

Jessee Family Newsletter

Number 18

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Dear Cousin,

We have another interesting newsletter thanks to so many of you who help support the effort through generous contributions of information, photographs, documentation, and money. My spirits are uplifted by your letters, email, and calls.

Last summer Nelda and I attended both the **The First National Jessee Family Reunion**, and the **59th Reunion of the descendants of John Counts of Glade Hollow**. We believe my wife Nelda shares common Kuntz/Counts ancestors with the descendants of John Counts. I was happy and excited to be at both these occasions and the family research day. Many thanks to **Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee, Mike and Joy Malone**, and **Norma McHone** for putting all this together.

It was an honor to meet **Mrs. E. J. Sutherland** and her son **Bill Sutherland** at the Counts Reunion, and to thank them for their father's and their own years of service to Russell Co. Genealogy. I am most grateful to **Rev. Cecil Jessee** and his daughter **Caroline Sue Doust** for showing me the Archer Jessee and John Jessee, Jr. cemeteries that I have so long tried to find.

We spent most of a week in Russell Co. and it wasn't enough time. It was a thrill meeting many of you with whom I have corresponded all these years and to share meals again with **Bill and Fay Jessee, Doodle, Ernestine, and Joe Jessee**. We are grateful to **Sherman Wallace, Jr.** and his daughter **Sharon Dale McGill** who provided us both accommodation at their family home in Reeds Valley and a fantastic tour of Jessee country that we could not have had without them.

One of the most exciting developments out of the reunion is the decision to form a **Jessee Historical Foundation**. While I first indicated to the organizers that I could not be on the board, because of the distance, I have now told them that I would like to be on the founding board, and will try to make as many future family reunions as is possible. This is too good not to be included.

Jim Jessee

Featured This Edition

The First National Jessee Family Reunion is reviewed with a special invitation to join us for the Second Jessee Family Reunion, **August 4, 2001**, at Sugar Hollow Campground in Bristol, VA. **Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee, Norma McHone, and Mike and Joy Malone** extend an invitation to all.

A **Jessee Historical Foundation** is to be established and you may read all about it and the proposed **Historical Marker Project** inside.

Jesse(e) Family Origins has several new contributions, including an important new clue as to who may be the first ancestor to land on this shore. **Cyndi Valencia** proposes that our common Jesse(e) ancestor may be **Capt. James Jessey** of Nansmond Co., VA, who was here before 1700. More information comes from **Virginia Bennett**.

Many Historic Southwest Virginia Families are intermarried with the Jesse(e) family. I have chosen to include more information on other related founding families, this time featuring articles about the **Bickley, Habern, Hanson, Smyth/Smith, and Helton** families.

Many contributors have provided new information regarding the ancestors and descendants of Philip and Rachel Jessee and each of John and Frankey Lea Jessee's fifteen children. You will find new stories and extensions of our family genealogy database inside.

Several contributors have sent photographs which I am happy to feature, although the quality of printing is somewhat uneven. These photos speak a thousand words and are most welcome additions to the newsletter.

Correspondence and Missing Links is rich with news, inquiries, and information, as well as some genealogy humor we hope you will enjoy.

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

The 1st National Jessee Family Reunion is a Great Success

GARY AND ELIZABETH (JESSEE) TAYLOR provided the following report from information provided by **Mike and Joy Malone**, who, along with **Norma McHone** and **Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee**, were the chief organizers of the 2000 Jessee Family Reunion. Mike and Joy handled the set-up and registration, and compiled a mailing list of all the participants who registered. They gave an extraordinary amount of their time and money to make this a success.

The **First Jessee Family Research Day** was held at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA on Friday, August 4, 2000. There were 31 families represented with 50 participants signed-in. We would like to thank the Russell County Public Library for a wonderful facility and all the help they provided in making this research day a success.

The **First National Jessee Family Reunion Picnic** was held at the Sugar Hollow Park in Bristol, VA, Saturday, August 5, 2000. There were 197 participants signed-in (including children, etc.) representing approximately 86 Jessee families and/or family connections. Descendants from 6 of the 15 children of John Jessee were represented: John Jessee, Jr., Archer Jessee, George Lea Jessee, Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser, Martin Jessee, and James Jessee. A large group of descendants from the Phillip and Gabriel Jessee family also attended. Participants came from eleven (11) states that included CA, FL, GA, LA, MD, NC, OH, TN, IL, IN, and VA.

The setting at Sugar Hollow was beautiful and the weather cooperative. Rev. Cecil Jessee provided an opening prayer. Group photos were taken of the various branches of the family. [See following pages.] Musical entertainment was provided by Jessee cousins throughout the day. The potluck dinner was a feast to behold and declared delicious by all. Family albums, books, pedigree and descendants charts, and lots of family lore were shared throughout the day. Irene Jessee Perry gave everyone a pen and ink drawing of Jessee's Mill [featured on Newsletter]. Everyone had a great time. We thank all those who came and especially those who made this a special occasion through their donations of time, money, and labor.

In the afternoon, there were several guest speakers who described the poor condition of Jessee's Mill and the several abandoned Jessee family cemeteries, especially the John and Frankey Lea Cemetery, which lies all but abandoned on the original John Jessee and George Lea Jessee farm. Various speakers asked for the formation of a family association whose purpose would be the promotion and organization of an annual National Jessee Family Reunion and efforts to recover and preserve the Jessee Family Cemeteries, Jessee's Mill, and to provide appropriate Virginia State Historical Markers at appropriate sites. See the following articles.

Mark you calendar now for:

The 2nd National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, August 4th, 2001--10AM to 4PM
Sugar Hollow Campground, off Rt 11
(Lee Highway), Bristol, VA.

Family Research Day
on Friday, August 3, 2001
at the Russell County Library

Jessee Historical Foundation To Be Formed

By unanimous vote of those present at the 1st National Jessee Family Reunion, a committee was formed and the future board members and officers appointed for a **Jessee Historical Foundation**. Joseph Harold "Joe" Jessee, Jr. was elected the acting chair, Norma McHone, acting treasurer, Gary and Elizabeth (Jessee) Taylor, publicists, and Jim Jessee and Arlene Jessee, family genealogists. Henry "Hank" Davis, Esq., will assist the committee in forming a formal non-profit corporation, and handle the legal aspects of incorporating. Nearly \$1000 was raised.

JOSEPH H. "JOE" JESSEE, JR. provided the following report of the first meeting, held 10/21/2000, 10:00 a.m. at the Russell Co. Library.

Jim, had a good meeting yesterday, 10:00 to 12:30. Thirteen people attended. I was unanimous Presidential selection; Laura Jessee Thomas, Vice-President; Mary Akers, Membership Secretary; Irene Jessee Perry, Recording Secretary (absent); Norma McHone, Treasurer.

I presented several names for the organization [The Jessee Family Association, The National Jessee Family Association, The Jessee Family Historic Foundaton, The National Jessee Family Historic Foundaton] but **Jessee Historical Foundation** was the unanimous choice for the name of the corporation. It was approved wholeheartedly and recommended by everyone, primarily for its 'generic' quality and the likelihood of grants, etc. I did not do too much talking in the meeting other than running the meeting so it went well that way.

It was decided that this will be a membership organization and that we shall ask for \$10 annual dues per person with the following membership categories: Regular (direct Jessee lineage, one per household, and the voting member), Associate (spouse and adult children, other non-related) and Junior (children <18 years old).

The Board of Directors will have 25 members. Annual meeting will be the first Saturday in August Jessee Family Reunion picnic; the Board will have additional meetings as needed.

Hank, aka Henry Davis, will complete the draft articles of incorporation, 501(c)(7) rules, and bylaws, and distribute them for the next meeting. I am to get confirmation and addresses for those nominated at the meeting, but were not in attendance. [Joe could use some help with this--Ed.] So start collecting those ten dollar checks and addresses and phone numbers, hahaha! Best of wishes for all your help and will be in touch before long. Joe

Here is what Joe, Hank, and this editor see needs to be done. YES, your help is needed. We need to establish the formal list of founding board members and provide a complete list with legal names and addresses, phone numbers and email addresses (if they have one) to Joe Jessee and Henry Davis to submit as part of the incorporation procedure. If you're one of the nominated below and have not provided Joe or Hank your acceptance and other contact information, please do so quickly. Once Hank has all the names and addresses, he can complete the paperwork and submit it to the State of Virginia. When appropriate, Joe and Hank will schedule the first formal meeting of the Board of Directors, probably some time this spring. Then we will be in the historical foundation business.

Jessee Family Reunion 2000 Photo Album



Jessee Family Reunion 2000--John Jessee, Jr Descendants



Jessee Family Reunion 2000--George Lea Jessee Descendants

PATTY JESSEE [Plj93@aol.com; 1747 Bluefield Avenue, Dayton, OH 45414] is making a video for a public access television station. She requests that family members lend her originals or good quality copies of family photos that she could use for this video production. She says she would be very careful and would return all originals.

She is particularly interested in photos that illustrate our VA, KY and TN roots, historic family photos, and current photos of this and other Jessee family reunions. This production could be a segment in a new hour long show called *The Appalachian Hour*, to which she hopes to contribute.



Jessee Family Reunion 2000-Archer Jessee Descendants



Jessee Family Reunion 2000--James Jessee Descendants

HAGAR the HORRIBLE



Ironically, this cartoon appeared in our local Chico paper, the day of the Jessee Reunion, August 5, 2000



Jessee Family Reunion 2000--Phillip and his son Gabriel Jessee Descendants



Irene Jessee Perry and kin are Gabriel Jessee descendants. Irene provided the pen and ink drawing of Jessee's Mill [featured on cover] to all those who attended the 2000 Reunion. Irene is a much accomplished painter whose work sells for many thousands of dollars. She promised to do an oil painting of Jessee's Mill to auction at the Jessee Family Reunion as a benefit to the Foundation.



Rev. Cecil Jessee (right) with kin, George Lea Jessee descendants, provided prayer and entertainment. His extended family, particularly daughter Caroline Sue, Joy and Mike Malone and Norma McHone, largely organized the Jessee Family Reunion, and gave much of their time and money to make it a huge success. Thank you, Cecil and family.

Jessee Historical Foundation

The following family members have formally accepted founding board membership and the offices or supportive roles indicated. We thank them.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Joseph H. "Joe" Jessee, Jr | President |
| Laura Jessee Thomas | Vice-President |
| Mary Akers | Membership Secretary |
| Irene Jessee Perry | Recording Secretary |
| Henry "Hank" Davis | Legal Advisor |
| Norma McHone | Treasurer |
| James W. "Jim" Jessee | Newsletter/Web Page Editor |
| Peggy Jessee Adams, Rev. Cecil Jessee, Elizabeth Jessee Taylor, J. D. Jessee, J. Harold "Doodle" Jessee, Sr., John D. Jessee, Helen R. Reedy, Joy Malone, Janice Jessee Tiller, and Sherman Wallace, all members at large. | |

The following family members either indicated their interest at the reunion or subsequently (and we may not have well recorded your address) or have been nominated by others for founding board membership. All need to formally accept or decline the nomination, and provide Joe and Hank your full name and address. If you are or know any of the following, please have them contact us as soon as possible.

John Bolling, Susan Bonham, Frank J. or Harvey Gent, Joel Gilmer, Billy L. Jessee or Priscilla J. Smith, Carl B. Jessee, , Jeff Jessee, Johnny B. Jessee, Nick Jessee, Robert Trigg Jessee, T. F. Jessee, and Thomas C. Jessee.

It is not too late to nominate or volunteer for the board, so if you are able to attend meetings and give some of your valuable time, please let us know.

The Foundation will need to establish a formal mailing address to which membership application, dues, and all official corporate correspondence can be directed. For the time being, and with his kind permission, we will use the President's PO Box, until a formal one is established. Please use the following.

**Jessee Historical Foundation
C/O Joseph H. Jessee, Jr., President
PO Box 1
Lebanon, VA 24266-0001
540-889-4199**

Norma McHone, our treasurer, has established bank accounts and reports a current balance. We have a total of \$1,118, with \$645 in the Memorial Fund, and \$473 in the General Fund. Donation procedures, dues payment, and other banking arrangements, as well as additional grant writing and fund raising efforts are all yet to be established. We will report developments here and on the Jessee Genealogy Service Website when available. In the meantime you can send donations, membership requests, and dues to the address above.

The following projects, activities, and undertakings have been discussed, and will be on the agenda of future foundation meetings. Whether you are a board member or not, these projects and activities will need volunteers and other help. Please consider what you can do to help.

1. Public access to, fenced protection, and restoration of the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery, as well as other Jessee family cemeteries. This will also involve land owner cooperation. This land is owned by Jimmy Herndon, currently of Texas, but it is leased and farmed by Sherman Wallace, Jr., who indicates Mr. Herndon is willing to cooperate.

2. Preservation of Jessee's Mill, Russell Co., VA. This will need historical study and documentation, requests for appropriate historical designation, and fundraising/grant development. This may involve the land owner, Sherman Wallace, Jr., who has agreed to work with the association and participate on its board.

3. The establishment of Virginia Historical Markers at Jessee's Mill and appropriate Jessee Family sites. [See the following article.]

4. The possibility of creating a Jessee Book.

5. Planning for the next and future National Jessee Family Reunions and Annual Meetings.

Historical Marker Project

Mike and Joy Malone (DrJoy@boone.net) sent 6/3/2000, this request for help regarding providing historical markers for **Jessee's Mill** and other sites.

Joy and I were in Virginia the other day and went by the Dept. of Transportation to check on putting up a historical marker on the side of the road [by Jessee's Mill]. Met a very nice man by the name of Jim Kiser, said his dad was brought up in Reeds Valley and he was some kind of Jessee himself. He helped me find out the information.

In a nutshell the person or group requesting the marker must submit a 100-word (more or less) documentation that will support the request. Second, the group or person must verify that they have the funds to purchase the marker (\$1,300.00) no charge for tax or shipping. The marker must be placed on public land or a highway right-of-way. The group can suggest a location and the DOT will work with the group to approve a safe location. The group can suggest the location and write the inscription on the marker; however, the DOT has the right to edit. They will work with the group to have the proper text on the marker.

Once the marker is cast it is shipped to the DOT facility near the location where it is to be installed. The DOT will install the marker and maintain it free of charge once it is placed on the site. They will also help with coordination if the group wants to hold a ceremony at the unveiling.

I mentioned the Mill and Jim said he didn't think that would be a problem. He said he had only installed one other marker and that was in Elk Garden requested by Dr. Gilmer. It could also be at the road near the grave of John Jessee the Rev. soldier or some other site the Jessees select. You can request as many as you want only requirement is the documentation and the money. Sounds feasible and something that could be accomplished by the Jessee Family. I have the print out of the DOT requirements and will bring them to the reunion.

Jesse(e) Family Origins

There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," even "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, Jaci, Jacy, and Jacie families in the world whose kinship is unknown. I believe we are all cousins and welcome you. 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. Here are more clues.

CYNDI VALENCIA [CValencia@MWGen.com] sent, 8/25/2000, [this exciting and very important clue to our Jesse\(e\) family origins.](#)

I checked your database and found you indeed have a Capt. James Jessey however it appears you have dismissed the possibility of there being a connection. [Not so!]

In the 1704 Rent Rolls of Nansemond County we find; Capt James Jessey, Jno Lee, and Stephen Archer. Nansemond borders North Carolina and Virginia. We know Archer... Archable is found through the line and have believed it to be from intermarriage with a Archer. There was also a Jno and George Archer, names we often find. We have found Lee's living around the Jessee's when they lived in Russell. Nowhere do we consistently find Lea. Which I have believed to be a misspelling of Lee. [I don't-Ed.] Even in Jessee Bible there is reference to Lee. Now we find Jessey, Lee, and Archer together. I can't help but believe he could be the grandfather of our John. I plan on doing further research and will let you know. Do you have anything more on Capt Jessey?

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2000

The reason I began searching the rent rolls was because as you know I am a descendant of John Jessee's son David who married a Catherine Banner. I have been researching Catherine's parents for some time. Many believe John Banner's father to be Henry unfortunatly I do not. I also believe Elizabeth Rachenpaugh's last name was misspelled (as do many researcher's); I believe her last name to be "Brockenbrough". Rev. John Brockenbrough was a Vestryman as was my John Livingston and a John Lee, all lived near the Holston River in King Queen County later Essex... several Lee's served as Court Clerks of Essex. John Brockenbrough's son William became a Judge in Virginia. I am trying to find John's will and searching land records. I believe Rev. John Brockenbrough was Elizabeth Rachenpaugh's father; and believe as I have stated that Capt. James Jessey could of been John's father if not grandfather.

On one of the first tax listings for John Jessee we find John Lee (river side... Holston) in the same district. Found in a different district on the same Tax listing was a William Lee, another John Lee and John Lee Jr. I have the tax listing at home and will forward the year to you. I believe John Lee (river side) could of been related to our Frances. Now the task at hand is proving it. However I do not wish to reinvent the wheel so, I am all ears. If

anyone has information on these individuals Please let me know; together we may end the mysteries of Frances Lee/Lea and Elizabeth Rachenpaugh.

Sent: Sunday November 5, 2000

One problem with tracking down our Jessee ancestors is the spelling often times we find it as Jessey or Jesse. I only have a James Jessey whom I believe may have married an Archer and may have been John Jessee father.... This is speculation on my part however I plan to put forth a serious effort in researching this out.

In the "1704 Rent Rolls" of Nansemond County Virginia; (which later became part of N.C. and Virginia) we find Capt. James Jessey, a Jno Lee, and a Stephen Archer. Found in a nearby district we find a George and Jno Archer. These names have been carried down our family line. We agree Archer... Archable is found through the line and have believed it to be from an intermarriage with an Archer, or from a ancestor by the name of Archer.

I have found an Archer Lee however is was born around the time our Franky was. The most interesting fact here in Nansemond County Virginia the border of Virginia and North Caroline is that we find, "Jessey", "Lee", and "Archer" together. Rent Rolls were pre-census; they listed the names of the land owners who paid rent (taxes) to the British government.

I have also found a reference to James Jessey and Stephen Archer in the Vestry Book of Nansemond County. These men were Vestrymen (Elders). I believe John could of been the son of James Jessey who lived near and attended the same church as Jno Lee's family and Stephen Archer's family. Frances could have descended from that Lee family. While John Jessey could have descended from Capt. James Jessey and the Archer family... Researching this out is a personal goal and I welcome any and all help in doing so.

VIRGINIA BENNETT (Asheville, NC) sent along several bits and pieces of evidence of Jesse(e)s in the New World she has collected over the years.

From the *Virginia Genealogist* an extract from the *Virginia Gazette* for 1755-1756 an item lists a **William Jessie**, a Virginian, about 23.

From the *Virginia Genealogist* an extract from British Mercantile Claims (Debts due Dinwiddie Crawford & Company in their upper store, Mecklenburg, VA), this notation: "**John Jesse** (taylor), L29.9.3, Never was able" and another on page 37: "**John Jessee**. L29.9.3, 1 Sept. 1772. Removed from the county before the peace, insolvent." [We theorize that this is John Jessee who moved from Mecklenburg, VA to Orange, later Caswell Co., NC, where he married Frankey Lea and began his family.]

From *Colonial Families of the Southern States of America*, pg. 229, under the Willam FitzHugh family, a descendants listing for **Harriet Thornton**, a daughter, born after 1800, of **Thomas Griffin and Anne Harrison Fitzhugh Thornton**, who married **Chas. Jesse**. And also her sister **Mary Digges Thornton**, who married **Charles Jesse**.

From the *Virginia Genealogist* an extract from the Caroline County, Virginia 1800 Tax List, an entry for "**Jesse, John**, with 1 white male tithable, 5 horses, 6 slaves over 16 yrs.old, 2 slaves 12-16 yrs. old, owned."

From *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, for the year ending June, 1894, Volume I, pg. 389, Virginia Troops in French and Indian Wars, Size Roll of the Seventh Company of the Virginia Regiment, Capt. J. Lewis, which includes this listing: **Wm. Jessee**, Drafted, Age 20, 5'7", Trade: Planter, Country: Virginia, Where Entertained: King & Queen.

Other Jesse Families

BETTY CLANTON (bclanton@mastnet.net) sent, 4/29/00, pedigree and descendants information regarding the **Alton Neil Clanton** family of Texas who are descendants of **John and Clia Smith Jesse** of Cumberland Co., VA.

Alton Neil Clanton was born on March 27, 1929. His death was outside of Mineola, Texas not Hawkins, Texas. He died on April 11, 1976. Alton has 1 daughter by wife #1 still living; 2 sons by #2 still living, 2 sons still living, 1 son (Roger Valentine) deceased and 1 adopted son by wife #3; 1 adopted daughter with Royce Ann Martin (#4). Royce Ann Martin was not born in 1929. She was approximately 18 years old when they married in 1967. Wife number 2 (Margaret Scott) is deceased. Shirley Aleen Clanton's husband (Harold Offie White) is deceased. Her youngest daughter Harla Gail White is also deceased. She died in September 1999 in Freeport, Texas. David Alex Clanton and Laura Lampkins children were:

Harvey Lewis (b Sept. 25, 1888)
Annie (b January 26, 1891)
Oscar Roy (b March 01, 1893)
Leagle Tender (b August 22, 1895) Female
Mary Abbye (b January 27, 1897)
Willie Edna (b April 16, 1900)
David (b May 11, 1902)
Edward Elige (b May 07, 1904)
Alex Bailey (b September 26, 1906)
Ernest Franklin (b December 23, 1908)
All of the above are deceased.

