

# Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #31

Summer 2007

Vol. XVI No.2

## Dear Cousin,

Life continues to be full, with family deaths, heart-breaks, and illnesses, and that annoying and increasing disability. Because I cannot key for very long at the computer, I bought Voice Recognition software, only to learn my computer hardware cannot handle it, not robust enough, like me.... Then I decided to convert the Newsletter to new software.... He should have had his head examined! But once I actually began the summer edition, and with thanks to the many supporters who provide the content of this newsletter, I rediscover my enthusiasm.

We did not attend the 2007 Reunion, but Mary Akers shared photos, and they made me wish I had been there. I have had no report yet, so ask that you share your story of the reunion for our next Newsletter.

It turned out I was in the hospital that weekend. After a year-long odyssey, I had half my thyroid removed. The tumor was benign, whew! I thank those who included me in their prayers. We had not planned to go, as we committed this year's vacation to a trip to Israel in March. That surgery was not in my summer plans either. I share photos and comments on our trip inside, and plan a more complete photo album on the Jessee Family Web page later.

I am pleased that we have new contributions for some of John and Frankey's 15 children, but the newsletter has scant news about some of the others. That news depends on you. The family database continues to grow with about 45,000 records. I am excited and gratified every time I extend the descendants for the Jessee family and am always astounded as I see increasing evidence of the interrelatedness of all these SW Virginia families. We are all cousins.

We have an interesting newsletter. My spirits are always uplifted by your letters, emails, calls, and renewals. Yes, check your mailing label; If the expiration is January 2008 or past due, this is the time to renew your subscription for all of next year to January 2009. Those subscribed to January 2008 or beyond will get the Winter 2008 Newsletter as a reminder. I do consider discontinuing the work to do the printed Jessee Newsletter, especially when my disability flares up and I wonder if I can continue, so I need to hear that it is wanted or not, and supported adequately by your subscriptions. Thank you.

**Jim Jessee**

## Featured This Edition

**MARY AKERS** provides photos of the JHF 2007 Jessee Family Reunion, and indicates it was a good time for all.

**VERNON & PAULINE SALYERS** provide information about this year's JHF project, the first volume of *Jessee Stories & Remembrances* that is available for purchase.

**JHF News & Views** and the John Jessee Cemetery and Mill Projects have a summary of information and commentary, but no progress to report.

**SW Virginia Families**, Other Jesse/ee/ie/ey Families, and SW VA Family Origins include several tidbits of information on the **Browning** and **Fuller** families, and news from other "Jesse" family descendants of **John Jesse and Clia Smith**, and **Richard Jesse and Frances Chowning**. There is an exciting article on **Genetealogy**, genetic genealogy and DNA testing, with a request to participate.

**Find news on John and Frankey Lea Jessee and their fifteen children.** See new information and photos, read heart-warming stories, letters, and meet new cousins inside. Several have sent articles and photographs which I am happy to feature.

**I have shared a eulogy which I did for my Aunt Mary Jessee**, another remarkable woman who illustrates the strength and character of those brave enough to marry a Jessee man.

**THOMAS PHILLIPS** wrote to share information regarding the **Lea Jessee descendants of William Nelson Gray** and family, and shared wonderful photos.

**Jim and Nelda's Trip to Israel** is shared with a selection of photos. I write a bit about my Mother's family, most of whom perished in the Holocaust. Three survivors made it to Israel from European DP camps in 1948, and helped build that country. I was reunited with their Sabra children, my second cousins, and met their children and grandchildren while there in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

**Missing Links and Correspondence** have items of interest and requests for help.

**Jessee Resources on the Web** has a few more Web sites for us computer geeks and the latest information regarding the development of the Jessee Family Database.

# The 2008 National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, June 21, 2008

at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center,  
300 Stanley Street, Abingdon, VA

The 2008 Jessee Family Research Day  
Friday, June 20, 2008

at the Russell County Library  
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

The Jessee Family Research Day is held on Friday, preceding the reunion, at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA. The activities begin at 9 a.m. and end about 4 p.m.

The Jessee Family Reunion and Picnic is held on the third Saturday in June each year, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park, Abingdon, Virginia. The Jessee Historical Foundation holds its annual membership meeting during the reunion.

**To get there:** Take exit 19 from Interstate 81, go north on Route 11-Main Street toward Abingdon, approximately 0.7 mile. Bear right (north) at the second light onto Thompson Street, beside the shopping center. Go about 100 yards, then go right on Stanley Street. Coomes Recreation Center will be around the big curve, over the hill on the right.

Remember to bring a covered dish, enough to feed your family and at least four additional "cousins." You may bring a folding chair. Bring your musical instruments.

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

Phone: 276-676-2282 or Fax: 276-676-3076,

E-mail: [acvb@abingdon.com](mailto:acvb@abingdon.com) or

Internet: [www.abingdon.com/tourism](http://www.abingdon.com/tourism).

## The Silent Auction Needs You

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

## For picnic and silent auction information contact

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

# Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

## The JHF board, officers, and volunteers:

The following were elected by the JHF membership for 2005-2009. The membership voted at the annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Reunion and Picnic, Saturday, June 18, 2005.

Hank Davis, President

Mary Akers, Vice-President

Norma McHone, Treasurer

Karen Hall, Recording Secretary

Patricia Jessee Stone, Membership Secretary

Board of Directors: Mary H. Akers, Beverly Jo Elswick, Nancy S. Elswick, Diane Fuller, Sandra J. Hood, James "JC" Jessee, Robert Trigg Jessee, Joy Jessee Malone, Irene Jessee Perry, Helen R. Reedy, Pauline P. Salyers, Vernon L. Salyers, Janice S. Tiller.

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

## Membership Information

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

Annual membership will run from reunion to reunion each year. Dues will be collected at the annual reunion in June for the following year. JHF membership dues for 2007/2008 are due at the Family Reunion or mailed in after June 16, 2007.

There are three categories of membership. Anyone age 81 or older may request free lifetime membership. The annual fee is \$10 per person. Ask about lifetime membership, too.

1. Regular Member: If you have a Jessee, Jesse, Jessey or Jessie surname, or are an adult Jessee descendant you are eligible to be a regular member with full voting privileges. Please provide information to verify your Jesse(e) lineage.
2. Associate Member: Spouses, related family, or friends of a regular member, who are non-voting.
3. Junior Member: Family members under age 18, who are non-voting.

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

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

# Highlights of the 2007 Jessee Annual Reunion

MARY AKERS provided the following photos of the 2007 Annual Reunion, held at Abingdon, VA June 16, 2007. I recognize virtually everyone in these photos, but my memory fades on some names. Please forgive me for not identifying everyone featured here. These are our family stalwarts that make it happen.

VERNON & PAULINE SALYERS [vpsaly@naxs.net] wrote, 5/7/2007 with information about the first volume of *Jessee Stories & Remembrances*, that is available for purchase.

Greetings Jessee Cousins,

The first edition of your Jessee memories is finally in print! It contains 182 pages with 72 stories and 120 black & white pictures & drawings with comb-binding. The front & back cover features original colored artwork of Carl B. Jessee (this alone makes it worth owning). Below is an excerpt from the book's introduction by Janice Jessee Tiller.

“This book has resulted from the dedication, cooperation and enthusiasm of many people. These include everyone who wrote a Jessee family story and those that ordered a book. Working on this book has brought all of us closer to our own ancestors and to early life in Southwest Virginia. In addition, it is a description of this area as it is in present time, prepared for our grandchildren. It is a tribute to our Jessee forefathers and a legacy to our descendants. Our ancestors were as tough and supple as the hickory out of which they fashioned the handles of their axes.

I think you will find that reading this book is like coming home again, to find everything just as you remembered: worn quilts on the brass bed, Grandpa dozing in the rocking chair by the fire, and Grandma's peach cobbler baking in the oven. These stories are just the sort of friend we want to find waiting for us. Woven into these stories are many of the fabled characters of Southwest Virginia, independent, hardworking people whose pride transcends poverty. Above all, it reminds us of the everlasting pull of the Virginia mountains and hollows themselves.

This is dedicated to anyone who has ever carried a coffin to a family plot high up on a ridge, because mountain folk know it is best to lie where breezes from the hills whisper, “You're home”. Although scattered far and wide, Jessee families will always call these Virginia mountains home.”

The books will be available at the Annual Picnic on June 16th at the Coomes Center in Abingdon, VA or may be ordered now. They are \$25 plus \$5 per book if mailed. Please make check payable to JHF & mail to: If you have any questions contact me 276-889-0055 or through e-mail or mail.

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

Photo Below: Pauline and Vernon Salyers at the Reunion



Faye Jessee and Family at 2007 Reunion



JC Jessee and Family



Nellie Jessee above-Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee below\



JHF President Hank Davis and wife Hope



Joy Jessee Malone at Silent Auction



## JHF News & Views

**The Jessee Historical Foundation, JHF, publishes its own newsletter, JHF News & Information--The Official Voice of the Jessee Historical Foundation.** The JHF Board has indicated that I am only to publish in this Newsletter and on the Website information formally transmitted to me via their liaison. In addition, I am not to suggest any further JHF involvement in restoration of Jessee's Mill, as well as the Jessee Cemetery, and to remove such references or inferences from the Website and Newsletter. For this and other concerns I have resigned from the JHF Board, but continue as a member and wish to be helpful to the organization.

**I will need you to be my reporters and to contribute stories and photos of JHF events and meetings.** Please do so only with the understanding that I want to publish them on the Jessee List, in this Newsletter, and place them on the Jessee Website, and that I have your permission to do so, now and in the future. I make no profit doing this, so copyright is not an issue, but please know I will be placing your work in the public domain.

**The editors of the JHF Newsletter ask for suggestions and comments for the JHF Newsletter in their About This Publication.**

"It was decided by the Board of Directors that it would be a nice idea to communicate with the members in conjunction with our annual Research Day & Picnic. This publication is totally separate from and not to be confused with the Jessee Family Newsletter published by Jim Jessee. Our publication will only be sent out once a year prior to the JHF Research Day & Reunion. Please send any suggestions or comments to either of the publication committee members."

