

Jessee Family Newsletter

Number 11 Summer and Fall 1997

Dear Cousin,

This work has proven to me that we are, indeed, all cousins and that we can be friends and colleagues, too. This newsletter is dedicated to sharing information and helping each other know what it means to be part of an extended family and to appreciate our common heritage.

I am dismayed that this newsletter will be mailed to you much later and a bit shorter than I wished. I am afraid I cannot promise much better in the future. This delay is not because of your lack of support or new information provided. I am simply far behind in responding to both. I thank you for your research time and generous donations that support this newsletter in many respects. Your collective effort to help me makes me humble. I simply have not had the time to do you and the work justice.

In the last newsletter I celebrated breaking even. Well, that was before we had figured our income taxes, and Nelda provided me the long distance bills, miscellaneous copying, and a couple of books and subscriptions that were hiding in the family checkbook. To make a long story short, **Col. Howard Jessee**, Jesse(e) Enterprises, of Russell Co., VA and Hondo, TX, got to quizzing me on how short I was, and he sent me an additional donation to cover it. I am very grateful to Howard, who substantially underwrites the cost of this newsletter. He makes it possible for me to continue.

Howard has not had a good year with respect to his health. He has seen too many doctors and been poked in too many places. He would welcome your good wishes and prayers. He loves to hear from his cousins and friends.

Faithful researcher and newsletter contributor **Tom Rudder** has been especially productive for this edition, providing much new information and, most importantly, a map plotting the original Jessee family lands in Russell Co. from the recorded descriptions. Tom further scrutinized the Russell Co. census data and has asked even more perplexing questions about the various George L. Jessees found in Russell Co. in the early 1800s. We will take up the George L. Jessee questions in the Winter 1998 edition, as several of our Jessee family researchers have contributed materials on that matter, too.

I thank Tom and wish I had time to be of more help on this map project. Tom and Shirley do all their work the old fashioned way, with no computers. They have a very informative and well organized paper-based system. With Tom hollering questions from the phone, Shirley can usually find the exact family group sheet or reference before I can on my computer. Tom's map is hand drawn upon a US Geologic Survey base map.

I know we can transfer Tom's parcel mapping to a computer-based form. We want to accurately position these historic Jessee holdings and adjacent parcels as originally owned by the first families of Russell County with respect to the actual topography, creeks, and historic sites. I would like to see this project extended to show the land acquired by the second and third generations of Jessee descendants, including the David Jessee land on Moccasin Creek. I am interested in the historic land ownership in Russell Co. in the time frame of 1750-1850. I am asking for help on this project.

Among my most helpful contributors is **Vivian Dickison Bales** of Marion, IN, along with **Carlyne Ritter** of Winchester Bay, OR, with whom we mutually correspond. Vivian is a descendant of Mary "Polly" Jessee, who married Abednego Kiser, and Dickenson, Waugh, Thompson, McKinney, and Ring ancestors. Vivian is 84 years old. Over a lifetime she has accumulated a wealth of clippings, copies, and hand-written and typed extractions of records from a host of sources. She has always worked with a typewriter, pen and paper. She has generously provided Carlyne and me copies of materials and has painstakingly extracted information from various files on the

Jessees and related families. By bits and pieces she has greatly extended my database and substantially added to my documentation of sources. She is an excellent writer and storyteller, and I love to get her letters. I am embarrassed that I am also behind in recording her contributions, but you will see the fruits of her work in this and future newsletters.

Several contributors are significant researchers, genealogists, and writers in their own right, working on related families from Southwest Virginia counties. Many more contribute vital bits and pieces, providing pedigree charts and family group sheets, copies of documentation, and much more in their letters, stories, and bits of lore. They help me extend their own family lines, adding literally thousands of newly recorded descendants of John and Frankey Jessee, as well as pedigrees for collateral lines. I have now keyed in nearly 19,000 individuals.

Two of our best contributors and researchers, **Jack Hockett** of St. David's, Pennsylvania, and **Kathryn Greever** of Morgantown, WV, have provided much new information on the descendants of Rebecca Jessee, who married William Burk, and vast amounts of additional Burk/Burke, Browning and other SW VA genealogy.

Jack Hockett is a significant contributor to *SW Virginia Ancestors*, and I much admire his work. Kathryn Greever is always a delight to talk with and has generously shared her extensive network of fellow researchers and the fruits of their extensive years of work.

