

# Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #38

Winter 2011

Vol. XX No.1

## Dear Cousin,

This has been another remarkable fall in so many ways, as time continues to fly by. This newsletter is a bit late, but I hope you can forgive. Our lives are full, as our daughter Emma and her fiancé, Michael Hering, have bought a house and we have been helping with all phases of the process, and packing, moving and cleaning on both ends, too. All during the holidays when I was going to work on this newsletter.

Emma and Michael are planning to marry next June in our back yards. I say yards because my son Earl and his wife Meegan bought the house next door and we and their dog share both yards. The yards needs to be transformed between now and then into a beautiful wedding venue. Wish us luck.

I am pleased that we have many new contributions in this newsletter and to our database, including very important corrections of errors and documentation. I actually had much more than I could share, and found other items saved for the newsletter that are getting some age. I choose to share some of the oldest items, and to postpone some of the newer items for the Summer 2011 Newsletter. Please renew.

I continue to get little bits and pieces of new information weekly, and I do these small data entry chores into the Jessee Family Database at RootsWeb as they come. But I have literally stacks of papers, not to mention GEDCOM files to inspect for what I know contains more new information, and important corrections of errors. I am sorry that I am so behind, and I do not see much catch-up in the future...

If you have not recently checked the Jessee Database at Rootsweb, go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org), look up your kin and see possible new contributions to your line. As always, please provide me corrections, additions, comments and documentation where needed.

Often missing from the data are specific locations, and complete dates, for births, marriages, and deaths. Please help provide these where missing, especially in the first five generations from John and Frankey Jessee which the JHF hopes to publish some day.

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

**Jim Jessee**

## Featured This Edition

**THE JESSEE FAMILY REUNION** was held August 14, 2010 and the next one is planned for August 4, 2012. See photos of the Reunion and **JHF NEWS AND VIEWS**.

I am sorry to report the passing of **IRENE JESSEE PERRY**, one of the founders of the JHF and a major contributor to its success. We have lost more of our family treasures, whose obituaries appear inside.

**JACK HOCKETT** is genealogy hero for our family, even though he is not directly related. He continuously contributes information and documentation for the Jessee family database as he prepares genealogical resource books, and other sources for SW VA genealogists. He has been providing me scanned images of a variety of documents relative to our family, including the Confederate records of many of our Civil War veterans. Find his contributions in several places

**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.

**JESSEE FAMILY ORIGINS** and **JOHN AND FRANKEY LEA JESSEE** and their fifteen children always have contributions of interest. See new information and photos, read heart-warming stories, letters, and meet new cousins inside. We have lots for the **Archer Jessee** family, but scant on other branches, so your contributions are more than welcome.

We offer a bit more to the discussion on **John Jessee's Revolutionary War service**, with a plea from **Barbara Hall** to not upset this apple cart, and a response from **Tom Rudder**.

**JESSEE'S MILL** has little good news to report, but Jack Hockett wrote an excellent description for us, and **Larry C Bailey** adds more color to the story.

I share correspondence with **Larry C. Bailey** and **Joseph Puckett**, the new Russell County Supervisor regarding Jessee's Mill and the Cemetery, asking for his help. The Puckett and Jessee families are intermarried over many generations. Larry shared information regarding this relationship, too.

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

# The 2012 National Jessee Family Reunion

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

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

The Jessee Historical Foundation (JHF) will hold the National Jessee Family Reunion every two even numbered years. Families are encouraged to have local and regional family reunions in odd-numbered years. The Jessee Family Research Day is held on the Friday preceding the reunion, at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA.

Per JHF, the Jessee Family Reunion and Picnic is to be held the first Saturday in August every two years, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The JHF also holds its membership meeting during the reunion.

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

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

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

Phone: 276-676-2282 or Fax: 276-676-3076,  
E-mail: [acvb@abingdon.com](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.

**For picnic and silent auction information contact**

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

# Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

The JHF Board of Directors & Officers  
as of August, 2010:

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

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

## JHF Membership Information

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

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

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

1. Regular Member: If you have a Jessee, Jesse, Jessey or Jessie surname, or are an adult Jessee descendant you are eligible to be a regular member with full voting privileges. Please provide information to verify your Jesse(e) lineage.

2. Associate Member: Non-voting spouses, related family, or friends of a regular member.

3. Junior Member: Non-voting family members under age 18.

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

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

# The 2010 Jessee Family Reunion

Here are some photos from the 2010 National Jessee Family Reunion held in Lebanon, Virginia, August 14, 2010. Somehow, I lost the photographer credit and captions for some of the ones that appear on this page, for which I apologize, and ask to be informed. I can credit Michael Jones for some of the photos--he appears with his wife in the photo below, and he provided the recent photos of Jessee's Mill next page.

**MICHAEL JONES** [uff\_da@hotmail.com] who traveled to the reunion from Kingwood, TX sent, 10/6/2010, photos from the 2010 Reunion.

Jim, I took a couple of photos one of the descedants of Frances Jessee (one person) and one of my wife and I, I being the only descendant of Elizabeth Jessee present. I have attached them along with some photos I took of the Jessee Mill.

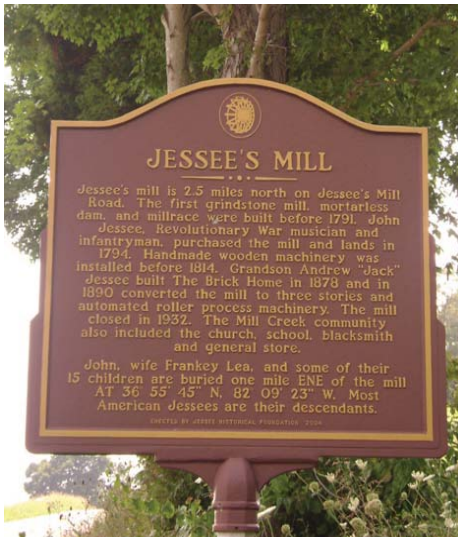


Michael Jones and wife

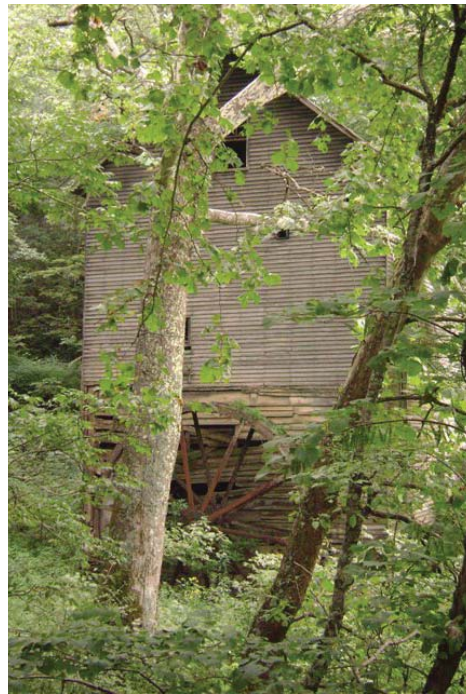


Patricia Jessee and her husband above. Nellie Jessee with Carl Jessee on the lower right. Janice Tiller, above them. Mary Evelyn Hanson Helton on top.

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



Below are two examples of what he sends along, the Confederate Death Record for Jefferson B. Jessee who died at Gettysburg, in Pickett's Charge, July 4, 1863, and a photo of the Francis and Mary Muncy Browning Cemetery.



the mill are as follows: Vince Fields, Malcom Buchanan, Red Joe Jessee, Clint Fields, Bruce Campbell and Newton Massie.

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

### The Jessee Mill

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Joe Axem served as the first miller at the Jessee Mill. Melvin Kestner operated the mill for twenty-five or thirty years. He lived in the white house just below the Jessee house. Jamie Chafin operated the mill for sometime, also Tilton Jessee. Other men who served as millers some time during the life of

Confed	
J	37 Va
J. B. Jessee	
Rank, P.	Co. E., 37 Reg't Va
Admitted	Bo. Hon. July 4, 1863.
To	12th A. C. General Field Hosp.
	A. of P., Gettysburg, Pa.
From	
Diagnosis	G. I. G. Left Leg
	Com. Proc
Missile,	
W'd at	Gettysburg, Pa., July 1-3, 1863.
Treatm't,	
Ret'd to duty	, 18
Transf'd to I. C.	, 18
Transf'd to	, 18
Furloughed	, 18
Deserted	, 18
Disch'd from service	, 18
Died	July 4, 1863.
Re-adm'd from furlo' or des'n	, 18
Remarks:	Amput Leg. July 4, 1863.
A.C. Reg. No. 384; Hos. No.; Page 152	
Mason	
(208)	Copyist.

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

## Irene Jessee Perry

JOE JESSEE wrote October 15, 2010 to the Jessee Family informing us of the passing of Mrs. Irene Jessee Perry, and provided her obituary from Tri-Cities.com.

*Irene was a friend. She contributed in so many ways to help with the Jessee's Mill projects. She served on the Jessee Historical Foundation's Board of Directors since its inception. Irene will be greatly missed here on earth.*

*Joe Jessee, former President Jessee Historical Foundation*

### Obituary

Irene Jessee Perry, 86, wife, mother, artist, teacher and friend to many, went to be with the Lord on Oct. 10, 2010, joining her husband of 45 years, Joseph F. Perry, Sr. She was the daughter of the late Arnold and Muphus Jessee.

She is survived by five children: Kimberly Perry, Lana and husband, Herb Berry, Brenda Robinson, Frank and wife, Lynn Perry, Tim and wife, Cindy Perry; grandchildren, Lori Tiller and husband, Norm Tiller, Tami Berry, Joey Perry, Jessee Perry and Timothy Perry; three great-grandchildren, Christian Tiller, Sarah Tiller and Christopher Tiller; one great-great-grandchild, William Tiller; sister, Janice and husband, Dewey Tiller, Arnold Jr., and wife, Faye, and Carl Jessee. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Perry was a founding member of University Painters, former president of Richmond Artists Association, honorary member of Tuckahoe Artist Association, officer and member of James River Art League and member of Crossroads Art Center. Her paintings are held in many private and corporate collections. She taught oil painting at Tuckahoe Woman's Club for over 15 years and taught private classes through October 2010. She was a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a bachelor of fine arts painting and printmaking.

