personal use. Please contact me should you wish to use otherwise. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Maybe one day I can get down to the Jessee family reunion.



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.

WILLIAM SUTHERLAND [dickensoncountybooks@verizon.net] wrote 11/20/2008 about a new publication: *Far Southwest Virginia; A Post Card Journey*

Copies of *Far Southwest Virginia; A Post Card Journey* by Frank Kilgore & Katharine Shearer are now available. This 176 page soft-back book takes a fascinating journey through Far Southwest Virginia as revealed through vintage postcards from the collection of attorney Frank Kilgore. Over 250 postcard scenes of gently rolling mountains & valleys, bustling market towns, coal camps & strong people of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell & Wise Counties in this corner of Central Appalachia.

The price is \$20 + \$4 shipping & handling + \$1.20 sales tax if mailed to a Virginia address.

We plan to put this book on our web site www.sutherlandbooks.com when we update the web site about January 1, 2009. We can not accept credit card orders until this is done. Please send orders to Bill Sutherland, PO Box 547, St Paul, VA 24283 (Tel 276 762 0542) .

WILLIAM FOSTER [iwasa43fan@yahoo.com] wrote 11/30/2008 with a Jesse Family NEWS Letter article regarding the Davis - Combs - Minnick - Foster - Jesse Connection & Possibly Armstrong and Lea / Lay Family connections, too.

First let me introduce myself : I am William Lindsay Foster Jr (Bill) a Great Grt Grandson of Thomas Jefferson Davis and Sarah Combs via their Daughter Virginia "Jennie" Davis - Minnick who married William (Will) Bonaparte Minnick in Russell County Va. Jennie and Will Minnick had the following Children:

- 1) Etta Amellia Minnick b: 14 SEP 1896 in Russell Co,
- 2) Mable Minnick b: 16 JUN 1902 ;
- 3) Clarence A Minnick (1904-1907) and
- 4) Ellis Jacob Minnick b: 18 DEC 1905 .

Etta was born in Russell Co Va before the family moved from Va. to Carrol Co Missouri where the other three children were born in Dewitt, Mo. Apparently there was a migration of Minnicks from Va to Missouri . Will Minnick was killed in a tragic accident there in Mo so his widow Jennie moved the family back to the Va mountains area to live in Wise Co. That's where Etta met my Grandfather Naylor Cary Foster of Advance Davie Co NC while he was assigned to the Wise County and surrounding counties as a Sales Representative. Etta worked as a Telephone operator. Etta and Naylor Foster married there in Wise Co Va and that's where their oldest son my father Bill was born and his brother Jacob (named for Will's father Jacob Minnick) . Naylor then moved the family (including his mother in law "Virginia" back to North Carolina to settle Hendersonville ,Henderson Co WNC where I was born to The Marriage of William Foster and Sarah Braswell.

Virginia Davis Minnick is buried in Oakdale Cemetery and later her daughter Etta and Naylor were buried there in The Foster Family Plot. This past March I buried my Father Bill Foster Sr there also. The Cemetery is famous as the location of Author Thomas Wolfe's " Look Homeward Angel " Statue located there as a Marker for The Prominent Johnson Family.

Genealogy is a Hobby & Quest for me which I have documented on line with a RootsWeb Free Pages Site (Genealogy Pages of William L Foster) available @ url: [http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iba43fan/FOSTER%20%20GENEALOGY%20\(WILLIAM%20L%20FOSTER%20JRS%20Home%20Page\).html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iba43fan/FOSTER%20%20GENEALOGY%20(WILLIAM%20L%20FOSTER%20JRS%20Home%20Page).html)

Growing up in Western North Carolina I had to rely on memory initially on the M Foster and Minnick Family since my Grandmother Etta Amellia Minnick did not discuss her family in Virginia except to tell me "She lived in Missouri after being born in Russell Co VA. then after she moved back to Va she met and married my Grandfather

Naylor Cary Foster in Wise County Va." She did tell me my father and I were named William in Honor of her Father William Minnick and she named Jacob after her Grandfather Jacob Minnick (No discussion about her mother & Davis - Combs Families.)

I once inquired about her Coal Black Hair and dark brown eyes but she would avoid going into how she might inherit Native American features. Later my Grandfather Naylor told me Etta knew but never let on to others the knowledge about her Native American roots via her Grandfather Combs and mother. Discussions about family were vague and the subject always changed to Baseball and Foot Ball plus my need to study and get a good education since she never had the chance to go to College.

I remember trying to discuss The Civil War in The Virginia Area and my Grandfather Naylor replied stating " Etta is the Granddaughter of Jeff Davis back in Va but he wasn't The Jefferson Davis who was the President of The Confederacy !" Etta's comment was " Some Day we will talk about my Davis Family !" Etta died at 68 years old after a stroke in 1964 brought on by High Blood Pressure .

Thus my Quest for Genealogy Information went on Hold for 30 years. Except for my Mothers Braswell and Ratcliff Families I turned to and learned detail history.

My Foster Roots were easier to discuss with Naylor but only going back to his Great Grandfather John Murphy Foster who married Comfort Orrell Wood in Davie County NC. There never were Foster Reunions as there were on my Mothers Braswell and Ratliff families side down in Anson County NC. Naylor did advise the Fosters we were related to had arrived after a move to North Carolina from Colonial Va where our Ancestor was a John Foster.

About 1990 when I retired from a Career in Law Enforcement in Virginia's Tidewater area I caught The Genealogy research "Bug " / Itch and became addicted to research that lead me to find my Davis - Combs roots and Jesse family connection .

I am the 9th participant of the Original members of the Foster DNA Project and a member of Y Search.

Recent Genealogy Information 2008: This year I learned Guy Zimmerman list Doc Caleb Davis and wife Nancy C. "Nannie" JESSEE's line as a related Family to our Zimmerman Family on Guy's WFT that list my Foster - Markland - Zimmerman Family.

Reading the Jesse Family News Letter recently I learned we might share roots in Caswell County via the Lea / Lay Family. My connection is the marriage of Sarah Lay to William Foster cir 1790-95 Caswell Co NC (My grt grt grt grt Grandparents) Sarah was The Daughter of Obediah Lay a son of John and Martha Lay.

Jim might be interested in my Armstrong Family connection since James Foster my (Great X 5) father is Father William via first marriage to William's mother Susannah Armstrong daughter of Lancelot Armstrong.

MICHAEL A. DYE [madye@fuse.net] wrote 6/24/2008 with a correction and additional information about the **Fuller family** article in the Summer 2008 Jesse Newsletter

I noticed the article on R. R. & H. H. Fuller on page 6 and thought I'd send a correction and some additional info. The correction is that the article says that they went to Coles Co., TN. This should say Coles Co., IL. There is no Coles Co., TN.

The additional info is as follows:

Hawkins Fuller was a brother to my 3rd gr. grandmother, Phoebe Gibson Fuller. You have both in your database. He married Phoebe G. Nash, d/o William Nash & Margaret Hendricks. As is stated in the article, Hawkins family moved to Coles Co., IL in probably late 1834. He died there sometime between 1840 and 1842 and Phoebe remarried there on 04 Apr 1843 to an Elijah Scott from North Carolina.

Hawkins & Phoebe had four known children. I'm attaching a descendant tree for Hawkins & Phoebe for what I have. It's still a work in progress.

The William N. Fuller mentioned in the article was William Nash Fuller. I have his wife listed as Margaret Finetta Ellis, d/o Israel Ellis

& Sarah Morris. She was listed as Margaret F. Ellis on the 1860 census if I recall correctly and later as Fanetta/Phenetta, etc.

The two children mention in the article as H. H. & R. R. Fuller were Henry Hawkins Fuller b. abt 1856 in Coles Co. and Ralston Fuller (Unknown if this is a first or middle name as I've only seen him listed as Ralston) b. abt 1861 in Coles Co. Their sister, Phoebe Fuller was born abt 1865 in Coles Co.

Descendants of Hawkins Fuller

1 Hawkins FULLER b: 20 Nov 1798 in Russell Co., Virginia d: Bet. 1840 - 1842 in Coles Co., IL
.. +Phoebe G. NASH b: 05 Mar 1803 in Russell Co., Virginia m: Abt. 1827 in Russell Co., Virginia Father: William NASH, Jr. Mother: Margaret HENDRICKS
..... 2 Orpha Ann FULLER b: Abt. 1828 in Russell Co., Virginia
..... +George A. BUTLER b: Abt. 1818 in Kentucky m: 07 Oct 1848 in Coles Co., Illinois d: Aft. 1860 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 William J. BUTLER b: Abt. 1850 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 James M. BUTLER b: Abt. 1852 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 Sarah J. BUTLER b: Abt. 1856 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 John H. BUTLER b: Abt. 1860 in Coles Co., IL
..... 2 Talitha Cumi FULLER b: 13 Jul 1832 in Russell Co., Virginia d: 13 Apr 1926 in Gentry Co., Missouri
..... +John Patterson Hopwood KELLER b: 19 Jul 1827 in Lincoln Co., Tennessee m: 22 Sep 1851 in Coles Co., Illinois d: 16 Nov 1897 in Menard Co., Illinois Father: Willis Green KELLER Mother: Margaret HODGE
..... 3 William Lafayette KELLER b: 07 Nov 1855 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 Roberta Angeline KELLER b: 29 Jul 1857 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 Joseph Douglas KELLER b: 26 Jul 1859 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 John Shields KELLER b: 25 Sep 1860 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 Unnamed KELLER b: 1863 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 Walter Stephen KELLER b: 14 Dec 1866 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 Margaret Gipson KELLER b: 27 Jul 1869 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 James Hawkins KELLER b: 14 Jan 1873 in Coles Co., IL
..... 2 William Nash FULLER b: 12 Jun 1834 in Russell Co., Virginia d: 09 Jun 1880 in Coles Co., IL
..... +Margaret Finetta ELLIS b: Abt. 1833 in Tennessee m: 29 Nov 1854 in Coles Co., Illinois Father: Israel ELLIS Mother: Sarah MORRIS
..... 3 Henry Hawkins FULLER b: Abt. 1856 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 Ralston FULLER b: 06 Feb 1861 in Coles Co., IL
..... 3 Phoebe FULLER b: Abt. 1865 in Coles Co., IL
..... 2 Stephen H. FULLER b: Abt. 1840 in Coles Co., IL

VINSON HOLBROOK [vinbrook@telus.net] wrote 9/27/2008 with even more information about the Fuller Family, including a connection in my own back yard.

Hi Jim, I have been searching out my Fuller family connections for several years now and this afternoon while googling the web for information on Ezekiel Counts I ran across your Jessee newsletter. I was more than a little interested to find that the Jessee and Fuller families descend from the same southwestern Virginia region and further, that they have had several points of marital contact, two or three of which are noted in your newsletter.

I was looking for "Capt." Zeke Counts data because he is reported to have organized and led a group of people from the Russell/Buchanan County area in their 1865 migration down the Big Sandy by flatboat to the Ohio, down the Ohio to the Mississippi and then northward up the Mississippi to Minnesota.

