

Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #41

Summer 2012

Vol. XXI No.2

Dear Cousin,

After 21 years, this will be the last “printed” Jessee Family Newsletter. In the future I will move this effort to a blog and “On-line” Newsletter on the Web at our Jessee Family Website: With any Web browser you simply go to:

www.jessee.org

I hope you will join me there, and on the “Jessee List.” The Jessee List, Jessee-L, is an Internet Bulletin Board on RootsWeb which you may join for free. It is a means to post messages to all subscribers, and it will send to you any postings by others. Many inquiries and much Jessee family information is shared here on a weekly basis. To join the Jessee-L family email list, send an email to:

jessee-l-request@rootsweb.com

with the single word *subscribe* in the message subject and body. You may always email me directly at

jim@jessee.org

Forgive that this summer issue is a bit late, but not for lack of good information, just time and attention and the vicissitudes of life.

We have the very good news that our son, Earl, and his wife are expecting our first grandchild in late July. Furthermore, we have been renovating our cabin at Butte Meadows, CA, and it is much delayed with most work now planned in July and August. I share this, because it has been my intention to travel to the 2012 Jessee Reunion, but now I know I cannot be away from Chico then, and am sorry to miss it. I encourage you to go, and to help the JHF with it.

Weekly, I continue to get bits of new information by email and regular post, and I do the small data entry chores as they come. My neck and back issues continue to prevent prolonged data entry, and lengthy travel, so I still have stacks of work to do. I am sorry that I am so behind, and do not see much catch-up in the future. I can only say I will peck at it, and you will find it in the database ere long.

Please continue to check from time to time for the results in the Jessee Family Database at Rootsweb. Go to www.jessee.org and look up your kin. Often missing are specific locations, and complete dates for births, marriages, and deaths. Please always feel free to provide me corrections, additions, comments and documentation where needed.

[Continued on page 3]

Featured This Edition

THE JESSEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION is holding the National Jessee Family Reunion, 11 a.m., August 3-4, 2012. See details inside. **THE NATIONAL COUNTS FAMILY REUNION** is the same day, but fortunately at 3 p.m. at the Breaks Interstate Park. It is possible to make both reunions. The driving time from Lebanon to the Breaks Interstate Park is about 1 1/2 hours.

In **DEAR COUSIN** continued on page 3, I share a recent photo of my family and why I am discontinuing the printed Jessee Family Newsletter.

SW VIRGINIA FAMILIES and **OTHER JESSE(E) FAMILIES** include information and news from descendants of other prominent SW VA families with whom we share roots and history. **RUTH OSBORNE PRICE** helps us differentiate the **Smith and Smyth** family origins in Russell County. There are three new contributions by descendants of **John and Clia (Smith) Jesse**.

GARY KLINEDINST, responds to our search for **Frankey Lea's Mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA)** by providing it, and wonderful information and commentary on was she Indian, Melungeon, or European? Gary shares the remarkable Russell County pedigree of his mother, **Alta Mae Kiser**, who has **Kiser, Long, Dotson, Bush, Sutherland, Fuller, Childress, Thompson, and Jessee roots**. Her Jessee root is all maternal. **I share my autosomal DNA results with surprise findings on our common ethnic origins.**

JESSE(E) FAMILY ORIGINS, OTHER JESSE(E) FAMILIES and **JOHN AND FRANKEY LEA JESSEE RESEARCH** have special contributions of interest. **JIM BRAY** is again our research hero providing several corrections and additions to the database. See new information and photos of the descendants of their fifteen children. Read heartwarming stories, letters, and meet new cousins inside. We have news for the **John Jr. (especially Stanford Lea Jessee), Archer, William, Lea, James, and Martin Jessee** descendants.

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 JESSEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION has no news to share and **JESSEE'S MILL** and **JESSEE CEMETERY PRESERVATION** projects are summarized but have nothing new to report.

The 2012 National Jessee Family Reunion

No Host Gathering on Friday, August 3, 2012
11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Russell County Library
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

Jessee Family Welcome

Friday, August 3, 6-10 p.m.
meet at the Abingdon Senior Center,
300 Senior Drive, Abingdon, VA.

Please bring snack food and soft drinks, musical instruments for a time of socializing, genealogy discussion, picking and grinning.

Family Reunion and Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 4, 2012
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Lebanon, VA
at the Russell County Conference Center
139 Highland Drive, Lebanon, VA

Please 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.

HOPE DAVIS [hwd3188@gmail.com] wrote,
1/24/2012 with this news about the reunion.

They are hoping to have some extra activities this year, such as a "dance" on Friday night so that those coming from a distance will have something to do. Locals should want to attend to hear the Bluegrass Band. That weekend also coincides with the Highlands Festival so there will be plenty to do during other free time.

The Jessee Historical Foundation, JHF, holds the National Jessee Family Reunion every two even-numbered years in August. Families are encouraged to have local and regional family reunions in odd-numbered years. The JHF holds its annual membership meeting during the reunion.

The Reunion will be held in the Russell County Conference Center, an air-conditioned facility in the Russell County Government Center, off of E. Main Street (Bus. Rt. 19) east of downtown Lebanon. For information about this historic area, please call the Abingdon Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-435-3440; acvb@abingdon.com; www.abingdon.com/tourism.

The Silent Auction Needs You

Please participate in the silent auction of very unusual, eclectic and original family made items, held on Saturday, to help raise funds for the Jessee Historical Foundation. **For information contact:**

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

THE NATIONAL COUNTS FAMILY REUNION is the same day, August 4, but fortunately at 3 p.m. at the Breaks Interstate Park. They will serve hotdogs and hamburgers, but ask for potluck desserts and side dishes or monetary contributions. It is possible to make both reunions, even if that is a lot of family in one day. The driving time from Lebanon to the Breaks Interstate Park is about 1 1/2 hours.

Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

The JHF Board of Directors & Officers
as of August, 2011

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
Pauline 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 \$20 per person, for two years.**

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.

Please 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 per year, \$20 for two years, 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

Dear Cousin [continued from page 1]

This photo is our son Earl Wilson, me-James Wilson “Jim,” my wife Nelda Faye (Meline) and our daughter Emma Elizabeth Jessee. It was taken last fall at Rockefeller Center, New York City, on a very rare family excursion there for a reunion with my 91-year-old Holocaust survivor cousin, Sidney Shlomkowitz, from my Jewish mother’s Brownfield and Shlomkowitz side of the family. Our children and their lives are the center of our existence... not to mention Millie the dog.

We have had a very full year bringing joy, grief, sadness, anxiety, hopes, expectations, pain and pleasures. The great joy of our daughter’s back yard wedding last June turned to much sadness and angst, as the marriage headed for divorce by January. I know many of you have experienced this, but divorce is sad and crushing for more than just the two parties involved. Emma is mending now, albeit slowly.

Contrast that with the joy and great expectation of a first grandchild, due in late July. Our son’s wife Meegan Condon Jessee can’t wait, and just stopped working to await the imminent birth. She will have three months maternity leave from Butte County, where she is a Deputy Financial Officer. Our son Earl will take some maternity leave, too, from his job with Matson and Isom Technology. Grandparents and aunts and uncles will be hovering about.

We have greatly enjoyed that Earl had bought the house next door to us several years ago, and Meegan and Earl have lived there with their dog Millie for over five years. We love being so close to them, and it has been a very happy arrangement for all.

However, their house is only a little over 800 sq. ft., and Earl had the very good fortune to inherit a house that is three times larger, albeit in sore need of renovation. They have been engaged in that effort for much of the year, and still will not be able to move into their new home until late this fall. So we get to enjoy them and the grandchild next door for a few months more. We still have it good, their new home is only about 12 blocks away. Nelda will be doing child care, while I walk and entertain the dog, and we all dote over that child.

What will I do instead of writing this printed Newsletter? I hope I will well maintain the Jessee Website, which my son promises me he will make bullet proof enough that I can work on it and not break it too bad. It may yet take us until fall to get the blog working. But he will be on that leave.

I have been for many years and am increasingly



involved with helping other local history buffs and writers publish history books through an organization called The Association for Northern California Historical Research, www.csuchico.edu/anchr. Please visit the Website and see our Publications List. I am the chief editor, book designer and layout artist, and arrange for printing. I do this, I am sorry to say, while ignoring, if not avoiding, my own research and genealogy efforts. I want to give that more time now, too.

For all these reasons, and those pesky back problems which many a Jessee know too well, I will discontinue printing this Jessee Family Newsletter. I have loved doing this Newsletter, although my Jessee Genealogy Service “business” books show an actual net loss of \$10,288 over the last 21 years.

Some of you have paid subscriptions for future years, which your address label should indicate. I am sorry to disappoint you, and will refund whatever remainder you think is fair. Please write or email me.

I have been chronicling the major events in our personal family lives in photo albums on Facebook. Please befriend me on Facebook to access my albums, or send me an email, and I will send you the links. I also do an annual Holiday Letter where I chronicle our personal family lives. Some of you get that in addition to the Jessee Newsletter now. That will continue. If you don’t now get the annual Holiday letter and would like to receive it, let me know with your mailing and email address.

I am gratified every time I hear from you and you help me extend our knowledge of the Jessee family. I am always astounded as I see increasing evidence of how we are all cousins. My spirits are uplifted by your letters, cards, emails, and donations. Thank you.

Jim Jessee

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.

RUTH OSBORNE PRICE [hp403a@embarqmail.com] wrote, 3/31/2011, with Smith & Smyth genealogy details. She writes to clear up confusion (if any) about **John Smith and John Smyth**.

Jim, I had just found your website, and it is loaded with good information! My sister and I sure would like to come to the next Jessee reunion you have! We know a lot of the Jessee names I have read so far. Ruth (Osborne) Price

About John SMITH of Russell Co., Castlewood Va.
My father: William B. Osborne b. 9 Nov. 1908 d. 14 Aug. 1979
Mother: Anne Virginia Gose Osborne b. 2-2-1911 d. 2-3-1995
My Grandfather: Samuel Marion Osborne m. Verda Jenkins
My Great Grandfather: Squire Osborne, m. Sarah Dorton
My Great-Great Grandfather: Solomon Osborne b. 7 Feb. 1795 d. 5 July 1857
My Great-Great Grandmother: Elizabeth Smith b.28 March 1799 d. Sept. 1852
Elizabeth Smith was daughter of John SMITH b. 1748, Augusta Co. Va. d. Castlewood Va., 7 Feb. 1826. and wife Jane Smith.

This is documented information used when my sister and I became members of the DAR.

John SMYTH of Russell Co. Va.
My Mother: Anne Virginia Gose Osborne b. 2-2-1911 d. 2-3-1995
My Grandmother: Nancy Elizabeth (Nannie) Counts Gose b. 3-28-1878 d. 12-31-1960
My Grandfather: John Aaron Gose b. 1-25-1876 d. 3-21-1957
John A. and Nannie are buried in the Brick Church Cemetery, Castlewood Va. (I have picture of tombstone)
My Great Grandparents:
David C. Counts b. 6 Nov. 1844 d. 4 May, 1920
Tennessee Self Counts b. 8-23-1854 d. 2-12-1932
Buried in Reynolds Cemetery, on Hagan Reynolds Rd. off Old Hwy 70, Persia, Tn.
(I have picture of tombstone)
My GG Grandparents: (David Counts Parents)
Elizabeth SMYTH Counts b. 5-20-1819 d. 10-4-1900
John Counts b. 10-8-1792 d. 6-8-1872
My GGG Grandparents (Parents of Elizabeth Smyth)
John Smyth b. 1785 d. 1837
Tabitha Porter b. 1785 d. 1847.
GGG Grandparents (Parents of John Counts)
James Counts b. 10-8-1792 d. 6-8-1872
Evaline Banner b. 1-18-1795 d. 10-23-1894

Some of these names and dates are taken from family records written by my Grandmother Nannie Gose and my Mother. Or I know, because I was there when my grandparents and parents died and were buried. Also I have used information taken from Russell County Census and marriage records at Russell County genealogy website.

I will send you some more info later. When I get it together, I had no idea when I started looking in to my ancestors that it would be a job that will never be finished!

