

# Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #22

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## Dear Cousin,

After a sweltering 2002 reunion last August, I am looking forward to the 2003 Reunion in June. The decision to move the Picnic from August to June and to a large air-conditioned recreation facility in Abingdon, VA is a good one. This fat old sleep apniac Jessee was suffering in all that heat and humidity, and I was worried about a few more at the picnic. Now it is up to all of you to make it our best one yet. I hope to see you there.

Last year I also vowed I would not travel again without my wife, and therein lies my dilemma. We may be traveling to North Dakota in June for her Norwegian family reunion instead! If we go, we will attend the Research Day on Friday and the picnic on Saturday, June 21. We will see.

The **Jessee Historical Foundation** is now well underway thanks to the efforts of the founding board and charter members. There is much good to report and Joy Malone has provided an excellent summary of our accomplishments so far.

It appears our immediate tasks are to have Jessee's Mill declared an official State historic site, and to get some protection for the John and Frankey Lea Jessee cemetery. Our president, Joe Jessee in Lebanon, needs your help to see our dreams come true. The foundation needs a board secretary and other volunteers. Please help.

I am always a bit daunted by this work. There is so much data entry to do, just the daily requests for help fill most evenings. Still, I am excited and gratified every time I extend the descendants for the Jessee Family and am always astounded as I see increasing evidence of the interrelatedness of all these SW Virginia families. We are all cousins.

We have 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.

**Jim Jessee**

## Featured This Edition

You are invited to the **4th National Jessee Family Reunion, June 21, 2003, at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center, Abingdon, VA.** Get information and see highlight photos of the 2002 Jessee Family Research Day and Picnic inside.

The **Jessee Historical Foundation** is doing well. **Joy Malone** provides a summary of the first year's activities and achievements. Learn more about the proposed **Jessee's Mill historical designation** and the **John and Frankey Lea Jessee cemetery protection** and more inside.

The **historic Andrew Jackson Jessee home, across the road from Jessee's Mill is still for sale.** Read all about it and a dream to acquire and restore Jessee's Mill, dam, school, and store as part of a vision for a **Mill Creek Historic Park.**

**Other Jesse(e) Families** includes new inquiries about **Thomas Jessee** (b. 1754 in Amelia, Co.) and his father **Lazarus Jessee.** We still do not know how they may be related.

Featured is the article by **Katherine Kerr Kendall on the family of William and Mary Lea of Caswell Co., NC.** I believe William and Mary are the parents of our Frankey Lea Jessee.

**Many contributors have provided news** for the descendants of **Philip and Rachel Jessee, and John and Frankey Lea Jessee's fifteen children.** You will find new information, hear heart warming stories, and meet new cousins inside.

**Several have sent photographs** which I am happy to feature. Historical family photos 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.**

# You Are Invited To The 2003 National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, June 21, 2003

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

2003 Jessee Family Research Day

Friday June 20, 2003

Russell County Library  
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

The 2003 Jessee Family Research Day, will be held Friday, June 20, 2003 at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA. The activities begin at 9 am and end about 4 pm. There will be a change in program based on your input. Please complete the questionnaire (next page); we welcome your ideas and suggestions. If you plan to attend and/or need further information, please contact Mike and Joy Malone, the Jessee Research Day sponsors, phone at 954-476-1148 and/or e-mail at [drjoym@bellsouth.net](mailto:drjoym@bellsouth.net).

The Jessee Historical Foundation will hold its annual membership meeting at the Russell Co. Library at 4 pm, June 20, after the research day.

The 2003 Jessee Family Reunion and Picnic will be held Saturday, June 21, 2003, 10:30 am to 5:00 pm at The Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park Grounds, Abingdon, Virginia. To get there:

Take exit 19 from Interstate 81, go north on Route 11-Main Street toward Abingdon, approximately 0.7 mile. Bear right (north) at the second light onto Thompson Street, beside the shopping center. Go about 100 yards, then go right on Stanley Street. Coomes



Norma McHone and Mike Malone point the way to the The Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park Grounds.

Recreation Center will be around the big curve, over the hill on the right.

If you have any questions and/or need information about this historic area, lodging, golf courses, etc., please call the Abingdon Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-435-3440; Phone: 276-676-2282 or Fax: 276-676-3076, E-mail: [acvb@abingdon.com](mailto:acvb@abingdon.com) or Internet: [www.abingdon.com/tourism](http://www.abingdon.com/tourism).

At the 2002 Jessee Family Reunion on a very hot August day The Jessee Historical Foundation members voted to move the Jessee Picnic to the third Saturday in June, to be held at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center, located in Abingdon, Virginia. "A Cool Place" - The Recreation Center has a large air-conditioned meeting hall with a fully equipped kitchen suitable for the Jessee Reunion Picnic and an outdoor picnic area with tables. The Center boasts two beautiful swimming pools, an outdoor olympic-size pool with one- and three-meter diving boards and a 50-meter indoor pool with a one meter diving board. The fee for the use of swimming pools by any picnic attendee is only \$1.00, to be paid at the Center counter (proper swimming attire is required).

A complete indoor cardiovascular exercise area and running track are available (must be over 16 years of age to use equipment), and there is an indoor gymnasium with regulation basketball courts with impact cushion surface, all at an additional fee of \$1.50, paid at the Center counter. No street shoes, black-soled shoes, or track/cleated shoes are permitted in gym or on the track. Work off all those extra picnic calories!

There is no charge for use of the four tennis courts (on a first come basis), large outdoor 0.6 acre fully equipped children's play area, or roller blade and skateboard park. Planned picnic activities will adhere to all the Rules and Regulations of the Center. No pets allowed!

**Remember to Bring a Covered Dish, enough to feed your family and four additional "cousins."** You may bring a folding chair. Bring your musical instruments. Please participate in the **Silent Auction** to help raise needed funds. To make the auction a success, your contributions are needed. Use your imagination to think of items to be contributed. Start "Creating Heirlooms, One Piece at a Time." See next page.

**For picnic day information contact the JHF Picnic Committee: Taulbee Jessee, Chairman, 276-623-1105.**

## Please Help Us Plan The Research Day

During the past three years we have had over 300 Jessee cousins attend the Jessee Family Research Days. Many cousins requested directions to numerous Jessee sites located throughout Russell County. Several cousins toured on their own, got lost, or could not locate the sites they tried to find. This year, if enough people are interested, we will work to put together a tour of selected sites in Russell County, such as Jessee's Mill, Mill Creek, Reeds Valley, Historic RC Courthouse, Copper Creek, Moccasin Creek, Cleveland, Honaker, Elk Garden, and various cemeteries.

We need your input and ideas. If you would like to participate, please fill out the survey form below and e-mail it back to us. Please give us suggestions for sites and properties that you would like to visit. Remember to include your family home, church, cemetery, etc. and whether the group may visit these. You will need to give us the exact location of family sites in order for us to establish a route and time schedule.

The proposed bus tour would leave from the Russell County Public Library about 12:30 pm and return around 4:30 pm. The cost of the tour should be no more than about \$12.00 per person. This trip could be one great way to meet and get to know your cousins from different parts of the country.

Since there are many narrow and winding roads in Russell County, we plan to rent 14-passenger air-conditioned buses, similar to the ones used by airport rental car companies. The buses are new and comfortable with large windows and nicer seating for a smoother ride. Depending on your interests, we could rent several buses in order to accommodate all cousins who would like to tour together. Please respond by the end of January 2003. We will contact you regarding additional information for this first family tour, the tentative schedule, and to make reservations if enough people respond.

### PLEASE REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

You may call, e-mail, or post your response to Mike and Joy.

1. Would you like to participate in a tour. YES NO
2. Do you have a family site we could visit? YES NO
3. If yes to # 2, please describe your family site and give us the exact location.

4. Please list other sites you would like to visit.

5. Would you like to meet cousins for dinner after the research day? YES NO

Where: Lebanon \_\_\_\_\_ Abingdon \_\_\_\_\_

6. Would you like to attend the Family Bluegrass Barn in Hansonville on Friday night? YES NO

The Fourth Annual Jessee Family Research Day will be held on Friday, June 20, 2003 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm at the Russell County Public Library. For those not participating in the tour, the Russell County Library meeting room will be available for use by family researchers until 3:30 pm.

Volunteers to help with the Research Day are needed. You can help welcome family members, sign-in attendees and pin on badges, keep the coffee pot going, and much more.

**Please contact Mike and Joy Malone at:  
PO Box 291899, Davie, FL 33329-1800;  
Phone or FAX: 954-476-1148;  
Email: drjoym@bellsouth.net .**

## There will be Music by Jessee and other Family Musicians

**Here is the SONGLIST planned for the Jessee  
National Family Reunion. Bring your Instruments.**

Song, KEY, chords

Amazing Grace, C, c, f, g

Arkansas Traveler, C

Beauty Be You, G, g, c, d

Blue Moon of Kentucky, D, d, a, g

Carry Me Back to Old Virginia, G, g, c, d, c

Deep Elam Blues Black Bottom, C

Dixie D, d, g, a. Chorus d, Bm, a

Find the Best Woman, D, d, g, d, a, g

Freight Train, C, c, g, c, Em, f

Going Down This Road, G, g, c, d, Em

Guitar Town, G, g, c, d

Hideaway, E, e, a, b, a

I Saw the Light, C, c, f, g

I'll Fly Away, G, g, c, d

I've Been Around This World, C

John Henry, D, d, a

Man of Constant Sorrow, D, d, g, a

Mountain Dew, D, d, g, a

New River Train, D, d, g, a

Red River Valley, D, d, a, d, g

Rocky Top, C, c, f, c, Am, g

Roll In My Sweet Baby's Arms, G, g, d, g, d, g, c, g, d, g

She Thinks I Still Care, C, c, f, c, g Intro c, Bbm, f, c, g

Shortnin' Bread, D, d, a

Soldier's Joy, D, d, a

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, G, g, c, g, d

Turkey in the Straw, A, a, e

When the Saints Go Mrch'n In, G, g, d, g, c, g, d

When My Brown Eyes Turn Blue, G

Will The Circle Be Unbroken, G, g, c, g, d

Will You Love Me One More Time, D, d, g, d, Bm, a

Worried Man Blues, D

**Prepared by: Robert Trigg Jessee and Joseph  
Jessee, who welcome you to this family music jam.**

## The Silent Auction

Please participate in this year's silent auction to help raise funds for the Jessee Historical Foundation. To make the auction a success, your contributions are needed. Use your imagination to think of items to be contributed. The items for the auctions can be brought to the reunion picnic to be held at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park Grounds, Abingdon, VA. If you have any questions about what to contribute to the auctions, please contact:

**Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee** [vernon@cros.net]; phone 419-734-2021;

**Mike and Joy Jessee Malone**

[drjoym@bellsouth.net];

phone or fax 954- 476-1148;

**Mary H. Akers** [phoenix@naxs.com]

phone 540-628-9239.