Iris Lambert Hall of Pueblo, CO, one of whose correspondence is included in this newsletter, and **Virginia Bennett** of Asheville, NC, are also significant helpers. Virginia has provided new information on the Candler Family and the descendants of Dicy/Dicie Jessee, an Archer Jessee daughter who married George W. Candler. I promise to give "future time," and may it be, when I will try to do justice to their many contributions to the *Jessee Family Newsletter*.

About time, my only excuse is life is too swift--family, school, work, and other community involvement have made this one of the busiest years of our lives. Summer is usually one of the times I can work on this newsletter, taking long weekends at our rustic cabin in the mountains. While this winter's record-breaking floods did spare our little place, one can truly say that a river ran through it. Butte Creek's new path buried our once elevated cabin in a sand, silt, and gravel bar up to the floor boards, taking out many of the footings, stairs, plumbing, wood piles, and what we used to call a yard. We have been spending all our weekends digging out and repairing what we are able. I have had no time for any other work, nor play. I have been exhausted by the labor, but I have lost weight, so it must be good for me! We have finished the restoration of the cabin's under-structure, and I am looking forward to a couple of weekends without any heavy labor. I will probably just sleep! And now, the school year is upon us, it is a "Catalog" year, and there are all those stories about "el Niño," oh my.

Jim Jessee

Origins of The Jesse(e) Family

Many Jessees in America are descended from **John Jessee (1750-1815)**, and **Frankey Lea (1752/61-1836)** 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 descended from those children. All of us living who are their descendants, including most of the subscribers to this newsletter, are about fifth or sixth cousins, or even closer kin.

There are many "Jesse," "Jessee," "Jessie," "Jessey," and, perhaps, "Jaci," "Jacy," and "Jacie" families in America who are not descendants of John and Frankey. In Russell County, all the descendants of "Old Phillip" and his son Gabriel Jessee are notable examples. While we have speculated that Phillip could have been an older brother or cousin of John Jessee, we have no proof. Other Jesse (e) families in America are most likely cousins with whom we share common ancestors and research interest. I welcome them to this newsletter.

As "Jesse" and "Jessee" are the two most frequent spellings of this family name, and since the English form of "Jesse" appears to be the root surname for all Jessee families, I shall adopt the convention of using "Jesse(e)" in reference to the larger family. I will take care to differentiate the two spellings in materials provided below to reflect the spelling as found in the records, but those two "ees" are so habitual for me, that I beg for your corrections when needed.

Please see Newsletter #10 for an extensive discussion and summary of what we know so far about the origins of the Jesse(e) family in

America. Here I will provide additional information, documentation, and clues submitted in response to that article.

Virginia Bennett, of Asheville, NC, provided a copy from a publication on the Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight and the Godwin Family (pg. 466/67) indicating a Samuel Godwin, born 1687/88, married *Mary Jessey* (born abt. 1690), daughter of *Capt. James Jessey* of Nansemond, in 1711. Mary died 1720.

Frieda M. Davison, Professor and Director of Library Services, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, GA, extracted from *Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary War or Military Services* (originally published in Washington in 1841, and reprinted by the Genealogical Publishing Co. in 1974) evidence of a *William Jesse*, age 81 (born about 1760) as head of household in Prince Edward Co., Eastern District, VA. Frieda also provided me additional information on my Bickley, Richmond, and Armstrong pensioners.

Jack Jessee of Savannah, GA, via e-mail indicates he has learned that Jesse(e) was "a derivative of *Jesseman* or *Jessieman* who were 15th Century Scots," and further clarified this to be more specifically "Jesseman of the Gordon Clan in NE Scotland." This would give us a new focus for research.

I have heard that Jesse(e) may have been derived from the occupation of a *jess maker*. A "jess" is the tether used in falconry.

Carlyne Ritter of Winchester Bay, OR, provides the following individual data sheet which well summarizes evidence of other Jesse(e)s who were contemporaries of John Jessee of Russell Co. I think it well stimulates our effort to reconstruct the origins of the several Jesse (e) families in America.

The many clues above lead us to several new avenues of research on the origins of the Jesse(e) families in, at least, Amelia, Co., Cumberland Co., Essex Co., Isle of Wight Co., King and Queen Co., King William Co., Lancaster Co., Middlesex Co., Spotsylvania Co., VA, and Scotland, just to start.

Place William Jessee Data Sheet Here

John Jessee and Frankey Lea Research

Our John Jessee research feature is the following map prepared by **Tom Rudder** of Carmichael, CA. We also wish to provide special thanks to **Melody Jessee** of Castlewood, who greatly assisted Tom in his research for this map. Tom also provided me copies of the original recorded estate settlements or indentures from which he was able to extract the property descriptions illustrated on his map.