WILMA M. BROWN (Grannywmb@aol.com), sent 6/12/2000, the following information about the intermarriage of the Jesse(e) and Ball families of SW VA. I have 21 Balls in my database who are married to various descendants of both the **John and Clia Smith Jesse** family via son **William Morgan Jesse**, and the **Phillip Jessee** family via son **Gabriel Jessee**.

Hi Jim, I have visited your website and "found" Jessees who married into the Ball family of Russell Co. Va. I am compiling records for a Tunnell book that I hope to publish in 2002.

I am not a Ball but I am a Tunnell and my 6th G. Grandfather had a sister named Elizabeth Tunnell who md. George Ball Sr. and the 21 Ball's you have in your website are descendents of Elizabeth & George Ball. The Francis Marion Ball is a descendent. Elizabeth/Sarah/Andrew/James Harvey/Francis Marion Ball.

I contact each and every Tunnell/Ball descendent and send them a family tree letter and cards to complete. Any help will be appreciated. I will send you the completed data if you want it.

ROBERTA J DOOLEY (rjdooley@juno.com or rjdooley_47117@yahoo.com) sent, 7/28/2000, the following information regarding the **Jesse Families of Adair Co., KY**.

I descend from **Rane C. [Clinton] McKinney** and **Jane Jesse** of Adair Co., KY; don't have much information on Jane Jesse (spelling is many different ways) in some of my grandpa's notes from his grandmother (Mary Ann McKinney Estes who married Warfield Estes Sr of Adair Co., KY) there are the names Polly Jesse and John Jesse. I need to dig the papers out and see exactly what it says but I think just their names are in there. Does Rane McKinney son of Rane and Tabitha Vardiman ring a bell? I would like to have information on Jane Jesse's family; some one told me that her father was Lazereth/Lazarus Jesse and mother was a Sparks (don't have

the data in front of me to remember her first name. Mine came from Virginia and then to KY and settled in Adair Co., KY where most of them died. Rane is buried in Adair CO., KY and I have photos of his grave through someone else I plan to visit there this fall when the snakes aren't so plentiful. Just checking to see just how much you might know on this line if anything.

Southwest Virginia Families

In this column 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.

Killing of Joseph Ray & Family, Samuel Hughes, and Scalping of Ann Neece By Emory L. Hamilton

From the unpublished manuscript, *Indian Atrocities Along the Clinch, Powell and Holston Rivers*, pages 121-123.

Summers' says:

The Indians first appeared at the house of Joseph Ray, whom they killed and scalped, along with several of his family, and a neighbor by the name of Samuel Hughes, who happened to be at Ray's house at the time; besides killing these persons they made several others prisoners before they reached the fort. As they approached the fort they met a young woman by the name of Ann Neece, whom they tomahawked, scalped and left for dead.

They approached the fort and were discovered by Simon Oxer, Charles Bickley, and Henry Dickenson, who happened to be working at a mill nearby. The Indians observing them about the same time and the white men being unarmed, their situation was a fearful one. It was now a struggle which party should get to the fort first. (The fort was several hundred yards away up a steep hill).

They started for the fort at full speed, the Indians halting to fire upon them. They reached the fort unhurt through a shower of balls. There were but two guns in the fort, and with these Oxer and Dickenson, each killed an Indian. The balance of the savages, knowing nothing of the strength of the fort, and their guns being empty, hastily picked up their fallen companions and fled into the woods.

CHARLES BICKLEY **STATE OF VIRGINIA: RUSSELL COUNTY** **Extract of his Revolutionary War Pension Declaration** By Emory L. Hamilton

appearing in
Southwest Virginia Ancestors
Volume 11 (41), Spring 1997, pg. 24-26

On the 8th day of September, 1836, personally appeared Charles Bickley, a resident of the said county of Russell in the State aforesaid, aged about 83 years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the month of September or October, 1775, within the limits of the now territory of Russell County, Virginia, under Captain William Russell, Lieutenant William Bowen and Ensign James Know, and was rendezvoused and stationed at the Rye Cove in the county of Scott in the state aforesaid, where he remained in service, guarding and defending that fort, until the 23rd day of January, 1776, when he was discharged and returned home, after having remained in the

public service at least three months and a half, and as he verily believes four months.

That in the then next ensuing summer of 1776, but at what precise date he cannot now remember, but recollects that he was engaged hoeing corn in the county of Russell aforesaid, a few weeks before when an alarm was raised that the Indians were in the settlements and the people of the neighborhood had assembled at the fort, when a company of militia, from the neighborhood of Reed Creek in the now county of Wythe, commanded by Capt. John Montgomery, Lieutenant Michael Daugherty and Ensign John Simpson, were on their march to the Rye Cove Fort, preparatory to an expected expedition against the Cherokee Indians, when he, the said Charles Bickley enrolled himself as a Private, and marched under the said officers, to the Fort aforesaid, where they remained a short time, when in obedience to orders from Col. Bledsoe, then in command of the frontier forces upon that frontier, they evacuated the Rye Cove Fort, and being a more exposed point, and without sufficient forces for the defense, and marched to Blackmore's Fort on Clinch River, and formed a junction with the forces stationed at that fort.

During their stay at the latter fort, and before they set out upon the then contemplated expedition against the Cherokee Indians, information reached the fort, through Captain Daniel Smith that the Indians were upon the waters of Moccasin Creek. Whereupon Captain Montgomery with his company joined Captain Smith and his company and marched in pursuit of the Indians and pursued their trail within a short distance of Houston's Fort upon Moccasin Creek, when from their apparently having separated, were unable to prosecute the pursuit further in that way, and marched to the last named Fort. Upon their arrival at the fort, they found no assault had, as yet, been made upon it by the Indians and found there a man from Castlewood, in the county of Russell of the name of Samuel Cowan, riding as this declarant now remembers, a stud horse belonging to one Deskin Tibbs. Cowan proposed to leave the fort and return to his family, but was admonished of the danger of an attempt to do so, as the Indians were in the immediate neighborhood, but he persisted in his determination, and set out, but proceeded but a short distance, when the firing of guns, was heard in the fort, and the forces sallied out to the attack, when soon they came upon the body of Cowan, shot from his horse, and scalped, and although still alive, was taken to the fort, and died the same evening. The Indians fled, and made their escape. Perceiving that the enemy had fled, and most likely had left the settlement upon Moccasin, they were marched back to Blackmore's Fort upon Clinch River, where they remained a short time, until the forces for the proposed expedition against the Cherokee Indians were all embodied and ready to march. They then set out and marched to the Three Springs in the now state of Tennessee where the army remained a few days, and again took up their line of march for the Indian nation under the command of Col. Christy (Christian) and Major Evan Shelby at the head of whose battalion, was placed the company of Capt. John Montgomery. This declarant also remembers that there was also in command upon the expedition a Col. McClanahan.

They continued this march without any skirmishing or interruptions until they arrived at a place called by some as the Big Island, and by others as the Dragon Canoe, when some of the chiefs and headmen of the Indians, came in, and proposed to make a treaty of peace, amongst these chiefs and headmen, he remembers the Little Carpenter, Blackhead Patridge, etc. It was agreed on the part of the Indians that hostilities should cease for the present, and it was agreed and assented to by both parties that a council should be held, at some subsequent day at the Long Island of Holston, for the purpose of ratifying and confirming a permanent treaty, which was done. The army then marched in a body to that point, where they were discharged, and this declarant returned to his residence in the county of Russell, where he arrived in the fall of the year, but cannot now remember at what precise date, but remembers that

there was several excessive hard frosts, during their stay in the Indian territory, which attracted general notice at that time from the unusual number of excessive frosts without any intervening bad weather. He feels assured that must have remained in the service, upon this tour, at least four months, and he doubts not longer.

Sometime after his return home, but how long he cannot now remember, but thinks from the best of his recollection it was in the fall of the year 1777, he was again called out by Capt. E. Shelby, as a militia guard for the protection of the Commissioners and Surveyors appointed to run the line between the state of Virginia and the Cherokee Indians which line was run by Col. William Campbell, beginning at what was called the mouth of Big Creek and ending at the high knob upon Cumberland Mountain, a few miles west of Cumberland Gap, as well as he can now remember. In this service they were engaged at least one month, and he verily believes more. When they returned to the Rye Cove where they remained a short time, when the company to which he was attached, were placed under the command of Ensign Douglas, and marched to the Long Island upon Holston River, where they remained for the term of three months, and were discharged and returned home again to the county of Russell.

This declarant remained at his home upon the frontier, and in the vicinity, engaged in many skirmishes, and performing some occasional service of great danger, but only of a voluntary character, without either military orders or compensation, until the year, he thinks, of 1780, when he was ordered out again about the month of August or September, under Captain John Snoddy, as a military guard for the opening of a new road from the valley of Holston River, via Cumberland Gap, to the settlements in the now state of Kentucky, near the Crab orchard in that state, in which service they were engaged at least two months and a half, and were then marched back, as well as this declarant now remembers. One Mr. McBride was the superintendent to open the road which he has mentioned.

This declarant has no written discharge, nor any documentary evidence of his service, but he resides now in the same immediate community in which his services, in chief were performed. He has carefully distinguished in his declaration his services under regular military orders, and those which he rendered in deference of his own and the homes and families of his neighbors, and hopes to be able to show to the satisfaction of the government that his claim for a pension is just and well founded by the testimony of those who were witnesses to his services, and those amongst whom he has grown old. He claims a pension for 14 months services, and verily believes that he was longer engaged in the public service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

His Charles X Bickley Mark

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states.

I, James P. Carroll, Clerk of the County court of Russell in the state of Virginia, do certify that the foregoing is the original declaration of Charles Bickley, applicant for a pension, made in said court.

In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and annex the seal of the said court this 13th day of December, 1836.

James P. Carroll
Clerk of Russell Co. Court

State of Virginia
Scott County

On this 13th day of October in the year 1836, before the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Hannah Byrd, aged about 81 years, as a witness in behalf of the application of Charles Bickley of the county of Russell in the state aforesaid for a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, who after being duly sworn, according to law, doth depose and say: That she well remembers that Charles Bickley was in the army under Captain William Russell, Lieutenant William Bowen and Ensign James Knox, and stationed at the Rye Cove in the county of Scott and State aforesaid, as well as she can remember for the term of four months. She cannot now recollect the precise dates, but thinks it was in the last of September or first of October. That they were rendezvoused and stationed at the Rye Cove. The Indians having apparently left the settlements the company under Captain Russell was discharged. She also recollects that in the next ensuing summer that the said Charles Bickley was in the service under Captain John Montgomery, Lieutenant Michael Daugherty and Ensign John Simpson and that they left the Rye Cove Fort and joined the forces at Blackmore's Fort under Captain Daniel Smith and went in pursuit of the Indians and was gone some time and returned to the fort where they remained a short time, until the forces were all embodied and they then set out on an Expedition against the Cherokee Indians under the command of Col. Christy (Christian) and Major E. Shelby at the head, though she cannot remember the dates, nor the precise length of time, but believes that it was four or five months. She also believes that the said Charles Bickley went as one of the guards under Captain Evan Shelby to run the line between the state of Virginia and the Cherokee Indians. She thinks they was gone on that tour five or six weeks, then was again marched to the Long Island upon Holston River under Ensign Douglas, but cannot recollect how long before he returned, but thinks it was three or four months, and further this affiant sayeth not.

Sworn and subscribed before me the day and year above written.

her Hannah X Byrd Mark

I moreover certify that it appears that Hannah Byrd who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing affidavit is a resident of said county of Scott, is a credible witness and that her statements are entitled to credit. Given under my hand at the county aforesaid, the day and year first above written.

John P. Wolfe, J. P.

Note: Hannah Byrd was a daughter of Joseph Blackmore, was married to Richard Byrd, and lived near present Gate City.

DAVID CLIFTON (dclifton@Alanritchey.com) sent, 6/23/2000, information regarding the **Habern Family** of Russell Co, some of whose descendants married descendants of both **Archer Jessee (Eunice Monroe Habern** who married Archer's son **William Jessee)** and **Elizabeth Jessee Gose** (whose daughter **Barbara Gose** married **Benjamin Franklin Habern**). This family has intermarried with many founding SW VA families.

Jim,

The following is a couple of pages out of a book I've been working on sporadically over the last few years, on all the branches of the ancestors of my two children. I'm not a professional at this, so be kind in any criticisms. You are welcome to use it in your newsletter if you want...just put my name somewhere so that if anyone wants to correspond with me, they can.

I was very interested to find your website, in that I've tried to find more information on Andrew and whoever his parents were....but to no avail. Perhaps, the Jessee connection might give me a vehicle to push those limits a little. When I get a chance, I'll scan a couple of photos I have and send you a copy. I have a tin-type or some kind of metal picture of Andrew Cowan Habern as a boy in Virginia, along with a number of pictures of B.F.

I am CIO for Alan Ritchey, Inc in Valley View and don't have a lot of time to do extensive research, but hope to be able to some time in the near future. Thanks for replying.

HABERN FAMILY

The Habern name was spelled (or misspelled) several different ways in frontier America. It was common to see variations of Habern, Haburn, Heborne, Hebron, etc. The root name is Hepburn and is of Scottish territorial origin from Hebburn in the parish of Chillingham, Northumberland, where a family of the name flourished from 1271 (their earliest appearance in record) until late in the eighteenth century, when it ended, in an heiress (Archaeologia Aeliana, XIV, p. 302). The Scottish Hepburns have been described as "an old and powerful race but of uncertain origin and of evil destiny". The founder of the family was Adam de Hepburne or de Hylburne, said to have been taken prisoner by the Earl of March, who afterwards gave him lands in East Lothian, for saving the Earl's life from a savage horse. As Adam de Hylburne, he and his spouse Mariote Fourbuire had a charter of Trepprane (now Traprain) and Dumpeldar in the reign of David II, from the Earl of March (RMS., I, App. I, 177). He also had other charters of Southalls and Northalls (i.e. South Hales and North Hales) which had been forfeited by Hew Gourlay of Beinstoun (ibid., App. II, 853-855). At one time the Hepburns held great sway in East Lothian, and in the sixteenth century here were Hepburns of Hailes, Waighton, Smeaton, Bolton, Alderston, Bearford, Beanston, Humbie, Keith, Nunray, and Monkkrigg. Samuel Kbebron who commanded a regiment of Scots in Sweden, 1612, was probably a Hepburn.

The Haberns landed in America in Philadelphia and migrated down into Maryland and Virginia, one branch going down the Virginia coast to Stafford and Westmoreland Counties, Virginia, and another branch migrating down through the Shenandoah Valley into Augusta County, Virginia. The earliest Habern to which the author can establish definite lineage, is Andrew Habern. Andrew was listed in the tax rolls of Russell County, Virginia (which was formed out of Augusta County around 1790) in 1791 on John Weir's List of the Upper District Personal Property Tax rolls. He was listed as Andrew Heborne with 1 taxable free male (females were not usually listed as taxable at that time). Also listed on the same list was his father-in-law Thomas Hendricks and several of Thomas's sons.

Incidentally, Andrew Cowan was also shown on that list. It is assumed (but not proven at this time) that there is some strong connection between the Cowans and the Haberns, and that probably Benjamin Franklin Habern's son Andrew Cowan Habern was named after the Cowans. Andrew Habern, Sr.'s son Benjamin Franklin Habern was married to Barbara Gose. Her father's first wife was Elizabeth Cowan. The Cowans were some of the first pioneers who pushed into the Castlewood region in the early 1700's. See the write-up on the Cowan family.

LouElla (Habern) Martin told the author on several occasions, that her grandfather had told her more than once that his grandfather (Andrew) was at Sam Houston's christening. If that is true, then that would put Andrew in the vicinity of Lexington in 1793 when Sam Houston was christened. This has not been documented, but is supported by the tax rolls mentioned earlier. Andrew is shown on these same tax lists up to 1810. He is variously shown under the name Heibourne, Heibourn, Heiburn, Hebourn, and Heburn depending upon how the specific tax aker decided to spell it. Many of the tax and marriage records in the

western counties were destroyed in fires which occurred during this time. Thus many marriage records must be implied from surviving Wills where children and in-laws were named. Andrew's marriage to Eunicia Hendricks is determined this way. Eunicia's married name is identified in the Will of her father Thomas Hendricks which was recorded in Russell County in November 15, 1806. Andrew and Eunicia had Benjamin Franklin Habern in Russell about 1807, and Eunice Melissa Habern before 1820. Eunice married William Vincent Jessee. Benjamin Franklin married Barbara Gose in the early 1820's. Barbara (called Barbary) was the daughter of George Gose and Elizabeth Jessee. George's first wife was Elizabeth Cowan. Eunicia is shown in the 1820 census of Russell County with a son (probably Benjamin) and 4 slaves. Benjamin was a resident of Russell County until sometime around 1827. On 29 August 1827, he purchased three tracts of land lying on the South Fork of the Powell River in the head Powell Valley (in Lee County). It included three tracts surveyed to John Blanton, Sr. (Benjamin's grandson, Andrew Cowan Habern, married Laura Blanton in 1885), with all appurtenances, from Andrew and Samuel Caldwell and Benjamin Thompkins of Lee County and the State of Virginia for \$700 (Deed Book 9-112). On November 10, 1834, "John B. Collier and Joanna his wife of Lee County being indebted to George Gose in the sum of \$800 and being willing that the same shall be secured, sold in consideration of one dollar a tract of land lying and being in the County of Lee on the waters of Powell River in the Turkey Cove containing by survey three hundred three acres, near the widow Duffs (Deed Book 7-39)." February 8, 1844 Benjamin F. Haburn and Barbara his wife sold the land purchased from the Caldwells and others to Jacob Lambert, all of Lee County for \$1300 (Deed Book 9-311). The same date John Kelly and Letty his wife sold 181 acres being part of 300 acres, lying on the North side of Wallens Ridge, corner to the Wynn survey, to Benjamin F. Habern for \$500 (Deed Book 9-327).

Benjamin was member of the Virginia House of Delegates from December 1, 1840 until March 22, 1841. He and Barbary made their home in the Turkey Cove in Lee County until their death before April 17, 1848. They are buried on the land they owned at the foot of the Winding Stair Road in Turkey Cove. This land eventually passed to their son-in-law James Reasor. They had 9 children and they are listed below. October 19, 1852, Fanny and George W. orphans of Benjamin F. Habern made choice of Andrew T. Habern for their guardian, and the court also assigned Andrew guardian to Tempy, Franklin B., Thomas H., Malissa, and Barbary A. Upon this, the court bonded Andrew together with William Jones, John Crabtree, Jonathan Richmond, James Jones, William Carnes and James Crabtree in the amount of \$4000 (OBK 6-374). Andrew T. born 1827, Russell County
 Mary Elizabeth (Betty) born September 6, 1829, Lee County
 Frances (Fanny) born 1831, Lee County
 Temperance (Tempy) born October 6, 1834, Lee County
 George Washington Hapkin born 1836, Lee County
 Benjamin Franklin born 1838, Lee County
 Thomas H. born 1840, Lee County
 Eunice Malissa born March 3, 1842, Lee County
 Barbara (Barbary) Ann born August 6, 1844, Lee County

The sixth son of Benjamin and Barbary was Benjamin Franklin, Jr. He married Mary Emily Wilson on March 1, 1861 (Lee County marriage book 2 page 9). Soon after they married, Benjamin enlisted in the Confederate Army and served until the end of the war. All of their children were born in Lee County. In 1885, twenty years after the end of the war, they traveled by wagon from their farm in Lee County to Bristol and then by train to Texas. They lived in Cooke County for two years and then bought a farm in Denton County and lived on it the remainder of their lives. They are buried in Jacke Davis cemetery just east of Sanger, Texas. Their 8 children are listed below.

Andrew Cowan born December 31, 1861, Lee County
 William Franklin born October 12, 1865, Lee County

Sidney Lee born April 16, 1867, Lee County
 James Harvey born November 5, 1870, Lee County
 Mary Virginia born July 5, 1872, Lee County
 Dorthula Elizabeth born February 5, 1874, Lee County
 George Gilmer born October 8, 1877, Lee County
 Charles Hendrix born July 22, 1883, Lee County

The oldest son, Andrew Cowan Habern, married Laura Blanton on February 5, 1885 in Lee County and had one son, Grover in 1886. Laura died in March of 1888. Andrew brought his infant son to live with his father in Texas in 1888. In 1892, he married Jenny Dean McClendon. They had 6 children. Grover was fully accepted by his half brothers and sisters, was generally regarded by them with great affection. Cowan's children are listed below.