# Highlights of the 2002 Research Day and Family Reunion

Photos Courtesy of Mike and Joy Malone



David and Patricia Jessee, with Joy Malone (center) welcome people to the Research Day at the Russell Co. Library



Lining up for the wonderful food at the Jessee Family Reunion



Nellie Jessee (back) Janice Tiller, Lana Perry, Arlene Jessee, Autumn Cox, and Irene Jessee Perry at Research Day.



Varney and Brenda Jessee, Bill and Ellawese Jessee, Arlene Jessee (back), and Emily and Amy.



Suzanne Morsa, Lethia Marie Whited (age 91), Charlotte Whited Hughes, Nellie Jessee, and Janice Tiller.



Ohio and Virginia cousins enjoying the picnic. There was plenty of good food to go around. The Jesses are fine country cooks.





Taulbee "Toby" Jessee and Norma McHone announce the silent auction



Top R. "America" Handmade afghan by Helen Reedy. Other silent auction items include walking care carved by Jack Jessee, horse carving by J. C. Jessee, carved oak bowl, old hand made brick from Gabriel Jessee cabin, painting by Sandar Hood, print of Andrew Jackson Jessee Home, crochet by JaniceTiller, and much more



Patricia Jessee with parents, Anna and Joseph Jessee



Mike Malone, "Kansas Cousins" Robert and Mary Clouston, and Joy Jessee Malone at Reunion.  
Photo to the right is



Dot Bachman from New Jersey, with "California Cousins" Suzanne Morsa, Gina "Gigi" Morsa, and Jim Jessee.

# Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

*Connecting the Future by Remembering the Past*

## The JHF board and officers are:

Joseph H. "Joe" Jessee, Jr., President  
Laura Jessee Thomas, Vice-President  
Mary Akers, Membership Secretary  
Carolyn Sue Jessee, Assistant Membership Secretary  
Henry "Hank" Davis, Legal Advisor  
Norma McHone, Treasurer  
Taulbee "Toby" Jessee, JHF Picnic Chair  
James W. "Jim" Jessee, Newsletter/Web Page Editor  
Members At Large: Peggy Jessee Adams, John F. Bolling, Carl B. Jessee, James C. "J.C." Jessee, John Daniel Jessee, Joseph Harold "Doodle" Jessee, Sr., Joy Ann (Jessee) Malone, Robert Trigg Jessee, Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee, W.D. "Tip" Jessee, Irene Jessee Perry, Helen R. Reedy, Vernon Salyers, Janice Sue Jessee Tiller.

Go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) for more information, minutes of Foundation Board meetings, photos of Foundation activities, and Foundation news and events. In building this family history foundation we learn by heart, and we are at heart, all cousins. We extend a welcome to all Jessee descendants, related family, friends, and neighbors. *Please Join Us*.

## Membership Information

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

### There are three categories of membership.

Anyone age 81 or older may request free lifetime membership. The annual fee is \$10 per person for all categories. Inquire about lifetime membership, too.

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

**2. Associate Member:** Spouses, related family, or friends of a regular member, who are non-voting.

**3. Junior Member:** Family members under age 18, who are non-voting.

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

**Jessee Historical Foundation Inc.**  
C/O Mary H. Akers, Membership Secretary  
19643 Oakwood Dr.  
Abingdon VA 24211  
540-628-9239  
[phoenix@naxs.com](mailto:phoenix@naxs.com)

# Jessee Historical Foundation Accomplishments 2001-2002

Submitted by Joy A. (Jessee) Malone  
June 1, 2002

The year 2001 was a landmark for the Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc. (JHF). The purpose for which the Foundation was formed was for connecting our mission to community service and other similar non-profit purposes. We are learning to embrace the spirit of our mission as we continue to connect descendants of our ancestors John Jessee, Sr. and his wife, Frankey Lea Jessee [with other Jessee families] in communities around the United States. I thank all the JHF Board and Foundation members and interested individuals and groups for their support in helping to make this year a success. As we move into the future, the JHF volunteer leadership needs your continued support, commitment and time in order to join with the challenge of shaping and building a successful Foundation.

One goal is to tell the story of how family members are connected that may help to prepare us for tomorrow, as well as for today, by remembering the past. "That the future may learn from the past." It does more than preserve the past; in a manner more comprehensive, it maintains a living legacy.

We embark upon the first year anniversary of our Foundation with Board and Foundation members planning for the largest and best family reunion to ever be held in Russell County, Virginia. The 2002 Jessee Research & History Day is scheduled for August 2nd at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA. The 2002 Jessee Family Reunion Picnic will be held at the Russell County Fairgrounds on August 3rd, 2002.

To the best of my recollections, I have outlined the many accomplishments of the Foundation [and its members] that have occurred during its first year as an organization. This list is not all-inclusive and I invite you to please add to this list.

**1. Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc. was founded May 2001**, accomplished by special Board members and legal counsel who volunteered time and costs to see that all the required elements were completed in order to establish our organization. I am a proud Jessee descendant [and founding member] of the JHF.

**2. A one-year (never ending) Charter Member campaign, by members working with the Membership Chair, yielded 216 Charter Members** and a total of about 226 Foundation Members. The committee members donated all costs incurred for this campaign. (Expiration date for all members is December 31, 2002; renewals begin January 1, 2003). An on-going membership drive continues and plans for a second campaign is scheduled for the Fall 2002.

**3. The Charter Membership campaign was an outgrowth of the decision by the Board and interested members to pursue the "Historical Highway Marker Project," aimed at erecting a marker for the "Jessee's Mill."** A big part of the process was the financial question, "Where were we going to get the money to fund this?" The Charter campaign was born and with the support of all members, the required funds for this project were raised.

**4. The Highway Marker Project Committee members worked for months gathering the data required by the State of Virginia.** We accomplished our task and submitted a 52-page

application proposal in May 2002. This proposal included all items specific to the marker project, cover letter, letters of support, photographs, descriptive information, maps of sites/locations, rationales for local, regional, state, and national significance, etc. The St. of VA. Historical Highway Marker Department meets June 15th for review of applications and if selected, our application will continue on to the Dept's September Board meeting. This process takes time. (The JHF Committee also completed a "back-up" plan). I thank all the California, Florida, Ohio, and Virginia members that helped to collect the information. All time and costs were donated.

**5. As a Board Member, one thing I value the most is the opportunity I have had to meet and get to know so many new "cousins," related family members and new friends.** My family is growing at a tremendous rate and now I need to pay attention to priorities and invest in time-management in order to continue active participation in Foundation activities which I find rewarding.

**6. 2001 Second Annual Jessee Family Research & History Day was held August 3, 2001 at the Russell Co. Public Library in Lebanon, VA.** (Approximate attendance in 2000 was 50+ participants; participation doubled in 2001 with 100+). The success of this activity is due to all those who volunteered their time. All costs involved were donated. At this time, planning for the 2002 Research & History Day is complete and again all time and costs donated.

**7. The 2001 Annual Jessee Family Reunion Picnic, held on August 4th, at the Russell County Fairgrounds, had approximately 400+ in attendance.** Board and Foundation members and friends worked hard, volunteered time and monies to the picnic's success. The 2002 Board's Picnic Chairperson has been working hard for months and continues with all the planning involved for the anticipated largest and best Reunion Picnic ever held in Russell Co., VA. Many volunteers are needed this year to help with all the picnic activities as the attendance is expected to reach 600!!!

**8. The 2001 JHF Fund Raiser was accomplished by the Silent and the Not-so-Silent Auctions held during the 2001 Jessee Reunion Picnic that included our major auction item, the "Jessee Mill" painting donated by Irene Jessee Perry, and many other auction items donated by the Gabriel Jessee and John Jessee, Sr. descendants.** I challenge everyone to bring items to make this year's auction an even more outstanding fundraiser. Donated items and monies are needed to help fund future Foundation projects.

**9. Board and Foundation members have been involved in "logging" Russell County cemeteries. They have climbed up and down mountains and walked through many a holler. (So far, no injuries to report).**

These same Board and Foundation members have also initiated the "cleaning" and bush-hog mowing of the "Old Lost Lebanon Cemetery," located on the hill behind the RC Library. A lot of hard work and it was very disheartening to learn that within a few days of their project, vandals turned over and broke many of the remaining cemetery markers. Another family cemetery in New Garden was also cleaned and mowed.

**10. Another project by a Board member has been the planning for setting a memorial marker in a State Park and ceremony honoring a descendant of his spouse to be held this summer. (Remembering ancestors on both sides of our families!)**

**11. Many Board and Foundation members have been busy during the 2001 year, touring visiting "cousins" to many of the RC Jessee and related family sites.** A committee was formed at the 2002 March Board Meeting to begin work on a tour map (with site locations and index) of places of interest to Jessee family members. A future tour may be in the planning.

**12. Many Board and Foundation members have been active members in the RC Genealogy Group and are providing resources (information and photographs) as requested by other family members.** One JHF Board member is working with the

group conducting interviews and video taping of valued personal histories of selected RC citizens. One recently completed was from a "97-year-old cousin." Without their efforts, a part of our family history will be lost to us forever. Many other Foundation members not only support the RC group, but also are members of the Washington Co. Historical Society, SW Virginia Historical Society, etc.

