

# THE Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #35

Summer 2009

Vol. XVIII No.2

## Dear Cousin,

This has been a very fast six months, with much enjoyment of retirement, although not as much progress doing other things as I had hoped, including genealogy and writing. Having too much fun walking the dog and taking naps, I guess...

Meet Millie, our granddog. She is my son's dog, but since he and his wife are working stiff, with many long days, and sometimes weekends, too, we get to dog sit. Millie and I walk although it is disputed as to who walks whom. She is a labrador and cocker-spaniel mix, a little over two years old, about 40 lbs, and sweet as they come.

I was saddened by the loss of Doodle Jessee in January, and reminisced again when going through photos of Doodle and Earnie for this Newsletter. What a terrific person. We miss him.

We have been going to our cabin at Butte Meadows since May. It is rustic, at 4500 feet in the Cascades, and in deep woods along a beautiful creek. Two major fires last summer approached within 2 1/2 miles of our cabin from two different directions. Needless to say, "fire safety" has been very much on our minds. We have worked this last month clearing brush, dead wood, and raking years of pine needles and leaves for several hundred feet around our cabin. Time for doing this Newsletter has been scarce.

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

**The Jessee Family Reunion has been rescheduled for every two years beginning in 2010.** See also JHF News and Views. I review the terrific JHF book, *Jessee Stories and Remembrances*, and recommend its purchase.

I support the JHF and offer to help the effort to publish a **Jessee Genealogy Book(s)**, and comment on this hopeful project.

**Joseph Harold "Doodle" Jessee's** obituary and two photos are shared.

**I share a summary of our male Jessee 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.

**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.

News articles regarding other interrelated SW VA families include articles on the **Counts, Ward, Steele, Ramsey, Ramey, Nash, Fuller, Gilbert, Kilgore, Porter, Stallard, Alexander, Brawley, and Bickley** families.

There is a new discussion of the possible origin of our **Jesse/Jesse surname**, with **Jessup** strongly suggested as the root. We have good deal of news for several other **Jesse families**, including descendants of **John and Clia Smith Jesse**

**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** provide the new **JHF Calendar for 2009-2010**, including the change of dates for the annual reunion. The John Jessee Cemetery and Mill Projects have a summary of information 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. **CAROL FRALEY LAFERTY** provided a wonderful essay *Tracing My Jessee Family Connections*.

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

## The Silent Auction Needs You

Plan to participate in the annual silent auction, held during the family reunion on Saturday, to help raise funds for the Jessee Historical Foundation. To make the auction a success, your contributions are needed. Use your imagination to think of items to be contributed. The items for the auctions can be brought to the reunion picnic to be held at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park Grounds, Abingdon, VA.

**For 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  
Mary H. Akers, Vice-president  
Norma J. McHone, Treasurer  
Patricia S. Jessee, Membership Secretary  
Pauline Salyers, (acting) Recording Secretary

## Members of the Board

James Bray, Beverly Elswick, Nancy Elswick  
Diane Fuller, Sandra J. Hood, Carl Jessee  
Robert Trigg Jessee, Joy A. Malone  
Irene J. Perry, Pauline Salyers, Vernon Salyers  
Janice J. Tiller, Randy Williams

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

## Membership Information

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

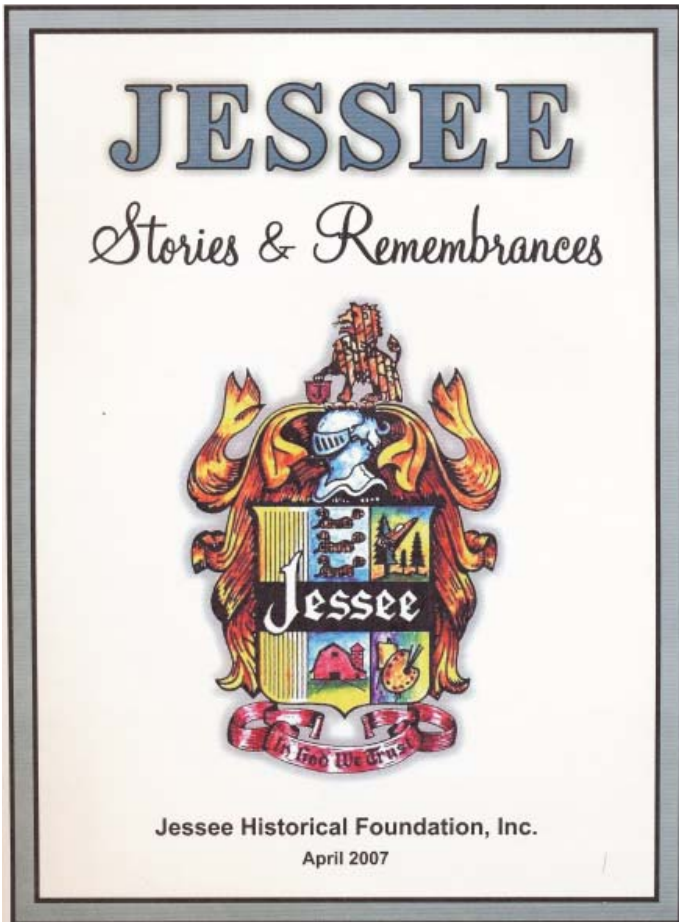
Membership will run from reunion to reunion every two years. Dues will be collected by mail and at the bi-ennial reunion in August for the following two years. JHF membership dues may be mailed to the Membership Secretary below at any time.

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: Non-voting spouses, related family, or friends of a regular member.
3. Junior Member: Non-voting family members under age 18.

**Send an application:** Get one at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) or provide the following information: name, street or PO Box address, city, state, ZIP, phone, email address, and your Jessee pedigree. Please send your application and check, payable to Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc., for \$10 per person, to the membership secretary, at the following address.

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



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:

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

If you have any questions contact Pauline or Vernon at 276-889-0055, or through e-mail or mail.

**Dear Cousins,**

I confess that it took me two years to finally read *Jessee Stories and Remembrances*. It sat on my to-be-read pile for that long, as I had a very intense last two years of work at the University, and also have found, to my surprise, that I may have even less "free time" in this new retirement. I finally decided to read it at our cabin this June, in an attempt to get motivated to work on this Jessee Family Newsletter.

It worked, I was excited and very much remotivated by this book. It was simply wonderful to read the work of our many cousins, and to appreciate the stories, personalities, and real characters we have in our Jessee family. I very much appreciate the efforts of the several contributors that went to produce this book. I regret that I did not get my own act together sufficiently to write something for the book, too.

I was especially impressed by the contribution of **Carl B. Jessee**, his artwork, sign work, and the essay about his life and business. I am featuring here the front and back cover of the book, in black and white, which does not do justice to Carl's color illustrations. It is worth it to buy this book for his artwork alone.

I wish to thank all those who worked on this book and made contributions to its success. I hope there will be more editions.

This book is full of very interesting and valuable genealogy information, as well as the stories and color to make our ancestors be real. I will ask the JHF to consider contributing this book to Michael Dye and the Russell County Website for inclusion in a future Russell County Genealogy DVD, so it may be enjoyed by many others.

In the meantime, I strongly recommend that you purchase a copy for yourself, find a nice quiet place, and read it to your great pleasure.

Jim Jessee



# Jessee Genealogy Book Proposed by JHF

The Jessee Historical Foundation is proposing to publish a book on Jessee Genealogy. Please see JHF News and Views for more information. I think this is a terrific idea and have written the following to Vernon and asked him to share this with the JHF Board.

Thank you for the latest JHF Newsletter. You state that Jessee Historical Foundation (JHF) is interested in doing a Jessee Family Genealogy Book, and that you have over 15,000 descendants now recorded for John Jessee (1750-1816) and his wife Frankey Lea (1852-1836), who moved from Caswell County, NC to Russell County, VA in 1790, establishing among things Jessee's Mill.

Most of my records are the descendants of their 15 children raised in Russell County and whose descendants tell the story of the settlement across America. My records also include the descendants of Philip and Gabriel Jessee, who settled in Russell County at the same time, and whose relationship to John Jessee is still not known, although I believe them to be brothers or close cousins. I have over 20,500 records for John Jessee and Frankey Lea direct descendants and their husbands or wives only. When you include the spouses' families, too, I may have well over 35000,000 records pertinent to SW VA families. And as, you know, many of those wives and husbands of daughters are descendants of many of the founding SW VA families over many generations.

**I am willing to help and contribute my database to some effort like this.**

I wrote to Michael Dye about how it would be great to compare the databases of several SW VA genealogists, and begin to carefully compare and integrate the databases, as I know we have much overlap. However, the effort to track down the differences and discrepancies, and just different formats used, not to mention plain old errors between us, could drive a person bonkers. There may be software out there that would help compare GEDCOM files, and with lots of time, integrate them, one by one. But I do not think I could undertake that by myself.

I suggest that the JHF produce a book that includes the first three to five generations only at this time. It should include the descendants and related families of the two Jessee family roots in Russell County, John and Phillip Jessee.

That will still be a huge book, and we need to carefully consider how to publish so much information and make it interesting, readable and accessible. We could really concentrate on getting it comprehensive and correct for 4-5 generations deep from the founders as a first goal. That gets us into the time of photography, after the 1840s, for some photos to be included. We may just want to consider doing it on a CD or DVD with an index and search tools, too.

I think that each descendant family might consider picking up at generation four or five, which puts us into and after the Civil War, late 1800s, and doing their own book from that time forward. Some if not several branches already have done such, like the Stanford Lea Jessee descendants who have been well recorded in a book. I intend to do the same for my great-grandfather, Col. John Tivis Jessee, CSA VA 29th, who is the fourth generation removed from John and Frankey, via John Jessee, Jr. and his son Joseph. I would like to do a comprehensive book of his descendants for all my cousins in this branch of the family.



## Joseph Harold "Doodle" Jessee

JIM JONES [Jim\_Jones@sra.com] wrote, 1/11/2009, with this sad news. Jim is the son of Dorothy Jones, Harold's sister.

I've been asked to send you the news of the passing of Harold "Doodle" Jessee, whom I know you knew from Lebanon and who was pretty much the patriarch of the Jessee family in our neck of the woods. Harold was the father of JHF founder Joe Jessee as well as John and James, and was the husband of Earnestine Honaker Jessee for almost 60 years. I am sure you will remember Doodle & Earnie with kindness.

Here is his obituary.

Joseph Jessee LEBANON, VA. – Joseph Harold "Doodle" Jessee, age 85, passed away Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009. Mr. Jessee was born on Oct. 11, 1923, in Russell County, Va., a son of the late Conley Trigg Jessee and the late Margaret Augusta Jessee. Mr. Jessee was a 1940 graduate of Lebanon High School, a graduate of West Virginia Business College and also attended the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Jessee joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943, serving in Italy and was attached to the 15th Air Group Bomber Squadron assigned to the B-24 Liberator, flying 29 missions. Mr. Jessee was discharged in 1945. He was a charter member of the Lebanon VFW Post No. 9864 and served as a member of the Honor Guard of the Post. Mr. Jessee served with four of his brothers during World War II, and another brother served in the Korean conflict.

Mr. Jessee retired from Appalachian Power, Clinch River Plant, with 27 years of service. He served as mayor and council member in the Town of Lebanon for 18 years and was former town manager for nine years, where he most recently served as vice-chairman of the Town Planning Commission.

Mr. Jessee was an active member of the Lebanon Baptist Church, joining the church in 1935. He served as deacon for 20 years, was a longtime Sunday school teacher, was a member of the Top 50 group of the church and enjoyed driving the bus for the group and the youth. Mr. Jessee served as the chairman of the building committee during the construction of the current sanctuary in the early 1970s.

Mr. Jessee was a member of the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years, was active in the Junior Chamber of Commerce and was a life member of the Virginia Jaycees. After retirement, Mr. Jessee enjoyed coffee with his friends at a local bank.

In addition to parents, Mr. Jessee was preceded in death by four brothers, Robert T. Jessee, Ralph S. Jessee, James P. Jessee and Lowell L. Jessee; and two sisters, Ruth Parks and Anna McIntyre.