Thanks! Ruth Osborne Price

I responded: Ruth, this will appear in the 2012 Jessee Newsletter, if OK with you, and I thank you so much. I keyed in this today, but found much of it already there. We are related more than one way, but my ggg-grandparents are John Smyth and Tabitha Porter, so we are 4th cousins, at least. Jim

Jim, you can definitely put this in your newsletter. I haven't worked on my genealogy this winter, just dreaded getting out all that stuff, but I must try before summer gets here again. It is so fascinating to find

connections to so many people. I told my sister that we are related to everybody in Castlewood. One thing we did, went to visit a cemetery where George Gose and Elizabeth Cowan Gose are buried, the tombstones were still sort of readable. They were on the Gose property that George bought in 1861 and built the house that is still standing, but is really getting run down. I'll be looking forward to reading your newsletter. Ruth

JESSE(E) SURNAME 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 for an extensive discussion and summary of what we know so far about the origins of the Jesse(e) families in America.

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.

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.

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.

DANIEL WILLIS [daniel@dan-willis.com] wrote, 3/18/2012, regarding **Obedience Long Jesse**, daughter of **Nicholas Long & Parthena Drane**.

Jim, I was doing some work on a book I am writing about the Drane family and stumbled onto your family information



on the internet. It appears you are descended from Obedience (Long) Jesse.

Obedience was the daughter of Nicholas Long and his wife Parthena Drane. I have significant information about the Dranes if you are interested. I descend through a great-great-granduncle of Parthena, but am writing a book about the whole family so have done tons of research. I have the line traced back to the late 1500's in England.

I responded: Thank you for your note. Columbus Clay Jesse, who married Obedience Long, is a grandson of John and Clia Smith Jesse, a separate family from my own Jessee family, but I do include them, and many of their descendants in my RootsWeb database. With your permission, I would like to post your note on these records in my database, and share your note and offer with the Jesse/Jessee List, and in the Jessee Newsletter. Learn about this and John and Clia Smith at www.jessee.org.

RAE WATSON [brae_d@hotmail.com] wrote, 5/12/2012, with new descendants information for the John and Clia (Smith) Jesse family.

Jim, our descent from John Jessee is:

John Jesse(1766) & Clia Smith(1770)
William Morgan Jesse (1798) & Mary Ann "Polly" Parker(1802)

Mary Ann Jesse(1823) & James Samuel Oslin(1818)
Sarah J Oslin(1845) & Joseph J Jackson(1843)
James Oslin Jackson(1866) & Cashia May Shaver(1871)
I have picture of Cashia & pictures of all below
Carl Shelby Jackson(12-14-1897 to 4-4-1958) & Mamie Myrtle Rhoades(8-7-1898 to 2-16-1944)
Carl & Mamie had :

Albert Earl Jackson	12-16-1930 to 6-24-1997	married with issue
Mildred M.	" 7-3-1923 to 6-30-2009	"
* Melva P.	" 7-17- 1926	Living "
James C.	" 8-6-1930 to 8-22-1990	"
Robert L	" 5-8-1933 to 4-21-2009	"
Billie G.	" 1-8-1935 to 8-25-2003	"
Larry S.	" 11-16-1938	Living "

* Melva Pauline Jackson married Marshall Theodore Harmon (1918 to 2006). They had four children [including the writer Rae Watson].

I am Rae and my Mother, Melva, lives with me. We abide in Kansas City, Mo. I have one son who has three children. Two of which have a child. As I'm sure you understand I cannot speak of the other living descendants, of which there are many. I can only speak for myself.

My husband & I are retired and enjoy our lives here with our combined & blended family. We number quite a few ourselves. Between us we have six kids, 12 grandkids and 4 great-grandkids. They keep us "hopping". We are fortunate that most live close and a few are in nearby areas. Of course the ones who live close make our retirement not at all as we pictured it, LOL. Thanks for the opportunity to add to descendants of "Jesse".



RAE WATSON [brae_d@hotmail.com] wrote, 6/18/2012, with restored photos of **Casha May Shaver Jackson**; her son, **Carl Shelby Jackson** and his wife **Mamie Myrtle Rhoades Jackson**.

Hi Jim, I finally received my pics back from the restorer. Here are pictures of Casha May Shaver Jackson; her son, Carl Shelby Jackson and his wife Mamie Myrtle Rhoades Jackson. Mamie & Carl are my grandparents. Casha May was a descendant of John Jesse, 1771. The picture of Carl Shelby Jackson was taken, with 4 of his sons, the day they buried grandma Mamie (note the new overalls). The one of grandma Mamie was as a teenager. Hope I got them to you in time, it took forever to restore 2 of them. AND I hope this works because I've never emailed pictures before...well here goes.

Can't wait for the newsletter! Thanks, Rae Watson

Richard Jesse

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

Samuel Jesse

Samuel Jesse, born about 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.

THOMAS JESSEE

RICHARD A. THRIFT [rathrift@gmail.com] wrote, 2/23/2011 with another Jessee family which may share common origins.

I've been doing research on my family's genealogy and came across a connection on my mother's side to the Jessee family. I hope I'm correct in my research for when I went to check your database, I didn't see my research meshing up with yours.

I have been able to go back as far as Thomas JESSEE (b. before 1800) and his marriage to Amelia Sophia MONTAGUE (b. before 1800) of Essex Co. I have that they had at least one child John A. JESSEE (b. about 1817) who married an Elizabeth HOSKINS (b. 1825. Sometimes showing up in census as Betty or Bettie). They had two daughters: Lucy Reavis JESSEE (b. about 1855) and Mary E. JESSEE (DOB-UNK). It is Lucy who would be my 2nd great grandmother. She married a Morton Boyd EVANS (1856-1934) and one of their children, Callie Hundley EVANS (1884-1963), married Sadie L. HEALY of Middlesex Co. Virginia 1889-1956). One of their daughters, Lucy Jesse EVANS (1907-1987) married Thomas Wilton POWELL (1902-1984). The last two would be my grandparents on my mother's side.

As I mentioned above your data base gives no descendants for Thomas JESSEE and Amelia Sophia MONTAGUE. I hope the information I have provided might be a start for completing that section.

JOHN JESSEE

RICK AND KATHY WISEMAN [mailto:dixie25@hughes.net] wrote, 10/29/2010, regarding a John Jesse(e) of Franklin Co., VA whose origins we do not know.

Sir you posted a comment on my post on Ancestry.com back on June 16 about my 5th great grandfather John Jesse. I am trying to find information on John Jessee who was born about 1821 in Franklin County Virginia. His birth and the place he was born I was able to get from the 1850 census record when he was living in Floyd Co. Va. I have that he married Elizabeth Napier on Nov. 16, 1848 in Floyd Co. Virginia. Bird Jessee who is John and Elizabeth's son was born 1849 in Floyd Co. I found the 1850 census record for John Jessee and the marriage record is all I can find. I have determined that he might have died after the 1850 census record since he does not show up after that. Elizabeth and Bird do not show up on the 1860 record from what I can find. Bird doesn't reappear until 1870 census when he is living in Franklin Co. Elizabeth reappears in 1880 in Giles County living with apparently another one of their sons, Benjamin. The reason I know this is Elizabeth's mom Catherine Napier was living with her in 1850 and also shows up on the 1880 census. Hope this information gives you some background to help answer my question. I would like to find out what happened to John Jessee and also why Elizabeth doesn't appear until 1880 and why Bird doesn't appear on the 1860 census record.

RICHARD A. THRIFT [rathrift@gmail.com] wrote 2/24/2011 with more information.

John had two daughters with his second wife, Elizabeth Hoskins, but he also had a son with his first wife, Francis Catherine Montague. Thomas Philip Jessee was born about 1840 and, outside of the 1850 census, he does not appear in any subsequent family census. There is a T.P. Jessee which appears in the 1860 US census, of 20 years of age, but living in Spotsylvania Co. in the city of Fredericksburg (page 18 of that county's census). The age fits but there's nothing else to associate him as John A. Jessee's son.

Also on page 47 of the 1860 US Census for Middlesex county there is a Thomas Jessee, 73 years of age. There's a slight chance that this is John A. Jessee's father who's name was Thomas. There is a woman

named Frances Jessee living with him of 39 years of age. While she could have been his wife (the census at that time did not specify relationships) she could also have been a care-giving relative. Still there is nothing to link him to John A. Jessee other than he fits the age his father might have been if still living.

The two daughters, Lucy and Mary, married brothers by the way. Lucy married Morton Evans and Mary married William T. Evans. Nothing like keeping that genetic pool clean!!

PHILLIP AND RACHEL JESSEE

Phillip Jessee (1742-1858), wife Rachel, and his son Gabriel Jessee (1804-1886), of still unknown relationship to John Jessee (1750-1816) but assumed to be a brother or cousin, are among the historic Russell County, VA pioneering families. Phillip, who is reported to have lived to be 116, is sometimes referred to reverently as "Old Phillip." Here I will feature articles, documents, and other information about Phillip and Rachel Jessee, their son Gabriel, and their descendants. Your contributions are welcome.

Gabriel Jessee descendants--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.

JOHN AND FRANKEY (LEA) JESSEE

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

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 Cobb's 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 named 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).

In my exploration at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City in spring 2010, 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

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 (STR Y1532) 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.

GARY KLINEDINST, wrote, 7/23/2011, with major news regarding finding the **MtDNA of our Frankey Lea**. It has been identified thanks to Gary and his mother, **Alta Mae Kiser**, their willingness to share their DNA results, and their deep Russell County pedigree. **Alta Mae Kiser** is a direct maternal descendant of John and Frankey Lea Jessee through their daughter, **Mary Polly Kiser**.

Dear Mr. Jessee, We are distant cousins through our shared ancestors, John and Frankie (Lea) Jessee. I am descended from them through my mother, who was born in Russell Co., VA in 1919. Through the intermarriage of cousins, she is descended from this couple through her paternal grandmother's line, her maternal grandfather's, and her maternal grandmother's, so she probably has a lot of Jessee DNA in her.

I had started researching my ancestry about 30 years ago, and like everyone else researching this couple I ended with lots of speculation and no definitive links to their parentage. So I gave up researching them about the time the first Jessee Family Newsletter was written and I had no knowledge of its existence until about a 7 months ago, when I decided to renew my research at the urging of a cousin who found out that I was the family genealogist.

I was delighted when I found your website, with its large family database as well as the back issues of the family newsletter. I read each issue from the first to the last. I was very intrigued by the all of the findings that have been made over the years, but I was disappointed when I got to the last issue without a firm resolution of the ancestry of John and Frankie (Lea) Jessee.

I am sorry to say that I do not have any new historical documentation to contribute. However, when I got to your Summer 2009 newsletter, I realized that I could be of help when I read the following:

"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."

Now I don't know whether since your last issue you have found anyone who fit this bill, but you have now. My mother's mother was Hattie Kiser (1887-1983), who was the daughter of Mary Elizabeth Kiser (1859-1928), the daughter of Martha (Childress) Kiser (1828-1906), the daughter of Frances (Kiser) Childress (1805-1887), the daughter of Mary (Jessee) Kiser (1786-1836), the daughter of Frances (Lea) Jessee (ca 1752-ca 1836). Furthermore, my mother is still living and I have had her DNA submitted to both Family Tree DNA and 23andMe for testing for both mtDNA and autosomal DNA. Would you be interested in learning the results?

You might also be interested to know that my mother's father (a Jessee descendant) had one of the traditional Jessee names-- Archer. Archer's mother's name was Frances (Sutherland) Kiser, named after her grandmother Frances (Kiser) Childress, named after her grandmother Frances (Lea) Jessee.

I responded and asked permission to share his letter and their DNA results in the Jessee Newsletter. He replied:

Yes, you can certainly share my information with the exception of

my email address. I don't like the idea of that being publically posted, since it may invite spam and scammers. If any real researcher or cousin wants to contact me, you can be my go-between.

I compared your line of descent with my mother's and by my reckoning, you and my mother are 5th cousins.

Shortly thereafter Gary provided his mother's MtDNA results which includes our Frankey Lea Jessee DNA, and reveals her maternal origins and roots

OK, now I have the results to share with you. My mother's (and thus Frankey's) haplogroup as tested by Family Tree DNA is "H." They wanted more money to narrow it down further and I wasn't prepared at the time to pay it. Their results were confirmed by 23andMe who narrowed it down further (at no extra charge) to "H4a1a." Here is what 23andMe has to say:

"Haplogroup H [Helena in the *Seven Daughters of Eve*] is the most common in Europe, reaching peak concentrations along the Atlantic coast. Although its origins are unclear, the haplogroup rose to prominence during the Ice Age, when Europe was blanketed by glaciers and its population squeezed into a handful of ice-free refuges in Iberia, Italy, the Balkans and the Caucasus."