Grover William born February 17, 1886, Lee County, Virginia
 Owen Lois born August 4, 1893, Denton County, Texas
 Nola Mae born March 15, 1895, Denton County, Texas
 Lou Ella born September 12, 1896, Denton County, Texas
 Dollie Lee born January 21, 1898, Denton County, Texas
 Charlie Hendrix born January 24, 1903, Denton County, Texas
 Mary Ruth born May 25, 1909, Denton County, Texas

Lou Ella married Fred Morris Martin on 18 January 1920 in Valley View, Texas where they made their home the rest of their lives. Their only child, Wanda Lou Martin, was born on 11 December 1921 and is the mother of the author.

PAT CAMPBELL HENLEY Nicholson (103 La Entrada, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-1515) sent a letter to me, 6/29/2000, with information and inquiry about the **Hanson Family** of Russell County, VA and Lake and Butte Counties, California.

Dear Jim Jessee:

If we are not actually related to each other, I believe that we surely do "connect" at least on one line

Since the uncle of my grandfather (Lapsley Campbell Henley) was that colorful character, Col. Arthur Campbell, and General Russell married the widow of his cousin, Gen. William Campbell; she was Elizabeth Henry Gambell...I think we have some connections with those people. But, what interests me at this moment, is the will of Samuel Porter (1815)

I descend from the Dickensons of Washington, Russell and Dickenson Counties, Virginia. My grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Allison Henley, was the daughter of Jerusha Hanson, who in turn was the daughter of George Major Hanson (born 1799). The Hanson family had settled in the Hansonville, Russell Co., Va., before he came west to California 1848-49. From the Histories of Russell County, I have learned that the Hansons and Jesses were intermarried. I owe most of the information about them to Evelyn Hanson Helton (1300 Dupont Drive, Kingsport, TN 39664)

I have attended some Hanson Family Reunions in Lake County, Calif., where George Hanson and much of his family settled. At that time, some of the family lived in Chico, and I do not remember which ones, or if they still live there.

Histories certainly are divided on what to say about Col. Arthur Campbell, but one thing does seem quite clear, Gen. Russell and Col. Campbell really did not like one and the other ... a lot of this was because of family differences. Imagine, my poor 2nd great-grandfather, Patrick, was the youngest brother of Col Campbell! Since Arthur Campbell, himself had been captured by the Indians when he was a teenager one might think that he would have had some compassion for someone having a similar experience.

Very little material about the Jesses, Hansons, Ellintons, Dickensons has been entered in my computer. Can you tell me more about the Jesse Family Newsletter? Much of what I do have has been obtained from the Perkins Library at Duke University as well as the Draper Papers.

DON HELTON [heltn@roanoke.infi.net] sent, 7/9/2000, information regarding the **Smyth/Smith and Helton Families of Russell Co., VA.**

I looked over the Smyth genealogy I have and didn't find the Cynthia Smyth d/o John Smith and Tabitha Porter who are your ancestors. I saw an early John Smyth mentioned in a narrative written by James K. Smyth, July 6, 1891, which is included in this work. He says that this John Smyth b: c1752, was b/o Jonas (b: c1750) and John was in the Indian war before the Revolutionary War, came home sick, and died. In another place there is a hand written note as follows: "John Smyth was killed during the French and Indian War. He was the first person buried in the Tobias Smyth Memorial Cemetery (TSMC). He was to have married Jane Beattie".

There are lots of death dates, some birth dates too. I may be able to get something on certain folks. I know very little about the Smyth's except for my grandmother's (Gertrude Isabel Smyth) generation. She was d/o William "Buck" Smyth b: Dec 20, 1820 and Elizabeth McClelland Hutson. This genealogy is all hand drawn, except for typed letters of remembrances about certain people, and is a bit hard to follow. As for the Helton's I may be of some assistance, but I'm still trying to sort some of the earlier ones myself. I'll help out where I can.

Phillip and Rachel Jessee

Phillip Jessee (1742-1858) and his son **Gabriel Jessee (1804-1886)**, of still unknown relationship to John Jessee (1750-1816), are among the early Russell County, VA families. Phillip who may have lived to be 116 is sometimes referred to reverently as Old Phillip.

LISA STANSBURY (lis_stansbury@yahoo.com) sent, 5/11/2000, information regarding the family of **Emet C. Thompson**. Emet is the son of **Norman Thompson and Mary Elizabeth Wallace**, daughter of **Major L. Wallace and Celia E. Jessee**, daughter of **Gabriel Jessee**.

I'm Emet Thompson & Ruby Lee Caldwell's great grand daughter by their second son Stewart. I have used Photoshop to clean up the picture of Norman and May Elizabeth Thompson. I'd be happy to send it to you if you like. These are the inscriptions in Emet's Bible:

Births:

12/2/1891 Emet C. Thompson

2/9/1892 Ruby Lee (Caldwell) Thompson
(Their children)

8/31/1910 Dallas Thompson

3/31/1912 Stewart Thompson

Living Person

1/24/1920 Irene Thompson

Elizabeth (Wallace) Thompson 8/16/1851

Marriages:

9/7/1909 Emet C. Thompson & Ruby Caldwell

Deaths:

Irene (Thompson) Low 6/14/1941 (child birth)

Pinky (Mildred Irene Ikard) Thompson

(w/o Stewart Thompson) 6/27/42 (child birth)

Stewart Thompson 11/30/1945 (car accident)

Dallas Thompson 2/19/1947 (heart problem)

Ruby Lee Thompson 11/23/1964

Leonard 6/11/1972 (Son in law by surviving daughter of Emet)

The causes of death were not included in the Bible, but I thought I should add them to explain the short lives of my relatives. My mother was legally adopted by her Aunt and Leonard. Emet died 9/6/1980.

LISA STANSBURY (lis_stansbury@yahoo.com) sent, 7/27/2000, the following information regarding **Celia Jessee**, daughter of **Gabriel Jessee**.

Emet Thompson's mother Mary Elizabeth Wallis was the daughter of Major Lee Wallis and his first wife Elonore (LNU), not his second wife C. [Celia] Jessee. I have confirmed this with the 1850 Census. Major L. Wallace and Major Lee Wallis on the Jessee family data base are the same person. Major's mother Elizabeth Fuller is the daughter of Henry Fuller and Elizabeth Spivey.

According to a Fuller researcher, the line goes:

Ezekiel Fuller I m Deborah Spivey

" " II m Sarah Vinson

Henry Fuller m. Judith Spivey (relationship to above Spivey unverified)

Elizabeth Fuller m. John Wallis

The researcher I contacted stated that Major Wallis and C. Jessee had no children. I hope that this is helpful. Although I am disappointed to not be a member of the Jessee family, I may find my way into the family on another line.

John and Frankey Lea Jessee

Many Jessees in America are descended from **John (1750-1815)**, and **Frankey Lea Jessee (1752/61-1836)** of Cobb's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina and Carr's Creek (today Mill Creek) in Reed's Valley, Russell County, Virginia. They had fifteen children. There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," even "Jessie" families in the United States and Canada who are known descendants of those fifteen children. All of us living descendants are about fifth or sixth cousins, or even closer kin.

I will report here new information with respect to John and Frankey and each of the fifteen (I-XV) children in the newsletter, and rely upon special requests and the new Jessee Family Website to provide the detailed genealogy information to those specifically interested in any particular branch.

IRIS LAMBERT HALL (Pueblo, CO) responds to the last newsletter with additional information and comments about various branches of the family.

Dear Jim..

Received July 2000 issue of Jessee Family Newsletter ... as always, it was very interesting, always a pleasure to get. You are doing a good job at walking that "thin line" between those who have wholeheartedly embraced researching by computer, and those of us old timers who carry on our research today much the same as we did 30-35 years ago .. page by page and line by line. My only real "upgrade" thru the years has been researching microfilm of vital records-when they have been filmed .. and of course census records and old books and interviews that have been filmed to use as guides in looking for documentation .. and the retirement of my good old Smith-Corona typewriter and its replacement with an IBM CORRECTING Selectric II !! Those little erasing tapes are a real blessing... especially as my typing becomes not so good as it used to be. Yes, yes .. I know .. if I would move on to a computer, I wouldn't have to bother with eraser tapes but I don't feel sufficiently "bothered" to go that far.

Have a few comments on things in the newsletter... for your consideration.

Page 16 .. I found **William Vincent Jessee, Jr.**, son of Wm., Sr., married **Rebecca Stinson** Sept. 16, 1868 in Russell County, Va. (Bk. 2, p. 26 #84). Rebecca was the daughter of Edward and Margaret Jane (Burke) Stinson.

After Rebecca Stinson Jessee died (have not found just when), he married second on Sept. 28, 1905 in Dickinson County, Va. **Margarine Mullins**, dau. of **John H. Mullins**.

I have that William V. Jessee died 1936 and is buried at the William Vincent Jessee Cemetery in Russell Co. Va.

Page 21 .. Liz Strickland. I did not find a "**Mellie**" **Jessee** (s/ Christopher, s/Fleming, s/James and Jane Jessee) .. would like to know where he fits in.

Page 24 .. Robert Baker .. **Archer Lea Jessee** s/Martin and Jane (Price) Jessee md. Jan. 8, 1867 Russell Co., Va. to **Sarah T. Baker**, dau. of James and Hiley (Johnson) Baker (Bk. 2 p. 22 #3) (One record looks like mother "Higley" Baker)

Sarah Baker Jessee died Nov. 17, 1873 (Bk.1 p. 6, Russell Co. Va.) and Archer-Lea Jessee m. 2nd **Nancy Hartsock**, dau of Andersen and Catherine (Burke) Hartsock on Apr. 22, 1875 in Russell Co. (Bk. 2 p. 47 #37). He was 28 and a widower.

Regarding **Thomas J(efferson) Jessee**, Thomas, son of George L. and Elizabeth (Counts) Jessee, married first to **Sarah/Sally Browning**, dau. of Jessee and Obedience (Stinson) Browning - June 7, 1854, Bk. 22, p. 14, Russell Co. Va. This Sarah died June 1, 1877 at age of 41 y. 5m. 13. d. in Russell Co. Thomas J. Jessee then m. 2nd Nannie Candler. Both of these wives are buried at the George L. Jessee Cemetery (among other names it has/had) and it is presumed that Thomas J. Jessee is buried there too. In researching this family, I found another record .. on Mar. 19, 1904 at Bk. 2, p. 136, No. 39 of the Russell County records, there is a record of a T.J. Jessee 70 yrs. old, widower, b. Russell Co., who married a Sarah C. Young, a 47 yr. old widow, dau. of Sidney. The name and age would be right .. wonder if Thomas J. Jessee, son of George L., married a third time .. to another Sarah?

I know I have asked this before .. but list of names seems to keep growing .. Are the John and Frankie Lea Jessee Cemetery, the Eliju K. Jessee Cemetery, the E.K. Jessee Cemetery, the Ephraim K. Jessee Cemetery, the George Lea Jessee Cemetery and the Bransen Cemetery all the same just depending on who was living there at the time of death? [I believe the John and Frankey, George Lea, and the Bransen Cemetery are all one and the same, and uncertain about the others-Ed]

Page 25 .. **Rebecca Jessee**, born ca. 1848, dau. of Fleming Burke Jessee, married Absalom B. Gilly on Nov. 3, 1872 in Scott Co. Va. (Bk 2, p. 43, # 103). She was his 2nd wife, and died in 1894 in Wise Co., Va., .. buried at Mabe in Scott Co.

Page 27 Gail Garten Gilbert. I have copy of abstract taken from **William and Mary/Polly (Vermillion) Jessee** Bible, but have no address to mail copy to her. From the looks of it (arrangement - typing, etc.) I would say that it was abstracted by E.J. Sutherland and is a part of the records of old Bibles, etc. that can be found among his records at the LDS Church Library. It has been a long time since I researched all that microfilm at our LDS Library, but know he did have a lot of old Bible records, voting records, obituaries, etc. etc. I think they must be under his name since they do cover a number of Virginia counties.

My good wishes to you and your family.

L. CARLYINE RITTER [jessee@harborside.com], sent, 8/18/2000, the following family lore about **Henry Jessee**, who we have speculated was the father of **John Jessee** based on the fact that John and Frankey witnessed the will of Henry Jessee, as recorded in Caswell, then Orange Co., NC.

I think I've mentioned this before, but just in case...I was rereading your notes on Henry JESSEE this morning and wanted to let you know that my own theory is that Henry was most likely John's brother. The reason I say this is that comments made by my grandmother (Ethel BLACK JESSEE) regarding the John BLACK line (of Ashe Co. NC) have proven to be right on, so I am giving even more credence to the story she told of two brothers leaving an estate in England because of serious religious persecution. They fled to the Netherlands for two years before immigrating to the US, where they served under George Washington. Therefore, my gut feeling is that John's father was left somewhere in the British Isles.

You would almost have had to know my grandmother to be able to understand why I put so much value on what she said. She was humble, calm, with a delightful sense of humor. She treated children as peers, so I adored staying with her. Once when my cousin, Gary (a year older than me), was about 13 and feeling full of himself one evening, told Grandma he was hungry. She motioned to me to follow her to the kitchen where she made him a lovely sandwich out of Friskie's canned dog food, complete with mayo and lettuce. Gary, ever the fussy eater (he always smelled of his eggs before eating them), devoured the sandwich. I was beside myself, trying to keep a straight face, but Grandma never let on. To this day, I don't think Gary has a clue and I ain't gonna tell 'im!

Anyway, this is the same Grandma who responded to my question as to why Uncle Frank and Uncle Bill looked like Negroes (this was when I was about 14, which would have been back when Negroes was a polite word and Gary's younger sister and I had been examining our fingernails and heels, trying to determine if we were part black, because our uncles had such dark skin) with: "Your great grandma, who was blond, ran off with a Portaghee sailor."

Marilyn and I just said, "oh," as kids will do, and went back out to play. As adults, we assumed that Grandma had made up the part about the sailor, because, after all, what would a Portuguese sailor be doing in Tennessee? But many year later, after I'd been researching my family for some time, I learned about the Melungeons and it's likely that the story is completely true and his name was William PERKINS.

Grandma also said there were 16 preachers within our family at one time. We just ignored that rash statement. However, now that I've had time to think about it, it was also probably correct, the BLACKs have also been very religious. Unlike most families, I have yet to discover an ancestor who'd been in trouble with the law.

Anyway, now that I've let you know about my completely unprovable theories, I'll go back to kicking myself in the behind for not having had the sense or motivation to ask my grandmother more questions.

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.

SALLY MARGARET BOLLING (SMB2228@webtv.net) sent, 6/11/2000, the following corrections regarding the family of **Harry William "Bill" Bolling** who married **Wilma Nell Jessee**, daughter of **Taulbee Balford Jessee**, son of **John Henry Jessee**, son of **Stanford Lea Jessee**, son of **Jefferson**, son of **John Jessee, Jr.**

My parents, H.W. Bolling, Wilma Nell Jessee Bolling, and my borther William Taulbee Bolling all three died in Russell County and are buried in Russell County in Russell Memorial Cemetery, not Wise County as listed. The date of deaths are correct. My father, Harry William (Bill) Bolling was born in Jenkins, KY not Pound, VA as listed, and my brother William Taulbee Bolling was born in Lebanon, VA, not Spring City. The Wise County info must be coming from someone that knew of us when we lived there.

BRIGITTE CHABO (Cutterpie@aol.com) sent, 6/10/00, the following information regarding the family of **Clarence C. Clay** who married **Mamie Estelle Jessee**, daughter of **Ephraim Kiser Jessee**, son of **Joseph Jessee**, son of **John Jessee, Jr.**

My grandfather was Joe Clay, the brother of Clarence Clay. Joe and Clarence's father, George Clay, married Susan Hickman. George's mother was named Emily and George's grandmother was Lucy. George was one of five boys born to Emily. However, we have been unable to locate any father for the boys.

My family tree shows Clarence married Mammie Jessee. I show that they had 5 children (off the top of my head - Phyllis; Robert - died at 5 in a fire; I think Vera) I can't remember the rest and I have given my father the breakdown I have. I will get it back from him and give you the children's names; their spouses and I think it even has their children on it.

My Clarence and Mammie were born and raised in Castlewood, Russell County, Virginia; however, they may have moved sometime after they were married. Joe, Clarence's brother, stayed in Castlewood and married my great-grandmother. My father eventually was born there, but he left when he joined the service. He ended up settling in No. Virginia where we still live today. I was born in No. Virginia, not back in Castlewood.

My uncle, James Foster, was one of the town doctors for many years way back when. But the story of Joe and Clarence's father is turning out to be very interesting. George had four brothers. All brothers family had found each other, but not George's. I/we are the missing link about George. I have tried to find other siblings of Clarence and Joe, but have had no luck. I figure someone has to know something about George's parents. I contacted George's other siblings and they are very knowledgeable about George, Emily (his mother) and Lucy (grandmother). However, on no death or marriage certificates can we find out who the father is of any of these 5 boys.

During one of the census it states that Emily is a widow. But it never listed her as being married - ever. There are no records in the County Hall that show she was married. We believe that Ms. Emily was flamboyant. It's possible that all boys were bastards. My grandmother (George would be her grandfather) and her sisters are VERY upset with me and finding George, his siblings, Emily and Lucy. But they won't tell me why or what in the world is going on. I keep trying to push to find out. They are in the 80's and there is not much time left if we are ever going to find out about George, Emily and Lucy.

Also, George was in the Civil War. I will forward to you later some e-mails that I received in regards to George, his wife Susan, his brothers, etc. It appears that our family is so large. I am so glad to have found another member of George's side. I will view your website. I am so excited to find another person who cares about this family. I have been hit with soooooo many road blocks by the living family, it's truly unbelievable. It keeps making me more determined to find out more.

SUE WOOD (charminj@ncweb.com) provides, 3-10-1999, pedigree and descendants information for **Sarah Diles Jessee**, who is her husband's gg-grandmother. Sarah is the daughter of **Noah K. Jessee**, son of **Jefferson Jessee**, son of **John, Jr.**

My husband's great grandmother was Sallie Jessee Hale Smith. She was married to William Hale and when he died she married Lewis Terry Smith in Greenup, in 1894. Sallie's half sister, Phoebe L. Jessee, married Sallie's first mother-in-law's son by her first marriage, Tolliver Reffitt.

I am searching for the parents of Lewis Terry Smith born (according to the 1900 census) March of 1868 in KY. Sometimes he went by Lewis, sometimes by Terry and sometimes by L.T. Smith.

He married Sallie Diles (Jessee) Hale in Greenup On Nov. 11, 1894. They had the following children (some are from the census records and some are from the state birth records that are now offline and may be incorrect):

George W. Smith - 1895 in York, Greenup Co.
Clara/Clair Smith - 1899 (M. Clifford Barclay in 1920 but may have had a previous marriage as marriage app. lists her as a widow.)
Fred O. Smith - 1903
Charlie L. Smith - 1908 in Tennessee
Chester H. (Called "Dick") Smith - 1911
Robert Marshall (Called Marshall) Smith - 1912
Marshall L. Smith - 1913
Luther T. Smith - 1915
Luther Smith - 1916
Della Jewell (Called Jewell) Smith - 1919

As far as I know, all the children but Charlie were born in Greenup.

George was in Cleveland, OH by 1923 where he married Orilla Graig.

Clara by 1928 where Clifford died and she married Jay Phipps. Fred married Jane Janc in Cleve., in 1929.

Charlie married Clair Koch (Unknown Where)

Chester (Dick) married Mary Ferguson in 1941 in Cleve.

Robert Marshall married (unknown where) Tollie Ethel Hale, around 1944 (Cleveland area).

Luther married Elenor Wells about 1936 (unknown where)

Della Jewell married Dan Thorsbery (Sic) Bef. 1942 Possibly in KY. and married Matthew L. Zeyn, 1954, in Cleveland.

Sallie Jessee Smith died June 20, 1921 in Thompson Pct., Greenup Co. and is buried in Darnell Cemetery in York. I don't know where or when Lewis Terry Smith died or is buried. So I pretty much have the info on Lewis's Children but cannot find his parents. I sure would appreciate any help.

JASON WHITT (whitt@ezwv.com), of Huntington, WV, sent, 7/24/2000, the following information regarding **Cowan Jessee**, who I believe to be the son of **Andrew Jackson Jessee**, son of **Archer Jessee**, son of **John Jessee, Jr.** There is a problem, as **Kim Cook** reports that Cowan's death certificate indicates his parents are **George Lee Jessee Jr. and Eliza Jessee**, (and Jessee may have been her maiden name). Note spelling of Jessee as both Jesse and Jessie in this family.

My gggrandfather was Cowan Jesse (4/1859 - 10/1937), he was married to Hannah Edison (1/1871 - 12/1943) and they had 3 sons: Hayden, Harry, and Robert. Here is some info I got from my Grandmother's (Margaret Irene Jessie) Bible on her parents and grandparents.