## 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.

<b>Haplogroup R</b>	
Time of origin	26,800 years BP[1]
Place of origin	Iran or Central or South Asia
Ancestor P	
Descendants	R1a, <b>R1b</b> , 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.

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

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

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.

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



Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Earnestine H. Jessee; three sons, Joseph H. Jessee Jr..., Nashville, Tenn., John D. Jessee and wife Judy, Lebanon, and James M. Jessee and wife Charlene, Abingdon, Va.; three grandchildren, Zachary, Andrew and Mally Jessee, all of Lebanon; two sisters, Dorothy Jones, Kingsport, Tenn., and Louise Morris and husband William, Orlando, Fla.; one brother, Lawrence C. Jessee and Evelyn, Roanoke, Va.; sister-in-law, Peggy Jessee, Roanoke; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Pallbearers will be Zachary Jessee, Andrew Jessee, Jim Jones, Fields Parks, Lowell Jessee Jr..., Robert Trigg Jessee Jr... and Lawrence Jessee. Honorary pallbearers will be the Lebanon Baptist Church men's II Sunday school class, Sam Galliher, Ralph Snead, Dr. Sam Ketron and members of the coffee club.

Jim Jones wrote after the funeral with these words.

The Lebanon Baptist Church was crowded Monday night for the visitation, and the funeral service was very nice. Many good memories of Doodle were shared. The VFW gave him a 21-gun salute and a very nice service at the cemetery. As we were leaving the mausoleum, snow was falling. It was quite touching -- all the police blocked traffic from one end of town to the other, in full uniform with hats over hearts. Then they all came to the grave side service as well. They don't do any of that normally -- this was in honor of Doodle and who he was. The man simply had no enemies... And we will all miss him.

These few words cannot begin to express the loss of this Jessee Patriarch and how special he was to everyone, including Nelda and me. We were blessed to be guests of Doodle and Earnie on several occasions over the years, and if you have ever experienced it, you know the special hospitality, warmth, and friendship they offered. I will share here some photos of our good times with Doodle

**Photos:** Harold and Earnestine Jessee with Richard Jessee, of Chico, CA. (top left); Jim Jessee with Doodle and his brothers and sister at family reunion (top right).

## 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](http://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) .

### 2009 Counts Family Reunion

The 68th Counts Family Reunion will be held at 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 2, 2009 in the banquet room at the Bonanza Family Restaurant, 2243 East Main Street, Lebanon, Virginia (Use 1029 East Main Street for GPS navigation). Lunch will be your choice of the standard Bonanza Family Restaurant menu or buffet lunch at the daily rate.

**ANITA FIELDER** [anitajeane@cfl.rr.com] wrote, 4/10/2009, to ask if Jeannie Frazier and I are still doing research, which led to this exchange of information regarding the **Ward & Steele Genealogy**.

Hello you two. I have studied your Ward family for nearly 30 years and still cannot connect my own Edward Ward 1764-1864 to your trees, but I do have a bit of interesting info to share. Are the two of you still at addresses I am attempting? [I responded, Jeannie bounced.]

I am so glad you are there and plugging along. I find myself the same at "only" 74, but realizing to value each day.

I am eager to talk with you if you have the time. Basically I have collateral connection to you via the line of Col. Wm. Ward who founded Urbana, Champaign Co., OH in 1805. But also another to the line of David to his son Jos. Addison Ward to James Osborn Ward who m. Sarah Jane Steele, da. of Solomon Steele. Solomon was b. 1792 in VA.

Solomon Steele m. #2 Narcissa Closser and they had Robert Franklin Steele who m. Elizabeth RIVERS. Robert and Elizabeth had son John Franklin Steele who m. my relative Eliza ASHING.

None of that may interest you, but perhaps the story of why/how I got into this in the first place and where all I have been in trying to find more connections to your large family tree. I have another connection via my LOWE line,

I do have a more direct connection, but still collateral. I would love to chat with you further. I may have some bits and pieces that I could share with you. I am aware of Maude Ward Lafferty's writings. I have been in touch with Judy Anderson for years. I have a totally cool circular family tree that is huge, telling of the first Wards.

Since you say you are still "plugging along" .....or was it "plugging" .....sounds like you have been at this a while too. Do you have time to talk? Maybe best after Easter??

Again, do you know how to get in touch with Jeannie? One other

thing. I am in touch with another direct WARD desc., of line of Col. Wm. of Urbana.

She wrote later...

Just went to world connect and see your WARD info and that you have only developed the line of David forward. So everything that I was speaking of is for the line of James to James to James who m. Phoebe LOCKHART. James and Phoebe/Phebe had 8 ch., one of whom was Col. Wm. Ward who founded Urbana, OH in 1805. This is the line that I had been particularly interested in, and have much info for.

The reason for my first ten or more years of learning about this family was that my grandmother had received a letter from her first cousin saying that my own Edward Ward 1764-1864 was a son of Col. Wm. Ward of Urbana. Well.....NOT SO.....after much time and money. The cousin had said "as a child I knew them all." Well, I think she was referring to my Ward/LOWE marriage somehow.

At any rate, I do have a great deal of info if you are ever interested in adding other lines to your information. The book THE FRON-TIERSMAN by Allen Eckert has considerable info for Col. Wm. Ward of Urbana, though the book is about Simon Kenton.

Where you might be able to lend a thought for my own family is the one m. I spoke of in my earlier mail where I traced the m. of the Steele/Ward marriage that goes to my own ASHING line, and back to your David. I believe I have historical information for your Ward who went to Poweshiek Co., IA and I believe is buried there. And that is important because my own lost Edward/John Ward is also buried there in Poweshiek Co., IA. I have always wondered if there could be a hint/clue in that this is one instance where your Ward and my Ward ended their days in the same location. My Edward/John Ward was also in Champaign/Clark Co., OH where Col. Wm. Ward of Urbana died in 1822.

I asked permission to share her material in the Newsletter, and Anita responded.

You may use whatever you wish, but what I am thinking is that I can snail mail some material to you rather than trying to explain this long story on the phone. At least we could begin that way, then converse if you wish. My only connection to your own Wards is the Steele/Ashing marriage. And that not by direct line. I have an original letter from a lady who was seeking James Osborn Ward's people (back to your David). Also have charts that will explain this more clearly. Again, this line of which I speak goes: David Ward m. Cravens to their son John who m. Nancy Bowen, to their son Joseph Addison Ward m. Margaret Reeves to their son James Osborn Ward b. 1837 who m. Sarah Jane Steele. Is that progression correct as far as you have your own information?

The author of this letter speaks of the family Bible that had belonged to James Osborn Ward.

I am thinking that somewhere I have an old floppy disk done by a desc. of your David. I would have to search for it, but can you even "read" from a floppy disk? I still have an old dos program for my ancient genealogy Mormon software. It drives my computer guys nuts trying to keep my old computer up and running.

And later she followed up.

Jim, in regard to the old floppy disk I was referring to, it.....and other info for your David Ward.....was from a man named Bill Hunt. We have been out of touch for ages, but if you would want to try to contact him, my last address for him was: [hunt@alpha.nsula.edu](mailto:hunt@alpha.nsula.edu) Otherwise, I have made data entry of yours and my conversations in case you ever want to discuss other lines from the immigrant Ward and the three sons, and particularly the line that went to IA and m. into my Ashing line, feel free to contact me. In the meantime, be well. Anita

**WARREN RAMSEY, JR.** [ridgerunner2nra@yahoo.com] posted on RootsWeb this information regarding the **Ramsey, Ramey, and Nash families**.

I am Warren Ramsey, Jr., & I descend from William Nash, Jr., Twice. First from Margaret Ramey (Not Ramsey!), & William Nash, Jr., through their Daughter, Louisa Jane Nash, born Dec. 28, 1839, & died in 1882.

Louisa Jane Nash Married, Dec. 6, 1856, to Russell Patrick Ramsey, born April 22, 1835, died Feb. 8, 1908. These are My Great Grandparents on My Dad's side.

I am also from Frances Virginia Ramsey born June 12, 1830, died Jan. 14, 1921, & Her Husband William Nash, Jr. born March 22, 1801, died Feb. 14, 1876. Frances & William married Oct. 17, 1854. Their first Child Fleetwood G. Nash born April 6, 1855, died May 1, 1925 Married Feb. 15, 1877 to Laura E. Porter, born 1856, died 1935. These are My Great Grandparents on My Mother's side.

Frances Virginia Ramsey & Russell Patrick Ramsey were Sister & Brother. They are the Children of Mary Polly Belcher & Joel Ramsey, Jr.

Louisa Jane Nash & Fleetwood G. Nash were also Sister & Brother, Children of William Nash, Jr., With Two different Mothers.

I only know of One of the Parents of Margaret (Peggy) Ramey, & that is Her Father Jessie Ramey. I do not know when, or where He was born, or when He died. All I have is that He was One of the Earliest Settlers in Southeast Virginia (Fincastle County - Russell County), & He died before 1860.

If anyone has anymore info that they would share with me, Please contact me. I do have a bit of Info on the Nash Family that I am willing to share with everyone, or whom ever may want it or need it. I would rather you call me by the Phone. My Phone No. is (313) 885-4238, Evenings is best. I can talk a whole lot faster than I can type. My email address is ridgerunner2nra@yahoo.com.

**CHARLIE DOUGLAS THOMPSON** [thompso@daktel.com] wrote, 1/8/2009, in response to the Winter 2009 Newsletter article by Mr. Vinson Holbrook with this inquiry and information regarding The "**Fullers of Southwestern Virginia**"

Dear Mr. Vinson Holbrook, I am currently reading the correspondence between you and cousin Jim Jessee in the "Jessee Newsletter," Issue #34, Winter 2009. I have been trying to unravel the mystery of my family history for over 50 years. I knew nothing of my southwestern Virginia family until I met my paternal grandfather for the first time when I was about 20 years old.

I know now that almost everyone in the County of Russell is a "cousin." Some of the families of southern Virginia that I have relation with are as follows: Thompson, Jessee, Fuller, Counts, Fletcher, and Ball. I have also found cousins in other states.

You write of a Harrison Fuller and his wife Cyrene, this is what caught my eye and joggled my memory. So off I went to my "temporary" "basement library to find a book that I had received many years ago. It is a ring bound book of type papers titled "SOME FULLERS of Buchanan and Dickenson Counties In Virginia and their Descendants".

In this book I found a copy of a letter written to Roxie Fuller Delong by her sister in law Nettie Grant Bogar Fuller the wife of Elijah Samuel Fuller the son of Harrison Fuller and his wife Cyrene. The letter was dated September 11, 1903 and was written in Salkum, Washington.

I shall attach a "Family Record sheet" for your review. If you have a copy of the book I am sure that you treasure it. If you do not have a copy I will be happy to share it with you. Maybe we will be able to share information.

**TOM CARTNER** [homeofcleancars@yahoo.com] wrote, 5/17/2009, regarding the **Richmond Family** of SW VA, and other SW VA historical families, including **Kilgore, Porter, and Stallard**.

I stumbled across your article on line and it intrigued me. I have a good friend, Kevin Jessee ( married to Heather ) that lives near, in MD here. He as a sister that was in San Diego in the Navy a few yrs back , not sure where she is now tho. I am Tom Cartner, son of Betty Richmond and George Cartner Jr. --my mom's father was Ernest Richmond from Dungannon, VA and his dad Emmitt B Richmond. I believe his father was George Washington Richmond. It appears we have some other connection as I see as well that Patrick ( 5x great grandfather)

Porter's daughter Jain ( Jane ) married my 4x great grandfather Rev Robert Robin Kilgore a few yrs after her husband James Green was killed by Indians in Dungannon. Plus I am descended from Jael Duncan Stallard & "pioneer" Samuel Stallard of Scott Co., VA.

If you can assist any with my Richmond line I would appreciate it, as I'm trying to put those pieces of the puzzle together, Thanks cuz , Tom Cartner

I responded as follows.

This is very interesting. I have Richmond ancestry via by grandmother, Blanch Hester RICHMAN who married Norval Clarence Jessee, who you can look up in my database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) and see her Richman, originally RICHMOND spelling, origins from VA and WV area, today, on the New River at Richmond Falls, now Sandstone. Do you know that area? I know the Richmonds proliferated in VA and PA from possible common ancestors, and thus we may be related up that line, too.