"Several branches of haplogroup H arose during that time, and after the glaciers receded most of them played a prominent role in the re-population of the continent. With the subsequent spread of agriculture and the rise of organized military campaigns, the haplogroup achieved an even wider distribution. It is now found throughout Europe and at lower levels in Asia, reaching as far south as Arabia and eastward to the western fringes of Siberia."

"The H4 branch appears to have arisen in southeastern Europe or the Black Sea region about 12,000 years ago, during the final stages of the Ice Age. It soon spun off its own sub-branch, H4a, which spread north and west from the Caucasus region or neighboring Turkey into eastern Europe about 10,000 years ago, possibly in association with the spread of farming. The haplogroup is most common today in Poland, where about 5% of the population carries it."

"The next highest concentration of H4a is in Ireland, where about 3% of the population falls into the category. Those people may be descended from women who migrated to Britain and Ireland with 5th- and 6th-century Saxon invaders or during the later Viking period."

I then did a google search for "H4a1a" and found a site called The mtDNA H Haplogroup Project. This company says H4 is "quite rare," found in all of Europe except Russia, but highest in Iberia. However, for the full sequence of "H4a1a," they just show a map with the British Isles and Finland highlighted in red.

....

For your mtDNA matches they list a country, the total number of people you match from that country, the total number of people who have reported this as their country of origin, and the percent of the people we have tested from this country who match you. (Since I didn't have a full genome test, the matches for my mother are only approximate.) I list the top 13 here in order from highest to lowest percentages:

Portugal,	9,	245,	3.7%
Scotland,	26,	1,200,	2.2
Czech Rep.,	5,	268,	1.9
Ireland,	45,	2,248,	1.8
Austria,	4,	229,	1.7
Netherlands,	6,	368,	1.6
England,	46,	3,341,	1.4
United Kingdom,	27,	1,967,	1.4
Denmark,	3,	213,	1.4
Norway,	7,	509,	1.4
France,	1.2,	1,035,	1.2
Germany,	36,	3,384,	1.1
Morocco,	2,	176,	1.1 (Sephardic Jews)

Now what can we conclude from the mtDNA results and literature, tables, and maps that I've found? Well, we can rule out that she's a full-blooded American indian. (Of course, she could have had an indian father.) Her maternal ancestors were most likely European, although there is a slight chance she could have been descended from Sephardic Jews from Morocco. I also doubt that very many Finnish,

Czech, or Polish people were emigrating to America in colonial times.

There does seem to be a good chance that her ancestors were from the British Isles. Then again, the high percentage of matches from Portugal could indicate Melungeon heritage. So the mtDNA results are tantalizing, but inconclusive. I welcome any of your thoughts on all of this.

Gary wrote later with more information, excellent discussion, and conclusions.

Now I would like to discuss what has been learned from my mother's autosomal DNA, that is the DNA in the chromosomes other than the Y-chromosome and the mitochondrial DNA. I don't know if you are familiar with the background of this relatively new type of test or not. It turns out that when we inherit our genes from our parents, they are not mixed 100% thoroughly, as I imagined years ago when I was a kid in school. The mixing occurs randomly, but long blocks, or segments, of DNA tend to stick together, often for several generations. People who share identical segments, most likely inherited them from the same person. Of course with each generation, the segments have a greater chance of breaking apart into smaller pieces. Some short matching segments may just be coincidental. But a statistical analysis can tell the difference and predict the degree of relatedness. The more segments you share and the greater the length of those segments, the more closely related you are. Relationships out to the second cousin level are virtually certain to show up. The chance of finding a match with a particular relative begins to decline slightly with third cousins. It can still detect many of your relatives at the fourth and fifth cousin levels and occasionally beyond that. At least two companies use autosomal DNA testing to match their customers with other people that they have tested and to predict their degree of relatedness. Family Tree DNA calls their matching tool Family Finder, whereas 23andMe calls theirs Relative Finder.

Another use for autosomal DNA testing is to determine someone's ethnic ancestry. Both of the above-mentioned companies offer this as a feature of their autosomal DNA testing. Family Tree DNA and 23andMe call theirs "Population Finder" and "Ancestry Painting" respectively.

Ok, now bearing in mind that unlike mtDNA, my mother's autosomal test results would not be the same as Frankey (Lea) Jessee's, here is what was concluded:

23andMe's Ancestry Painting shows my mother to be 100% European. However, Family Tree's Population Finder determined her to be 95.79%+/-1.13% Western European and 3.38%+/-1.12% Middle Eastern. (Why the difference? Family Tree DNA says "FAQ: I had my Family Finder results analyzed using a third party service. Why do the results differ from Population Finder? Answer: If you use a third party tool, it is natural for there to be minor differences for the Population Finder Beta due to either different methodologies or different population sets.")

The company 23andMe has an additional tool which they call "Native American Ancestry Finder." Here's their description:

"This feature scans a person's Ancestry Painting for distinctive signatures that indicate a Native American ancestor up to five generations in the past. It also takes into account the maternal and, if available, paternal lines, looking for Native American ancestry at any depth along those two branches of the family tree. Generally, it will only discover Native American ancestry within the last five generations of the participant."

The test determined that my mother had no evidence of Native American ancestry. Now although they say it generally only detects this back as far as 5 generations, I think my mother would be an exception in the case of her ancestors John Jessee & Frances Lea. She is 6 generations removed, so in most instances that would mean 64 different fourth great-grandparents and that each one would have contributed only 1.56% of their DNA. But in my mother's case, John Jessee and Frances Lea are each repeated 3 times through 3 different lines and so they each contribute 3/64 or 4.688%. (more than a non-repeated third great-grandparent, who would contribute only 1/32 or 3.125%.)

This finding corroborates with the mtDNA results that show Frankie Lea as not being American Indian. It also corroborates with your Y-DNA results showing John Jessee's paternal line to be of Western European descent.

My gut feeling also is that Frankey is from the British Isles, but we have to leave open the Iberian/Melungeon possibility until we can find a way to disprove it.

I have some pictures of my mother, her siblings, and various ancestors scanned into my computer. I'll pick out a few later and send them to you and you can pick what you want.

I welcome any comments that you may have on these findings.

I, Jim Jessee, have recently received the results of my own autosomal DNA analysis from Family Tree DNA, which matches and identifies your ethnic/racial origins for about 3-4 generations deep. My results were a surprise, I expected 50% Jewish and 50% Western European. The results show I am 42% Jewish and 58% Western European. The breakdown of the Western European completely surprised me, it shows that my Western European roots are French and Orcadian. Now the French includes the Normans and others who came over with William the Conqueror, so that makes some sense to me, but what the hell is Orcadian? Orcadians are originally from the Orkney Islands of Northernmost Scotland, but they have spread out all over the British Empire. They are the remnant of the Picts of Scotland. **Since 50% of my pedigree is rooted in SW Virginia, I suspect many of you share a similar Western European DNA origin. There is no trace of American Indian roots what-so-ever. How about that?**

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 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.

THUY DAVIS [tweed1@cox.net] wrote, 9/24/2010 with this inquiry regarding the pedigree of her great-grandfather, **Samuel Winfred Gibson 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? It would be great to hear from you.

Thuy "Twee" Davis, Irvine, CA

I responded: You can go to 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.

BENJAMIN JESSEE [binks_182@yahoo.com] wrote, 3/12/2011 regarding this record in the database at Jessee Genealogy Service.

* ID: I6320

* Name: Acie Frederick "Asa" JESSEE

* Sex: M

* Birth: JUL 1879 in Lebanon, Russell Co., VA

* Death: 1945

In regards to the list of children you have a child listed as Living Jessee. The child was born February 15 1910 and his name was Garnet Franklin Jessee. He was married to Hattie Victoria Hubbard. He had 12 children as follows: Malissa Kathleen, William Wade, Mary Ethel, William Franklin, Janice Madeline, Bonnie Sue, Jo Anna, Roy Lee, Barbara Carol, James Hamilton (of which I am the son), Deborah Yvonne Victoria Joyce.

If you would like more information on this side of the Jessee family let me know. We have many old photographs of the family. Some very old possibly of Noah Jessee and his wife. Benjamin

I responded by sending him a descendants chart and wrote: Cousin Benjamin, here is what I have recorded in my private database. The public database on RootsWeb does not include the names or information for the living or assumed living, if I don't have a death date recorded. Here is the complete list. As you can see it is missing most birth, marriage, and death dates and locations, so anything you can add or update for me will be appreciated. Thanks for writing and offering to help. I am happy to provide opportunity for articles and old photos in the Jessee Newsletter, so whatever you provide is welcome, and always interesting. We are in the same branch of the Jessee family, John Jr., and we are 4th cousins twice removed.

JERRY FREEMAN [jlf1949@hotmail.com] wrote, 7/9/2011 and provided a GEDCOM file of descendants of **Catherine Jessee, daughter of John Jr., who married Thomas D. Long**. This has been incorporated in the database at www.jessee.org.

VOL D. KESTER [Voldkester@aol.com] wrote 3/14/2012 regarding **Catherine Jessee**, as well.

Subject: Catherine Jessee married to Thomas D. Long born in Russell co., VA. died in 1853 in Indiana.

Children: Elihue, Mary, Jefferson, Joseph, Richard, Henry, Priscilla my great grandmother 1840 died 1905 Neal Kansas, Andrew, Eliza, Sarah, Thomas, Catherine

Any information you can provide me on the Jessee family would be appreciated--Vol D. Kester, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

I responded: Please go to www.jessee.org then search the database for Catherine Jessee married to Thomas Long. You will find much there on her pedigree, and descendants for Elihu J. Long, only. I would of course love to learn more about your Priscilla Long and her descendants. Catherine Jessee was my gg-great aunt. I descend from her brother Joseph Jessee.

Vol D. Kester responded: Here is a gedcom of what I have on Catherine Jessee and Thomas Long. I tried to be as accurate as possible

but mistakes and typos happen. If you see any mistakes please let me know.

OK, Priscilla was a great cook and my grandmother was her oldest child and a great cook and my dad Amos I. Kester followed in their foot steps. Priscilla had eight kids. I will tell you more later. she had Ezekiel or Mike was a heavy weight fighter out of Kansas, Oliver was a wrestler out of Kansas. Anna, Mead, Ezekiel, Oliver, Art , Lula Bell, Priscilla her husband had a lot of kids from his first wife who died.....I think he had 16 in total. William R. Close.....des Moines Iowa, Priscilla and William are buried in the Rocky Ford cemetery in Neal, Kansas. We have been searching for 15 years for this Jessee and Thomas families. we had nothing on Priscilla to tie back to. I may be wrong on Ezekiel and it maybe close to that name. have a lot of stored genealogy and I need to dig it out.

PS: Do you know of any Indian blood in the Long or Jessee family.

I responed: I don't know about Long family and Indian blood. That issue has been discussed and suggested for Frankey Lea Jessee and one of her daughters and explained and discussed many times in Newsletter articles to be found at www.jessee.org, including MtDNA testing, which says NO Indian Blood in Jessee maternal line, and none in John Jessee Y DNA either. See articles in Newsletters last few years.

JIM BRAY [nancyb1@embarqmail.com] wrote, 2/22/2012 with extensive information and documentation regarding the sometimes confused, **George Cowan Jessee (Cowan Jessee #1) & Archer Cowan Jessee of Carter Co, KY (Cowan Jessee #2).**

The following is a summary of census data for Cowan Jessee # 1: son of Andrew Jackson Jessee(1830-1910) son of Archer & Eleanor Smyth Jessee.

1870 Carter Co, KY census #94-Jackson Jessee b. 1830 VA & Rachel Jessee
b. 1829 VA with 6 children:Martha b. 1854 VA, Robert b. 1856 KY,
GEORGE b. 1859 KY, Francis b. 1862 KY, Stephen b. 1865 KY & Mary
b. 1868 KY/\$200 real estate/#100 personal property
1880 Carter Co, KY census #40-41-Jackson Jesse b. 1831 VA VA/VA & Rachel
Jesse b. 1830 VA VA/VA with 4 children:COWAN b. 1859 KY, Fanny
b. 1863 KY, Mary b. 1867 KY & Robert b. 1856 KY w/wife-Mary Jesse
b. 1856 KY w/children:Hattie b. 1876 KY & Walter b. 1877 KY/
1900 dist 27, Carter Co, KY census #123-Robert Jesie b. May 1856 KY/VA/VA
& Mary Jesie b. Jul 1856 TN/TN/TN with 9 children:Hatty b. Aug 1875 KY,
Walter Dec 1877 KY, Cowan b. Oct 1879 KY, Jackson b. Nov 1882 IL,
James b. Jan 1886, Howard b. Apr 1888 IL, Rachel b. Oct 1891 KY,
Bertha b. Oct 1894 KY, & Oney b. Sep 1899 KY/married 26 years/
9 children/9 still alive/farmer/rents home/also in household-mother-Rachel Jesie b. May 1829 VA/VA/VA & father-Andrew J. Jesie
b. Jan 1830 VA/VA/VA/married 49 yrs/7 children/5 still alive

The 1st thing I noticed was that in 1870 census records indicated George was born in 1859 in KY & the 1880 census indicated that Cowan was born in 1859 in KY(probably same person)
I also found the following birth record which I have summarized:
KY birth record
Name: George C Jesse

Birth Date: 20 Apr 1859 Ligert Creek, Carter Co, KY (same date as on death record)
Ethnicity: White
Gender: Male
Father's Name: A J Jessee
Mother's Name: Rachael Jane McKinney
County of Residence: Carter
I viewed the actual copy on Ancestry.com.