My great-grandfather Harrison Fuller, his wife Cyrene and baby son were part of that group. Harrison and his brother George settled and farmed in Meeker County, Minne. until 1890 when they pulled up stakes and moved west to Washington State. After five years in Washington his son, my grandfather, Elijah Fuller and his wife Nettie and their three sons moved south and settled in (guess where?) Chico! My mother Hazel Fuller was born and raised in Chico and while I was not born in Chico I did attend 2nd grade at Chico Vecino School, 6th grade at Shasta Union School and part of gr.10 at Chico High

School. As well, I taught Social Studies at Chico High for 19 years. In 1969 we pulled up stakes and emigrated to British Columbia, Canada, where I was a geography instructor at Okanagan College in

Salmon Arm for the next 22 years until my retirement in 1992. Interestingly, we owned a house in Chico on Fern Ave., right across the street from a family of Jessees (one of my boys Jay, used to play with Brad Jessee) and I remember having a Jessee kid in one of my classes at Chico High. I think it was a Nancy Jessee. My uncle, Roy Bogar, while born in Minne., farmed in Chico for most of his life. He was Nettie Fuller's son by a first marriage.

I got interested in genealogy when I got a computer eight or nine years ago and I have been a participant in a kind of Fuller internet rootsweb group. It is focussed on two brothers, Henry and Nehemiah Fuller, who moved from Baltimore to Caswell County, NC sometime around 1750/60 or so, and their descendants. Part of our group call themselves the Henry Line and many of them still live in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky region although they are spread far and wide. The Nehemiah Line seems to be located largely in Georgia, Alabama and across the south to Texas and Ark. There is a significant number of Henry Line people living in Washington. I have first cousins in Sacramento and Chico and my brother lives in Butte, Montana. Over the years I have prepared a large wall chart of my Henry Line Fullers going back to John Fuller b. 1650 in Maryland and married to Hester Enloe (is there another Chico connection?) b. 1670 in Maryland. Many people in the group have taken a keen interest in DNA searches and they have formed their own off-shoot group. Since I am a maternal Fuller I cannot take part in the DNA stuff but I have been able to document most of my data through other sources.

I responded as follows.

Vinson, Thank you very much for writing. It is stories like these that keep me going and make my day.

My first cousin Richard Jessee and his wife Betty lived, and she still lives, on Fern Avenue. Their boys were Stephen, Darrell, and Larry Jessee. I lived across the creek, Sandy Gulch on the original Jessee place, about a ¼ mile away, and these were my closest cousins and playmates as a child.

I went to Citrus School, and Chico High later, a few years behind you. My cousin Nancy was in your class. She too still lives in Chico.

Your note is so interesting and shares so much good information, not to mention well illustrates how small this Universe is, we are all cousins...

Vinson wrote again, 10/3/2008 with more:

You note that you live "only about 1/4 mi" across Sandy Gulch from your cousins on Fern Ave. on the original Jessee place. It seems to me that should not be very far from the original Fuller place or places. I have a faint memory of staying with or visiting my Grandma Nettie Fuller over in that neighborhood, Bell Road seems to ring a bell somehow??? I remember a peach drying yard near there as well. I have been looking at Google-earth along Fern Ave and across Sandy Gulch and the changes are astounding! Nettie and Elijah came down to Chico from Washington around 1900 to take up orcharding on a place that Nettie's father, William Grant had purchased for them prior to 1900. My mother was born in Chico in 1906 while her older brothers were born in Minnesota and Washington prior to moving west.

In the Jessee Family Newsletter Sect. XIII it is noted that Jane Jesse b. 1797 d, 1869, married Henry Fuller b. 1792 d.1832. This Henry Fuller is almost certainly the second child (of six) born to Abraham Fuller b. 1763, Caswell County, NC; d. 1836 Russell County, VA and Mary Sargent b. 1766 "in Virginia" (I would presume in Russell Co.), d. 1846. They are both buried in the Abraham Fuller Cemetery in Russell County. If you descend from this union of Henry Fuller/Jane Jessee then you and I share a common ancestral line back, because Abraham was the brother of George Fuller b. 1761(my direct line) and both, were sons of Henry Fuller b. 1715 in Baltimore and Catherine Salling b. 1725 in Alsace-Lorraine. This older Henry descends from John Fuller b. 1682 Md. - Sarah Heath b. 1680 Md; they descend from John Fuller b. 1650 in Md. and Hester Enloe b. Ca 1670 in Md.; it is speculated that he was the son of John Fuller b. Ca 1600 in England and it is documented that Hester descended from Hendrik Enloe b. Ca 1620 in Netherlands and Christianna Wright b. ? where?

Also on p.16 Sect. XIV it is noted that George Lea Jessee b. 1798 married Elizabeth (Betsy) Counts b. 1799, daughter of John Counts of Glade Hollow and Margaret Kelly. The next sentence reads "They had 14 children" and if that refers to John/Margaret Counts then my direct

JESSE(E) FAMILY ORIGINS

ancestor Cristina (Rasnick) Fuller was the daughter of Mary Counts, one of those 14 children. So we may have a more remote connection there. I have accumulated data on just my direct line of Fullers down from John/Cristina and I have counted 47 pages of them from Minnesota-Washington-Oregon and 28 pages of them still in VA, W VA, KY, TENN. How did the Jessees distribute themselves westward? I have also found a relation in my paternal line, Holbrook, who is also a Fuller. We shared the same great-grandmother in Texas.

I learned even more about our several connections and responded one more time to Vinson.

Vins for Vinson, also a family name... This is astounding. We are interrelated through all the unions discussed above, and since my wife is a Counts descendant, going back to a KUNTZE common ancestor who came to PA about 1714, she may be the closer cousin to you, actually. These very Fuller descendants in Russell Co. and their descendants you name below have intermarried with the Jessee Family and their descendants via and through many shared Russell Co., VA founding families, for over 200 years. I have recorded over 40,000 of those founding families and their descendants, mostly via the JESSEE root, but up many a line, including the Fullers, Counts, Kiser, Gose, to name just a few.

The root Jessee is John and Frankey Lea Jessee, who moved to Russell Co. in 1790 from Caswell Co., NC, where he served in the Revolutionary War. They had 15 children in Russell Co., who intermarried with all these founding families. I have made my life's genealogy work to trace their descendants, who are most of the JESSEE surname in America, but not all, I have other JESSEE families in my database, who we believe share a more distant common ancestor. I have nearly 40,000 recorded, at least.

Furthermore, I am sitting here looking at a photo of you in 1965/66 in the Chico High Year Book. My wife Nelda Meline, was the editor of that yearbook, and we both now remember you as a counselor when we were there. We graduated in the Class of 1966, I was a Class Speaker at graduation. We still have contact with Mr. Alexander, who is distantly related, too, from the Sandy Gulch neighborhood as well. They lived on Gwynn, across Sandy Gulch, headed toward Henshaw and Bell Road. Mr. Chmelka was a family friend, as well.

I am doing research on this very neighborhood, and the Bidwell School where all these kids went to school. I have been interviewing folks who grew up there, including a 103 year old woman, Elsie Mead McLean, who may have known your family. She hit a hole in one on the Bidwell Golf course at age 100, and plays 3-4 times a week...

I am retiring at the end of November after 42 years at the University, but only 34 years in my job, as an administrative assistant to the Provost. I kept the trains running on time, handled University Classrooms, Scheduling, Catalog, Class Schedule, Database, and more. Everything no one else wanted to do... Will now have time for this very kind of thing. If you come down this way, we can meet and tour the old neighborhood together.

SUSAN BOWEN [sjjb45601@yahoo.com] wrote, 7/31/2008, with information regarding the Daugherty Family of SW VA.

Jim, I share the same ancestor as you. Nathaniel Daugherty. I come from Nathaniel Jordan Daugherty, his son. He lived and married in Fayette County Ohio. He had my ggrand father William A. Daugherty. Nathaniel's wife was Mary Henrietta Hammond. He left after her death for the gold rush and was never heard from again. Do you know anything about him? I look forward to hearing from you. Cousin Susan

I responded:

I am not a direct descendant of any Daugherty, but our Jessee Family has intermarried with Daugherty family over 200 years. By searching the surname at <<http://www.jessee.org/>> www.jessee.org, you can find some of these intermarriages. With your permission, I would like to share this with the Jessee List or the Russell County List as you will find other cousins there who may be more closely related. I can also post this in our Family Newsletter, which you can also find at the website.

There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," and "Jessie" families in the United States and Canada that we know are descended from families whose American origins are in Virginia. There are many Jesse, Jessee, Jessie, Jessey and, perhaps, Gesse, Gessey, Jessup, Jeshy, Jaci, Jacy, and Jacie families in the world whose kinship is unknown. I believe we are all cousins. As "Jesse" and "Jessee" are the two most frequent spellings of this 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.

The following email dialogue illustrates how this hunt for common Jesse and Jessee origins sometimes, proceeds, with surprise endings.

I was sent this obituary for a **Carl R. Jesse** way back in 2005 which I had shared in the Newsletter and posted on the RootsWeb Jessee List.

From: The Topeka Capital-Journal, Topeka, Shawnee County, KS, Wednesday - February 2, 2005

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - Carl R. Jesse, 70, Colorado Springs, Colo., went to be the Lord on Jan. 25, 2005. Carl was born July 14, 1934, in Alhambra, Calif., the son of Sam and Mabel Jesse. He graduated from Highland Park High School in Topeka. Mr. Jesse was an instrumental music teacher to 20 years before he entered the national food distribution industry. He retired from McKee Foods Co. in 2003. He married Judith Lindvig on Aug. 14, 1964. She survives. Other survivors include their children, Janeen Puckett, Lakewood, Colo., and David Jesse, Daphane, Ala.; a grandson, Sammy; a twin sister, Carolyn Gilmer, and a brother, Donald Jesse, both of Topeka; family members and many friends. A memorial service was Friday, Jan. 28, 2005, at Evergreen Funeral Home in Colorado Springs. Burial was in Woodland Park Cemetery in Woodland Park, Colo.

Much more recently I received this email message.

JANEEN PUCKETT [codingmom@q.com] wrote, 11/26/2008 regarding the Carl R. Jesse post she found online.

I was surfing this afternoon for any occurrences of info about my father, Carl Jesse. I found the following incident referencing you [the RootsWeb posting].

Don't know if you are looking for family tree information or what, but if you are interested in knowing more about possible relation to my father, please feel free to e-mail me back and I will try to answer your questions.

I responded.

Janeen, Thank you for writing. Please visit www.jessee.org to see my interest in the Jessee and Jesse family. Do you know your family history? I am interested in the spelling of the last name, of course, and your family line. Would love to learn a bit more.

On December 30, 2008, Janeen responded further with this surprising news about the origin of her JESSE surname.

We have recently learned that our original last name was Yesse, a Yiddish derivative of the Hebrew Yeshai. Apparently others named Jesse or Yesse who emigrated from eastern Europe in the early 1900's as my family did were Jewish. We were unaware of this history until this year because our family had converted to Christianity and didn't therefore consider themselves Jewish. My Great Grandfather's brother Americanized the spelling of our last name when he immigrated to this country in about 1901. Happy New Year!

This prompted me to share with Janeen a bit more about my personal Jewish history that I will share here. This is taken from our holidays letter.