The JESSEES came into Russell Co., VA in 1790, and most Jessees in America descend from this family, but by no means all. Most share common early VA origins however, and I believe they may share a common ancestor or set of ancestors who came together to America. Read more at the Website if you have interest.

I have lots of Kilgores, Porters and Stallards in my database, too, and you can search it as well via RootsWeb or my Website. All these families have intermarried with Jessees and Jessee descendants in SW VA.

Tom responded as follows.

Sure use my info in your newsletter, any other info that you want to make it interesting will be OK too, just let me know.

I'm familiar with reading about the New River and John Richmond who is supposedly in my line, I just can't tie it together just yet. I'm thinking it's thru a little lesser known son of John Sr. as I can't match up with Isaac yet ( John Jr's son ) or possibly his daughter Sarah who married William Richmond her cousin.

Family lore has it that one of the Richmond's way back travelled with Daniel Boone and once stepped in front of an arrow taking it in his shoulder to save the frontiersman's life --- I know that Thomas Kilgore often travelled with Dan'l -- as far as that story goes I'm thinking it was John Sr. as he moved about quite a bit and was born just about the same time too.

My great great grandfather is Capt Henry Morris McConnell and he is the main link to me being related to the Stallards , Kilgore's , Porter's, Clayton's & Moore's My grandmother on my mom's side was Bonnie Broadwater who married Ernest Richmond Bonnie d/o Hugh Broadwater & A. Victoria McConnell d/o Capt Henry M. McConnell & Bettie Kilgore. Hugh Broadwater s/o Melvina Moore & Charles Kilgore Broadwater d/o Frances Stallard & Thomas Moore d/o Rawley Duncan Stallard & Mary E Hutchinson.

Bonnie's husband Ernest s/o Emmett Byron Richmond & Mary Elizabeth Blackwell and Mary the d/o Samuel D. Blackwell and Martha Jane Nash.

Emmett Richmond was shot in the back in 1896 supposedly for the farm as it became a coal mine right after it was taken over by the Blackwell's. With the trains coming thru the area and nearly completed by the end of the century, mining became a profitable business.

Bonnie was 1st cousins to Kilgore's, Addington's ( Maybelle Addington Carter ) , Moore's and McConnell's as they did marry back n forth thru the families in the Clinch area.

My mom Betty Richmond Cartner & my dad George Cartner Jr. Four kids :

- # 1) Sharon married Harry Austin ---2 sons Matthew & Andrew Austin
- # 2) Stephen Richmond Cartner --married 2x no children / now deceased
- # 3) Thomas Cartner married Mary Spencer from Paw Paw , VA on the KY border 3 girls Brittany 05/25/99 ---Alexis 12/19/2002 & Samantha 06/18/2008
- # 4) Daniel Cartner married Dawn McDowell / now divorced -- 3 girls Caitlyn 04/14/88 Lindsey 01/18/90 & Emily 07/02/92

It's the end of the line for this branch of the Cartner clan but by doing this research I see that women ancestor's often carried the blood line going, so I'm OK with that (there's a bunch of Cartner's in the Charlotte, NC area that are relatives from the 1700's to early 1800's -- and some travelled from there a 100+ yrs ago to Illinois)

My mom has a brother Eugene that now has several kids and many grandchildren to keep the Richmond name going in the Atlanta area

I'm going thru all the photo albums and putting together a still photo DVD with added music and with info as well about the family history --it's been a project and looks like it might run 1 hr 30+ minutes / almost a regular full length movie.

My wife is one of the younger of 14 kids as well, even tho she doesn't know the history of the Spencer's & Dotson's -- she's got a lot of current relatives / she's from close to Pike Co., KY the land of Hatfield's & McCoy's.

As you can see I'm enjoying this project and history --I'm hoping to have it completed by the middle of June as we plan on making a trip to my Wife's home then and several members of her family want to see it.

**ROGER ALEXANDER** [Roger.Alexander@fkilogistex.com] wrote, 9/24/2008, regarding **Martha Brawley and John Alexander** and an **Alexander surname DNA project**.

Dear Jim, Glad you wrote back so promptly. Here is my interest. I am involved in the Alexander DNA Project. I naturally have no idea what you may know about DNA testing for genealogical purposes. Basically, it tells you if you match genetically if you match someone who has already tested. This technique started in about 2004 and has grown to over 200,000 since and will continue to grow at a very high rate.

The David Munsell Alexander I mentioned below has preliminarily tested and is a perfect match at this point to a previous tester (William Noel Alexander) whose line is:

William Alexander II (b. abt 1674, Ireland, d. abt 1735, Somerset Co. MD) m. Catherine Wallace Moses  
A. Alexander (b. abt 1694, d. aft 1749, Somerset, MD.) m. Elizabeth Weatherly (b. 1695, Somerset MD)  
John Liston Alexander (b. 1715, Somerset, MD, d. Jun 1767 Northumberland, VA) m. Mary Sheldon  
John Sheldon Alexander (b. abt 1755, Somerset Co. MD; d. abt 1817, Albemarle VA) m. Leah Sarah Fleming (b. 24 Sept. 1757) Reuben Alexander (b. 1778, MD, d. 1815, Augusta Co. VA) m. Sarah Smith 23 July 1810 (b. 1784, Albemarle VA)  
David Alexander (b. 29 Dec. 1813, Albemarle Co. VA. d. 29 Jan. 1881, VA) m. Margaret Sticklely 21 Mar 1839  
John Henry Alexander (b. 26 Mar 1840, VA. d. 9 Jan. 1915 Augusta Co. VA) m. Sarah E. Craun 22 Oct. 1863 (b. 1 Jan. 1843, d. 5 July 1922)  
David Craun Alexander (b. 6 Dec. 1871, VA. d. 6 Mar 1930, Augusta Co. VA.) m. Sarah R. Huffman 27 Oct. 1897 (b. 7 Apr. 1877, d. 11 Mar 1969,  
Leslie Craun Alexander. (b. 4 Mar 1911, Weyers Cave, VA. d. 26 July 2006), m. Elva F. Simmons 31 May 1934 (b. 17 Feb. 1913, Sugar Grove, WV, d. 27 Jan 1997, Indian Harbour Beach FL  
William Noel Alexander (b. 9 Dec. 1934, Winchester, VA. m. Helen L. Fitzpatrick 1 Feb. 1966 (b. 13 Dec. 1940)

David Munsell Alexander has traced himself to the John and Martha Brawley Alexander I mentioned earlier. My hope is to learn as much as I can for David Munsell and William Noel and for those who match them in the future.

I am not sure if you can help us but would appreciate anything you can do. Certainly we will be glad to share with you anything we might learn.

I responded as follows.

Glad to correspond on this subject, and there are more in the Jessee family, in the GOSE line more closely related who also would be interested. You might like to join and post to the Jessee List on RootsWeb, too.



**TERRY BICKLEY** [tgbickley@msn.com] wrote, 4/30/2009, with this photo and additional information regarding the **James Monroe Bickley Home** near Bickley Mills (Castlewood), VA.

Well, I finally made contact with James and Neil Bickley, son's of Charles "Creede" Bickley who was James H. Bickley and Cora's only son. James lives in South Jordan, Utah and Neil lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. Neil is not very communicative but James and his wife Marilyn are, although sporadic. Marilyn said in an e-mail, "if you haven't figured Jim out yet, he's a procrastinator." He has sent me three pictures: (1) of the Bickley Mill that we all have. (2) a photo of Marcus and May with their adult kids, taken in 1937 (attached) and (3) an old photo of the original Bickley home in Virginia (I believe) also attached. Jim says, "that he has some other material but it will take some searching to find it." He also says, "he will keep in touch, but it may be a rather sporadic correspondence." So we will just have to wait and see what other info he may have to share.

I would like to ask your opinion of the photo's attached. I can identify everyone in the family picture with Marcus and May but I'm unsure of the girls. They must be Hazel, Ina and Effie. I'm not sure which one is which but I think the one directly behind May is Effie. The one directly behind Marcus is Ina leaving the one in the middle as your grandmother Hazel. Do you guys agree?

On the back of the photo of the "original Bickley home" is this info penciled in: "This is the place where Grandpa Bickley lived when they came west in 1873." I interpret this to mean that this is the house in Bickley Mills or Castlewood as it's known today. In other words, where they lived before they moved west. Wouldn't it be nice to know who the people are in the photo?

The Bickley house in Bickley Mills, VA was originally built in 1863 and has been restored. James Monroe Bickley and Eveline (Bartee) Bickley raised their children there. Charles Bickley's memorial stone and the headstones of John Bickley and Elizabeth (Brown) Bickley can be seen in the pasture across the road from the house.

**DEBBIE** (djh235@peoplepc.com) posted this note on VARUSSEL@rootsweb.com, regarding the origin of the **Gilberts of Russell County**.

I have a lot on the Gilberts in Russell Co. Email me and I will send you what I have. Did you know that most of the Gilbert's in Russell Co., should have been Tillers. Joseph Gilbert married Mary Polly Tiller and had several children before she married. She gave them her last name no spouse listed. After Polly's death her children all changed their names to Gilbert.



## JESSE(E) FAMILY ORIGINS

There are many “Jessee,” “Jesse,” and “Jessie” families in the United States and Canada that we know are descended from families whose American origins are in Virginia. There are many Jesse, Jessee, Jessie, Jessey and, perhaps, Gesse, Gessey, 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](http://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.

**FAMILY TREE DNA** includes the Jessee surname in the derivatives of the surname Jessup. A newsletter contributor (thank you and please forgive me for having lost the source on this one) sent a document from **THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER** that provides a **Family Name History for Jessee**, which also suggests this Jessup/Jessep/Jessop origin as well others. I am inclined to believe the Norman French origin.

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

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

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

Notable bearers of this surname are Fryniwyd Tennyson Jesse an English novelist and playwright and a grand - niece of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Also John Heneage Jesse (1815 - 1874) an English historian who wrote the Court Memoirs of King George III.

**LAWRENCE C JESSEE** wrote, 2/19/2009 with the suggestion I look up and share information about **Henry Jessey of England (1603-1663)**, who may be related to our common root Jesse and Jessee families.

### **Henry Jessey taken from Wikipedia**

Henry Jessey or Jacie (West Rowton, Yorkshire, 1603-1663) was one of many English Dissenters. He was a founding member of the Puritan religious sect, the Jacobites. Jessey was considered a Hebrew and a rabbinical scholar.

Jessey attended the University of Cambridge from 1618-24; he was at St. John’s College, Cambridge in 1622, B. A. (1623).[1] He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1627[1]. He was vicar of Assington, or simply resident in the family of Brampton Gurdon[2] and then visited New England[3]. He was vicar of Aughton, East Riding of Yorkshire from 1633[2]; but was deprived of his living in 1634[2][4]. He was then supported by Sir Matthew Boynton, who found him places to preach[2].

Henry Jacob had formed a non-separatist independent faction of former Church of England members. They were Calvinist in theological practise. Contemporary scholars refer to them as: Independents, Brownist, semi-Separatist, or Puritans. John Lothrop picked up Jacob’s London congregation after his death; Jessey took over, from 1637[5].

The church faced hostility from the authorities, and migrated to Southwark. He travelled in November 1639 to set up with William Wroth, an Independent church at Llanfaches, Monmouthshire. He was imprisoned, with members of his congregation, in August 1641. He became a Baptist in 1645, under the influence of Hanserd Knollys.[2][6].

The church developed within the Particular Baptists:

“Led by Henry Jacob of the Brownists from Zealand, these Particular Baptists in 1633 started a new church under John Spilsbury. Five years later William Kiffin and others of Jacob’s church at Southwark joined Spilsbury and divided equally in two parts under Praise-God Barebones and Henry Jessey. From Jessey’s church, Hanserd Knollys in 1644 began his own congregation. These Particulars had no communication with the General Baptists.[7]”

There have been some questions raised about the documentary evidence, the Stinton Repository attributed to Bernard Stinton.