The following is census data for George Cowan Jessee & a summary of his death certificate:

1900 Willard, Carter Co, KY census #-Geo C. Jessee b. Apr 1858 KY VA/VA &
Hannah Jessee b. Jan 1872 KY TN/TN with 3 children:Robert b. Jan 1889,
Hayden b. Jan 1892 & Harry b. Jun 1895/married 11 yrs/3 children/3 still alive/farm labor/rents home
1910 Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY census #42-Cown W. Jessee b. 1860 KY KY/KY
& Hanah Jessee b. 1872 KY KY/KY with 2 children:Robert L. b. 1891 KY
& Harry b. 1895 KY/married 19 yrs/3 children/3 still alive/farmer/rents home
1920 dist 63, Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY #59-Cowan Jessie b. 1861 KY/ KY/KY &
Hannah Jessie b. 1871 KY/KY/KY with 1 child:Harry b. 1898 KY/laborer
@ brickyard/rents home @ \$11/mo
1930 Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY census #264-Cown Jessie b. 1859 KY/ VA/VA &
Hannar Jessie b. 1871 KY/VA/VA married 41 yrs/ with 1 child:Harry b. 1896
& wife-Fannie b. 1899 KY/KY/KY & 1 child:Wade C. b. 1920/ Harry 1st
married 13yrs ago/Fannie 1st married 1 yr ago

This is a summary of his death record:
KY death record Cowan Jessee(married)
b. 20 Apr 1859 KY
d. 10 Oct 1937 Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY
Father-George Jessee VA
Mother(maiden name)-Eliza Jessee
Informant-Hayden Jessee Olive Hill, KY
address-Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY
wife-Hanna Jessee
Burial-Jn OVUM Cemetery 13 Oct 1937

(I believe parents listed are in error/because it conflicts with birth record information above but I believe the other info is correct.)

The following is census data for Cowan Jessee # 2: son of George L.(1828-bef 1900) & Eliza(1832-bef 1910) Jessee son of George Lea and Elizabeth Kiser Jessee.

1850 Russell Co, VA census #579-George L. Jessee Jr b. 1827 RCV & Eliza Jessee b. 1832 RCV with 1 child:James R. b. 1849 RCV (10mo)/farmer/\$400 real estate/
1860 Carter Co, KY census #243-G. L. Jesse b. 1831 VA & Eliza Jesse b. 1837 VA
with 3 children:James b. 1852 VA, Sam F. b. 1854 VA & David M. b. 1859 KY/
\$500 real estate/PO-Olive Hill
1870 precinct 3, Carter Co, KY census #57-George Jessee b. 1827 VA & Eliza Jessee
b. 1833 VA with 5 children:David b. 1860 KY, ARIHER b. 1862 KY, Daniel b. 1865
KY, Mary b. 1867 KY, & William b. 1870(4 mo) KY/farmer/\$350 personal property/post office-Grayson
1880 Carter Co, KY census George age 52 b.VA & Eliza age 48 b. VA with 6 children
all b. KY.David b. 1859, COWEN b. 1862, Daniel b. 1865, Mary b. 1867, Wm b. 1869 & Charles b. 1875/

The 1st thing I noticed was that in 1870 census records indicated Ariher (it was very illegible-it could have been Archer or something similar) b. 1862 KY & in 1880 census Cowen b. 1862 KY

The following is further census data for A(rcher) Cowan:
 1900 dist 5, Carter Co, KY census #160-Cowan Jessey b. Nov 1861
 KY KY/KY
 & Mollie Jessey b. Mar 1866 KY KY/KY with 5 children: Albert
 b. Nov 1886,
 Efiel b. Jun 1889, Burney b. Oct 1891, Riley b. Jan 1896, Media
 b. Jul 1898/married 16 yrs/6 children/5 still alive/farmer/rents home
 1910 dist 41, Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY census #139-Cowan Jessie b.
 1861 KY
 VA/VA & Mollie Jessie b. 1869 KY TN/VA with 4
 children: Bernie b. 1892,
 William R. b. 1896, Media b. 1899, & Daisie A. b. 1906/married
 25 yrs/
 8 children/6 still alive/brickyard carpenter/owns home
 1920 dist 63, Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY #6-Cowan Jessie b. 1863 KY/
 VA/VA
 & Mollie Jessie b. 1869 KY/TN/KY with 2 children: Media b.
 1899 KY
 & Atha b. 1906 KY/Owns home mtg free/machinist @ brickyard/
 also
 in household-g-daughter-Virginia Jessie b. 1912 KY/KY/KY/also
 niece-
 Lantia Jessie b. 1896 KY/KY/KY
 1st wife-Mollie Phillips Jessee d. 11 Sep 1921 per Carter Co, KY death
 records
 1930 dist 8, Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY census #16-Archie Jessie b.
 1862
 KY/KY/KY & Sarah L. Jessie b. 1874 WV/WV/WV/laborer
 brick plant.
 (I couldn't locate a marriage record, but I believe this to be A. C.
 Jessee)

Photo of tombstones on ancestry.com-Watson Cemetery, Olive Hill,
 Carter Co, KY

Mollie wife of A. C. Jessee b. 12 May 1868 d. 11 Sep 1921	A. C. Jessee b. 16 Nov 1861 d. 18 Nov 1937
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I have summarized 2 death records of children:

Carter Co, KY death record Albert L. Jesse
 b. 1 Nov 1886 KY
 d. 5 Sep 1923 Carter Co, KY
 father-A. C. Jesse KY
 mother's maiden name-Mollie Phillips KY
 informant-A. C. Jesse Olive Hill, KY
 burial-Watson Cemetery

KY death record Burnie Jessee
 b. 13 Oct 1891 KY
 d. 20 Jan 1935 Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY
 wife-Effie Jessee
 truck driver Gulf Refining Co for 10 yr
 father-Cowan Jessee KY
 mother's maiden name-Mollie Phillips KY
 Informant-Effie Jessee Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY
 burial-Watson Cemetery
 Accidental explosion

Notice that one Cowan died 10 Oct 1937 & the other Cowan died
 18 Nov 1937.

My best conclusion is that George Cowan Jessee was the son of Andrew J. Jessee & Rachel McKinney and Archer Cowan Jessee was the son of George L. & Eliza Jessee [the father George L. being a son of Elder David Jessee and Catherine Banner].

I don't believe you have the Archer Cowan Jessee family in your
 database. Please refer to Jessee Newsletter # 20 for information on this
 family supplied by: C W Butler [cwbutler@voyager.net]

I responded: Jim, thank you for all this work and
 thought and documentation. I have now updated,
 corrected, and included all this information in my
 database. Took me much of the afternoon to figure

things out, and get the right families in place. I will
 include this in the next Newsletter, if you don't mind.
 [He didn't.]

DANIEL E JESSEE [Castlewood, VA] wrote a letter this
 spring and enclosed a photo copy of the Russell Co. VA
 Birth Certificate for **Henry Jessee (21 Oct 1883-1913),
 son of Noah K. and Betsy (Davis) Jessee.**

Hope you are doing well. Thanks for the newsletter. I really like to
 read it to keep up on new research that people have found. Sorry it has
 taken me so long to send you the \$20.00 for the newsletter but better
 late than never. I am looking forward to the family reunion in August.
 I met a lot of cousins at the last two & had a good time.

I have sent to Richmond for the birth certificate of Henry Jessee my
 grandfather. His birth date on your web page shows him as born in Au-
 gust 1883. His birth date is October 21 1883. I am sending you a copy
 of the birth certificate . Also sent for a copy of his death certificate but
 no record was found. I was trying to find out what he died of at the age
 of 30 years old. I have also been trying to find his grave with no luck so
 far. From what I know he lived at Spring City just outside Lebanon Va .

I have also been trying to find the grave of my GG Grandfather
 Stanford Lea Jessee & his wife Sarah. As you know he was killed at
 Middle Creek Ky on January LO t862 during the Civil War. His name
 is on a sign at the battlefield at Middle Creek Ky just outside of Pres-
 tonsburg Ky I am a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans
 camp 840 in Russell Co Va . We do grave dedications & set head stones
 for Civil War solders if they don't have one . So far we have been able
 to order the head stones from the Government at no cost . If you or any
 of our cousins have any info on where these graves are located I would
 be grateful.

Thanks for the good work that you do on the web site & may the
 Lord GOD continue to bless you.

Daniel E Jessee, PO Box 925, Castlewood ,VA 24224

I. 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.

SHERRI LENZ [boundersal@sbcglobal.net] posted,
 11/17/2001, this note for descendants of **Martha M.
 Jessee, daughter of Archibald Columbus Jes-
 see, who married William Henry Morgan**, on the
 record of their son, Alfred M. Morgan, in the Jessee
 Database on RootsWeb.

Alfred Marion Morgan, b. 3 Feb 1872 in Downs, Osborne Co., KS,
 d. 4 Apr 1932 in Sunset, Cochise Co. AZ. married Susan California
 "Callie" Teel on 25 Dec 1894 in Santa Ana, Orange Co., CA.

Susan California Teel is the sister of Lewis Alexander Teel, who
 was the father of Blanche Elvira Teel who married Archie Elcanah
 McKinley Jessee.

The parents of Susan California & Lewis Alexander are Elijah
 Alexander Teel & Martha McNeil, early pioneers in Los Angeles area,
 coming from Denton Co., TX via large wagon train.

I have a file on Rootsweb too. Database: ralmother We are related on the Teel side. Sherri

JUDY EASLEY SHUTTS [sshutts@neb.rr.com] wrote, 2/12/2012, with praise for this newsletter, and a little genealogy, too, for descendants of **Fullen Heburn and Margaret Jessee**.

Jim, I just read the latest issue of the Jessee Newsletter -- it is awesome. I couldn't believe how much information was included. I appreciate all your work.

I have corresponded with you regarding a list of Jessees, the tension in the family group and John Jessee. I too, plan to attend the Jessee reunion and I hope to see you there. I understand how difficult it is when family commitments conflict. My daughter, who lives in Norway, usually visits during the time of the reunion. By the way, congratulations on becoming a grandparent!

I have some information for the Jessee database. I found the burial site for my great grandparents, Fullen Heburn and Margaret Jessee. A Find A Grave volunteer had posted their names on the Find A Grave website. He has no information about them; there are no stones or records other than their name, which is spelled "Jessie." When I inquired I used the spelling "Jessee," which is the spelling my grandmother used, so he asked me which spelling he should use in his records. Not sure what to tell him, as the cemetery listing has them as Jessie. The census records vary. As soon as I proofread my information and send it to him, I will send it to you.

I see the conundrum about John Jessee's service in the Rev. War continues. I am no longer seeking DAR membership on this line. In my family records, I will make a note that DAR has recognized his service, but that contemporary genealogists have not found proof.

My grandmother, Cornelia Ellen Jessee, who was born in Castlewood, Russell County, married John Easley in Kingsport, Tenn and about 1890 (drat that missing census) moved west and landed in Nebraska about 1900. An aunt of my grandmother, who married a Jessee, was an early pioneer who moved to Nebraska about 20 years earlier than my grandmother.

I live in Lincoln, NE. Here is my line:

- > Judy Easley Shutts
- > Luther Easley
- > Cornelia Ellen Jessee Easley
- > Fullen Heburn Jessee
- > William Jessee
- > Archer Jessee
- > John Jessee

Again, thank you for your hard work.

JACK HOCKETT [mailto:Tlas101@aol.com] provided, 2/16/2012, this documentation. I believe this record is **Sallie Ada Childress**, da. of **John Harvey Childress and Rebecca Susan Owens Jessee**, a daughter of Archer Jessee and Mary Jane Owens, his third wife, and his 14th child.