The focus of my 2008 year has been two things, first, my Ben Torah, which is a 60-year-old's version of a Bar Mitzvah. I am a Jew by birth and now by choice. My mother, Frances Brownfield, was Jewish, albeit non-practicing. My father, Earl Wilson Jessee, called himself a Protestant but did not go to church. My father, who died when I was 10, inspired a love of my Jessee family, but it was my grandmother, Esther, who imprinted upon me that I was a Yiddishe boy. Her stories about her large family and how they survived during WWI and perished during WWII in the Holocaust, and how she and my grandfather, Israel, ran for their lives during the Russian Revolution were indelible. I have chosen the Hebrew name Yisrael ben Yisrael v Esther, or Jesse son of Israel and Esther, in their honor.

The second focus of my year has been my retirement, November 21, 2008. These last few years have been my most challenging, and I hope my professional best. After nearly 34 years of service for the Vice President for Academic Affairs as Director of Academic Facilities, Publications, and Database Services, and 42 years at the University, I was more than ready to be relieved, and to undertake my next career: reading, researching, and perhaps even writing about local history and family stories. A few weeks into this retirement feels very good, I can breathe again. It feels like the first day of summer vacation, and there is no September!

RICHARD JESSE

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

SAMUEL JESSE

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

WILLIAM JESSE

William Jesse, born before 1745, we speculate had at least four children that we have recorded, a John, Lucy, Thomas, and Elizabeth Jesse. A descendant of Thomas Jesse writes below.

RICHARD JESSE [nativeson54@hotmail.com] wrote, 3/17/2008, with his pedigree back to **Thomas Jesse who married Ann Cawthorne**.

Dear Sir, I discovered the Jessee webpage and thought if I was part of this kin and if so would like to join in. My earliest ancestor on record according to my dad's research was Thomas Jesse b1765, married Ann Cawthorne 1771-1851. They were from Va. His son was Richard C. Jesse, married Melinda Wright. At this point I think they were in Ky. His son was Richard C. Jesse Jr., married Adeline Jennings. his son

was William Henry Jesse who married Julana Vawter. Their son was Elmo Forrest Jesse who married Roxie Kirby. Their son Richard Jephtha Jesse Sr. [my dad] married Polly McDaniel. My name is Richard Jephtha Jesse Jr. Any help would be appreciated. Thanks, Richard Jesse

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. Jessee.

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.

RUTH DEWITT [rdewitt@uintacounty.com] wrote, 8/9/2008, with her John and Clia Jesse pedigree.

My maiden name is Ruth Ann Jesse
My father is Michael Claire Jesse
His father was Alfred Jesse
His father was Ernest Parker Jesse married to Lucy King
His father was Zachariah Ezra Jesse
His father was John Parker Jesse
His father was William Morgan Jesse
His father was John Jesse married to Clia Smith

My dad turns 70 this December and I would really like to come to the next reunion with him. He still works full-time, and lives in Texas. I live in Wyoming. My dad has three children. He has 4 grandchildren. He has 8 and 1 on the way great-grandchildren

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 the late 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.

JOHN AND FRANKEY (LEA) JESSEE

Many, if not most, Jessees 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.

John Jessee Research

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 Yarborough'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.

Frankey Lea Research

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

This research also attempts to differentiate Col. George Lea RIN 5301, that Tom and I have speculated to be a brother of Frankey who married Jeanette Logan Douglas and has a son William Archer Lea, from the George Lea RIN 5287, who married Lucy Tolbert. The latter, Dr. Forde's researchers and some others speculate, are the real parents of our Frankey

Lea. The good news is that with all these overlapping names and generations, they are all in the same William and Mary Barnett Lea family, unless of course our Frankey Lea isn't!

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

REV. DR. CYNTHIA FORDE [spiritsouth@gmail.com], writes from time to time with information to help us discover the **Lea Family origins** for our Frankey Lea. I thank her for including me in her constant research and correspondence.

Hi Jim... Bess, Mona Herrin and Pat Stevens: I am sending you a cc of the stuff I sent to Rick at Caswell County website -. And this is the link to the Lea Links of Caswell County, NC blogspot.

<http://lealinksocaswellco.blogspot.com/>

Thanks for your wonderful patience in dealing with the mountain of paper I send your way. Considering that you have the ONLY consistently sound site on rootsweb related to the Leas of Caswell County... and because we are probably cousins - I am pre-empting your generous spirit once again by sending you four timelines.

The timelines are self-explanatory and only contain that information (in each one) that I am pretty confident can be attributed to the right James Lea. And... any insight you get from reading them will be most welcome!

I am going to start a website related only to these four men (not on Rootsweb) but a real website now that I have finished a Bankston website and Bankston blogsite - assisted with creation of Google Docs (original signatures and documents) and a Bankston Excel spreadsheet (timeline). Hopefully - new information will come to light as we examine old material.

Here is the introduction page to this Website.

LEA LINKS to CASWELL CO., NC

Will the real James Lea of Caswell Co., NC please stand up? Researching James Lea of Caswell County, NC 1746-1816

Confusion reigns over four men named James Lea who lived 1746-1816 in the area of Edgecombe County, NC that became Granville County, NC, later Orange County, then Caswell County and finally, Person County, NC

Timelines of those four men named James Lea have been posted on this blog using only documented data with sources cited. My goal is to learn the identity of the James Lee/Lea who married Lawrence Bankston's daughter about 1748-1750. This particular James Lea was deposed in 1793, 1794 and 1797 in the home of Gabriel Lea of Caswell

County, because he was "too old and infirm to travel." In this deposition he said he married Lawrence Bankston's daughter. This James Lea is the main subject of our study.

We welcome your citations and documentation. Please post them as comments. Speculation abounds - and the related history books are full of errors. We seek documentation from original sources such as family Bible records and copies of original signatures.

Thomas Lea Heritage and Relationship to Alex Haley and other Roots Descendants.

I recently met two brothers who live in Chico, WAYNE AND THOMAS MURRAY, who are direct descendants of Chicken George [Lea] made famous in the book and movie by Alex Haley, *Roots*, which traces his ancestry. Among his gggg-grandfathers is Thomas Lea, the slave owner of "Kizzie" the mother of Chicken George. It is highly probable that Thomas Lea is among these families related to our Frankey Lea. See Thomas Lea RIN 11254, son of Major Lea and Elizabeth Herndon. He could be a cousin, if not closer kin. Wayne and Thomas provided Websites to further our research on Thomas Lea, as well.

Alex Haley Home and Museum:
<http://www.memphistravel.com/attractions/default.aspx?id=151>

Alex Haley Biography:
<http://www.tennesseehistory.com/class/Ahaley.htm>

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.

MARSHALL JEFFERSON "JEFF" JESSEE [jeffjessee@cfl.rr.com] wrote, 11/14/2008, with this very generous offer to descendants of **Stanford Lea Jessee**.

Jim, I have given up on ever doing any more work on my book of Stanford Lea Jessee's descendants, and it was getting to be too much of a chore to print and bind copies on demand whenever anyone wanted one. So I have converted it to PDF format, which hopefully should be readable for several years, at least, and I will be glad to email it to anyone in the Jessee family who would like a copy, understanding that it isn't all verified as much as I would like, and hasn't been updated for several years. If you have a place on your web site or in your newsletter to publish my email address and the offer of free PDF copies of the book, I would appreciate it. And you are welcome to put copies of the files on your web site if you want, but it's around 5 megs, so you might not want to encourage such large downloads.

NOTE: Given time, I may be able to place these PDF files on the Jessee Website for you to download, but it will be well into the new year. In the meantime, you may email Jeff Jessee and he will email to you the PDF files to print.

JEFF JESSEE [jeffjessee@cfl.rr.com] also wrote, 10/30/2008, to share the following obituary for **Robert W. Jessee**, a Stanford Lea Jessee descendant.

RICHMOND, Va. – Robert William Jessee, M.D., 84, passed away peacefully on Oct. 25, 2008. Born in Cleveland, Va., he was the son of the late Claude B. and Jessie Caldwell Jessee. In addition to his parents, a son, Robert W. Jessee Jr., also preceded him in death.

A graduate of University of Tennessee-Memphis, he served as a naval physician before setting up practice in Southwestern Virginia, where he later joined the Virginia Department of Public Health. After transferring to Richmond in 1960 to become a regional health director, he joined the Medical College of Virginia, where he later retired from the Department of Preventive Medicine as professor emeritus.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Betty Counts Jessee; son, Allen W. Jessee and wife Vicki of Richmond; and sister, Peggy Jessee Adams of Crestview, Fla.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 30, at Owens Funeral Service Chapel, with the Rev. Mike Carter officiating. Interment will follow at Russell Memorial Cemetery in Lebanon, with military graveside rites conducted by the Lebanon VFW Post 9864. The family will receive friends from noon until 2 p.m. before the funeral service. Owens Funeral Service, Lebanon, is in charge of arrangements.

BILLIE JO GRIZZLE GRIBBLE [billiejog1@cox.net] wrote 10/14/2008 with information about **William Albert Jessee** and relationship to **Doc Caleb Davis** and descendants, as well.

I am the granddaughter of Maude Jessee Grizzle. She had 3 children, Doris Grizzle Ferguson, Jack Grizzle, William Albert Grizzle (Bill), my father...They are all deceased....

Maude's father was William Albert Jessee. My grandmother on my mother's side was Ruth Lashley Lowe, her mother was Polly Davis, her [father was Doc Caleb Davis and] mother was Nannie Jessee, her brother, William Albert Jessee. That would make my mother and father 3rd cousins.

I would like to know if there is any connection between Nannie Jessee's husband Lowe and my mother's family. Her father was Harry Brown Lowe.

My mother knows very little about her grandmother and her family. I will try to fill in some of the blanks for you. My great grandmother was Polly Davis Lasley, born about 1886. She died several years after my mother was born 1932. That's really about all we know. She lived and died in Lebanon. She married Charles Lasley they lived in Lebanon. Her parent were Nannie & Doc.

My grandmother was Ruth Lasley Lowe, born abt 1917. Died Aug 20 1998, lived in Lebanon until around 1957, then she moved to Bristol, Va.

My mother is Polly Grizzle Lowe, born on Dec 23, 1932. She is still living and lives in Ebony, Va.

My grandmother on my fathers side was Maude L. Jessee Grizzle, born on Mar 22, 1899, she died on Nov 18, 1987 She married Stacy J Grizzle, they had 3 children. Doris Grizzle Ferguson, born April 28. 1922 and she died Nov Sept 1977. Jack Grizzle born 1926 and I'm not sure when she died, but I believe it was several years before Granny (1987). William A. Grizzle (my father), born Oct 2, 1928 and died Sept 18, 2002. All 3 children lived most of their lives in and around Lebanon.

Nannie Jessee's 4th husband, married. (1920). I'm really interested in this, Was he a relative of my grandfather, on mothers side, Harry Brown Lowe, born Greenville, Tn, Died 1957 in Tn. He lived his adult life in Bristol, Tn, until sometime around 1932- 1933. His 2nd wife Evie (Eva Mary Ann) Lowe died in 1932. He moved to Lebanon around that time, My mother Polly was born in 1932, to Harry and Ruth. Another interesting fact to explore. My grandmother Ruth would never ever talk about her past, so we know very little.