“The following summary indicates briefly what the Stinton Repository relates. In 1616 Henry Jacob organized at Southwark the oldest Independent church in England and served as pastor until 1622. He thereupon resigned and traveled to Virginia where he died in 1624. John Lathrop succeeded Jacob as pastor in 1625, but he was imprisoned in 1632. After his release, he and thirty members fled to New England. Two ministers, Praise-God Barebone and Henry Jessey, stayed behind with the majority of the congregation. In 1637 Jessey succeeded Lathrop as pastor. Having accepted believer’s baptism, he was eventually baptized by Hanserd Knollys.[8]”

The Whitehall Conference

He wrote an account[9] of the 1655 conference at Whitehall, at which Manasseh ben Israel put a case to the Parliamentary government of Oliver Cromwell, to lift the restrictions on Jews living in England[10]. He was in correspondence with Manasseh[11], was an enthusiastic student of Hebrew and Aramaic and philo-Semite[12]. In lobbying for the rights of the Jews to official readmission to the country, and in high expectations from this, Jessey was an associate of John Dury and Nathaniel Holmes[13].

**JOHN MCGHEE** sent me a note long ago inquiring about the **Susanna Jessy** marriage record, he found in Halifax County, VA. It lists Archibald Comer married Susanna Jessy, 26 January 1807, bondsman Leonard Baker

## **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](http://www.jessee.org) by **Donald R. Coleman**.

**PAT WORTHAM** [ahw1947@msn.com] wrote, 6/9/2008, with this inquiry regarding **Ernest Jefferson Jesse**, and his father **Thomas Jefferson Jesse**, I have recorded as a descendant of Richard Jesse.

My name is Patricia Wortham. Approximately 7 years ago I was doing some research on my mother’s family. Her father was Ernest

Jefferson Jesse and his father was Thomas Jefferson Jesse. I had found and copied some information. Just as I was getting started, my Mother passed away, and I got caught up in taking care of her estate, etc., and put the genealogy information aside. Recently I received a phone call from a lady that had seen my name in regards to Thomas Jefferson Jesse's wife, Margaret Francis (Martha) Hardwick. I pulled the information out of storage and as I was looking through it, I came across your name in regards to Woodford Fox Jesse. I believe he would be my great, great grandfather. I would be interested in any information you have on the Jesse (Jessee) family.

## 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.

**RICHARD JESSE** [nativeson54@hotmail.com] wrote, 3/17/2008 regarding his **Jesse heritage**. I believe his **Thomas Jesse**, is the son of William Jesse here.

Dear Sir, I discovered the Jessee web page 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 Juliana 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. Jesse.

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

**LORENNA C. SINNETT** [raul@pld.com] posted on RootsWeb information about **Howard Jesse**, a descendant of John and Clia Smith.

HOWARD JESSE  
SSN ; Issued: WA  
Born 25 May 1892; Died Apr. 1972  
Last Residence: Seattle, King, WA 98107

LENA JESSE: SSN ; Issued: WA; Born 8 Jun 1894; Died Mar 1977.  
Last Residence: Seattle, King, WA 98155; Last Benefit: Seattle, King,

WA 98103

14 Jun 1900 Callaway Co. MO, Caldwell Twp JESSE, Zachariah; 47; Jan. 1853 M; W; Married 21 yrs; Farmer; MO; VA; VA ---, Roberta; Wife; 45; Sept. 1854; F; W; 8 children/6 living; MO; MO; VA ---, Annie; Daughter; 17; Dec. 1882; F; W; Single; MO; MO; MO ---, Joseph; Son; 12; Mar 1888; M; W; Single; MO; MO; MO ---, Ezra; Son; 9; Oct. 1890; M; W; Single; MO; MO; MO ---, Howard; Son; 7; May 1892; M; W; Single; MO; MO; MO ---, Sarah; Daughter; 6; Apr. 1894; F; W; Single; MO; MO; MO ---, Wallie; Son; 4; Oct. 1895; M; W; Single; MO; MO; MO 9 Jun 1900 Cole Co. MO, Moreau Twp

BARNHART, G. B.; 41; Oct. 1858; M; W; Married 20 yrs; Farmer; MO; TN; TN ---, Lorina; Wife; 39; Nov. 1860; F; W; 8 children/8 living; WV; WV; WV ---, David; Son; 12; July 1887; M; W; Single; At School; MO; MO; WV ---, Elsie; Daughter; 10; Sept. 1889; F; W; Single; At School; MO; MO; WV ---, George; Son; 7; Jun 1892; M; W; Single; MO; MO; WV ---, Lena; Daughter; 5; Jun 1894; F; W; Single; MO; MO; WV ---, Virgil; Son; 4; Feb. 1896; M; W; Single; MO; MO; WV ---, Clara; Daughter; 1; Apr. 1899; F; W; Single; MO; MO; WV

26 Apr. 1910 Moniteau Co. MO, Pilot Grove, Latham & High Point BARNHART, George B.; 51; M; W; Married 29 yrs; Farmer; MO; TN; IN ---, Lorena; Wife; 48; F; W; 8 children/8 living; WV; WV; WV ---, George I.; Son; 17; M; W; Single; Farm Laborer/Home Farm; MO; MO; WV ---, Lena F.; Daughter; 15; F; W; Single; MO; MO; WV ---, Virgil R.; Son; 13; M; W; Single; Farm Laborer/Home Farm; MO; MO; WV ---, Clara A.; Daughter; 11; F; W; Single; MO; MO; WV 8 & 9 Jan. 1920 King Co. WA, Seattle, Precinct 42 JESSE, Howard; 27; M; W; Married; Trimmer/Lumber Mill; MO; MO; MO ---, Lena; Wife; 25; F; W; Married; MO; MO; VA ---, Myrene; Daughter; 3 6/12; F; W; Single; MO; MO; MO 16 Apr. 1930 King Co. WA, Seattle, Block 1230

JESSE, Howard F.; 37; M; W; Married at 21; Grader/Lumber; MO; MO; MO ---, Lena F.; Wife; 35; F; W; Married at 19; MO; MO; VA ---, Myrene M.; Daughter; 13; F; W; Single; WA; MO; MO ---, Ruth E.; Daughter; 8; F; W; Single; WA; MO; MO ---, Margaret O.; Daughter; 6; F; W; Single; WA; MO; MO

[Researching the family of Lorenna C. Sinnett & George B. Barnhart]

**SHELLEY CARDIEL** [cardiels@comcast.net] wrote 1/1/2009 regarding a **Stenwall Family Photograph**, a descendant of John and Clia Smith Jesse.

I've "rescued" an old photograph of Mrs. Alfred STENWALL of Rockford, Illinois which was taken at the Atchley Studio in Rockford. The photograph appears to have been taken in the 1880's or 1890's with the woman in the photograph likely in her 20's at the time. In addition to her name, the address "1214 7th Ave, Rockford" appears on the back of the photograph. I am hoping to locate someone from this STENWALL Family so that this wonderful old photograph could be returned to its rightful place with family. If you are a member of this family, or you know someone who might be, please contact me.

**ANGEL THRASHER-BANKER** [Angel.Thrasher-Banker@ihs.com] wrote, 1/12/2009, with this inquiry about **Francis Marion Thrasher**.

Hello, I believe that I may be related to one of your postings, Francis Marion THRASHER: Birth: ABT 1916 in Arkansas. Is there any way that I can purchase or employ your services? I have limited information about Marion, but he is my Father's Father and left shortly after his birth.

I responded as follows:

Dear Angel, How can I help you? I don't charge, I just take donations if what is done is valuable to you. You can find the pedigree for Francis Marion in the database from which you copied this record below. You can get to the database via [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) or RootsWeb.

Francis Marion's mother is Myra Gertrude Jesse, and there is a good deal there for her pedigree. See the John Jesse and Clia Smith family discussion on the Website. Please note there is much written in the Jessee Newsletters on this JESSE family, which is not related to me, directly. I show your great-grandfather, Edward C. Thrasher, but no additional information, but you should be able to search RootsWeb for him and find others who have researched that line. Lots more on this subject.

**MARGARET BUSH** [mabush64@msn.com] wrote, 2/8/2009 regarding **David Atkins, VA & MO**. This David Atkins has a grandson, **James Wiley Atkins**, who married **Edith Maude Jesse**, a descendant of John Jesse and Clia Smith.

I just saw your posting on RootsWeb for the David Atkins family of VA and later Audrain & Boone counties MO. My husband's mother was an Atkins descended from this family. Her line is not on your website. David and Laura Atkins had a son named Wm. Pinkney Atkins. She is in his line.

First - Have you been able to ascertain the parentage of Luther Atkins. My biggest question is about the parentage of David Atkins. Have you been able to identify his parents. I also have much on the Atkins line that I would be willing to share.

Later she wrote with more information.

I have James W. Atkins was born CA 1879, but I do not have a marriage for him. The James W. Atkins that I have is a twin to Wm Cass Atkins (per funeral home record of Wm who died in 1935 and is buried in Lebanon MO). in searching my notes I found that the informant on Wm's death certificate was J. Wiley Atkins (James Wiley Atkins). The parents of James W. and Wm Cass Atkins are David J Atkins and Rebecca Talbey/Taulbee. David and Rebecca are buried in Lebanon City cemetery.

The parents of David J. Atkins are David J. Atkins Sr. (born 1817 in NC, died in 1897) and Laura Williams (born 1818 in NC, died in 1889). David and Laura are buried in Skull Lick Cem., Wilson Twp, Audrain Co, MO.

I am searching for the parents of David Jefferson Atkins Sr. and Laura Williams. In the 1880 census Martha Williams is living with David and Laura- possibly a sister to Laura. I think David Sr's father may have also been a "David." The 1850 census lists David (wife Laura) as "Jr." The children of David and Laura are Elizabeth Jane, Rhoda Ann Louise, Emily, Mary, Wm Pinkney, Martha "Mattie," John and David J.

If anyone has any information as to the parents of David and Laura, I would appreciate it. I am willing to share all that I have.

**TERRI CLARK** [terriclrk@yahoo.com] wrote, 10/5/2008, to share a bit of information regarding **John Samuel Jesse**, found in a history of **Sheridan, MO**.

[Regarding] John Samuel Jesse (b. 1852 MO d. 1928 ): I was looking for history on the little town I grew up in [Sheridan, MO] and found some info on him. I do my family research and I like this kind of info so that's why I looked him up at RootsWeb and found him in your line.

## 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.

**SALLY BAUMANN** [sallybaumann@msn.com] wrote, 1/6/2009, with this inquiry regarding **William G McKinney**, grandson of Old Phillip.

William G McKinney was the son of Mary Sue Jessee and grandson of Phillip and Rachel Jessee, however, who was his father, have you ever found any marriage record showing who Mary Sue Jessee married?

I am doing this for my girl friend and seem to keep hitting a brick wall, in regards to the McKinney name. Been looking for a couple of years. I have some of this couples descendants done as my friend comes down thru Julia, their daughter. But am stumped with the rest.

## 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 Jessee who served as a musician in Yarborough's Regiment, NC Continental Army or in any capacity during the War. 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 chief 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 the question to the family. Can we prove or not that our John Jessee is the same John Jesse/Jessee who is listed in Yarborough Regiment, or even served at all? And of course, we do not have any proof, only speculation about John Jessee's heritage, when and where he was born, his parents, etc.

**TOM RUDDER** [ruddert@sbcglobal.net] wrote, 1/17/2009, with further details on his thesis that our John Jessee may not have been a soldier at all.

Jim, I see that you have my doubts about John being in the NC Military during the Rev War in your Newsletter. I once sent you an article on "The Warrenton Army Frauds" about the use of names of people who were paid for time in service for which they never did. It was quite long and you probably didn't read it all.

From the article, "This process allowed one man to present the account of several former soldiers, draw their due bills and certificates, and then, after subtracting his fee, give the original claimant his money." As you can see this allowed one man to submit the names of many individuals whether they served or not. This article goes on to say that 65% of the names could not be found in the North Carolina military records.