**13. During 2001 and 2002, the JHF and individual Board and Foundation members have made donations to the RC Public Library and History Room, the Castlewood Volunteer Fire Department and EMS Services, and DAR USS Stennis Aircraft Carrier Patriotic Project, etc.**

**14. Board and Foundation members have provided information from Board meetings, reunion activities, etc. (including photographs, etc.) for publication and dissemination to the broader Jessee family via Jim Jessee, Editor, Jessee Family Newsletter and Jessee website.** Selected announcements have been placed in the local newspapers. Communication via the internet e-mail has helped to keep others abreast of news. Those without e-mail have either been called or mailed brochures with reunion research day & picnic information, or via letters, cards, etc. If notified, the membership committee has mailed birthday, get-well, and sympathy cards. All time and costs have been donated.

**15. Congratulations: The Organizational Celebration of the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was held at the Old Russell County Courthouse in Dickensonville, Virginia on May 12, 2002.**

The Russell County Organizing Regent, Jackquetta Fletcher, and so many wonderful RC Genealogy Group volunteers worked hard and long to help establish the first chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Russell County. Board and Foundation members have been working with the RC group throughout 2001 and now into 2002. There have been a lot of phone calls, e-mails, etc. to potential members encouraging them to put to use all that genealogy and family history information we Jessee descendants have been collecting for years. Assistance has been given to other potential members in Texas, Virginia, and Florida.

By encouraging members to join the RC DAR Chapter or their local chapters of the DAR and SAR, we can help provide a means to work within their national policies and objectives that include historic preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavors. Active chapter participation offers an opportunity to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize our Revolutionary ancestors (Bickley, Browning, Jessee, Kelly, Litton, Stinson, Ray, etc.). Membership also provides an opportunity for us to participate in good citizens and local school presentations, etc.

Membership in such professional organizations support many of the purposes of the JHF that include the collection and preservation of information pertaining to the family surnames; to publish family biographical and genealogical material; to publish via newsletters, etc. and to distribute materials to libraries, etc., and to stimulate interest in historical research; etc.

To date, there are four JHF Board Members and several Foundation members that are Organizing Charter and Charter members of the RC DAR Chapter and we will continue to encourage other Jessee family members to join. Jackquetta Fletcher, Organizing Regent, will be a guest speaker at the 3rd Annual Jessee Research/History Day at the RC Library. I thank all other Foundation members who have joined their local chapters.

**16. To date, all supplies, including certificates, stationery/envelopes, brochures, cards, notebooks, posters, signs, phone expenses, decorations, selected donations, costs incurred in the research/history day with refreshments and gift drawings, reunion picnic children's gifts, auction items, etc., have been donated by Board and Foundation members.** The

donation of time and monies have made possible many of the projects accomplished by the Foundation during the 2001 year and the 2002 projects accomplished to date.

I am sure I have failed to mention so many of the good and positive accomplishments of the Foundation during our first year as an organization. I thank all the members of the JHF Board and Foundation for giving me the opportunity to participate in our Foundation. I can only hope that all family members continue their support, commitment and active participation to the success of the Foundation. I am looking forward to the 2002 [and 2003] Reunion Activities, celebrating our first year anniversary of the Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Joy A. (Jessee) Malone**

## **PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

The following projects, activities, and undertakings have been discussed, some acted upon, and no doubt 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 land is owned by Jimmy Herndon, who now lives on the property and has been renovating the home there. We believe Mr. Herndon is willing to cooperate, but, I believe, the main issue is how to hold him harmless for any liability while providing protection of and access to the this first Jessee family cemetery in Russell County.

**2. Preservation of Jessee's Mill, Dam, and School.** This will need much study and documentation, requests for appropriate historical designation, and major fundraising and grant development. [Please see the articles that follow.]

**3. The establishment of Virginia State Highway Historical Markers for Jessee's Mill and other appropriate Jessee Family sites.** [See the following.]

**4. Creating a Jessee Family History Book.**

**5. Planning for the next and future National Jessee Family Reunions, Research Days, and Annual Meetings.**

**6. Clean-up and preservation of other Jessee cemeteries and historical sites.**

### **FUTURE JHF BOARD MEETINGS**

**Saturday, March 1, 2003, 10 am to 2 pm**  
**at Stringer's Restaurant, Abingdon, VA.**

**Friday, June 20, 2003, 3 to 6 pm**  
**(annul membership meeting will begin at 4 pm)**  
**at the Russell Co. Library, Lebanon, VA**

**Saturday, October 4, 2003 10 am to 2 pm**  
**at Stringer's Restaurant, Abingdon, VA.**

## **Jessee's Mill Historical Site and Marker Projects**

The Jessee Historical Foundation intends to undertake the establishment of one or two state highway historical markers pertinent to the history of the Jessee Family in Russell Co., VA, with Jessee's Mill as the first priority.

**J.C. JESSEE and MIKE AND JOY MALONE** researched what is involved to establish a state highway historical marker, compiled all the information, and submitted all required paperwork to the Virginia State DOT last year. J. C. Jessee reports the following.

Our initial application for a Jessee Mill roadside marker was reviewed and denied at the September, 2002 Department of Historical Resource Board Meeting. The stated reason for denial was that it did not qualify according to the standards adopted in 1994 that it must first meet standards requiring state and national significance. At the November, JHF Board Meeting the committee asked that the roadside marker project be placed on hold until standards requiring state and national significance were met. It is my understanding that Joe Jessee is working with Mr. Sherman Wallace, Jessee Mill property owner, to obtain the required standards. To my knowledge the Jessee home across from the mill was not sold at auction.

This does not preclude the family's establishing an historical marker on a County Road or even private property, if an appropriate location can be deteremined. This option will be held in abeyance until work on establishing the Mill, Dam, and School as an official State historic site is pursued.

**JOE JESSEE is now chairing the committee working on requesting that Jessee's Mill be declared a Virginia State Historic site.**

## **John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery Protection Project**

**MIKE AND JOY MALONE** [drjoym@bellsouth.net] sent, 2/18/01, important information and an opportunity to properly recognize and record **the grave site of our John Jessee Revolutionary War Soldier.** Specific information on this was provided in the July 2002 Newsletter.

**We need to get John Jessee recognized formally as a Revolutionary War Soldier and the cemetery where he and Frankey are buried preserved as a Revolutionary War Soldier grave site.** We also know that it is a Civil War Soldier grave site, and may need this recognition as well. Mike and Joy could use your help.



## Acquisition of Jessee's Mill, and Andrew Jackson Jessee Home Remains a Dream

As some of you may know, John Funk and I, among others, believe that the JHF or other significant benefactor or foundation should look into acquiring Jessee's Mill along with the Dam above and the Jessee School for a Jessee's Mill Restoration project, perhaps as the anchor for a Mill Creek Historic Park. See the following article. The owner of the Andrew Jackson Home has also expressed interest in selling this historic site, and we would wish this to be included. We had hoped that we could acquire enough land around the mill, dam, school, and home to preserve a sense of the original Mill Creek Community environs. Sherman Wallace indicates he is very willing to work with the Jessee family regarding these ideas. This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve four significant historical landmarks and perhaps create a small historical park around it for Russell Co. and all its sons and daughters across America.

I have learned that the Jessee Historical Foundation, while a non-profit corporation, limits its membership to Jessee descendants only, and thus would not qualify as a public charitable non-profit organization for receipt of tax-deductible donations or other grants or contracts. We do not wish to change this corporation status. Thus the JHF organization cannot undertake this project directly, but can help develop the ideas and lend support to a benefactor or an appropriate public non-profit charitable group, corporation, or foundation which could undertake this.

I ask members in or near Russell County to consider how this might happen. Would the Russell County government, Chamber of Commerce, Genealogy or Historical Society, or other appropriate group be willing to look into creating a Russell County or Mill Creek Historic Park with a renovated Jessee's Mill as its centerpiece? If not, is there sufficient interest to create an organization or foundation for this purpose?

### Jessee's Mill Restoration

The restoration of Jessee's Mill is a dream shared by many of us who read this newsletter, or e-mail me via the Jessee List. I am willing to do what I can to encourage such an idea, and offer this newsletter and the Jessee Genealogy Service Website as one vehicle for sharing information about how to accomplish this. While the JHF supports this project, it is also beyond the charter or ken of the JHF. As always, we need volunteers and leadership in or near Russell County. Your help is needed.

JOHN R. FUNK [renkiewicz1@earthlink.net] corresponded with me and the Jessee List in March 2002, and shared interesting and important information regarding the origins of the design and construction of the Jessee Mill and Dam. He provided several Websites with specific information on the architecture, design, construction, and operation of the mill. He provided vital information with respect to preservation and restoration of the Mill and Dam. Here are excerpts of the information and ideas John has shared. His vision is an inspiration for me.

John Funk first contacted me to share information about **Pond Lily Mill Restorations**, a Website devoted to providing information and services relating to mill restoration. The Website to explore is: [www.angelfire.com/journal/pondlilymill/](http://www.angelfire.com/journal/pondlilymill/).

John identified **the designer of the original or prior Jessee's Mill as Oliver Evans**, and provided this Website for information on him: [www.uh.edu/engines/epi1.htm](http://www.uh.edu/engines/epi1.htm).

John sent information regarding **the original designer of Jessee's Mill Water Wheel, John Fitz**, and information about the millwork. This URL is for the Hanford Mills Museum which includes a picture of the designer of the water wheel, John Fitz: [www.hanfordmills.org/](http://www.hanfordmills.org/).

John provided additional information on the **Fitz Water Wheel** at these Websites: [www.angelfire.com/journal/millbuilder/album6.html](http://www.angelfire.com/journal/millbuilder/album6.html) [www.angelfire.com/journal/millbuilder/album6.html](http://www.angelfire.com/journal/millbuilder/album6.html)

Here are additional Websites John Funk has passed along relative to the restoration of Jessee's Mill. [Http://jbwoodson.internations.net/woodsonsmill/](http://jbwoodson.internations.net/woodsonsmill/) <http://www.spoom.org/> <http://www.geocities.com/whitesmill/foundation.html> <http://www.ls.net/~newriver/swva/hssv-7.htm>

TOM RUDDER provided this Web reference to a **topographic map locating Jessee's Mill**. It can be found at **TopoZone.com** which is a fantastic topographic map resource with many **Jessee landmarks identified; have fun playing on this site**. [Http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4085539&e=395992&s=25&size=m](http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4085539&e=395992&s=25&size=m)

SUE LESTER PATTERSON [omega84@ev1.net] shares photos of Jessee's Mill and Jessee's School on her website. [Http://Omega84.com/JesseeMill1.htm](http://Omega84.com/JesseeMill1.htm)

## Jessee's Mill Dam an Historic and Architectural Treasure

JOHN R FUNK [renkiewicz1@earthlink.net] writes, 4/21/2002, with extensive information regarding the Dam just upstream from Jessee's Mill. He asserts that this may be one of the oldest and most unique structures of its kind in the United States. I hope the Jessee Historical Foundation can use this information to help establish the Jessee's Mill, Dam, and School as a Virginia or Russell Co. Historical Site.