Thanks, Billie Jo Grizzle Gribble (funny huh) Newport News, Virginia, but grew up around Cleveland, Lebanon. Bristol

CAROL (JESSEE) ALLRED [caallred@yahoo.com] wrote, 5/27/2008, with some corrections and additions to descendants of John Jessee and Frankey Lea via John Jr. and Archer Jessee lines, starting with her great-grandfather, **George Lea Jessee**.

Hi Jim. I found some mistakes that I have corrected and hope I got it right this time. I have also expanded on the information that I originally found. On searching the origin of my great grandfather, George Lea Jessee, I found that he and Louisa were 3rd / 4th cousins through Archer and John, sons of John Jessee, founding father. OMG!!!! But then, we're ALL cousins. It all starts with Henry, John Jessee's father:

Henry Jessee

John Jessee (Frankey Lea)	John Jessee (Frankey Lea)
Archer Jessee (Nancy B.)	John Jessee (M.Polly Armstrong)
Wm. V. Jessee (Eunice H.)	Jefferson Jessee (Nancy Counts)
Louisa E. Jessee (George L.)	Joseph B. Jessee (A. Browning)
	George Lea Jessee (Louisa)

The following was originally written to Carlyne Ritter, and shared here with Carol's permission.

I am a descendant of Wm. V. Jessee and Eunice Monroe Heburn through their daughter, my great-grandmother, Louisa E. Jessee who was married to George Lea Jessee. I have sent this information to Jim Jessee and gave him permission to include it in the Jessee.org database.

Do you have any information or pictures AT ALL of Louisa and/or George and their 10 children. Their son Ira Runnels Jessee was my grandfather. (His middle name was entered incorrectly as Reynolds in the database.) and my father was Ira Ernest Jessee. George died circa 1908, and my dad was born in 1905, so to my knowledge, he knew nothing or very little about George and Louisa. I have the family picture album, but it's mainly of my grandmother's family. If there are any pictures of George Lea and Louisa and their family in the album, I am unable to tell because there are no names listed. I have pictures of my grandparents, their children, and grandchildren, but that's it. I read on Jessee.org that George was a farmer and a constable in VA, briefly moved to Texas when Louisa died, then moved back to VA.

His son Ira Runnels was also a farmer and the constable of Grayson Co., TX in the 40s, in addition to owning a furniture store and an avid lover of horses. My father, Ira Ernest Jessee, was a lawman during most of his life, first working as a motorcycle policeman when he was in his early 20s, then as a Special Agent/Officer for the MKT Railroad through the 50s, then as a jailer with the Wichita County, TX Sheriff's Department in the 60s until he retired. He also owned a furniture store. Funny how some things pass down through the generations. Unlike his father, he cared nothing about horses, in which case my grandfather replied..."I've raised three dummies." (meaning dad and his brother and sister). Dad knew or knew of (not sure) George and Louisa's children and gave me what information he remembered, but as far as I know did not know his grandparents or anything about them.

I would love to see pictures of them and any information at all that you or someone you have been in contact with who are also descendants, might have. I would also love to see pictures of William V. Jessee and Eunice Monroe Heburn and any information available. Feel free to pass this email on to someone else who might have the answers, and/or give them my email address and/or physical address. I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Ann Jessee b. May 28, 1941, Wichita Falls, Wichita County, TX married 1964 in Vernon, TX to Gaylon Scott Allred, b. Sept. 28, 1940 Munday, TX, divorced 1984; son, Jeffrey Scott Allred b. June 3, 1965, Wichita Falls, Wichita County, TX, married and divorced Dara Lea Elverum, b. June 13, 1967, MN, 2 children, Amber Case Allred b. Oct. 5, 1984 Weatherford, Parker County, TX, and Joshua Ryan Allred b. June 15, 1986 Weatherford, Parker County, TX; and son, Joe Dixon Allred b. Jan. 31, 1969 Carlsbad, Eddy County, NM, married Feb 2, 2007 Denver, Colorado, Heidi Lise L. Caballero, b. Nov. 29, 1976, parents Karolina Guajardo, b. Feb 24, 1952, Germany, and Steven R. Caballero, b. Sept 24, 1950, Indiana.

Parents (married June 21, 1933 in Durrant, OK), Ira Ernest Jessee b.

Jan. 19, 1905 Denison, Grayson County, TX, died Feb. 9, 2003 at the age of 98 in Wichita Falls, Wichita Co. TX; Mildred Elizabeth Guynes b. Nov. 21, 1908 Denison, Grayson County, TX, died July 3, 1986 Wichita Falls, Wichita County, TX; 1 daughter Carol Ann Jessee

Paternal grandparents: married 1901 Ira Runnels Jessee (ID 14074) b. May 6, 1877 Russell County, VA, died Aug. 25, 1944 Denison, Grayson County, TX; Annie Isabell Proffitt b. 1876, Missouri, died 1948 Denison, Grayson County, TX; 4 children, Leo Frederick Jessee, deceased, married Lela Stevens, deceased, 2 daughters, Carrah Jane Jessee, b. 1934, and Betty JoAnn Jessee, b. 1937; Ira Ernest Jessee, deceased, married Mildred Elizabeth Guynes, deceased, 1 daughter Carol Ann Jessee, b. 1941; Murble Mae Jessee, b. May 8, 1908, Denison, TX, d. Jan. 11, 1999 West Plains, MO., 1st marriage William Curtis Brown, deceased, 1 son William Curtis Brown, b. 1932, deceased; second marriage, Cassius Kimes b. April 6, 1901, Patterson, MO., d. Jan. 18, 1992, West Plains, MO, June 12, 1954 in Hillsboro, MO; and Alvie (? Alvin) Jessee b. 1903, died as infant, date unknown.

G paternal grandfather: George Lea Jessee (ID 14054) b. 1848 Russell County, VA died circa 1908; son of Joseph Jessee and Mary Emma Amy (Anna) Browning; married 1867, VA, Louisa E. Jessee (ID 14066) b. 1845 VA, died 1890 VA; 10 children: John Tivis "Tiv" Jessee (ID 14069) b. 1867, VA, d. Sept. 4, 1941 Bonham, TX, unmarried; Frederick F. "Fred" Jessee (ID 14070) b. 1869 VA, married twice; 1 child by first marriage (unknown), died in Missouri of TB circa 1914; Arnold Patton Jessee (ID 14072) b. 1873 VA unmarried; Henry Clinton Jessee (ID 14073) b. 1875 unmarried; Ira Runnels Jessee (ID 14074) b. May 6, 1877 VA, d. 1944 Denison, TX, married 1901 TX Annie Isabell Proffitt, 4 children; William "Billy" Gilmer Jessee (ID 14076) b. VA, died VA; Mary Caroline (Callie) Jessee (ID 14071) b. 1871 VA; Roxie Alice Jessee (ID 14075) b. 1879, VA; Eliza Ellen (Ellie) Jessee (ID 14077) b. VA, married name Savage; Anna Dollie (Annie) Jessee (ID 14078) b. 1874? VA, d. of TB, married to Fred Findley, 4 children, Floyd, Ethel, Freddy and Franky. Not sure Annie's husband's name Findley is spelled right. Also, Dad said John Tivis was spelled Tibis not Tivis. Don't know. Since all other names Tivis are spelled with a V, I'm guessing this is correct. Also, in the Jessee Genealogy Service of RootsWeb.com, I found that my Grandfather's middle name is listed wrong. He is listed as Ira Reynolds Jessee, but was indeed Ira Runnels Jessee, son of George Lea Jessee and Louisa E. Jessee.

After additional correspondence and communication, Carol wrote later with this summary.

I did see in the Database that my grandfather was listed as Ira Reynolds Jessee. Don't know where that originates from as I have seen and heard that name used before. You know how the old records are. Names get changed over the years. But it is indeed Runnels. I have been trying to find more information on the children of F. Leo Jessee, one of his sons. Last I heard, Carrah lives in Arizona and has 5 grown children, and Betty lives in East Liverpool, Ohio, married to Cecil Beadnell. Don't know about children. They are older than me and moved away when I was little, so didn't keep in touch. Trying to find them. As for daughter Murble, she only had one son, William (Billy) Brown, who is deceased. Don't have any family history on any of these relatives....YET!

Like most people, I was curious to know where the name Jessee originated. Dad didn't have a clue, but was told it was England. I am Irish on my mother's side and her family always bragged about being Irish, thus irritating my dad. Since he didn't know where Jessee originated, he just told everyone he was "Indian". Don't have a clue why, even though he did have some Indian features and black hair. Maybe... somewhere way back when??? Anyway, in researching, yes, Louisa's side of the family did originate in England, BUT...George Lea Jessee's family originated in IRELAND. The Irish thing was always a joke, so I just so wish he was alive so I could tell him "HE'S ALSO IRISH". smile. Well, anyway, one thing just lead to another thing and before I knew it, I was hooked....and thus started me researching the family tree.

Yes, indeed, put the family tree I first sent to you in the Database. After searching the internet and books, there it was on Jessee.org!... the information I needed to fill in the blanks about my heritage. Thank you thank you thank you!!!!!! I have double checked all names and dates in the information I sent to you, and as far as I know, everything is correct. Can't be 100% sure about spellings. And thank you for suggesting I send a story to the Newsletter. Right now, I'm still trying to

put together some information about their lives.

I'm also trying to find pictures. I do have pictures of my grandfather Ira Runnels Jessee, and I have a picture of him w/ my dad, Leo and Murble. I also have pictures as children of Leo's daughters, Carrah and Betty; also have pictures of Murble's son, Billy, as a child, but nothing of their children grown. As far as family history or pictures of my great grand parents, George Lea Jessee and Louisa E. Jessee, I know nothing! There are no pictures of them in the family album (as far as I know, because no one is labeled) and I would so love to see pictures. I read somewhere on Jessee.org that George Lea Jessee was a farmer and a constable. His son, Ira Runnels, who was a great lover of horses, also was a farmer, furniture store owner, and the constable of Grayson County, TX until his death in the 40s.

It was said by my father, who is deceased, that my grandfather, Ira Runnels, arrested and detained Bonnie and Clyde in the 30s, after they robbed and killed a man in Sherman, TX. Bonnie and Clyde were notorious bank robbers and killers in the southern states in the 30s. Don't know this for certain and have asked my cousin to verify it in the Denison (TX) Herald newspaper archives. Ira Runnels was very well know "in those parts" and very well liked, so there were always many stories about him in the newspaper. I only have a few, so need my cousin who lives in Pottsboro, TX to research this one. If this story is correct and my cousin can find it in the newspaper, I'd love to share that one "with the clan".

Jim, the newspaper is GREAT and the website is GREAT. Thank you so much for all the years of hard work. Wish I could come to the reunion, but not this year. Dad always told me that our family came from Russell County, VA, and until I started researching, it meant absolutely nothing to me. I was born and raised in Texas and haven't been to Virginia or N. Carolina, or any of the states near by, so all those years it was just a statement to me. Wow, all the history I'm now reading about and am fascinated with. Guess I must have slept through Civil War class !!!!! Since our relatives were engaged in the American Revolution and the Civil War, now those wars actually have meaning to me. Wow! And since I haven't been to Virginia, I Google Earth'd it and it's absolutely amazing. Beautiful! Wow! And that was OUR land. Wow!