The reproduction quality of Tom's map is not as high as I would wish, and some of the details regarding the original Jessee Home, the farm roads, and cemetery are hard to make out. This is a reason I would like to get this information transferred to an electronic source, so we could sharpen the details, and add more pertinent information.

Tom had to deal with several related issues in establishing this map. Among those are the names for today's Mill Creek over time. Tom provides the following commentary.

"When John Jessee Sr. purchased the 250 acres from William Gilmore in 1794 it was identified as being on both sides of Carr's Creek, and was likewise identified in the 1820 and 1827 deeds when Archer and George L. Jessee purchased the property."

Carr's Creek was probably named for William Carr, who was among the first long hunters in the Clinch Valley in 1766. Tom cites as evidence the *History of Southwest Virginia, 1746-1786, Washington County, 1777-1870* by **Lewis Preston Summers** (The Overmountain Press, Johnson City, TN).

"In the year 1766, a party of hunters visited the Clinch Valley, and two of their number, Carr and Butler, decided to remain. They built a cabin at a place afterwards known as "Crab Orchard," about three miles west of Tazewell Courthouse" (pg. 84).
"In the year 1770, Col. James Knox, accompanied by about forty hunters from the settlements on New River, Holston and Clinch, passed over the Cumberland Mountains for the purpose of hunting and trapping, and penetrated to the lower Cumberland. They were equipped with their rifles, traps and dogs, and the usual outfit of backwoods hunters, and thus originated the name Long Hunters. ... They usually set out from their homes about the first of October and returned the latter part of March or first of April. The most noted Long Hunters

were Elisha Walden, William Carr, William Crabtree, James Aldridge, William Pitman, and Henry Scaggs" (pg. 114).

Tom adds: "In addition to the William Carr who settled on the Clinch in 1776, another Carr (John) settled on the upper Moccasin in 1776 (on Carr Creek) and died there in 1782. This Carr Creek flows into the Moccasin near where Howard (Col. Howard G. Jessee of Hondo, TX) grew up. So we know how this Carr Creek got its name. So I believe the Carr's Creek where John Jessee lived was probably named for William Carr the noted Long Hunter who settled on the Clinch in 1766."

Carr's Creek was later called Beck's Branch, and today Mill Creek, although the exact timing of these transitions is not clear. Perhaps a reader could provide us more detail. According to Tom, "Mill Creek is still referred to as Beck's Branch in the 1880's. See the article on "Jessee's Mills, VA" taken from *Lebanon News*, 5 July 1883, page 3 (*Pioneer Recollections*, E. J. Sutherland, page 177-1788)."

When Tom and I explored the Jessee lands on Mill Creek in October 1995, our guides, **Clyde and Betty Yates** of Lebanon, pointed out a "hollow" northeast of the Jessee Cemetery where Betty's father, Barclay Campbell (1904-1989), had indicated was the "old John Jessee" home. Tom's map indicates the site of the original John Jessee home, which was also the George Lea Jessee home, to be in the adjacent hollow, southwest of the cemetery. Tom and I believe that Betty's father was more likely remembering the home of George Lea's son, John Counts Jessee (1842-1924), also known as Biggie or Bull Jessee. We believe John C. Jessee lived where Betty's father indicated until about 1882. Any help Betty can offer in clearing up these lingering mysteries is most welcome.

The following extract of correspondence from **John H. Jessee** of Sugar Grove, VA, asks excellent questions and offers pertinent information for our John Jessee research. Welcome to the effort.

March 13, 1997

Dear Mr. Jessee:

I would like to express my gratitude to you for the years of dedicated service you have provided to members of the Jessee family in your research efforts. I have read with the greatest of interest all of the newsletters you forwarded to me.