Mrs. Perry was an elementary school teacher and was a founder of Ivy Springs Baptist Church in Southwest Virginia. She was a member and Sunday school teacher at Derbyshire Baptist Church. Irene traveled extensively with her husband during World War II, as they built a life and loving home for their family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Ivy Springs Baptist Church, Route 1, Box 648A, Swords Creek, VA 24649. Please make online condolences to: [woodyfuneralhomeparham.com](http://woodyfuneralhomeparham.com).



Irene Jessee Perry with her brother Carl Jessee at 2000 Jessee Family Reunion

*Irene, along with her sister Janice Tiller, and brother Carl Jessee have made innumerable contributions of their time, artistic talent, craftsman skills, and money and materials to the Jessee Historical Foundation and to the art, crafts, history and genealogy record of Russell County. With her permission, Irene's pen and ink rendering of Jessee's Mill has graced this Newsletter for many years. It was my great honor to know her. Jim Jessee*



Francis and Mary Muncy Browning Cemetery

## 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.

**MICHAEL DYE** [madye@roadrunner.com] wrote 11/10/2009 regarding an important correction to the **Jessee and Dickenson** genealogy data, specifically **Lucy Dickenson**, wife of **David Floyd Jessee**.

I was doing some research today on David Floyd Jessee and his wife Lucy A. Dickenson, shown below. I just wanted to let you know that Lucy was not a daughter of Henry Bascom Dickenson & Martha Boyd. She was a daughter of Henry Dickenson b. 1845 & Martha, last name unknown b. abt 1851. Henry b. 1845 was the s/o William Dickenson b. 1819 and his wife Mary Willis, d/o Abner Willis & Eve Sifert. I haven't determined yet who William Dickenson's parents were. William, Mary and Henry are in the 1850 RCV census in HH #857 as follows:

Dickenson, William, 31; Mary, 31; Lucy Jane, 9; Cynthia, 7; Henry, 5; Powell, 2

In 1870 Henry and his wife, Martha were living in HH #51 in the Lebanon Dist. of RCV. Living next door were Henry's parents William & Mary.

HH 50:

Dickenson, William, 53; Mary, 53; Ellen, 19; Elizabeth, 15; Charles, 12

HH 51:

Dickenson, Henry, 24; Martha, 19; William, 9/12

In 1880 Henry and his family, including Lucy, were living in HH #23 in the Lebanon Dist. His parents were again living next door:

HH 23:

Dickenson, Henry, 35; Martha, 29; William, 10; Mary, 8; Lucy, 3; Cynthia, 3/12

HH 24:

Dickenson, William, 63; Mary, 63; Campbell, J. K., 26; Nancy, 28; Floyd, 1; Johnson, Charles, 7

Henry Bascom Dickenson on the other hand was still living with his parents in 1880 in HH 60, of the Moccasin Dist.:

**ERIC ALEXANDER** [reajd@hotmail.com] wrote 11/14/2009 with information about John Alexander, Sr. who married Martha Brawley and is one of the founding families of Russell County.

I've got a bit more info for you that I received from a genealogist I've been working with in VA on John Alexander, Sr and his family. It's not much, but it's something.

First, my genealogist found a death record for Elizabeth (Alexander) Browning, d/o John Alexander, Sr. She died at 70 of consumption in Scott Co., VA on 10 Sept. 1872, which narrows her birth year to about 1802. The informant was her daughter Nancy Shoemaker. What's interesting is that it's the first evidence that shows the names of Elizabeth's parents. It states that Elizabeth's parents were John and Mary Alexander. I had always heard that her name was Mary. I received that name from my grandparents. Granted they could have been wrong, but for the first time there is a record that gives her names as Mary. It wasn't until I began working on the internet that I ran across Martha, especially on Ancestry.com. But no one I've asked can tell me where the name Martha comes from. And none of their children are named Martha. But there is a daughter named Mary. Of the grandchildren, there are several Marys but only one Martha that I know of. In any event, I thought you'd like to know.

Also, another juicy tidbit. There is the possibility of a link between John Alexander, Sr. of Ireland/VA and the John Alexander of Hawkins Co., TN, in an 1804 land sale to a resident of Washington Co. The land was in Clairborne County where David B. Alexander later moved and where he died. But the genealogist thought it interesting that the 1870 census shows that Elizabeth was born in TN even though other censuses show VA. It made me think that John Sr. and John of TN might indeed be the same people.

Lastly, this genealogist helped narrow the time period in which John Jr most likely died. She writes--

"The 1868 (death date estimate at Ancestry.com) probably came from Isaac Vermillion, the administrator appointed by the court because John Alexander, Jr., died without a will, making the final settlement of the estate in 1868, but this process sometimes took longer than a year.

"We know that John, Jr., was alive when he appeared in court and was removed as executor of his father's estate on 5 April 1864 . . . It was probably his estate rather than that of his father for which Isaac Vermillion was named administrator on 30 Oct. 1865.

"Some Virginia counties have few records from the Civil War years. Russell Co. has some, but there are no death records for 1863 and 1864, and a very few for 1865. I checked the death records from 1866 to 1868, and John Alexander, Jr., is not mentioned. It seems likely he died sometime between 1864 and Oct. 1865."

**DALE REEDY** [hazacl@hotmail.com] wrote, 9/2/2010, with this information on the **Smith/Smythe** and **Reedy** family genealogy.

Hi Jim, Hope you are well, and life is good!!! I thought I would write you a few lines since I was doing some family research, and thank you for the value of your site. I have dug out a lot of gold through your site. I am doing a family genealogy for my wife, for most of the family didn't have very much. I have tons on my family the Reedys, but she had nothing on the Smythes, Smiths. Your site sure has helped me a bunch, thank you!!! I have a question for you to see if you can help. Do you think that the James (Jeams) Smith are the same line that came from Gloucester Co. Va., or have you looked into that. Their Name was spelled Smythe, and changed to Smith about 1763 Pitt Co. north Carolina. I know that there are some direct routes of the Smiths that lead to Russell County Va. I haven't found it yet, but I think when some of James Smiths family went missing they either went back to Gloucester Co. Va. Brunswick Co., Va. or to North Carolina.

## 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, Gesse, Gessey, Jessup, Jeshy, Jaci, Jacy, and Jacie families in the world whose kinship is unknown. I believe we are all cousins. As "Jesse" and "Jessee" are the two most frequent spellings of this name, I shall adopt the convention of using "Jesse(e)" in reference to the larger family.

**Please see Newsletter #10 available online at [www.jessee.org](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., Powhatan 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 sent a document from **THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER** that provides a **Family Name History for Jessee**, which also suggest this Jessup/Jessep/Jessop origin as well as others. 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 Jessop** who is mentioned in the Subsidy Halls in Suffolk in the year 1524. Much earlier, in 1379, **John Jesup** appeared in the Poll taxes for Yorkshire.

## **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**.

## **SAMUEL JESSE**

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

## **WILLIAM JESSE**

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

## **JOHN AND CLIA (SMITH) JESSE**

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

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

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

## **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 re-

ported 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--the late **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** art, history, cemetery restoration, and genealogy projects. For their work, we thank them.

**MARK SNOWDEN RATCLIFFE** [[m-ratcliffe@hotmail.com](mailto:m-ratcliffe@hotmail.com)] wrote, 9/22/2010 regarding **John Snowden Ratcliffe** a descendant of **Gabriel Jessee** via son **John Deward** and his daughter **Ritta Lavice Jessee**.

Hello Jim, I found your site by just googling my father's name. I am **Mark Snowden Ratcliffe**.....**John Snowden (Jesse) Ratcliffe's** son. He married in the late fiftys and remained married till his death in 1981. I see **Charlotte (my Aunt Nadine)** updated some of his records with you.....I haven't seen her since the mid '80's, she was a good stand up gal. My father raised us in a suburb of **Columbus Ohio, Worthington**, gave us all a solid good life and was highly respected among his peers. Growing up we never really knew how hard his life was as a child, when I look back at my age it explains the solid man he turned out to be and his constant attention to my mother, and the home in general. My mother is still alive and living without concerns because of the kind of man she married. When he died at age 63 the mortician mistook his age to be 46, until the proper papers were found. If I can help you with any of the genology please let me know. I live in **Venice California**. Kind regards,

## **JOHN AND FRANKEY (LEA) JESSEE**

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

### **Frankey Lea Research**

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

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

Tom Rudder asserts, and I concur, that our Founding Mother Frankey is the unrecorded daughter of William Lea of 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).

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

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

### **John Jessee Research**

In response to previous articles, and materials submitted by Tom Rudder calling into question John Jessee's Revolutionary War status, Barbara Hall responded fervently, and Tom and I replied.

**BARBARA HALL** [ztbjhall@windstream.net] wrote, 6/21/2010 with this plea regarding John Jessee.

Please let John stay in the NC Military during the Rev War. It took a long time to get records together for DAR. I would be very disappointed if some one proved different.

**THOMAS RUDDER** [ruddert@sbcglobal.net] wrote back quickly, 6/21/2010.

No one wants more than I do to prove that John Jessee was in the North Carolina military during the Rev. War. And no one has worked harder trying to prove that.

Some one, ... was able to have his name included in the DAR Patriot List which, as I understand it, concludes that he was a person who supported the war effort, that is efforts short of military service. I re-

viewed every North Carolina Military Record at the National Archives and all the numerous records on the net and have not found his name. I am aware that there is a John Jesse listed in the book, Roster of North Carolina Soldiers and a John Jessey in Pierce's Register, however those names in Pierce's Register are highly suspect for two reasons; 1st. John Jessey had the certificate number 90278 which was in a group of numbers reserved to the Regiment under Col. Thomas Clarke and I can find no record of Yarboro ever serving in Clark's Company.