Ohio, Deaths, 1908-1953 for Ada Whitaker

Name: Ada Whitaker
 Death: 29 May 1934
 Event Place: Cincinnati, Hamilton, Ohio
 Residence: Williamson, W. Va.
 Gender: Female
 Death Age: 58y
 Marital Status: Married
 Race: white
 Occupation: housewife
 Birth Date: 16 Dec 1875
 Birthplace: Russel County, Va.

1 PLACE OF DEATH		STATE OF TENNESSEE	
County <u>Union</u>		STATE BOARD OF HEALTH	
Civil Dist. <u>3</u>		Bureau of Vital Statistics	
Village _____		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
City _____		16761	
Registration District No. <u>H5803</u>		File No. _____	
Primary Registration District No. <u>3</u>		Registered No. <u>11</u>	
(No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____)		[If death occurred in a hospital or institution give in NAME instead of street and number.]	
2 FULL NAME <u>Rebecca Jane Butcher</u>			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			
3 SEX <u>Female</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>white</u>	5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <u>widow</u>	16 DATE OF DEATH <u>May 17 1934</u>
6 DATE OF BIRTH <u>March 27 1850</u>	7 AGE <u>84 yrs. 1 mo. 20 d.</u>		17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ 1926 to _____ 1927, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ P.M. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Organic Heart Disease</u>
8 OCCUPATION <u>Housewife</u>	9 BIRTHPLACE <u>Lee Co. Va.</u>		Contributory (Secondary) _____
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>John Heburn</u>	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>Va.</u>		Signed <u>R. L. Palmer</u> M. D.
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Mary Ellen Burk</u>	13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>Va.</u>		* State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY and (2) WHETHER ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE			
(Informant) <u>Rebecca Jessee</u>			
(Address) <u>11 Sycamoreville Tenn</u>			
19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Butcher Cemetery</u>		DATE OF BURIAL <u>May 19 1934</u>	
20 UNDERTAKER _____		ADDRESS _____	

Estimated Birth Year: 1876
 Burial Date: 01 Jun 1934
 Burial Place: Peebles, Ohio
 Father: Harvad Childress
 Father's Birthplace: Russell County, Va.
 Mother: Rebecca Jesse
 Mother's Birthplace: Virginia
 Spouse: Geo. H. Whitaker
 Reference Number: fn 31032
 Film Number: 1993034
 Digital Folder Number: 4001901
 Image Number: 1462

JACK HOCKETT, sent, 3/14/2012, these tidbit of basic genealogy documentation from original sources. Here [see photo copies above] he provided the death certificates for **Rebecca Jane Jessee who married Rev. David Butcher**. Rebecca is the daughter of John Trigg Jessee and Mary Burk; and for **Samuel Austin Davis**, son of Doc Caleb Davis and Nancy C. "Nannie" Jessee, daughter of Stanford Lea Jessee.

Jack pretty regularly supplies such gems of documentation, asking for help to identify them. Here is one family I could not place in the family database

Jessee, William Edward 2-28-1881 to 7-10-1943 Died in Kingsport, TN
 Parents: Sam Jessee and Liza Jones of Russell County

III. William Jessee

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

CHARLOTTE CARPENTER JOHNSON [cacj1111@tx.rr.com] wrote 3/7/2012 with information for **Elizabeth V. Jessee**, daughter of William Jessee, and her descendants.

Hello Jim, William J. Jessee, son of John, Sr. is my 4th gfather.

8384
2
8313

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 9995
DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF TENNESSEE DIV. OF VITAL STATISTICS
COOPERATING WITH DEPT. OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

REG. NO. 93
REG. DIST. NO. 832

1. FULL NAME **SAMUEL AUSTON DAVIS** 2. DATE OF DEATH **Jan. 15 41**

3. PLACE OF DEATH: A) STATE **Tennessee**
 B) COUNTY **Sullivan** CIVIL DISTRICT **11th**
 C) CITY OR TOWN **Kingsport**
 (IF OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS, WRITE RURAL)
 D) STREET NO. _____
 (IF OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS, GIVE R.F.D. NO.)
 E) IF FOREIGN BORN HOW LONG IN U.S.A. YRS. _____

4. LEGAL RESIDENCE: A) STATE **Tennessee**
 B) COUNTY **Sullivan** CIVIL DISTRICT _____
 C) CITY OR TOWN **R. F. D. #5, Kingsport**
 (IF OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS, GIVE R.F.D. NO.)
 D) STREET NO. _____
 E) IF FOREIGN BORN HOW LONG IN U.S.A. YRS. _____

5. NAME OF HOSPITAL **Holston Valley C. Hosp.**
 (IF NOT IN HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION, GIVE STREET ADDRESS)
 6. LENGTH OF STAY: IN HOSPITAL **24** DAYS COMMUNITY _____

6. RACE OR COLOR **White Male** 7. SINGLE, MARRIED, **married**
 WIDOWED, DIVORCED

8. AGE **69** YEARS **3** MONTHS **16** DAYS
 IF LESS THAN ONE DAY

9. DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH **Sept.** DAY **26** YEAR **1871**

10. PLACE OF BIRTH: CITY OR COUNTY **Russell** STATE OR COUNTRY **Virginia**

11. HUSBAND OR WIFE OF **Florence Addison Davis**
 AGE OF HUSBAND OR WIFE, IF LIVING **70** YEARS

12. IF VETERAN: NAME OF WAR **none** SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER **none**

13. USUAL OCCUPATION **Farming**

14. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS _____

15. FULL NAME **Dock Davis**
 BIRTHPLACE CITY OR COUNTY **Dickenson Co.** STATE OR COUNTRY **Virginia**
 MAIDEN NAME **Nannie Jessee**

16. FULL NAME **Dock Davis**
 BIRTHPLACE CITY OR COUNTY **Russell Co.** STATE OR COUNTRY **Virginia**

17. INFORMANT **Mrs. James L. Owens**
 ADDRESS **Route #5, Kingsport, Tenn.**

18. BURIAL, REMOVAL OR CREMATION **Burial** DATE **1/17/41**
 CEMETERY **Gunnings** PLACE **Gunnings, Tenn.**

19. UNDERTAKER **Huff-Nelson Funeral Home**
 ADDRESS **Kingsport, Tenn.** BY **J. Frank Nelson**

DATE FILED **3-6-41** **Erin Sabitt** REGISTRAR

4. LEGAL RESIDENCE: A) STATE **Tennessee**
 B) COUNTY **Sullivan** CIVIL DISTRICT _____
 C) CITY OR TOWN **R. F. D. #5, Kingsport**
 (IF OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS, GIVE R.F.D. NO.)
 D) STREET NO. _____
 E) IF FOREIGN BORN HOW LONG IN U.S.A. YRS. _____

20. I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I ATTENDED THE DECEASED FROM **Dec 26** 19 **40** TO **Jan 15** 19 **41**
 AND THAT I LAST SAW HIM ALIVE ON **Jan 15** 19 **41**
 AND THAT DEATH OCCURRED ON THE DATE STATED AT **3:30 P.M.**

IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH: **Cerebral Aneurysm**
Arteriosclerosis DURATION **94H**
97

OTHER CONDITIONS: **Prostate Adenopathy**

OPERATION FINDINGS _____
 AUTOPSY? FINDINGS _____

21. IF DEATH WAS DUE TO EXTERNAL CAUSES, FILL IN THE FOLLOWING:
 A) ACCIDENT, SUICIDE OR HOMICIDE (SPECIFY) _____
 B) DATE OF OCCURRENCE _____
 C) WHERE DID INJURY OCCUR _____ CITY COUNTY STATE
 DID INJURY OCCUR IN OR ABOUT HOME, ON FARM, IN INDUSTRIAL PLACE, IN PUBLIC PLACE? _____

MEANS OF INJURY _____
 SIGNATURE **J. P. Padgett** M.D.
 ADDRESS **Kingsport, Tenn.** DATE SIGNED **1-25-41**

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.

KATHY BURKEY [kathyburkey@hotmail.com] wrote, 3/21/2012, after having joined the Jessee List, to share her Archer Catron Jessee pedigree information. Archer is the son of Lea and the first Jessee in California, before the Gold Rush.

Here is my Jessee family tree going back to Archer Catron Jessee.

Willard Jessee born 1854 died 1931 in Pismo Beach CA although he still owned a ranch in Arroyo Grande. Wife Katherine Meacham
 At the time of his death, 2 sisters- Jenny Jessee of Santa Maria and Paulie Wilkinson of Los Angeles and 2 brothers- Matt and John of Santa Maria were still living.
 He had 3 children
 Archie Jessee
 Pearl (Jessee) Strong - San Luis Obispo Not sure of the timelines yet, but had no children
 Ida May (Jessee) Simms - Arbuckle CA Not sure of the timelines yet, but had no children

Archie married Edith Brooks and had one child Wallace Belden Jessee born 1921 and died 1992
 He married Doris Ruth Rhyne and had 3 children
 Michael Belden Jessee born 1951 now living in Arizona (no children)
 Timothy Jessee born 1954 now living in Billings Montana (no children)
 Kathleen Adele (Jessee) Burkey (ME) born 1956 now living in Paso Robles CA
 I have one child, Mathew Lee Burkey born 1985 and living in Canberra Australia (the ratfink!)

I know I have more info somewhere, but don't know where to look at the moment. Most of this is from newspaper clippings. Some have gone missing with Archie's timeline.

I also have a big box of photos that I haven't gone through yet. Is any of this something you might want?

And we also were raised to believe we were related to Robert Lee. Our story is a distant cousin of Robert E Lee named Jessee Lee changed his name after the war to Lee Jessee. Funny that we all were told the same thing about being related. Hope this fills in some gaps

I responded: Kathy, Thank you for all of this information, which I hope with your permission, I have keyed into the Jessee database. I would appreciate any additional information on all descendants, and their spouses, of Willard Jessee. I have had no previous information on his line, and am glad to make your acquaintance. We have had several articles on Archer Catron Jessee and his family in the Jessee Newsletters over the years. Just Google his name, or go to www.jessee.org and look through the newsletter. He is the first Jessee into California, before the Gold Rush, and married into a famous Harbin family, of Harbin Hot Springs, among locales.

His daughter Elizabeth V. Jessee married Andrew Morgan Fitts, my 3rd gg parents. Their daughter Diadama Fitts & William F. Neff are my 2nd gg parents.

Their daughter Caldonia Jane Neff & William Sephus Collinsworth, are my great grandparents, their daughter Doris Evelyn Collinsworth is my Mother. I would like to add this information to your data base. I have a number of online trees. See link below or can send you any type of file you can use. Let me know what I can do to help include this information in your book. Hope to hear from you soon,

Charlotte's Family History on Rootsweb <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=SHOW&db=charcarpjohn&reco=0> (contains notes but no photos)

Charlotte's Family History at Ancestry.com (membership required) "Footprints Through Time 2" 13 Feb 2012 <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/36516405/recent?pg=42> (may require invitation from Charlotte to view)

Charlotte's Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=100000451515470>

I responded: Thank you for writing. Is it possible to get a GEDCOM file from you on the descendants of Elizabeth V. Jessee, as I do not have any recorded, except the bits you provide below? We are fifth cousins, once removed. I will also look at your sites, thank you.

Charlotte responded: Always fun to find another distant cousin :) I can send you a GEDCOM of Elizabeth's descendants. Do you want the living made private since we wouldn't want to display them on the internet? Glad you wrote back.

I have now incorporated her GEDCOM file into our Jessee database, with the living made private per my standard procedure, greatly extending the descendants of William Jessee and Mary "Polly" Vermilion.

My 34-year-old son, bought the house next door, and his wife is pregnant with our first grandchild. Our 32-year-old daughter lives in town, as well, and is here for dinner tonight. So we are so lucky that way. The ratfink indeed!

V. David Jessee

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

See Merri Vinton contributions under Other SouthWest Virginia Families for information for Rev. David and his son Rev. John Jessee descendants

JIM BRAY [nancyb1@embarqmail.com] wrote, 2/22/2012 with extensive information and documentation regarding the sometimes confused, **George Cowan Jessee** (Cowan Jessee #1) & **Archer Cowan Jessee of Carter Co, KY** (Cowan Jessee #2).

[Please see this discussion under John Jessee, Jr. above.]

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

IX. Sarah Jessee Vermillion

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

X. Boedicia Jessee Gose

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

See the Gose Family discussion under Lea Jessee, 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), dau. of Fleming Burk, Sr. and Rebecca Miller. They had four children. See also discussion under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

LUKAS HUISMAN [yms@albertacom.com] wrote 4/14/2012 regarding Family Tree-**Descendants of James Jessee daughter Nancy Jessee, William Henry Stinson** and offered help to their descendants.