I would like to make a comment with regard to the May 1994 issue of the newsletter wherein Mr. Tom Rudder provides a description and location of the original John Jessee home and cemetery. I would like to refer in particular to his reference of an excerpt from *Pioneer Recollections of Southwest Virginia* by E. J. and Hetty Swindall Sutherland and the interview of Eliza Jane (McReynolds) Turner. First I certainly would not dismiss the validity of the recollections of Mrs. Turner with regard to John Jessee and her grandfather Joseph McReynolds having first moved to Burkes Garden, Tazewell County from Caswell County North Carolina and later to Russell County. Also, with regard to Mrs. Turners statement of her grandfather and John Jessee having participated in the battle of Kings Mountain and this being refutable by his, (John Jessee) Revolutionary War record, I would also not dismiss as not being factual. Supposedly; according to the service roster John Jessee service was from April 1781 to April of 1782. I had in my possession a copy of a document showing a land purchase from a Richard Price to John Jessee (**Junior**) on the headwaters of Becks Branch in Russell County, dated March 1782 and signed by James Monroe *esquire*, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This certainly indicates to me that our grandfather was in Russell county prior to March of 1782. And this also indicates to me that it may not be impractical to consider that John Jessee was probably in Southwest Virginia prior to or during 1780. According to the history of Southwest Virginia Col. Reese Bowen of the Maiden Springs area of now Tazewell County, organized a group of volunteer back woods men from Southwest Virginia that, participated in the battle of Kings Mountain. Since it is very doubtful that a complete roster of these men was prepared it is conceivable to me that John Jessee and Joseph McReynolds could have been part of that distinguished volunteer company.

My previous statement concerning the land exchange on Becks Branch between Richard Price and John Jessee (**Junior**) raises another question as to whom this John Jessee was. At this time I would like to reference the May 1994 newsletter and the Mrs. Detweiler and Mrs. Mamie Jessee Clay letters. Mrs. Mamie Jessee Clay refers to John Jessee (**Senior**) as the purchaser of land on Becks Branch from a Thomas Price. I have to assume this was our great-grandfather due to the locality. If in fact this was our grandfather then who was the John Jessee Jr. that purchased land from Richard Price in 1782. This could not possibly be John Jr. the brother of great-grandfather Archer Jessee. John Jr. brother of Archer would have only been seven years of age at that time. Also, the referrals to Mill Creek being previously named Carr's Creek is quite confusing. A Carr's Creek is presently found just to the south of Mills Creek. Could there have possibly been two Carr's Creeks in the near vicinity of each other? This does not seem likely to me unless the latter obtained its name after the name of Mill Creek was applied to Carr's Creek. If you could provide me some input on this, I would be grateful.

I was in Russell County and traveled through the Mill Creek area on March 11. Due to my job requirements I have spent many enjoyable days on Mill Creek. During this time I have located some of the old mill sites near the confluence of Mill Creek and the Clinch River. When I am in this area I try to visualize the area as it might have been during the time out grandfather first settled there. I become quite disheartened when I make the comparison between my visualizations and the situation as it now exists. It becomes readily apparent that we have not been good caretakers of the lands that our forefathers left to us.

John H. Jessee

PLACE TOM'S MAP HERE

Correspondence

The following letters, notes, and e-mail inquiries are only a few of the many I am fortunate to receive. These address issues of concern in our research, provide updates to previous newsletters, and answer some of our missing-links inquiries and ask new ones.

Tom Rudder, of Carmichael, CA, immediately responded to the last newsletter with these corrections you should note.

1. Frances and William Stone moved to Sullivan Co, MO, not Browning Co.
2. Sarah Jessee and Wilson Vermillion, along with their three children and families, remained in Russell Co. at least through 1850. There were only three children, not five, as confirmed by the 1820, 30, and 40 Russell Co. Census records. There is a photo of the Wilson Vermillion Cemetery in the Russell Co. Heritage Book.

Carlyne Ritter, of Winchester Bay, OR, responded to the last newsletter with several answers regarding "Jessee Deaths in Russell Co. VA 1853-1896." Her letter is attached. She also provided additional materials on the Jesse Family of Llanbedr Hall, Wales. A photograph of Llanbedr Hall was included in the last newsletter. This material further documents the Jesse family ownership of this hall in Wales, and notes: "The family traces its descent from Thomas Jesse of Manchester (circa 1660) whose father's brother was Harry Jessee (Rev. Henry Jesse discussed in the previous newsletter), the godly preacher to his Highness Oliver Cromwell." Thanks also to Carlyne for providing the poem on the cover.

Tom and Shirley Rudder provided a letter (attached) addressing the question of who was the Stephen Jesse who married Sarah Lea (Lee in the records) born Oct. 18, 1813, in Russell Co., daughter of James Lea (as documented in *The Russell Co. Heritage*, page 231, also attached). Indeed, who was this Stephen Jesse?

Iris Lambert Hall of Pueblo, CO, is a long time correspondent whose letters are always full of very good and helpful information. Mrs. Hall is a meticulous and incisive researcher who well documents her materials. She responded in detail to the last newsletter, answering several questions and raising a few more. I thank her for this time and effort and have attached her letter in its entirety.