Vernon Salyers, PR Chairman  
Rt. 1 Box 97, Lebanon, VA 24266-9685  
276-889-0055

J.C. Jessee  
PO Box 83, Lebanon, VA 24266-0083

I will continue to offer the services of the Jessee Genealogy Service, [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) website, the Jessee List on RootsWeb, and this Jessee Family Newsletter as a vehicle for the JHF board to communicate to the greater Jessee family. I will gladly share JHF news and information of board agendas, minutes, and photos of activities and events.

I get literally hundreds of "hits" per month on my Jessee Genealogy Service website, and dozens of email messages from those who have first learned about the JHF and the Jessee Annual Reunions from this website. I invite all, and especially JHF board members, to join the Jessee List and to subscribe to this newsletter as one of our means for better communication. When the JHF develops its own website, I will gladly link to it.

## JHF and Other Projects

All of the following projects have been discussed in the Jessee Family Newsletter and on the Jessee List for many years. Several were adopted and acted upon by the first JHF board, and several milestones were achieved. I hope the JHF board will consider all the activities and goals listed here.

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

**3. Creation of a Jessee Book, Remember When, with family stories, histories, and photos.** This too has been accomplished, the first volume was available at the 2007 Reunion. Please contact Mary Akers for more information. See page 2 for her address.

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

The first of these, a private highway sign for Jessee's Mill has been accomplished, and now a commemorative marker for John Jessee, Revolutionary War Soldier at the cemetery behind the Mill Creek Baptist Church. This approach may set a precedent for developing further private directional, commemorative, and historical signs for additional family landmarks, cemeteries, and the like by the JHF. I hope so.

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

Missing from this list of JHF activities is any official JHF support or leadership 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 projects the current JHF Board has refused to consider. There needs to be separate efforts distinct from the JHF and most probably other Russell County public or private historical or genealogy organizations, to achieve the following projects. If you feel differently about this, please tell the JHF Board.

## John and Frankey Lea 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. Mr. Herndon, who lives on the property, has indicated that he is not willing to cooperate with the Jessee family at this time. I believe we will 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. I ask that we not bother Mr. Herndon with unauthorized visits to his farm and 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.

JHF efforts to establish a John Jessee memorial at the cemetery behind the Mill Creek Church are welcome, but do not mitigate the above goal.

## Jessee's Mill Declared National Historic Landmark

**JOE JESSEE** (joejessee@yahoo.com), our JHF founding president (2001-2005), provided this terrific news for the Summer 2005 Annual Reunion.

**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 May 5, 2005, and the article appeared in the *Lebanon News*, 5/11/2005.



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

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

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

## Mill Creek Historic Community

Kathryn Greever, Joe Jessee, Sherman Wallace and I, among many others, believe that an appropriate organization or benefactor should acquire Jessee's Mill along with the dam above it and the Jessee School for a Jessee's Mill restoration project, as the anchor for a Mill Creek Historic Community. We have hopes to acquire enough land around the mill, dam, school, the Andrew Jackson Jessee home and the miller's home to preserve a sense of the historic Mill Creek Community. Sherman Wallace, the owner, indicates he is willing to work with a group or organization regarding these ideas. This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve these significant historical landmarks and perhaps create a small historical community around it for Russell Co. and all its sons and daughters across America.

I have asked various individuals, board members of the JHF and local history and genealogy groups in Russell County to consider how this project might happen. The response has been and continues to be nil, so I continue to offer the following plea.

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

Donors have offered to cover the costs of creating such a private non-profit charitable corporation. One of our family lawyers has also volunteered to help with the legal paperwork, and others are prepared to donate more to the effort. Sherman Wallace is willing to help, and others have offered to give modest amounts of money. At this time I would like to hear from any individuals who can offer time to help organize and participate in a small working committee there in Russell Co. This first group would discuss and set the goals and objectives of forming such an organization, outline strategies and means to achieve our goals, and determine the legal procedures and costs to form a public non-profit corporation dedicated to this purpose. I would like to form a committee that could become the core of the new board of directors for such an organization. The first chore is to determine whether there are enough interest, volunteers, and potential support to proceed further.

We have had many positive responses from others outside of Russell Co. offering modest donations and moral support but no offers of leadership from anyone or any organization nearby. We are disappointed to say the least, and may just have to shelve this dream until another time. May Jessee's Mill last so long.

## Jessee's Mill Preservation

Whether a Mill Creek Historic Community ever comes to be, the "preservation" of Jessee's Mill remains a major concern. As a historic Russell County landmark, you would think someone there would also care, especially since the owner is willing to cooperate with any public or private entity to stop deterioration, preserve it, and restore it someday.

**Here is a summary of what we know about the Mill from the many who have contributed.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

# SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES

Here I will feature articles, documents, and other information about other Southwest Virginia families who have intermarried with the Jesse(e) Family over many generations. Your contributions are welcome.

**LYNNE KASTAL** [lkastal@usa.net] wrote, 3/7/2007 and introduced the topic of **Genetealogy** as it may relate to our Melungeon ancestors, but in fact, this area of **genetics and genealogy** is of interest to all of us of SW VA origins.

Hi Jim, I'm one of your many cousins. We've corresponded in the past, but it's been awhile. I'm from the Martin Jessee line of John and Francis Lea.

Anyway, I'm writing because I've recently become aware of the new technology of genetealogy, making it possible to trace ancestry through the use of DNA.

Specifically, it can tell you where you originate from, thousands of years ago. It can also tell you of people from centuries ago that share the same ancestral DNA markers. The more people that get tested, the more information and links to the past that will be available. Read the story of "The Cheddar Man" that happened in England.

This testing is something that I would really like to do, however the ancestry information is located on the Y chromosome which I do not have. :-) Nor, do I have any brothers.

So, I'm just wondering if any of the Jessee clan have had this testing done or even know about it?

I wrote a post on my personal blog with more information and some good links. You can check it out at: <http://kastal.net/blog/>

**Genetealogy Melungeon DNA information**  
[http://www.jgoins.com/core\\_melungeon.htm](http://www.jgoins.com/core_melungeon.htm)  
<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/coremelungeon/>  
<http://www.melungeon.org/>

I responded, YES, I am also keenly interested in this for a variety of reasons, and have been reading much on this subject, especially the Y Chromosome studies for male lines of descent. The Mitochondrial DNA (mother's) line, should also provide us valuable ancestral lines information, too.

I have not yet done it, but intend to, and am also trying to find male descendants of my Grandfather on my mother's side, too. My mother was Jewish, so my Mitochondrial DNA line is of special interest to me, as being Jewish is matrilineal.

I will share this in the Jessee Newsletter and on the Jessee List, with a request to see who has done it in the Jessee family, or have plans to. We should all share this information. The Melungeon factor plays in here in our family, too.

Friends, any strictly all male line Jessee descendant of John Jessee can have his Y Chromosome DNA tested to determine where genetically we may find the Ethnic, Religious, or Geographic origin of our founding father, John Jessee.

Similarly, if there is a female line descendant of

one of John and Frankey's daughters willing to be tested, we may find the Mitochondrial DNA origins of Frankey Lea. This would be a daughter of a daughter of a daughter and so forth of Frankey Lea, so the surname would change every generation by the daughter marriages, but there are many Mitochondrial DNA descendants of Frankey among us.

If anyone is willing to do and share such information with us, we will learn very much about our common genetic origins for many SW VA families.

**JIM RICHEY** [Terealtor@aol.com] wrote 1/11/2007 with information about his new **Browning Families Book, Volume 2**.

Jim, the 2d volume of our Browning Families is about ready to go to the publisher. It should be ready to ship in mid April. It will be hard cover, about 760 pages, and contains additions & corrections to volume 1 plus new families and source data. These Browning families have their American origins in early (1600's) VA/MD/NC, etc., and spread south and west. Thank all of you who assisted in the project.

**"BROWNING FAMILIES" VOL. 2**, Should be ready to ship in April. Additions & corrections to Vol. 1, plus new families, with US origins in the 1600's, VA/MD/NC. Hard bound, about 760 pgs. From early 1600's to present. If you did not get Vol. 1, you will need it as Vol. 2 refers back to it in many families.

Vol. 2 Pre Pub. Price \$70, post paid. Vol. 1 REPRINT, price is \$70, post paid. Will ship both volumes for \$125.00. [As of 6/21/2007 he had only 12 copies left] Send check or MO with mailing address to:

Jim Richey 905 Sonesta Ave., #202, Palm Bay, FL 32905  
Email terealtor@aol.com, phone 321-951-9890

**YVONNE** [sissy19502000@yahoo.com] sent, 3/7/2007 a school photo (see below) taken at **Ephraim Browning Farm**. With Katie Tewell as the teacher...also, Imes, Bennett, and Browning Children. She would like help identifying when this photo was taken.

Here is some info on the children in the photo... go to.. <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=labrat55&id=I3070>

D: I3070  
# Philip IMES # Birth: 28 JAN 1850  
# Death: 31 MAR 1909  
# Burial: Mt. Zion Cemetery, Southampton Twp., Bedford Co., Pa.  
Father: Jacob IMES b: 1823  
Mother: Barbara ROLAND b: 1821  
Marriage 1 Lavenia B. TRAIL b: 9 JUL 1858  
\* Married: in Blue's Gap, Bedford Co., Pa. 1  
Children

1. Amy IMES
2. Carrie IMES
3. Marshall IMES
4. Minnie IMES
5. Philip IMES
6. Barbara IMES
7. Anne IMES
8. Emma IMES
9. John IMES
10. Zella IMES b: 1877
11. Cassandra (Kate) IMES b: 1879 Marriage 1 George C. MILLER b: 1875  
\* Married: Children 1. James MILLER b: 1900 2. Anna Belle MILLER b: 1902 3. Howard MILLER b: 1904  
4. John MILLER b: 1905 5. Emmett MILLER b: 1907



12. Charles IMES b: 1882
13. Ernest C. IMES b: 1884
14. Edna E. IMES b: ABT 1890
15. Martha IMES b: 1892
16. Levenia G. IMES b: 1893
17. Walter L. IMES b: 26 AUG 1900

## Jesse(e) Family Origins

There are many “Jessee,” “Jesse,” and “Jessie” families in the United States and Canada that we know are descended from families whose American origins are in Virginia. There are many Jesse, Jessee, Jessie, Jessey and, perhaps, Gesse, Gessey, Jeshy, Jaci, Jacy, and Jacie families in the world whose kinship is unknown. I believe we are all cousins. As “Jesse” and “Jessee” are the two most frequent spellings of this family name, I shall adopt the convention of using “Jesse(e)” in reference to the larger family.