Hello Jim, While surfing I came across your website and noted you do not have a great deal of information about William Henry Stinson's wife, Elizabeth Martin, and her forebears. As it happens her father is one of my brick walls; I know his father's name was also George Washington Martin (several websites have a different parentage which I know are incorrect). If ever you find out anything about his I would appreciate your sharing that information.

In the meantime, I'm enclosing my info for this family which I hope you will find useful.

Regards, Lukas Huisman, Ardrossan, Alberta, Canada

1. George Washington Martin b: January 20, 1826 in Baltimore, MD d: March 31, 1904 in Enterprise, Linn Co., MO Burial: Enterprise Cemetery, Enterprise, MO
+Susanna Durham Ayer b: May 24, 1828 in Clermont. Co., OH m: November 18, 1847 in Cincinnati, OH d: January 03, 1900 in Enterprise, Linn Co., MO Burial: Enterprise Cemetery, Enterprise, MO. [Among their five plus children is Elizabeth Martin]
- 2 Elizabeth Martin b: November 29, 1855 in Pike, IL d: June 04, 1930 in Macon, MO
+William Henry Stinson b: 1853 in Russell Co., VA m: June 28, 1878 in Sullivan Co., MO d: 1906 in Adair Co., MO [Their Children]
- 3 Armina Stinson b: August 22, 1879 d: February 05, 1884
- 3 Effie Maude Stinson b: May 11, 1881 d: 1946
+David Peterson m: October 24, 1900 d: 1958
- 4 Laurie Mabel Peterson
+Ira J. Lambert
- 3 Susan Lucretia Stinson b: September 26, 1883
+Charles E. Harrison m: December 23, 1900
- 3 Charles William Stinson b: July 28, 1884
+Blanche Putz
... *2nd Wife of Charles William Stinson:
+Grace Unknown m: January 01, 1906
- 3 George Roy Stinson b: April 13, 1887
+Hattie Lea m: September 25, 1907
- 3 Nellie Frances Stinson b: December 03, 1898 d: November 08, 1899

XII. Rebecca Jessee Burk

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

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

This 502-page book details the descendants of Fleming Burk, Sr. Four of his children married Jessees, two children and two grandchildren of John and Frankey Lea Jessee. Jane Burk married James Jessee; William

Burk married Rebecca Jessee, Fleming Burk, Jr. married Nancy Ann Jessee, daughter of David Jessee; and Robert Burk married Anna Gose, daughter of Elizabeth Jessee and George Gose. This book includes over 1000 descendants of Rebecca Jessee and William Burk.

XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

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

I thought you might be interested in this death certificate I found for Sally J. Jessee Minton, d/o Martin Jessee & Virginia Jane Price, especially since she isn't listed in the census with them. You have her listed in your database based on my marriage extraction from the marriage records with husband listed as Wilburn Milton. I have found Wilburn living with his parents, James & Jane Minton in the 1870 Russell Co. census and Wilburn and Sally living in the 1900 - 1920 Scott Co. censuses listed as Wilburn (or William) & Sally Minton, so I assume the true name is Minton instead of Milton.

KAREN FLAGLE [kflagle@gmail.com] wrote 1/22/2012 regarding **William Astin "Whispering Bill" Jessee**, son of Martin and Mary Jane Darnell.

I just came across your site. What a wealth of information. I am trying to find more information on William Aston Jessee (Whispering Bill). He was my second Great Grandfather. Pearlle Jessee Castle was my Great Grandmother. Would you by any chance have photos you would share with me? Do you know the exact location of his final resting place. I am unsure where he is buried in Nicholasville? What took him to Nicholasville? Thank you, very much. Any help is greatly appreciated. I am very new with genealogy and I would love a little advice and guidance.

I responded: Thank you for your note and inquiry. Everything I know is posted in the database at www.jessee.org. I have no photos of this family. I would suggest you join the Jessee list, and then let me forward this to the list. Others may have more to help you on this, as we have many Archer descendants

who may be closer cousins than I.

JIM BRAY [nancyb1@embarqmail.com] wrote, 2/23/2012 regarding **James J. Jessee** alledged son of **David** [a John Jr. descendant] & **Mary Howell Jessee**, but he is actually the son of **Daniel E. P. Jessee** [son of Martin] and **Eleanor Smyth**.

Jim, In your database you have James J Jessee(115224) as the son of David Jessee & Mary Howell. This James J. Jessee married Virginia Jane "Jennie" Meade & they were married & had children by 1900.

Census data as follows:

1900 dist 31, Mag dist 5, Carter Co, KY census #270-James Jessey b. May 1868 KY/VA/KY & Jane Jessey b. Feb 1875 KY/VA/VA with 2 children: Ethel b. Apr 1895 KY & Hobart b. Jan 1898 KY/ also sister in law-Mary Mead b. May 1889 KY/KY/KY/married 11 yrs/3 children/2 still alive/farmer

1910 Rainier, Columbia Co, OR census #241-James Jesse b. 1868 KY/VA/VA & Jennie Jesse b. 1875 VA/VA/VA with 5 children: Ethel b. 1895 KY, Hobart b. 1898 KY, Dannie b. 1901 KY, Ruby b. 1905 OR & Lee b. 1908 OR/married 19 yrs/6 children/ 5 still alive/city marshall

1920 Rainier, Columbia Co, OR census #95-James Jessee b. 1869 KY VA/VA &

Jennie Jessee b. 1875 VA VA/VA with 6 children: Dan b. 1902 KY, Ruby b. 1905 OR, Lee b. 1909 OR, Gracie b. 1911 OR, George b. 1917 OR &

dau-Ethel Hall(wd) b. 1896/city marshall/owns home

1930 Rainier, Columbia Co, OR census #25-James J. Jessee b. 1880 KY VA/VA &

Virginia b. 1876 VA VA/VA with 2 children: Leo b. 1909 & George F. b. 1917

city marshall/owns home worth \$3,500/James-1st married @ age 22/Virginia-

1st married @ age 18(married abt 36 yrs)

The census records for David Jessee & Mary Howell do not support this:

1870 Floyd Co, KY census-David Jessie b. 1836 & Polly Jessie b. 1847 with

2 children: John b. 1864 & Mary b. 1867 & William b.

1869(10mo)/

no real estate/\$150 personal property/live next to Polly's mother-Fracey Howell/

1880 Floyd Co, KY census-dist 36-David Jessee b. 1832 VA parents VA & Mary

Jessee KY parents VA with 6 children: Mary b. 1866, Reubin b. William

b. 1858, Reubin b. 1871, Tracy(f) b. 1874, JAMES b. 1875 & Henry L. b. 1878

all b. KY parents VA/KY

1900 dist 4, Carter Co, KY census #137-Mary Jesse(wd) b. Mar 1848 VA NC/VA

with 3 children: JAMES b. Jul 1877 KY, Lee b. Oct 1879 KY & Lizzie b. Mar

1883 KY/8 children/8 still alive/rents home

1910 Mouth Beaver, Floyd Co, KY census #253-Polly Jessie(wd) b. 1840

KY/KY/KY with 2 children: JAMES b. 1875 & Lee b. 1882/ 5 children/4 still alive/James-farm laborer/Lee-RR laborer/

If this census data is the correct family, then this James was still living with his mother in 1900 & 1910.

I did find 2 records on a James Jessee from Floyd Co:

WWI draft registration James Jessee

Residence-Banner, Floyd Co, KY

Age 40 b. 1878

Nearest relative-Robert Hall Banner, Floyd Co, KY

Insane-Eastern State Hospital Fayette Co, KY

Short, stout, brown eyes, black hair

KY Death Record

Name: James Jesse(single)

Death Date: 31 Oct 1918

Death Location: Lexington, Fayette

Residence Location: Fayette

Age 40(b. 1878)
Informant:Eastern State Hospital records Lexington, KY
@ Eastern State Hospital for previous 5 yrs 10 mo-usual residence-
Floyd Co, KY
no parental history

I speculate that James J. Jessee(I15224) could be James Jessee(I20174) who is in the 1880 census of Daniel & Eleanor Smyth Jessee: 1880 precinct 5, Carter Co, KY census #5-Daniel Jessee b. 1830 VA VA/VA & Eleanor Jessee b. 1810 VA VA/VA with 1 child:James b. 1868 KY VA/VA

At the same time there is doubt that James(I20174) is Daniel's as he does not appear in their 1870 census & Eleanor would have been approx 58 yrs old when he was born, but he could be their child:

1870 precinct 5, Carter Co, KY census #116-Daniel Jesse b. 1829 VA & Nelly

Jesse b. 1805 VA/also Vivin Meade b. 1842 VA/Also William Harris b. 1836 VA w/wife Mary Harris b. 1845 VA/Daniel-\$1,500 real estate/\$1,275 personal propertyWilliam-\$500 real estate/\$250 personal property/PO-Grayson

(Note-Vivian/Viving Meade was a brother to William Henry Meade , the father of Virginia Jane Meade who married James J. Jessee) 1860 Russell Co, VA census-Richard L. Mead b. 1811 TN & Loutitia Mead b. 1811 VA with 9 children:Tobitha b. 1833, Viving P. b. 1838, William H. b. 1843, Nathan L. b. 1845, Cynthia b. 1846, Jefferson Jr b. 1848, Eliza b. 1850, Martha b. 1852, & Solomon O. b. 1855.

JIM BRAY [mailto:nancyb1@embarqmail.com] followed up with more information and corrections regarding Nancy "Nan" Kiser, 2nd Wife of Daniel E. P. Jessee

I found following death record for Carter Co, KY:
KY Death Certificate Nancy C. Jessee(married)
b. 24 Jan 1861 VA
d. 22 Aug 1911 Pleasant Valley, Carter Co, KY
parents-Noah K. Jessee b.VA & Polly Kiser b. VA
informant-Daniel Jessee
address-Counts Road
burial-Jessee Cemetery 23 Aug 1911

The birth & death dates coincide with your database for Nancy Kiser 2nd wife of Daniel E.P. Jessee.

If this death record is accurate then her g-mother on one side was Nancy Counts wife of Jefferson Jessee & her g-father on the other side was Noah Kiser son of Abednego & Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser.

I responded: Thank you so much. Who were her parents? I don't have them recorded. Was she first married to a Jefferson Jessee as I also show? Seems ripe for errors here.

Jim Bray responded further, 2/27/2012:

First, I looked for death records for Nancy & Daniel E P Jessee children, but didn't find any that would indicated Nancy's maiden name so all I have to go on is her death record.

In your database that would make her father, Noah K. Jessee(I3153). I found Noah K Jessee in 3 census as follows: 1860 Russell census indicated Noak K was 21(b.1839) & Mary was 21(b.1839) with 1 child:Martha C(4 mo). Lived in Lebanon pt 13 household # 430. 1870 Lebanon, Russell Co, VA census #313-Noah Jessee b. 1840 VA & Mary Jessee b. 1840 VA with 2 children:NANCY b. 1861 & Phoba b. 1867/ \$175 personal property/works on farm/ 1880 Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY census #141-Noel K. Jessee b. 1840 VA VA/VA

& Ellen C. Jessee b. 1859 VA VA/VA with 3 children:Phoebe L. b. 1867 VA,
Sarah b. 1874 VA & Van King b. Sep 1879 KY

In your database, you have Ellen C. as a child, but I believe she is his wife in 1880. Noah's daughter Nancy is listed in the 1870 Russell Co, VA census, then by 1880 the family is in Olive Hill, Carter Co, KY but Nancy doesn't appear in the household.

According to the 1900 census Nancy married Daniel E. P. Jessee abt 1888:

1900 Carter Co, KY census-Dan Jessee b. 1829 & Nan Jessee b. Jan 1861 w/6 children:Dan b. Nov 1886 KY, May b. Jan 1889 KY, Gracey b. Dec 1891 KY, Rettie b. Nov 1892 KY, Logan b, Jun 1895 KY & Georgie b. Nov 1897 KY/married 12 yrs/8 children/8 still alive/Mag dist 5/farmer

Nancy could have been previously married, since the the 1900 census indicates she had had 8 children & all 8 were still alive but there were only 6 children in this household with Daniel.