Jack L. Jessee of Savannah, GA, via e-mail provides this wonderful news. "My father, **Grady Jessee**, who will be 101 years old next month (June 10, 1997), and my mother, **Sallie Mattie (Cook) Jessee**, 81, are still living in Lebanon and are in reasonably good health. I understand that Dad is one of the oldest surviving members of the armed forces who fought in World War I." And I believe he may be one of our oldest living Jessees. Grady is the son of Charles Benson Jessee, son of John Counts "Biggie or Bull" Jessee, son of George L. Jessee.

Mark Moore of Austin, TX, provided information regarding the pedigree of his wife, **Jennifer Leigh Lawson**, whose great grandfather was **Watson Harvey Jessee** (died 7-30-1949). Watson Jessee's mother is believed to be Mattie Jessee, but the identity of his father is unknown. Watson married Lillie Mae Dickinson, daughter of Ora Dickinson. Jennifer is also a descendant of Rev. Hiram H. Kilgore (1823-1906) and his first wife, Annie E. Bond. (his second wife was Elizabeth Jessee, b. 1837, m. abt. 1865, da. of Rev. David "Little Dave" Jessee). Mark and Jennifer ask our help in finding both her Jessee and Dickinson ancestors.

Marilyn (GNEOLOG@aol.com) provided this morsel of information. "Jim, just looked at my 1850 Census CD and did you realize that there were 170 heads of households with this name (Jesse(e)) in 1850. I was amazed. Covers just about every state. This CD only lists head of household and where they are found, but can you imagine when you add family members how many that would be. Wonder how many were from John and Frankey?"

Frankly, I am relieved; only 170, that's doable. I believe the majority of those families are descendants of John and Frankey. Now if I can just get Tom and Shirley to track down each and every one! In the next newsletter I will share more of Tom and Shirley's census research, and, I hope, a better analysis of the distribution of Jessee families in 1850 America.

Alan Selig of Manhattan, KS, sent me the following announcement. I eagerly purchased the book. It is wonderful, and I plan to offer a review in a future newsletter about this famous namesake. I am afraid one of my sacrifices of time to the great flood of '97 was reading

Alan's book; it is still sitting by my bedside.

**The Civil War Diaries of
James W. Jessee
1861-1865**

**Company K, 8th Regiment of
Illinois Volunteer Infantry**

**Transcribed by
Alan D. Selig
Great-grandson
Manhattan, Kansas**

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For ordering information please write or call
Alan at 500 Wickham, Manhattan, KS 66502; 913-539-6494.

11 May 1997

Dear Cousin Jim,

Thanks for stuff from Vivian Bales. I'm going to try and get her research on the computer. Not sure I'm up to it, but

Re your asterisked names on the "JESSEE DEATHS IN RUSSELL CO. VA 1853-1896", Summer/Fall 1996 newsletter:

I told you in my last letter that I believe "Unice" on p. 3 to be my great grandmother. This weekend I had an opportunity to look at some of the other names on those pages and compare them to information in my index of Jessees. I'm not all that sure of my facts, because info on my index is not documented -- it was started as just a tool to help me eliminate duplications, etc. However, for what it's worth, following might be some things to consider if you don't come up with more exact input.

William Jessee on page 2, who died of worms in 1879: My index shows that a William was born 25 Mar 1870 to Daniel and Eliza A. Jessee in Powell Township, Scott County, VA. They could have brought William back to Russell County to bury him.

Also on page 2, concerning Mariah Jessee and Hannah Jessee. My index lists a Thomas, b. 1834 to William and Juda. Thomas married Fannie Hendricks in 1873 and Josephine Alderson in 1877. Mariah and Hannah could be daughters of this Thomas b. 1834.

On page 3 of this list of deaths, concerning Cora Jessee. My index shows a Cora B. Jessee married Noah T. Jessee in 1885. That would put the Cora on the death list at about age 25 when she married, so could be a match.

Hope this helps.

Carlyine

17
February
1997

Hello Jim:

I see that Jack Hockett has run into the same problem that I encountered when I first got involved in the Jessee family research. That is, who was the Stephen Jesse who married Sarah Lea (Lee in the records) born Oct. 18, 1813, in Russell Co., daughter of James Lea (see attached)?