Jim, thanks again. If you know of anyone who can give me any pictures or information on my great grand parents George Lea Jessee and Louisa E. Jessee, please feel free to give them my email address or physical address. Carol (Jessee) Allred

II. Archer Jessee

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

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

CARLYNE RITTER [2ritters2@charter.net] wrote with exciting information and some research advise regarding our cousin **Dean Cornell Jessee**, an Archer Jessee descendant, and LDS Church historian.

Jim, My Church has come out with a huge historical multi-volume book and Dean Jessee (of course!) is the main author. Because I'm a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints I was very interested in getting a copy of the book Dean Jessee wrote about the writings of the prophet Joseph Smith. I was disappointed, therefore, to discover a well-used volume was going for \$500 per copy or more. Then this last Christmas a friend, who is both a computer guru and long-time user of eBay, went looking for a copy of this volume on the

Internet and presented it to me for Christmas. I was thrilled! You'll love how she did it -- she went looking by spelling his name incorrectly -- Jesse. Of course all the collectors would know how to spell Jessee correctly, so that must be how it got missed by collectors, to my great delight. If I ever meet him in person, I'll get him to sign it for me. Ta Da!

Here is the announcement from the LDS Website.

Landmark Publication Launches: Inaugural Volume of Joseph Smith Papers Now Available. *Joseph Smith Papers, Journals, Volume 1: 1832–1839* General Editors: Dean C. Jessee, Ronald K. Esplin, Richard Lyman Bushman Publisher: The Church Historian's Press ISBN-13: 978-1-57008-849-0 Published 1 December 2008; hardcover, \$49.95

This unprecedented compilation, to be published by The Church Historian's Press, will eventually comprise 30 volumes, including journals, correspondence, discourses and written histories, as well as legal and business documents.

Elder Marlin K. Jensen, Church historian and recorder, has called the Joseph Smith Papers Project "the most significant Church history project of this generation." When finished, it will be the most complete and authoritative collection of documents related to Joseph Smith Jr., founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"The Joseph Smith Papers will rank among the most significant projects in the history of American religion," said Kenneth Minkema, director of the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale Divinity School.

The Joseph Smith Papers, Journals, Volume 1, grants readers a window into the life and personality of the Mormon prophet. Journal writings include doctrinal teachings and revelations as well as accounts of daily encounters and significant spiritual experiences, such as the First Vision and the Kirtland temple dedication.

Informative annotations, maps, textual photos, reference materials and other tools provide context and bring the text to life. Editors present the text just as it was written, preserving the language, grammar and often nonstandard spelling of Smith and his scribes and conveying an authentic sense of the times.

The fragile, 19th-century documents were previously seen only by a select few. Now, the curious of any faith or scholarly background can obtain a firsthand view of the religious leader directly from the transcripts of original manuscripts.

The project follows the highest scholarly standards of documentary editing and has been endorsed by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a division of the National Archives.

For information on the Joseph Smith Papers project, visit JosephSmithPapers.org.

CAROL ROMAN [romanbryant@embarqmail.com] wrote, 8/15/2008, with a number of corrections and documentation for descendants and related family to **Isaac Wilson "Wils" Jessee**, a grandson of Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning, and first husband of Susan F. Inlow discussed below.

Dear Mr. Jim Jessee, I am researching my family's ancestors and discovered that we have a "Jessee" link through a paternal grandmother. Her name was Maude Tipton and she was born 1888 in Montgomery Co., Indiana. I found that she was married to George Guy Feather June 14 1906. Her marriage license shows her father as William Tipton and her mother as Susan F Inlow.

I believe that after Susan F Inlow's first husband, Isaac W. Jessee died in 1883 (not 1893 as typically published across the web) confirmed by Crawfordsville Public Library (go to Local History then Cemeteries of Montgomery County and type in Jessee. After Isaac W Inlow died, his widow married William Tipton and together they had a daughter Maude Tipton. Therefore, Gertie (Gertrude), Fred and Harry Wilson Jessee were half-siblings to Maude Tipton and they probably resided together.

I am wondering how the misinformation submitted to Rootsweb gets corrected if indeed it is in error and proven. I must say that your research on the Jessee family is quite interesting. I believe that I have these facts as thoroughly documented as possible. Please advise if any of this is helpful.

I am relatively new to the genealogical research field and by no means am I being critical of efforts preceeding mine. My only intent is to clear up this misinformation as I find that it is being compounded by others assuming its accuracy as I have found many other websites that have republished the error showing Isaac W Jessee as Maude Tipton's father (calling her by the name Maude Tipton Jessee) when that is clearly not the case. I truly do not know whom the first publisher was but Rootsweb is a major resource. Hopefully you can help.

The errors that I have noted are as follows:

1. Maude Tipton never had the last name of Jessee. Her mother who was Susan F Inlow (daughter of John and Rebecca Inlow) married her father, William A Tipton. Attached are copies of both marriage licenses which confirm these facts. Also I am not finding evidence that William A Tipton was ever known as Wilson. (Ancestry 1900 census for Walnut, Montgomery, Indiana show William N Tipton age 54 with Maud Tipton age 12) I believe the middle initial N is a transcription error.

2. Isaac W Jessee died in 1883 (I am not exactly sure of the date) but it could not have been 1893. (His widow remarried prior to that in 1886) Attached are the scans I made from the Crawfordsville Public Library website and the link is: <http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us/index.html>. Then click on local history, find Cemeteries of Montgomery County, then type in Jessee to get the view that I am attaching.

3. The child of Maude Tipton named Harry is actually Harry Tipton Feather. Harry Tipton Feather was my xhusband's father.

4. The child of Harry Tipton Feather and Ruby Craig is not Jean Feather as noted in your chart. The one and only child of this marriage was my Xhusband who is still living and his name is Harry Eugene Feather. Harry Eugene Feather and I (Carol Jean Beighey) were married June 1968, divorced 1975, had 2 children together, Brian Eugene Feather (1970) and Kevin Eugene Feather 1972. Brian's children are the grandchildren that live with me.

[And later]... just a couple of minor recorrections for you.

1. I am not finding evidence that William A Tipton was ever known as Wilson. Do you have further information indicating he was?

2. Date of marriage for Maude Tipton and George Guy Feather was Jun 14 1906 per their Marriage License. (That makes her already with child when married OOPS!!)

3. Birth date for Harry Eugene Feather is actually Feb 12 1945.

4. Does Fred Jessee in the picture I sent to you look similar to other photos you have if you have any?

Of particular interest to you may be a photo that I have which shows Maude Feather with her half brother Fred Jessee. It was taken in 1954 most probably in New Ross, Indiana. ... Actually there are two different pictures taken the same time but slightly different shots. Both are noted on the back in my handwriting which I recognize from my early marriage years. One is noted: Grandma Feather & Uncle Fred. The other is noted: Grandma Feather Uncle Fred Jessee.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. I appreciate your time and efforts very much!!

PATRICK MORGAN [pnmorgan1@gmail.com] wrote 8/26/2008 with information about the intersection of the Jessees and Morgans. **William H. Morgan married Martha Jessee in 1869.** Martha is the daughter of **Archibald Columbus Jessee**, son of Elder David Jessee, son of Archer.

Hello, I have seen your excellent web page at www.jessee.org and thought you might be interested to compare notes on the genealogy of the Morgans and Jessees from Scott County, Virginia. One of my ancestors William H. Morgan married Martha Jessee in 1869, and there are some other points of contact, especially as the families moved West together. This date is different than the one you have on your family tree. I have the marriage certificate for this marriage so I am sure of the date, and I have lots of other info on the Jessees and Morgans. If this is of interest, feel free to contact me anytime at pnmorgan1@gmail.com.

NANETTE GRAY (mnggray@cox.net) provided information, 8/26/2008, for her line from Nancy Brown-Jessee who married Nelson Gray.

I welcome all additions, corrections, and pictures as I prepare a booklet, which will be donated to the Lebanon library. The Jessee/Gray family's 9 children included Edward Dolan Gray b. 22 Jun 1842 d. xxx m. Elizabeth Jane Jessee, and, our line, Henry Franklin (Francis) Gray b. 20 Oct 1849, d. 28 Dec 1922 m. 1876: Mary Alice Shoemaker b. 14 Aug 1855 d. 4 Apr 1937. Both Henry and Mary Alice are buried at West Hill Cemetery, Lebanon, VA. Their 13 children included:

1. James Franklin Gray (10 Apr 1877-7 Nov 1955)
2. Nannie Belle Gray (8 Mar 1880-xx) m. Robert Fletcher
3. Rose Allen Gray (17 Jun 1881-xx)
4. Henry Cleveland Gray (11 Jun 1884- 9 Sep 1963) m. Virginia Burns
5. Lucy Eva Gray (12 Sep 1886-1 Nov 1972) m. Robert Henry Newman
6. Carroll Gray (23 Aug 1888-Jul 1963)
7. Rachel Gray (11 Mar 1890-)
8. Howard Gray (15 May 1891-Aug 1949)
9. Routh "Jake" Gray (25 Sep 1892-4 Apr 1958)
10. William N. Gray (3 Dec 1894-1976) m. Elsie Virginia Hengegar
11. Infant boy Gray (1896-1896)
12. Ira Reynolds Gray (17 Mar 1883-1944) m. Pauline Esther Ayers (6 Jan 1893-1965). Parents: William Alexander Ayers and Mary Alice Gilmer, Lebanon, VA.
 - 12.1 Reynolds Ayers Gray (1915-2005) Buried: Huntington, WV. m. Marlene Clagg. 3 children, 2 grandchildren.
 - 12.2 Maston Lewis Gray (1916-1987) Buried: Jacksonville, TX m. Roberta Shaw. 3 children (including my husband, Maston Lewis Gray Jr.), 3 grandchildren.
 - 12.3 James Morgan Gray (1914-living) m. Betty Rae McDaniel. 5 children, 6 grandchildren.
 - 12.4 Robert Wingfield Gray (1936-living) m. MaryLee Stewart. 2 children, 2 grandchildren.
 - 12.5 William Howard Gray (1921-living) m. Teel. 3 children, 7 grandchildren.

DANIEL AND BRENDA L. MORGAN [3brendan@comcast.net] wrote, 10/20/2008, with her husband's Archer Jessee line.

John Jessee b 1750 belongs to my branch of the family tree as well, or I should say my husband's side. Our names are Daniel and Brenda Morgan.

I have just found all these "Jessees" on my computer! So I wanted you to know that a branch is up in Washington State! Here is the direct line that I have looked into.

John Jessee 1750 NC m-F.Lea
Archibald (Archer) Lea Jessee 1776
David Jessee 1805 VA
Archibald 1830 VA
Martha Jessee 1853 VA Died in CA Ma. William Henry Morgan in 1869
Alfred M Morgan 1872 KS, Died AZ
C. J. Morgan 1909 AZ died, WA 1991
Daniel R Morgan, Married Brenda L Lundblad This be us!