This dam was built some time between 1812 and 1814, and somewhere in this pile of rocks is a stone that will have someone's initials or a date when it was built. I would guess this dam may be the oldest remaining antique structure in the Mill Creek area, maybe even Lebanon and Russell Co.

In other correspondence John identified for us the style of buttress dam which is upstream from Jessee's Mill. **The architect of this style of buttress dam is Baldassare Peruzzi** of Siena, Italy. Here is the Website where you can find more information on this: [www.simsience.org/cracks/advanced/butt\\_hist1.html](http://www.simsience.org/cracks/advanced/butt_hist1.html)

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

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

JEAN SHUMATE [mailto:Shuboom1@aol.com] sent, 7/25/2002, this information about William Jesse, and his family of Middlesex Co., VA. Jean asks for help identifying this family and its origins.

Marriage record from Middlesex Co Virginia is for Thomas Mullins and Lucy Jesse (not Jessee) dated April 26, 1806.

Lucy's father was William Jesse. She had a brother Thomas Jesse who married Ann Cathorne; a brother John Jesse who married Catherine Beamon and a sister Elizabeth who married Edmund Stevens in 1800. I have a plat of the land Lucy inherited from her father which she sold in 1813.

## OTHER JESSE(E) FAMILIES

ROBERTA PEARSON (PO Box 498, Lavaca, AR 72941-0498) wrote, 8/9/2002, with the following information and inquiry.

My ggg-grandmother was Peggy Jessee. She married Micajah Mosby in 1817 in Adair Co., KY. Micajah Mosby's mother was also a Jessee. Her name was Dianna Jessee. She married William Mosby about 1790 in Powhatan, VA. They moved to Adair Co., KY about 1810. Dianna's father was supposed to have been Thomas Jessee, and one of her brothers that I know of was Lazarus Jessee. Now my Peggy Jessee's marriage bond was signed by a Thomas Jessee, with Micajah Mosby.

Now I find in the LDS records that Peggy Jessee's, who married Micajah Mosby, father was Charles Jessee, and her mother Margaret or Peggy, also. The LDS records also list other children, who I find in the records, but I cannot find a Charles Jessee.

In 1830 there are several Jessee families listed: William Jessee, Lazarus Jessee, James Jessee, and Thomas Jessee living in Adair Co., KY... but no Charles Jessee. Can you help?

Roberta would appreciate any help resolving this conflicting information. I might suggest that Thomas might have been Charles Thomas or Thomas Charles Jessee.

DOROTHY OLSON [olsonkey@swbell.net] wrote, 9/4/2002, with the following information and inquiry.

I was wondering if you might know the parents of Sarah Jessee of Adair County, KY., who married William Dudley Janes (son of Spencer). Sarah and William Dudley Janes were my mother's paternal grandparents. I have Sarah's death certificate. She died Feb. 16, 1929, living at Arma, Kansas, at the age of 88 years, 7 months, and 15 days. Apparently her granddaughter Ethel O'Berg didn't know about her great grandparents; because it shows "unknown" for the names of both Sarah's parents as well as their birth places. It does indicate that Sarah was born in Adair County, KY.

I have pension papers from William having been in the service; but can't find them right now. I do recall his statement showed they were married in TN and she gave a different state. His pension record shows they lived in Indiana and Illinois after leaving Kentucky before coming to Crawford Co., KS.

The Janes Peak book shows her name was Sarah Jessee. This information probably came from Ethel O'Berg. Her death date in the Janes Peak book doesn't agree with her death certificate. The book date of Feb. 18, 1829, was the burial date.

I replied that this would be one of our unsolved mysteries, and suggested that she go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) and look up **Thomas Jessee, born 1754, a Revolutionary War Soldier, who was born in Amelia Co., VA**, but moved his entire family to Adair Co., KY. I have written before about this Thomas and his father **Lazarus Jessee** of Amelia Co. We do not know how they are related to the Jessee Family of Russell Co., VA.

SUE CHAPPELL [schappell@indy.rr.com] sent, 11/15/2002, this inquiry about **Rebecca Jesse**, one of the **Jesses of Adair and Metcalf Co., KY**.

I was wondering if you might have a **Rebecca Jesse** b. about 1829 whose parents were **John L. Jesse** and **Jane**? She married a **William M. Estes** probably in Metcalf or Green Co. KY.

[I suggested she look up a John L. Jesse in my database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org), to which she responded as follows]

My John would have to have been born about 1800 or before to have been Rebecca's father. He was in Metcalf Co. KY on the 1860 census. I found a Thomas Jesse in 1820 in Adair Co. KY and by 1830 there was a John Jesse in Adair Co. KY. A John Jesse is also listed in 1830 and 1840 Adair Co. KY. John J. Jesse is also listed in the 1870 census for Metcalf Co. KY.

All I know about Rebecca is that she was born about 1829 and she married William Marshall Estes. The first known child was born about 1853 although I think that there might have been another child earlier. William fought in the Civil war and listed a John L. Jesse and Jane as her parents. They were living in 1870 in Metcalf Co. at that time and this John L. Jesse and Jane were also listed on there. She died in 1906 in Green Co. KY and she and William Estes had 8 kids.

William and Rebecca Jesse Estes are living in Metcalf Co. in 1860. so I am sure this is her father. The Estes hung around Adair, Green, Barren, Metcalf Co for most of the 1800's so I feel sure this Thomas is John L. father. A Thomas Jesse is also listed on the 1840 census for Adair Co. KY with a son under 5 and a daughter under 5. plus himself and I assume his wife. He is listed as being 30/40 years old. A Thomas is also listed in 1850 Adair Co. KY. Metcalf Co. was formed in 1860 from Adair, Barren, Cumberland and Monroe Counties. Which would explain why they were in Metcalf by 1860 instead of Adair. There are no Jesse's in Adair in 1810 so I feel that that might be when they came to KY from VA. Thomas on the 1840 census is too young to be John L. Jesse father but could be a brother. And they could both be sons to the Thomas on the 1820 census. I appreciate all the help. and I know he is out there somewhere just have to keep looking. Thanks Sue.

## SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES

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

### PHILLIP AND RACHEL JESSEE

**Phillip Jessee (1742-1858)**, wife **Rachel**, and his son **Gabriel Jessee (1804-1886)**, of still unknown relationship to John Jesse (1750-1816), are among the historic Russell County, VA pioneering families. Phillip, who is reported to have lived to be 116, is sometimes referred to reverently as "Old Phillip" by researchers.

Here I will feature articles, documents, and other information about Phillip and Rachel Jessee, their son Gabriel, and their descendants. Your contributions are welcome.

Gabriel Jessee descendants, **Irene Jessee Perry**, **Janice Jessee Tiller**, and **J.C. Jessee** have been generous supporters and stalwart workers who have helped establish the Jessee Family Foundation. For their past and continuing work, we thank them. I invite them and other family members to submit photos and other articles of interest for us all to enjoy.

## JOHN AND FRANKEY LEA JESSEE

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

Here I will report new information for John and Frankey and highlight news and significant contributions regarding each of their fifteen (I-XV) children. I will rely upon special requests and search of the Jessee Family Database to provide the detailed genealogy information to those interested in any particular branch, rather than provide all the new information I receive in the newsletter. There has been much new information added to the database regarding the descendants of John and Frankey Lea Jessee, so please visit [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) and look up your line.

Through some strange good fortune, I was able to purchase a copy of **The Heritage of Caswell Co. North Carolina 1985**, through my local **Paradise California Genealogical Society**, which had an "extra" copy! This enabled me to do a bit of research on the **Leas of Caswell Co**, seeking to find the parents of our **Frankey Lea Jessee**. It is my speculation that she is the daughter of **William Lea of Cobb's Creek** and his wife **Mary**. Here is the article from the book on the William Lea family by **Katherine Kerr Kendall**.

*The Heritage of Caswell County North Carolina 1985*, Jeannine D. Whitlow, Editor, published by the Caswell County Historical Association [PO Box 278, Yanceyville, NC 27379] in cooperation with the Hunter Publishing Co., 1985, Winston-Salem, NC; page 355, Article #444 on William Lea Family by Katherine Kerr Kendall.

One of the first Leas in the Orange-Caswell area was William Lea of Cobb's Creek. He had purchased tracts of land on Cobb's Creek both sides from Dennis Collins on June 7, 1755. In 1771 from Orange Co. deeds James Lea, his son, sold 100 acres to Francis Carney and described it as being part of the land bought by his father William Lea. Cobbs Creek is near Leasburg. In 1757 William Lea was a Justice of the Peace in Orange Co., served on the orphan's court in 1758, commissioner of a road in 1758, replacing Lawrence Bankston and later William Armstrong. William Lea died 1762 intestate. A book of administrations of Orange Co. shows Mary and John Lea were co-administrators of his estate. At the estate sale Mary Lea purchased most of the personal effects.

The widow, Mary Lea, survived her husband over 20 years. She may have been his second wife. Dr. A. E. Casey projects her maiden name was Barnett. Mary Lea died testate before April 1785

naming in her will daughter Sarah Runnels (Reynolds), son George Lea and "all her children". Executors were James Lea and son George Lea. Her son George qualified. Mary Lea appears on the 1777 tax list of Caswell Co., and valued her assets at over 900 pounds. On 1780-82 tax lists they are together, George and Mary Lea listing 268 acres of Cobb's Creek. By 1784 with her demise George Lea lists the 268 acres and 4 black polls. George Lea remains on the tax lists on Cobb's Creek with the same acreage. On Feb. 24, 1785 he married Jane Douglas, saw service in the Revolutionary War, was first a Captain and later Colonel in the NC Militia. Although he lived most of his life in Person Co. and served in the NC General Assembly from Person Co., his will was probated in Caswell Co. at April Court, 1830. He probably owned land in both counties. His deceased daughter Mary Logan Lea had married John Johnston on January 8, 1806, having children Jennett Logan and Sally Stanfield. George Lea's son, William Arche, married Susan Cochran.