Margaret Irene Jessie: b. 7/18/1915 Olive Hill, KY
Parents: Robert Jessie b. 1/15/1890 Carter Co. KY
d. 11/28/1955 Lexington, KY

Stella Walker b. 4-26-1896 Olive Hill, KY
d. 3-10-1944 Grayson, KY
married: 10-5-1912

Other children: Atha, Ralph, Roger, Jack, Juanita, Arvil, Joan, Bobbie, Ray

Robert's parents: Cowan Jessee b. 4-5-1859
d. 10-10-1937
Hannah Edison b. 1-12-1871
d. 12-31-1943

ANNE BARTEE (jack@cfw.com) provided this information, 5/27/2000, about **Evaline Bartee**, identifying for the first time her parents, **Robert and Lucinda Powers Bartee**, and sister **Adaline Bartee**, disputing the claim by Artelia Sexton, that Evaline is a daughter of George Bartee. Evaline Bartee married **James Monroe Bickley** (grandson of Charles William Bickley--see photo following), and their daughter **America Elizabeth Bickley** married **John Tivis Jessee**, son of **Joseph Jessee**, son of **John Jessee, Jr.** and my gg-grandparents.

I have never heard this story by Artelia Sexton. There is a Robert Bartee in Norfolk, VA in the 1600's. He had 4 children by Mary Wirick. All of the Bartees seem to be descended from this couple. Evaline and her sister Adaline were the daughters of Robert Bartee and Lucinda Powers. He died in Tyrell County, NC about 1848. Then Lucinda married Maximillian Tatem. They moved to Russell County, VA where Evaline m. James Bickley and you know the rest. However, I haven't put this particular Robert in with the right parents yet. But, it gets you back to the correct area, at least.

Sent 5/30/2000: My husband is descended from a Theophilus Bartee (born c 1800 or so) in the Virginia Beach area. Since that's where the original family was he must belong with someone! But, I have yet to find his father. The original Robert is on the Quit Rent Rolls of Norfolk County in 1704. He also appears as witness on something or other (can't remember just now) in the late 1600's. His wife's will is filed there, etc., etc. I assume you know about The Bartee News. I got a lot of info there. I found Lucinda and Robert's marriage recorded there. Earlier I had found Lucinda and Max's marriage record on the Tyrell County lists in Genweb. Later I found Evaline and Adaline on orphan records as children of Robert. They are listed with Max and Lucinda later in Russell County census, so 2 + 2 equals a big "YES!!".

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.

DAVID CLIFTON (dclifton@Alanritchey.com) sent 6/22/2000, information regarding the family of **Eunice Monroe Habern** who married **William Jessee**, son of **Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning**. See his contribution on the **Habern Family** featured up front in this newsletter and his letter discussed under **Elizabeth Jessee Gose**, below.

JIM JESSEE (Jim.Jessee@ejgallo.com), sent, 6/30/2000, the following inquiry regarding the family of **James Robert Jessee, III**, whom I believe to be the son of **Edgar Wiley Jessee and Laura May Buckles**. Edgar or Edward was the son of **Andrew Jackson "Jack" Jessee**, son of **Archer Jessee**.

My name is **James Robert Jessee III**. My grandfather "Bob" grew up in Lebanon, Virginia. His wife, Maxine's, maiden name was Buckles [I believe it was Fletcher and her mother-in-law was a Buckles-Ed]. Please let me know of any possible family out there we could contact to learn more. My immediate family isn't interested in this kind of thing so my knowledge of our history is very faint. I do remember a trip to Lebanon and a chance to go to a street named for the family. Thanks in advance for any help. Jim Jessee, State Manager, EJ Gallo Co., Mississippi.



James Monroe and Evaline (Bartee) Bickley

CURTIS YANCY (CFYANCY@aol.com), sent 7/5/2000, information regarding **Curtis McPeters** who married **Sarah Etta Jessee**, daughter of **Archiebald Columbus Jessee**, son of **Archer Jessee**, son of **Elder "Little Dave" Jessee**, son of **Archer Jessee**.

I have a little data on Curtis McPeters' maternal line. Some elderly members of my mother's family gave me the info. His Father was John McPeters and his Mother Harriet P. Byrd. She is the daughter of James Byrd. I do not know if you are aware that Curtis played on the TV program of "Gunsmoke" He is the cousin of Rex Allen (of Singing Cowboy Fame and the Narrator of many of Walt Disney Specials). He is also a cousin of Glen Strange that played "Sam the Bartender" on Gunsmoke. Will share what I have.

PAT NICHOLSON (phenleyn@juno.com) sent, 7/9/2000, information about Hansons and Jessees. Pat is a descendant of **George Mason Hanson**, son of **David Hanson**. David's daughter **Mary Jane Hanson** married **John Jessee**, son of **Archer and Nancy Browning Jessee**.

My records seem to confirm the records of Iris Lambert Hall & John Plaat, page 13 of [last] Jessee Family Newsletter....with slight differences, but there is more to say about the slave information from Mary Kay Ward on page 14.

I have, from Will Book #4 page 410 the Inventory of appraisement of the Estate of David Hanson, 1829 deceased. He was my 4th great grandfather. His son, George Mason Hanson, brother of Mary Jane Hanson Jessee, left Russell County for a short time in Kentucky... After which he went to Illinois where he was in the State Legislature with Abraham Lincoln. He was against Slavery quite early on. George Mason Hanson was a pioneer, three times. He went to Kentucky from Russell Co., VA first; then went to Illinois long enough to be in the State Legislature; then he was a '49er pioneer in California.

When I read the [David Hanson] inventory, there is a slight count difference from was reported on both pages Will Book4 page 469 on 3/29/1830 and Will book # on page 451 recorded 1/27/1829. I will list the names which are almost identical.

1 negro man Jack \$200.00
1 " " Zachariah 250.00
1 old woman Lizy (Leiza) 200.00
1 negro boy Robert 160.00
1 girl Frances (Frank) 120.00
1 girl Sylvia (Silva) 85.00
1 negro boy Edman (Edmund) 50.00
1 girl Chaney 180.00
1 girl, Kisey 125.00 emancipation 1829

I do know about Auntie Kisey because she raised my grandmother and her brother in Coles County, Illinois, after their mother, Jerusha Hanson Allison died when they were very young. There was a boy or man too, but I do not remember his name. Kisey, the free woman remained with the family in Illinois.

LOU IN INDIANA (GraveNews2@aol.com) sent, 7/18/2000, the following information pertinent to **Skidmore Munsey** and two of his daughters, **Elizabeth Munsey** who married **John Jessee**, son of **Archer**, and **Eliza Jane** who married **David Hanson Jessee**, a son of John from a previous marriage. John was both David Hanson's son and brother-in-law.

I am a descendant of Skidmore Munsey (Rev War) through his daughter, Margaret who married William Pauley (Rev War) who moved to Tenn ca. 1807 and removed to Boone Co IN ca. 1827. I thought you might be interested in the following cemetery records

to post on your Jessee site or forward to the "proper authorities". It is for David & Elizabeth (Munsey) Jessee who was in Russell Co Va in 1850 census to Delaware Co IN before 1860.

Muncie, Delaware Co, IN Beech Grove Cemetery Records, Muncie Indiana, From Office Records and Tombstone Inscriptions, c1993, Delaware Co Historical Alliance (pub). It is only the portion of the cemetery called "Old Part" (X)= stone found, sur= survivor

Lot #428 - only 7 listed for this lot, so David may be buried on this lot, but died before they kept records?
Elizabeth Jesse Moore d. 5 Nov 1904, 76y 6m 25d, widow, b. VA surv. Albert Jesse
Elbert S Jesse d. 23 Sept 1929, 77y 8m 3d, wid, b. VA, surv. Maria Reeves
John A Jesse d. 15 Sept 1871, 15 y (X)
Alice J Jesse, d. 14 June 1915, 58y 11m 29d, mar, b. OH, hus. Elbert (X)
Emma Virginia Hite d. 3 July 1935, 77/97?y?, wid, b.VA sur Howard Myers (no info)
Albert J Williamson d. 7 Feb 1930, 49y 5m 5d, single, sur. Maria Reeves, last res Milwaukee WI
Mary E Williamson d. 14 aug 1881, 19y 11m2d [my note - may have been the wife of Albert?]
Lot #355
Maria T Reeves d.16 Jan 1936, 85y 4m 28d, wid, sur. Mrs J H Fogel (X) says Maria J
James E Reeves, d. 3 Sept 1913, 74y, res Marion IN [Grant Co], mar, sur Maria Reeves (X)
Elizabeth Fogle d. 19 July 1955, 81,11,5, bro James E Watson oss James H(X)
James Harvey Fogle d. 1 Feb 1942, 74y 26d, b.VA, sur Elizabeth Fogle oss Eliz (X)

Some of these Jesse(e)s may also be children of John Jessee and Elizabeth Muncey, sister of Eliza Jane who married David Hanson Jessee.

AUBREY J. DRY SR. (Ajdry@inu.net) inquired, 7/21/2000, about helping him find a **Nicey Jessee**. Our dialogue follows, and we may have tied this down to a member of the **Archer Jessee** family.

I saw your page on the Jessee family and thought you might be able help me. I am researching Nicey Jessee, who married William Henry Gilley in Virginia. They came to Fannin Co. Texas about 1895. She died 17 May 1910 and is buried in Fannin County. I believe her name may have been Unicey or Eunice. I have found a Unicey Jessee in the household of Unicey Jessee in 1880 Russell Co. Va. She is listed as a niece. Do you have any information on this Nicey Jessee?

I wrote informing him I had as many as five candidates and could he explore my database further. He responded as follows.

I was not able to connect any of the Nicey or Eunice Jessees in your database. However I did connect with the family that the Unicey that I believe to be my Nicey, was living with in 1880. She was living with Unicey Jessee (a widow) and was enumerated as a niece. This is the William Jessee and Eunice Habern family. I believe this is the Nicey that I am trying to find parents of. One of William's and Eunice's sons (Lilburn Monroe) also came to Texas in the same area. (Near Paris, Tx.) If she was indeed a niece, then one of William's brothers should be her father. I looked at all of William's brothers' families and could not find any with a child named Eunice or Nicey. I really appreciate you getting back to me so soon. If you have any ideas where to go from here, let me know.

SANDY LUCCI [SAN516@aol.com] sent, 8/1/2000, this information about a previously unconnected branch of the family, the descendants of **Vena Monda Jessee**, a daughter of **Watson Harvey Jessee**, son of **Wilson Jessee**, son of **Archer Lea Jessee** son of **Archer and Nancy Browning**. Vena is also descended from **Archer and Mary Polly Owens**, via **Rebecca Jessee Childress**, and also **Mary Polly Jessee Kiser**, via her daughter **Frances Kiser** who married **Abraham Childress**.

Dear Jim,

In looking through your database, hoping to find info on another branch, I found some speculation I may be able to help you with. Vena Monda JESSEE, ID # 118268 in your database was my maternal grandmother. The dates you have for her birth and death are correct. However, her mother and father are close but off. I can offer an excerpt taken from her family Bible which is now in the possession of my uncle, Sammy Joe Roller, Sr. of Lebanon, TN. is the following:

Watson Harvey Jessee born May 23, 1885 died July 20, 1949
Lillie Mary Dickenson born Aug 6, 1889 died Feb. 13 1977

Watson Jessee's mother was: Mattie Virginia Jessee, she was a Childress before marrying a Jessee. Mattie was a daughter of Harvey and Rebecca Childress. Mattie Virginia's husband was Wilson Jessee

Lillie Mary Dickenson Jessee's mother was Lucy Oney and married James Ora Dickenson.

James Ora Dickenson born Feb. 18, 1856 died Feb. 20, 1940

Lucy Oney Dickenson born March 16, 1860 died Nov 1, 1950"

This ties Vena Monda Jessee into Wilson Jessee (your database ID 13170) through her father Harvey Watson Jessee. This Jessee branch ended with Wilson's sons, Harvey Watson and Richmond Rimley who both had no sons.

I was pleased to see that my aunt, Colleen Roller (listed as living) was listed as one of the children of Vena Monda Jessee. I would like to give you the complete list of the thirteen children of Vena and Solomon Rhea Roller.

Mary Kathryn Roller born 6, Jan 1927 living
Colleen Elizabeth Roller born 18, Dec 1928 died 12 June 1997
Solomon Rhea Roller Jr born 20, March 1931 died (will have to look up)

Betty Lou Roller born 20, June 1933 living
Henry Edward Roller born 25, Feb 1935 living
Billie Jessee Roller born 3, Jan 1937 died 16, March 1938
James Delaney Roller born 3 Feb, 1939 died 17, Nov 1939
Mildred Sue Roller born 30, Oct 1940 living Douglas
Arthur Roller born 30, July 1942 living
Thomas Harold Roller born 11, March 1945 living
Donald Lee Roller born 27, Dec 1946 died 5, Aug 1947
Sammy Joe Roller Sr. born 5, June 1948 living
Peggy Rogena Roller born 19, June 1950 living

I hope this info has helped and I want to thank you for all the work you put into your wonderful database. You have helped me tie up some loose ends and I have made some surprising discoveries that I will try to include at a later date. Thanks, Sandy Lucci

KRISTINE THOMPSON [kristinethompson@ftzcorp.com] sent, October 13, 2000, information regarding **Major M. Thompson** and his wife **Elizabeth Jessee**, daughter of **Vincent Jessee, Jr.**, son of **Vincent Jessee**, son of **Archer Jessee**.

Major M. Thompson and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Jessee were my great grandparents. (You might like to know that the "M" stands for Marshall. The only reason I am assuming this is because Major and Lizzie had a son who was also named Major Marshall; and I know

the "M" stands for "Marshall" because my father is named for him. We affectionately knew the younger Major M. as "MM", or "Uncle M".)

Major M. and Lizzie had a son, William Hadley Thompson, who is my grandfather. William H. Thompson married my grandmother, Cecil Jennings, who was from Lexington, KY. William and Cecil were both married previously, to whom we do not know, but do know they produced no children from either marriage. However, together they had their oldest son, William Hadley, Jr., who passed away in February of 1999; my father, Robert Marshall, born October 13, 1946; and Sharon Hackmeyer. Sharon married (to a man whose name I do not know because they divorced shortly after the birth of their son, Michael Boyd Hackmeyer, who passed away at the age of 23 in 1994.) My father married Beverly Hollingsworth Thompson, born May 18, 1944, in Quitman, MS. They had me, Kristine Thompson, on December 26, 1977; and I am engaged to be married to Paul Malcolm Lightfoot on December 30, 2000. (Yes, Malcolm is from the Lightfoot family mentioned on Frankey Lea's page.)

I have lots of information on the Thompsons and Jessees left from my Great Aunt Virginia; (we called her "Aunt Jinx"). As soon as I can get my hands on it, I will be glad to send you copies. Who knows, maybe it has info that could be added!

Also, just a note, my interest was sparked when my Aunt Sharon gave to me the wedding ring that Major gave to Lizzie. The inscription on the inside reads "From M.T. to L.J."

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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.

No new contributions to report.

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.

No new contributions to report.

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.

Please see the contributions of **Cyndi Valencia** under Jesse(e) Family Origins for additional information on **Catherine Banner's** possible **Brockenbrough** heritage.

VI. Elizabeth Jessee Gose

Elizabeth Jessee Gose (1785-1827) married **George Gose** (1786-1861), son of **Stephen Gose** and **Barbara Catron 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.

VIVIAN BOYD (vboyd@naxs.net) sent, 6/3/2000, information regarding **John Alexander** and his family. John's grandson, **William Gilmer Alexander**, son of **David Brawley Alexander**, married **Elizabeth Gose**, daughter of **George and Elizabeth Jessee Gose**.

Martha Alexander was the d/o David Brawley. John Sr. was the s/o David and Anne Alexander, their son David Brawley Alexander was born in Ireland, 6-28-1789. Their 2nd child Racheal was born in Maryland in 1793 they came to Russell Co. in 1795 and settled in Dickensonville, Martha died between 1830-35, I have tried to find their graves, but can't. I think I have gone through every cem. in Russ. Co. John Sr. married Mary Garrett in 1840, she was 40 years old he was in his 70's; she had never been married. I know this because John Jr. is (WAS) my gr. grandfather who married Hannah Price. I have spent my vacations for years trying to get this family straight. I think they all marr. Brownings-- the 1st John's chil; John and Martha Brawley were married 3/11/1788.

DAVID CLIFTON (dclifton@Alanritchey.com) sent 6/22/2000, information regarding the family of **Benjamin Franklin Habern** who married **Barbara Gose**, daughter of **George and Elizabeth Jessee Gose**. See his contribution on the **Habern Family** featured up front in this newsletter.

I was looking through Rootsweb today and came across your information on the Haberns. I am a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin Habern. He came to Texas in 1885 along with one of his sons, Andrew Cowan Habern, and settled near Sanger, Texas in Denton County. In any case, I have quite a bit of information, including some pictures of Andrew Cowan Habern and his father B.F. The main reason I'm writing you is because I believe B.F.'s father, also named Benjamin Franklin, was the son of Andrew Habern. That Andrew married Eunicia Hendrex (Hendricks). Since many of the marriage records were burned, I got the marriage from "inferred" marriage books...that is, the marriage was inferred from the will of her father Thomas Hendricks. The will was recorded in Russell County in November 15, 1806. My research showed that Andrew's name was recorded variously on the tax rolls by Heibourne, Heibourn, Heiburn, Heibourn, and Heburn. In any case, I would be interested in what your basis was for guessing that B.F. was the son of George Heburn & Mary Monroe. If you would like some of the information I have, I'd be happy to share it with you. Let me know and I'll email you some things. [I have since changed my records to match his].

Incidentally, I visited Lee Co. several years ago, and looked into the land that B.F. senior and his wife Barbara (called Barbary) Gose are buried on. It is on their land in Turkey Cove at the foot of Winding Stair Road. This land eventually passed to their son-in-law James Reasor. The graves have been messed up by cows. I wrote Mr. Reasor asking if I could put a little fence around the graves but got no response. Also of possible interest, my wife's family was Barker. Her lineage goes to land owned very near Turkey Cove. Their graves are not too far from Olinger. Hope to hear from you, regards,

David S. Clifton, Alan Ritchey, Incorporated, 940-726-3276

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.

VIVIAN BALES (Marion, IN), Polly Jessee Kiser's gggg-granddaughter, is a faithful contributor to this newsletter. She constantly works at ferreting out little bits and pieces of information she gathered over a lifetime, and sends them my way. I attempt to keep up with her by keying her information into the database. Here she provides some good advice, memories, stories, and insight into her colorful life.

May 25, 2000

Dear Jim:

See the enclosed [article about **Sportsman Daniel E. Jessee** (1903-1970) which we featured in an earlier Newsletter]. I think I sent you this before. But in case NO, had another copy made.

He [Daniel E. Jessee] was b. in Carter Co., Ky. Note his parents [James and Virginia Meade Jessee]. He was born at Counts Cross Roads. I told you about Counts Crossroads prior. Recently, I read about locations in Carter Co., and it said why the area was named Counts Crossroads.

Now times have changed, the railroads are gone, the area is now Pleasant Valley. But the same cemetery is still there, naturally. And people still are buried there. One of my Great Uncles on my mother's side, was bu. there 20 yrs ago. They say still people are interred there.

The Jessee families had "moving on my mind" to take their large families to, and better places. The Pacific Ocean stopped their migrations. From things said and stories in print they were education minded. And a higher reach for the better. I am very proud of my ancestry.

The Martin Jessee of John and Frances I recall reading about him. He went to Washington, became a well-known Horticulturist. His History is in the Library of Chicago.

There are still some Jessees in New Ross, IN I recall reading in one of the Jessee Newsletters, they were mentioned (think about Montgomery Co., IN) and the Jessees there.

One of them, and now slips my mind/memory, when he went to Washington, didn't live too many years; and died there. In a way, it was primitive ways and living, but they all knew where others had moved on to. Better contact than we have now days.

Many of the residents of Russell Co., VA intermarried, until who knows the mixture and how close. One of Noah Kiser's daughters m. one of the Jessee boys.

There is a group of Jessees in New Castle, IN. My cousin Albert Wilson told me about them several years ago. They came up from Olive Hill, KY in Carter Co. He said grandma Dickison told him years before, just who their parents were. I forgot who he said. Albert died several years ago. Taken back to KY for burial. Albert's mother was my Father's oldest sister.

There is a fellow: Lloyd Dean, Morehead, KY, who has a query of a sort asking for info on Riley Jessee, one of the early Pentecostal Preachers/Pastors in Carter Co. This Dean fellow is compiling a book on the Pentecostal Preachers in the area. For many months, he has the same enquiry about Riley Jessee.

Someone in Olive Hill should know about Riley. He was Pastor of the little church just below my grandpa Tackett's place on Henderson Branch. The church is now gone/plus a lot of other land marks. Riley was pastor there before 1921 and long after. He lived

in the area but where I do not know. My folks moved away when I was 8 1/2 yrs old. We went back summers until I was about 16. Then my mother took the other two children, Mary and Archie with her each summer.