I do have some info on the brothers and sisters of CJ Morgan and some info about the children of Martha Jessee and W.H. Morgan. I have found that Martha had a brother David E. Jessee but that's about it for the children of Archibald. If you would like to see what I have come up with please let me know I love to share!

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.

I am sorry to report the passing of **Margaret Jessee Young** in May 2008 at the age of 95. She was a William Jessee descendant and major supporter.

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.

TOM RUDDER [ruddert@sbcglobal.net] wrote 11/24/2008 with this historical sketch of **Archer Catron Jessee**. Please note this article, first printed in 1917, has more lore than fact about our relationship to Robert E. Lee. This has been discussed often in our Newsletter, and this article may have been provided before, but it is very interesting.

From History of San Luis Obispo County and Environs California with Biographical Sketches, 1917

ARCHER CATRON JESSEE

There are but few persons whose records are obtainable at this time who represent those men who were members of the brave band of pioneer plainmen, soldiers and farmers who took part in the early movements that won California for the Union and thereafter were active participants in the later-day movements that placed this glorious state in the front rank of all the commonwealths of our country. Such a man was the late Archer Catron Jessee, progenitor of the family in California. He was a native of Virginia, born December 25, 1821, in Russell county, moved to Missouri with his parents, and remained with them until 1842, when he married, in Atchison county, Va., Miss Mary Harbin, a native of Tennessee and a daughter of James M. Harbin, the discoverer of the famous Harbin Springs in Lake county, California. She was likewise a sister of Matt Harbin, pioneer of this state, who migrated to the West in 1842, and became California's first millionaire.

A. C. Jessee was an own cousin of Gen. Robert E. Lee, of ancestry traceable back to English royalty. In England the Jessee family were military men, and a Major Jessee became known in the history of Virginia and married a sister of Lord Tennyson. The expression frequently used by General Lee in the heat of an engagement, "Give them Jessee, boys," alludes to the prowess of that family.

After the marriage of A. C. Jessee, he farmed in Missouri until 1846, when with his wife he joined a party coming to California. Outfitting with supplies, oxen, mules and horses, the party set out under the leadership of Lilburn H. Boggs, later governor of California; and after an eventful journey of five months, arrived in California. Mr. Boggs had incurred the hatred of the Mormons on account of the part he took in expelling them from Missouri; and when they heard he was guiding a party westward, they sent him word not to stop at Salt Lake or trouble would follow. He armed his company, secured two brass cannons which he had had cast in New Orleans, and with his band of fifty fearless men, among whom was Archer Catron Jessee, took up the long journey to the new Eldorado. The party had many skirmishes with Indians en route, and when they neared Salt Lake, took a circuitous route to avert trouble, and arrived safely at their destination.

During all this time Mr. Jessee was one of the most trusted and courageous men in the company, and later figured prominently in the history of the state. He settled on the present site of Sacramento, soon after enlisted under John C. Fremont, and was made First Lieutenant under Captain John Grigsby, in Company E, 1st California Battalion. He took part in the battle on the Salinas plains, where Captain Byrns Foster and others were killed, and in the skirmish at San Fernando. He was a member of the Bear Flag party, served through the Mexican War, and was discharged in 1847; after which he returned to Sacramento county, and later went to Napa county, where he resided fourteen years and engaged in farming, stock-raising and dealing in land and live-stock. He was the first sheriff of Napa county, served two terms and in 1864 moved with his family to Lake county. There he continued his chosen vocation until 1869, when he came south to San Luis Obispo County and took charge of the Murphy ranch. In 1873 Mr. Jessee went to San Bernardino county and undertook the management of a large dairy ranch; and while there he was induced to invest in a gold-mining

proposition. He had been successful as a farmer and stockman and had accumulated land in various parts of the state where he had lived; these he sold, to invest in the mining enterprise at Florence, Arizona, in 1876. The following year he was taken ill and died on August 19, 1877. After much litigation over the mining property, all was lost and the family was left almost destitute; but with the frontier spirit of determination, the widow, with her children, came back to Santa Barbara county and settled in the Santa Maria valley in 1878.

To Mr. and Mrs. Archer Catron Jessee the following children were born: Anna, who married F. M. Grady of Sebastopol and had one son, Jefferson, both she and her son being now deceased; James Lee, a rancher in Yolo county; Parlee, the wife of J. R. Wilkinson of Riverside county; John V., a civil engineer and surveyor in San Benito county; Archer Catron, who died at the age of five years; Willard, a rancher near Arroyo Grande; Aurelia, who married C. B. Dutcher and lives at Sisquoc; and Madison, Perry D., Francis Marion, Henry Haight, and Virginia, all residents of Santa Maria.

History of San Luis Obispo County and Environs California with Biographical Sketches

Mrs. Annie L. Morrison and John H. Haydon

Historic Record Company, Los Angeles, California - 1917

Biography transcribed by June Worsham - Pages 250-251

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.

VARUSSEL-BOUNCES@ROOTSWEB.COM posted, 8/7/2008, this information regarding an 1859 biography on **Elder David Jessee**.

The book "*Virginia Baptist Ministers*" written by James Barnett Taylor & published in 1859 has a very nice chapter on Elder David Jessee of Russell Co VA. The book itself is on-line at openlibrary.org:

<http://www.openlibrary.org/details/virginibaptistmi00tayliala>

Hopefully the above link takes you directly to the book. The chapter begins on page 288.

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.

RANDY CROUSE McNEW posted, 4/19/2008, on **VARUSSEL-L@rootsweb.com**, his "Thoughts on SW VA Coal Mining and Bluegrass Music." Randy is a descendant of both Archer and Mary Polly Jessee, the latter, twice, not to mention Childress, Kiser, and Counts families, too. See the records for **Claude Herbert McNew and his wife, Beatrice S Nevada Childress**, whose pedigree well illustrates the multi-faceted Jessee, Childress, Counts, and Kiser connec-

tions.

My Dad's parents lived in Amonate when he was born. This is a coal camp on the Va/WVa state line (Tazewell Co., Va/McDowell Co., WVa.) My Grandfather, Claude McNew worked underground, and his father, Lee Grant McNew ran the tippie. My Grandmother was born at Carbo. She was d/o of Lowney Patton Childress and Eulabelle Brooks. The Brooks family lived on Hazel Mountain.

Later my grandparents lived at Wilder and my great grandmother, Eulabelle Brooks Childress, and her family are pictured on p. 120 of Kathy Shearer's "Wilder Days". Some of my dad's Russell County people were Brooks, Childress, Kiser, Counts, Jesse[e], Stiltner, and Boyd. They came from around where Russell, Dickenson, and Buchanan County meet.

After WWII, most of my Childress and Brooks families moved to Tazewell Co. and most of the men went in the mines at Bishop or Bois-sevain. A lot of them also went north to Ohio and Michigan to get jobs and stayed.

I lived in Baptist Valley (Tazewell County between Richlands and Tazewell) near the schoolhouse and my Grandparents, Great Aunt and Uncle, and great-grandparents lived on Lick Branch just up the road.

I married Debbie Reynolds d/o Charlie Reynolds, Jr. Debbie's parents were both from the Kent's Ridge/Sword's Creek area of the New Garden section of NE Russell County near the Tazewell County line. Debbie's daddy and one brother worked at the Seaboard No. 2 mines at Big Creek near Richlands. Some of Debbie's parents' Russell County families are Reynolds, Rose, Vance, Slate, Taylor, Jackson, Robbins, Dennison, Jones, and Gross.

Debbie and I both attended Richlands High School, that's where we met over 30 years ago.

Before college, I worked for S&S Corporation as a blueprint clerk and later as a draftsman. S&S manufactured coal mining equipment like scoops, and feeder crushers, and man-trips.

I went to college and now I work for the Missile Defense Agency in Huntsville, Alabama.

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.

BETH ONAN HUGENOT [hugbee@verizon.net] wrote, 7/24/2008, with information helpful to descendants regarding their **STONE PEDIGREE**.

For many years I have known my father's Great grandmother was ELIZABETH STONE And even found her marriage to JOSHUA GIBSON in Orange Co. VA. However it was not until this very week while researching on the internet that I found her father was JOHN HENRY STONE born 1722 in Orange County, Virginia.

Married 1) NANCY GOLDING
Married 2) ELIZABETH CROSTHWAIT., daughter of Isaac CROSTHWAIT and ELIZABETH RIPPETO Of Orange County, Virginia.

Because I was searching for information about the distant cousins that might have signed The Declaration of Independence, I found that JOHN HENRY STONE was indeed a 3rd cousin of THOMAS STONE, Governor of Maryland And also signer of the Declaration of Independence (among other important things to our country).

I Here is the descendency of JOHN HENRY STONE
Gen. 1. GOVERNOR WILLIAM STONE, (1603-1659-60) First Governor of Maryland
Gen. 2. PHILLIP STONE b. c1650 wife unknown
Gen. 3. JOHN STONE married MARY MARSHALL daughter of

Thomas MARSHALL and Margaret WELLS
Granddaughter of William MARSHALL and Elizabeth AUSTIN

Gen. 4. THOMAS STONE b. 1735-1740, 2nd cousin to DAVID STONE, father of THOMAS STONE, the signer.
Gen. 5. JOHN HENRY STONE born 1772 Orange County, Virginia.

I just typed in the name STONE GENEALOGY (generally using a given name, and there is much information on the Internet. Having gone to Orange Co. VA and located the marriage record of Elizabeth STONE, And the informer had that correct, I reasoned the rest of the information was trustworthy.

My shock at finding the STONE history was very similar to the shock of finding The BROWN history. THOMAS STONE, The signer of the Declaration of Independence And Governor of Maryland, married MARGARET BROWN. It will be of interest to me if that BROWN makes a 3rd BROWN heritage, and of course, I wonder if they connect in England. Anything you need on the names I sent for ancestors of ELIZABETH STONE? I Am most willing to share. Albemarle County, plus the counties in Maryland from where the STONE family came from were both prominent in the history of my father. GENTRY, GIBSON, BREWER, CARRICO, ONAN, SEMMES, MITCHELL, PRESTON SCOTT, TIPTON are just a few of those I have researched – some very much, some very little.

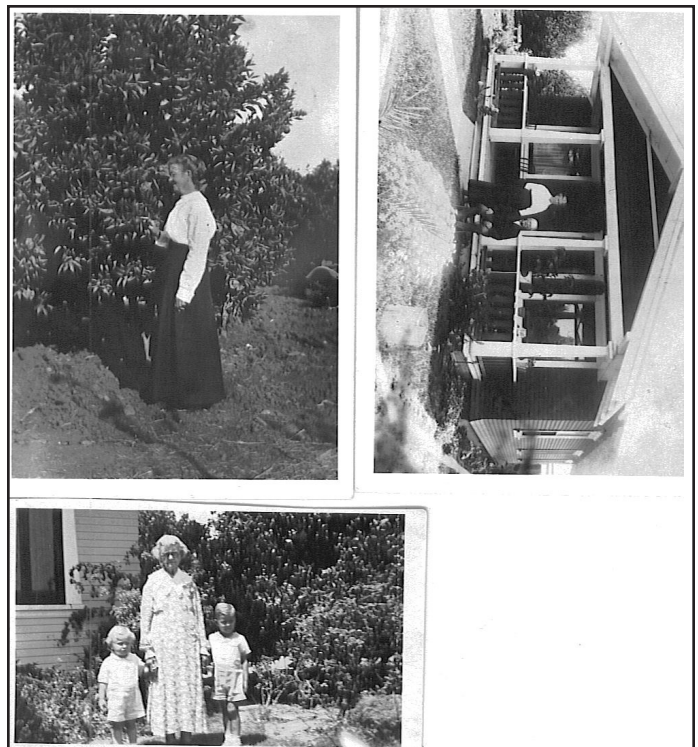
KENT PUSSE [anexwrench2@msn.com] of Santa Maria, CA, wrote, 10/15/2008, regarding the descendants of his ancestor **Harvey George Stone**.