Please see Newsletter #10 for an extensive discussion and summary of what we know so far about the origins of the Jesse(e) families in America. The many clues there lead us to several new avenues of research on the origins of the Jesse(e) families in, at least, Amelia Co., Cumberland Co., Essex Co., Isle of Wight Co., King and Queen Co., King William Co., Lancaster Co., Nansemond Co., Middlesex Co., and Spotsylvania Co., VA, not to mention the Isle of White and Devonshire, England.

**JODY BORTZ** [Jo.Bo@YVOIC.org] wrote 6/22/2007 with information about **William Morgan Jesse, son of John Jesse and Clia Smith**. Please feel free to write to Jody.

# Bertha A. FETTERS

# Birth: AUG 1888 in Pa.

Father: Hezekiah FETTERS

Mother: S. Margaret (Margarette) BENNETT b: ABT 1861

Sources:

1. Abbrev: 1900 Bedford Co., Pa. census

Title: 1900 Bedford Co., Pa. census

Page: p157a; age 11--living with maternal grandmother.

**MICHAEL JOHNSON** [twidley@cablone.net] wrote 2/2/2007 with information about the **Fuller Family**.

Hi Jim, My sister and I have struggled with the Fullers, are we, or are we not decendants of Samuel Fuller of the Mayflower, however I would like to share with you our website and the information we have on the Fullers. My GG Grandfather was Silas Marian Fuller, His Daughter Mettie married Benjamin St John, this is where our side started with the Fullers. We also have a tree on Ancestry.com

<http://www1.tribalpages.com/tribe/browse?userid=kj1346&view=8&tview=0&rand=93007&lastname=FULLER>

Top Row,  
( teacher - Katy Tewell ) Lilly Trail - Kate Imes - Barb Imes - Bert Bennett - Kerr Bennett  
Mary Wingfield - Elwood Bennett - Anna Imes - Charley Imes - Irene Bennett - Joe Bennett

Middle Row,  
Edith Cooper - Minnie Imes - Ella Browning - Amanda ( Mable ) Imes -  
Anna Bennett - Emma Imes - Minnie Imes - Ella Bennett

Bottom Row,  
Nora Imes - Zella Bennett - John Imes - Carrie Imes - Sam Bennett - Bertha Fetters - Top Browning - Edna Imes  
( identified by Georgie Logeston )

Ephraim & Marjorie Browning's Farm was the home place of Joshua Sr.



Hello Jim, I wrote you years ago and then stopped with the genealogy line. I am again attempting to start but am limited as I live where internet is not available (imagine that). Currently I am writing you with my work email and would be very interested in any information that you might be able to provide.

William Morgan Jesse  
James Madison Jesse  
Elizabeth Jane Jesse (Great Grand mother)  
John Peden Harris (Grandfather).

Two of Elizabeth Jane and Erl W. Harris' children are still living. I would be interested in sharing any info that you might have or I might be able to provide. I look forward to hearing from you. Jody

**MARY IN ALABAMA** [mydesire.gulftel.com] wrote in April 2007 with inquiries and information about **Richard Jesse who married Frances Chowning** in Middlesex County, and other records of Jesse(e) family members.

Hi Jim, Thank you for your web site.

I have a cousin who has done much research on the Chowning line. Her marriage records to me list 13 Oct 1793 for Richard Jesse married Frances Chowning. Frances is the daughter of Thomas Chowning who is the son of John Chowning and Rachel Tugwell and John is the son of Thomas Chowning and Sarah Davis. ...You may have already written about this since I believe the Chowning cousins have been looking for the William Chowning and Elizabeth Jesse marriage for months and months. ...

There is a Cemetery book for Middlesex Co., VA and they have "Jessie Cemetery" This is another cemetery ravaged by time and man. Years ago the stones at the old Fairfield Plantation were broken and scattered by farm machinery. The 1978 publication, Historic Building in Middlesex County Virginia, states that Fannie Jessie was buried in the Jessie graveyard here.

Mrs. Jessie's husband may have been buried here also. In 1802 James Monroe, Governor of Virginia, appointed Thomas Jessie additional inspector of tobacco at the warehouse in Urbanna and at Rosegill." "Fannie A. Jessie D. Oct 25, 1897."

Also, in that same book. William Jesse burial site "When Rt 17 in the Church View area was widened to four lanes, ten pine boxes were buried beneath the pavement. The one tombstone, that of William Jesse, was moved to the Hermitage Baptist Church cemetery. The inscription on the stone proved prophetic indeed." Its that same verse Carlyne [Ritter] had in her message.

The face of the tombstone is pictured in this book and it read "Obi March 19, 1810 Age 55 Years, 1 month 2 days." Which give a birth of 17 Feb 1755.

This Hermitage Baptist Church Cemetery is the same place that my Chownings are buried. The north end of Middlesex Co close to Essex Co. ....

A while back I had a film of Court Orders in Middlesex Co. VA 1794-1797 (from FHL) and this is one; July 1794, " Henry Chowning, Thomas Blake, John Jessee, and Thomas Montague or any three do review a way along which the road is to run from Price's Mill to the Royal Oaks for public access." I'm not sure just where Price's Mill or Royal Oaks is in 1794

Middlesex Co., VA. There was also mentioned; Bowden vs Jessee 1795, John Jessee vs John Clarke, Clark to pay Jessee for 2 days as witness; Jessee vs Saunders. I wasn't as interested in the Jessee name then and didn't write down the month but it was on that FHL film. The Binn Inter net site <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~ysbinns/vataxlists/> has John Jessee in the 1801 Personal Property list and a few other Jesse family names, Richard, Thomas and Samuel but no Wm at that time. Surely if he was 55 in 1810 then the tax would have him on the 1801 Personal property (age 46) There is a William Jessee on the 1790 Middlesex Co., VA Personal Tax. Maybe Wm was living and counted under one of his sons in 1801 at age 46???? Its a mystery and its not the first mystery with names coming and going on the tax list.

Mary in Alabama

## Phillip and Rachel Jessee

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

Gabriel Jessee descendants Irene Jessee Perry, Janice Jessee Tiller, Carl Jessee, and J.C. and wife Nellie Jessee have been generous supporters and stalwart workers who have helped establish the Jessee Family Foundation and volunteer for many other Russell County history, cemetery restoration, and genealogy projects. For their work, we thank them. I invite family members to submit photos and other articles of interest for us all to enjoy.

**MESSAGE BOARD POST** [<http://boards.rootsweb.com/localities.northam.usa.states.virginia.counties.russell/7039/mb.ashx>], 5/12/2007, quote from:

*The Compiler*, Gettysburg PA, 24 January 1859

Mr. Philip Jessey, aged 120 years, died in New Garden, Russell Count, Va., on the 1st of December. A short time before his death he was able to attend to his own household affairs, and one day while in his one hundredth year he cut and split one hundred rails.

## John and Frankey Jessee

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

### Will the Real John Jessee Please Stand Up

I have wondered when would come the day that someone would seriously question if our John Jessee is the same John Jesse or Jessey who served as a musician in Yarboro's Regiment, NC Continental Army. I can feel the shudder across the family, as all John Jessee based DAR and SAR applications are dependent upon this fact. Our master researcher and myth debunker, **TOM RUDDER**, has dared to ask the question and has been researching it for some time. The Winter 2007 Newsletter outlined the facts as

Tom presented them. Tom has girded his loins to go public with these questions to the family.

JIM: I'm not sure whether or not I've ever told you that I do not believe that our John Jessee was in the NC Continental Army. While deleting some old sent mail I ran across this Email. It covers well why I feel that way. I think the clincher is the Pierce Register which shows that a John Jessey was issued certificate # 90278 which was in the group of #s issued to Thomas Clark of the 1st. regiment while Yarborough was in the 3rd. Someone will have to show me more convincing evidence to change my mind.

## Will the Real Frankey Lea Please Stand Up?

The 2006 research of the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde speculates that Frankey is the daughter of George Lea, son of this William Lea, and Lucy Tolbert, born in 1761. This is one of the possible candidates we have outlined for many years in previous Newsletters, on the Frankey Lea record in the database, and 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, but it must be further researched.

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

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

**DEBRA ROOKARD** [drookard@carolina.rr.com] wrote, 6/4/2007, with this Lea Family information from Caswell Co., NC, to help us with our search.

Hi Jim, I don't know if you monitor the Caswell Co site, but if not – this very interesting Lea post appeared yesterday.  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nccca/pdf/leafamily/margaretmoffettelea.pdf>

## JOHN AND FRANKEY'S CHILDREN

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

### I. John Jessee, Jr.

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

**JO DEE JESSIE BIDDLE** [jdbiddle1@yahoo.com] wrote, 2/2/2007, regarding **George Washington Jessee and Andrew Jackson Jessee**, sons of Archer Jessee and Nellie Smyth, son of John Jr.

Hey Jim...I noticed as I was reading through the database trying to pick up some new clues that there was some question that George Washington Jessee and Andrew Jackson Jessee might be twins or the same person (sons of Archer Jessee and Eleanor Smyth).

I don't think there's any doubt that they're twins. The 1850 census has them both listed in Russell County, Virginia living with Nelly age 40...I'm pretty sure Nelly would be a pet name for Eleanor. And, it seems as though the census taker made a notation on the census indicating they were twins (there's a curly bracket connecting both names). I think brother and sister, John and Mary, are also twins because they're the same age, and similarly notated.

Both George and Andrew are living in Carter County, Kentucky by the 1870 census...Andrew is there as just Jackson Jessee. Interestingly enough, they both have first daughters born very closely together and both named Martha Ellen.