Not long ago, my brother Archie and I were talking about down there and the relatives and people we knew. He told me he played with Archie Jessee, Riley's son. My brother was b. 21 April 1923, Brazil, Ind. I have no idea when my mother and Mary and Archie quit making their yearly pilgrimage. After Dad retired he and Mom made a trip down there often.

You can just about bet your bottom dollar that the Jesses in Floyd Co., KY, 1850's were from Russell Co., Va. Their given names go with the VA given names. The earlier ones from VA went that Route for a long long time. Then eventually, they found another more northern route to get over to Carter and other nearby counties. And over into Ohio. And then they really poured into KY.

Someone copied and messed up a lot and left out more than a third of the residents of Carter Co., 1870 Census. 99.9% of my ancestors were left out/other people who bought the book were angry also. They advertised, sold many volumes, had the brass to charge \$27.50, plus postage and then say it was copyrighted!!!! When a feller buys a 'pig in a poke' that is what you get. And the compilers should be honest, and say it is not a complete work. Buy at your own risk.

There were Jesses in Adair Co., KY 1850. A young girl had a picture of her gr-grandfather Thomas Jessee in the KY Explorer. I wrote her, but she replied she had not gotten into genealogy, and only wanted to have her gr-grandpa's picture put in it. (But she asked about his background; she wanted to know more about him.)

I have saw and heard others speak of a "Rane" McKinney, in Russell Co., VA. There were McKinneys there, but I only sought info for my Charles McKinney who m. Lovina Ring. Dau. of Rachel and Stephen Ring. Charles' father was James McKinney, he left a will, named his sons. No Rane in them. But there were other McKinneys in Russell Co. I hired Bonnie Ball, to look for the father of my Charles and she sent me the info and a copy of James McKinney's will.

Charles and Lovina's dau. Lavisey m. Hugh T. Kiser my great grandparents.) Hugh T. Kiser m. Lavisey McKinney, 1 Aug. 1850. He was 20, and she was 17. His parents were Noah and Dicie Kiser Her parents Charles and Louvenia (Ring) McKinney.

I thought Harvey Kisers version of the bad ancestor was a bright spot to share. Made me think of a day many years ago in the Indiana State Library. A group of women in Crawfordsville, went one day every three months to research. They had this huge room with material from all early States.

That day, the place was overcrowded. The sort of secretary/watcher to see the larceny minded there, didn't carry out anything. This one woman, who was a whiner to begin with, kept disturbing the whole crowd. She wanted to find her background, the lady kept getting books for her, to study/etc. Finally after an hour, the secretary said "look... I have gotten every book and record from where you want, why don't you study those. You are disturbing every one here." Well the whiner in a nasal voice said WELL ... I am afraid I will find a horse thief. She was standing right over me, and I said very nasty and loud. "Well, so what... at least he would leave a record." Oh boy ! every one laughed and clapped their hands. So the whiney woman just left and the secretary said, "Oh, thank you, that woman tried my patience to the limit."

I reached 87 on May 2nd. I reckon that is old... The Dr. said my heart was wearing out, the hardest working vessel in the body. Have to roll with the punches. Curtails things. Am on 2 diff. kinds of heart medicine, that plus other high way robbing prescriptions. Greedy Drs. and Pharmacist. Takes energy to talk and energy to do this too. So I do it by pecking one letter at a time with my right hand. Left works the muscles on my heart and heart side. But am limited with the time to try it. Got a fast trip to emergency a couple weeks or so, recently. Probably be a few more. Who knows. Instead

of old rockin chair has got me, it is old age that has got me. And so it goes.

I hope there will be hundreds that will attend the Reunion. Looking forward to hearing all about it. Bless you all.

June 3, 2000

Dear Jim Jessee:

The enclosed [See the following materials]... might have some interest and then might not. It could be redone over, but then it might not get to that point. So, as it is, please glance over and see if any part might have a name, or some interest.

I looked thru the book of Hagys: *Castle's Woods. 1768-1799*. His thesis for his M.A. Not one name that is familiar to us, at least me, anyway. Had forgotten that I had the book. I guess I will donate it to the Allen Co. Library, Fort Wayne. It is touted as the next best Library outside Salt Lake. (I bought the book newly published, 1966.)

In E.J. Sutherland's book, is a picture of William Sutherland and Sylvia Counts, a granddaughter of Abednego Kiser and his wife Mary (Polly) Jessee. I will keep this book out so I can remember, when I go to the print again, will see how the picture might come out. If good enough, will send it along to you. No doubt it got kept so well because the late Judge Elihu Jasper Sutherland descends from this couple too.

Hope you have a real good summer.... and have a big big turnout for the Jessee Reunion. Bless you now and have a happy happy day. Vivian

P.S. All the bobbles and miss whatever's, is just old age doing it's thing. It just rip, ravel's, runs down hill; all the way.

Bits & Pieces from Elihu Jasper Sutherland's book, Some Sandy Basin Characters.

William Sutherland. A Scotch family. Where and when he landed in America is not known. The first definite record, 1781 owned land on Keith's Cr. Bedford Co., Va. 1807 he moved farther, 200 miles to Carbo, Clinch R. in Russell Co.Va. 1811 he bought land from John Hackney and his wife. 1814 he bought 40 A. from Jesse Fuller. He md. Sarah Buchanan. Their children:Nancy, Henry, Catharine, Sarah, Daniel, Elizabeth, and Mary. Before he passed on from this world, he had a grandson named for him, William. whose father was Daniel Southerland. Daniel owned and operated a fine farm on the north bank of Clinch River He was a farmer by nature, he built and operated a water-mill, one the earliest.

William Sutherland's mother was Phoebe Fuller. Her parents were Jesse and Betsy (LEA) Fuller. her parents brought her as a child out of North Carolina when they came to make their home on the north bank of the Clinch. Here among the Blairs, Countses, Grizzles, Jesses, Kisers, Smiths, and other pioneer families. One of his tasks as a boy was tending the water mill near his home. He developed a passion for hunting. The "great Nimrod of the woods."

Aug. 1843 William Sutherland married Sylvia Counts, a daughter of Joshua Counts and his wife Martha Kiser. The Kisers and the Counts were of German ancestry. Joshua Counts' mother was Mary Kelley. Martha Counts' mother, was Martha Kiser Counts, her mother was Mary (Polly) Jessee, of English descent.

After his marriage, he bought a tract of 400 acres from his brother for the sum of \$90.00 ... 1855. In 1856 he built a pole Cabin. In a few months he carried his young wife and their first born, Jasper, out along the wilderness bridle path up to Bumps Creek.

Dick Colley "Fightin Dick." One day at a Muster of the militia at Sand Lick, George Robinson and another man were in a fight. Jess Bartley butted in. Dick Colley, wishing to see a fair fight, knocked Bartley down. Jimmy Sykes, Bartley's brother-in-law jumped up and said: That is a h/// of way to treat a man." Dick heard it and walked over to them, and asked "What did you say Jimmy Sykes?" Jimmy had great fear of Dick's big fist and softly said: "That is the way to lay 'em out Uncle Dick."

It seems Dick had more fights with John Fuller. Dick Colley's wife was a first cousin of Fuller's wife, both being named Crissa. John and Dick were both large strong men.

In the index of the book are these men: Hawk Fuller, Abraham Fuller, Betsy Lea Fuller, Crissa Rasnake Fuller, Jacob Fuller, Jesse Fuller, John Fuller, Margaret Colley Fuller, Phoebe Fuller. And Fuller's Store, also Walker Fuller. Walker Fuller died when a young boy, with some long lasting illness, he was 15.

Aug. 1843, William Sutherland married Sylvia Counts, a daughter of Joshua Counts and his wife Martha Kiser

Carl Kiser one of the Palatines and persons from Germany to America, settled in PA and later to Page Co., Va. Only two or three miles from the home selected by John Counts. Here one of the Counts sons, Philip, married one of Kiser's daughter Anna, 1785. Later moved to the Clinch.

Joseph Kiser son of the immigrant, married Susannah Stacy, then it was, Washington Co., near Carbo. He had a survey for a farm 1783. Joseph Kiser's son Abednego, married Mary (Polly) Jessee, a dau. of John and Frances Lee (Lea) Jessee. He became a Baptist Preacher, and died with disease in the United States Army, at Norfolk in 1814. One of Abednego's daughters m. Joshua Counts.

The Kisers and the Counts married in Shenandoah Valley, and members of the next generation intermarried forty years later, three hundred miles to the westward, in Clinch Valley. Joshua Counts of Cleveland on Clinch four miles away in Reeds Valley, married Martha Kiser

The Church was the center of life in any Community. Religious services were held in inclement weather and drew large crowds. The first Baptist Church on the upper Clinch, established in the Castlewood settlement before the Revolutionary War, temporarily closed until a more peaceful time. The new Church 1788, five miles from Elijah Counts home. One of his father's uncles, Edward Kelley, leading Preacher. Another Uncle Elder great Uncle Elder David Jessee, one of his mother's brothers, Elihu Kiser, Elder Abednigo Kiser was his mother's father. He came from a preaching family.

Jefferson Jessee, Elijah Counts Uncle, he had purchased a large tract of land of waste, or unoccupied mountain land. There he built a rough hunter's cabin. Mr. Jessee had married Nancy Counts. Mr. Jessee was a rich man from his vast cattle numbers and holdings.

The index has Elder David Jessee, Jefferson Jessee, Frances (Lee) Jessee, John Jessee, Mary Jessee, Nancy Counts Jessee. The book has many names of settlers and citizens/ the country terrain/ formations, Indian wars/ etc.

I read in another genealogical book of interest ... and it said: One couple with a large family (they sure did back then) in just under 300 years, they could have just over 3,300 descendants. When and if they all had the dozen to 15 children, I could imagine that account. But not of today's families.

Editor's Note: At this time I have 14583 direct descendants of John and Frankey Lea Jessee recorded in a little over 250 years.

HARVEY KISER (hjkiser@email.kcc.edu) sent, 5/25/2000, a photograph of **Noah Kiser**, son of **Abednego** and **Frances Jessee Kiser**, along with additional family information.

I am HARVEY KISER a 3rd Great Grandson of ABEDNEGO KISER AND MARY "POLLY" JESSEE KISER. I am gonna send you an attachment of a photo Of NOAH KISER son of ABEDNEGO and MARY "POLLY" JESSEE KISER.

I hope that one of the cousins will come up with a photo of Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser, and if I am real lucky, one of Noah's wife, Dicie Thompson Kiser. [Real lucky indeed, they lived before photography was invented.]

I can also send you a Genealogy Line of Abednego and Mary which would bring you down through my family, or if any of the cousins are looking for info on Mary "Polly's" descendants, I will be glad to send it to them. Your Cousin in KENTUCKY.

PHOTO OF NOAH KISER 1809-1884

Born in Russell Co., Va.

Died in Carter Co., Ky.



LARRY RIGLEY (nfn15473@naples.net) sent, 5/14/2000, information regarding the family of **Hattie Kiser**, who married **Earl Ray Dillow**. Hattie is the daughter of **Albert Lincoln Kiser**, son of **David Kiser**, son of **Noah Kiser**, son of **Abednego** and **Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser**.

It is good to see the update you have done to the site. I have some additional info. Hattie's husband, Earl, was born 2/26/02 in Wayne Co., W.VA. He died in 1975. They had 8 children.

Albert (Dick) Vintson deceased

Earl Lloyd 10/20/32 - 8/24/92

Roger Burl Alexander living

Boyd deceased

Daniel deceased

Gladys Marie living

Joy Virginia living

Lydia Irene 1/8/35 - living

Lydia Irene Dillow married Ralph Calvert Rigley (12/30/3 -) and had 3 children:

Ralph Randall (7/23/53)

Larry Jay (11/19/54)

Michelle Ann (5/20/69).

Larry Jay married Patricia Ann Turner (2/15/54). We have three daughters:

Jessica Ann (9/02/75)

Jennifer Aileen (8/03/77)
Julie Anna (2/20/81).

Jennifer Aileen had a son through her first marriage to Cary Berg. That son's name is Noah Christian Berg (6/21/96). She is now married to Joseph Manzoni.

I hope this information will help to fill in some of the blanks. When I find dates of birth and death for my mother's siblings, I shall email you again. If I can be of further help, let me know.

Jennifer Jesse (JLJesse@aol.com) sent, 6/19/2000, information regarding **Dan Jesse** married to a **Nancy Counts**, who has a son **Logan Jesse** who married **Grace Jones**, a descendant of **Abednego** and **Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser** .

Her family uses the spelling Jesse. Jennifer offers yet another view of the consistent Cherokee connection found in this branch of the family. I speculated that her Dan Jesse is **Daniel E.P. Jessee**, son of **Martin Jessee**, son of John and Frankey. I had recorded Daniel E.P. Jessee as married 1st to **Eleanor "Nelly" Smith**, 20 years his senior, and 2nd to a **Nan "Unknown."** Jennifer asks for help in figuring out this riddle. I would like to know who Nancy is, who married Dan Jesse, and what about those two marriages for Daniel E.P. Jessee, and what does E. P. stand for?

My name is Jennifer Jesse. My dad was Dr. James Logan Jesse from Cincinnati, OH. His parents were Grace Jones and Logan Jesse of Olive Hill, KY. Logan's parents were Daniel Jesse and Nancy Jessee [corrected later to Counts or Kiser] (cousins from different Jesse clans--one of single e (Jesse) and one of double ee (Jessee). Grace's father was a sort of unknown and thus she was born with her mother's maiden name, Jones. Suzie Jones (My great-grandmother) was the daughter of Steve Jones (a Cherokee) and Francis Kiser whose father was Noah Kiser. There were two Noah Kisers in my family--Suzie married the other Noah. To my knowledge, Noah (the father of Francis) was half Cherokee. I have a photo of a photo of him that I obtained from Orville Kiser in Olive Hill. I also have a photo of Steve Jones as well as photos of Suzie and her daughter (my grandmother), Grace Jones Jesse. I was in Olive Hill a few years ago and was told by Orville Kiser that being a Jesse is the same as being a Kiser. My Aunt Dixie Lee Jesse has always pointed out that we are not only Cherokee, but Jewish.

My family of Jesse's are from Carter County, KY. I've been there a few times and always find cousins. I visited the burial ground of Daniel and Nancy. It's in the woods on Doc Lewis's place. There is another grave there--the grave of Lark Ray. This is a mystery person to me. Do you know anything about Steve Jones? He was married to Francis (who I think was a Kiser and the daughter of Noah Kiser). He was a full blooded Cherokee who was recruited by the South as a Rebel Scout because of his horsemanship. He was relocated from North Carolina to Oklahoma in the Indian removal as a small child. After the Civil War, he settled in Olive Hill, KY. My grandma Jesse told me about him many times. She had his uniform but it burned in a fire when she was little. Her mother (my great-grandmother) was Suzie Jones (daughter of Steve Jones). I think that Steve Jones was a name given to him when he joined the Army. He had an Indian name but I don't know what it was and can't locate any records. Suzie had a twin sister, Emiline. They were not identical twins. I didn't know Emiline but knew Suzie. Apparently, Suzie met up with a man, John York, who was the father of my grandma, Grace Jones Jesse. Some say he was a gypsy while others say he was Jewish. I still don't know for sure as he disappeared.



My grandma, Grace Jones, with her mother Suzie Jones Kiser.

John and Frankey Lea are my great-great grandparents [actually ggg-grandparents]. My dad told me that our family was from Caswell County, NC and Russell County, VA. If this is so, then Daniel Jessee would have been a son of John and Frankey Lea [actually son of Martin, who is the youngest son of John and Frankey]. In my documentation, I have her name spelled, Frankie Lee. I think this is where my Aunt Dixie Lee Jesse got her middle name.

My mother is a Smith. Her grandparents were Phaft (Pfaff?) (spelling?) and Viola Smith. We don't know much about them except that Mr. Smith owned Loveland Mints (a candy factory) in Cincinnati, OH. They were born in Germany. It's believed that they were Jewish and escaped during Hitler's regime.



Jennifer Jesse

Sent 7/31/2000. Talking about looking in your own backyard! I think Nancy "Counts" Jesse (who was married to Daniel E.P. Jessee) was Nancy Kiser. I located this information on ancestry.families.aol.com. The dates match--21 January 1861 - 22 August 1911 in Carter Co, KY. It lists her spouse as Daniel Jessee but lists no children.



This is my grandpa, Logan Jesse, in 1914.

JENNIFER JESSE (JLJesse@aol.com) sent, 6/21/2000, more information about **Frances Kiser**.

I have been trying to call all kinds of family today and haven't been able to reach any one except some of our cousins in Olivehill. That was no help. They live right in the heart of their history and don't have a clue. I was trying to find out Nancy's (wife of Daniel) maiden name. No one knows. I still think she was a Counts. I do remember my dad telling me that she was very tall for a woman of her times and she was extremely dark complexioned. I went through some old papers to confirm my memories and next to her name it said--half black/half Cherokee. I'm going to see if Orville Kiser is still alive and talk to him if he is. He told me that she wasn't black but was very tall, dark, and presumed Cherokee.

.....

I called Orville Kiser today. He is still alive and has just turned 90! He said he renewed his driver's license for another four years and laughed! I finally made the Kiser/Jones/Jesse connection. Francis Kiser (a daughter of Noah Kiser and Dicey Thompson (Noah Kiser's father was Abednego Kiser and mother was Mary Jessee) married Steven Jones.



This is a photo of my gg-grandpa, Steve Jones. He was the father of Suzie Jones Kiser. Steve was full-blooded Cherokee.

I found this on Ancestry.com. After remembering that my dad told me that Steve was married to Francis Kiser. My Aunt Dixie confirmed that. The problem is that Steve and Francis had two twin daughters--Suzie (my great-grandmother) and her twin, Emiline. Ancestry.com doesn't list them as children but lists a Steven Jones Jr. instead. I have never heard mention of him before.

So that is how I am a Kiser and a Jesse. Orville told me that the photo/sketch of Noah Kiser was of the first Kisers to come to Carter Co, Ky from Germany [probably not so, his g-grandfather, Karl "Charles" Keyser/Kaiser/Kiser, came to Lancaster Co., PA from Germany]. Help me with the name thing here--what kind of names are Absolom and Abednego? Are they biblical? My Aunt Dixie told me that the Jessee's are Jewish because Jessee is one of the twelve tribes of Israel. I also found out that Nancy Jessee (who was married to Daniel Jesse) was a Counts though I am not sure if it was by marriage to her first husband.

And more on 6/24/2000

I talked to a lady in Olivehill yesterday—**Fern Bailey**. She owns the old Jesse homestead which used to be owned by Daniel Jesse. Fern has all the old deeds. She is not a Jesse but somehow related to the Counts and has an interest in Jesse history. She told me that she will get the dates from the gravestones of Daniel and Nancy—since they are on her property and told me to call her next week and she'll give me the information. According to the deed, the following are listed as Daniel E. Jesse's children and their ages in 1943 when the property was transferred to them:

Logan—age 48

George—age 45 (went to jail for killing “the Newsom boy”)

May—age 55 (married a Kiser)

Rhetta—age 50

Grace—age 52 (married a Sharra)

Daniel—age 56

Each received 1/6 of the homestead. Somehow it got divided again and it’s now split in half with Jesse Ford as the divider. Doc Lewis owns the other half. I talked to him too. He said there are three cemeteries on the place. One is a Baker cemetery. I can’t remember who married a Baker. He also said that there are unmarked graves all over the place—possibly Indians as I see it because he said they were buried on the hill side facing Jesse Ford covered in piles of rock. I’ve seen many an Indian burial ground like this. I’m going to call Orville again this weekend and figure out who the Indian was related to Noah the first. It’s getting more interesting all the time. I want to find out more about Tarwater. Maybe we can put that together when we get the dates from Nancy’s grave. Did you make note that Noah the second’s (married to Suzie Jones) mother was probably a Stinson?

See additional information regarding Jennifer’s complicated Jessee and Kiser pedigree under Martin Jessee, below

JEFF REEDY (Jreedycfp@cs.com) wrote, 7/15/2000, regarding his possible connection to the **Jeeter Kiser** family and asks for help to prove his hypothesis. If his assumptions are true, Jeff is a descendant of both Mary Polly Jessee Kiser, and John Jessee, Jr. as Jeeter Kiser was the son of **Abednego Abner Kiser**, son of **Elder Elihu Kiser**, son of Mary Polly. Jeeter’s mother was **Margaret L. Jessee**, daughter of **Jefferson Jessee**, son of John Jessee, Jr.

Two and a half years ago my father passed away and not having known much about my Reedy roots I began to search the Internet to see what I could find. Much to my surprise a Dave Reedy with the help of Larry Reedy and others had put together a reedy.org web site. I thought what a wealth of information these guys had accumulated.