Hello, I linked to your site from a Reginald Day posting. Reginald's wife, Linda Dyer is my 3rd cousin.

I descend from John Jessee and Frances Lea as follows: John + Frances > Frances Jessee + William Stone > Harvey George Stone + Martha Caroline Dyer > Ira Lee Stone+ Nellie Pearl Steele > Irene Shannon Stone + Millard V. Pusser > Kent Lee Pusser.

I have an old picture of my Mother's, of Harvey and Martha at the front of their house in El Modeno, then a small Quaker community in Orange County, CA, since swallowed up by expansion and development. Both Harvey and Martha are buried in Fairhaven Memorial Park in Santa Ana, CA, the town I grew up in. My son, who lives in Orange, went over to Fairhaven to locate their graves, and sent me these dates from their headstones. Harvey, 1844-1924, Martha, 1855-1938. Buried between them is their son. Noa J., 1896-1919.

I would like to ask you, if I may, do you think Frances "Franky"



Lea's name was actually Lee? I ask this because of the frequency of the Lee name through generations; my middle name, my grandfather's middle name, and the middle name of one of my mother's brothers. Another question, please, I have seen it stated that Harvey served in the so-called Civil War, due to the use of "lee" as my grandfather's middle name, I assume that service would have been with the CSA. Do you have any information on his service?

I responded as follows.

Cousin Kent, Thank you for writing and this information. May I include this information in the family database, and may I share this note in the Jessee Newsletter?

We have written extensively on the Lea or Lee name controversy many times in the Newsletters, and on the record of Frankey Lea. You can find the newsletters and notes at www.jessee.org.

No I do not think it was LEE, it was LEA, and that is pretty well documented on her record under notes and in the Jessee Newsletters over the years, many articles on this subject.

The LEE name comes down in my family, in fact we have 3 generations of Robert E Lee Jessee and Robert Lee Jessee down to present times, but it is because they revered Robert E. Lee, and some family believe we are related to Robert E. Lee. I do not believe so, but well over 40 Jessees served under him.

He responded as follows:

I'm sending a few pictures, one is of Harvey and Martha at their house in El Modeno, CA, another of Martha by an Orange tree, and one of Martha in her last years with my brother and I, taken about 1935 or so.

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 (Katron) Gose. They had eight children. This family moved to Iowa.

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

XI. James Jessee

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

XII. Rebecca Jessee Burk

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

Kathryn Burke Greever, Jack Hockett, Imogene Burke Verbal, and Rue Burke Stevenson published *Some Descendants of John Burk, 1656-1699*, Middlesex Co., Virginia, available from the Iberian Publishing Co. Order online at www.iberian.com. All

royalties go to the Russell Co. Historical Society and Russell Co. Library Family History Room.

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

XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

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

XIV. George Lea Jessee

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

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

XV. Martin Jessee

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

Missing Links & Conundrums

The following are only a few of the correspondences 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.

An airline agent from Denver, Colorado International Airport, has sent to me a lost luggage item, a Bob Jessee Family Bible. This was left on an airplane. The agent searched the Web and found www.Jessee.org and decided to mail the Bible to me. It arrived today. It is a 6x9 inch dark burgundy or

brown soft leather cover with the name Bob Jessee engraved on the cover. Inside are notes from his wife, whose name is Vickie, and this note added to the page "Special Memories"---

"Spread Daddy's ashes-Psalms 8 & Thessalonians 4:13-18, Russell County, VA, July 12, 2007."

I will be happy to mail this Bible to its owner, and very much hope someone in the family or Russell County might direct me to Bob Jessee. They may also call me at 530-342-2652 or respond to me at Jim@Jessee.org.

CONNIE JEAN PHELPS [conniejean56@yahoo.com] wrote, 12/21/2008 with this notice that **Bennie Herman Jessee** Passed Away. We do not know the pedigree for his parents, either **James Elmore or Lou Clara Jessee**. Your help is welcome.

Hi, Just let you know that on Spet. 25, 2008. Bennie Herman Jessee passaway at the Metcalfe Health Care Center in Edmonton, Kentucky. He was the son of the late James Elmore and Lou Clara Jessee. He is survived by his wife of 67 years Mattie Frances Romines Jessee.

5 Children

Wayen (Viloa) Jessee

Ed (Ima) Jessee

James (Vickie) Jessee

Linda (Austin) Bragg

Connie (Danny) Phelps

9 Grandchildren: Tommy, Shelia, Sharon, Steve, Charlotte, Jonathan, Jessica, Brittany, Chasity

20 Great Grandchildren

6 Great Great Grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers and sisters, one granddaughter Sharon. I just thought you might like to have this information. His daughter. Connie J.P.

CAROL WELDON [ncweldon@sbcglobal.net] wrote June 17, 2008 regarding Olive Mae GEAGAN and the relationship to our mysterious **George M Jessee**.

Jim, You have a Olive Mae GEAGAN in your family tree. I also have a Olive Mae GEAGAN in my tree and I was wondering if they were the same person. Some information matches:

censuses:

1920 Jan 15: Missouri, Jackson, Kansas City

GEAGAN Harry R, age 30, married, BP Tennessee, f. BP New York, m. BP Missouri, occ. Glass Cutter at Plate Glass Co.

___ Margaret, age 28, married, BP Wisconsin, f. BP Canada, m. BP Pennsylvania

___ Olive Mae, age 5, BP Missouri, f. BP Tennessee, m. BP Wisconsin

___ Edward [or Edevard] R, age 2, BP Missouri, f. BP Tennessee, m. BP Wisconsin

CREECH Willard P, brotherinlaw, age 30, single, BP Wisconsin, f. BP Canada, m. BP Pennsylvania, occ Chauffeur at Auto Livery as Owner

1930 Apr 28: Missouri, Jackson, Kansas City, 5708 Woodland Ave.

GEAGAN Harry, age 40, married, age at 1st m 22, BP Tennessee

___ Margaret, age 37, married, age at 1st m 20, BP Wisconsin

___ Olive M., age 15, BP Missouri

___ Edward R., age 12, BP Missouri

I think I also found a [first?] marriage for her: groom: Yale J. WOLF, BD c1914, bride: Olive Mae GEAGAN, BD c1915, MD 21 Jun 1936, MP Jackson Co., Missouri per the Missouri Marriage index on Ancestry.

I wrote in response: This is a very distant branch

of the Jessee family, that I have not connected to my line, and this is not my original research, so it is hard to verify. But from the facts on both our records, mine very scant, both birth dates and locations are the same, and the name is unusual, so I would conclude they are the same. She married a George M. JESSEE descendant, which explains why he was named Jesse, anyway. There are articles on George M. Jessee in the Jessee Newsletter at www.jessee.org. She responded as follows.

Thank you for getting back to me. I thought so too, but it is nice that someone else reached the same conclusion. Olive is a descendant of an Eldred which is how she ties into me. My database on WorldConnect is Weldon02.

JERRI SCHLENKER [jerrischlenker@yahoo.com] wrote, 9/24/2008, about his **Carter County, KY Jessie Genealogy** and asked for help to place his family in the larger family.

Hi, I just called your wife to verify you were at the same number and email. I just started this past weekend looking into my grandparents' history (Ernest Jessie and Julia Cline Jessie). I'm from Olive Hill, KY. I typed in Aiken Hall where my grandmother was at one time and found your newsletter. I was reading one from 1998.

You also mentioned the Erwins in your newsletter. I have extensive stuff on them. I basically started researching a lady I had met when I was young, Sally Barnes, born into slavery in 1858. She lived to be 110 years of age. She was born on the Erwin Plantation which would have been fairly close to where I live (in walking distance).

Is there anyone that you know of doing the Jessie genealogy in or for Carter County? I'm sure that you have probably looked at the Carter County website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kycarter/>

LINDA FERENCE [lference@zoominternet.net] wrote, 7/23/2008, regarding her search for her Jessee family roots.

Hi Jim, My name is Linda FERENCE. I live in northeastern Ohio (Youngstown area). I am close to a cousin whose wife is deceased, but her mother was Elizabeth Jessee Ponick who lived in Youngstown, Ohio, but was born in Huntington, West Virginia. Elizabeth had two brothers Ralph and Charles, Ralph was very athletic and someone made a scrap book of his accomplishments including the fact he golfed the most holes of anyone in one day. (168 I think) I'm not sure how much information you have or even want, but I did enjoy the web site and found it most interesting and contacted Mary Akers and talked to her for quite a while. Hope to hear from you Linda FERENCE PS I was in or near Chico, CA in Jan.

Correspondence

SAM CAMPBELL [samuelhcampbell@hotmail.com] wrote 12/5/2008 willing to pay for help to find the parents of **Fountain Campbell**. I cannot do this research, but will pass along this offer. Please contact him directly at the above email address.

Jim, What would it cost me for you to find the parents of Fountain Campbell { # 95 On 1850 Cons. Census Of Russell County, VA. }

CHARLIE THOMPSON [thompso@daktel.com] often sends along stories and words of wisdom. Here is a good one.

The Mayonaise Jar and Two Beers

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 Beers.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items

in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two Beers from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions---and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.'

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else---the small stuff. 'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.'

'Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the Beer represented. The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked.'

The Beer just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of Beers with a friend.'

DOTTIE [Virginiahunnybee@aol.com], wrote, 7/8/2008 with this request for information regarding a possible genetic health matter coming down the Madison family line who may have intermarried with members of the Jessee family.

[Anyone] who has a child with a cleft lip thought to be coming from Madison family side please have them to contact me. Its true its coming from the Madison side. I have a child with the same condition but worse I live in Virginia. My great grand mother was a Madison from Caroline County. If you maybe know anyone from that side please have some one contact me Dottie 804-301-4970

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.

THE RUSSELL COUNTY PAGE

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/>.

MICHAEL DYE informed us, 12/13/2008, of his latest additions to the Russell County Website:

I've added images of the original records to the 1850 and 1860 Russell County, Virginia Mortality Schedules on the Russell County VAGenWeb Project as well as adding files of the 1870 and 1880 Mortality Schedules. Just as a warning, the 1870 and 1880 files are images of the original records only (no transcription of the records included) and some of the data may be difficult to read. To view the files click on the "Whats New Lnk" on the Russell County VAGenWeb Project at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/> or you can go to the individual pages by clicking these links:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/vitals/1850mort.html>
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/vitals/1860mort.html>
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/vitals/1870mort.html>
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/vitals/1880mort.html>

SITE SHOWS IN WHICH COUNTRIES A SURNAME APPEARS

<http://www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames>

This is an Internet site that will tell you whether a surname occurs in a number of countries throughout the world. The countries included are—as determined from the map shown at the site— U.S., Canada, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan and most of Europe but not Finland, Greece, Portugal, Czech and Slovak Republics, the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. The site claims its sources are telephone directories and electoral rolls.