2nd. By the time Pierce worked his way through the northern states down to North Carolina, most of the soldiers had been paid the money owed them. Consequently very few soldiers had not been paid. Due to the fact that there were many unsubstantiated names submitted to Pierce makes the names highly suspect. Sixty-five per cent of the names in Pierce's North Carolina Register cannot be found in the North Carolina military records. I will send you the article outlining the legal action taken in regard to the Pierce matter. Tom

I wrote to Barbara as well, and offer this.

Barbara, I spoke with Tom, and we both wish to assure you we are doing nothing with the DAR to cause anything to happen to our John Jessee's Revolutionary War Patriot status. As Tom points out, his extensive research had the purpose of trying to better prove that John was a Revolutionary Soldier, and came across the information we shared that casts doubt on all those listed in Pierce's Register, not specifically our John Jessee. We are not blowing the whistle with any DAR authorities, we don't want to do anything to cause concern with the DAR or SAR, we are just sharing research information and our speculation about it.

We don't wish to cause you any worry, but hope you might be interested in pursuing the research.

### **John Jessee Male DNA Line**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Frankey Lea Jessee Female MtdNA Line**

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



## 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.

**ALTA JEAN FENNELL** [[AltaAzzro@aol.com](mailto:AltaAzzro@aol.com)] wrote, 4/17/2009 with this news about the passing of her mother, **Dorothy Norma Jessee Scarborough**, and a request for help with DAR, Jr. documentation regarding the children of John Jessee, Jr.

Hello Jim,

I haven't written to you for a very long time as the loss of my Mother, Dorothy Norma Jessee Scarborough has been a very hard road for me to travel. My mother is the daughter of Bruce Tivis Jessee, the son of Robert Edward Lee Jessee, the son of John Tivis Jessee, the son of Joseph Jessee, the son of John Jr. and you probably know all of this already.

I am working on documents concerning John Jessee, Jr., son of John Jesse Revolutionary War Soldier. I have been searching for any proof that our Joseph Jessee is the son of John Jr. I believe he is and have documents that indicate so but are there no Bible Records that show this relationship? I ask you because you have done so much to record this family and I really don't know anyone else that may know where I may find this information.

If you can help me with this information, I would certainly appreciate it as I have looked everywhere and do not have access to early Bible records belonging to people in Virginia. Thank you, kindly.

**THUY DAVIS** [<mailto:twweed1@cox.net>] wrote, 9/24/2010, regarding her, **Samuel W. G. Jessee**.

Hi Jim, My name is Thuy Davis and I am the daughter of Bobby J. Davis. My father's grandfather was Samuel WG Jessee. See attached photo from the family cemetery. In reading your newsletters, I have been trying to find out which part of the family we are descended from but have not been successful. Can you help?

I responded.

You can go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org), then go to the database at RootsWeb from our site. Search for Jessee, Samuel Winfred Gibson Record # 1434, and you will see his extensive pedigree there. He descends from several of the founding fathers of Russell County, VA, indeed, including a very distant cousin of my wife, as well as being in my own Jessee line, that of John Jessee, Jr., then Jefferson Jessee. I descend from Jefferson's brother, Joseph Jessee. I would like to learn more about your branch of the family.

**CARMEN BERRY CUMMINGS BLEVINS** [[cberryb@aol.com](mailto:cberryb@aol.com)] wrote, 5/23/2010. offering help on the descendants of **Jefferson Jessee's daughter Cynthia who married Noah Reynolds Fuller**.

Just wanted to tell you that I have looked at your site and I can help you out on Jefferson Jessee's daughter Cynthia who married Noah Reynolds Fuller, their son Charles Jefferson Fuller who married Harriett Ellen Burton, they had 6 children, one of them Ollie Lee Fuller, born 1886 died 1967 married Edward Campbell (cam) Berry. These are my grandparents, I can give you all their children to the present. Let me know if you would like to have this information, as I see from your site you stop at Ollie and Cam Berry.

## 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.

**AMY IRWIN ZERENER** ([blackdogmom@hotmail.com](mailto:blackdogmom@hotmail.com)) provided by mail, 10/21/2010, extensive copies of her grandmother, Mattie Shaefer Blair Family Genealogy Book, with extensive notes, photos, and genealogy details on descendants of John Shaefer and Octavia Jessee, daughter of George Jessee and Laura Buckles. This is a family notebook or scrapbook collection, all loose leaf with a variety of materials and copies of materials. Virtually all of this genealogy information is a credit to her grandmother, mother, and other family members who provided biographies, obituaries and other family memorabilia.

Here is our dialogue beginning in September, and continuing into this new year as we exchanged information and materials. I have now completed the keying in of much new descendants information for this branch of the family.

Date: September 29, 2010

Hi Mr. Jessee~,

My name is Amy Zerener, I am 44 years old, and I live in Cheney, Kansas. I know we are related, but I'm not quite sure how~this stuff can kind of make you dizzy after awhile!

I am a descendant of George T. Jessee. He would have been my great great Grandpa. My maternal grandmother died 2 years ago just 6 weeks shy of her 104th Birthday. She had done a pretty extensive job on a "Family Book", with family history, obituaries, pictures, etc., with most all of the information handwritten out. I had always enjoyed looking through the book, and although she was 103 years old with macular degeneration, and was hard of hearing, her mind was sharp as a tack. I could ask her about a picture or a bit in the book and her recall was amazing. My mom always enjoyed hearing the stories of how her Grandmother, Octavia Jessee Shaefer came with her family from Virginia to Kansas by covered wagon. When Grandma died, I was given the Family Book.

I have always wanted to go to Russell County Virginia, but have never made it. On Sunday I decided to Google it, and eventually came across your site. What shocked me, was the picture at the top of Floyd and Leona Jessee~I have that same picture! I started looking through the Family Book, and I think Grandma was speaking to me~on the top was a note on an envelope. The note said to refer to the page in the envelope if I ever wanted to look up the Jessees in Virginia. Inside was a family chart written out in 1947 by I believe my great great Aunt Mattie Jessee Burchfield. It dates back to 1776. I typed it out just as she had it (I'm not sure anyone else could understand it!), but I referred to your site many times, and it really matches up. I really just typed this out for my records, as her print was really fading on the old page.

I noticed that you have very little information on George T. Jessee. You probably know this like the back of your hand, but he was the son of Arch Jessee, and a nephew of David Lee Jessee. George and



David married sisters, Sabrina and Laura Buckles, and came to Kansas together after the Civil War. They settled in Centralia, Kansas. I have the obituaries on George Jessee, Laura Jessee, David Jessee, Floyd Jessee, and Leona Jessee. I have some pictures, mostly of George Jessee, Laura Jessee, some of their children, Floyd Jessee (the one at the top of the website), and some of David and Sabrina's children: Walter, Florence, Rebecca, and Sally.

I know you are probably inundated with inquiries, and such, but I just wanted you to know I have this information if you are needing it. I will be happy to share~just let me know, and let me know how!!

Regardless, it has been such fun to have the Family Book out to go through and to match it up with your site. I kind of even learned how to maneuver the Roots & Web site (I'm limited technologically!)

I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope you have a Wonderful Day!

Date: October 21, 2010 written in a note accompanying a large package.

Hi Cousin Jim, I have decided to send you copies of the Jessee family information

from my Grandma's family book. My scanner is not very good, and



I was afraid some of the details in Grandma's notes might be missed, so wanted you to see them in their entirety! I believe this is up to my generation, and on the last sheet in Octavia's info is a "Six Generation Page."

I hope this info is helpful to you. I believe my mom has some recent pics of the Jessee graves in the Centralia Cemetery I can e-mail to you if you are interested. Let me know if there is anything I've missed or anything else you might need.

Grandma would be so excited to know this info is going to you, and that it will be in such a manner for all to see and share. It would thrill her that it has gone beyond her "Family Book"!

It has been exciting to correspond with you and, as I mentioned earlier, don't hesitate to contact me if you have requests or questions

Date: Mon, 25 Oct 2010

Cousin Amy, Today I got to go through and begin to do some data entry from the package you sent me of your grandmother's book. What a treasure she provided to you, with photos and all. I have found that I do have much of this information, so the data entry had not been too bad, and to see the photos and read the obituaries, etc. is very interesting. Thank you for sharing all this with me.

Are there any particular photos you might like me to provide in the Jessee Newsletter to share with others? If so, is it possible to get scanned files for them? You can email the files to me if you have them, or can scan those photos easily. Jim

Later the same day.

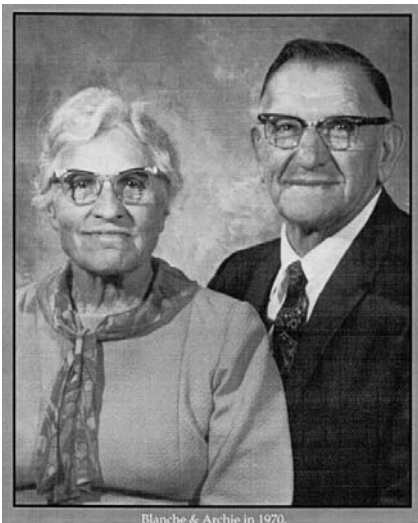
Hi Cousin Jim~I'm glad the package got to you. You are right~Grandma did leave me quite a treasure in the Family Book! I'm sorry I wasn't able to enter the information for you, but as I mentioned, I was afraid some of Grandma's notations/stories would have been lost in the context. Also, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer right before I found your website, so things have been kind of hectic. I was afraid if I waited, I wouldn't get ANYTHING to you, and I didn't want to let this slip through the cracks. I will think of some of the pictures I have that I would like to share, and get them to you. I'm sure I can scan them and e-mail them to you. How many would you like, and when do you need them?