What I learned about my father’s side made me curious about my mother’s side. You see she is a Kiser from Dickinson County whose father, Arthur Swanson Kiser was from Russell County. I’m not sure if he is your #2429 second son of Jeter Kiser #936. I will continue to check in now and then for more info, as well as check with my mom and aunt to see if they can help you possibly on DOB’s, DOD’s, etc. Just what you folks have done on the Kiser line alone is so impressive, I really can’t say enough about it. Keep up the great work!

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.

DEBRA PAYNE (4paynes@naxs.net) sent, 7/13/2000, the following information regarding **Lewis Stone**, son of **William and Frances Jessee Stone**. This is one of our rare contacts with this family, and I am hoping we will learn more about the descendants of Lewis Stone in future correspondence.

I got your address from the Roots Web’s World Connect Project and wanted to let you know it was most helpful. My great-great grandfather was Lewis Stone from Clintwood, VA. He and his wife are both buried in the Family Cemetery near my house.

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.

JACK HOCKETT, of St. David’s Place, PA is a descendant and the main contributor to research on this branch of the family. His work has appeared in previous issues of this newsletter, and in several significant genealogy publications. He has been collaborating for a number of years with **Kathryn Burke Greever** and **Imogene Burke Verbal** on genealogy research, which has greatly benefitted the Jessee family. Please see the discussion under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

JANET MCMASTER (JSM4US@cs.com) provided, 6/7/2000, additional descendants’ information for **Elihu Vermillion**, son of **Sarah “Sally” Jessee** and **Wilson Vermillion**. It compares favorably and extends the information currently recorded by nearly 100 records, providing more detail in many instances. She has compiled her information from the Internet and a variety of undocumented sources, including my own database. Watch out for circular logic!! Help us find the errors. I have incorporated her data into the Jessee Family Database.

In the information you sent me I was happy to find Elihu Vermillion, son of Wilson and Sarah "Sally" Jessee Vermillion. They are my great great grandparents. I was wondering if you have further information on this line. I am sending what I have accumulated from family members and nice people like yourself. I am not sure which wife of Elihu was the mother of the children. I assume the first. If you know please let me know. [We assume the first as well] These facts are not all confirmed by me. Like I say most are from helpful people like you. Any other information you could pass on to me would be greatly appreciated.

Elihu Vermillion Born: 1824 Died: 11/11/1868
 Wed: Eliza Browning: Born 1830 Dau. of John and Sarah
 Burke Browning
 Children:
 Issac Vermillion: Born 1847 Died 1849
 William Vermillion: Born 1848
 Rebecca J. Vermillion: Born 1850 Died 1851
 John Emmett Vermillion: Born 2/17/1852 Died 7/11/1915
 Ira B. Vermillion: Born 1854 Died 10/26/1855
 Rachael A. Vermillion: Born 1856 Died 8/11/1866
 Elbert F. Vermillion: Born 1858 Died 1908
 Name Unknown: Died 8/4/1861
 Tombstones of Issac, Ira, & Rebecca Are Located In Wilson
 Vermillion Cemetery In Russell Co., Virginia
 Elihu Vermillion
 Wed: 2nd Wife: 5/20/1863 Mary Hargis
 Elihu Vermillion
 Wed: 3rd Wife 1/10/1866 Mary Mccloud
 Elihu Vermillion Is Burried At Mt. Horeb Cemetery Outside
 Of Golden, Illinois

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**. See also discussion under Rebecca Jessee Burk below. They had four children.

IRIS LAMBERT HALL, a descendant of James Jessee, is a regular contributor. Please see her contribution to this newsletter up front.

DAVID M. JESSEE (dmjessee@mounet.com) sent, 6/1/00, information regarding descendants of **Emmett Carroll Jessee**, son of **Patrick Bruce Jessee**, son of **James Abel Jessee**, son of **Fleming Burk Jessee**, son of **James Jessee**.

My name is David Michael Jessee and I am also descended from the Southwest Virginia Jessee "Clans". My immediate family lived on the Stock Creek area near Natural Tunnel and Clinchport, Va. I own the family farm that belonged to my great-grandparents in the 1800's. My great-grandparents were **Lettie Margaret (Bailey) Jessee** and James A. Jessee, My grandparents were **Amanda Louise (Hill) Jessee** and Patrick Bruce Jessee. My parents were Emmett C. Jessee and Eunice (Lewis) Jessee. ...

I am not the best source for family history, but I will send you a file I have put together on Emmett Jessee's family as per your request. If you have questions please feel free to contact me. Thanks for your efforts.

EMMETT CARROL JESSEE (7/18/15-4/7/87) Married 3-3-41 Harlan, Ky-Later Divorced (1953?) Myrtle Sue Daniels (8/31/22—) Children Of Myrtle and Emmett
 Brenda Carol Jessee (3/6/42—)
 Barbara Louise Jessee (3/15/44-10/??/98)
 Married (??) Harvey Bland (3/11/41)
 Debra Gail Bland Moody (2/14/70) (Daug)
 Married (12/??/99) Jared Moody (8/27/71)
 Karen Bland (11/3/71) (Daug)
 Matthew Garrett Bland (7/7/86) (Son)
 Beatrice Ann Jessee (11/13/45—)
 Lona Bernice Jessee (5/15/48-2/??/97)
 Married (??) Herman Lee Jones
 Steven Allen Jones (Son)
 Amy Marie Jones (Daug) —
 Sylvan Rudolph Jessee (2/4/50—)
 Married (??/??/74) Pamela Johnson (7/10/58)
 William Patrick Jessee (10/29/75) (Son)
 Heather Michelle Jessee (5/26/77) (Daug)
 Teresa Onelda Jessee (1/7/52-2/??/96)
 Married (??) James A. Ramey (Divorced??)
 Emmett James Anthony Ramey (5/27/70) (Son)
 Joseph William Ramey (2/14/73) (Son)
 Sydney Alexis Ramey (2/19/93) (Son)
 Angela Marie Ramey (8/4/75) (Daug)
 Shaman Douglas Jones (5/18/94) (Son)
 Patrick Ardon Jones (6/29/95) (Son)
 Savannah Marie Smith (8/3/97) (Daug)
 Married (??) William Roberts (Divorced ??)
 Jonathan Franklin Dewayne Roberts (1/2/86) (Son)
 Amanda Kathrine Kaywood (4/29/88) (Daug)

Married 1954? Harlan, Ky? Eunice Lewis Pack (2/26/26-8-29-62)
 Children of Emmett and Eunice
 David Michael Jessee (5/5/55—)
 Married 9/7/74 Clinchport, Va
 Patricia Joyce Stone (4/16/58—)
 Elizabeth Michelle Jessee (3/27/74—) (Daug)
 Married 8/7/93 Kingsport, Tn
 Shawn Stewart Smith (12/14/58—)
 Lauren Anna-Grace Smith (2/3/97—) (Daug)
 Brandon David Jessee (3-24-77—) (Son)
 Emmett Dewayne Jessee (1/30/57-7/??/78) (Maybe 12 July)
 Mary Etta Jessee (5/7/58-8/30/72)
 Randy Steven Jessee (11/1/59—)
 Timothy Paul Jessee ("Jones") (2/3/61—) Took The Name Jones When Adopted By His Half Sister Wanda Pack Jones And Her Husband Jackson (J.C.) Jones
 Married (6/16/83) Cincinnati, Oh.
 Angela Lee Ohlhauser (11/3/62—)
 Ryan Christopher Jones (3/13/96—) (Son)
 Rachel Elizabeth Jones (7/16/98—) (Daug)

BARBARA STINSON-BURGE (BBurge3451@aol.com) sent, 7/19/2000, the following information regarding **John T. Stinson** who married **Nancy Jessee**. Nancy is a daughter of **James Jessee**.

Regarding John T. Stinson who married Nancy Jessee. They had 12 children, one of which was James M b 1849 Russell Co., VA who married Nancy Williams. They had 8 children. One of them was Edward Stinson b 1877 Browning, MO d 1930 Brookfield, MO who married Elizabeth McCormick b 1876 d 1955 Brookfield. They had 5 children, one of which was James B. b 1900 Browning, MO, d 1967 Wichita, KS who married Wilma Brinkley. I am their daughter b 1925. Nancy Jessee was my gggrandmother.

ELMER DANIEL "DAN" JESSEE from South Carolina (boot1bud2@earthlink.net), sent, 7/15/2000, the following information about the family of Charles "Charlie" Lane Jessee and his family in response to an article in the last newsletter.

I am Elmer Daniel "Dan" Jessee from South Carolina, writing in response to 2 articles in the Jessee Newsletter.

In the January 2000 issue, page 20, Lester Shadrack writes that he found the graves of Henry Bascom & Auther Atice, sons of C.L., (Charlie Lane) and Bell, (Ida Belle) Jessee. These 2 little boys were my uncles, (my father's brothers). According to my mother Laura Bledsoe Jessee Barrett, now 90, the 2 boys died of Whooping Cough.

Also, in the July 2000 issue, page 26, you asked for information about Edgar Jessee, 93, who died March 25, 2000. Edgar was also my father's brother. He (Edgar) is buried at Kingsport Tennessee, in the Old Presbyterian Cemetery. My grandparents, Charlie Lane & Ida Belle Jessee are also buried there. My father, Oscar James Jessee, died in 1948 and is buried in the cemetery along Highway 11 at Church Hill Tenn. Ida Mae Jessee, Edgar's daughter, who died in the early 1940's, is also buried at Church Hill.

PAULA WAYLAND (pwayland@hcis.net) provided information, 7/25/2000, about **Ellen M. "Elinder" Jessee** who married **Samuel F. Bailie**. Elinder is the daughter of **Fleming Burk Jessee**, son of **James Jessee**.

I have proof from the Scott Co. Va. marriage register: Samuel F. Bailie (27) (s) birth place: Scott Co. and Ellen M. Jessee (20) (s) birthplace: Scott Co. His parents were listed as Robert and Margaret Bailie and hers were Fleming B. and Mary Jessee. Marriage date: Oct.24, 1878 in Scott Co. Va. This is the proof I needed to connect our Elinder Bailie to her ancestry. I can give you the names and dates of their children and other information.

Children:

Mary Frances Bailie Oct. 23, 1879--Jan. 1, 1951. She married

1) Emory Henry Wax in Harlan Co. Ky. in 1899 and

2) Andrew Farmer.

John W. Bailie Mar. 17, 1881-Jan. 29, 1956. He married

1)Georgia,

2) Molly

James H. Bailie (Jim) Mar. 10, 1882 --April 8, 1965

Robert Bailie died as a child.

Margaret Bailie married E.J. Asberry.

I have other descendants I can add.

RALPH D. JESSEE [donjessee@earthlink.net] sent, 8/22/2000, information regarding the descendants of **Isaac Welch Jessee**. It is my conjecture that Isaac Welch Jessee is the son of **James Abel Jessee**, son of **Fleming Burk Jessee**, son of **James Jessee**.

Isaac Welch Jessee & Ivo Onolia Wells were my parents.

NOTE: Your list states mother's name as Iva, whereas her correct name was Ivo. Their children are:

Ralph Donald b. 1921. Married Mary Elizabeth Werff (1927-1973)
4 children

Margaret Lois b. 1924. Married Ray Givens.

2 children

James Marion (1933-2000) Married Peggy ---?

3 children

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 have published their book, *Some Descendants of John Burk, 1656-1699, Middlesex Co., Virginia*. It is available from the Iberian Publishing Co., 548 Cedar Creek Drive, Athens, GA 30605-3408, for a price of \$34.95 softback, \$44.95 hardback, plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. It can be ordered on-line at www.iberian.com. All royalties go to the Russell Co. Historical Society and Russell Co. Library Family History Room for preservation of archival family history materials.

This book is 502 pages and details, among many others, 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.** They have added much important information for each of these Jessee lines. Their notations and documentation of sources are tremendous. A simply great effort.

This book alone includes well over 1000 descendants of Rebecca Jessee and William Burk. None of this material has been keyed into a genealogy database program of any kind. It is a daunting chore and we need help! I would like to work with any volunteers who would be willing to help key in this information into an appropriate genealogy database.

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. They 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.

TARA JESSEE [SMTP:jesse@cetlink.net] sent, 9/3/2000, this information regarding the descendants of **Ezra Macon Jessee**, a son of Frederick Winfred and Nannie Maryanne Jessee, both grandchildren of **George Lea Jessee** via sons **Thomas Jefferson** and **John Counts Jessee**, respectively.

Hello, my name is Tara Jessee. I've really enjoyed accessing your database, thanks for all the great research! I am a Jessee by marriage, I have two sons that are Jessees. Their father died this past December and I wanted to do some research for them so they can pass it on to their children when the time comes. I know my husband's grandparent's names were Ezra and Mollie Jessee. My husband's father's name was Kenneth Lee Jessee. He was born Jan. 3, 1931 and died May 4, 1991. He had a brother named Bernard(sp?) and a sister (I don't know her name yet) that I know of. He married Norma Joann Smith (I'll let you know when as soon as I find out). My husband's name was David Lee Jessee, he was born April 15, 1953 and he died December 3, 1999. We were married August 11, 1987 in Lancaster County, SC. Our oldest son is David Lee Jessee Jr. born Aug. 20, 1982. Our youngest son is Daniel Lee Jessee born August 23, 1985. If you would like anymore info, please let me know. I hope you will add this information to your database. Thanks, Tara Jessee.

JD JESSEE (JD@Jessee.com) sent, 6/10/00, the following tribute to his father, **Grady Lee Jessee**, along with the following treats from his website. Dear Friends,

Each year on June the 10th we had a birthday celebration for my Father, Grady. I am sending a prayer of thanks to family as well as friends. I wish to thank our Heavenly Father for all the years that we were blessed with the gift of Grady Lee Jessee's presence. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the example Dad provided to all who knew and loved him. Thank you for the gentle heart which provided love, comfort and caring to anyone who was willing to accept him as a friend. Thank you for the rich legacy of memories he left behind for all of us to enjoy and especially the laughter which was so much a part of his life. Thank you for this thought that Dad left in my heart: "God Is Love". I pray that we all keep love in our hearts forever. Amen

Please feel free to forward this prayer to family or friends and visit Dad's memorial site: www.john.jessee.com [which provides the following tribute].

In Loving memory of My Father Grady Lee Jessee, Russell County, Virginia. Born in 1896 in Cleveland, Virginia to Charlie Benson and Jen Annie Jessee. Grady was 103 years of age and was a veteran of W.W.I. Charlie Benson's father was named John "Bull" Jessee of Russell County and served the Army of the Confederacy in 1862. My Father and friend passed away to the loving mercy of his heavenly Father on November the 14th, 1999. He continues to be an inspiration to all who have known him. "We Love You Dad!" See newspaper article dated July 11, 1999.

This site is dedicated to my father and Russell County, Virginia research into our Jessee family genealogy. Any suggestions are greatly appreciated.

V.A. serves 103-year-old veteran

By GREG MILLER
STAR Staff

JOHNSON CITY — An average of once every two months, 103-year-old Grady Jessee travels from Lebanon, Va., for treatment at the V.A. for a variety of ailments. The V.A. recently made a new set of dentures for Jessee, who had been having problems digesting his food.

"He had a good life with good health until recently," said Jessee's wife, Sally Martin.

Jessee served in the Army during World War II, but did not see combat. The war was nearing its end

when Jessee entered the military.

Jessee, who retired from Norfolk and Western Railroad (Focalusta Division), has been married two times. He had five children with his first wife. He and the current Mrs. Jessee have three children.

Jessee's youngest son, John, built an Internet web site in honor of his father. The site, www.john.jessee.com, has links for Jessee genealogical research.

Jessee, who can walk short distances with a walker, has 23 grandchildren and a large number of great-grandchildren.



103 years old

Grady Jessee, a 103-year-old Army veteran, is pictured with Lisa Marie Jessee, one of his 23 grandchildren.

XV. Martin Jessee

Martin Jessee (1801-1879) married first **Virginia Jane Price** (1801-1853), da. of David and June Price and they had eleven children. He married second **Mary Jane Darnold** (1834-1907), and they had seven children.

LINDA PUGH (N2DrPeppa@aol.com) sent, 6/2/2000, the following information for **Ring/Austin** family descendants, who intermarried with descendants of Martin Jessee.

Some of the research I have found says Delila Austin who married David Ring was the daughter of Thomas Austin and Nancy Martin. I know Thomas had some children born in Floyd Co. Va., but I can't find the connection with Delila. Some of these families are later found in Russell Co., Va.

JENNIFER JESSE (JLJesse@aol.com) sent, 6/19/2000, information regarding **Dan Jesse** married to a **Nancy Counts**, who has a son **Logan Jesse** who married **Grace Jones**, a descendant of **Abednego and Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser**. I speculated that her Dan Jesse is **Daniel E.P. Jessee**, son of **Martin Jessee**, son of John and Frankey. I had recorded Daniel E.P. Jessee as married 1st to **Eleanor "Nelly" Smith**, 20 years his senior, and 2nd to a Nan "Unknown." Jennifer asks

for help in figuring out this riddle. I would like to know who Nancy Counts is who married Dan Jesse, and what about those two marriages for Daniel E.P. Jesse, and what does E. P. stand for? Please see her letters under Mary "Polly" Jesse Kiser.

Jennifer wrote again, 7/12/2000, with this.

I did discover that Daniel E. Jesse's first wife was Elanore "Nelly" Smith/Smyth. She was married to Archer "Archable" Jesse before Daniel. Maybe I discovered this on your site and you probably already know this. Here's what puzzles me--Nelly and Archer had a son, Jefferson "Jeff" (George W.) Jesse. He was born in about 1830. Nancy Counts Jesse's gravestone reads that her first husband was Jefferson Jesse (born about 1830). It also says she was born 21 January 1861 and died 22 August 1911. So this could mean that Nancy's first husband was the son of Elanore, Daniel's first wife, and Elanore's first husband, Archer.

RICHARD HUNSAKER [ricat@chartertn.net] sent, 8/22/2000, the following information of interest to the **Martin Jesse** family.

My mother is Agnes Lee Jesse, married Kenneth Hunsaker, Daughter of James Gilmer Jesse, his father is Ira M. Jesse, his father is Martin Van Burren Jesse [son of Martin Jesse].

My mother, Agnes Lee Jesse (Hunsaker), had three children:

- 1 Kenneth Richard Hunsaker
- 2 John Douglas Hunsaker
- 3 James Lawton Hunsaker

I have one son Brian Kenneth by a previous marriage.

No.2 has 2 sons Jason Douglas, Johnathon Paul.

No.3 has a daughter Carlee D.Holbrook.

NOAH JACKSON JESSEE III [NJessee@aol.com] sent, 9/5/2000, the following information regarding **Noah Jackson Jesse, Sr.** son of **Stonewall Jackson Jesse**, son of **Martin Jesse**. Noah Jesse, Sr. is also a descendant of **George Lea Jesse** and **Mary "Polly" Jesse Kiser**.

My name is Noah Jesse. A friend (distant relation) at work, Richard Jesse, mentioned your website today. Browsing through it, I found my father. This is really very interesting. For your information, I can provide a few more details concerning my family. Here goes...

You list as my great grand father, Stonewall Jackson B. and one of his sons as Jack Jesse. This is my grandfather. "Jack" is his nickname. His full name is Noah Jackson Jesse, Sr. You also list his son as "Jack" too. By now you've guessed it, his full name is Noah Jackson Jesse, Jr. and of course, I'm Noah Jackson Jesse III. Here are a few more details...

Noah (Jack) Jackson Jesse Sr. died May 1965 and is buried at Pearisburg, VA. His wife, Snoda, died around 1974(?) and is also buried at Pearisburg, VA.

Mildred Jesse Zell died December 1970(?). She had one daughter, Nancy.

Noah (Jack) Jackson Jesse Jr. was born July 23rd, 1919. Died June 8, 1998 and is buried at Peterstown, VA. Married Louise Dunn from Wike, WVA. Louise was born November 23rd, 1923. She currently lives in Glen Lyn, VA. They have two children..

Noah Jackson Jesse III (that's me!) and Elizabeth (Betty) Ellen Jesse. I was born June 3rd, 1958 and live in Richmond, VA. I married Teresa Lyn Hill of Bluefield, WVA. We have a daughter, Katherine (Katelyn) Louise Jesse, born June 3rd, 1988.

My sister (born April 15th, 1950), Betty married Virgil Wayne Davis of Glen Lyn, VA. They have a son, Nicolas Andrew Davis, born August 1979.

It is interesting to see my family tree. I was told that I really would have been the IV, but that my great grandfather died as a result of injuries from a sawmill accident. That was right before my grandfather was born. This doesn't quite coincide with the history listed in your website. I believe yours is probably closer to the truth. I do remember visiting with Lizzie Jesse Ring and attending my Uncle Sam's funeral.

Missing Links, Problems and other Conundrums

Please help us find these missing links.