The next question is, who were his parents? You have to assume that he was roughly the same age of Sarah, perhaps a little older. If he came from our Jessee family then the possible candidates for his father would be John Jr., Archer, William, Lea and David. Lea's son Stephen born 1822 married Elizabeth from Kentucky. David's son Stephen born 1827 married Rebecca in the 1850s. The children of William are all identified from "Bible Birth Records" which appear complete and reliable. The Archer "Family Bible Record" also appears to be complete and reliable. The John Jessee Jr. heirs signed a deed to Joseph Jessee in 1837 reflecting only the names Joseph, Archer, Jefferson, Armstrong and Catherine.

So the question still remains, who was he?

You can see in the James Lea article that Sarah and James M. Lea were brother and sister, however they had different mothers which could explain the "1/2 blood" Jack mentioned.

You could make a contest out of this to see who could come up with the correct answer.

Tom and Shirley

Editor's note: I could not help including this "day brightner" e-mail message I received from **Linda Mearse**, a **Bartee family** researcher and an editor of a similar newsletter as our.

Jim,

Today has been a BARTEE day for me, trying to make major progress on the newsletter, getting back to work on the researcher's conference you received mail on earlier today, answering mail --- mostly "sorry I hadn't gotten back to you", trying to get more back issues printed—

I've been doing 5 copies each of seven years worth, now that I'm almost through I've had enough requests for back issues that I'm going to be out of back issues AGAIN!, etc. etc. etc. I don't know when I'll actually get to research.

Sound familiar? I just had to share this with you. While doing all the above and clearing off my desk, I took a break and finally started to read the copy of the JESSEE FAMILY NEWSLETTER that you sent me. Your "Dear Cousin," letter on the front made me feel SO MUCH BETTER! I loved hearing that I'm not the only one! I read to my husband, Max, the paragraph concerning ...behind in my correspondence, ...fear I cannot do justice to the work that needs to be done, and ...I welcome your submission of COMPLETE (my emphasis) articles... He thought it was great and I should quote it in the BARTEE NEWS. Just wanted to let you know how this eased my mental stress!

Your newsletter looks great! You should be very proud of it. I enjoyed getting to see a photo of you and your family. You have a beautiful family!

Well, all for now. The untouched stacks of paper scattered around the room are calling to me.

Linda M.

PLACE LEA ARTICLE HERE

Feb. 12, 1997

James W. Jessee

1272 Hobart Ave.

Chico, Calif. 95926-3702

Dear Jim,

Received your latest always-look-forward-to newsletter. I am enclosing a donation to help some with expenses. Wish I could win the Lottery or something and send a lot more .. but glad I can help out a little. Actually, that's only ONE reason it would be nice to win the Lottery!!

I was interested to read that you have been receiving information from Jack Hockett and K. Greever. I have been sharing my Jessee, Burke, Browning, etc. research and documentation with them for many years .. evidently much the same as Tom Colley and others have .. never knew what became of it .. if anything. Glad to know some of it has been "filtering down" to you.

My research has been sort of on hold for a while due to illness in my family requiring my time and attention. However, my Jessee information is not put away and so I thought I would make a quick check through and see if I can maybe send a few comments for your consideration.

Page 7 - Missing Links (Marilyn) Mary Jane Jessee (a/k/a Nancy-) m. Wm. H. Brown in Montgomery Co., Ind. on Jan. 20, 1850 (Bk. 3, p. 230 of marriages). She was the daughter of James Browning and Nancy B. (Candler) Jessee. James Browning Jessee was a son of Archer and Nancy. Nancy B. was the daughter of John and Dorothy Candler.

Page 7 (Michael Shawn Jessie) My husband and I visited Hayden and Gladys (Bradley) Jessee at their home near Soldier, Carter County, Kentucky. We stayed at Olive Hill which is near Soldier and in the phone book they were listed as "Jessee". We did not stay very long, as Mrs. Jessee was not well and, in fact, passed away not too long after our visit. Hayden was very interested in the Jessee family history, but said he had no Bibles, pictures or any other information or records, as he had given it to a young relative who lived nearby. He tried to call her that day but she was not at home. I don't recall whether it was a niece or granddaughter or just how she was related.

CHARLES Hayden Jessee was a son of David Martin and Arvilla (Roy/Ray) Jessee and David was the son of a George L. Jessee (born 1827) and his wife, Eliza. I found them in the 1850 census still in Russell County, Va. A researcher who lives in Indiana wrote me that George L. Jessee's wife was Mary Eliza(beth) Kiser Jessee (did not send any reference as to source, etc.) This lady sent me quite a list of descendants on the David and Arvilla line which I would be glad to share with anyone researching that particular line which includes a reference to Charles Hayden and Gladys Jessee and gives names of their children. I have done some of this research myself and have a little documentation, but the additional is what has been shared with me by others.