Again, I'm glad you received the package. I hope all is well with you and yours, and that you are enjoying a beautiful Fall! Amy :o)

Date: 11 Nov 2010

Hi Cousin Jim~Here are the pictures you requested. I'm not sure the tags will come across with them, so I will describe them to you. The family picture is of my family taken in July of this year. It is of: Mark Zerener, Amy (Irwin) Zerener, Janice (Blair) Irwin, Tom Irwin and Scott Irwin (my husband, folks, and brother!) There is a picture of my Grandma, Mattie (Shaefer) Blair taken in 2006 at the age of 102 years old, and a picture of my grandparents, Raymond and Mattie (Shaefer) Blair taken on their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1977.





Blanche & Archie in 1970.



Placerville, Pearl Brewer of Idaho and Alice Hunter of Sacramento. Cherished grandfather of Jonathan Nicholson, Cale Nicholson and Kayla Nicholson. Mr. Jessee was preceded in death by his wife Florence, son Richard, sister Virginia Corbin and brother Fred Jessee. Friends are welcome for visitation today, Thursday, April 8, 2010, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Lambert Funeral Home, 400 Douglas Blvd., Roseville and are invited to attend Funeral Services Friday, April 9, 2010, at 10 a.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1301 Main Street, Roseville. Private interment will be at Roseville District Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Community Church of the Nazarene, 6132 Hermosa Street, Sacramento, CA 95822. Published in The Sacramento Bee on April 8, 2010.

**ARCHIE JESSEE** [aejessee@wavecable.com] wrote, 6/24/2010 with the news of the passing of his brother, **Lester Lewis Jessee**.

Hi Jim, I can't remember if I told you that our oldest brother, Lester Lewis Jessee, went to be with the Lord on April 6, 2010. About 25 of the family met together at a restaurant to celebrate his 92nd birthday on Feb. 13th. He was pastor of a Mexican church in Upland, CA for several years before pastoring the Mexican church in S. Sacramento.

JESSEE, Lester: In Roseville April 6, 2010. Mr. Jessee was born February 12, 1918, in Tempe, Ariz., and was 92 years of age at the time of his death. Beloved father of Sharon Nicholson and her husband Scott of Roseville. Loved brother of Dorothy Goode of Roseville, Archie Jessee Jr. of Rocklin, James Jessee of Auburn, Irene Brewer of



Archie also provided copies of his father's book: *My Life Story, by Archie Elcanah McKinley Jessee*, gg-grandson of Archer Jessee, who moved his family to California. This branch of the Jessee family had a reunion on Labor Day 2010 in Folsom, California, which is near where many of them live, in the Sacramento, California area. They were kind enough to invite me.

Archie provided additional photos: Brothers Lester & Fred and father Archie Jessee. About 1936 taken on the Calhoun Ranch near Elk Grove, CA Archie and wife Doris, his parents Archie Earl and Blanche Jessee, his grandparents, Archibald Columbus and Mollie Jessee, and great-grandparents, Archibald D and Mary Jessee.

I share a photo of me with Archie (far right), and his brother Jim Jessee (center) at their family reunion on Labor Day, 2010.



**ASHLEY WILLIAMS** [poohriffic@gmail.com] wrote, 5/23/2010 with this inquiry regarding **Kemper Gilmer Jessee**, for which I have two entries.

I was reading your geneology site in hopes of maybe finding out where my family is from. Kemper Gilmer Jessee was my great grandfather. I was told my family came from Ireland and was interested in finding out more about it. Would you be able to direct me to any information on this? Thanks.

I responded:

Ashley, Have you looked up Kemper Gilmer Jessee at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org). I have two such individuals, one with very extensive pedigree information covering many families and generations. You will have to tell me more about your Kemper Gilmer to be more specific.

To answer your question, some of your ancestors do come from Ireland, others, England, Scotland, and most likely Germany, too.

Ashley replied:

Thanks! I will look into the site. My great grandfather was married to Laura Buckles. My grandfather was Clarence Gilmer Jessee.

**DAVE CONOVER** [dave@conovergenealogy.com] provided, 1/14/2010, a large 96-page PDF document of his compilation of the descendants of Archer Jessee, including many original documents and family photos. It is far too large and extensive to do it justice here, but I recommend Archer descendants to explore his website listed below.

Hi Jim, I thought you might find the attached of some value in your research. You along with three others have a lot of information. The attachment combines the information as well as that of other sources.

Dave Conover

West Jordan, Utah

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

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/%7Econover/conover-p/>

**VIVIAN HAAS** wrote me an old fashioned letter, April 9, 2010 to share with the family. She is a descendant of Archer Jessee, via daughter Elizabeth who married Francis Howard. I thank my wife for keying it in. Little did I know how precious it is.

Dear Jim et al,

Sorry I haven't written before. I have had your last newsletter in my "to-do" pile and am just getting to it. Your letters are always so interesting, and your travels amaze me!

I am 91 and in March I had a bad fall resulting in a broken pelvis. I was in the hospital for three weeks, and then my older daughter came from Bay St. Louis, MI to stay with me for a couple of weeks. I have been pretty much on my own since then, still very unstable and using a walker and a cane. I am very seriously considering going into an assisted-living facility, maybe this fall. Hate to leave my home, especially now that the grass is so pretty and green, jonquils and tulips blooming, and the trees are bursting out in leaves.

My daughter Shirley from Mississippi and her husband are both retired from law enforcement. They closed on a house in Bay St. Louis just 9 days before Katrina hit, and ended up with 4 feet of water in the house. It took a lot of time and hard work to get it back to living condition. I was there in January 2009, and everything was pretty much back to normal, but recovering slowly and a lot of the damage was still evident.

Our other children are here in Missouri. Jim retired from the navy and postal service and lives near Jefferson City. Robert is an orthopedic surgeon in Liberty, MO. Both of their wives have been teachers. Our youngest, Lynn, is a speech therapist, and her husband is a counselor, both in the St. Joseph school district. My husband, Howard, was an insurance salesman. He died in 1997 from a heart attack. I may have told this all before, but I have a nephew, Richard Hamner, who lives in Nevada City, not far from Chico. He is retired from teaching there.

I do have a computer but am not well enough versed in using it to do anything but research and checking my e-mail. A website you might be interested in: Google Margaret Ann Wilson Cartwright, my grandmother. There is a picture of a family reunion held at my home place in Creston, Iowa. My line connects in with the Jesses with Elizabeth Jessee (1800-1848), who married Francis Howard (1904-1848).

You can see that I'm not too adept on the typewriter either. Hope I can continue to keep in touch with you. Don't do a lot of genealogy research anymore.

Sincerely, Vivian

**KATHY TOPPING**, [kltopping@ix.netcom.com] posted on RootsWeb, 1/12/2011 with this sad news about the passing of **Vivian Haas**. Her obituary appeared in the St Joseph News Press 1-12-2011.

### **G. Vivian Haas 1918-2010**

CHILLICOTHE, Mo. — G. Vivian (Wilson) Haas, 92, Chillicothe, died January 9, 2011. Preceded: parents, William Grier and Zenida Wilson; husband of 58 years, Howard Haas.

Survivors: daughters, Shirley A. (Walter) Blankenship, Lynn D. (Wes) Hirst; sons, James H. (Wilda), Robert W. (Vicki); seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

She was Vivian was born June 5, 1918, in Creston, Iowa, to William Grier and Zenida Wilson, the youngest of 5 daughters. After high school she attended a teacher's college and went on to teach in a one-room school just outside of Creston, Iowa. In 1938, she met Howard K. Haas and they were married in 1939.

They lived in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and moved to Chillicothe, Missouri, in 1950. During the 1970's she worked at Chillicothe High School in the counselor's office. She was active in P.E.O., 19 Club, Questers, Bizzy Belles, Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century, and Chillicothe United Methodist Church. One of her passions was history and she did extensive genealogy research in both the Wilson family and Haas family. She gave generously of her time to assist others in searching their family roots. She also enjoyed quilting and needlework and was an avid reader.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Daughters of the American Revolution or to the Chillicothe United Methodist Church and may be left at or mailed to the Lindley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 47, Chillicothe, Missouri 64601. Online condolences may be left at [www.lindleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.lindleyfuneralhome.com). Arrangements are under the direction of the Lindley Funeral Home, Chillicothe, Missouri.

## **III. William Jessee**

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

## **IV. Lea Jessee**

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

## V. David Jessee

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

**DENNIS JESSEE BOWERS** [Alpacas@Atlasok.com] wrote, 9/21/2010, with information about his family, a correction regarding his mother, **Madelene Norris Jessee Bowers**, who are descendants of David Jessee and his son Rev. John Jessee, and an interesting occupation and website.

Hi Jim...Just a quick "first" note...

Sorry I did not become aware of the JHF sooner. I lived in Woodland (CA) from 1978 to 1987, unaware of a cousin just up the road! You may or may not know that at least two other (John) Jessee descendants still reside in Woodland.

As I began to familiarize with the web resources through jessee.org, I thought I would call attention to an error in the genealogy database... not sure if you are the one who corrects such, but the reference to my mother at the following link incorrectly spells her first name (not the only time that has occurred). Correct spelling for first name for Madelene Norris Jessee is with three "e"'s.

Hope to have additional future correspondence and, I'll be signing on for the newsletter shortly.

Jess & Cookie Bowers  
Acres of Love Alpaca Ranch  
Acres of Love Alpaca Transport  
11006 N 92nd East Ave  
Owasso, OK 74055-6531  
WWW.Acresoflove.com

**ANDREA BIRRELL BUEL** [Auntieandie@aol.com] wrote, 11/2/2010 regarding DAR proof of **David Jessee** heritage via his daughter **Nancy Jessee** who married **Fleming Burk, Jr.**

Hello, I am Andrea Birrell Buel and I'm Regent of the Pentagon Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. I live in Alexandria, Virginia and was born and raised here. I am retired from the Government after spending 38 years working in the Pentagon for the Secretary of the Army.

I became a member of DAR seven years ago thru the Burke family. I have currently traced two more of my ancestors back thru the Burke side of my family (on my mother's father's side of the family .... he was Houston Burke) to two Patriots:

- 1) John Jessee (b. c.1750) married (c. 1775) to Franky Lea
- 2) John Banner married to Catherine Rachenpaugh, who had a child Catherine K. Banner who married David Jessee.