I think I told you before that I checked all the North Carolina Military records at the National Archives and found no John Jesse(e). So the facts are that even if the name "John Jesse(e)" had been in Pierce's Register, the odds would be 2 to 1 against that John Jesse being in the North Carolina military at all. And when you consider the fact that not one of his descendants (children) filed for pension benefits for his Rev War service they had to have known that he was not in the Rev. War. No man with a wife and 4 kids would have spent a year in the Continental Army any way.

The article also said that by the time Pierce came to North Carolina the state had already paid most of the soldiers what was owed them, which would mean that Pierce's North Carolina list would have been greatly inflated. Tom

## Frankey Lea Research

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

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

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

## JOHN AND FRANKEY'S CHILDREN

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

### I. John Jessee, Jr.

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

See Correspondence for a wonderful essay by John Jessee, Jr. descendant, **Carol Fraley Laferty**.

**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.

**DEE ANN BURRIS**, provided to me, quite some time ago, the obituary for her father, Quinton Perry Dunn, a John Jessee, Jr. descendant, whose great grandfather was James Mathias Jessee, who moved to Texas. His outstanding military service is very moving and we salute him.

Services with full military honors for Quinton Perry Dunn will be at 10 a.m. Friday, March 7, 2008, in Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home Centennial Chapel. Interment will follow in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Born Dec. 12, 1922, in Perna to Lee and Leona Ferry Dunn, he died Tuesday, March 3, 2008, at an Ardmore hospital. He and Helen J. Davis were married in 1967 at Gethrie. She preceded him in death in 1992. Three brothers, Lewis Gordon and Happy and two sisters, Ora Reed and Ruby Richuber, also preceded him in death.

He was a member of the class of 1941 of Ardmore High School. On Sept. 16, 1940, he entered the U.S. Army, joining Company H of the 179th Infantry in the 45th Division. Following the outbreak of World War II, his unit was sent overseas: A machine gun platoon sergeant, he was among those that made the landings and invasions of Sicily, Salerno and Anzio. Captured at Anzio On Feb. 17, 1944, he was held prisoner of war for over 14 months. He was awarded two Bronze Stars for valor in Italy and two Purple Hearts for wounds which he received in action.

Sgt. Dunn entered the Korean War five weeks after it had begun, and was in combat for 17 months. He received a third Bronze Star for his valor there. During his military career he served in Europe, Korea and Italy. Much of his stateside duty was at Fort Sill. At the time of his retirement he was operations sergeant in Post at Ft. Sill.

Awards and medals he received include the Purple Heart with a cluster, three Bronze Stars with V Device for valor, the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal. A member of Veterans of Foreign War posts • in Ardmore and Guthrie, he was also a member of the Audubon Society and the Good Sam Club.

Survivors include his daughter, Dee Ann Burris, Ardmore; a stepson, Ronnie Mendell, Los Angeles; five grandchildren, Tony Jones- and his wife, Sheryl, Roy Jones and his wife, Kathy, Leska Gilbert and her husband, Aaron, and Desi Mendell; numerous, great-grand-children; and great-great grand-children.

**TOM COLLEY** [tncolley@bellsouth.net] posted on RootsWeb the following information for **Nancy C. Gilmer**, daughter of **Daugherty Gilmer** and **Mary Elizabeth Jessee**. Mary is a descendant of John Jr. via son Joseph Jessee.

Nancy C. Gilmer (21 Apr. 1864-17 Oct. 1914), d/o Daugherty Gilmer & Mary Elizabeth Jessee; m. 06 Nov. 1882 Russell County, Virginia, James Fletcher Long

07 Jun 1900: Washington County, Virginia Census: North Fork Hh# 111/115: Fletcher Long, 38 {Mar 1862} farmer; Nancy, 34 {Mar 1866} wife, m. 17y, m/o 10/9 living; Ethel, 17 {Aug. 1883} daughter; Nora L., 14 {Jan. 1887} daughter; James D., 12 {Aug. 1889} son; Henry C., 9 {Dec. 1891} son; Edgar, 7 {Jun1893} son; Cynthia M., 5 {May 1895} daughter; McKinley, 4 {Oct. 1896} son; Wyndham, 3 {Apr. 1897} son; Callie, 1 {Dec. 1898} daughter.

19 Apr. 1910: Washington County, Virginia Census: North Fork Hh# 50/50: James F. Long, 47 farmer; Nancy C., 45 wife, m. 24y, m/o 14/13 living; James D., 20 son; Henry C., 17 son; John E., 16 son; Cynthia M., 15 daughter; William Mc., 14 son; Callie, 12 daughter; Wyndham, 11 son; Jessie, 9 son; Viola, 7 daughter; Clifford E., 5 son; Douglas R., 3 son.

09 Jan.. 1920: Washington County, Virginia Census: North Fork Hh# 60/61: J. Fletcher Long, 52 widowed farmer; Henry C., 24 son; Wyndom, 19 son; Clifford, 13 son; Douglas R., 11 son.

10 May 1930: Washington County, Virginia Census: North Fork Hh# 334/338: James F. Long, 68 farmer, 1st married at age 19; Annie C., 60 wife, 1st married at age 18; Clifford, 23 son; Douglas, 20 son.

Washington County, Virginia death register: WCV, North Fork, Holston: Mrs. N. C. LONG, white female, mar., b. 21 Apr. 1864, 50/05/26, b. RCV; d. 17 Oct. 1914, d/o Dot GILMER, RCV & Mary JESSEE, RCV; bur. at home.

Nancy is buried in Long Cemetery, Washington County, Virginia along with James Fletcher Long. Headstones: J. F. Long: 1862- \_\_\_\_ (blank); Nannie Long: 1864-1914.

**KATHIE FUSTON** [kathiefuston@mindspring.com] wrote, 1/21/2009, asking for help to establish her membership in DAR and Colonial Dames. Kathie is the great-niece of **Laura Jessee Thomas**, one of the JHF founders. I hope someone from the **Tabitha Adams Chapter of the DAR** may be able to help.

Hi Jim, My mother descended from Jessees, and we have attended a couple of reunions. What a great bunch of relatives we are blessed to have. My great aunt was Laura Nell Jessee Thomas, of Bristol, Tn. . She passed away a couple of years ago, and I remember that she was very interested in our family genealogy. I believe that she was a member of the DAR, and I have been invited to join a group in Columbia, TN. Is there an online source of birth, death, and marriage records for Russell Co., VA? Do you have any suggestions as to how I should proceed to gather the proper documentation? Thank you for all that you have done to research and preserve our Jessee family heritage.

Kathie Fuston  
P.O. Box 1112  
Columbia, TN 38401

## II. Archer Jessee

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

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

**MICHAEL R. HELVEY II**[lord\_death2184@yahoo.com] wrote, 1/10/2009, with this inquiry about the Helvey Family. Indeed, I have **Paul Glenn Helvey** who married **Dorothy Gray Shoemaker**, in my database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org). Dorothy Shoemaker is a Jessee family descendant. She is descended from two of John and Frankey's children, Archer via son Vincent, and Martin via daughter Christina. You can find her mother **Kate Gent Gray** to see her pedigree that includes distant Jessee family. So that is one connection, but it does not include a Robert or Stella Jessie or Jessee, which is his family connection. Can anyone help us?

Hello good sir, I was doing some research on my family HELVEY. Of course I started out looking for German roots and what not, then somehow I got to Robert Jessie (is how spelled but the Jessee family spelled it this way) along with Stella Jessee. My grandfather seems to be a son, maybe illegitimate, of Robert Jessie, I am stumbling to even figure out how it comes from Jessee to Helvey, maybe you can help me out, my grandfather, Charles Nelson Helvey went on to have 5 kids, one female (passed on) and my 3 uncles and father. My father mentioned a story his mom told him. My grandmother took her children (my father uncles) to the resident of Jessee, I think it was they call a poor house, Stella was part of this? and regretfully Stella said to my grandmother & her son, quote " never bring them SOB's back" which brings me to think they were illegitimate. I am not looking to start anything, just need some answers, especially how Helvey and Jessee mixed.... [Michael provided this website reference]

[www.poorhousestory.com/poorhouses\\_in\\_kentucky.htm](http://www.poorhousestory.com/poorhouses_in_kentucky.htm)

**ARCHIE JESSEE** [aejessee@wavecable.com] wrote, 1/8/2009, with this obituary of **Gertrude Gibson Jessee**. Her husband **Fred Columbus Jessee** is a descendant of Archer Jessee via Elder David "Little Dave" Jessee and Archie's brother.

JESSEE, Gertrude Gibson: Born on June 7, 1930, in Plymouth, Calif.; passed away on December 31, 2008, at her home in Diamond Springs, Calif., following a brief illness. Preceded in death by her beloved husband of 42 years, Fred Columbus Jessee. Greatly missed by children Bill and Donna Warkentin, Fred and Sandy Jessee, Duane and Melinda Jessee, Mel and Karey Jessee, 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Retired in 1986 after 25 years of service in the Elk Grove Unified School District - seven years as a district cook and 18 years as a school bus driver. She was an active member in the Church of the Nazarene all her life and loved gospel quartet music. Remembrances in Gertrude's name may be made to the Snowline Hospice of El Dorado County.

### 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.

**DEBORAH (SCHRADER) HOLLOWBUSH** [DLHGLH@comcast.net] wrote, 1/17/2009, regarding a tragedy in Kansas. **Michael L. Shirley** is a William Jessee descendant, his paternal grandmother was **Carrie Ethel Jessee** who married **Leon Fay Shirley**. Carrie was a daughter of Lincoln Sherman Jessee. My family is also intermarried with Shirley's from Champaign Co., Illinois, but I don't know if or how they may be related to Leon Fay Shirley family of Kansas.

On Monday, January 12, 2009 in Scranton, KS there was a murder/suicide in the Shirley family. You can read about it in the Topeka Capital Journal online. Names of deceased are Michael L. Shirley, son of Harry L. and Colleen Bolyard Shirley and Michael's children Ethan Chance Shirley, Ashten Christine Shirley and Caleb "Jackson" Shirley. This is a very sad tragedy in our family.

### IV. Lea Jessee

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

### V. David Jessee

Reverend David Jessee (1783-1856) married Catharine "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://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.

See Correspondence for a wonderful essay by Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser descendant, **Carol Fraley Laferty**.

**NEILA HALL** [neila\_hall@yahoo.com] wrote, 5/30/2009, with this inquiry and request for help proving that she is a Noah Kiser family descendant with **Kiser, Thompson, Stallard, and Jessee roots in Carter Co., KY**.

Hello, My name is Neila Kiser Hall and I live in Fairborn, Ohio. I have recently began looking into my family background and I am truly amazed at the information that is provided on your website! My "roots" if you will are buried very deeply in Carter County, Kentucky and I'm hoping that you may be able to help point me in the right direction of discovering my descendants.

My father's name is Leslie Neal Kiser, son of Ermal Kiser and Berne Stallard. Ermal was the son of John Kiser and Winney Baker of Olive Hill, KY. But that's where I'm kind of stuck. I believe that John Kiser's father was Joseph but I'm not sure. Based on all the research that you have done and the amazing amount of information you have obtained, I'm hoping you might assist me with how to trace my roots a bit farther back, hopefully to Noah Kiser's father, Abednego. Any information or direction would be greatly appreciated.

I responded as follows.

From your message below you are seeking proof and the missing links to show that you are a descendant of Noah Kiser and Dicie Thompson who moved their family from Russell Co. to Carter Co., KY. Noah Kiser was the son of Abednego Kiser and Mary "Polly" Jessee. I show Noah and Dicie with 16 children, your Joseph the youngest. You can view all this genealogy on RootsWeb via the [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) Website, which will direct you to the database where you may search for these individuals.

Our family expert on all this genealogy was Vivian Bales, who has sadly left us. The following individuals referenced here in my source notes for Noah Kiser.

Source: 1850 Russell Co., VA Census, #590 by B. Ball lists Noah as age 43, farmer. 1, 200, B. Russell co., and his family is listed there. 1870 Carter Co., KY Census lists Noah as age 64, b. VA.

Source: Vivian Bales, Marion, IN, writes (10/96): "Noah and Dicie were parents of 17 children. At least two of their daughters MD. in VA and remained there, but most of the children went to Carter Co., KY. Noah and Dicy went to Carter Co., KY after the Civil War. Noah Kiser and Dicie were both alive in 1880. Since there was no Census saved for 1890. At the first Kiser Reunion in July 1982, those who lived near the site of the Reunion said Noah and Dicie lived will into the 1880s."