If you remember, I descend from George Washington Jessee...I'm filling in holes now. Also, you have some notes of mine listed under Robert Lee Jessie where I'm referring to stories about my grandfather... Robert Lee was my great-grandfather and the stories refer to his son, George W. Jessie. Don't know that it matters but wouldn't want the readers to get confused.

**JIM JESSEE**, provided these remarks at the services for his Aunt **Mary Lowen Jessee**, March 13, 2007.

I thank [Mary's children] Donny and Dan, Bobby and Teri for giving me this honor to speak today. While I have always felt close to Aunt Mary, Nelda and I have been lucky to spend more time with her these last few years, inviting her to dinner and family gatherings at our house, and she inviting us to dinner and to play cards at her home. I got to interview her about genealogy and record a bit of her Lowen family history, too. Nelda was fortunate to drive Mary to visit her sister, Myrtle Ewert, in Redding this fall, and had wonderful conversations. She also learned that Aunt Mary like to visit Redding by way of the Corning Casino. Both of us had many phone calls with her, too. And still it wasn't enough, and you regret those invitations declined, phone calls missed, and the time that passes so quickly.

I know I said "Donny and Bobby," I can't help it. Donny asked me if I actually know that her real name is Donna Jean and did I have it correct in all that genealogy stuff I do? Yes, I do and have it correct, and Robert Frederick, too, but I can't help but remember those days



when we were, indeed, quite a handful of Jessee cousins, and we were just Donny, Billy, Johnny, Nancy, Tony, and then the pack, Stevie, Jimmy, Bobby, Gary, and Darrell. We all went through school together at the same time. We were a lucky bunch of cousins, having 16 Jessee uncles, aunts, and parents, and all but Uncle Jerry living right here in Chico, mostly in the old Nord Avenue/Sandy Gulch Neighborhood, and all of us drawn together for birthday parties, BBQs, and celebrations at Grandma's on the Jessee Home Ranch, Uncle Norval's place at Lake Almanor, and those Family Christmas Parties at the Grange Hall, the old Bidwell School, where all those eight Jessee brothers went to school. Even Jerry's family, Aunt Marie and cousins Pat, Beverly, Marion, and Ronnie, were at all those reunions.

Those eight sisters-in-law, our mothers and aunts, had a special bond, and no wonder. If you knew anything about those Jessee uncles, it was self defense! I told Bobby that all my childhood memories of Aunt Mary were nice ones, she was kind, loving, and helped us in quiet ways, and was a knee to lean on. Bobby said all our aunts were nice, and indeed they all were. They were a very special group of women. We were a lucky group of kids to grow up in this family. Aunt Mary was the last of that generation, and I mourn for all of them. She would have been 90 this year, and we were anticipating a wonderful birthday party for her.

Mary Jean Lowen was one of nine children of George and Marie Laubenstein Lowen. George was born in Minnesota, and Marie was from Prussia, Poland today. Mary and six of her siblings were born in Saskatoon, Canada. The youngest two, Hilda "Dixie" Montiel, and William "Bill" Lowen, were born across the river in Glenn County, and are thankfully living. Her older sister Myrtle, age 92, is also living in Redding. Donna and Bob have an additional 16 Lowen aunts and uncles, and I dare say very many cousins, some of whom are here today.

The Lowen family was Mennonites, German Baptists, or Anabaptists, and the history of this religious group is one of persecution, destitution, and poverty, not unlike the Jews. They were driven all over then out of Europe. Many settled in America and Canada where they found religious freedom. The Mennonite Community of Glenn County today is a strong and very visible group that has been an integral part of the history of our region. Aunt Mary had a very strict religious upbringing.

Then she met and married Uncle Bob! They had a wonderful and adventurous life, with lots of good times with family, friends, and neighbors. They were a social hub, not to mention Election Precinct Polling Place. Mary was a member of the Junior Arts Club and the Chico Woman's Club, where she was very proud of their charity work. Many a pinochle and bridge party was hosted at Bob and Mary's. There, a very special group of women, family, friends, and neighbors, gathered often to play cards over a 50-year span. Most of those old friends are gone now, but there are some here today.

Bob and Mary traveled the country with Ben and Carmen Bertagna, who were dear friends, and they had countless other adventures. In 1946, Mary got volunteered to drive Grandpa, NC Jessee, and Grandma, Blanche Hester Richman Jessee, on a three-month cross-country trip, where they visited relatives in Illinois and [Russell, County] Virginia, and others along the way. Now Grandpa was no picnic, and that trip was tattooed into Aunt Mary's memory. There were more than a few times when she was ready to give him the boot, but she stuck it out. Her stories were so great to hear, and she was so funny telling them. In her own words, "it was very educational."

Years later, Nelda and I found their trail in both Illinois and Virginia, where we saw their signatures in the guest book of the Howard Shirley family of Philo, Illinois, who were cousins and where Grandpa Jessee grew up. We met cousins in Russell County, Virginia who also remembered them visiting there, the very roots of the Jessee family in America. So you see this interest in genealogy and tracking down cousins all over the country runs deep in these Jessee veins.

Bob and Mary were just two days shy of their 38th Wedding Anniversary, when Uncle Bob died July 21, 1975. One family member described Aunt Mary as a dutiful Jessee wife, a loving mother, terrific sister, and a good and fun-loving neighbor and friend. After Uncle Bob died, Aunt Mary was turning 59. She had worked hard all her life on their home and helped Bob and the kids with all manner of chores and projects, and worked on the almond huller during harvest. She'd had some short term jobs downtown, Storkland among them, and was a terrific seamstress who did custom work, but she needed a job.

Her obituary briefly mentions her 25 years of employment with Housing and Food Services at Chico State. She was the meal ticket checker in the Whitney Hall Dining Room, and known as "Meal Card Mary." After 25 years, she retired in 2001, at the age of 84. She never looked her age, always youthful, energetic, and very active to the end. She always said she just loved the young people.

During her years as "Meal Card Mary" in the Whitney Hall Dining Room, she was known to memorize the name of every student from all the Residence Halls who came there to eat, several hundreds. She would address each one by name as they came through. Meegan Condon, who was a student there, now Earl's significant other, said that "She was the sweetest and nicest lady. She was everyone's Grandma." She said it made them so welcome to have her always address them by name. Darlene Chester, who works for Food Services today also recalled how sweet Mary was, and that she was well liked and highly regarded by all.

Mary greeted many thousands of our students over those 25 years; many will remember her with great fondness. She was once challenged by some of the students at Whitney Hall to go tubing with them on the Sacramento River on Labor Day. At about the age of 75, she went, and had a terrific time. Mary was one of those key staff at Chico State who interact with our students on a daily basis and help make, what we call in the University's recruiting literature, the "Chico Experience" a very warm and memorable one.

In her "real" retirement, she loved to travel, go to casinos, play cards, dance, and have fun. She had her card playing groups, and went to CARD dances and other events. Emma and her dance partner Beau loved to hook up with Aunt Mary at these dances, and Mary enjoyed cutting the rug with Beau, too. She taught Nelda and me how to play "Kings in the Corner" which she really loved to play. How many here ever played cards with Aunt Mary?

She took advantage of local tours and trips to the casinos, and drove herself where she wanted to go, long after she probably should have. Donna and Bob set down the rules, but she liked to "sneak drive", just to buy groceries, go to the doctor and get her prescriptions, or to drive the girls to the Corning Casino. We confess she confided in us about those "sneak" drives, and so we worried too, like Donna, Dan, Bob and Teri.

I don't want to give the impression that Aunt Mary was a spend-thrift. She strictly limited herself to \$20 maximum for her little gambling fun, per Casino. In the last couple of years, Mary made friends with Eleanor, who I understand is 93, and Margo, who is younger and became their driver. Whew! Thank you, Margo. They loved to drive about, to go out for meals--Hometown Buffet and Taco Bell I understand to be her favorites-- and to take "excursions" into the country. On a good excursion you could hit at least two casinos!

She dearly loved all her family and was lucky to have three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She traveled to Oregon many times and to Iowa to be with granddaughter, Michelle Gremler, her husband John and their two children. Bob and Teri took Mary back to Iowa for Christmas 2005, and they stayed in the new Gremler family home. She loved to tell stories about that trip, their beautiful home, and the frozen lake out back.

She was often back and forth to the O'Sullivans, Donna and Dan's, and grandsons, Kevin and Michael and their families in Yuba City and the Bay Area, and vice versa. She traveled on tours internationally to Russia and Germany, and, with sister Joyce Barkley, to a family wedding in Australia, which was a real highlight.

Somewhat recently, while on vacation with Donna in Memphis, TN, she was admiring some custom motorcycles parked along where they were walking, and said out loud, "I sure would like to take a ride on one of those." Next thing she knew, Donna looked back to see Aunt Mary ride off on a motorcycle with one of the bikers. She was fun.

She did beautiful sewing her whole life, and many a bride and bridesmaid, not to mention life-long customers, remember her beautiful work and Mary with love and affection. Some of you may be here today. She was still doing her seamstress work and had just finished the very last sewing project for her last customer, before she passed away. She left nothing to worry about.

Aunt Mary took care of herself, did better than you think from time to time with her Casino investments, and managed her life well. She told Nelda this fall that she felt good and hoped to live to be 100. She had taken care of all her funeral expenses and arrangements, so that Donna and Bobby would have nothing to worry about or that she should be a burden in any way. She always wanted to protect her children and didn't want them to be concerned about her. She could take care of herself just fine. She was often heard to say, "Don't worry, I'm fine." She lived a good life, independent and in her own home, and having fun to the very end.

Her zest for life, her ever-present positive attitude and optimism was so well expressed in her last conversation with Bobby. He said "Mom you just got to get better so I can take you for that motorcycle ride." She replied, "I am going to beat this." And Donna said her last words to her at the hospital was "Tell the kids, don't worry, I'm fine."

Her relatively sudden death came as a shock to all of us, but she went out the way she wanted, independent, on her feet, and having fun. And you know, she is fine, and we don't have to worry.