On the other hand, the 1910 census indicated Nancy C. Jessee had been married only once & Daniel married twice:

1910 Pleasant Valley, Carter Co, KY census #26-Daniel E. Jessee b. 1830 VA/
VA/VA & Nancy C. Jessee b. 1861 VA/VA/VA with 5 children:Dannie b. 1887,
Gracie b. 1891, Rhettie b. 1893, Logan b. 1896 & George W. b. 1898/
married 23 yrs/2nd marriage for Daniel/1st marriage for Nancy C./

So in my database, I only have this Nancy C. Jessee married once with her parents as Noah K. & Mary "Polly" Kiser Jessee. This would make her g-parents, Jefferson & Nancy Counts Jessee & her other g-parents, Noah & Dicie Thompson Kiser.

Note: I have made all these updates and corrections to the Jessee database, and am very grateful to Jim Bray for sorting out these errors, making corrections and additions, and providing such detailed proof and documentation. This is terrific genealogy.

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.

CHRISTY JESSEE [christy.jessee@yahoo.com] wrote, 10/23/2010 with this inquiry about her Jessee roots.

Hello, Looking to find out who my family members are.

My name is Christy M Jessee born in 1976 in Roanoke VA. My father's name is Carroll W. Jessee born in 1953 in VA. My mothers name is Katherine E Palmer born in 1959 in VA. I only know my grandmothers first name on my mothers side, Mary. This is all I know about me.

Maybe you can point me in the right direction to finding out who the rest of my family is. Thank you, Christy

I responded: Cousin Christy, Thank you for your note. Have you visited www.jessee.org to learn more about our work?

I searched for your father's name, but did not find it in my database. Can you get back further on your Jessee side, like his Jessee parents and grandparents. We can search for those names in the database on the Website. It is highly probable your father is a descendant of the Jessee family of Russell County, VA.

As of this writing I have not heard further. Their

are three Carrol(l) Jessees in my database at www.jessee.org, and surely one of them must be her line.

GEORGE SHEVLIN [georgefelix@hotmail.com] wrote, 5/7/2012, with this inquiry about **James Lawrence Granger** related to the **Gilmer Family**.

Hello, I am trying to get some details on the James Lawrence Granger that is mentioned in the Gilmer Family Tree which is posted on the Ancestry World Tree Project site connected to Ancestry.com. The owner is Arthur Lutes and his e-mail address is Alutes@allcomfla.com. However, his e-mail address no longer works and the administrator of the site says that he has been out of contact for many years.

You are listed as the source of the entry for the information and I am hopeful that you will let me know what happened to my cousin James and his family. He was born on 14 Aug 1913 so I don't believe that he and his wife (Elizabeth Wayne COUCH) can still be alive.

I hope that you will provide me with any additional information you might have on them. Thank you.

George Shevlin
Washington, D.C.
(202)265-0860

JAX ZUMWALT [jaxzum@yahoo.com] wrote, 3/15/2012, regarding various tidbits of information and questions regarding the Jesse and other families.

I have a few questions:

I have Narcissus Margaret Jesse, b. 16 Sep. 1863, dau. of Woodford Warner Jesse. She marr. 26 Nov. 1885 Clackamas Co. Or. to Albert Daniel Gribble, b. 28 Sep. 1857 Clack. Co. Or.
Albert Daniel Gribble
Birth: 28 SEP 1857 in Aurora, OR
Death: 2 OCT 1933 in Oregon City, OR
Burial: Gribble Cemetery, Canby, OR
[Laird Family Tree 2000a.FTW]

Albert was born on his parents' Deeded Land Claim. He was twenty-one years old when his father died and he assumed the responsibility of running the farm. He received 142 acres of land in his father's will, and built his family home on the southeast portion of this land. He raised registered Jersey dairy cattle on his farm.

There is a biographical sketch of his life in, "Portrait and Biographical Record of Portland and Vicinity, Chapman Publishers, 1903. Copies of family histories from the Gribble Family History, (owned by Frank Brian Laird), are in the Laird family album.

Marriage 1 Margaret Narcissus Jesse b: 16 SEP 1863 in Smithville, MO

* Married: 26 NOV 1885 in Oregon City, OR 1

* Marriage Ending Status: Death of one spouse

Their child, Harold Lewis Gribble # 9 of 10 children is said to have marr. Ivy...?... and ...?... Gurley, thought to be dau. of Geo. Gurley & Jesse Amy Farmer.

There is an Ivy Gurley. I suspect someone said he married an Ivy and another said he married a Gurley. When in fact he married, Ivy Gurley ?????? Harold Lewis & Ivy had son, Douglas Gribble who marr. my niece, Muriel Ann Zumwalt. I was never sure if they actually marr. or lived together, but they had 2 children. Muriel died in 2003 so I can't ask her. Another note as follows:

I grew up in the shadow of the Gribble "Century Farm", Clackamas County, near Canby, Oregon. I knew some of the children (Bill, Stan, Doug, Gary) and mother Ivy. I see where Douglas E. Gribble died in 1996. I was involved with him for a few years in the mid 60's and would appreciate any info you can give me. Thank you.
Posted by: Carolyn J. Hanson
Date: June 02, 1999 at 11:20:30

I have another about John Shaw Jesse, b. 24 Jan. 1848 De Moines, Ia. son of Ben Franklin Jesse, b. 1807 Va. & Sarah Ann Shaw. He marr. Sarah Gribble, b. 24 Jun. 1855 Clack. Co. Or. they mar. 1 Marr. 1877 Clack Co. Or. I have a note that they had son Avon Gribble who was adopted ???

Oregon Donation Land Claim # 963 David M. Jessee, Yamhill Co. Or. born 1822 Russell Co. Va. Arr. Or. 20 Sep. 1848 SC 15 Feb. 1852; Marr. Sarah Jane, i Jan. 1850 Yamhill Co. Or. Aff. Richard L. Simpson, Werner Breyman, Reuben Harris, Ahio S. Watt.

My mar. book says she was Sarah Jane Watt. They are in 1860 Yamhill Co. Or census with children.

Another in my data base is James Ogden Jessee, b. 1878 & wife Adah Phillips. their dau. Inez Jessee marr. 2 May 1926 Salt Lake, Ut. to Newton Hickman McDowell, b. 6 Sep. 1891 Mo. Newton was son of John Rufus McDowell & Frances Elizabeth Thomas. Frances Thomas was dau. of Henry Monroe Thomas & Julie Ann Zumwalt.

I can't understand why I can't identify the parents of David M. Jessee, b. 1822 Russell Co. Va. Nor can I identify his wife, Sarah Jane Watt. b. 1826 Oh. She seems to be sister of Aihio S. Watt, b. about 1826 Knox Co. Oh. & Joseph Watt, b. 1817 Knox Co. Oh.

DLC # 962 Yamhill Co. Or. Aihio Watt, b. 1824 Knox Co. Oh., arr. Or. 20 Sep. 1848, SC 5 Jul. 1850, marr. Mary Elizabeth, Jul. 1850 Yamhill Co. Or. aff: Isaiah M. Johns, Joseph Watt, David M. Jessee.

Correspondence

MARLENE SEYMOUR [sissi3@frontier.com] wrote, 1/27/2012, regarding descendants of **Revolutionary War Soldier Solomon Peery** and DAR research.

Hi – have noted that you have done genealogy work on the Peery line – am DAR volunteer genealogist helping applicant with papers and she is descended thru a Solomon Peery who married a Miriam Cartmell – do you know who Solomon's parents were? Thank you – Marlene' Seymour IL State Registrar

I responded: Marlene, Thank you for your inquiry. All my Peery information comes by intermarriages with the Jessee, Gibson, or related SW VA families, and not my original research, nor in my own pedigree. I do not have Solomon Peery in my database at www.jessee.org, although I do have many a Peery. With your permission I can share this with the Jessee and Russell Co. Lists, who have subscribers who may be more directly descended from Solomon Peery who married Miriam Cartmell.

Thank you – yes, you can forward this to whomever you feel can be of help - Marlene.

FREDERICKSBURG.COM posted this article of interest to the Jessee family. Can anyone tell me which branch of the family Eric W. Jessee hails from?

Stafford officer honored by state sheriff's group.

Date published: 9/26/2011

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Virginia Sheriff's Association has named 1st. Sgt. Eric W. Jessee of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office its 2011 Deputy of the Year.

Jessee, who joined the Stafford Sheriff's Office in 1995, has served as a correctional officer, a patrol officer, a member of the Rappahannock Regional Gang, Terrorism and Drug Task Force, and a member of the Sheriff's Office Drug Enforcement Unit.

Jessee now leads the Special Investigations Unit, which deals with narcotics and gangs. During his career in Stafford, Jessee has received numerous accolades. In 1998 he received the Sheriff's Office Meritorious Award for actions he took during a fatal confrontation with an armed suspect.

In 2010 he received the Meritorious Award again, this time for his work during a 14-month investigation called Operation Smoking Dragon. In that case, he helped form a specialized undercover operation that infiltrated an organized criminal enterprise involved in smuggling

contraband cigarettes from the Stafford area to New York City.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives helped in the operation, which, according to a release from the Sheriff's Office: Identified several million dollars' worth of contraband cigarettes. Uncovered drugs, guns and counterfeit tax stamps; Seized more than \$800,000 worth of the street drug "ecstasy;" Thwarted a murder-for-hire plan; Took 39 firearms off the street.

In the summer of 2010, Jessee led a monthlong investigation to assess, identify and control the presence of a potential street-gang problem in Stafford.

Police say the operation solved several street robberies involving gang members. More than 60 arrests were made, with 91 people identified as gang members.

With Jessee's leadership, the office has established the Special Investigations Unit. One component is the Gang Unit, which will focus on enforcement and try to deter at-risk youths from associating with gangs through juvenile services, community-awareness education and increased parental responsibility.

RONNIE SELF [rsaulf@embarqmail.com] wrote, 5/25/2012 regarding her resources for making the **Kennedy/Jessee/Counts** connection

Jim, I can see you are interested in the Jessee family. Here is the source where I got the information about N. Brent Kennedy's grandmother and great grandfather Jessee. It is at N. Brent Kennedy and Robyn Vaughan Kennedy, "The Melungeons: The Resurrection of a Proud People, An Untold Story of Ethnic Cleansing in America," 2nd Edition (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1997), 83, 84, and 86. I am not sure how much he actually spoke of his Jessee parentage though. I was just curious about what a Melungeon was.

Much of the other information comes from census records for Russell and Washington County, VA.

I believe most people have forgotten about how interconnected families were at one time. Most people do not know much information past their grandparents, because they did not think to pay that much attention to them while they were living, meaning to their stories. If they did listen to the stories, many times they got the stories switched around a little bit, in many cases.

I am not sure if Kennedy knew past his great grandfather Jefferson Jessee's line.

Now, Jefferson Jessee had married into the Counts family. I am not sure if they were aware of the Counts/Cunningham feud or not going on in West Virginia. The Counts family wrote an opposing point-of-view in a separate article, which is not online. Many appear to have known among the Counts descendants, since "Devil" Zeke Counts was rather well known locally at that time. The Cunningham/Montgomery feud lasted from 1448 to 1700. I think the Cunninghams believed it lasted about 213 years. This is easy to search by putting in Cunningham/Montgomery Scottish feud. Both families talk about it, and I did not check to see if they gave different accounts. I think feuding came over with the Scots in a way of speaking. There are always at least two points-of-view.

As far as I know the Cunningham/Montgomery feud had no connection to the Jessee family. It is just interesting as a fact that feuding appeared to have similarities, here in the mountains, to the feuding in Scotland in some form.

Hope I didn't bother you too much with information that might not pertain to your research. My main interest was to see if I could find out why my great-great grandfather, Isaac "Ike" Self might have been killed over at that political rally in 1896, which is why I have so much information about a lot of things. I wanted to know what was going on everywhere and throughout time in the area. I was also curious about if my great grandmother, Bessie (Helton) Self, might have been known by any Jessee family members connected to the Helton family, as to who her parents were.

Resources

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 are bounding into an exciting future. I recommend use of both Ancestry.Com, a fee-for-service organization, and/or FamilySearch.Org and RootsWeb.Com, both still free services, as starting places for your research. All have added huge amounts of data and improved their services, most especially Family Search. Their new search tools and database will knock your socks off. Go to familysearch.org.

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 Jessee database. Several appear in the Newsletters, and all are incorporated into the database. I thank Jack for his indefatigable work, his help, and friendship.

MICHAEL A. DYE created **The Russell County Page** of the VAGenWeb division/USGenWeb Project.

This is a must-see site for Jessee researchers.

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

MICHAEL A. DYE provides the most excellent genealogy resources for SW VA genealogists. 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.