Source: Materials provided by Linda Kiser, based on data provided her by Vivian Evans (9743 Cheshire, Sunbury, OH 43074). "Wesleyville, KY is the site of the old homestead where Noah and Dicie, and their children Ab and Eliza [and grandchildren, including Ephraim] are buried."

I am copying both the JESSEE List and the RUSSELL CO. List as there are many researchers who intersect with the KISER, THOMPSON, STALLARD, and JESSEE Families. I suggest that you join both lists as there are many wonderful researchers there who may be closer cousins, and more directly related.

**LORETTA KISER** [lfkiser@gmail.com] posted on RootsWeb information for **Isaac Dewey Kiser and Clara (Riggs) Kiser**, descendants of Mary Polly Jessee Kiser.

Just a note on Isaac D and Clara R. Kiser's children # 1 Joella J Kiser born 1942 died July 4, 2007. She was married to living Stewart in 1974. He was born in 1945 in AZ to Wilma and Vergil Stewart. (Wilma was the granddaughter of Abraham Lincoln Kiser 1861-1916) and Alice Stinson Kiser. Dewey and Clara's other children were born in 1949 living Kiser and 1950 living Kiser.

I am a direct descendant of Dewey Kiser. Although most online files and even Judge Sutherland's book report his birth as 1899, it was

actually December 27, 1898. He died October 15, 1964. Dewey and his first wife Hattie Wells had no children. His second wife, Clara Riggs Kiser, born April 5, 1912. She died in 1958. They had 3 children, Joella J Kiser Stewart born Nov. 22, 1942- died July 4, 2007.

As his father Gideon and grandfather Abraham, Dewey was a farmer in Russell County. He was also a police officer/chief and deputy sheriff in Wise County in the 40's. He served in WW1 and WW2. He was afflicted with Parkinson's disease in his later years, as was his father and grandfather.

**LORETTA KISER** [lfkiser@gmail.com] wrote, 5/20/2009, regarding the death and burial location for her great-grandfather, **Abraham Lincoln Kiser** who married **Mary Polly "Pop" Counts**, a descendant of **Mary Polly Kiser**.

I was reviewing the info on GG Abraham Kiser and I noticed that it stated he died at Dumps Creek and this is not where he was living in 1920. He and granddaughter Mattie had moved to the property near Burton's Ford in 1907. He is buried in the Gose Cemetery adjacent to the property that he bought from Cowan Gose. It's on the Brick Church Road. He and Mary have matching tombstones, but she is buried in the Spruce Pine Hollow Cemetery near Chaney Creek. It's several miles away.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/cemeteries/sprucepine-cem.html>. I am new to genealogy and failed to listen to much of what my father told me as I was growing up in Russell County. We lived on the farm that Abraham moved to down near Burton's Ford, near the Gose Cemetery where Abraham is buried.

I have been away from Russell County now for more than 40 years and most of my research has been online, but I think it's accurate. I'd like to go back to Lebanon some day and actually look at the records for myself some day, but that doesn't seem likely.

I'm sure I mentioned something about the Gose Cemetery before, but hopefully this will add some clarity to my remarks. If I already sent this addition, please forgive me. I enjoy talking about the family so much I sometimes forget to whom I've mentioned this or that little personal recollection.

## VIII. Frances Jessee Stone

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

## IX. Sarah Jessee Vermillion

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

## X. Boedicia Jessee Gose

Boedicia "Dicey/Dicy" Jessee married Stephen Gose Jr. (1792-bef. 1842), son of Stephen Gose and Barbara Catron (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.

**LESTER SHADRICK** [lshad@mounet.com] wrote, 4/10/2008, with this update regarding **Rebecca B. Jessee, daughter of Fleming Burk and Mary (Browning) Jessee**.

Hello Jim, I'm writing again concerning Rebecca Jessee (RIN 1535), daughter of Fleming Burk and Mary (Browning) Jessee. You received information from Venus Bee in May, 2000, stating that Rebecca married James Adkins, and that her sister, Ellen, married Sol Colley. According to the following information, it appears her ancestors probably married Andersons not Jessees.

From the Russell County, VA GenWeb.

James Adkins, 21, born Pike County, KY (son of Squire and Mary Adkins) married November 29, 1860 to Rebecca Anderson, 17, born Russell County, VA (daughter of John and Milley Anderson) and...

S. (Solomon) Colley, 22, born Russell County, VA (son of Joshua and Didema Colley) married April 7, 1868 to E.M. Anderson, 21, born Russell County, VA (daughter of Milley Anderson)

I hope this clears up the confusion about Rebecca and her sister, Ellender. Rebecca B. Jessee was married to Absalom Gilly, and Ellender M. Jessee was married to Samuel F. Bailie.

I also have a question. Does anyone in the family know where James (son of John and Frances) and Jane (Burk) Jessee are buried? Any help is much appreciated. Thank you,

Lester G. Shadrick

## XII. Rebecca Jessee Burk

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

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

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

## XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

Jane Jessee (1797-1869) married Henry Fuller (1792-1872), son of Abraham Fuller and Mary Sargent. They had ten children. This family moved to Illinois. While I have a scant amount of descendants'

information, I do not correspond with any descendant of Jane Jessee Fuller, except, Vins Holbrook, previously featured in this newsletter, who is a Fuller descendant. This is a family that needs much research.

## XIV. George Lea Jessee

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

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

**MIKE MAPLES** [jmmapes@highland.net] wrote, 2/6/2009, regarding **Martha B. Victoria Jessee**, daughter of Martin Counts Jessee, son of George Lea Jessee.

My name is Mike Maples. I've been doing some genealogy search of my family and found the Jessee site. My great grandmother was Victoria Jessee married to Horace Foster, and my grandmother was Myrtle Foster and was married to Charles E Maples. I tried to contact Rob Foster at the e-mail address he had on the site but received no answer. This was an old address (2005) and may have been changed. If you have any information I would appreciate the help. Also looking into going to the Jessee reunion, I live in east TN close to Knoxville, just a short distance from VA.

**DAVID RANKIN** [david\_rankin@verizon.net] wrote, 6/2/2009, regarding **Ruth B. Jessee** daughter of **Marshall Greely Jessee** and **Sarah "Sallie" D. Castle**.

Mr. Jessee: I am inquiring for information regarding Ruth B. Jessee, listed in your database as follows:

Name: Ruth B. JESSEE  
Birth: AUG. 1899 in , Russell Co., VA  
Father: Marshal Greeley JESSEE b: 23 JUL. 1872 in , Russell Co., VA  
Mother: Sarah "Sallie" D. CASTLE b: JUN. 1871 in , Russell Co., VA

I believe she may be my great-grandmother but I cannot make a connection for certain. My great-grandmother was one Ruth B. Harris but this was her married name as listed in the 1920 and 1930 Federal Census (image attached) showing her married to Walter B. Harris of the Castlewood Magisterial District. I can positively confirm that the persons listed in this census record are my family. I have traced your Ruth B. Harris from 1900 - 1910. The given name and birth dates and places match up and then suddenly, apparently the only Ruth B. anything in that area is Ruth B. Harris in 1920. My belief is that this is because it is the same person, now married.

Your database lists no husband or children for Ruth B. Jessee (daughter of Marshal Greeley Jessee. Do you have any information about her that might allow me to make this connection to the Jessee family? Any information affirmative or negative would be appreciated. Thank you in advance for you time.

## 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.

**VAL GENTILINI** <imvalg@yahoo.com> wrote, 4/10/2009, with an inquiry to locate **Teresa Fern Jessee** who married **George Smith**, an old friend. Teresa Jessee is a descendant of Stanford Lea Jessee and many other Russell Co. families. If someone has such contact or knows how to find Teresa Jessee Smith, please forward this to her, or let her know about this inquiry. Thank you for Val and me both.

I went to school with a girl named Teresa Jessee. We both attended Western Branch High School in Chesapeake during the year 1971-1972. She was my best friend. She married a guy named George Smith. I lost touch with her and have been trying to find her ever since. Her family lived in Rescue, VA. She had two sisters, Becky and Susie, and a brother that was killed in a car accident. I would love to get in touch with her. If you know who I'm talking about please let me know.

I responded as follows.

I do have Teresa Fern Jessee married to George Smith and one child, Justin Smith in my database. She is a very distant cousin. With your permission, I can post your note on the Jessee List and see if someone has a current address, as I do not. I am sharing this with my cousin, who provided this information via an obituary for her father.

You might just try Google her name Teresa Fern Jessee Smith, and see what you get. You can look up her father, Roland Ralph "Hooter" Jessee in the family database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org).

**OBITUARIES@ROOTSWEB.COM** included this Jessee obit for **Mabel June (Jessee) Merritt**, published in the *Knoxville News Sentinel* on 1/22/2009. I do not have this Jessee Family in the database. Does anyone know how they connect? Surnames: MERRITT, JESSEE, MILLS, STALEY, LETT, WHITE, MOYERS, GRAF

MERRITT, MABEL JUNE (JESSEE) - age 68, of Luttrell, TN received her ultimate healing Monday afternoon, January 19 at her home in Luttrell. June battled cancer courageously for 8 years and although it may have claimed her natural life, it never conquered her spirit. She was the consummate encourager and chosen by her oncologist to speak to and motivate fellow cancer patients. June was a faithful and active member of Mountain View Church of God for 51 years where she served as Sunday School teacher, greeter, and founding member of the Women In Action ladies ministry. With her husband Alvin, June founded and operated Merritt Construction Contractors, Inc. for almost 40 years, remaining active until her passing. June led by serving. Through various contributions and fund raisers, she, along with others, came to the support of numerous families and local organizations including her church, Luttrell Volunteer Fire Department, Luttrell Elementary School, Luttrell Elementary Beta Club, Luttrell City Park, and various cemeteries. June is preceded in death by her parents, Otis and Gladys Jessee; brothers, Estle Jessee and Hollis Jessee. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Alvin Merritt; children, Ricky and wife Linda, Johnny and wife Tammy; grandchildren, Andrew, Jeremy, Hannah, Alison, and Blake; all of Luttrell; brother, Kelsie Jessee and wife Joyce of Corryton; sisters, Shirley (Jessee) Mills of Phoenix, AZ, Lillis (Jessee) Staley of Luttrell, Elsie (Jessee) Lett and husband Ray of Corryton, and Pauline (Jessee) White of Maynardville; sister-in-law Wanda (Merritt) Moyers and husband Benny of Maynardville, May Graf of Kokomo, IN; brothers-in-law Paul Merritt and wife Dollie of Luttrell, Junior Merritt and wife Cathy of Kokomo, IN. and a multitude of nieces, nephews, and cousins. The family will receive friends



from 5:00 to 9:00 pm, Thursday, at Cooke Mortuary, Maynardville, TN. Funeral will be held at Mountain View Church of God, Luttrell, at 1:00 pm, Friday, January 23, 2009 with Rev. Paul Hughes officiating and eulogies by her sons and grandchildren. Music by Andrew Merritt, Joyful Sounds, Dollie Merritt, Channing Eleton, Andre Pratt, and Mike Redwine. Pallbearers Andrew Merritt, Jeremy Merritt, Blake Merritt, Eddie Teems, Carson Tharp, Phil Ruth, Rick Walker. Honorary pallbearers Charley Weems, Harold Sowder, Larry Hunter, Bill Chesney, Don Bowers, Kenneth Hayes, Steve Devault, Mark Lewis, Rance Cagle, Caron Sowder, Doffise Williams, Eddie Adams, Claude Turner, Todd Hutchison, and all of June's nephews. Interment following at Dyer Cemetery with Rev. Kelsie Jessee officiating. Arrangements by Cooke Mortuary, Maynardville. www.cookemortuary.com.

**KERRY GALCIK** [klgalcik@hotmail.com] wrote, 2/25/2009, requesting **genetic health information** that may be pertinent to others in the family.