James Lea was also a son of William as proved by the deed of land of 1770. James Lea married Elizabeth Lea, daughter of Capt. William Lea. On the 1783 and 1785 tax list of Caswell Co. is listed John Lea (widow's son). So William and Mary Lea had a son John. After death of Mary Lea, George reduces his land acreage to 168 acres and John Lea (widow's son) lists 100 acres. The number of children of William and Mary Lea is unknown.

When probates nor deeds can prove kinship the only recourse is to consider location of land and names. An Archer connection comes to light in this branch of the Lea family. Somewhere a mother or grandmother was nee Archer. Col. George Lea, son of Mary, had a son William Archer Lea, and a grandson of the same name. Because of the Archer name, it is fair to place other Leas as children of William Lea of Cobb's Creek. Zachariah Lea who died testate 1791 had sons Vincent, Henry, George, with George having a William Archer Lea. His daughters were Mary Bankston, Rachel, and Sarah Lea. Zachariah was on the 1755 tax list of Orange Co. owning 1 black poll, so was probably over 21 years. Since Zachariah had a son Henry, it appears that Henry Lea died 1774 in Orange Co. was a brother as it was, so natural to remember a deceased brother.

There was also a Richard Lea at least 16 years of age by 1777 as he was listed for poll tax in Caswell Co., and died 1839 testate in Person Co., with a large family and daughter Frances Archer Lea. See article in Person Co. Heritage Book. The name Jennett comes down in his family as well as in the family of Col. George Lea.

In the 1840s at the estate sale of William Archer Lea in Caswell Co., making purchases were William Archer Lea, Jr., and William Archer Lea (son of R)--possibly son of Reuben Lea and grandson to Richard Lea.

What of John Lea (widow's son)? The Person Co. Marriage records show that a John Lea married Peggy Satterfield, July 11, 1809. The Raleigh Register reported the marriage noting the bride was age 55 and the groom was age 60. This John born 1749 surely must be the son of the widow Mary. On 1810 census there is only 1 John Lea age over 45, 2 sons 16-26 and 2 sons under 10. He apparently had had an earlier marriage and could be father of Absolem Lea born 1771 who married Frances Muzzell April 30, 1794 in Caswell Co. In 1823 a William Lea appears at estate sales in southern Caswell and identified himself as son of Abb. We pick him to be the William M. Lea who resided in Orange Co., and married Betsy Malone and is buried at a Satterfield cemetery at Prospect Hill. And he did have a son, Willam Archer Lea. Absolem Lea and his second wife Frances Wheeler, are on the 1860 census in Person Co. he is age 89 and she is 56. A Person Co. deed records their marriage contract. No probates have been found for Absolem Lea.

The above sons continued use of the Archer name for generations. There may be others who did likewise.

The 1784 tax list includes on Cobb's Creek a Barnett Lea who in 1782 married Mourning Roan with George Lea as bondsman. In

1810 he gave his age as over 45 and had a large family. Barnett died intestate 1824 in Person Co. His estate sale mentions land adjoining George Lea, Richard Lea and McFarland Oakley. At the estate sale were the widow, Barnett G. Lea, Phebe, Hetta, Matilda, William, John, and of course a William Archer Lea. It appears Barnett was a brother to Col. George, James, Richard, John, and Zachariah. The Archer connection needs more study in Virginia and that facts expressed [here] are for study. Really it is the last resort for Caswell Co. Records.

**I believe this invites us to do more research to discover the Archer or Barnett connection. Then there is always the Archibald connection--see the following.**

**BOB CARVER** (Brobpat@aol.com] wrote, 9/20/2002 with this information and inquiry about the possible mother of our Frankey Lea who married John Jessee. Please note, it is my speculation, and there is no proof, that our Frankey Lea is the daughter of **William Lea and Mary (Archer?)** and a sister to the Leas discussed below. Please look up our Frankey Lea at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) to see the information regarding the LEA family discussed in this correspondence. I am afraid this will rekindle the Archer vs. Archibald controversy, but if it helps us find the parents of Frankey Lea, I am well pleased.

You have **BENJAMIN LEA**, son of **JAMES and ELIZABETH (LEA) LEA**, marrying another **ELIZABETH LEA**. According to the marriage bonds of Person Co., and the information from Ben Rose, whose research I consider historically accurate, this **BENJAMIN LEA** married **AGNES WRIGHT**, May 25, 1795. [I have made this correction]

According to Goodspeed's **HISTORY OF BEDFORD CO., TN**, p. 1137, in the biography of: **JOHN JACKSON COMER**. Samuel Comer ws a native of England and came to the United States with his wife (formerly a Miss Randolph) a short time before the Revolutionary War and settled in Virginia. He served in the war against the mother country and was subsequently killed by the Tories. **REUBEN D. COMER**, son of Samuel Comer, was rasied by a man named **ABNER LEA**, of Johnson County, N.C.

He (i.e., Abner) married a daughter of **THOMAS WRIGHT**, who came from England to South Carolina. Her parents died when she was an infant and she was raised by Col. **ELLIOTT LEE**. After her marriage with Mr. Comer, they came to Wilson County, Tenn., and became the parents of five sons and two daughters. **JOHN JACKSON COMER**, the subject of this sketch, was the fourth of their children and was reared on a farm and had charge of his father's mill and cotton gin...."

Now to continue the confusion, the Person Co. Marriage Bonds shows **ABNER LEA** marrying **NANCY BULLINGTON**, April 8, 1793.

I am descended from **ANNIS LEA**, sister of **ABNER, RICHARD, BENJAMIN, FRANKEY** [our Frankey by my speculation], **NAOMI**, and **EUNICE LEA**....and her husband, **WILLIAM CARVER**. They came to Wilson Co., TN, too, where their eldest son, **ARCHIBALD CARVER** was born June 3, 1810. I am the latter's great-great-grandson, **ROBERT POWELL CARVER** (b. 1935).

I am interested in the speculation that **JAMES LEA** (d. 1816) was the son of **MARY ARCHER**. I have tried and tried to find out why my ancestor was named **ARCHIBALD** and his only brother was named **SAMUEL**. Their two sisters were **ELIZABETH LEA**



CARVER and EUNICE CARVER. There are no ARCHIBALDS nor SAMUELS in the Carver ancestry, at least not the one from which I think we descend.

**Could it be that Mary was an ARCHIBALD?**

There are two WILLIAM ARCHIBALD wills in NC (1764 and 1777) and the latter married a MARTHA McCORKLE, in which family the name SAMUEL appears in almost every generation and in every child's own children.

I enjoy corresponding with many descendants of John and Frankey's 15 children and have gleaned much new descendants and pedigree information. I cannot provide all of it in the Jessee Newsletter. Please visit the family database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) to see many new additions.

## I. John Jessee, Jr.

**John Jessee, Jr.** (1775-1834) married **Mary "Polly" Armstrong** (1780-1840) and they had six children. This is the editor's line. Nothing new.

## 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.

**GIGI ROBINSON** [gigi-robinson@hotmail.com] sent, 11/4/2002, this photo of **Lilburn Monroe Jessee**, with wife, **Christine Bartee Jessee**, and family. Lilburn Monroe is the son of **William Jessee**, son of **Archer and Nancy Browning Jessee**. Gigi is Lilburn and Christine's gg-granddaughter. Gigi and her mother, **Suzanne "Tudy" McNabb**, both of whom were at the 2002 Family Reunion, and with whom I spent much time exploring Jessee country, are descendants of **Robert Earl Jessee**, one of fourteen children of Lilburn and Christine Jessee. Go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) and search for Lilburn Monroe Jessee to see the family.



Lilburn Monroe Jessee and Christine Bartee Jessee, at center, with their family: left to right front-Orville, Katy (on father's lap), Pie, Baylor (on mom's lap), Nolen; and left to right rear-Girt, Al, Aunt Lou, Earl, Arthur. Taken about 1898



Robert Earl Jessee, Virginia Ina (Moore) Jessee,  
and son Lilburn John Robert Jessee.

I now have an affidavit of birth for **Virginia Ina Moore who married Robert Earl Jessee**. It states that she was born in Collin county, TX in 1897. It goes further, by stating she was born at Frankfurt (rural) abt. 16 miles south of McKinney on the "Haggerty Farm".

It also has a notarization of her mother's signature--Virginia Martha "Jinnie" Moore (nee' Creel). Further stated is the number of her children! It says she had eight.

I have in my hand a registered copy of Lilborn and Christine's marriage--from our trip to the courthouse. It lists her parent's names as James and Nancy Bartee. Lilborns parent's are listed as William and Eunice Jessee. The marriage date is June 20, 1882. He was 23yrs. and she was 22yrs. No other info except the Officiant: /s/W.B./Young. All parties are shown as residing in Russell County.

The [above] photo is of Lilborn Monroe Jessee and Christine Bartee. Robert Earl is in the back row. He's the little boy to the right of the young woman. I can't find my file with the other names, but the baby on the lap of Lilburn is the mysterious Katie! Rec'd from Deborah Allen married into Grace Jessee Cromwell line of Jessees. [Below is a later photo of Robert Earl and his family.]

**KERRY BURNS** [kurburns@netscape.net] sent, 11/22/2002, this information which calls into question some of the information I have recorded regarding the parents and sibling of **Nancy Browning Jessee**.

I have an excerpt from the Browning family bible in possession, at the time, of Grace Reynolds Gilmer Lynch. This is taken from the National Genealogical Quarterly Dec.76. Pp. 270. Children of **Francis and Elizabeth Browning**: Jesse b 23 Oct 1775; James, b 14 mar 1778; Harvey b 27 mar 1781 Nancy b 1 oct 1784; William b 29 mar 1787; Francis b 19 aug 1791; Wilson b 8 nov 1795; John b 1796. While there are some minor variations in some of the dates from what you have, Who is Harvey?