Jim Jessee

**CLAIRE ELIZABETH STEPHENS** [cfunnybunny@hotmail.com] wrote, 3/9/2007, regarding a possible connection of **Jessee and Stephens genealogy**, specifically **Martha Moore** who married **Beverly Floyd Jessee**, son of **Mathias "Mack" Jessee** who went to Texas.

I spoke with you on the phone today regarding the possible connection of the Stephens and the Jessee families. I have just started trying to trace back my lineage and am now stuck. I am very new to all this, so the terminology and appropriate presentation of lineage is foreign, so I will just write out what I know of the previously mentioned connection:

Martha Moore b Bentonville, Benton Co, Ark APR 02 or 22, 1870, daughter of male Moore and female McQuary, ?married? Smith Stephens ~1888. This union resulted in 1 known son James Orville Stephens b Bentonville, Benton Co, Ark, Dec 17, 1889. Martha Moore then married Beverly Floyd (Floyd J.) Jessee in 1893, in Tx/OK/Ark. None of the Stephens' knows where James Orville was at this point or where or with whom he resided, but Martha and Beverly Floyd had ~9 children including Bessie Marie who married Herbert Flatt resulting in a son Herbert Paul. My father and aunts recall having an Aunt Bessie Flatt and a cousin (I believe this is Bessie Marie Jessee Flatt and Herbert Paul Flatt). The 1910 US Federal Census (see attached) lists a Floyd J. Jessee (I believe this is Beverly Floyd Jessee) residing in Jackson, Coal, Oklahoma with spouse Martha Jessee. They have 7 Jessee children (eldest being Bessie) listed and 1 stepson "James Stevens" residing in their home.

I believe this "James Stevens" is James Orville Stephens although I think he would have been closer to 19 years old than the 17 years stated in the census. James Orville Stephens was extremely silent on his childhood according to my great aunts and uncles (his children). I believe this is the connection, however, as I am so new to all this I might be mistaken. I do have a copy of the census mentioned and a copy of a "Delayed birth Certificate" for James Orville Stephens. The signed affidavit portion was signed by Martha Jessee as being James Stephen's mother, and certified November 27 1953 by a notary public for the state of CA. James Stephen's mother is listed as Martha Moore b Benton Co, Ark and father as Smith Stephens b Benton Co, Ark. Martha Moore was 18 at James's birth and his father was 21. I will try to get a copy scanned on the computer to later email to you.

If you would like to know more about the current Stephens family, please let me know, and I can convey the information I have. I don't want to overwhelm you with the known Stephens lineage if it is not even relevant to you at all, and I may be completely off-base. If you are able to confirm the connection, that would be great.

I don't know why this has recently become such an important quest for me. I never knew my grandfather (James Orville's son Floyd A. Stephens Sr. who died when my father was a child) and I vaguely recall James O.'s other son James Francis who died a year ago. The Stephens name is disappearing as there are only 2 male Stephens' left the current generation.

Sincerely, Claire Elizabeth Stephens  
(possibly Great, Great Grand Daughter to Martha Moore)

I responded as follows.

I have very complete information for Beverly Floyd Jessee [thanks to Mack Jessee descendants], second marriage to Martha Moore, first child Bessie, etc. I do not have her first marriage to Smith Stephens, so appreciate what you have provided. You will find extensive pedigree and descendants information for them. Have you found the records for them via [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) and the link to RootsWeb. I think you can trust that you have correctly identified the family. Look at all my notes up and down line, as this has been provided by their descendants.

In return Claire shared a bit more.

Thank you for your diligence and hard work. I would never have discovered the connection if you had not posted all the Jessee family tree to the internet (I found the connection through the Stephens family memory of Bessie Flatt.)

Information for Martha Moore Jessee seems to be fairly scant and is the major connection between my great-grandfather James Orville Stephens and his half brothers and sisters of the Jessee clan. I read through what I could find on RootWeb. Do you know if any Martha Jessee's children ever mentioned their half brother James Stephens to anyone or in any correspondence?

Also, do you happen to know if Martha Jessee's death certificate would be worth ordering from the State of CA (would it list her parents names maybe)?

James Orville's death certificate is on order currently from the state of New Mexico. Or if anyone has ever tried to locate Martha Moore's birth certificate from Ark or Missouri or Texas (depending on which census you are inclined to believe)?

If you are interested I can tell you about the descendants of James Orville Stephens. Just let me know.

## II. Archer Jessee

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

Archer is variously referred to as Archa, Arch-able, Archibald in various family pedigrees and other sources. It is my opinion that his name is Archer, and I further speculate that Archer was the surname of his grandmother, or g-grandmother, perhaps in the Lea

family. Furthermore, his three wives are buried with him in the Archer Jessee Cemetery, and their stones indicate each as the wife of Archer.

**NINEZ R GILES** [ninez@juno.com] wrote 1/23/2007 with an inquiry about Jessee Family Photos of **Mary E. Jessee Skaggs** and others that she has. Mary E. Jessee is the daughter of **John Trigg or Taz Jessee**, son of Vincent, son of Archer.

Hello, I have a picture of Mary E. Jessee Skaggs, b. about 1864, with her young granddaughter Pearl Broyles. The picture was made about 1910. This is a picture postcard and there is writing from Mary Skaggs to her niece in Knoxville. Would you, and anyone else you know, have an interest in having a copy of this?

I understand Mary Jessee Skaggs was the daughter of John Taz Jessee and Mary Burk. I have other postcards also sent by Mary Jessee Skaggs. I don't know when she passed away, but she complained about not being well. I can make copies of this for you and any interested persons, also. I also have a picture postcard from the same album of three young children. There is no writing on this postcard, so I don't know who the kids are, but they could be related. The postcard would be from between 1908 and 1911. There is a little girl about 4 years old, a little boy about 3 and a baby about 8 months old. I wish I knew who they were! Anyway, let me know if you are interested in seeing any of this.

### III. William Jessee

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

I am sorry to report the death of Mary Jane Jessee Scarborough, who has been one of my earliest and most faithful supporters. I offer condolences to her family. She was a dear one. Here is her obituary.

**SCARBOROUGH, MARY JANE JESSEE** - loving wife and mother, died May 11, 2007 at Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center in Knoxville, Tennessee.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, George Yeardley Scarborough, and her sons Jessee Americus Scarborough, 45, of Asheville, North Carolina, and Edmund Lee Scarborough, 39, of Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. Scarborough was born in St. Paul, Virginia in August 1928, the second child and only daughter, to Charles James Jessee, Sr. and Angie Bell Semones Jessee. Her brother, Charles James Jessee, Jr., a retired attorney resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Fortright and moral in all her affairs, she was active in the community until shortly before her death. As she was compassionate to family, friends, and strangers, all whose lives were touched by her were blessed. She will be missed. A private grave side service will be held at the Highland Cemetery in Norton, Virginia.

### IV. Lea Jessee

Lea Jessee (1781-1852) married Barbara Gose (1788-1862), 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.

**THOMAS PHILLIPS** [tgordonphillips@yahoo.com] wrote 6/24/2007 with information regarding the descendants of **James Gray and Mary Jessee**, daughter of Lea Jessee and these wonderful photos here and on the following page.



B Row: Leona Gray Blewett, Baxter Blewett, Margaret Sparks Gray  
M Row: Henry N Blewett, Margie Hightower Gray, William E Gray, Charles H Gray  
F Row: Willis E Blewett, Charles O Gray

Dear Mr. Jessee, I am a descendant of James Maron Gray and Mary Jessee as follows:

James Maron Gray 1806-1865  
+Mary Jessee 1813-1886  
William Nelson Gray 1836-1894  
+Magie Anna Rebeccah Hightower 1846-1931  
Leonea Loeta Gray 1873-1955  
+Baxter Waldo Blewett 1877-1957  
Mary Margaret Blewett 1905-1995  
+Thomas Gordon Phillips 1903-1997  
Thomas Gordon Phillips 1931-

I would be happy to correspond with you in regards to the Gray and Jessee lines. I live in Columbia Missouri.

### V. David Jessee

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

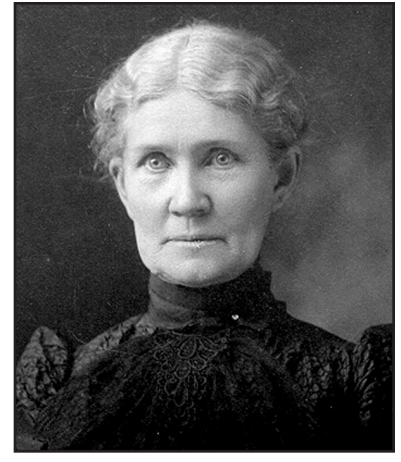
**JAMES D. STALLARD** [jdstal@mounet.com] wrote, 12/6/2006 with this important inquiry affecting **SAR and DAR members** who descend from David Jessee. This also started a cascade of related email.

Mr. Jessee, I have been working with Joe Culbertson and Peggy McClain on a line to John Jessee who was a Revolutionary war Patriot. I have good information on John to son David and from David's granddaughter Sara V. B. Jessee who married Elbert S. Salyer. I need documented proof that David W. Jessee, (Jr) who married Hannah Ann Skaggs is in fact David's (Sr) son. I have a copy of a deed where the heirs of David deeded land. However it only said "Heirs by law". As you know the Sons of the American Revolution have strict blood line proof. Any assistance that you could provide to prove David to David would be appreciated. ...

I have also contacted a Mr. Dye who has worked on the annotated Russell County census.... Also, thanks for the Conley Stallard contact, I will also look at his site. I have proven my line to Patriot Walter Stallard. I am a Great-Great-Great-grand son. Rawley Duncan Stallard to James Monroe, William F. to James H. to G.L.

Jim Stallard, Overmountain Men Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

**CONLEY STALLARD** [conley72@bellsouth.net] wrote, 12/3/2006 regarding **Bessie Kiser and Voda Lee Stallard**.



**William Nelson Gray & Margie Hightower Gray  
Arrive in Denton Texas by Covered Wagon 1880's**



Hi Jim, This is from Conley Stallard, as you copied me on your email, and I think you are interested in more info on Voda Stallard and Bessie (Kiser) Stallard. They were my Aunt and Uncle.