PLEASANT JESSE CHURCH, JR. (pjc@gulftel.com) sent, 5/20/2000, the following inquiry and information regarding **William Preston Jesse**. It would appear that he may be one of the Russell Co., VA Jesses. "I am trying to find parents of W. P. Jesse; his father may be William. Family story tells that William's father came from France, his name was not Jesse as we say it. He had a water powered mill in Va. that people called Jesse's Mill. I found a Jesse's Mill built 1889 in Russell Co., Va. that was built at site of a mill 50 years before. Thank you for any help." He provided the following information.

I do not know how this William fits into the family. As clues I note that the name Preston is used in the William Jesse (son of Archer) family, who named a son Alexander Robert Preston Jesse. Descendants of Archer's daughter, Elizabeth Jesse who married Francis Howard, later marries a Ralph Lee Preston, so the Preston and Jesse families may be related.

DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM PRESTON JESSEE

Generation No. 1

1. William Preston² Jesse (William¹) was born 1832 in Russel Co., Virginia (Source: Marriage Certificate, Bullitt Co., Ky. 10 Nov., 1855, 23 years old born Russell Co., Va.). He married Elizabeth Burgess November 10, 1855 in Bullitt Co., KY. (Source: Marriage License, marriage book 1,2,3 page 135, by William Shawler J.P. in presence of Tmomas Williams, Peter Troutman, Nickles Gibson.), daughter of Robert Burgess and Mary Lawrence. She was born 1833 in Pike Co., Ohio (Source: Marriage Certificate, Bullitt Co., Ky., 10 Nov 1955, age 22 born at Pike Co., Ohio, and book page 139 daughter of Robert Burgess.), and died Bef. 1880.

Children of William Jesse and Elizabeth Burgess are:

- + 2 i. Virginia³ Jesse, born July 28, 1856 in Louisville, Kentucky; died November 26, 1932 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., Mississippi.
- + 3 ii. Mary A Jesse, born March 23, 1860 in Bullitt Co., KY.; died December 10, 1942 in Houston Co., TN..
- + 4 iii. Elizabeth Jesse, born September 1862.
- 5 iv. Jefferson Davis Jesse, born 1865.
- 6 v. George G Jesse, born February 17, 1867 in Bullitt Co., KY.; died November 10, 1897 in Houston Co., TN. (Source: Grave Stone picture.).

Generation No. 2

2. Virginia³ Jesse (William Preston², William¹) was born July 28, 1856 in Louisville, Kentucky (Source: (1) Grave Stone picture., (2) Death Certificate, Certificate # 16616, Doddsville,

Sunflower Co., MS. Informant W Shinn.), and died November 26, 1932 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., Mississippi. She married John Thomas Church January 27, 1886 in Danville, TN. (Source: Marriage License, book page 71, copy in hands of PJ Church Jr.), son of Pleasant Church and Mary Adwell. He was born August 03, 1849 in Glasgow, Barren Co., KY. (Source: Grave Stone picture.), and died April 14, 1937 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., Mississippi (Source: Death Certificate, Certificate # 7754, Sunflower Co., MS. Informant J D Church, son.).

Children of Virginia Jessee and John Church are:

- + 7 i. Pleasant Jesse⁴ Church, born March 06, 1887 in Belmont, Bullitt Co., Kentucky; died January 26, 1971 in Mobile, Alabama.
- + 8 ii. Jefferson Davis Church, born April 04, 1889 in Exie, near Center, AL.; died August 19, 1939 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., Mississippi.
- 9 iii. Mary Burgess Church, born February 03, 1892 in Glasgow, Barren Co., KY. (Source: Grave Stone picture.); died December 10, 1916 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., Mississippi.
- 10 iv. Emma Duffel Church, born April 07, 1895 in Glasgow, Barren Co., KY. (Source: Grave Stone picture.); died August 11, 1902 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., Mississippi.
- + 11 v. Bettie Copley Church, born June 26, 1897; died July 08, 1980.

3. Mary A³ Jessee (William Preston², William¹) was born March 23, 1860 in Bullitt Co., KY., and died December 10, 1942 in Houston Co., TN.. She married Daniel E Largent February 14, 1886 in Houston Co., TN. (Source: Marriage License, book page 75.). He was born February 15, 1852 in TN., and died December 10, 1921 in Houston Co., TN..

Children of Mary Jessee and Daniel Largent are:

- + 12 i. Jessie Irene⁴ Largent, born January 05, 1887 in Houston Co., TN.; died May 22, 1965 in Houston Co., TN..
- 13 ii. Joseph E Largent, born July 1888; died January 10, 1932 in Houston Co., TN..
- 14 iii. Rosa Largent, born June 1890. She married Luther Bell.
- 15 iv. Dorsey B Largent, born September 10, 1892 in Houston Co., TN.; died September 22, 1956 in Houston Co., TN..

4. Elizabeth³ Jessee (William Preston², William¹) was born September 1862. She married T A Copley September 12, 1894 in Houston Co., TN. (Source: Marriage License, book page 119.).

Child of Elizabeth Jessee and T Copley is:

- 16 i. Susie⁴ Copley, born 1889; Stepchild.

Generation No. 3

7. Pleasant Jesse⁴ Church (Virginia³ Jessee, William Preston², William¹) was born March 06, 1887 in Belmont, Bullitt Co., Kentucky (Source: (1) family Record, Bible., (2) WWI Draft Registrations, Birth date 6 March 1887, Place Belmont KY., Registration Sunflower Co. MS.), and died January 26, 1971 in Mobile, Alabama (Source: Social Security Index, ss# 425-09-5433, 36610 Mobile AL.). He married Coallie Woodruff February 20, 1923 in Yazoo City, MS. (Source: Marriage License, page 333, The State of Mississippi, Yazoo County. by W J Ferguson, M E Church south.), daughter of John Woodruff and Laura Green. She was born October 30, 1903 in Lyden, Mississippi, and died May 02, 1971 in Mobile, Alabama.

Children of Pleasant Church and Coallie Woodruff are:

- 17 i. Ludie Marguerite⁵ Church, born February 17, 1924 in Eldorado, Union Co., Arkansas; died May 03, 1994 in Daphne, Alabama. She married Walter Clifton Beard July 17, 1946 in Gulfport, Harrison Co., MS.; born February 25, 1926 in Franklin, TN.; died August 16, 1997 in Reno, Washoe, NV. (Source: Social Security Index, ss# 416-30-3125.).

18 ii. Gladys Caroline Church, born April 15, 1926 in Eldorado, Arkansas. She married James Robert Jones August 04, 1947 in Prichard, Alabama; born December 03, 1926.

19 iii. Bettie Ruth Church, born May 21, 1928 in Yazoo City, Ms. (Source: family Record.); died February 18, 1929 in Yazoo City, Ms. (Source: family Record.).

20 iv. Pleasant Jesse Church, Jr., born September 04, 1931 in Moorhead, Sunflower Co., MS.. He married Carolyn Virginia Boothe May 28, 1953 in Pascagoula, Mississippi; born April 30, 1931 in Citronelle, Mobile Co., AL. (Source: family Record.).

21 v. Claudine Louise Church, born July 19, 1934 in Yazoo City, MS. (Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, cert # 23339, Yazoo City, MS. Carl Day M. D. copy yes.). She married (1) James Albert Boland January 07, 1956 in Prichard Alabama; born June 06, 1930; died October 22, 1977 in Mobile AL. She married (2) Johnson Burdge 1995; born 1921.

8. Jefferson Davis⁴ Church (Virginia³ Jessee, William Preston², William¹) was born April 04, 1889 in Exie, near Center, AL. (Source: (1) Grave Stone picture., (2) WWI Draft Registrations, Sunflower Co., Ms. born Exie AL.), and died August 19, 1939 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., Mississippi. He married Ida Belle Boothe August 25, 1917 in Marigold, Bolivar Co., Mississippi (Source: Marriage License, Copy donated by dau. Pauline Church Harrington.), daughter of Thomas Boothe and Leminda Maddox. She was born August 24, 1894 (Source: Grave Stone picture.), and died November 15, 1971 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., Mississippi (Source: Social Security Index, ss# 587-16-7181.).

Children of Jefferson Church and Ida Boothe are:

22 i. Virginia O'Phelia⁵ Church, born September 13, 1918 in Sunflower Co., Ms.; died September 13, 1998 in TX.. She married (1) Fredrick Marion Cook. She married (2) Horace Hughes.

23 ii. Pauline Wasson Church, born October 13, 1919 in Moorhead, Sunflower Co, MS.. She married (1) Baker Kearney Abt. 1944. She married (2) Charles Harrington August 1947 in Greenville, Washington Co., MS..

24 iii. John Thomas Church, born October 11, 1920 in Moorhead, Sunflower Co, MS.; died July 12, 1984 in Charleston, Charleston Co., SC. (Source: Social Security Index, ss# 428-26-3087, born 11 oct 1920 died july 1984 charleston, sc.). He married Betty Jane Daves December 29, 1944 in Lucedale, MS..

25 iv. Jefferson Davis Church, Jr., born October 22, 1922 in Moorhead, Sunflower Co, MS.; died December 06, 1990 in LA. ? (Source: Social Security Index, ss# 426-34-3899.). He married Ruby Dale Cook February 16, 1947 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., M

26 v. Willaim Jesse Church, born January 12, 1925 in El Dorado, Union Co., AK.. He married (1) Kathleen Horner June 30, 1951 in Greenville, Washington Co., MS.. He married (2) Idelle Reeves 1961 in Baton Rouge, LA.. He married (3) Edna Hebert March 15, 1971 in Morgan City, St. Mary's Parish, LA.; born August 28, 1921.

27 vi. Walter Copley Church, born September 14, 1927 in El Dorado, Ar.; died September 23, 1986 in Alaska (Source: Social Security Index, ss# 428-36-3396, 99611 Kikiski, Kenai Peninsula, AK.). He married Mary Lou Gober September 09, 1946; born September 01, 1928 in MS.; died 1997 in Biloxi, MS..

28 vii. Ida Belle Church, born March 22, 1928 in El Dorado, Ar.. She married Edward Monroe Mooney February 05, 1945 in Indianola, Sunflower Co., MS..

11. Bettie Copley⁴ Church (Virginia³ Jessee, William Preston², William¹) was born June 26, 1897, and died July 08, 1980. She married Walter Anderson Shinn April 09, 1922. He was born October 11, 1883, and died December 30, 1933.

Children of Bettie Church and Walter Shinn are:

29 i. Mary Virginia⁵ Shinn, born January 07, 1923 in Doddsville, Mississippi. She married Robert E White November 28, 1942.

30 ii. Doris Ouita Shinn, born November 28, 1924. She married Robert L Stone.

12. Jessie Irene⁴ Largent (Mary A³ Jessee, William Preston², William¹) was born January 05, 1887 in Houston Co., TN., and died May 22, 1965 in Houston Co., TN.. She married Polk Th Children of Jessie Largent and Polk Thompson are:

31 i. Stanton⁵ Thompson.

DONNA BOGUE (donnabogue@earthlink.net) , provided, 1/4/1999, census and marriage register materials to indicate that **Lydia O. Buckles**, who married 1) **Burgess Bradley** (20 Jun 1860: Burges B. Bradley, age 19, single, b. Russel Co., s/o **Lewis and Rachel Bradley**, married Lydia Buckles, age 19, single b. Johnson Co., TN, d/o **Edward and Mary Buckles**. Couple was married by A. F. Shannon.), and 2) **Jacob Castle** (06 Feb 1865: Jacob Castle, age 22, single, b. Russell Co., s/o **Elijah Castle**, married Lydia O. Bradley, age 23, widowed, b. Sullivan Co., TN, d/o Edward and Mary Buckles. Couple was married by Alexander Little), was the daughter of Edward L. and Mary Buckles as evidenced by both her recorded marriages (Russell Co. Marriage Register #2) and was not the daughter of **Abraham and Milly Buckles** as shown in the Jessee family database.

Donna later provided additional evidence to prove that Lydia is the daughter of Edward L. Buckles as indicated by the 1860 Russell Co. Census, where Burgess and Lydia Bradley with no children, household # 1486, are neighbors of Edward L. and Mary J. Buckles, household #1488, and assumedly her parents. In the household of Edward L. Buckles, age 61, we find: Mary J., 40; James A., 17; Louisa N., 16; Margaret L., 14; Francis V. (F), 12; John C., 10; Martha C., 8 twin; Edward, 8 twin; Mary J., 6; Nathaniel D., 3; Ellan C. A., 2 months.

Donna sent, 5/22/2000, more evidence from the 1887 Russell Co. Death Index: Castle, Lydia A., white female, 47 yrs, 04 August 1887, Russell Co., consumption, parents: Edward & Mary J. Buckles, informant Jacob Castle, husband.

Problem: The above indicated a serious error in the database, of which Donna persuaded me, and I have now corrected. I have also maintained the recorded pedigree of a Lydia E., with Abraham Buckles shown as the father, as I have very complete information for his family and an extensive Buckles pedigree, and he may indeed have a daughter Lydia Elizabeth Buckles. However, there may be two Lydia Buckles, Lydia Elizabeth, da. of Abraham, and another Lydia O. Buckles, perhaps a cousin, and the daughter of Edward L. Buckles. We may have two individuals confused or some other problem. We also now need to tie Edward and Mary Buckles into that larger Buckles family pedigree.

AND WHO IS THIS?

ETHEL JESSEE was born on June 27, 1909 in Checotah to Robert and Irene (Mincher) Brinsfield, and died Nov. 11, 2000 in Muskogee. Services were Nov. 13 in the Hampton Memorial Chapel followed by burial in Greenlawn Cemetery. Survivors include two sons, Floyd Jessee of Muskogee and Wayne Jessee of Texarkana, TX; a daughter, Louise Gamble of Oktaha; eleven grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. Obituary appearing in THE INDIAN JOURNAL, Thursday, November 23, 2000.

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.

JANE HAMPTON (JHamp65244@aol.com) sent, 6/5/2000, the following request to locate **Terri Jessee**, daughter of **Houston A. Jessee**. I would be interested in how this family is related to the larger Jessee family.

I am researching the Jessee family for my friend, **Darlene Smith Allen** who was a childhood friend of Terri Jessee, Houston's daughter. Houston Jessee was in the USAF and stationed in Warner Robins, GA in 1973 when Darlene met Terri. They were classmates together. The Jessee family moved to Salem, West Virginia and Darlene visited the family once, but then lost contact with Terri. She would like to renew the acquaintance if possible. Any help out there?

JENNIFER JESSE (JLJesse@aol.com), sent, 6/26/2000, this note about **Jesses in Newfoundland!**

I'm going through some of the newsletters. In one edition Carlyne Ritter of Winchester Bay, OR asks, "Does anyone know where all those Jesses in Newfoundland (Canada) come from?"

My dad, Jim Jesse, moved our family to Newfoundland while the Vietnam War was in full force. My dad was working on the Ohio State Campus and the riots were out of control. Dad wanted us to be safe and took a job at Memorial University in St. Johns, Newfoundland. This was in approximately 1969-1970. We were there for three years and I don't remember knowing of any other Jesses besides ourselves.

DEBORAH SCHRADER HOLLOWBUSH (DLHGLH@aol.com), sent this missive, 7/4/2000.

I am looking for Florence C. Jessee who lived at 3337 Tica Drive in California or any of her descendants. This is very important.

AUBREY J. DRY SR. (ajdry@inu.net) asks for help identifying his **Nicey Jessee** who married **Henry Gilley** in Virginia and moved to Texas.

I saw your page on the Jessee family and thought you might be able to help me. I am researching Nicey Jessee, who married William Henry Gilley in Virginia. They came to Fannin Co. Texas about 1895. She died 17 May 1910 and is buried in Fannin County. I believe her name may have been Unicey or Eunice. I have found a Unicey Jessee in the household of Unicey Jessee in 1880 Russell Co. Va. She is listed as a niece. Do you have any information on this Nicey Jessee?

MR. AND MRS. ROLAND MASHBURN
(mashpeg@webtv.net) sent this letter, 7/28/2000.

Thank you so much for your help. I found all of the information on our son's ancestry on the Web. This information will be very useful to him. Our son met his birth mother about 3 years ago and he hasn't seen her since, as she has totally rejected him. She refuses to tell him who his birth father is. All of this has really been a blow to him. The reason he needs to know the identity of his birth father is the fact that he has some on-going medical problems that are possibly genetic and can be very serious. We do not want this to be a court battle if we can help it. I have written her myself pleading for the birth father's name and she refuses to tell me. If you know of any way that I could try to find the birth father other than a court procedure please let me know.

The name given to him at birth was Roger Allen Jessee. He was born in the Abingdon Memorial Hospital on September 14, 1967. We cannot find an original birth certificate. I have called the hospital where he was born, the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Virginia, the Dept. of Human Services in Carter County where his adoption was made legal, the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Tennessee. None of these have produced an original birth certificate. We don't know where to turn next. If you have any knowledge of the birth father or know of anyone who might please let me know. Our mailing address:

Mr. & Mrs. Roland Mashburn
400 Sunset Drive, Condo I-44
Johnson City, Tennessee 37604

ANONYMOUS (ASKDEK@aol.com) sent,
8/3/2000, the following inquiry.

My father was born in Wise County, Va. His family in this area of Virginia includes **Smith, Wells, Kilgore, Porter, Culbertson, Gray and Broadwater** -- among others.

I have done no research on the Broadwaters yet but saw your webpage and wondered if you would know anything about the family of **Elizabeth Gray** (about 1801-1877) who married **Robert Kilgore, Jr.** I have seen her parents listed as **John Gray, Sr.**, and **Martha Broadwater** and Martha's father as **Charles Broadwater**. However I have NO verification of this.

I would be very grateful for any information you might share and would be glad to share mine.

JANICE M. SNEAD [PO Box 157, Meadowville, VA 24361-0157] provided, 9/21/2000, the following request for help to locate a family Bible that may be in the hand of descendants of the **Vermillion, Towson, Peters** or **Daugherty** families. She also provided information regarding **James Daugherty Vermillion** which is now incorporated in the Jessee Family Database. Contact Janice directly if you can help and she will give further information on how to report Bible records.

Please help me locate the present owner of the Towson family Bible. It was in the possession of Caroline Jane Vermillion Peters [daughter of James Daugherty Vermillion and Frances Jessee. Frances Jessee is the daughter of George Lea Jessee], the great granddaughter of Ruth Towson Daugherty. The Bible has an inscription: "This Bible presented to my daughter Ruth Towson Daugherty, by Mr. [Ezekiel] Towson of Townsontown, MD, USA."

I desperately need copies of the births, deaths, marriages, title page and inscription for DAR and Colonial Dames XVII documentation. This information is the missing link which I need. I will pay for all expense involved.

My ggg-grandmother was the aunt of Caroline Peters, sister to Caroline's father, James Daugherty Vermillion. I have accumulated

quite a bit of information on the Towson family and their ancestral lines. I will be happy to share this information.

ANN HAYDEN [ahayden@ctaz.com], an adoptee with a **Jessee biological mother**, sent, 11/4/2000, the following request for help.

I am an adoptee with no roots except an original birth certificate that lists my mother's maiden name as Anita Jessee, born in 1923 in Cleveland, VA. Sounds like your family roots. Please put me in there somewhere in case some one might know something about me. I and a younger brother were taken as Wards of the Court in Michigan in 1945. I was told we were farmed out to family in an effort to work with the parents before we were taken permanently. I was born in Ferndale, Michigan. Anita was married to William Garrison, who was 8 yrs older than she. I was first born 12/2/1941, and Bobby was second born sometime in 1943. That is about all I know regarding the Jessee roots.

VIRGINIA BENNETT (Asheville, NC) sent the following extracts from the *Holsten Pathfinder* (HPF 71-6 & 7) which had in turn extracted materials from the *Virginia Highway Bulletin*.

HISTORICAL ROADS - SCOTT COUNTY

By S. V. Munsey, Resident Engineer

The oldest road in Scott County is the Kentucky Path which was built by Daniel BOONE about the year 1773. It is not possible, with the data at hand, to trace with absolute certainty, the location of the Kentucky Path at every point in the County. Like other roads, both then and now, it was subject to such alterations as suited either fancy or convenience of those who traveled over it, and divergence was, of course, always possible between the gaps. Moccasin Gap was no doubt reached from the Holston settlements by more than one way.

In general, however, the following description of the Kentucky Path may be taken as fairly accurate in so far as its passage through Scott County is concerned. It passed from Shelby's Fort (now Bristol) down Reedy Creek, to the old Blockhouse on present County Road C-704. BOONE's original place of rendezvous, however, was Fort Patrick Henry on the Long Island of Holston. The modern town of Kingsport is situated in the forks of the Holston. BOONE's route, however, did not usually take him as far west as the site of Kingsport. He traveled down Reedy Creek to the neighborhood of Peltier, and then turned north to the Tennessee-Virginia boundary line, thence by way of the Blockhouse to the ford just above Holston bridge. From this ford he took a northwest course, passing over Little Pine Creek. He then passed through Big Moccasin Gap, the great eastern gateway of the Kentucky Path. Thence, up Little Moccasin Valley to the low divide which separates Little Moccasin from Troublesome Creek. The difficulty of traveling down the last named Creek is still commemorated in the name it bears.