Would you mind posting this inquiry in the newsletter? My aunt, who is a Jessee descendant, was just diagnosed with Lymphatic Filariasis (an immune disorder). It has also been discovered that both my aunts have double veins. One has them in the kidneys and the other has them in her legs. I was diagnosed in 2004 with Multiple Sclerosis. We are looking into our family backgrounds to track the auto-immune and immune disorders in order to see where these may have originated. It will help in the research with our doctors. If you or any of the Jessee descendants have one of these issues please have them contact me as soon as possible via my email address: klgalcik@hotmail.com.

Thank you so much for your assistance with this. I pray you are well and having a wonderful 2009.

**DEBORAH (SCHRADER) HOLLOWBUSH** [DLHGLH@comcast.net] wrote 1/11/2009 with information about an historic photo on EBay featuring a **Johnny Jessee**.

Hi Jim, I found this on e-bay. Do you know anyone that would be interested in it? These are Two Great Photos from 1897. They are both mounted on cardboard. They are both stamped John W. Wade, on one corner and Liberty Missouri on the other corner. On the back of the Large Group Picture is the School Name, which looks like Faubion School, I am not sure, it is hard to read, Sept. 1897. It also says Mr. John R. Gibbs Teacher. It also says other names including the girl who's picture this is. The other picture also says the School Name, 1897, and the names of the people in the picture, Lee Dale, Lester, Johnny Jessee, Mary Hughes, Kate Thompson, Mr. Gibbs, Teacher, Georgia Smith, and Nettie Foster. The Cardboards have stains, but the pictures themselves aren't too bad. This would be awesome if someone knows who these people were.

**PAMELA MARLENE ESTEP** [marleneestep@yahoo.com] wrote, 5/17/2009, requesting help to connect her **Jessie family of Pike Co., KY**, connected to **McClanahan, Stiltner, Elswick and Clevinger families**, too. Any help would be appreciated.

Hi James, I ran into your Jessee ancestry on Rootsweb. I knew some of my Jessie's were born in Pike Co, KY. and thought they came from other Kentucky Counties but found that they were from Buchanan County, Virginia. Your's are out of neighboring Russell County, VA. I believe there's a connection between our Jessee's and Jessie's. Do you have the Jessie spelling in your tree? Also my Jessie's are connected to McClanahan, Stiltner, Elswick and Clevinger among others.

I responded as follows.

Yes, I would also believe there is a connection between these families. We have JESSE and JESSEE family members who became JESSIE in KY, too, including Pike Co., but mainly in and around Carter Co. and Metcalf Co, I think. We have all three spellings in the family tree. You should search all three spellings, as Clerks, Census Takers, and Courts spelled it any way they wanted... I believe that JESSE is the original spelling as we came from England, probably as early as 1600s. This is of interest to many in the family and I always have discussion in the Newsletter about the various spellings of our name and possible common origins.

## Correspondence

**CAROL FRALEY LAFERTY** provided this wonderful essay tracing her Jessee Family origins. Carol descends from both John Jessee, Jr. and Mary Polly (Jessee) Kiser, as well as several other pioneer Russell Co. families.

### Tracing My Jessee Family Connections

As a young girl growing up, I always thought it was an amusing coincidence that both of my grandmothers were named Margaret and both called "Maggie." One, Maggie Kiser Fraley, I knew quite well because she lived just over the hill from us on a small farm on Chestnut Ridge near Dungannon in Scott County, VA. Her house was my second home, and I spent many happy hours with her and my granddaddy Fraley.

The other Maggie, I never knew at all, although she lived to be 75 years old. Tragically, she suffered from severe depression, and spent most of her adult life in a facility in southwest Virginia. She was Margaret "Maggie" Lewis Porter (1884-1959). She and her husband had three beautiful little girls, one of whom was my mother Carrie. Their fourth child, a son, died at five months of age in 1915.

The only time I ever saw my grandmother Porter was at her funeral in 1959 in Castlewood, VA. With her pure porcelain complexion and mostly black hair, she looked young at age 75, and I could see an immediate resemblance to my mother. She was laid to rest alongside her husband, Joseph Johnson Porter, at Temple Hill Cemetery in Castlewood, VA.

My Mamaw Maggie Fraley (1893-1990) would tell me stories about growing up in Wise, VA. She'd tell me about her Poppy and Mommy Kiser. She told me about her Aunts Malissa and Savannah piercing her ears with a needle and ice. I couldn't believe teenagers in the early 1900's were that "progressive!"

With a tone of particular pride in her voice, she'd sometimes say "We're related to the Jessee's." She never went any further to explain her exact relationship, and I, being a child, didn't think to ask.

She was the daughter of Elihu Tase and Martha Lucinda (Cindy) Short Kiser from Wise County. She married Charlie Kitchen Fraley when she was 17 (around 1910) and came to neighboring Scott County in a "horse-drawn buggy with fringe on it." She remained on that farm until her death in 1990 at age 97. She married Charlie Kitchen Fraley when she was 17 (around 1910) and came to neighboring Scott County in a "horse-drawn buggy with fringe on it." She remained on that farm until her death in 1990 at age 97.

Some fifty years later I haven't forgotten my grandmother's comment and my curiosity about the Jessee relationship began to keenly interest me a few years back. Since I was already into genealogy research on a small scale, I had a few skills to help me. The Jessee family online database was my first source.

One of the biggest surprises early in my pursuit was to find both my paternal and maternal grandmothers there. This was totally unexpected. To my delight and amazement, I learned that both had a grandmother named Margaret Jessee, but not the same one. Their middle initial distinguishes them.

Maggie Kiser Fraley was the granddaughter of Margaret L. Jessee (b. 1838), daughter of Jefferson and Nancy Counts Jessee, who was the son of John, Jr. and Mary Polly Armstrong Jessee. My grandmother was a great-great-great granddaughter of John and Frankey Lea Jessee.

My maternal grandmother, Maggie Lewis Porter, was the granddaughter of Margaret C. Jessee (b. 1823), daughter of George Lea and Elizabeth "Betsy" Counts Jessee. She married George Washington Puckett, and their daughter Elizabeth Puckett married Axley Lewis, my great-grandfather and great-grandmother. Maggie Lewis was their daughter.

So, "Betsy" and Nancy Counts Jessee were sisters, and Nancy's husband, Jefferson Jessee, was Betsy's husband George Lea Jessee's nephew. Maggie Lewis Porter was a great-great-granddaughter of John and Frankey Lea Jessee. Getting confusing, isn't it?

So as it turns out, my grandmothers were third cousins on the Counts side; third cousins, once removed, on the Jessee side. I hope I am right on this. If not, someone please help straighten me out! Both Margaret Jessee's shared the same grandmother, Margaret "Peggy"

Kelly Counts, wife of John Counts “of Cleveland,” as he’s sometimes called. I believe that both were named after their grandmother Counts.

I have visited the grave site of John and Margaret Kelly Counts in the John Counts Cemetery in Cleveland, VA, and found that day to be a special moment. My mother’s baby brother, Paul Stewart (Stuart) Porter, who died in 1915 at five months of age (after his mother had to go back to the hospital), is buried in the same cemetery. I was unable to find his grave that day. Vernon Salyers was kind to send me a color photo of his tombstone, for which I am still so grateful. Without his work and that of the Russell County Historical Society, our Porter family would have never known where this baby boy was buried. Most of my first cousins on the Porter side wanted a copy of that photograph.

Another interesting connection to the Jessee family for me is that my paternal grandmother, Maggie Fraley, was the daughter of Elihu Tase Kiser, and his great-grandparents were Abednigo and Mary Polly Jessee Kiser. This makes my third connection to John and Frankey Lea Jessee’s children.

Thanks for letting me share my story. I have learned so many things about my varied Russell County ancestors through my research into the Jessee family. All of this makes me realize that we should talk to our children and grandchildren about our family roots and branches. Start when they are young—don’t wait until they are grown. Some of it is bound to sink in!

My Mamaw Fraley’s simple comment, “We’re related to the Jessee’s,” to a young granddaughter has led me on an adventure that has been exciting and interesting. She would be so pleased if she could know of the special connection I have felt to her grandmother, Margaret L. Jessee, as I have searched for answers.

I believe my grandmother Maggie Porter would be, also, if she could know. My mother (Carrie Porter Fraley) would be amused, and maybe just a little “put out” with me perhaps. I still find it fascinating that I traced her roots back to her great-grandmother, Margaret C. Jessee, and found a connection between her and my father that neither ever knew about, to my knowledge. She’d probably think “There goes Carol again—always getting into things better left alone!”

I wish I could share my findings with all of these special people who have gone on; but at least I can share them with my aunts, an uncle, my brother, cousins, and my own three adult children—anyone who will listen! I can also share it with you, and I hope in doing so that all of us realize what wonderful pioneering spirits we come from.

Carol Fraley Laferty 55 E. Cardinal Lane Clearfield, KY 40313

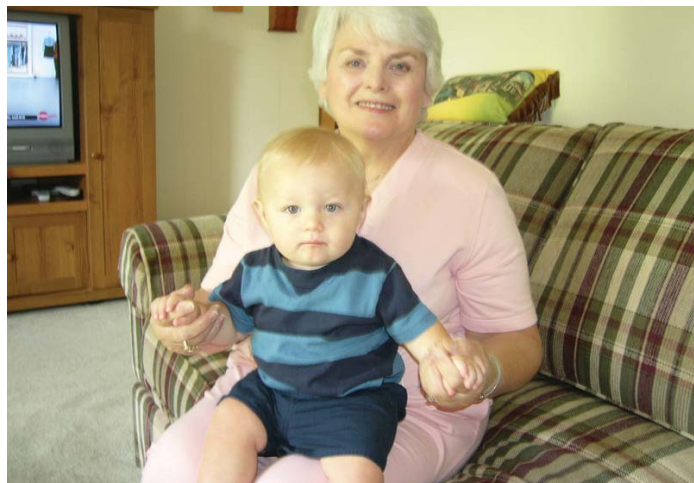
Carol wrote later as follows:

I’m so glad you liked the story. I would be honored for it to be in the Newsletter. I am attaching some pictures. The one (top) of Margaret L. Jessee and Abednigo Kiser came from Mr. Sutherland’s book about John Counts of Glade Hollow.

Photos: Carol Laferty and grandson Kai Asbill, below; Margaret L. Jessee and Abednigo Kiser (top right); Helen, John Tase, and Maggie Kiser Fraley (middle left); Margaret Lewis Porter (middle right); Carol Laferty at 19 (bottom left); Maggie Fraley and granddaughter Carol (bottom right)



Abednigo and MARGARET L JESSEE (D-152) Kiser



## 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 A. DYE** continues to provide the most excellent genealogy resources for SW VA genealogists and those just interested in local history through these new efforts. I recommend you consider them.

**From Michael Dye:** I'm pleased to make the announcement that *The Southwest Virginian* magazine is now available on CD.

*The Southwest Virginian* was published from 1978 to 1984 in Wise County, Virginia and included 34 issues totaling over 1800 pages of genealogical data. Topics covered such items as census records, tax lists, vital records, bible records, cemetery records, marriage records, Revolutionary War pension records, family histories, biographical sketches and much, much more. Records for most of the counties of Southwest Virginia can be found within this collection. The Southwest Virginian has long been out of print and is rarely if ever seen available today. When last available, several years ago, the price for a complete collection was about \$250.00. Co-editor Rhonda Robertson has granted permission for The Southwest Virginian to be made available on CD at a fraction of that price. The complete collection of 34 issues has been scanned to pdf files and run through optical character recognition software making each issue fully searchable. To see a full table of contents for each issue, you can go to the "Publications" page on the Russell County VAGenWeb Project at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/pubs/index.html>. The price for the CD is \$20.00 and includes shipping within the United States.

Secondly, Michael has collected the following *Southwest Virginia Historical Book Collection* onto a single DVD or series of CDs as you may wish.

**From Michael Dye:** Below is the list of the 35 books that are included [on the new Historical Book Collection. The data takes up about 2 gig on a DVD and for those needing CDs will require the use of a three CD set. As before, this DVD will be \$20.00 which includes postage. If you want the CDs it's \$25.00 to cover the extra costs of multiple CDs, postage and time to burn them.