**DEBBY DEMAREE** [ddemaree@erols.com] sent, 12/3/2002, these bits of information about **Adam Jefferson** and his family. Adam's daughter, **Martha Emma Jefferson**, married **John Leonard Routh**, a descendant of **Archer and Nancy Browning Jessee**. Debby Demaree is the granddaughter of **Nannie L. Jefferson Terry**, Martha Emma's next youngest sister. See also correspondence for additional information on **Jessees in the Virginia 48th Cavalry, CSA**.

I have the 1880 census record for Martha Emma Jefferson's family Precinct 1 Collin County, Texas....

Household

A. Jefferson Male 37 born VA

S.M. Jefferson wife 28 born VA

L. B. Jefferson daughter 12 VA

H.O. Jefferson daughter 10VA

T.J. Jefferson son 9VA

M.E. Jefferson daughter\*\* 7 VA

N. L. Jefferson daughter 6 VA

S.Y. Jefferson daughter 4 TX

Eulah Jefferson, Daughter 1 Texas.

These, added to the others I sent you back in September, make 11. My mom says there were 13, so there are at least two missing from 1879 til William in 1886

I am still searching for more on Adam Jefferson. I have found his widow's pension application. Apparently she was later known as Sallie instead of Sarah and I am awaiting a copy from the state of Texas.

#### **VERNON & PAULINE SALYERS**

[mailto:ypsaly@naxs.net] sent, 6/25/2002, this information about **Archer Jessee headstones**.

We found two headstones this week that might be of interest. The graves are located on Rt. 640 approx. 2 miles from Jessee's Mill. One is Mary Jane (Owens) wife of Archer, b. Oct 30, 1803 - d. Jan 17, 1884, age 80yrs, 2mos, 18days. The other stone which was almost unreadable is Mary (Gose) w/o John Jessee, b. Apr 11, 1803 - d. Jun 15, 1826. There are five graves in a row, with only Mary (Gose's) readable. Mary Jane (Owens) w/o Archer, Sr., Rachel Jessee (dates unreadable except Oct 26 as d.o.d) and James Kiser, s/o J. E. & M. A., b. Jul 15, 1901 - d. Jul 20, 1901 are stacked neatly on a base stone. There is a single stone about 30 ft away which reads, Clementine Kiser, b. Aug 20, 1906 - d. Oct 27, 1943. We haven't been able to identify her yet.

In reference to the query "Archer or Archibald", Mary Janes's stone reads "wife of Archer Jessee". [See next page]

#### **OTHER ARCHER JESSEE FAMILY PHOTOS--**

At the 2002 Jessee Family reunion I was provided copies of photos of **Vincent Jessee, Sr. (1800-1877)** son of Archer Jessee, and his son, **Vincent Jessee, Jr. (1844-1922)** with sons **Sam, March Will, Scott, Beecher, Vincent, and Blaine Jessee**. They are wonderful photos, but unfortunately the copy is too poor in quality to print here in the newsletter. I believe





Stone of Mary Jane Owens Jessee, wife of Archer Jessee

the originals are excellent and would welcome scanned 600 DPI or better TIF file images of these photos sent to me by e-mail if someone in that branch could so arrange that. Editor.

### 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.



Atha Jessee inquiry. Could this be Cowan Jessee?

**SHAWNA HOLLAND** (wholland@cmailbox.com), sent, 9/17/2002, this inquiry. **Atha Jessee** is the daughter of **Robert Jessee**, son of **Cowan Jessee**, son of **George Lea Jessee**, son of **David Jessee**.

I have a photo that belonged to my grandmother, Atha Jessee-Withrow. It looks like her father, Robert Jessie/ee, but Robert’s daughter Margaret Irene says it is not him nor her brother Roger who resembled Robert. Note: Robert and Roger both had the “lazy eye”. If someone could identify this photo I would be so grateful. I am wondering if it could be Robert’s father, Cowan.

### VI. Elizabeth Jessee Gose

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

No new contributions to report.

## 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 often provides some good advice, memories, stories, and insight into her own colorful life. I am happy to report that Vivian, who is now 89 and in increasingly fragile health, has still been writing regularly, and sending along the flotsam and jetsam of her genealogy research.

Vivian has a particular interest in learning about and getting to know the **Jesse/Jessee families of New Ross and New Castle, near Crawfordsville, Indiana**. We welcome help from any one with information or connections there. She wants us to bring them into the family fold.

## VIII. Frances Jessee Stone

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

I met two new Frances Jessee Stone descendants at the Jessee family reunion, and have had several contacts with Stone descendants from Missouri. I hope we have more to report here in future newsletters.

PAT JESSEE [dmjessee@preferred.com], sent, 8/8/2002, information regarding the maiden name of **Mary Jane Stone**, wife of **William Henry Stone**, son of **John Jessee Stone**, son of William and Frances Jessee Stone.

We went to the Scott Co. Courthouse in Gate City and I had some copies made and certified for my DAR application. This let me check the marriage books for William Henry and Mary Jane Stone. The marriage register actually shows "Stamper" as her maiden name, so I looked in the marriage book. There is only a written paragraph by the minister, nothing showing the parents of the bride and groom. The minister has written her name as "Stamper". I had previously looked for the actual license and was not able to find it in the file where it should have been, probably misfiled at the courthouse because they just have cardboard files with years noted. While looking I found several in the wrong areas. The marriage licenses and older court files are being scanned at the courthouse so no one is able to look through those actual records, only the marriage register and marriage books. So---this shows the reason that the marriage register and books show the incorrect

name. I think we can safely show "Stanley" and make a note that the marriage books show another name.

I also looked for the second marriage of Mary Jane Stone to A.K. Carter. This is not the same Mary Jane Stone, even though the name is the same, the parents are different. I noted where the second marriage is listed, so we could get that information from Vernon and Pauline Salyers, they have the marriage register and books on CD. I think after the documents are scanned, they may be placed on line.

## IX. Sarah Jessee Vermillion

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

## X. Boedicia Jessee Gose

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

See the Gose Family discussion under Lea Jessee, who married Barbara Gose, and Rebecca Jessee Gose above, as well as additional information under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

## XI. James Jessee

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

IRIS LAMBERT HALL, a descendant of James Jessee, is a regular contributor who shares a lifetime of research, and more than a bit of wisdom. She is in increasingly difficult health, but keeps in touch.

## 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 *Some Descendants of John Burk, 1656-1699, Middlesex Co., Virginia*, 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. Order on-line at [www.iberian.com](http://www.iberian.com). All royalties go to the Russell Co. Historical Society and Russell Co. Library Family History Room.

This 502-page book details, 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 information for each of these lines. Their notations and documentation of sources are tremendous. A simply great effort.

This book includes over 1000 descendants of Rebecca Jessee and William Burk, none of whom have been keyed into a genealogy database, other than those small portions in the Jessee Database. It is a daunting chore and we need help! I would like to work with any volunteers who would be willing to help key 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**. George and Betsy had fourteen children.

Many George Lea Jessee descendants are subscribers and have contributed very much information to the database. It is one of our best researched and recorded branches of the family.

**KARI RICHARDSON** (KariRCGK01@aol.com) provided, 12/31/2002, this photo of **Thomas Alderson Jessee** and **Margaret Ellen Castle**. Thomas is the son of **Noah K. Jessee**, son of George Lea and Betsy Counts. Kari also provided additional descendants information which can be found in the family database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org).

My name is Kari Richardson. I am the Great Grandchild of Bascom Caywood Jessee [son of Thomas Alderson Jessee]. I am the Historian of my family and would like to be involved in the Jessee family geneology project.



The home of Thomas Alderson Jessee and Margaret Ellen Castle with their eight children.

## XV. Martin Jessee

Martin Jessee (1801-1879) married first **Virginia Jane Price** (1801-1853), da. of **David and Jane Price**, and they had eleven children. He married second **Mary Jane Darnell** (1834-1907), and they had seven children. Martin, with a total of 18 children, may have the most Jessee descendants in America.

**WILLIAM LEON JESSEE** [jessee11@msn.com] provided, 8/18/2002, a photo of his grandparents **William Astin Jessee and Racheal Bradley Jessee**. William Astin is the youngest son of Martin Jessee, by his second wife, **Mary Jane Darnell**. William Astin was born 5/1/1873. Martin is the youngest son of John and Frankey Lea Jessee. William Leon's father, **William Fletcher "Billy" Jessee** is the baby in his mother's lap, the other children are from his first marriage to **Minnie Cooper**. I had the pleasure of meeting Bill Jessee at the 2002 Family Reunion. **William is a gg-grandson of John and Frankey Lea, and I believe may be the closest living relation to John and Frankey Jessee that I know.** Are there any other of their gg-grandchildren alive in our family?



William Astin Jessee and Racheal Bradley Jessee and Family.

## MISSING LINKS, PROBLEMS AND OTHER CONUNDRUMS

Please help us solve these riddles.

**VIVIAN BALES** wrote, 7/20/2002, with these bits of information, leaving me wondering who are **N. Jessee, Anderson Jessee and Sarah Baskett Jessee?**

From *Annals of Tazewell Co.*, VA, by John Newton Harmon, Sr., 1923, (new materials and index by Nettie Schriener Yantis, 1975: Company "C" 23rd Batt. Infantry Ros. Vo. 14, Infantry Battalions, Company "i" 29th Brigade, **N. Jessee** (Russell).

From *KY Pioneers and Their Descendants*, by I. E. Fowler, 1941-1950, Caldwell Co., KY Marriage Index. Feb. 28, 1821, Anderson Jessee to Rhoda Ellis, 1st mch., 26 Dec. by Edm. Wilcox.

March 31, 1830, Briant Nichols to Mrs. Rhoda Jessee, a widow.

From Shelby Co., KY Wills: James Baskett wills .... third to my daughter Sarah Jessee, 2 slaves, also \$1027.00 ....

From Bible Records of J. S. Baskett: Deaths, Sarah E. Jesse, d. Oct, 1st, 1864.

## 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.

**KATHRYN WEISS** [buckeye@thegrid.net]  
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2002 11:29 AM  
To: VARUSSEL-L@rootsweb.com

The following men were at Boonesborough 1777 in late Oct/early November. This is the year that

Boonesborough was reinforced in September with a company from the Yadkin - New - Clinch Rivers area, "48 in number", under Capt Wm. Bailey Smith. Soon after, a company from Virginia under Col. John Bowman had also arrived.