The genealogists at DAR are requesting additional conclusive evidence that demonstrates the parentage of John Burke in this lineage. I initially provided copies from the book "Some Descendants of John Burk (1656-1699) Middlesex County, Va." Chapter VIII, Page 265 stating that John Burke, son of John Fleming Burk, Jr. and Nancy Jessee. I have searched far and wide and can find no wills, church documents, selling of land deeds that shows John Burk (born c. 1827 in Virginia, married Nancy Culbertson and died in Scott County, Virginia p. 1880's) is the son of Fleming Burk, Jr and Nancy Jessee.

Thought I would query you to see if possibly you could point me in some direction or possibly have knowledge of someone within the Jessee family that can unlock this documentation needed by me so that I can provide it to DAR to get these two Patriots approved. I would be forever in your debt.

Jim~ Approval granted and any postings will be much appreciated. Having only had the genealogy bug for seven years, I consider myself still a baby in the game and am learning new things every time I set out on a search. Was hoping to utilize the knowledge of the genealogist at NSDAR and others but learned they could only assist on new applica-

tions not supplementals. I will also contact the Registrar of the Tabitha Adams Chapter and hopefully your lead will answer my prayers...good to know that they have members in the Chapter that is my lineage. You are an angel, and I sincerely appreciate you answering my E-mail. Warm Regards, Andrea

I responded.

With your permission I will post this to the Jessee and Russell County, VA lists, where there are others in the DAR who have used these same ancestors, and who have done the original research. You should also contact the Tabitha Adams Chapter of the DAR, in Russell County, who have several members based on these individuals, and others related.

Jim~ Approval granted and any postings will be much appreciated. Having only had the genealogy bug for seven years, I consider myself still a baby in the game and am learning new things every time I set out on a search. Was hoping to utilize the knowledge of the genealogist at NSDAR and others but learned they could only assist on new applications not supplementals. I will also contact the Registrar of the Tabitha Adams Chapter and hopefully your lead will answer my prayers...good to know that they have members in the Chapter that is my lineage. You are an angel, and I sincerely appreciate you answering my E-mail. Warm Regards, Andrea

**CLARK KISER** [clark.kiser@yahoo.com] wrote 3/23/2010 with a GEDCOM file of his pedigree, which includes David Jessee's daughter **Catherine Margaret Jessee**, who married **Elkanah D. Snapp**, and many other SW VA families, including, **Kiser, Combs, and Cross.**

Hi Jim, My name is Clark Kiser. I mostly participate on 23andMe, but I have recently gotten contacts from family member matches with Jessee ancestors.

I also have Jessee ancestors, and thought I would send along my GEDCOM file, which may be of some interest to you, as it also has information regarding my Kiser line.

I recently got my mother, a direct descendant of the Jessee line, to submit her DNA for testing.

## VI. Elizabeth Jessee Gose

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

## VII. Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser

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

## VIII. Frances Jessee Stone

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



**MICHAEL DYE** sent, this link for the Frances Jessee Stone Family--The Martin Stone Bible Record

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/vitals/bible/martinstonebible.html>

**KEN SUMMERS** [summerskd@comcast.net] wrote 3/10/2009 with this inquiry about the **Stone family** in Manton, CA and Missouri.

Hi, You have all Stones living in Manton, California, in your Ancestry.com files. I

have a picture I am trying to identify, the only caption is "Grandma Stone". The caption would have been provided by my grandfather, who lived nearby and died in 1968. I suspect this may be one of the Manton Stones, or possibly a very distant relative of a relative who lived in Missouri, just no way to tell. You can see the picture at the following.

<http://home.comcast.net/~summerskd/Genealogy/GrandmaStone.jpg>

## 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, 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.

**KERRY LYNN GALCIK** [rosieposie77@live.com] wrote, 4/2/2010 about a death in the James Jessee family, that of **Charles Peters**, son of **Trenaria Jessee Peters**, a great-granddaughter of James Jessee and Jane Burk.

Hello Cousin Jim! Sadly I am writing to inform you of a death in the Jessee family. Charles Peters, son of Trenaria Ellen Jessee (my great great aunt) passed away on May 31, 2009. He will be greatly missed by his three sons and his wife Janeen.

**STUART JONES** [dopc67@comcast.net], wrote, 10/15/2009 regarding **Lona Berniece Jessee** genealogy. Lona is the g-granddaughter of James Abel Jessee, son of Fleming Burk Jessee.

Dear Mr. Jessee, I am a Jones descendant but I think one of your people married one of our more notorious Jones people. I am curi-

ous what you might know. I note that some info was supplied by a Jessee--who I think is now deceased per the obit I have seen--that links Herman Lee Jones and Lona Berniece Jessee.

A book has recently been published about Hermie Lee Jones (you can google "Hermie Lee Jones" in quotes to get the info) who participated in a notorious double murder in 1949 (Sevier Co, TN - though he lived in Fall Branch in Wash Co, TN). He was released about 1965 and I gather he lived with or married a woman within a few years whom I would deduce from the info of your Jessee source is Lona Jessee. The children listed in your Jessee's contribution were Steven Allen Jones and Amy Marie Jones. These are the same names I copied from a makeshift mailbox that included Hermie Lee's name about 20 yrs ago when I drove past what I presume was his place in Fall Branch, TN. I suppose I could have stopped to meet him (he was my Dad's cousin) but his reputation was such that I did not relish meeting him (What do I talk about? "So, did you kill anyone lately?").

Interestingly and tragically a Steven Allen Jones was convicted of a murder in Elizabethton, TN in 2004 and again, I would reckon we are talking about the same person.

I sort of have the feeling that Hermie's wife (the book says Hermie Lee divorced and had two children and one grandchild) had already left him by the time I drove by the home in the late 1980's. I seemed curious to me that the kids would have been. I notice that Lona's death was given as Feb 1997. I wonder if this was from an obit or tombstone (where?) or whatever.

You may not know much about Lona. I suspect life with Hermie separated her a bit from her kin but I know so little I cannot say. Maybe she would have reattached after leaving him if she is the one who married him--which seems probable to me. She would have been fairly young compared to Hermie (abt 25 yrs younger) when she had Steven Allen since I think he was probably born about 1970 judging from the age given to him in the Elizabethton Star (I think about April 15 or so of 2004). I don't really know anything about Amy Marie Jones. Some internet searches have made me wonder if she is the Amy Jones who married Clayton Goad and is mentioned in two obits as a granddaughter of a Scott family (adopted? foster child?) from Carter Co. It's hard to figure with a name as common as Jones.

Anyway, I am curious if you have any info. I notice there are some Joneses in your tree from Ohio but I don't think they are the same bunch. Well I trust this is interesting but I hope not too depressing.

Best Regards, Stuart Jones, Rosedale, MD

I responded.

Stuart, Thank you for writing and sharing this story. May I share it in the Jessee Newsletter and List, and post this note on their record?

I find this all very interesting, if not tragic. I get contacted from time to time by adoptees looking for a Jessee or other biological root, and hear stories like this, too.

I do not have additional information, but I think if we shared this more widely, we might get some interest and additional information.

Stuart responded.

Jim, By all means feel free to share my post. Thanks for the response. Stuart

PS: Hermie Lee is safely deceased.

## 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.

### 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.

**KELI** [keli97@comcast.net] wrote 10/27/2009 with this morsel of information about **Nancy Jessee & Isaac Fraley** and provide a mystery to solve.

Dear Jim, I was in Washington County, Virginia last year and found a marriage book that stated on August 21, 1865 Isaac Fraley, 28 y, son of Henry and Mary Turner Fraley, married Nancy Jessee, 27 y, daughter of Martin and Jane Jessee. In the 1870 Russell County Census I find them together living in Castle Woods Township. They did not have any children. I can't find them in 1880.

According to your Jessee website information Nancy J. "Nannie" Jessee, daughter of Martin Jessee and Virginia Jane Price married a man named Hoebcock. This must have been after she married Isaac. I don't have any information on Isaac, but he must have died and she remarried. Do you know anything about this?



### XIV. George Lea Jessee

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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.

**THOMAS RUDDER** [ruddert@sbcglobal.net] shared, 6/19/2010, his photo of the John Counts of Glade Hollow memorial stone. John Counts is Betsy's father.

**CAROLYN ROBERTSON** [hbagk@charterinternet.com] who is the Executive Director of the Home Builders Association of Greater Kingsport, TN, wrote, 8/1/2010, regarding her recent research regarding **John W. Mays** who married **Tabitha Jessee**.

I am very new at this and just recently started looking at my Jessee roots. I was excited to learn about Jessee's Mill and the reunions that you have each year. I live so close and didn't have a clue! Anyway, My grandmother was Mollie Mays, B- 12/1/1875 D- 4/22/1975 Her parents were: John W. Mays and Tabitha Jessee. Tabitha was born in 1844 and died in 1929. John W Mays and Tabitha Jessee are buried on my grandmother's homeplace.

Tabitha's parents were David Jessee and Margaret ? David was born in 1821. The next part I'm having a little trouble with. I have that David was the son of Archibald Jessee - born 1777 in Caswell County N.C. and died Oct 4, 1862 in Russell County Va. and his first wife Nancy Browning. Archibald was the son of John Jessee Sr and Frances Lea. I'm not sure if my information is correct and maybe you can shed some light on that.

My grandmother's homeplace burned when my dad was young and all photos were lost. I should have talked with my grandmother more but I was young and didn't realize how much history she held. I regret it very much. My last living aunt had a stroke several years back and although her mind is good she can't communicate where you can understand her. I'm looking forward to visiting Jessee's Mill in the near future and going up to the Russell County, Va library and of course your next scheduled reunion.

I responded.

Thank you for writing, Please go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org), then to the Jessee Database on RootsWeb from there, and search for JESSEE, TABITHA "BITHA" G., daughter of David Jessee and Becky or Mar-

garet Smyth, who I show married to a David Mays. Could this be your Tabitha Jessee? If so, you are a George Lea Jessee descendant. Also Margaret Smyth is my ggg-grandmother's sister, and they are both daughters of John Smyth and Tabitha Porter. You are an even closer cousin to me by virtues of the Smyth shared heritage, too.