MICHAEL A. DYE recently posted the following information about his move back to Russell County and shares his latest new CD/DVD opportunity.

Been awhile since I posted. We are in the process of moving from Cincinnati back to Russell Co. We close on our new house about May 25th.

Prior to moving though, I decided I wanted to digitize the Russell Co. tax lists otherwise I would no longer have access to them once in Russell Co.

While I was at it, I also went ahead and digitized the early (1782 - 1786) Washington Co. lists since Russell was formed from Washington. Since I now have them in digital form, I thought others might also want to have access to them so I am making them available on 2 DVDs. What is included are the Washington Co., VA Personal Property Tax Lists from 1782 - 1786 and the Russell Co., VA Personal Property Tax Lists from 1787 - 1850. These are images of the original tax books and lists and include all lists available for those years. The tax lists along with the census records are great research tools for anyone doing research in Russell Co.

Many of you are familiar with the other CDs & DVDs I have made available in the past. Like those, I'm making this 2 DVD set available for \$20 including shipping charges to cover my time and materials to make them available. If your interested you can send payment to me via Paypal at the following email address: madyev82@aol.com If you don't have Paypal or would prefer to send a check or money order, you can send it to me at my daughters address below.

Michael A. Dye
279 Truel Brown Road
Swords Creek, Virginia 24649
(276) 991-0414

MICHAEL A. DYE [Tlas101@aol.com] wrote, 6/8/2012 with news of his latest publications.

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA MINUTE BOOK 2, 2 January 1819 - 1821 Jack Hockett and Donald Helton. 2012, 8x10, vi, 221 pages, every name index.

From the introduction: Minute Book 2 of Washington Co., VA contains such entries as: Names of court appointees & admin. of oaths, as needed (overseers of roads and schools, constables, for purposes of estate settlements and other business such as relating to ad quod damnus), jurors, etc.; guardian bonds; acknowledgements of deeds of emancipation, indentures of bargain & sale, indentures of trust, settlement of estates, inventories & appraisements, releases, mortgages, renunciation of dower rights, etc.; payments due from county; granting of certificates of probate; excuses from county levies & poor rates for infirmity; various legal causes/cases: In Debt, In Chancery, Motion on Forthcoming Bonds, In Detiner; Covenant, Attachments; appointments to view & appraise estates; fees for ordinary & house of entertainment licenses; recognizance bonds; assignments of dower; attestations relating to Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans; registration of FPCs (Free Persons of Colour), dismissal of causes/cases; cases designated for arbitration, appeals; certifications of ordination to perform marriage ceremonies, to practise as attorney in WCV, court opinions on criminal indictments (whether to dismiss or send to Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery), Grand Jury indictments, occasional depositions and other interesting information. There is a great gap between approx. 1788 through 1818 in the Washington County minute books (and again 1822-1836). The "classical version" I have heard is that they were burned when the courthouse was burned in 1864; if this be the case, it is very fortunate that for some providential reason MB "2" (which was likely about MB 6 or 7 or so) detailing the years 1819-1821 survived. In order to supplement the valuable material lost in these lost or destroyed minute books, one can consult the execution books and the fee books and also newspapers such as The Political Prospect into which notices of causes in chancery were frequently published. The transcription or abstraction of these works is a very important effort remaining lacking in the work to be done on Washington County records.

Note: Every name mentioned in this minute book has been transcribed; in many instances the transcription is almost verbatim with some summaries, a few liberties for punctuation and capitalization, etc. [WSM2] \$35.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA MINUTE BOOK 3, May 1837-April 1839 Jack Hockett and Donald Helton. 2012, 8x10, viii, 230 pages, every name index. Minute Book (MB) 3 of Washington County, Virginia (WCV) contains such entries as: Names of court appointees & admin. of oaths, as needed (overseers of roads and schools, constables, for purposes of estate settlements and other business such as relating to ad quod damnus), jurors, etc.; guardian bonds; acknowledgements of deeds of emancipation, indentures of bargain & sale, indentures of trust, settlement of estates, inventories & appraisements, releases, mortgages, renunciation of dower rights, etc.; payments due from county; granting of certificates of probate; excuses from county levies & poor rates for infirmity; various legal causes/cases: In Debt, In Chancery, Motion on Forthcoming Bonds, In Detiner; Covenant, Attachments; appointments to view & appraise estates; fees for ordinary & house of entertainment licenses; recognizance bonds; assignments of dower; attestations relating to Revolutionary War veterans; registration of FPCs (Free Persons of Colour), dismissal of causes/cases; cases designated for arbitration, appeals; certifications of ordination to perform marriage ceremonies, to practise as attorney in WCV, court opinions on criminal indictments (whether to dismiss or send to Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery), etc. Note: Every name mentioned in this minute book has been transcribed; in many instances the transcription is almost verbatim with some summaries, a few liberties for punctuation and capitalization, etc. [WSM3] \$35.00

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE-CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS SYSTEM, can be found at the following URL: www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html, and provides wonderful information and complete Regiment Rosters. Look up the **29th Regiment, Virginia Infantry** to find 20 Jessee family members who served, including my great-grandfather, John Tivis Jessee. Here is how this unit is described.

CONFEDERATE VIRGINIA TROOPS

29th Regiment, Virginia Infantry

29th Infantry Regiment was authorized in November, 1861, and was to contain seven companies under Colonel A.C. Moore and three companies at Pound Gap. However, this organization never took place. Moore's five companies from Abingdon and companies raised in the spring of 1862 evidently made up the nine-company regiment. It was assigned to the Valley District, Department of Northern Virginia, then moved to Kentucky where it was engaged at Middle Creek. Later it saw action in Western Virginia and for a time served in North Carolina under General French. In March, 1863, it totalled 732 men. Attached to General Corse's Brigade the unit participated in Longstreet's Suffolk Expedition and during the Gettysburg Campaign was on detached duty in Tennessee and North Carolina. In the spring of 1864 it returned to Virginia and took its place in the Petersburg trenches north and south of the James River and ended the war at Appomattox. Many were lost at Saylor's Creek, and only 1 officer and 27 men surrendered on April 9, 1865. The field officers were Colonels James Giles and Alfred C. Moore; Lieutenant Colonels Alexander Haynes, William Leigh, and Edwin R. Smith; and Majors Ebenezer Bruster, William R.B. Horne, and Isaac White.

VARUSSEL-L@ROOTSWEB.COM posted this information: Russell County was organized from Washington Co VA in 1786. This is a Message Board Post that is gatewayed to this mailing list.

THIS IS HOW ALL THOSE COUNTIES CAME TOGETHER!

Russell County was organized from Washington Co VA in 1786; Lee Co was established from SW Russell in 1792-3; Tazewell from Russell and Wythe in 1799; and Scott from Russell, Lee and Washington in 1814-5. In 1855, Wise was formed and in 1858, Buchanan (In 1880, Dickenson was formed from Wise and Buchanan). Kentucky lay to the East and Tennessee to the South.

ANGIE ROBERTS posted on 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.

JHF News

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

I am no longer a JHF Board member, but I continue to offer the www.jessee.org Website, the Jessee List on RootsWeb, and On-line Jessee Family Newsletter to share JHF news and events. I invite all JHF members to join the Jessee List and to regularly visit www.jessee.org.

Jessee Genealogy Book

The Jessee Historical Foundation is proposing to publish a book on Jessee Genealogy. 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.

The Jessee Historical Foundation (JHF) is interested in doing a Jessee Family Genealogy Book, 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, 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 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.

We need a descendant or group of descendants of each of the 15 branches of the family to be a coordinator and verifier of genealogy information for that branch for a planned genealogy publication. See more below.

HANK DAVIS, President of the Jessee Historical Foundation, JHF, sent, 3/6/2012, the following information and asks for help with a planned genealogy publication. Be sure to respond to Hank Davis at hadjrlaw@gmail.com if you can help with anything.

The JHF is working on producing a book to record the descendants of John and Frankey (Lea) Jessee and their 15 children. Most of the Jessees in America descend from those 15 children, but our genealogy also includes the descendants of a possible brother or cousin of John, Phillip Jessee and his son Gabriel Jessee, whose descendants are also prominent in SW Virginia history. The JHF is working with Jim Jessee and his Jessee Family Database on RootsWeb, accessible at www.jessee.org. The first goal is to edit, update, and correct the information on John and Frankey Lea and their descendants, for at least the first five generation, to get it ready for publication. That will cover 100+ years, approximately 1750 to 1900 for some families and get us into the age of photography. I ask each of you to look at your own line, and see if we have incorrect or missing information on your particular family line. Go to the database and search for your own kin.

[You can send updates and corrections to me at jim@jessee.org, or mail me at the address on the Website. Note added by Jim Jessee]

Family and JHF members are requested to bring their family information up to date with you asap and to bring information to me [Hank Davis] at the reunion, [if you have not otherwise responded to Jim Jessee as noted above].

You can request that a member from all 15 children of John and Frankie offer to help by contacting me (Hank) at telephone 4344320170 or in writing at 3188 Fairview Road, Chatham, Virginia 24531 to volunteer to gather information so that we can get going on the book.

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 helping 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.

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.

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

John Jessee Cemetery

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

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

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

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



Jessee's Mill Declared National Historic Landmark

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mill Creek Historic Community

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

We have 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.

Jessee's Mill Preservation

Whether a Mill Creek Historic Community ever comes to be, the "preservation" of Jessee's Mill remains a major concern. As a historic Russell County landmark, you would 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 Frankey Lea Jessee raised a family of fifteen children and are buried on this land at West longitude 82° 09' 23", North latitude 36° 55' 04." The current mill was constructed by Andrew Jackson Jessee, John's grandson, whose 1878 brick home is located just across Mill Creek.

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

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

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

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

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 home. Jamie Chafin operated the mill for sometime, also Tilton Jessee. Other men who served as millers some time during the life of 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.

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.

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

Unfortunately after 40 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 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 have steadily reduced 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. Please inform me of address changes, too.

Donation

I am asking for a donation of \$10 a year to enable me to continue the Jessee Genealogy Service and Web Newsletter. I need and appreciate your additional donations in defraying the considerable cost of research and other services, subscriptions, and genealogy software, data access, and materials

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*.

The Jessee Family Newsletter

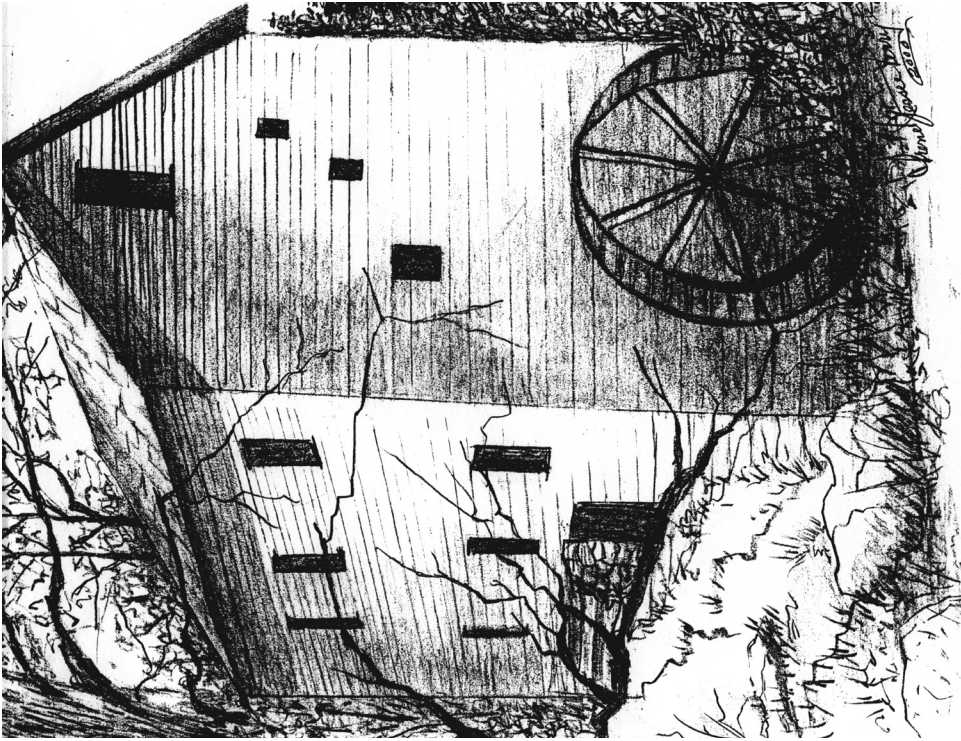
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