Other statistics for a given surname include the most common forenames, top countries that include the surname including frequency per million inhabitants, top regions and top cities. If you click on a country, it displays frequency by region.

I found out, for example, that there are persons named Wlodawer (my paternal grandmother's name) living in Germany and France.

DEBRA ROOKARD [drookard@carolina.rr.com] wrote 10/18/2008, to highlight a very interesting and well done Website regarding **Rowan/Salisbury District of those 'coming down' the Great Wagon Road into Moravia, Salem, and Bethabra and the Town Fork Settlement.**

<http://home.alltel.net/judyscard/index.htm>

Dear Cousins, This site is situated in what would become Surry Co, NC in the Rowan/Salisbury District of those 'coming down' the Great Wagon Road into Moravia, Salem, and Bethabra and the Town Fork Settlement. Some land owners mentioned are Christopher & Nathaniel Gist, Mullins, Banner, Branham, Sizemore, Martin, Ferguson – the list goes on ad infinitum.

There are many detailed maps of the Dan River and the Great Wagon Road and how it split in the area. The numerous land grants with accompanying maps alone, (chain carriers & will legatees notwithstanding), are worth a good read. The research is detailed and well sourced.

JOYCE STOVER [jstover@duo-county.com] posted, to the *SOUTH-CENTRAL-KENTUCKY Digest*, Vol 3, Issue 291

Re: Jessee Cemetery listing: The correct marriage date for Douglas Jessee and Melissa Mosby is 28 February, 1987, not 1969. Source: "Cumberland Co., KY. Marriages, 1882-2002", Skipworth, 2003.

METCALFE CO-JESSEE CEMETERY (Sandi Gorin)

Jessee Cemetery - 2.2 miles on Mosby Ridge Road from Highway 80 on the left, Metcalfe County, Kentucky. Surveyed November 2007 by Kris Oleson

Jessee Douglas Ray b 19 May 1966 d 26 January 2006 m 28 February 1969

Melissa Mosby b 24 December 1969

Jessee Ches b 20 March 1897 d 23 June 1981

Cly b 29 March 1892 d 23 July 1992

Jessee Lonzo D b 19 February 1917 d 8 March 1999 m 13 April 1938

Clara b 20 May 1917 d 20 October 2006 p/ Dello, Norma

Jessee Lonzo Delong b 19 February 1917 d 8 March 1999 US Navy WWII

Jesse Walter b 19 December 1889 d 7 March 1973

Delia b 3 September 1893 d 1 July 1970

field stones X3

Gibson Haden Harvey b 19 April 1924 d 2 October 2006 m 16 November 1946

Maudie Mue b 31 January 1926

Gibson Haden Harvey b 19 April 1924 d 2 October 2006 PFC US Army WWII

Gibson Lonnie E b 16 November 1948 d 23 February 1953

Betty Sue b 21 April 1949 d 23 February 1953

Gibson Sharon Lee b 1 November 1952 d 24 February 1953

Gibson Haden Harvey Jr b 10 September 1959 d 21 January 1980

Gibson Kenton Joe b 21 October 1962 d 21 November 1983

Gibson Jim Roland b 10 July 1958 d 27 September 1984

Gibson Michael Allen b 2 August 1951 d 12 March 1993

Harbaugh Carla Gibson b 10 October 1961 d 20 March 1995

Gibson Riley b 24 May 1903 d 15 April 1973

Gibson Willie E b 27 June 1872 d 23 February 1953

Nora E b 15 December 1878 d 9 January 1958

Gibson ?enie b 10 February 1913 d 11 January 19??

Gibson Walter b 20 June 1901 d 27 July 1902

Gibson ? b 30 August 1892 d 20 December 1898

Franklin M S b 1 August 1856 d 28 June 1880 d/ WE & LG Demumbrum

Demumbrum Mary Bell b 15 August 1897 d 20 February 1960

Demumbrum Ann W b 14 December 1869 d 13 August 1924

Demumbrum ? b 29 January 1866 d 7 November 1927

Demumbrum Lucy G b 28 September 1826 d 6 December 1908

Demumbrum William G b 18 March 1821 d 18 October 1886

Demumbrum Sarah L b 9 March 1852 d 18 July 1856 d/ WC & LG

Demumbrum Emily J b 21 June 1847 d 21 March 1862

field stone

Demumbrum James A 1853 1888

Gibson Captola K b 23 November 1872 d 2 Decmeber 1926

MICHELLE <mish@jadedlizards.com> posted to the Tazewell Co. Website [VATAZEWE] the following extract from the *Clinch Valley News*, 13 June 1924.

RICHLANDS: Robert O. MORGAN was elected Mayor of Richlands in the town election, which was held here on Tuesday. A total of 194 ballots was cast and of this number Morgan received 106. His opponent, P.W. BAKER, led a close race and succeeded in pooling a total of 88 votes. The following six men were elected to positions on the Town Council: W.B.F. WHITE, C.C. HYATT, P.S. ELSWICK, George MCCALL, John REPASS, and Joseph PENDERGRASS. The tabulated vote is as follows: For Mayor - R.O. MORGAN, 106; P.W. BAKER, 88; For Council: W.B.F. WHITE, 124; C.C. HYATT, 119; Powell ELSWICK, 116; George R. MCCALL, 104; John REPASS, 99; A.J. PENDERGRASS, 94; George HORTON, 92; A. Lee THOMPSON, 88; W.W. Fields, 81; H.L. WITT, 65, G.R. SMITH, 47. The election was held in J.T. JESSEE'S office on Second Street, and apparently politics played no part whatever in the selection of the town officials. The outcome was watched with more interest than in any other city election held in Richlands, due to the large number running for office. Mr. MORGAN, who is a progressive, has the unique distinction of being the youngest mayor Richlands have ever had. The citizens generally are optimistic and are expecting a good administration of the government when the new council assumes its duties on September 1.

JHF News

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

I am no longer a JHF Board member, but I continue to offer the www.jessee.org Website, the Jessee List on RootsWeb, and this Jessee Family Newsletter to the board for JHF news and events. I will gladly share JHF board agendas, minutes, projects, and programs. I invite all JHF members to join the Jessee List and subscribe to this Jessee Family Newsletter. Here is some news I have gleaned.

In August 2008, the JHF decided to hold annual reunions every two years, on even numbered years beginning in 2010. Jessee families are encouraged to hold local and regional reunions in odd numbered years.

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

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

Board Meeting Dates: None Scheduled at this time.

JHF Projects

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

1. Planning for National Jessee Family Reunions, Research Days, and Annual Meetings. This is the first and foremost goal of the JHF. A dedicated few are doing more than their fair share in organizing and managing these activities. They always need volunteers to help with the details of providing a Welcome Reception, Research Day, Annual Meeting and Reunion Picnic.

2. Creating a Jessee Family Cook Book II. By the effort of Mary Akers and several other volunteers, who have been featured in previous newsletters, the first cookbook has been published and sold out. Let Mary know if interested in another publication.

3. Creation of a Jessee Book, *Remember When*, with family stories, histories, and photos. This too has been accomplished, the first volume was available at the 2007 Reunion. 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.

A private highway sign for Jessee's Mill and a commemorative marker for John Jessee, Revolutionary War Soldier at the cemetery behind the Mill Creek Baptist Church (see photo) has been accomplished. These accomplishments 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. See also JHF News, too.

Missing from this list of JHF activities is any official JHF support for efforts to restore Jessee's Mill, or to be involved with efforts to protect, preserve, and provide access to the John and Frankey Lea Jessee cemetery. These will need to be separate efforts.

John Jessee Cemetery

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

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

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

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



Jessee's Mill Declared National Historic Landmark

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mill Creek Historic Community

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

We have 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 many 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.



The Family Database

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

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

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

<http://www.jessee.org>

Our database 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 filters to delete information on living persons.

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

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

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

Our Purpose

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

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

I would like to discover all of the descendants of the fifteen children of JOHN AND FRANKEY LEA JESSEE, and assist other Jesse(e) family members with their research. This is admittedly a monumental chore. I am giving myself the rest of my life to accomplish it, 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.

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

How To Help

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

Unfortunately after 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.

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

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

Newsletter Reprints

Back editions are available on the Website, and you are free to print them from there. I have some separate original sets of prints: #1-7, #8-9, #10-11, #12-13, #14-15, #16-17, #18-19, #20-27 (although I am out of certain years and without some attachments that have become obsolete). You may request these for \$90 for copies of all back issues "still in print," and a subscription to the current year.

The Jessee Family Newsletter

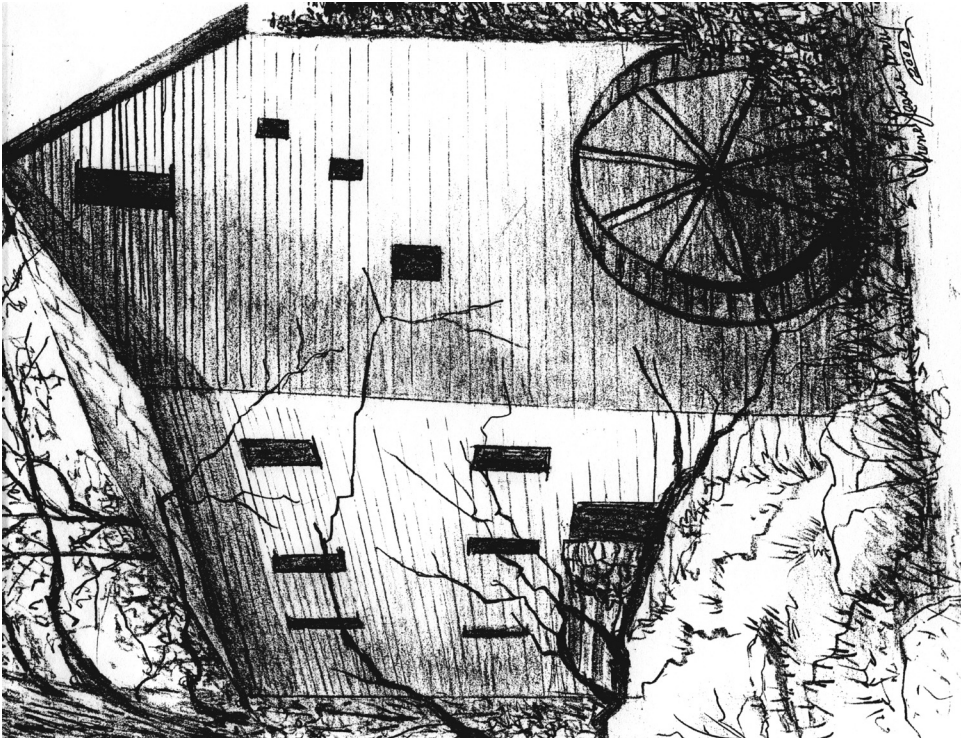
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