My record of a marriage to a Bob Mays would be incorrect in that case, and I would love to record all the descendants of Tabitha, no matter which family she may be in. I have other Tabithas to look at, but this one fits for birth and parents names, anyway. Let me know if this looks like something to pursue?

May I share our correspondence in the Jessee Newsletter and on the List as appropriate?

Be sure to check out the Russell County Library in Lebanon, the Family History Room, where you will find lots of Jessee resources. The Newsletters are there, too. Jim Jessee, your 4th cousin, maybe...

### Carolyn responded:

Sure, I don't mind if you share our correspondence.

Tabitha Jessee married John W. Mays on Dec 25, 1869, this is in the marriage records for Russell County. It shows her parents as David & Polly Jessee.

I am assuming that Polly was her nickname. In the 1850 census of Russell County I show listed David and Margaret Jessee with their children, Penelope, Tabitha S., George, and Mary E Jessee. Everything you show is correct, except a marriage that you list of Tabitha Jessee to Dave Mays. Do you think this is the same?

So instead of David Jessee's father being Archibald it is George Lea? I'm just trying to get this straight in my head. I believe my husband has the records of other descendants of Tabitha's in the computer, I can send that info to you. My brother also took a photo of their (John W. Mays & Tabitha Jessee) tombstone last year in case you are interested in that.

My husband has done a lot of genealogy on his side of the family and has helped me some on my side. He knows a lot more on how to look things up than I do.

### I replied.

Carolyn, I have that David and, as I have it recorded, Becky "Margaret" (Peggy) Smyth named their first son George Lee is a clue that he was named after David's father, George Lea Jessee, Sr. I may have so many variations because of the changing name in the records. We need to pin this down better and get proof of her full name.

The David, called Little Dave or Elder David Jessee, son of Archer has a different family. I think he is not a match. Look up Elder David Jessee to see his family.

I think my record of a marriage of Tabitha to a Dave Mays is just wrong.

What is John W. Mays' pedigree? I have quite a few Mays in my database too, so you might look at them to see if there is any connections. It turns out I already had a John Mays and Tabitha in my database with a daughter Rachel Victoria, with extensive descendants. Did Tabitha have a sister Rachel Victoria Mays who married Marshall Lee Mays. If so, I have regular communication with one of your close cousins, Marshall Jefferson Jessee.

I think we are on track here, and there is very much pedigree information for you for David Counts Jessee. The Counts connection makes you about 8th cousin to my wife, who is a Kuntz/Cuntze/Counts descendant, too.

My best friend was Calvin Robertson, and his Robertson family came from Idaho by way of Indiana and further east, I assume. I have quite a bit of their genealogy in my head, too. I am very close to this Robertson family.

I know Robertson is a more common name, with probable Scot origins. Glad to make your acquaintance. We hope to be at the 2010 Reunion. May I share our correspondence in the Jessee Newsletter?

### Carolyn replied a few days later.

Jim, So sorry I haven't replied back. Our daughter is building a

house and we have been helping them, plus I have a lot of work right now so my time has been limited at home. I did want to reply back regarding Rachel Victoria Mays. She is the daughter of John W. Mays and Tabitha Jessee, and married Marshall Lee Mays. Rachel was my grandmother's sister (Mollie Mays). I do have a limited pedigree on John W. Mays and will get that to you later this week. I have to work tonight and do not have that information with me here. I would love to communicate with my close cousin, Marshall Jefferson Jessee.

My husband has done a lot of work on his Robertson line - he received a certificate from the state of Tennessee as one of the founding families in the state. Don't know if there is any connection there or not.

### Carolyn later provided the following.

This is the following pedigree that I have on John W Mays.

John W. Mays

B: 1847 in Russell County, VA

M: Dec 25, 1869 Married - Tabitha Jessee

D: June 15, 1927 in Honaker, VA

I have a copy of his obituary that my cousin gave me.

Children:

1. Elizabeth: B: April 10, 1870

2. Martha E. - lived in Kansas City, MO in 1927 and married a Fugate

3. William Nelson: B: 1872 I am not quite sure this is the same one.

D: 1928

Wife: Amanda - B: 1881 D: 1922

Child: Emory Loyd - B: May 28, 1903 D: Jan 6, 1913

I also show him married a second time to Elena Parks on Jan 4, 1923

William, Amanda and Emory are buried close to the Mays home place

4. John H.: Born: March 30, 1874, was living in Bluefield, W. Va in

1927

5. Mary Virginia (Mollie) B: Dec 1, 1875 D: April 22, 1975

M: William Madison Stapleton on Aug 7, 1900

Children:

1. Oakley Stapleton - B: 1902 Died: Feb 24, 1996

2. Roy F. Stapleton - B: 1903 Died: May 5, 1994

3. John Henry Stapleton - B: June 25, 1907 D: April 17, 1998

4. Marzell Stapleton - B: Sept 30, 1909 D: April 16, 1998

5. Nellie Kate: B: 1912

6: Ollie - B: 1918

7. Raymond Grover Stapleton - B: Mar 5, 1905 Died: Mar 28, 1974

8. Viola - B: 1914

6. Rachel Victoria Mays - B Dec 9, 1884 D: June 1978 M: Marshal

L. Mays

Children:

1. Pearl - B: 1909

2. Margaret - B: 1911

3. Wesley Frank - B: 1922

4. Gladys - B: 1917

5. Ruth - B: 1913

I show 2 children buried at the Mays Cemetery as follows: Emma V -

Born & Died Feb 8, 1915 and Ralph Lee - no dates on the headstone,

just son of M.L. and R. V. Mays

7. Liddia Margaret - Daughter of J. W. & Tabitha Mays - died at age 3

years. Buried at Mays Cemetery.

Father: James K. Mays, Jr

Mother: Mary (Polly)

James was born in 1820, in North Carolina

I have Polly born in 1825 in Tennessee and Died in 1908

There is a gravestone for a Polly Mays in the Mays Cemetery that just

states Polly Mays, Wife of James Mays, 72 years. I don't know if this

is the same or not, age is not in agreement.

The father of James K. Mays, Jr. is

James Mays

Born 1804

This is all the information I have on him. He was probably James Mays, Sr. and since James K. Mays Jr. was born in North Carolina I presume he was from there also and then moved to Russell County, VA.

That is as far back as I have on this side on the family. Jeff Jessee did email me and when he arrives back in Florida and he will contact me with more info. Thanks so much for your help.

**LARRY C. BAILEY** [landsbailey@verizon.net] of Lebanon, VA wrote, 11/19/2010, with information about his relationship to the Jessee Family through



Asa Jeter Jessee, son of John Counts "Bull" Jessee, and further inquiries about Jonas Jessee and James J. Bailey, Jr. and Jessee's Mill. He also offers help with Jessee's Mill project.

My Great Great Grandfather James J Bailey Jr. lived in Lebanon around 1860. The following will help explain my connection to the Jessees. The children of IDA ASHBY and ASA JESSEE are:

Generation No. 1

**1. JOSEPH C.3 ASHBY (JOHN2, CUTHBERT1) was born February 05, 1847 in Russell County, VA, and died February 08, 1936 in Russell County, VA. He married THEODOCIA PUCKETT** March 06, 1866 in Russell County, VA, daughter of ANTHONY PUCKETT and HANNAH HOLT. She was born Abt. 1843 in Grayson County, VA, and died Aft. 1910.

**Children of JOSEPH ASHBY and THEODOCIA PUCKETT are:**

- i. MARY E.4 ASHBY, b. May 1867, Russell County, VA; d. Aft. 1930.
- ii. MARTHA E. ASHBY, b. August 1869, Russell County, VA; d. Aft. 1920.
- iii. NANCY CAROLINE ASHBY, b. Abt. 1871, Russell County, VA; m. WILLIAM ROBERT JESSEE, August 10, 1895, Russell County, VA; b. Abt. 1870, Russell County, VA.
- iv. MARGARET ALICE ASHBY, b. May 20, 1870, Russell County, VA; d. December 20, 1959, Ream, McDowell County, WV.
- v. FLORENCE ASHBY, b. February 11, 1874, Russell County, VA.
- vi. JOHN RIDDLE ASHBY, b. September 03, 1875, Russell County, VA; d. October 05, 1953, Westwood, Boyd County, KY.
- vii. ANNILIZA ASHBY, b. Abt. 1876, Russell County, VA; d. Aft. 1930.
- viii. LENORE ASHBY, b. September 29, 1877, Russell County, VA; d. Bef. 1880.
- ix. **IDA FRANCES ASHBY, b. October 05, 1879, Russell County, VA; d. February 15, 1967.**
- x. LABORN CUMMINGS ASHBY, b. August 10, 1881, Russell County, VA; d. Aft. 1942.
- xi. LAVINA "LULA" ASHBY, b. October 01, 1883, Russell County, VA; d. Aft. 1930.

Generation No. 2

Children of IDA ASHBY and ASA JESSEE are:

- i. MARGARET ANN5 JESSEE, b. August 24, 1902, VA; d. February 24, 1946.
- ii. BESSIE FINE JESSEE, b. October 03, 1898, Dickenson County, VA; d. May 08, 1992.
- iii. CHARLES BURNIS JESSEE, b. May 16, 1900, Dickenson County, VA.
- iv. JONAS JESSEE, b. May 18, 1905, VA; d. September 1978.
- v. ALBERTA MAE JESSEE, b. June 09, 1907, Dickenson County, VA; d. 1974.

My uncle Allen Jackson Bailey, killed in World War I, lists his place of birth August 14, 1892 at Jessee's Mill. His father was William G Bailey. My sister and I have been looking for a long time for the answer to the question, "What happened to James J Bailey Jr, uncle Allen's Grandfather?" Do you have any knowledge?