Can anyone identify any of these men as to who they are, and where they are from in VA or NC? Where they are known to have been in autumn 1777? Relationships? Does anyone have history that puts others at that place and time? Particulars?

### November 1777, Boonesborough:

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| William Bickley/Beckley            | John Bowman         |
| Thomas Brooks                      | James Brown         |
| Jeremiah Brown                     | Samuel Brown        |
| William Bush                       | Patrick Callaghan   |
| Caleb Calloway                     | Chesley Calloway    |
| James Calloway                     | Richard Calloway    |
| Angus Cameron                      | Samuel Campbell     |
| George Cave                        | George Clark        |
| William Cradlebaugh [Criddlepough] | Henry Creamer       |
| Benjamin Cutbearth                 | Azariah Davies      |
| John Denton                        | Thomas Denton       |
| James Dogester                     | James Dogester, Jr. |
| Joseph Drake                       | James Duncan        |
| Samuel Elliott                     | Benjamin Estill     |
| Bartholemew Fenton                 | James Forbush       |
| J. Gardiner                        | David Glen          |
| William Glencock                   | Evander Gordon      |
| Martin Hammon                      | William Hays        |
| Henry Henbine                      | Iran Henson         |
| Henry Higgins                      | Richard Hogan       |
| William Hogan                      | John Holder         |
| Samuel Ingram                      | David Jones         |
| John Kennedy                       | David Kerr          |
| Jonathan Ketcham                   | John E. King        |
| George King                        | Benjamin Logan      |
| William Love                       | Thomas Love         |
| Nicholas Mertzgar                  | John Matan [Meytin] |
| Jonas Menefee                      | William Menefee     |
| John Moore                         | Archibald McCarver  |
| Hugh McGarry                       | William McGee       |
| Wilson McKinney                    | Benjamin Nelson     |



John Oliver  
 Benjamin Paulding  
 William Poage  
 John Preston  
 John Roberts [Robards]  
 Julius Sanders  
 Bartlett Searcy  
 Richard Searcy  
 Oswald Townsend  
 John Walker  
 Daniel Wilcoxson

James Parding  
 Benjamin Pettill [Pettit?]  
 Henry Prater  
 Pemberton Rawlings  
 James Russell  
 Nicholas Schwartzmer  
 Reuben Searcy  
 Levi Todd  
 Samuel VanHook  
 William Whitley  
 Cornelius Yager

LENA WATTS [lenarhea@bellsouth.net] sent me the following note and several wonderful old photos, two of which I am featuring below and on the next page.

I sent you some info earlier about the Jessees and the Roses. I have been working on some of the recent pictures that I obtained from my last trip to Virginia. I am going to send you copies of some of them. Some of the pictures I have worked on and taken out the flaws and fixed up and some I have not done so as yet. But I thought I would send some of them to you anyway. The first picture is of Sarah "Bertha" Rose Fogleman Jessee. She was married to Ross Fogleman and had eight children. Sometime after Ross died, she married **Houston Jessee [Dalphus Houston Jessee]**, a descendent of George Lea Jessee. She always called him Mr. Jessee for some unknown reason. She never called Ross Mr. Fogleman. So I have never been able to figure out why she always called Houston Jessee, Mr. Jessee. The second picture is of Dalphus Houston Jessee, Bertha Rose Fogleman Jessee, **Caree Rose Rhea/Ray and Sam Rhea/Ray** [See below]. I put both spellings because some of our family spell their last name Ray and others use Rhea. Bertha and Caree are sisters and Caree is my grandmother and Bertha my Great Aunt. The next photo is William "Bill" Fogleman after he was grown up. The last photo [see next page], the guy on the center mule team is **Ross Fogleman**. The other two men are **David Hawkins** and **Taze Musick**.



Dalphus Houston Jessee, Bertha Rose Fogleman Jessee, Caree Rose Rhea/Ray and Sam Rhea/Ray.

BARBARA MOWERY [bsm1963@intelos.net] sent, 11/13/2002, this dubious genealogy. It is a parody.

**The Genealogy Of Remus Starr**

An amateur genealogical researcher discovered that his great-great uncle, Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture is this inscription:

"Remus Starr; horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889."

In a Family History subsequently written by his descendant, Remus's picture is cropped, scanned in as an enlarged image, and edited with image processing software so that all that's seen is a head shot. The accompanying biographical sketch is as follows:

"Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad.

Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad.

In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency.

In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

DEBBY DEMAREE [ddemaree@erols.com] sent, 12/3/2002, these bits of information about **Adam Jefferson** and his family. Adam's daughter, **Martha Emma Jefferson** married **John Leonard Routh**, a descendant of **Archer and Nancy Browning Jessee**. Debby Demaree is the granddaughter of **Nannie L. Jefferson Terry**, Martha Emma's next youngest sister. Here she provides information on **Jessees who served in the 48th VA Infantry, CSA**. Can anyone identify who these Jessees are?

Hi Jim! I know you are much further along in this process than I am, but I have just finished reading **John Chapla's history of the 48th VA Infantry**. A Jessee descendant is listed just below my and your Jefferson in the roster, with some interesting facts regarding his Civil War service. There are 4 Jessees listed in the roster of the 48th Virginia.

**Jessee, David A** Private, Company I 1860 census he is listed as a farm laborer in Russell County. He enlisted there age 26, 6/25/61 (Everybody in Abingdon joined that day.) He was present through 10/15/1861 AWOL from unit until 4/17/62 through 4/30/62. Courtmartialed by 5/18/63, guilt of desertion. he was sentenced to be flogged with 39 lashes on bare back to be branded on the left him with "D" to forfeit 3 months pay; to 3 months hard labor at Staunton working on public roads with a 24lb ball attached to his left ankle with a 3ft chain. Review board remitted the branding and flogging.

The other three **Elihu, George and Vincent Jessee** have much less illustrious service histories though there is info in the book.

Adam Jefferson our mutual ancestor was 2nd Corporal Company K. He was also listed as a farm hand in Russell County he enlisted there on 6/25/61 as well. He was 19. He was present thru 10/15/61 AWOL by 6/19/62 when he was turned over to the provost martiall, Lynchburg. I do not know what happens next...

I am still searching for more on Adam Jefferson. I have found his widow's pension application. Apparently she was later known as Sallie instead of Sarah and I am awaiting a copy from the state of Texas.



**FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE: *Antique photos now the focus of genealogist*, Published 12/4/ 2002.**

Marjorie Rice spread the photographs out on her Joliet kitchen counter. From their formal poses in portraits taken a century or more ago, the subjects stared gravely into the future.

A plump-cheeked baby boy wearing a plaid dress with a lace collar. A woman with wavy hair spilling luxuriantly a foot past her waist. A spectacled matron in a fur-collared tweed coat.

This is a season for family. But these people are not Rice's family; they are other people's.

Rice, 66, a retired administrative secretary and passionate genealogist, has a remarkable hobby: She buys old photographs from antique stores and "rescues" them, tracking down their subjects' descendants and sending the pictures to their rightful homes.

The notion came to her in a Galena, Ill., antique shop, said the effusive and breathtakingly organized Rice.

"I saw a basket full of photos from 120 or so years ago," she said. "I thought, 'This is awful, to let these rot in a dusty antique shop when somebody would love to have them.'"

They had once been loved, but over time, the people who knew the subjects had died, Rice said. The pictures ended up in estate sales and eventually antique stores, where strangers could leaf through them and wonder who these men in starched collars and women in high-necked dresses were.

But Rice knows how to find out who they were. She has been investigating her own family's genealogy for 25 years. She has traced her husband's line back to the Mayflower—one of his ancestors is Miles Standish—and further back to 1369, and her own family to the Mayflower and ancestors with first names like Obadiah, Mehitabel and Resolved.

She bought a handful of photographs with names written on the back (the majority lacked names, making them virtually

impossible to trace). She went online to a genealogy surname message board, and posted descriptions of the pictures.

"And I had my first response, from a lady who said, 'That's my great-grandmother's sister, and I'd love to have that picture,'" Rice said. "She sent me a Federal Express envelope with a check in it to cover what I paid for it."

An obsession was born. Rice currently has hundreds of names posted on message boards. She has found homes for 423 photographs so far, asking for a few dollars above her purchase price to cover postage and some of her costs.

She spends thousands of hours online searching census documents and Social Security death indexes. Between document searches, trips to antique stores in Wisconsin, Indiana and Iowa and the purchase of some 500 photos whose families she has not yet found, "I am in so much debt," Rice groaned. "I've got to stop."

But how can she stop when she is still on the trail of Pearl Trout? Two years ago, Rice began with a family portrait of a mother, father and five children. The oldest, a young woman, stood behind her little sister, wearing a white blouse, her dark eyes alight.

She was Pearl Haefner, Rice discovered from California death records. And in other photos Rice obtained along with the family portrait, she grows up before your eyes.

Here she is as a mature young woman in a white dress—Rice thinks it may be her wedding photograph—with her hair swept up. Here she is again, now Pearl Trout, her hair wilder and her eyes gazing through glasses, next to a little girl with sharply trimmed bangs and a grave man with rimless glasses. Rice has posted all the information, but no one has responded.

"I get so excited," Rice said. "It's kind of like I know the family now. I know all their married names, even the baby. I'd love to just share it with these people. I know if it was my family, I'd kill for these photos."

Judging by the responses Rice keeps in scrapbooks, recipients of the orphan photos feel the same:



"I was so excited my hands were shaking as I opened the mailer."

"I immediately called my dad to tell him and described the pictures. I could hear the tears in his voice as I described the solo picture of his mom."

"Thank you from not only my family, but from the future generations too!"

Rice said, "How can I stop?"

She doesn't intend to. And just in time for holiday photos, she offers advice to benefit the picture-taking public, or perhaps some Marge Rice of the future:

Write names on the backs of your pictures.

## 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.

**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 Jesse researchers at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~varussel/>.

**THE RUSSELL CO. VIRGINIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** provides this marvelous summary of Russell Co. resources for **Local History & Genealogy Research**. Go to: <http://russell.lib.va.us/localhistory.htm>

The Local History Room at the Lebanon Library has an extensive collection containing local history and authors as well as extensive genealogical material. Most of the collection cannot be found through the online catalog.