Voda Lee Stallard - Born 12 July 1899 (Social Security Index record), Dickenson County, Virginia, d 3 Dec 1980 in Norton, Va hospital; son of Catherine (Adkins) and Martin V. Stallard; m(1) 23 July 1919, to Bessie Kiser, b 8 July 1903, d 28 Apr 1944 (date on tombstone), Dickenson County, VA, dau of Sarah and Walter Eugene Kiser. Voda and Bessie had 4 children.

1. Verlin C. Stallard
2. Clynis Stallard
3. James Bernis Stallard
4. Beulah Nyella Stallard

Voda remarried 24 Mar 1945 to Opal Janette White, b 6 Aug 1921, dau of Carl and Flossie White. Voda and Opal had two children.

1. Diana Stallard
2. Joseph Randal Stallard

**JAN DAVIS** [jldavis@woh.rr.com] wrote, 11/29/2006, regarding **Bessie Kiser and Voda Lee Stallard**.

Bessie is the daughter of Walter Eugene Kiser and Sarah Ann McCoy. Voda Lee Stallard is the son of Martin Van Buren Stallard and Sarah Catherine Adkins. Martin is the son of Harmon Benton Stallard and Sarah Jane Casteel (2nd marriage).

Here is the information that Conley sent to me. If you need more information, Conley's email address is conley72@bellsouth.net.

Bessie - born 8 July 1903 - died 28 April 1944  
Married to Uncle Voda - 23 July 1919

I took a picture of her tombstone a couple of years ago and have attached a scanned copy of it for you to have. You probably know that she is buried at the Kiser Cemetery on Flat Top.

## VI. Elizabeth Jessee Gose

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

## VII. Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser

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

## VIII. Frances Jessee Stone

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

## 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, who married Barbara Gose, and Rebecca Jessee Gose above, as well as additional information under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

## XI. James Jessee

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

## XII. Rebecca Jessee Burk

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

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

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

## XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

Jane Jessee (1797-1869) married Henry Fuller (1792-1872), son of Abraham Fuller and Mary Sargent. They had ten children. This family moved to



Illinois. While I have a scant amount of descendants' information, I do not correspond with any descendant of Jane Jessee Fuller. 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.

**AL THOMPSON** [althomps35@aol.com] wrote, 1/31/2007, with the obituary for **Janie Caroline Jessee**, my Grandmother, wife of **Dewey Jessee**, she just passed away.

Janie Caroline Gibson Jessee, 105, of Lynchburg, died Tuesday Jan. 30, 2007, at The Summit Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Janie was born in Castlewood, Feb. 17, 1901. She was the second oldest child of 13 born to the late Homer Luther Gibson and Nancy Pippin Gibson. She married Dewey Alderson Jessee in 1924 and they had three children. She enjoyed nearly 60 years making a home for her family until Dewey's death in 1984. Janie was a member of Fort Hill United Methodist Church for over 70 years, a member of United Methodist Women, and she belonged to the Eleanor Watson Sunday School Class. She made her home for the last fourteen years at Valley View Retirement Center.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Nancy J. Woodward. Janie is survived by a daughter, Josephine J. Thompson Griffin; a son, Rodney Alderson Jessee; son-in-law, H. Manning Woodward Jr. and his wife, Eleanor; sister, Patsy G. Speth and her husband, Arthur; sister-in-law, Dean Gibson; seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Published in The News & Advance from 1/30/2007 - 2/1/2007.

## 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.

**SHELIA NALLY** [sjnally@hotmail.com] wrote 1/18/2007 with this day brightener and information about the **Ballard T. Jessee** family, and the devastating effects of **Hurricane Rita**. Ballard T. Jessee is the son of Thomas Ballard Jessee, son of Martin and Mary Jane Darnell.

Just wanted to let you know that I love the JESSEE FAMILY NEWSLETTER. Just got one today! It made my day! We have just had four days of freezing weather with rain and sleet and a few snow flurries. Think it got up to forty degrees today in Austin. I live a little northeast of Austin so I expect we may have gotten up to thirty-eight or thirty-nine. Ice is falling off my trees like leaves do in the fall. I hear that California is having some unusual weather this year also.

2006 sorta started for me in late September of 2005. Mother, Loletta Jessee Abernethy, lost her home to Hurricane Rita. I am her only child and just turned sixty. Mother stayed with me in Round Rock

for six months. She wanted to be home so badly that we fell prey to a con-man or two. So much damage and so few people to help with the cleanup. Most companies had sent their crews and anyone else they could spare to Louisiana. You hear very little about the damage to the Southeast Texas coast.

Mother was with me when the hurricane hit. Then I spent many days, weeks, months, trying to get things done so that Mother could move back home. The end of March, 2006, Mother was able to return to her place. She, we, still had problems. We filed charges against one man who took Mother's money and did not do the work, we wrote and visited the man that sold Mother the used manufactured home, still trying to get a clear title on the manufactured home. It is hard to believe how valuable one can be when everything has been lost.

Mother said this was the first time in her life that she did not have a roof over her head. Mother was eighty when the hurricane hit. Mother will never be the same. She seems defeated at times. The used manufactured home needed many more repairs than either of us ever thought of.

My mother, Loletta Aline May Jessee Abernethy, was born Lodeda Aline May Jessee on August 22, 1925. Mother says she remembers having coffee with her father, Ballard T. Jessee, in the mornings. Mother says her father died from an accident in the coal mines just about a month after going to work in the mines. Mother says that prior to that time, he was a railroad man and had taken a job in the mines to be home everyday to be near the children. Mother thinks she remembers that he was reading books on law. According to my mother's birth certificate, Ballard T. Jessee, was 29 years old when she was born. Mother says he died when she was about five.

Mother has no idea when the spelling of her first name changed because she only remembers being called "Lo girl". Mother's older sister was called "Pauliney" and Pauliney was the apple of their grandfathers eye (Thomas Ballard Jessee). Mother's younger sister was called "Tootsie" and Tootsie is deceased.

**KIMBERLEY SMITH** [kim0202@sbcglobal.net] wrote, 1/17/2007 with an inquiry regarding **Virginia Temperance Branson Jessee**, who married **Ira Taze Jessee**, son of **Stonewall Jackson Jessee**, son of **Martin Jessee**.

Hi my name is kimberley and i was doing research on Temperance Humphreys and William J Branson and came across your web site. I was wondering if you had any more info on the humphreys. I have alot of info and some pics on this side of the family. Just not on Temperance herself.

**CHARLIE JESSEE** wrote 2/26/2007 with this notice that **Dora Jessee**, age 99, had passed away.

Jim: Dora Jessee, daughter of Joseph Jessee (Hurricane section of Wise, Va) died last week. She was 99, and a lady much ahead of her time...BS from Radford College, and an MS from Duke University. She was my grade school principal...Her dad and my grandfather were brothers, and sons of Martin Van Buren Jessee.

## Jim and Nelda's Trip to Israel

Let me take editor's privilege and share with you on the following pages a few photos of our trip to Israel this spring. It was a trip of our lives, very educational, inspirational, emotional, and physically exhausting, and worth every minute. I am sharing photos of us and my mother's family in Israel, about whom I will share more following the photos. I am attempting to put many more of our photos up on the Website at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org), but need the help of my son, and he is hard to book anymore. I hope that happens by the end of the summer, and you can see more photos of what we experienced.

**We spent two weeks in Israel, and toured the entire country on a bus with a group of 18 people from our Congregation Beth Israel in Chico, CA.** We drove from Tel Aviv up the coast, along the Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egyptian borders in the north, east, and far south. We saw the Galilee, Golan Heights, Jordan River Valley, Dead Sea, Negev, and Red Sea. We had 4 days in Jerusalem, and 3 days in Eilat and Tel Aviv, with time in Jaffa, Haifa, Akko, Metulla, Tiberias, Nazareth, Capurnaum, Beit She'an, Qum Ran, and Masada.

Photos include Jim & Nelda below on the Mount of Olives overlooking the old Jerusalem City walls with the golden Dome of the Rock in the background. Another of Jim and Nelda at the Western

Wall, and Nelda at Capurnaum. At the bottom center is a photo of Jim and the Holocaust memorial for the community of Czestochowa, Poland, from which most of my mothers family perished in the Holocaust.

On the opposite page are my cousins, Bluma Shapira, her two daughters, and one of her four grandchildren with Jim. On the far right are two more of Bluma's grandchildren who are first cousins to each other. Then below those are my cousins, Amnon and Pessia (Herszlikowicz) Tabib, Bella (Szlamkowicz) Shalev, and in the red hair, cousin-in-law, Sarah Shalev, at an Arab restaurant. Lastly there is a photo of my cousin Sidney Shlomkowitz who we visited in New York City last September. He is the last Holocaust survivor in my family.





## My Mother's Family

It is hard to imagine for most of us Jessee and related kin, who can count our first and second cousins in the dozens, what it is like to lose nearly your entire family. My mother's parents, Israel and Esther (Szlankowicz/Shlomkowitz) Brownfield, were the only members of their families, parents, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, to escape Poland before WW II. Of at least 39 aunts, uncles, and cousins of my mother's, who were alive in 1939 in Czestochowa, Poland, only five first cousins survived the Holocaust. Most perished in Auschwitz.

My grandmother traced and found four of her five nieces and nephews after the war. Three went to Israel in 1948, having been rescued from Bergen-Belsen, and are the parents of Bluma, Bella, Pessia, whose photos are on the previous pages, (two sisters and two more of their brothers were not photographed and one brother is deceased). My reunion with them and their children and grandchildren was a very emotional and meaningful part of this trip.

The fourth nephew found alive, is my cousin Sidney Shlomkowitz, who went to New York City about 1950, and is a retired tailor. He and his wife Sally, also a Holocaust survivor, never had children. He was a "partisan" fighter, but also was sent to Auschwitz, Dora, and Bergen-Belsen where he survived as slave labor. He is the source of most of my information about my Mother's family and I speak with him nearly weekly. The fifth niece, Frymyt, was understood to have survived and gone to Canada, but we have never found her, and I have tried.