Oh, I grew up in a house built by Jonas Jessee on Hazel Mountain in Dickenson County. My father purchased it from him when he moved to, I believe my father said was Georgia.

Great to read about the Jessee's and learn more about my relatives.

I responded:

Larry, With your permission I would like to share some of your notes and material in the next Jessee Newsletter and to record or update by genealogy database with what you shared. I hope you have been to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) to see newsletters which do share details of our efforts about the Jessee Mill and Cemetery. It is not very encouraging. We need leadership there in Russell Co.

Larry commented further in subsequent email.

You have my full permission to use anything that I can share to help.

I went by Jessee's Mill this afternoon. If there is a movement to restore the mill, I would be interested. The road down to the mill was posted for no trespassing by a Mr. Hess, so I didn't get down to the mill

itself. I would also love to see the family cemetery, but I understand there is a problem with access to it?

I just moved back to this area after living away for over 30 years. Along with my sister, we have a craving for family history. Thanks again.

Yes, a strong presence with the Russell County Board of Supervisors might help with the Mill cause and getting ready access to the cemetery. The Lebanon District Supervisor just got elected here, after he gets sworn in, maybe it would be good to see how interested he might be in the preservation of some valuable history for future generations. I will have to see how he is related to us through the Puckett's in the line I have sent to you. His name is Joseph Puckett.

I was talking about the Jessee line in our family with my sister and she said there were several members of the Jessee family buried where my Grand Ma and Grand Pa Bailey are on Hazel Mountain in Dickenson County. She said she is sure Asa Jessee is one. We are going to document that cemetery in tombstone data and picture as soon as we can get up there. I will be sure and share what I find.

I responded regarding Russell County Supervisor Joseph Puckett and his possible relationship to the Jessee family.

One origin of the Jessee and Puckett Family intersection is George Washington Puckett, b. 1821 married Margaret Jessee, b. 1823 daughter of George Lea Jessee who married Elizabeth "Betsy" Counts. There are more intermarriages over the generations since. I would like help connecting your new supervisor, Joseph Puckett, into this family, too, and so a posting to the Lists may find our answers.

Larry followed up with this email to Mr. Puckett.

I am active in my family genealogy which is mostly based here in Lebanon. While pursuing what happened to my Great Grand Father James J. Bailey Jr., I have come across the possibility of him living at the Mill community in the late 1800's. When I found this out I drove up to the old mill and sadly it's not being preserved. I understand the gentleman that owns the property is very willing to show the mill but I think Russell County could go far by helping preserve this great family location. It is also a part of your family's history, the Pucketts, Jessees and Ashbys all were related. The historical marker on Route 71 tells the story of the deep roots the Jessee family played in settling this area. The old family cemetery is being neglected and access is being made difficult. It is widely believed that Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers are buried there. Open access to this cemetery would help in finding out who is buried there.

I am sure you are aware of the [jessee.org](http://jessee.org) site which is dedicated to finding out all the relatives and their part in the history of Russell County. Thank you in advance for reading this and I hope give it serious consideration as our new Lebanon District Supervisor.

## Missing Links & Conundrums

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

**DAVID RANKIN** [[david\\_rankin@verizon.net](mailto:david_rankin@verizon.net)] wrote, 6/4/2009, regarding **Ruth B. Jessee, daughter of Marshall Greeley Jessee.**

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

- ID: I6160
  - Name: Ruth B. JESSEE
  - Sex: F
  - Birth: AUG 1899 in , Russell Co., VA
  - Reference Number: 80+E895
  - Change Date: 17 JAN 2004 at 20:18:57
- Father: Marshal Greeley JESSEE b: 23 JUL 1872 in , Russell Co., VA  
Mother: Sarah "Sallie" D. (B.) 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 birthdates 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 your time.

I responded then, but to date we have had no additional information.

David, May I post this on the Jessee List, which you should also join, to see responses. There are several cousins much closer to you who are descendants of Marshall Greeley Jessee on the list who may have the information you need. I don't know more at this time, but I think we can find you and answer, certainly her marriage information, anyway.

**LUCY**[greenachers2@aol.com] wrote, 2/11/2010 with an inquiry about a **Jane/Janie Jessee** who married **Lorenzo Dow McCawley**

Good morning: I found your Jessee Newsletter on the internet. I am researching my husband's family and his grandfather was Lorenzo/Loranzie Dow McCawley. I have found a lot of information on Lorenzo's 2nd wife, Bertie Ann Huff, but my husband's grandmother was Lorenzo's first wife. My information says her name was Jane/Janie Jessee (or Jessie). She died in childbirth, possibly 8th child, maybe in 1910. My husband's cousin says she is buried in Red Lick Cemetery, Metcalfe County, KY. Do you have any information on Jane, or can you give me a direction to pursue. Thank you so much. One other thing: She is listed in the 1910 Adair Co. census as "Lucy".

## Correspondence

**HOPE DAVIS** [hwd3188@gmail.com] wrote, November 17, 2010 with this exciting news about our **JHF President, Hank Davis running for Virginia State Senate.**

Dear All Family Members,

Just thought I would take a minute to let you know that Hank has just been certified as a candidate to run for the Virginia State Senate in a special election to fill the unexpired term of the State Senator who was elected to Congress. The election will be held on January 11 and the campaign is already in full swing. A short election means there is a lot to do and not much time to do it, but staff has been selected, signs are on the way, and literature is at the printers. He has already done a couple of TV interviews with more scheduled for next week.

I have called off Christmas or, at least most of the celebrations. A friend has offered to decorate our house so it may look like Christmas.

We would appreciate your thoughts and prayers during what will be a busy and tiring experience for all involved.

Thanks., Hope

**BILL RENTZSCHKE** [b.rentzschke@comcast.net] wrote to Holly Jessee regarding information for **Louis H. Jessee and Ina Mae Stinnett.**

I have a Louis H. Jessee md. to an Ina Mae Stinnett. They had a son Arthur Lee Jessee born 16 Aug 1935 in Briscoe Co., Texas. I show him to have been married three times

- 1) Tricia
- 2) Delores G.
- 3) Shirley Ann Paulsen (I have a copy of their marriage certificate).

Arthur Lee died 19 Sep 1992 in Prineville, Crook Co., Oregon and is buried in Juniper Haven Cemetery in Prineville, Oregon. Are any of these names familiar to your family?

**PAULETTE KELLY** [paulettkelly@charter.net] , wrote 8/15/2010, in response to a note about Jesses on TV, noting Jack Jessee of Ice Road Truckers.

Subject: Too Fat for Fifteen: Fighting Back - mystyle.com.. another Jessee on TV

Hey Jim, Margaret Louise Jessee, B: 1844, That married Calvin Freelin Trent, whose dad was James Mathias (Mack) Jessee, that went to Texas. His gr-gr-gr grandson, William Porter, my son, is on a TV series, on MyStyle TV show. He is the Academic Director, for Well-spring Academy, in NC The name of the show is "To fat for fifteen".

I am sending you the links.

<http://www.mystyle.com/mystyle/shows/toofatfor15/index.jsp>

I responded, Is this your son?

William Porter is Academic Director of Wellspring Academy of the Carolinas. Bill has dedicated many years working with youth of all ages. Bill is a certified teacher with a Master's degree in Secondary Education Methods and his BS in Anthropology. Before formally entering the field of education he served as an archaeologist for the University of Oregon, and prior to that in the U.S. Army for 4 ½ years. Bill believes that all children are capable of learning and worthy of top-notch instruction that centers on building mutual bonds of respect and dignity.

This looks like a terrific show, and unfortunately the story of my life, too. I was fat at fifteen, and struggle to this day. I see William's photo on the Wellspring Website, very very handsome, are you sure he is a Jessee descendant? :-)

Yes that is my son, and you may share it. That would be great.

I went to my first Jessee reunion last week and had a wonderful time. I was sorry that I didn't get to meet you, and your wife, but I understand. Oh yes, I won the Door prize. I felt a little bad, when I thought about what, James Mack Jessee, had done to some of the family, but as I told them "that was in the past. :-)

**JOE JESSEE** [joejessee@yahoo.com], sent 7/7/2010, this sports story from the Roanoke Times.

Hillary Jessee blazed trails for Bath County's volleyball team

Hillary Jessee led the Chargers to the cusp of a state title in the final season of her career.

By Josh Parcell | Special to The Roanoke Times

Five years ago, Bath County had never even won a district tournament championship in volleyball. That was until Hillary Jessee came along. The 5-foot-11 middle hitter will conclude an illustrious high school career today when she suits up for the West team in the VHSCA All-Star game. And to think, the two-time Region C Player of the Year almost never made it onto the court in high school.

When she was in eighth grade, she complained to her mother, Lisa, of tightness in her chest. Lisa Jessee immediately took Hillary to the hospital, where doctors began a four-month-long series of tests, many on her heart. "That was probably the scariest moment of my life," Hillary Jessee said. The test results on her heart came back negative, but doctors diagnosed her with Pectus Excavatum, a condition where the chest compresses abnormally into the ribs.

This particular case was not life-threatening, and Jessee resumed her normal activities and her abnormal volleyball career, where she started on the varsity team for head coach David McGee all four years of high school.

"After the tests started coming back ... I was fine. You've got to find out the results before you start getting worried. I was kind of laid-back about that," Lisa Jessee said. In the Pioneer District championship game in her freshman season, Jessee made the match-winning kill. That was just the beginning of a memorable career. The Chargers won the district tournament each of the last four years. Jessee made the all-

district team in the last three, including player of the year honors as a junior and senior.

The last time she donned a high school uniform, it didn't end like she would have hoped. The Chargers lost a heartbreaking five-game match in the state championship to defending champion Gate City. In the following week, Jesse learned that Lindsey Burke, a member of the champion Blue Devils, edged her out for state player of the year honors. "It still bothers me now. I think about it every day, and it still upsets me," Jesse said with an unmistakably bitter tone.