The information below may assist you in conducting genealogical research; you should also consult the library's list of genealogy websites. In addition to the material described below, the library's collection holds family histories, as well as church, military and county histories. General local history topics are housed in a vertical file.

For further information, refer to the Russell County Genealogy Group, sponsored by the Russell County Historical Society and the Russell County Public Library.

### RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY IN RUSSELL COUNTY

#### Birth Records

A microfilm copy of the Russell County Birth Registers from 1853-1889 is held by Russell County Public Library. Some records are available from the years 1900 to 1927 at the Russell County Courthouse. Virginia law required registration of births but it was 1920 before records were even 90% complete; a copy of birth

certificates held by the state can be obtained by writing the Virginia Dept. of Vital Records in Richmond.

#### Census Records

The public library has available federal census records for Russell County 1820-1930, excepting 1890. Some records are available in print while others may be available on CD or microfilm. Census records from 1790, 1800, 1810, & 1890 were lost or destroyed; some of these have been reconstructed through tax lists and other records.

#### Marriage Records

Copies of marriage licenses 1849-1899 are available at the public library. Indexes by bride and groom are also available. Additional years are being copied and will be made available as they are indexed. After May 2000, records are electronic; no paper licenses are held at the Courthouse for the ensuing years.

#### Death Records

Death records are kept by the Russell County Health Dept. Records from 1961 to the present are available. Records from earlier years have been sent to Richmond. Copies may be obtained by contacting the Virginia Dept. of Vital Records in Richmond. (Russell County Health Dept. will release death records only to immediate family.)

#### Deeds

Property deeds are available from 1787 in the Courthouse.

#### Military Records

Military discharge records are available from World War I and forward in the Courthouse. These records are not complete as it was left up to the individual to file the discharge in his or her county of residence.

#### Other Court Records available in the Courthouse

Chancery Records from 1948 to present are in the Courthouse. Earlier records are held at the Library of Virginia in preparation for microfilming. Other records include Common law order books, Criminal law order books, Civil common law, and General District Court (misdemeanor records are kept only 10 years as required by law.)

**MARVELOUS MAILING LISTS:** An article excerpted from RootsWeb Review: RootsWeb's Weekly E-zine Vol. 5, No. 38, 18 September 2002. Go to <http://www.rootsweb.com>.

Many of us use e-mail to communicate with others who are doing genealogical research on a surname, locality, or topic of mutual interest. We often copy multiple friends, family members and other researchers when discussing these subjects. However, prolonged discussions can become unwieldy as the group grows and the e-mail addresses of group members constantly change.

It was from this concept of shared discussion among individuals with common research interests that the idea of Mailing Lists was born. The first and largest genealogy Mailing List, ROOTS-L, was started in 1987. Today there are many types of Mailing Lists at RootsWeb and elsewhere covering almost every subject imaginable.

RootsWeb Mailing Lists are all free and cover a wide variety of genealogy-related topics. There are lists dealing with surnames, various geographic locations, or a variety of topics such as ethnic, religious, or occupational groups, lists that offer census lookups, or even lists devoted exclusively to the descendants of a specific ancestor. There are lists to provide help with the use of RootsWeb resources, help with genealogy and computer software programs, and general computer and Internet help with the goal of assisting you in your genealogical research. Mailing Lists are also available for the use of the various volunteer organizations hosted by RootsWeb.

RootsWeb lists use a software program called SmartList to process requests to subscribe and unsubscribe, to manage the subscriber list, and to handle the distribution of mail to list

members. All RootsWeb lists are “closed” lists, which means that only a Mailing List subscriber may post a message. Having closed Mailing Lists helps to ensure that they remain spam-free and secure. RootsWeb Mailing Lists do not permit attachments and limit all messages to plain text — ensuring that viruses and malicious code cannot make their way to the Mailing List subscribers via the list itself.

Volunteer Mailing List administrators manage most of RootsWeb’s more than 25,500 lists. List administrators set their own rules for the lists within the bounds of RootsWeb’s AUP (Acceptable Use Policy). Mailing Lists often develop a personality or atmosphere of their own as a result of the management style of the administrator and the contributions of the members. Some lists, such as those for rare surnames, have only a few members and limited, but vital discussion, while other lists have thousands of subscribers with hundreds of messages posted every day. Often researchers decide whether to subscribe to a list in mail mode or digest mode based on the number of messages they receive from the list on a daily basis.

Subscribing to Mailing Lists gives you access to the knowledge of expert list members on the subjects the lists cover, such as what records are available in a specific locality during a specific time period and where and how to obtain copies, or what records were maintained by a specific religious group. Most lists have long-time subscribers who are willing and able to answer your queries or to direct you to someone who can. Mailing Lists put you in touch with others looking for the same information and those who are willing to share their knowledge. Mailing Lists encourage in-depth discussion within the group, and joining a Mailing List often leads to finding new cousins. RootsWeb’s Mailing Lists are listed under these categories: Surnames, U.S.A. (locality specific), International, and Other.

You can subscribe and unsubscribe from a Mailing List at any time as your needs and interests change. While subscribed to a list, you may post messages for distribution to all list subscribers and you will receive copies of all messages posted by the other list members. You may subscribe in regular mail or list mode (almost always designated by: -L) and receive a single copy of each individual message sent by other list members to the list, or in what’s called digest mode (almost always: -D) and receive a digest — a collection of several messages lumped together into one e-mail.

To find and join the RootsWeb’s Mailing Lists that meet your needs click on the Mailing Lists tab near the top of the RootsWeb Home Page at [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com).

**THE MUSICK FAMILY ASSOCIATION** has its own Website with lots of information for many a Jessee and other Russell Co. descendant who may share Musick heritage. Here is just a small sample.

Go to: <http://www.musickfamily.com/>.

The Legend of the Waif and Our Heritage. Legend tells us that the first Musick was discovered as an orphan lad, wandering on the shores of Wales. He knew only that his name was "George", and because he was quite fond of musick (as the noun was then spelled in archaic English,) he became known as George Musick. There is doubt as to the authenticity of this romantic tale.

Our family, both Music and Musick, is widely believed to be of Welsh descent, and that has been written for a long time. Our first family historian contended we are of German origin, but he gave little authority for that claim. Others say there is a Huguenot line, and it was widely written and passed along that we are "Scotch-Irish". There is not apparent certainty. A long term objective of the Association is to research and resolve this question.

## THE FAMILY DATABASE

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

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

This World Connect Website provides an index to multiple genealogy databases, provides excellent display and print options for pedigree and descendants charts, and allows people to download GEDCOM files. 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 directly from our Jessee Genealogy Service home page.

**Please go to: [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org)**

Our database is now over 40,000 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, it is not!

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

Nevertheless, I have had so much expressed gratitude from dozens, if not hundreds, of people who have been helped in their research by our database, that I persevere. I certainly do welcome corrections, updates, additions, and documentation of information, and you who are receiving this newsletter have been very generous in that regard. 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 above. 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 into the database on my own. After 25 years of working intensively at a keyboard, I have developed a permanent disability, a bulging 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 data entry into the database in the future if it is to grow.

I am asking you to respond to this newsletter with answers to questions, documentation, your own materials, and, of course, current information about your branch of the family, 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 will 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 don't even break even on out-of-pocket costs. The labor is all volunteer. I provide the newsletter free to anyone who has asked for it, provided me information, or has expressed interest and cannot afford to subscribe. I am providing the newsletter free to several historical and genealogical organizations and libraries. You are welcome to provide addresses of others that may be interested in our effort. I am looking for those willing to exchange information or represent their branch of the family or area of the country.

I am sometimes disappointed to find that less than 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 returned and re-posted 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, #16-17, #18-19, #20-21 (without some attachments that have become obsolete). You may request these for \$10 a set, or **\$60 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*

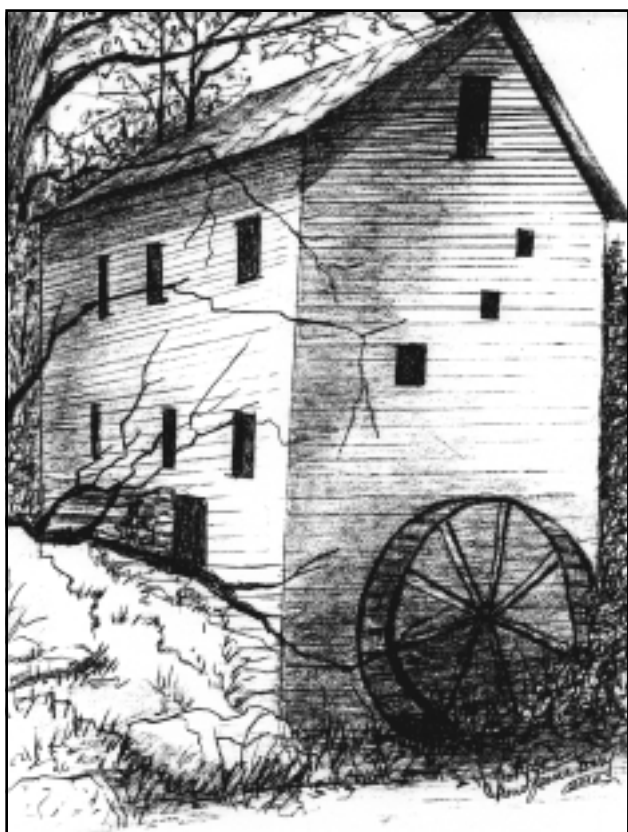
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A rendering of Jessee's Mill by Irene Jessee Perry.

**The mailing label above indicates the last issue (month and year) to be mailed to you.** It is based on your assumed interest, paid subscription, or donations. I have been determining the expiration date generously, providing you the first issue of the new subscription year free as a reminder. I am hoping you will respond to renew for the new calendar year. Please inform me of any corrections needed.

Please subscribe or inform me if you wish to continue gratis or stop receiving the newsletter. The generous donations of some allow me to provide free copies to history and genealogy societies, libraries, and those who cannot afford to subscribe. Still I am not breaking even. A special thank you to those who have provided those precious donations that keep me going.

Some of you have been subscribed for "Life" if you have been a significant contributor in the past or are a family treasure. Due to a very low response to my request for subscriptions and donations, I am having to reevaluate this. I am sorry.