At or near Speer's Ferry the path turned aside from the narrow valley of Troublesome Creek and passed along the south side of a limestone hill to the north of the late J. M. HORTON's residence until it reached the narrow ravine at Horton's Chapel. Here it dropped down the ravine to the ford of the Clinch at Speer's Ferry. After crossing Clinch River at Speer's Ferry, the path passed up the west bank of the same to the Fort of Stock Creek, the present site of Clinchport. From Clinchport it followed the meanders of Big Stock Creek up almost to the Natural Tunnel. Here it turned to the left around the Tunnel hill by way of Horton's Summit, to the Little Flat Lick, near the schoolhouse at Duffield. It may be stated in this connection that foot travelers and packhorses passed up the Devil's Race Path branch to the top of the Purchase Ridge, and then descended into the valley of the North Fork of Clinch, near the Little Flat Lick. Little Flat Lick, it seems, was one of the best

known places on the Kentucky Path. From this point there seems to have been, at least, two ways of reaching Powell's Valley. One of these, and this was probably the oldest, passed over Powell's Mountain at or near Kane's Gap and descended into Powell's Valley not far from the head of Wallen's Creek, where Scott's Fort was located. The other, and this no doubt was the route taken by wagons, passed from Little Flat Lick down the valley of the North Fork of Clinch by way of Pattonville, over Powell's Mountain to Sticklebyville.

VIRGINIA HIGHWAY BULLETIN, Vol. 4 No. 2, Dec. 1937

The following letter was written by Daniel BOONE about the contract in 1773:

"Sir: - After my best respts to your Excelancy and famly I wish to inform you that I have sum intention of undertaking this New Rode that is to be cut through the Wilderness and I think myself intitled to the ofer of the business as I first marked out this Rode in March 1772 and never re'd anything for my trubel and sepose I am no statesman I am a woodsman and think myself as capable of making and cutting that Rode as any other man Sir if you think with me I would thank you to wright mee a line by the post the first opportunity and he will lodge it at Mr. John MILLER son hinkston fork as I wish to know where and when it is to be laot so that I may attend at the time. I am Deer Sir you very omble Servent. D. BOONE."

**VIRGINIA HIGHWAY BULLETIN, Vol. 2 No. 12, Oct. 1936
A TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL COUNTY
By Reverend Frank Fuller**

Russell is one of the beauty spots of the world. No hills quite so pretty as her hills; no mountains so inspiring as her mountains; nowhere in all the world do valleys receive you into their bosom with the same friendliness as do her valleys; nowhere do the brooks sing such sweet love songs as in Russell; nowhere does God paint such magnificent sunsets or cause the stars to shine so brightly as in Russell. Somehow the people of Russell have a heartier handshake and a friendlier smile than other people; their doors are wider and their love warmer. It may be that I am biased in my judgment in favor of Russell County. Well, I am not ashamed to admit it. Russell, I was born there. There amidst her hills and beside her streams I built magnificent castles, conquered mighty empires, learned to know the friendliest voices I have ever heard and felt the guiding touch of the gentlest hands I have ever known. In her forests I have learned the bird's song and the ways of the frisky squirrels. In her dells I watched the mystic unfolding of myriad flowers that bloom to perfume the gentlest breezes that ever floated over grassy hills. In a little home in the bosom of Russell's hills, I learned my first lesson about God and his goodness. There I looked into the bluest eyes and learned to call their owner Mother. And there I learned from an old fashioned father my lesson in manliness and right living. Among her hills I found my sweetheart and life's companion. On the eastern slopes of Russell's hills, sleep many of my pioneer ancestors, and some day, not distant now, I want to come back to the hills of my forefathers and lie down with them on the grassy slope where the bluegrass grows deep and sleep awhile.

PEGGY AKERS SIMMERS (99 Simmers Rd., Rising Sun, MD 21911) wrote 11/7/2000 with this request.

I am still looking for someone who might have known **Liza Hilard (Hillard/Hilyard)**, married to **Wilson Jessee**, (d. 1913/18 [Wilson is the son of **Archer Samuel Jessee**, an **Archer Jessee** descendant, and **Christina Jessee**, a **Martin Jessee** descendant]). My question is are there cousins or any relatives to tell me about these people who raised my mother **Eula Monk**? Did they happen to live near Jessee's Mill. Why didn't **John E. Monk** come back to claim his children including my mother Eula Monk, whom the Jessees probably raised for 10 or 12 years?

Bill Akers gave me some pictures of the Jessee Reunion in Bristol, VA. I just returned from Lebanon, VA, hunting gravesite of **Cora Gose Monk** and John Ed. Monk, no luck. I do have gravesite on **Akers** side.

MELINDA JANE HARRISON [jharrison3@mindspring.com], sent, 11/12/2000, this request for help to identify **Virginia Jessee** and her father **William Jessee**, who most certainly is a Russell Co., Jessee, but is not connected to the rest of the clan.

It is my speculation that this William Jessee is the same as my previously recorded **William Jessee** (with no marriage recorded), son of **John and Celia Jessee**, son of **William and Mary Polly (Vermillion) Jessee**. My speculation is based on the coincidence of the birthdates, the occurrence of the name Preston, which also occurs in the William and Mary Polly Jessee's son Oliver Jessee family, and the story about French origins and Jessee's Mill. Could the Mary Polly Vermillion grandmother be the French origins?

I am working on my Jessee heritage, and found Pleasant Jessee Church. I am related to him. However, my aunt wrote me a letter and said Virginia Jessie's [Jesse, Jessee] father was William and his father had come from France and well, somehow ended up at a place called Jesse's Mill in Virginia. Virginia had a sister named Betty and we assume she had a brother named Jefferson.

Virginia married John Thomas Church, whose father was Pleasant Church whose father was Thomas Church whose father was John Christian Church. The Church family went from Virginia to Hancock County Tennessee and then to Kentucky where they spread. Most still in Kentucky.

We were always told that we had French ancestry. The only clues I have to any relatives or places associated with them is how Virginia Jessee Church named her children. She gave all her children surnames for middle names.

Pleasant had the surname Jessee.

Mary had the surname Burgess.

Emma had the surname Duffel.

Betty had the surname Copley.

And of course she named one Jefferson Davis. We know why on that one. All the first names are family names, and I can't believe, except for Jefferson Davis, which I think might have been her brother's name, that she used these surnames for middle names from out of the blue. She was a very educated and proud woman who had certain traits, in spite of the poverty she was reduced to at the end. For one thing, she never worked in a field, picked a crop or hitched a team. She was known for her gloves.

I can pretty much trace all my relatives but this one woman. Who was Virginia Jessie? I can tell you she was educated. She wrote wonderful letters. She waited a long time to get married. John Thomas went everywhere before marrying her and she waited on him. She had one sister who married a Reed, Reade, Read, who was a doctor in Tennessee, Springfield, I think, which is right across the line from Kentucky. The sister was named Betty, Bettie, Bettye. And of course those surnames. The old stories are that her ancestor came from France to America and had a mill in Virginia called Jesse's Mill. William is considered her father's name.

I guess I will never trace her. Because I am not sure of anything and while we grasp at straws, those who could tell us more stories are now passing away. Another generation gone soon. My mother is 81 this year and most of her siblings are gone.

Well, thanks for reading my long rambling note and it's nice to know there are other Jessee families out there and from Virginia. Maybe we were related or neighbors once.

Searching for the Voice in My Heart

*It was the first day of census, and all through the land
each pollster was ready ... a black book in hand.*

*He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride,
his book and some quills were tucked close by his side.*

*A long winding ride down a road barely there,
towards the smell of fresh bread wafting, up through the air.*

*The woman was tired, with lines on her face
and wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place.
She gave him some water ... as they sat at the table
and she answered his questions ... the best she was able.
He asked her of children. Yes, she had quite a few.
the oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.*

*She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red.
His sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.
She noted each person who lived there with pride,
and she felt the faint stirrings of the wee one inside.
He noted the sex, the color, the age ...
the marks from the quill soon filled up the page.*

*At the number of children, she nodded her head
and he saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead.
The places of birth she "never forgot"
... was it Kansas? or Utah? or Oregon ... or not?
They came from Scotland, of that she was clear.
But she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.*

*They spoke of employment, of schooling and such.
They could read some ... and write some ... though really not much.
When the questions were answered, his job there was done
so he mounted his horse and he road towards the sun.
We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear,
"May God bless you all for another ten years."*

*Now picture a time warp ... it's now you and me
as we search for the people on our family tree.
We squint at the census and scroll down so slow
as we search for that entry from long, long ago.
Could they only imagine on that long ago day
that the entries they made would affect us this way?*

*If they knew would they wonder at the yearning we feel
and the searching that makes them so increasingly real?
We can hear if we listen the words they impart
through their blood in our veins and their voice in our heart.*

Thanks to **Carlyne Ritter** for sending this poem whose author is apparently anonymous.

Jessee Resources On The Internet

The Internet is a revolutionary and remarkable resource for genealogists. From time to time 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 developed by family members and other resources of interest, too.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT-GENERAL LAND OFFICE RECORDS are available at www.glorerecords.blm.gov. Below are the search results for the surname Jessee. There is much to explore here.

PATENTEE NAME State Issue Date Doc. # Accession or Serial #
JESSEE, ARCHE B WY 08/21/1917 597929
JESSEE, ARCHE B WY 10/04/1920 776387
JESSEE, ARCHIBALD C AZ 02/14/1917 567412
JESSEE, ARCHIBALD C AZ 09/27/1926 986149
JESSEE, ARCHIE E AZ 02/16/1926 974387
JESSEE, ASHER W HEIRS OF ID 06/15/1907 2491
IDIDAA 012925
JESSEE, CHARLES T MT 05/12/1917 584109
JESSEE, CHARLIE K NE 05/01/1911 01462 194688
JESSEE, CHARLIE K NE 11/26/1909 0429 91641
JESSEE, CLARENCE LEONARD CA 11/02/1937 1093491
JESSEE, DAVID M OR 01/18/1866 963 OROCAA 011161
JESSEE, ELIJAH P CO 08/19/1912 288312
JESSEE, ELISHA ID 05/29/1894 1438 IDIDAA 028847
JESSEE, ELISHA B ID 10/01/1901 1723 IDIDAA 012905
JESSEE, GEORGE MO 05/01/1846 2185 MO4430 __.003
JESSEE, JAMES B IN 09/03/1834 17270 IN1210 __.472
JESSEE, JAMES L CA 01/25/1890 12301 CACAAA 113127
JESSEE, JAMES L CA 11/03/1891 17164 CACAAA 113159
JESSEE, JAMES M MO 01/15/1856 31638 MO3100 __.320
JESSEE, JOHN P MO 08/01/1849 28472 MO1560 __.360
JESSEE, JOHN W ID 03/12/1915 462279
JESSEE, JOHN W OR 01/17/1902 3740 ORTDAA 068652
JESSEE, LEA MO 05/01/1843 18607 MO1410 __.201
JESSEE, LEE MO 05/01/1857 30724 MO1900 __.203
JESSEE, NANCY A ID 08/27/1892 1291 IDIDAA 013241
JESSEE, NORVAL RILEY CA 06/26/1964 1236220
JESSEE, PERRIE ID 03/12/1915 462280
JESSEE, RAY CA 12/03/1919 722410
JESSEE, RAY CA 09/19/1923 917230
JESSEE, RAY E CA 05/06/1959 1195454
JESSEE, RAY E CA 02/07/1961 1217077
JESSEE, RENICK C OR 04/04/1890 1313 ORTDAA 067565
JESSEE, RENICK C OR 01/17/1902 3742 ORTDAA 068654
JESSEE, ROBERT E CA 08/31/1961 1222508
JESSEE, S LENA SCHENCK ID 05/18/1915 473232
JESSEE, S LENA SCHENCK ID 01/05/1911 03050 168157
JESSEE, SARAH JANE OR 01/18/1866 963 OROCAA 011161
JESSEE, STEPHEN MO 07/10/1844 22005 MO1450 __.386
JESSEE, STEPHEN MO 07/10/1844 22009 MO1450 __.390
JESSEE, THOMAS M WY 03/23/1916 520306
JESSEE, THOMAS M WY 10/14/1920 777389
JESSEE, WILLARD CA 05/01/1891 13995 CACAAA 113143
JESSEE, WILLARD CA 08/01/1892 18627 CACAAA 113166
JESSEE, WILLIAM IL 03/20/1837 2077 IL0660 __.030
JESSEE, WILLIAM WA 08/03/1907 5999 WASPAA 007696
JESSEE, WILLIAM W CA 04/06/1898 3048 CACAAA 086483

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 on-line depository of Russell Co. records, indexes and abstracts, genealogical data, historical maps, local history, and lore. We thank you. You can join the Russell Co. List Server. This is a must see site for Jessee researchers at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~varussell/>.

NATIONAL UNION CATALOG OF MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS (NUCMC) located at lweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/ is a free-of-charge cooperative cataloging program operated by the Library of Congress. Check out the resources to find out more about archives and manuscript repositories. I used their easy search tool and found 11 manuscripts with references to Jessee. Here are some of the hits that deserve follow-up.

Title: Smith family record, 1725-1898.

Description: 9 leaves.

Notes: Photocopies

The record is a genealogical table and a typed transcript of several wills. Areas covered are Russell and Stafford counties, Virginia. Other surnames mentioned: Anderson, Bowen, Brown, Burton, Byars, Campbell, Carter, Crockett, Crosby, Crutchfield, Fulton, Green, Halley, Hansbrough, Howe, Hutcheson, James, Jeffries, Jessee, Kerr, Lampkin, Lane, Parker, Pennis, Preston, Raper, Strother, Stuart, Tate, Taylor, White and Wren. Family of Henry Smith. Forms part of Miscellaneous Bible Records. Collection, No. 19. Record VASV91-A296 describes the book. Location: Virginia State Library and Archives, Archives Branch, 11th St. at Capitol Sq., Richmond, VA 23219.

Author: Jessee, George M.

Title: Papers, 1864-1876 [microform].

Description: 8 items (on 1 microfilm reel).

Notes: George M. Jessee, a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate Cavalry, was probably born in Kentucky. During the Civil war he commanded the 6th Kentucky Cavalry Battalion. Early in 1865, Jessee was sent to Kentucky by the commander of the Department of Western Virginia and East Tennessee, to bring to Virginia all Confederate soldiers whom he could persuade to come to help prosecute the war. While in Kentucky, Lee and Johnston surrendered and Jessee was accused of unauthorized absence from his command. Letters, a circular, a speech draft, and transcripts of each. Most items concern Jessee's attempt to prove his presence in Kentucky was by order of his superiors. The circular (1854) concerns restricting the grazing of public animals in order to preserve the hay crop; the draft is for a speech made by Col. Jessee (1865) to urge Confederate soldiers to rejoin their commands in Virginia; a letter (1865) from Union Maj. Gen. John C. Palmer concerns the surrender of Jessee's command; three other letters (1869) are to Jessee from former Confederate officers; one letter from Emma Stealey to Jessee (1876) is an inquiry concerning a soldier who was once under Jessee's command. Entire collection available on microfilm only. Original materials in private hands, 1961.

Reported in NUCMC MS651857 as part of collective entry "Confederate Collection II: Non-contemporary materials, 1856-1922" with four other manuscript collections.

Location: Special Collections Department, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia 30322.
Control No.: GAER91-A165

Title: Friends of Harry S. Truman in the state of Missouri oral history interviews, 1961-1988.

Description: 37 items.

Notes: In part, transcripts (typewritten) of interviews conducted by William Jewell College. Transcripts (typewritten) of tape-recorded interviews with friends of Harry S. Truman, chiefly from the Kansas City-Independence, Mo., area, who knew Truman in his youth or in the early stages of his political career before he became a U.S. senator. Includes interviews with Sam Anch, James P. Aylward, Thomas Hart Benton, Richard Bolling, Anthony A. Buford, Henry P. Chiles, Charles F. Curry, John A. Earp, Harry Easley, Tom L. Evans, Stanley R. Fike, William H. Foster, Sue Gentry, Hazel Graham, A.J. Granoff, H.H. Halvorson, Roy W. Harper, Edgar G. Hinde, May C. Howard, John K. Hulston, **Randall Jessee**, Mary Paxton Keeley, Robert L. Kennedy, Bruce E. Lambert, Walter Matscheck, Mary Ethel Noland, George D. Owen, Ardelia Hardin Palmer, Mize Peters, James W. Porter, William J. Randall, Ted Sanders, Harold M. Slater, A.J. Stephens, Robert L. Sweeney, Victor F. Swyden, N.T. Veatch, Robert P. Weatherford, and Paul Westwood. Permanent deposit by the repository's oral history project, 1963-1971 and 1978-1989.

Location: Harry S. Truman Library (Independence, Mo.).
Control No.: DCLV90-A909

Author: Dickenson family.

Title: Papers, 1864-1912.

Description: ca. 140 items.

Notes: Residents of Russell County, Va. Letters from Henry H. Dickenson (1837-1903) to his wife, Cornelia W. Quarles Dickenson, while on buying trips for his store, family correspondence, and letters from relatives, neighbors, and members of the Jessee family who had moved to Illinois, generally describing family news but also referring to business; together with orders for the store, accounts of the estate of Charles C. Dickenson (d. 1871), receipts, school essays, and tintype. Gift, 1985.

Location: University of Virginia Library (Charlottesville) (10471-a).

Control No.: DCLV89-A55

Author: Jessee, Adah Phillips, d. 1963.

Title: Phillips family biographies, [n.d.]

Description: 1 item (17 leaves)

Notes: Typescript biographies of various members of the Phillips family (the Jonah and Rachel Phillips family, Jonah and Ann Phillips family, and Daniel and Lucy Crump).

Subjects: Crump, Daniel, 1827-1910. Crump, Lucy Castre, 1829-1898. Phillips, Ann Thomas, 1839-1920. Phillips, Jonah, 1831-1903. Thomas, Mary, 1803-1906.

Control No.: UTBV85-A978

Author: Jessee, Dean C.

Title: A comparative study and evaluation of the Latter-Day Saint and "fundamentalist" views pertaining to the practice of plural marriage : a thesis, B. Y. U. : [Provo, Utah]

Description: 1 v. (iii, 273, [2] leaves) ; 28 cm.

Notes: Typescript, carbon, of a master's thesis written by Dean C. Jessee for the College of Religion, Brigham Young University. The thesis evaluates dissenters' doctrinal justification of polygamy after its official discontinuation by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Purchased from the Zion Bookstore, 1969.

Control No.: CTYAFKV0912-A

JUDY RING (wolfie@naxs.com) has a tremendous database with over 24,000 individuals found at worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi that includes DYE, ARTRIP, O'DELL, WILLIAM,S KISER, COOPER, [JESSEE] & MANY MORE families. I wish a fairy godmother would compare our databases and tell me what she has different or additional to my own.

The Jesse(e) 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 Web site 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. It is public and easy to use. 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 from our Jessee Genealogy Service home page. Go to:

<http://www.jessee.org>

Our database is now over 34,000 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 over the years. I still 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 so 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. Others, many unknown to me, have used this database as an authoritative source. Beware, you should 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. You might be surprised how many take and give back nothing.

Some feel the need to wag their finger at me, too, just 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 the e-mail, calls, visits, conversations, and correspondence I have with you.

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 on page two. In return for information shared, I will share charts or GEDCOM data files with you on request.

I am afraid I am now accumulating more information than I can key in to the database on my own. After 25 years of working intensively at a keyboard, I have developed a permanent disability, a slipped disk, which makes any prolonged time typing very painful. My computer time has been significantly limited and, in particular, 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 date 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, preferably in the form of a GEDCOM file you will allow me to integrate into the database. 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.

While limited in my ability to type, I intend to continue the newsletter, although I would welcome help. I am finding new ways to capture materials and avoid typing. 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 barely break even on out of pocket costs. The labor is all volunteer. I provide this 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 a 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 25% 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 well, as returned and reposted mail costs me, too.

Annual Subscription

I am asking for a minimum subscription of \$10 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

At the request of many, I have now collected Jessee Family Newsletters into separate sets of reprints: #1-7, #8-9, #10-11, #12-13, #14-15, and #16-17 (without some attachments that have become obsolete). You may request these, as well as specific pedigree or descendants charts for \$10 a set, or \$40 for all back issues and a subscription to the current year. Your additional donations to help me defray the costs of research, printing, copying, and postage are very much welcome.

The Jessee Family Newsletter

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A rendering of Jessee's Mill provided as a gift to those attending the 2000 Jessee Family Reunion by Irene Jessee Perry.

I need to update my mailing list. I do not wish to be sending you junk mail if you have no interest in the newsletter. The mailing label indicates the last issue to be mailed to you based on your assumed interest, paid subscription, or donations received to date. Please subscribe, renew, if need be, or inform me if you wish to stop or continue receiving the newsletter gratis. My apologies if this last issue date is in error. Please inform me of any corrections needed.