Her volleyball legacy is far from over, though. In the fall, she will compete for a starting position at Randolph-Macon College, an NCAA tournament participant in 2009. "Her potential is unlimited. She's a fantastic talent, and she has the burning desire to compete," said Bill Rogers, the Yellow Jackets' head coach. Rogers can only hope that Jesse will be as special in college as she was in high school. It's a safe bet.

## Resources

The Internet is a remarkable resource for us. I will provide here information regarding Web resources and other links of interest to the Jesse(e) family.

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

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

Jack has helped produce another important Washington County resource book which he announced, March 3, 2010. Here is his release.

It is out! It has hit the streets! 482 Pages!

Latest deaths - WCV... If you have an insatiable urge to part with a shekel or two, you can order from New Papyrus Publishing Company (online)!

**WASHINGTON CO. VA. SELECTED DEATH RECORDS WITH ANNOTATIONS** Abstracted by Donald Helton. iv,482pp., every-name index (8.25" x 10.75" paperback). The author has gathered together more than four thousand death records from Washington and surrounding counties, primarily from 1912 to the present. In addition, most of the records carry annotations drawn from a myriad of sources. To best explain how the volume was conceived and grew, we have reproduced the text of the author's foreword below:

Some years back, I became acquainted, thru the wonders of the Internet, with Thomas Jack Hockett. Our ancestors were from the same general area of southwest Virginia. I knew of his folks and he knew of mine. We corresponded via email for several years, asked and answered questions about family history and exchanged information. Then came the death records, more death records, even more death records. I

printed them out as they came in and put them in a big notebook. Soon, they were too much for any notebook, eventually numbering more than a thousand pages. Every time I needed a death date.... where did I see it? I knew it was in that pile of records somewhere, but exactly where! These records needed to be put in some kind of order. Thus began the tedious work of sorting, compiling and entering all this information into a word processor. Over a period of several winters, it finally came together, all in one place, sorted by years, listed in alphabetical order, and I even had an index.... Much better! But, many of the records were missing information vital to a researcher. Names of parents, husbands and wives, places of birth, etc. were either not included or could not be read from the microfilm of the death certificate. Quite often, the informant was a neighbor, or someone not of the family volunteering to report the death. Not knowing the answers to questions posed by the recorder, this important information was lost.

Enter Mr. Tom Colley.... Jack and Tom were working together on another project, unrelated to what I was doing, but requiring much of the same information. Jack asked Tom if he might be able to fill in some of the missing data. That question produced a preponderance of information!

Together, we decided it would be very useful to include Tom's comments along with Jack's census information in this work. It would be remiss of me not to express my appreciation to all those who contributed to this effort, and especially to Jack and Tom and their assistance in helping bring together a valuable, and I may say, somewhat unique research tool. [WCDR] \$44.95

### 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 Jesse researchers.

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

**MICHAEL A. DYE** provides the most excellent genealogy resources for SW VA genealogists and those just interested in local history through his extraordinary efforts to make public genealogy and historical records. I recommend you explore his work now available on DVD and CD including complete publications of the following: *The Southwest Virginian* magazine; a *Southwest Virginia Historical Book Collection*; the *Southeast Virginia Ancestors* publication, and collections of SW Virginia Family Genealogies.

**DALE REEDY** [hazac1@hotmail.com] wrote 9/3/2010 with this website recommendation for **Smith/Smythe** genealogy research.

Hi again Jim, If you would like look into your search for Smiths of Chatham County NC, Or Related subjects About Smiths or Smythes of Gloucester Co. Va 1760. One e-mail I got for this site is: LostButFound3@juno.com

**SHEILA HARRISON** [sheilanneharrison@gmail.com] wrote 1/17/2010 with a Family Search service she highly recommends.

Family Search Labs is awesome! There are a bunch of my family's death records and sometimes, as in the case below, the actual image is also available. For those of you who are indexing, keep up the good work - this is a result of our efforts - talk about a reward!! Check this out!--<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/>

## 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 share JHF news and events. I invite all JHF members to join the Jessee List and subscribe to this Jessee Family Newsletter, as well.

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

**In October 2007, the JHF Board voted to pay (not exceeding \$500) for the purchase or repair of headstones for any of all of the 15 children born to John and Frankey Jessee, and those born to Old Phillip Jessee.** If interested, please contact any or 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](mailto: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:  
Pauline Salyers  
5074 Green Valley Road  
Lebanon, VA 24266-6553

If you have any questions contact me 276-889-0055.

### JHF 2011-12 Board Meeting Dates

At publication I had received no notice of 2011-12 JHF Board Meeting Dates, nor any news about the August 2010 Reunion and the election of board members and officers, so have assumed the present board and officers have continued.

### 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 you 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 Frankey 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](mailto:vpsaly@naxs.net).

## Jessee Genealogy Book Proposed by JHF

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

Vernon wrote last summer that the Jessee Historical Foundation (JHF) is interested in doing a Jessee Family Genealogy Book, and that he has over 15,000 descendants recorded for John Jessee (1750-1816) and Frankey Lea Jessee (1852-1836), who moved from Caswell County, NC to Russell County, VA in 1790, and established a family of 15 children.

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

I welcome your scrutiny of my database and your help with additions and corrections for at least the first three to five generations for both families.

I have over 20,500 direct descendant records for John and Frankey Lea Jessee including their spouses. When you include the spouses' parents and related, I have well over 35,000 records. There are 45,000 total records in my public database which also includes many sons and daughters of other founding SW VA families over many generations.

I am willing to help and contribute my database to this effort. I wrote to Michael Dye that it would be great to compare the databases of major SW VA genealogists, and begin to carefully compare and integrate the databases, as I know we have much overlap and inevitable errors. However, the effort to track down the differences and discrepancies, and just different formats used, not to mention the errors between us, could drive a person bonkers.

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

The cost of printing could be excessive, so we may just want to consider doing it on a CD or DVD with an index and search tools, too. That still means editing and preparing it like a book, as a PDF file, so it could be printed by someone from the DVD or CD.

As a first goal, we should concentrate on getting the publication's database comprehensive and correct for 4-5 generations from the founders. That just gets us into the time of photography, after the 1840s, for some photos to be included.

I think that each Jessee descendant family might consider picking up at generation four or five, which puts us into and after the Civil War, late 1800s, and do their own book from that time forward. Several branches already have done such. The Stanford Lea Jessee descendants have been well recorded in a book by Marshall Jefferson Jessee. 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 this someday for my branch of the family. We have lots of photos after this time.

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

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

Amen, Jim

## JHF Projects

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Jessee's Mill Preservation

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

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

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

Please see also the essay by Jack Hockett on Jessee's Mill featured at the front of this newsletter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# The Family Database

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

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

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

**<http://www.jessee.org>**

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

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

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

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

## Our Purpose

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

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

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

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

# How To Help

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

Unfortunately after 34 years of working I have developed a disability which makes any prolonged time typing very painful. My computer time has been significantly limited and my regular data entry routine has all but stopped. While I continue to plink at it, I am not denting the perhaps 3000-4000 records piled high and waiting to be keyed in. I 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 subscribe or donate anything. I do need help, even if it is simply informing me to stop sending you the newsletter if it has become junk mail. I am steadily reducing my mailing to include those who have subscribed, provided donations, helped in some other way, are sponsored by someone else, or are a family treasure. If you are getting this newsletter, you are at least a family treasure. If I drop you in error, just let me know. Please inform me of address changes as returned and re-posted mail costs me too.

## Annual Subscription

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

## Newsletter Reprints

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

## *The Jessee Family Newsletter*

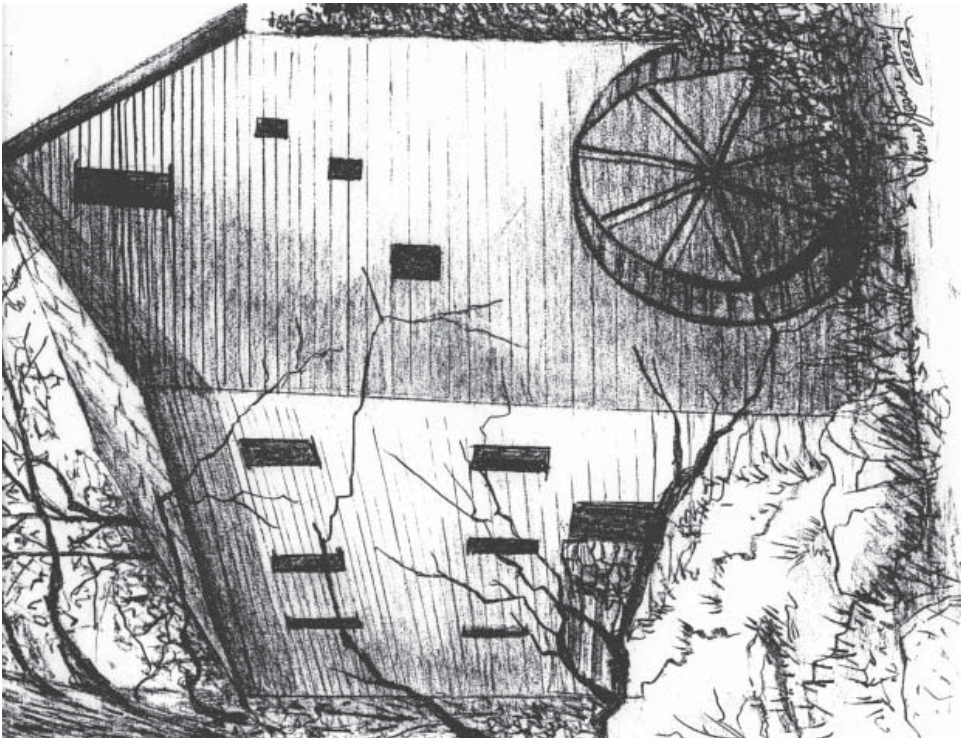
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The Jesse Family Newsletter  
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Your mailing label indicates the status or last issue of your subscription. If it is December 31, 2010 or earlier, your subscription has expired. I will provide you the first issue of the new year as a reminder and request to renew. **Please renew for 2011 at the NEW RATE of \$20 per year.**

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