I have never been able to determine for certain who the parents of this George L. Jessee, born 1827, were .. just have a "possibility" or two. The others I have corresponded with are even less certain about the parents than I am. Maybe someone you are in touch with knows the parents of this George L. Jessee and also his wife, Mary Eliza(beth) Kiser Jessee.

On page 9 as to the information submitted to you by Tom Colley, I will mention a couple of possibilities you might check out ..

ELIZA J. JESSEE .. born Feb. 25, 1853 (p. 9, No. 31), Russell Co. Va. She was the daughter of David C. and Margaret (Smythe) Jessee. She died Oct. 26, 1942. She had children and in some of the census records was shown as a "widow", but I have never found any husband listed for her .. though the number and names of children increased through the years. Maybe I missed it someplace?

MARY E. JESSEE .. born Nov. 16, 1862. I believe this was Mary Frances Jessee, born Nov. 16, 1862, daughter of Martin C. and Mary C. Jessee. She was married in 1880 to Thomas Jefferson Jessee in Russell Co..son of Stanford and Sarah (Fuller) Jessee.

MARY C. JESSEE .. in the book of old death records in Russell Co. compiled by Adkins, there is a Mary C. Jessee who died Dec. 23, 1860 - age 1 m. 19 d. of bold hives, daughter of Elihu K. Jessee (p. 14 of Adkins' book).

Then, on p. 18 of Adkins's book, there appears a "male" who died Dec. 23, 1861 at age of 1 m. 23 days, of bold hives, child of Elihu Jessee.

Then, in book of Russell Co. deaths available at the courthouse there and also on microfilm in the LDS library (p. 14, No. 7) there is listed an "unnamed daughter", child of Elihu Jessee, who died Dec. 23, 1861 at age of 1 m. 23 days of bold hives. This record pretty well fits with record of birth of a daughter to Elihu on Nov. 1, 1861 in Russell Co. records (p. 47, No. 18).

I guess we can sort of take our pick .. however the "born Nov 1, 1861 and died

Dec. 23, 1861 at 1 m. 23 days" seems more correct to me .. mathematically anyway.

This Elihu K. Jessee was the son of George Lee Jessee and married to Margaret (Meade).

I do not find an Abednego Jessee in my research (though I admit I am looking for him pretty late into the evening and may have passed over the name) among my Jessee family record sheets. However, I did find one in the Russell County marriage records Abednego Jessee 50, b. Russell Co., Widower, son of "Eda" (?) who married Sarah Evans Oct. 6, 1868. This may well be the one you were wondering about .. it is possible that the Mary Jessee who died Dec. 6, 1866 at age of 46 from apoplexy was his first wife and then two years later, as widower, he remarried Sarah Evans.

Well, best I close and get to bed so I can get up "running" in the morning .. or as close to running as I can manage. Everytime I hear from a new Jessee researcher (or new to me, anyway), I give them your name and address and suggest that they get in touch with you and maybe contribute a little new information about one or the other of the Jessee families.

My good wishes to you and your nice family!!

(Mrs.) Iris Lambert Hall

One Mystery Solved

Reverend Vernon Cecil Jessee of Port Clinton, OH, solves one of the mysteries for the descendants of George Lea. I have transcribed his letter here, and hope this settles one mystery for this family. Perhaps one of our readers can help Cecil find a few of his missing relatives, too.

February 12, 1997

Dear Jim,

I am enclosing \$20 to help you with the cost of the newsletter. I appreciate your work on the Jessee history. We had a great Jessee reunion last August 1996. I met some cousins I never knew, and some I hadn't seen since they were babies. I was hopeful that some of my father's youngest brother, Clifford Jessee's, children would be there, but they didn't show. One of my Uncle Clifford Jessee's sons, Frank, did live here in Port Clinton, OH, but he left here, and I can't find out where he went. He (Frank Jessee, my first cousin) retired from the Marine Corp.

I am pretty certain that my grandmother, Nannie Mary Anne Jessee, was a daughter of John Counts Jessee and Margaret Cross, because [I remember] their son, William Robert Jessee (Uncle Bob). My father, Dennie Edison Jessee, used to visit him back in the thirties. I remember visiting, too. He had a retarded son, and I asked my father about him and he told me he was adopted. Great Uncle Bob lived at Cleveland, VA. We also used to visit their daughter Orpha Jessee, Mrs. William Brooks, who lived near Spring City. I knew her as Aunt Orphy. Another daughter, Frances "Ces" Ellen Jessee, married Samuel Jessee, son of Elihu Kiser Jessee, a brother of John Counts Jessee.