It is an irony, that I have had so much success, thanks to many of you, tracing our Jessee roots, and have recorded over 40,000 descendants and other kin to the Jessees, but have always been stymied on my mother's side. I have a scant few dozen records for her family, and it has been most difficult to trace her roots back into Poland, Russia, Galicia, and the Austro-Hungarian Empires, and they hardly moved! But ever more comes out on the Internet from time to time, and I have made some progress. You can find my work on my mother's family in the family database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org). Just look up my mother, **Frances Sylvia Brownfield**.

## Missing Links, Problems and Other Conundrums

**JUDY DYE RING** [[judyvonne@suddenlink.net](mailto:judyvonne@suddenlink.net)] wrote, 1/30/2007, with this inquiry about a **David Alexander Meade** Family discrepancy in her data.

Jim, I have run into a problem with David Alexander Meade. I did have him with 2 marriages but now find that can't be so. I am inclosing the marriage records and the census records. If you can shed any light on this please let me know

22/SEP/1879 D. A. (DAVID) MEADE 20 S RUSSELL CO.  
MARY V. BRADLEY 18 S RUSSELL CO.

N. T. (NATHAN) & MARY MEADE  
BERGESS & LYDIA (BUCKLES) BRADLEY JAMES A. JOHNSON

03/JUL/1883 DAVID MEADE 26 W RUSSELL CO.  
RACHEL COOK 25 S RUSSELL CO.  
N. T. (NATHAN) & MARY MEADE  
JAMES & RACHEL COOK  
J. H. JOHNSON

1880, 1900, 1910 AND 1920 DAVID IS STILL WITH MARY MOLLIE V. NOT RACHEL SO THIS MARRIAGE RECORD OF 1883 CAN'T BE RIGHT OR I AM MISSING SOMETHING SOMEWHERE.

1880  
CENSUS PLACE: CASTLESWOOD, RUSSELL, VIRGINIA  
SOURCE: FHL FILM 1255389 NATIONAL ARCHIVES FILM T9-1389 PAGE 19B  
RELATION SEX MARR RACE AGE BIRTHPLACE  
DAVID A. MEAD SELF M M W 20 VA  
OCC: FARMER FA: VA MO: VA  
MARY MEAD WIFE F M W 18 VA  
OCC: KEEPING HOUSE FA: VA MO:

1900 RUSSELL Co CENSUS VA  
DAVID A MEADE JUNE 1857 42 MD.21  
MARY V. JULY 1861 38 10/9  
MATTIE W. NOV 1880 19  
NATHAN C. AUG 1882 17  
MARY O APR 1885 15  
MAGGIE E APR 1888 12  
EDIE LEE APR 1890 8  
JACOB H. MAR 1892 8  
GROVER M. MAR 1894 6  
OCEA MAY JUNE 1895 4  
WILLIAM ROY MAR 1899 1

1910 RUSSELL Co CENSUS  
DAVID A MEADE 51 MD 31 YRS  
MOLLIE V 48 12/11 CHILDREN  
HENRY 19  
GROVER 18  
OCA M 16  
RHEA(RAY) 12  
SICAL(CECIL) A 10  
EASTER VIRGINIA 7

1920 RUSSELL Co CENSUS  
DAVID MEADE 60  
MOLLIE V 58  
WILLIAM F 21  
CECIL E 18  
EASTER V 16

**EILEEN PRICE** [[bigelkslayer@netscape.com](mailto:bigelkslayer@netscape.com)] wrote, 2/7/2007, regarding the **Larkin Herndon** genealogy

I was wondering if you might solve the following problem. My Great-Grandfather was born William Jennings Branham. However his Mother, Elizabeth Morgan Branham had an affair with the neighbor, a Mr. Andrew Jackson Ferrell, and of course the result was my Great-grandfather who was given the Branham name. This Mr. Andrew Jackson Ferrell was also the result of his Mother, Eliza (possibly Herndon) having left her husband to live with an Iroquois Indian in Ohio, baby being born 1828 Russell Co., Va. and also being given the married name of the Mother. Ethel Albert sites in her book

"Southwest Virginia Kin" on page 110 and again on page 133 that Andrew Ferrell was first married to \_\_\_\_\_ Herndon dau of Larkin Herndon of Russell Co. Va. Andrew Ferrell m. 2nd to Polly Slater 1835. After a lot of Ferrell searching I have concluded that Andrew Ferrell was Eliza's first husband.

His Mother being Nancy Jackson, and 1830 and 1840 census not to mention finding the family of Andrew Ferrell in nearly every area that Andrew Jackson Ferrell lives from Ky, Ohio, and Minnesota.

Eliza marries James Morgan (father of Elizabeth Morgan Branham) 1838 and is living next to Mrs. Betsy (Elizabeth) Morgan Branham and Elizabeth's husband died prior to 1850. I have a copy of the will

of Larkin Herndon and I do see that Andrew is referred to as Abram... however his children are William J and Sophia as stated in the will. Your site mentions all the children as are in the will except for just who is the wife of that Abram Ferrell.

Ferrell genealogists seem to think that Eliza's husband must have died for her to remarry in 1838, I'm thinking that she is disowned for the like, as he is very much alive in 1850 for the reading of the will of Larkin.

Disowned children are for the most part are just not mentioned. If you can shed any light on this sad state of affairs, or if you know someone who might have some answers, please drop an e-mail. I would be most grateful, as this is a difficult line to trace. Thank you, Eileen Price

Please feel free to post this on your site. Also, I might add that the 1820 Russell Co., Va Census lists Larkin as having 3 boys and 6 girls. And do you have David Herndon s/o Richard Herndon m. Luck Poe 1739 and their children listed as Larkin, Elizabeth, David, Capt Benjamin, Fanny, and Stephen? I can't say this is official but is a possibility. I am presently working with the 1820 census and the birth dates of the children to see who is who and just which one is missing. Will get back to you when I sort it out. ....

I have 3 Larkin Herndon.

FIRST IS BROTHER TO DAVID HERNDON WHO MARRIED FRANCES PIERCE.  
SECOND IS LARKIN B. 1769 S/O DAVID HERNDON, SUBJECT OF MY SEARCH.  
THIRD IS LARKIN, NEPOHEW TO LARKIN B. 1769. THIS THIRD LARKIN IS THE SON OF MARTIN PIERCE HERNDON WHO IS THE BROTHER TO LARKIN B. 1769.

Here is what I have put together:

FIRST GENERATION: RICHARD HERNDON M. LUCY POE 1739  
CH: LARKIN, ELIZABETH, DAVID B. 1746, BENJAMIN, FANNY,

STEPHEN

SECOND GENERATION: DAVID B. 1746 M. FRANCES PIERCE

CH: FRANCES B. CA. 1767, LARKIN B. 1769, CLARISSA B. CA 1770, MARTHA B. CA 1774, EDMUND B. 1777, GEORGE B. 1779, NANCY B. CA 1781, RACHEL B. 1784, REBECCA B. CA 1785,  
ELIZABETH B. CA 1786, AND MARTIN PIERCE B. 1788.

EDMUND IS LIVING IN SAME COUNTY OF RUSSELL WITH BROTHER LARKIN IN 1820.

MARTIN P. LIVES BY HIS BROTHERS (LARKIN AND EDMUND) IN BOTH 1830 AND 1840.

THEREFORE: 1820

L M. B. 1750-1775 = LARKIN B. 1769  
1 F. B. 1750-1775 = SOPHIA B. 1770  
L F. B. 1790-1794 = RACHEL B. CA 1790  
1 M. B. 1792 = EDWARD  
2 F. B. 1795-1804 = MARGARET B. CA 1800 / FRANKEY B.

CA 1791

1 M. B. 1795-1804 = REUBEN B. CA 1794  
1 M. B. 1802-1804 = JESSEE B. CA 1800  
1 M. B. 1805-1810 =  
3 F. B. 1810-1820 = ELIZABETH B. CA 1811 / SARAH B. CA 1815 / ELIZA B. 1800-1807

THAT'S MY CONCLUSIONS. LET ME KNOW JUST WHAT YOU COME UP WITH.  
THANKS ... EILEEN

If anyone has information to help, please respond to Eileen Price at bigelkslayer@netscape.com. I have two LARKIN HERNDONs in my database at www.jessee.org, one is this Larkin, but I have no pedigree information to him, or how he connects to the rest of the Herndon family in Russell County

## Correspondence

The following are only a few of the many communications 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.

**BECKY CHAFIN** [bechafin@earthlink.net] wrote, 2/25/2007, with an inquiry and offer to share a photo of "**Archey Jessee John's boy.**"

Jim, my name is Becky Sutherland Chafin. I live at Carbo, Russell County, Virginia. My grandmother was Winnie Kiser Sutherland. She passed away in 1959 leaving many old pictures, among these is a picture of a young man around 20 with dark hair. On the back of this picture in my grandmother's hand writing is "Archey Jessee Johns boy". That's all I know about the picture. If any of his relatives can identify him and would like this picture please let me know.

**CAROL ANN ESTES** [cestes@lva.lib.va.us] wrote, 12/19/2006 for the **Library of Virginia** with this request for back issues and subscription to Jessee Family Newsletter, and an honor!

Dear Mr. Jessee,

The Library of Virginia is interested in subscribing to the Jessee Family Newsletter beginning with issue #30 (Winter 2007). We would also like to obtain the following back issues to complete our collection: issues 3, 4, 7-10, 20, 21, and 25. I understand that back issues can be printed from your Web site. However, due to the length of each issue (24+ pages), it is not practical for us to download and print nine complete newsletters. We would prefer receiving as many hard copies of back issues as possible.

Please send an invoice covering the cost of the subscription and the fee for the back issues to: Library of Virginia, Attn: Serials Section, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219. Please include your taxpayer ID on the invoice as well.

Thank you very much.

Carol Ann Estes  
Serials Acquisitions Technician  
Library of Virginia  
800 E. Broad St.  
Richmond, VA 23219-8000

**AMANDA HOWELL-HICK** [aghowell@bellsouth.net] wrote, 6/28/2007, with information regarding the descendants of **Caleb Doc Davis and Nancy Jessee.**

I came across your information on ancestry.com in an attempt to further investigate the genealogy in my family. My grandmother, Gwendolyn Bell Joyce is the great granddaughter of Nancy Jessee, daughter of Stanford Lee Jessee.