- 1) Annals of Southwest Virginia - Lewis Preston Summers - 1757 pages
- 2) History of Southwest Virginia 1746 - 1786, Washington County, 1786 - 1870 - Lewis Preston Summers - 919 pages
- 3) Annals of Tazewell County, Virginia - John Newton Harman - 1189 pages
- 4) History of Tazewell County, Virginia and Southwest Virginia, 1748 - 1920 - William C. Pendleton - 715 pages
- 5) History of the Settlement and Indian Wars of Tazewell County, Virginia - George W. L. Bickley - 266 pages
- 6) Documentary History of Dunmore's War - Wisconsin Historical Society - 515 pages
- 7) History of Logan County, West Virginia (Genealogical Section, Chapters 13-22) - Henry Clay Ragland - 28 pages
- 8) The Life and Adventures of Wilburn Waters, The Famous Hunter

- and Trapper of White Top Mountain, Embracing Early History of Southwestern Virginia, Sufferings of the Pioneers, Etc., Etc. - Charles B. Coale - 110 pages
- 9) History of Scott County, Virginia - Robert M. Addington - 375 pages
- 10) A Narrative History of Wise County, Virginia - Charles A. Johnson - 416 pages
- 11) Russell County, A Confederate Breadbasket - Theodosia Wells Barrett - 144 pages
- 12) Looking Back - Theodosia Wells Barrett - 147 pages
- 13) Pine Creek Union Log Church - Mae Wells Ball - 21 pages
- 14) Virginia and Virginians, 2 Vol's. - Revised by Robert A. Brock - 813 pages
- 15) William Russell and his Descendants - Anna Russell Des Cognets - 124 pages
- 16) The Big Sandy Valley, History of the People and Country From the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time - William Ely - 500 pages
- 17) History of the Battle of Point Pleasant - Virgil A. Lewis - 131 pages
- 18) Pioneer Settlers of Grayson County Virginia - Benjamin Floyd Nuckolls - 206 pages
- 19) Pioneers on the Western Waters - Theodosia Wells Barrett - 116 pages
- 20) History of Roane County, West Virginia - William H. Bishop - 741 pages
- 21) History of Roane County, Tennessee, 1801 - 1870 - Emma Middleton Wells - 300 pages
- 22) Cabell County Annals and Families - G. S. Wallace - 608 pages
- 23) Historical Sketches of Southwest Virginia - 793 pages
- 24) Crimes, Criminals and Characters of The Cumberlands and Southwest Virginia - Roy L. Sturgill - 72 pages
- 25) Scott County in War Time: A Community History - Robert M. Addington - 20 pages
- 26) Smyth County History and Traditions - Goodridge Wilson - 397 pages
- 27) Historical Sketches and Reminiscences of an Octogenarian - Thomas L. Preston - 170 pages
- 28) Castle's Woods: Frontier Virginia Settlement, 1769-1799 - James W. Hagy - 138 pages
- 29) Diary of Samuel Hervey Laughlin - 53 Pages
- 30) Memoirs of Daniel W. Cunningham: The Criminal Histories of Roane and Jackson Counties, West Virginia - 44 Pages
- 31) Recollections of George William Settle - 30 pages
- 32) A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians - E. Polk Johnson - 3 Vol's totaling 1733 pages
- 33) Christopher Gist's Journals - William M. Darlington - 296 Pages
- 34) Devil John Wright of the Cumberlands - William T. Wright - 253 pages
- 35) My Life's Memory - Clyde Ray - 216 pages (Waiting for approval to include this one)

**I'm [Michael Dye] pleased to make the announcement that Betty Mullins has given me permission to distribute via DVD, *Southeast Virginia Ancestors*, which was the quarterly publication that was published from 1987 through 1997 by her and her husband John Mullins through Mullins Publishing.**

There are 44 issues, 4 for each year it was in circulation. Each issue has about 50-55 pages except the last which is a combination of the final two issues and numbers 100 pages. The complete collection of 44 issues has been scanned to pdf files and run through optical character recognition software making each issue fully searchable. To see a full table of contents for each issue, you can go to the following link:

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/swva/swvatableofcontents.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/swva/swvatableofcontents.pdf)

Be forewarned, the file is over 18 megs in size, so if you have a slower connection you may have difficulty opening the file without first downloading it. If that is the case, go here:

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/swva](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/swva)

and then right click on the file named "swvatableofcontents.pdf" and save it to your desk top and then open it.

I have to distribute Southwest Virginia Ancestors via DVD because the amount of data is too large to fit on one CD. However, if there are any out there who can't use a DVD and must have CD's I will work something out with you on multiple CD's. The price for the DVD is \$20.00 and includes shipping within the United States.

Payment for all of the above can be made to me via Paypal (www.paypal.com) at my alternate email address madyev82@aol.com or via check or money order to my mailing address at:

Michael A. Dye  
207 Deersshadow Road  
Maineville, Ohio 45039

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to post them either here, or send them to me at my primary genealogy email at madye@fuse.net.

### Michael now has another DVD collection ready.

The Family Genealogies DVD is ready to go. I've gotten to the point that adding any new material to the DVD has become a slow process and not wanting to delay any longer making it available I've decided to go ahead and go forward with what we have, which is still quite a bit. I can always create another sometime in the future if I get enough material. The final list is below.

- 1) History of the Baker Family - Polly "Baker" Hagerman - 208 pages
- 2) Family History of James Dougherty and Lineage of Descent - William C. Dougherty - 45 pages
- 3) The History of Five Southern Families - Ethel Evans Albert - 229 pages
- 4-6) Southwest Virginia Kin, Vol's 1-3 - Ethel Evans Albert - 690, 408 & 196 pages
- 7) Links with the Past: A genealogical and historical account of the Albert and related families - Ethel Evans Albert - 497 pages
- 8) Journey in Virginia - Polly Ryan - 185 pages
- 9) Brown Family History, The Descendants of John N. Brown and Other Related Families - Wanda Brown Cleary - 99 pages
- 10) Col. James McFarlane of Virginia, Some Descendants and Related Family - Lake McFarlane Parsons - 227 pages
- 11) Descendants of David Little and Sarah Snead - Thomas Colley - 38 pages
- 12) Remembering the Past to Preserve the Future - Balfour Oliver Lytton - 24 pages (Note: Also includes several Litton family bible records)
- 13) Runyon Genealogy - Robert & Amos Runyon - 194 pages
- 14) Some Fullers of Buchanan & Dickenson Counties in Virginia - Roxie Hammill Wilcox - 228 pages
- 15) Family Lineage of William Eagle - Delbert Eagle - 235 pages
- 16) Genealogy of the Musick Family and Some Kindred Lines - Egbert S. Musick - 276 pages
- 17) Gibson Family Genealogy - Deborah Honaker - 333 pages
- 18) Genealogy of the Dougherty Family - Rob Dougherty - 169 pages
- 19) The Descendants of Capt. Thomas Carter of Lancaster Co., VA - Joseph Lyon Miller - 388 pages
- 20) Combs, A Study in Comparative Philology and Genealogy - Josiah H. Combs - 198 pages
- 21) Thompson's - David Ballew - 116 pages
- 22) Ancestors and Descendants of Benjamin Snead and Felicia Oliver (Includes Supplement No. 1) - Jack Hockett - 331 pages in total
- 23) Thomas E. Barrett, Sr. "The Emigrant" England to Virginia, 1775 - 2002, Descendants and Historical Information - Bruce P. Barrett - 541 pages plus 17 page update
- 24) Thomas Hale Soldier of the Revolution and Some of his Descendants - Judy Blackwell - 171 pages
- 25) The Strouth Family, Russell County, Virginia, 1840 - 1994 - Peggy Strouth Scott - 231 pages
- 26) The Fugate Family of Russell County, Virginia - David Faris - 524 pages
- 27) Descendants of Benjamin Ray - Darrin Ray - Approx. 309 pages
- 28) A History of Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory - David E. Johnston - 500 pages
- 29) Thompson Family Court Papers from Wythe County, VA in two files

I will be providing Michael Dye the entire library of Jessee Newsletters for possible inclusion in a future DVD Collection. May I also urge the JHF to consider providing their book *Jessee Stories and Remembrances* for such a DVD, too.

## 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](http://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 Franky 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.

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

**JHF 2009-2010 Board Meeting Dates:** Unless otherwise stated, JHF Board Meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Exit 19, Abingdon, VA.

**July 18, 2009 10am:** Bonanza Restaurant, Lebanon, VA.  
This is the Annual JHF Membership Meeting held in lieu of a reunion.  
**October 10, 2009 10 am:** JHF BOD Meeting  
**March 13, 2010 10 am:** JHF BOD Meeting  
**August 14, 2010 10am:** JHF Annual Meeting, Reunion & Picnic at Coomes Recreation Center, Abingdon, VA.

### Jessee Genealogy Book Proposed

From the President: Your JHF Board of Directors proposes to produce a Jessee family genealogy book (or books) and is asking for your help in this endeavor. Please send your suggestions as to what you wish to be included and the format you would desire, keeping in mind we currently can catalog 15,000 + names from John and Frankie Lea Jessee to the present. We are also asking for volunteers to help edit the book which may well be a monumental task, but is we believe a greatly desirable goal of the Jessee Historical Foundation. Please respond to the Foundation at: P. O. Box 1617, Lebanon, VA 24266 or e-mail to vpsaly@naxs.net.

Henry A. "Hank" Davis, Jr.

## 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.

**4. Creation of a Jessee Genealogy Book or Books.** (See article)

**5. The establishment of Virginia State highway, Russell County historical, or private markers for Jessee's Mill and other appropriate family sites.**

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

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

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

## 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](http://www.jessee.org) and in the Newsletters over the last decade. I thank all those who helped along the way.

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

# Mill Creek Historic Community

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

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

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

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

## Our Purpose

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

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

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

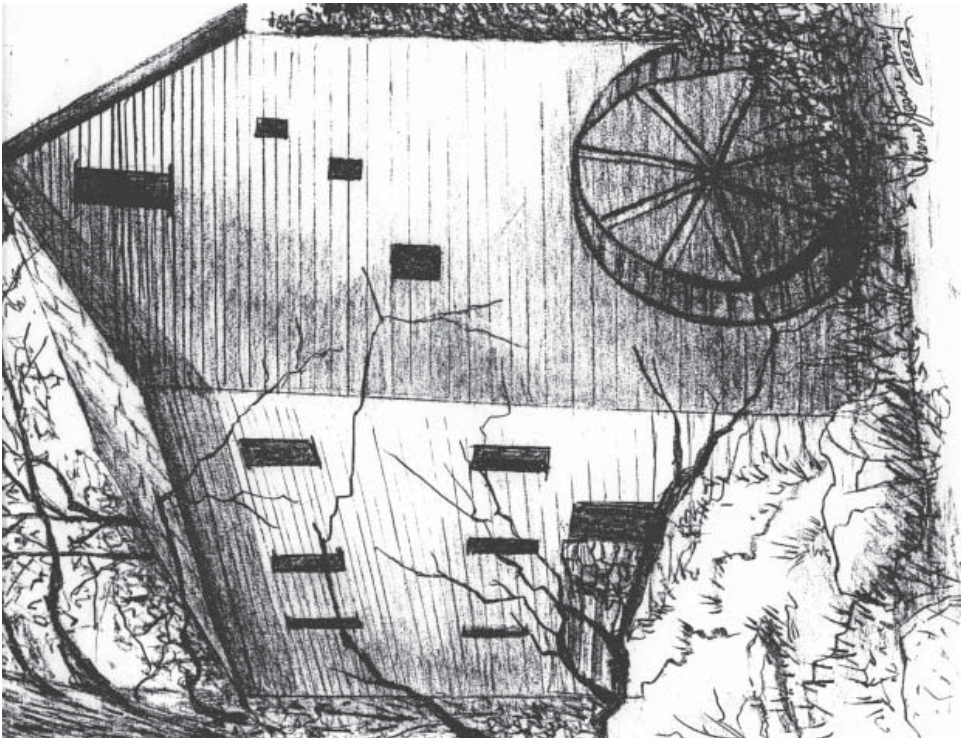
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