Sam and Frances Jessee lived at Banner, near Coburn, VA. My wife is from the area, and she knew them. Two of Sam Jessee's daughters lived there. One daughter, Sophie, married Guy Fatony, the other daughter, Anne, married Walter Johnson. They owned a store at Banner, VA. I knew they were my father's first cousins, but I didn't know how until I kind of added it up.

Sam and Frances Jessee also had other children. Other daughters were Flaure, lived at Cincinnati, OH, and Amerette. I don't know where

she lived. Their sons were Roby, Mark (Marcos), Buford, Bob, and Ted. They all lived in Wyoming Co., WV and were coal miners (according to the Banner, VA book, 1988).

My father told me years ago that he and Marcos Jessee were first cousins, and that when they were boys they were real close, like brothers. They lived at that time at Wilder, VA. That is where John Counts Jessee lived. I was born at Wilder, VA May 26, 1928. So I believe that since Marcos Jessee was a son of Frances "Ces" Ellen Jessee and Samuel Jessee (Frances being the daughter of John Counts Jessee), it seems to me that Nannie Mary Anne Jessee, my father's mother, was also John Counts Jessee's daughter. This made my father and Marcos Jessee first cousins on my grandmother's side. Frances "Ces" Ellen Jessee and Nannie Mary Anne Jessee, I believe, were sisters. My father, Dennie Edison Jessee, and Marcos Jessee would have been third cousins from Marcos' father, Samuel Jessee's side, but first cousins on the Frances and Nannie Mary Anne Jessee side. I believe if we could find out who all of John Counts Jessee and Margaret Cross' children were, we would find that Nannie Mary Anne Jessee, my grandmother, was their daughter.

My father told me that there were two [or more] John and Jeff Jesses [living in this area], when talking about his grandparents. So the signatures on the marriage license for Frederick Winfred "Fred" Jessee and Nannie Mary Anne Jessee were: "T.J" for Thomas Jefferson Jessee, Frederick's father, and John "Biggie" (Jessee), Nannie's father. Biggie was not a last name but a nickname used to differentiate him from other John Jesses. This made her and my grandfather first cousins. I always understood that they were first cousins. Since we were trying to find who Nannie Mary Anne was, I believe this is the answer.

Your Cousin,

Cecil Jessee

The Purpose of This Newsletter

I research my immediate ancestors:

the Armstrong, Smyth/ Smith, Porter, Duncan, Bickley, Richman/ Richmond, BARTEE and Barrick families; and many other Southwest Virginia families who have intermarried with the JESSEE family 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 and record all of the descendants of the fifteen children of John Jessee and Frankey Lea, and assist other Jesse and Jessee family members with their genealogy research. This is admittedly a monumental chore. I am giving myself the rest of my life to accomplish it, and may he live so long! The fun is in the learning and the friendships I develop along the way. I am rewarded all the time by the visits, conversations, and correspondence I have with you.

The purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate the exchange of information and significant documents relative to the genealogy of the Jessee and related families whose roots may be found in Southwest Virginia. I will enter all genealogy information provided me into a Jessee Family database. I will share charts or data files with you on request.

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. Please feel free to correct anything I may have wrong. My goal is an accurate and well-documented database for our posterity. Please provide me addresses of others who may be interested in our effort. I am looking for those willing to help provide and exchange information or represent their branch of the family or area of the country. I can provide and receive genealogy information by computer using diskettes and by e-mail.

I very much appreciate your donations in defraying the considerable cost of research, printing and postage of this newsletter and the other materials I send to inquirers. I am asking for a minimum donation of \$10 a year for two issues of the newsletter, more will help support the effort and those who can't afford to subscribe. Please share what you can.

Jessee Family Newsletter Reprints

At the request of many, I have now collected Jessee Family Newsletters #1-7, January 1992-August 1995, and Newsletters #8-9, into separate reprints, although without some attachments, as they have become obsolete. You may request these and other back issues, as well as specific pedigree or descendants charts for \$10 a set. Your additional donations to help me defer the costs of research, printing,

copying, and postage are very much welcome.

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*It is a noble faculty of ours
which enables us to connect our thoughts,
our sympathies, and our happiness
with what is distant in place or times--
to hold communion with our ancestors.
We become their contemporaries,
live the lives they lived,
endure what they endured
and partake of the rewards
which they have enjoyed.*

Daniel Webster