On this end, just for your information (which you may already have) Nancy Jessee married Caleb Doc Davis. Their daughter, Sarah Ellen in turn Married John Campbell. Their daughter, Virginia Madge (incorrectly noted somewhere as Virginia Ann) married Claud Benson Bell and had Three children, Gwendolyn Vallee, Ben, and Michael. Gwendolyn Vallee married James Hubert Joyce (who died in 1980) and had four children, Diana Gwyn Joyce, Jeffrey Hubert Joyce, Andrew Kevin, and Brian Lee. Diana was my mother and passed away in 1996. My brother and I are her only two children, but each of my uncles has children, and I would be more than happy to update that branch of the family tree for you!

Thank you for e-mailing me back. I started this to try to help my grandmother, now living in Richlands (Virginia Madge is still on Jewell Ridge) to find out information about her father's side of the family. It is very interesting indeed.

**BECKY CHAFIN** posted on RootsWeb this notice.

Message Board URL: <http://boards.rootsweb.com/localities/northam.usa.states.virginia.counties.russell/7103/mb.ashx>

**Sutherland/Kiser Reunion: For the descendants of Elijah and Mary "Polly" Childress Sutherland and James S. "BellClapper" and Susan Sutherland Kiser and related families.** Saturday, August 4th at the Cleveland Rec Center, Cleveland, Va. 10am -??? Please bring a covered dish along with any old pictures, documents, and family stories! Come meet your cousins!!! For information call Becky Chafin at 276-889-1847 or e-mail at bechafin@earthlink.com

## Resources On The Internet

The Internet is a remarkable resource for genealogists. I will provide here pertinent information regarding Web resources and other links of interest to the Jesse(e) family. I invite you to provide me with addresses for Web pages of interest, too.

**MICHAEL A. DYE** has created **The Russell County Page** of the VAGenWeb division of the USGenWeb Project. This is an award-winning site, and a terrific resource for all families whose sojourn in America included time in Russell Co., VA. Michael has been instrumental in assembling a vital online depository of Russell Co. records, indexes and abstracts, genealogical data, historical maps, local history, and lore. You can join the Russell Co. List Server. This is a must-see site for Jessee researchers at

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

**WILLIAM SUTHERLAND** [mailto:dickensoncounty-books@verizon.net] wrote, 3/5/2007 regarding the release of *Some Descendants of John Counts of Glade Hollow-Additions & Corrections*

We have a web site at [www.sutherlandbooks.com](http://www.sutherlandbooks.com) and have a document, called Additions and Corrections to the Counts Second Edition, on that web site. We have just completed an update to that "corrections & additions" document.

Because of my age and family medical problems, we do not plan to continue these updates. However I plan to continue to collect information on the John Counts descendants and make it available to whomever the Counts Family Reunion appoints as family genealogist at the next reunion. Bill Sutherland

**THOMAS RUDDER** [tomr@infostations.com] wrote 1/17/2007 with this Russell County Website with 15 Jessee cemeteries listed.

The John and Frankey cemetery is not on that list but it soon will be. I submitted it today. Could take as much as two weeks for it to appear.

<http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/localList.php?local=22952&locTGroup=Cemeteries&direction=down>

**JESSEE-BOUNCES@ROOTSWEB.COM** sent on behalf of DLHGLH, 7/1/2007, which illustrates the instant power of the Internet.

All Jessee Family Please Read. I found this on E-Bay and am posting it to this list in hopes that it will find it's family. I am in no way affiliated with this auction.

E-Bay Item number: 330141718290

You are bidding on a beautiful set of Daguerreotype Portraits of Dr. T. H. Rucker and his wife Sarah. The provenance states that Mrs. T. H. Rucker (Sarah McCracken Jessee) was married to T. H. Rucker, M.D. Dr. Rucker was born in 1815 in Lexington, Kentucky and died in 1894 in Evansville, Indiana. These deguerreotypes are in their original frame. Dr. Rucker is holding a cane with a gold tip and Mrs. Rucker has a gold pin on her lapel and her wedding ring shows up clearly. There is a set of 2 hooks and 2 eyes on the side of the frames that allow them to lock together. They are in good condition with no cracks or chips to the glass frame. There is a little piece of the paper attached to the back of the frame on which the history of Dr. & Mrs. Rucker was written. Someone was nice enough to transfer the information to an index card. This would make a nice research project to trace the history. I don't have any information about degauerreotypes and acquired these at an estate sale. Please e-mail me with questions.

## 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, and allows people to download GEDCOM files. Do a search for one of your favorite ancestors. Look for data records submitted by "jimjessee," and if you select one it will take you to our database. You can also navigate to the database directly from our Jessee Genealogy Service home page. Please go to:

<http://www.jessee.org>

Our database is now over 44,000 records. I do mean "our" database, as it is made up of the tens of thousands of hours of your research, the results of which you have generously and kindly shared with me. I have concerns about the downside of this computer revolution, the Internet, and the ethics of genealogy research, but still conclude that greater good is done by making our work public. However, I am using the filters provided by the World Connect project 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 other's genealogy, 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, and you who are receiving this newsletter have been very generous in that regard.

Some feel the need to wag their finger at me, to make sure I know how important it is to get this right. I do get down when I have been given a good scold, but perk up when the next inquiry is made. I think there is no greater gift than to help people learn where they come from. I cannot "not help" someone on this quest. Please forgive me for the rest.

## Our Purpose

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

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

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

The purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate the exchange of information and documents relative to the genealogy of the Jessee and related families whose roots may be found in Southwest Virginia. I wish to enter all data provided me into the JESSEE FAMILY DATABASE discussed above. In return for information shared, I will share charts or GEDCOM data files with you on request.

Unfortunately after 30 years of working I have developed a permanent disability which makes any prolonged time typing very painful. My computer time has been significantly limited and my regular data entry routine has all but stopped. While I continue to plink at it, I am not denting the perhaps 3000-4000 records piled high and waiting to be keyed in. I will need help with data entry into the database in the future if it is to grow.

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 in JPG or TIF formats (600 dpi TIF files are best), as well as any word-processor or text files.

## How To Help

I am operating on subscriptions and donations and don't even break even on out-of-pocket costs. The labor is all volunteer. I provide the newsletter free to anyone who has asked for it, provided me information, or has expressed interest and cannot afford to subscribe. I am providing the newsletter free to several historical and genealogical organizations and libraries. You are welcome to provide addresses of others that may be interested in our effort. I am looking for those willing to exchange information or represent their branch of the family or area of the country.

I am sometimes disappointed to find that less than 50% of readers actually subscribe or donate anything. I do need help, even if it is simply informing me to stop sending you the newsletter if it has become junk mail. I am steadily reducing my mailing to include those who have subscribed, provided donations, helped in some other way, are sponsored by someone else, or are a family treasure. If you are getting this newsletter, you are at least a family treasure. If I drop you in error, just let me know. Please inform me of address changes as returned and re-posted mail costs me, too.

### Annual Subscription

I am asking for a minimum subscription of \$15 a year for two issues of the newsletter. I need and appreciate your additional donations in defraying the considerable cost of research, printing, and postage of the newsletter and other materials I send without charge to inquirers. Additional donations also support those who can't afford to pay.

### Newsletter Reprints

Back editions are available on the Website, and you are free to print them from there. I have some separate original sets of prints: #1-7, #8-9, #10-11, #12-13, #14-15, #16-17, #18-19, #20-27 (although I am out of certain years and without some attachments that have become obsolete). You may request these for \$75 for copies of any and all back issues still in print, and a subscription to the current year.

### *The Jessee Family Newsletter*

**Edited and Published by  
James Wilson "Jim" Jessee**

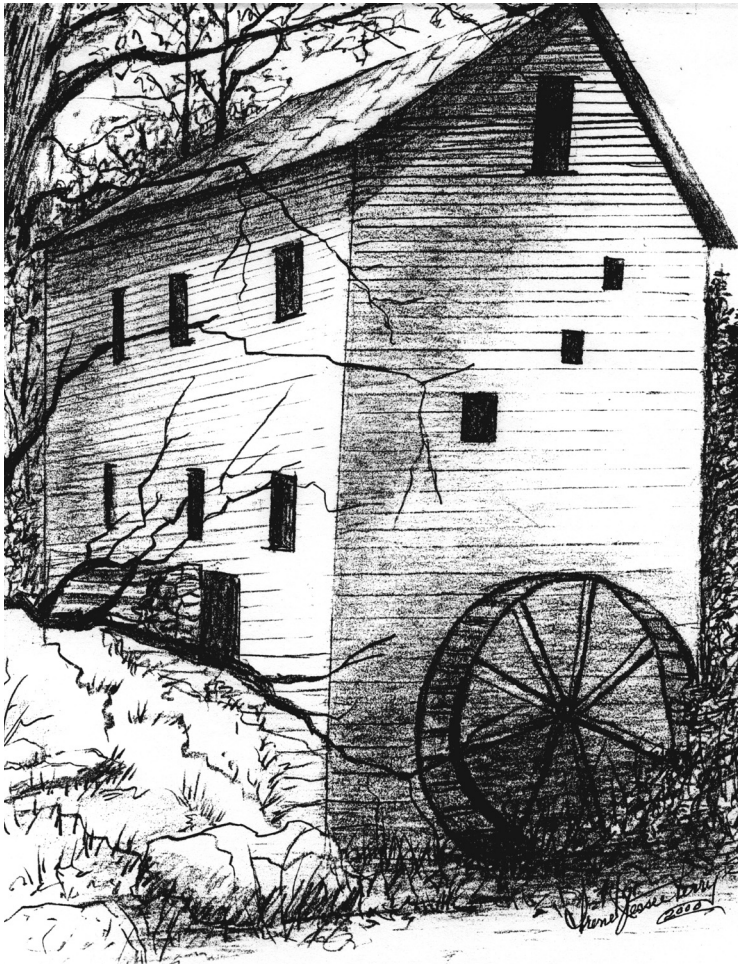
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