

# Jesse Family Newsletter

Issue #23

Summer 2003

Vol. XII number 2

## Dear Cousin,

**Well, I missed it, the 2003 Reunion in June.** From all accounts it was a good one, and the new venue at the Harry Coomes Recreation Center in Abingdon was well liked. The recreation opportunities gave the kids and teens lots to do while the adults jawboned the whole day.

The California budget crisis caught up with this Jesse family as my wife was laid off from her teaching job in May. Thus we decided that any expensive travel was out of the question this summer, and so did not go to either family reunion. Let's hope things will be better next year for the 5th Jesse Family Reunion, and we both can be there.

The **Jesse Historical Foundation** is plugging along, but needs more help. We are absent a recording secretary and having difficulty making a quorum for meetings. The 2003 annual meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum. If you can help us out, please volunteer to be a board member and please someone volunteer to be secretary, too.

It appears our immediate tasks are to have Jesse's Mill and dam, if not other sites, declared an official state historic site, and to get some protection for the John and Frankey Lea Jesse cemetery. Our president, Joe Jesse in Lebanon, needs your help to see our dreams come true. Please help. There is some good news on all this inside, have faith and keep on plugging.

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 Jesse 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 Jesse**

## Featured This Edition

**We have a report and photos of the 4th National Jesse Family Reunion, June 21, 2003, at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center, Abingdon, VA.** See highlight photos of the 2003 Jesse Family Research Day, Historic Bus Tour and picnic inside.

**Efforts to preserve Jesse's Mill and create an historic park around it have new hope.** **Sherman Wallace** is taking the lead, and working with **Kathryn Greever, John Funk, Tom Rudder**, and most importantly, **Mike Pulice** from the VA Dept. of Historical Resources about the proposed Jesse's Mill historical designation. Read all about it and a dream to acquire and restore Jesse's Mill, dam, school, store, church, and the Andrew Jackson Jesse and the Miller's home as part of a vision for a **Mill Creek Historic Park**.

**SW Virginia families includes contributions by Jerry Cline and Gail Garten Gilbert.** These historic families have intermarried with the Jesses over 200 years, so we have much in common.

**Other Jesse(e) Families and Jesse(e) Family Origins** includes new inquiries and tidbits of information. **William Leon Jesse** provides use an important new clue.

**Many contributors have provided news** for the descendants of **Philip and Rachel Jesse**, and **John and Frankey Lea Jesse'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 poetry and humor we hope you will enjoy.

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

## The 2003 National Jessee Family Reunion

was held Saturday, June 21, 2003  
at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center,  
300 Stanley Street, Abingdon, VA

The 2003 Jessee Family Research Day  
was held Friday June 20, 2003  
at the Russell County Library  
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

Please put the 2004 Family Reunion  
and Research Day on your calendar, now:  
Friday and Saturday June 18-19, 2004.

The 2004 Jessee Family Research Day will be held Friday at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA. The activities begin at 9 am and end about 4 pm. The Jessee Historical Foundation will hold its annual membership meeting at the Russell Co. Library at 4 pm, June 18, after the research day.

The 2004 Jessee Family Reunion and Picnic will be held on Saturday, 10:30 am to 5:00 pm, at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park, 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 Recreation Center will be around the big curve, over the hill on the right.

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

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

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

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



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

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 below.

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

## 2003 Jessee Reunion and Research Day Well Done

MARY AKERS[[phoenix@naxs.com](mailto:phoenix@naxs.com)] provided, 6/22/2003, the first report on the 2003 Reunion.

I'm sending as much information as I can about the picnic. There was no meeting by the board on June 20, 2003. We didn't have a quorum. Joe and Laura were both out of town.

With regard to the picnic, as close to an estimate that we could get 179 people attended. There were 20 states represented. The 2004 picnic will be held at the Coomes Recreation Center in Abingdon on June 19, 2004. Everyone appeared to have a good time. There were many compliments given. After people had eaten they were still there socializing and having a good time.

If you could put in your newsletter that the 2004 membership dues will be payable from June 21, 2003 to June 19, 2004. We thought it would be easier for people to remember that ... to run it from picnic to picnic. You were certainly missed. Several people were looking for information on their family line.

Irene Perry donated to the auction a beautiful winter scene painting of the mill of which I am the proud owner.

### THE SILENT AUCTION NEEDS YOU

Please plan to participate in the annual silent auction, held in conjunction with the Family Reunion on Saturday, to help raise funds for the Jessee Historical Foundation. To make the auction a success, your contributions are needed. Use your imagination to think of items to be contributed. The items for the

auctions can be brought to the reunion picnic to be held at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park Grounds, Abingdon, VA. If you have any questions about what to contribute to the auction, please contact:-

**Mary H. Akers**

[phoenix@naxs.com](mailto:phoenix@naxs.com)

phone 540-628-9239.

REV. VERNON CECIL JESSEE sent me a note right as I was going to press with his report on the **2003 Jessee Reunion**. See his report under the George Lea Jessee Descendants column. He met a lot of new and close cousins he never knew about!

## Fourth Annual Jessee Family Research and History Day

This article submitted by Joy Jessee Malone & photographs courtesy of Michael Malone

In the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of our Independence, the Fourth Annual Jessee Family Research and History Day was held at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, Virginia on Friday, June 20, 2003. This event was opened to anyone interested in working on his or her family tree. What a special and glorious day! The Research Day Coordinators, Michael and Joy Jessee Malone, wish to extend a sincere thank you to all participants that attended for their commitment and dedication demonstrated each year for this event. Mildred Davis, Chaplain of the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), gave the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Kelly McBride, Director of the Russell County Public Library, extended a "big welcome" to the group. Guest Speaker, Jackquetta Fletcher, Organizing Regent, of the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter of the DAR, delivered an exciting and motivational summary of the Chapter's first year activities. The Chapter's membership drive and accomplished projects were impressive. The Chapter was given eight awards at the 2003 Virginia DAR State Convention. Many of the participants were in awe of the Chapter's progress and so many of their favorable outcomes. We wish them continued success!

There were more than seventy attendees at the Research Day this year and the following twelve states were represented: FL, GA, IA, IN, KS, OH, MD, MI, NC, NM, TN, and VA. Ages ranged from the teenagers to the ninety-year old grandfather of Deedee Davis from Indianapolis, IN. The longest distance traveled was by Jim and Alta J. Fennell (with their two nieces) from Arroyo Hondo, NM. It was special to see so many "first-timers." We also noted an increase in attendance from our Indiana cousins. During the day, everyone was busy drinking coffee and enjoying delicious home-baked breads and pound cakes. There was an awful lot of talking and story sharing going on. It was a pleasure to listen to the nostalgia remembered and the past shared, discovered, or rediscovered.

The day provided a "special" time for catching up and reminiscing with "cousins." We see rich relationships that are developing with various people that will add to memories that are good for a lifetime.

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

We also send our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers who helped to make this day a success. Special thanks to all the Staff at the RC Public Library, members of the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter of the DAR, members from the RC Genealogy Group, members from the Jessee Historical Foundation, and all of the out-of-state cousins who volunteered to assist throughout the day.

## First Jessee Family Historic Tour of Russell County "Once Upon A Time"

This article submitted by Joy Jessee Malone & photographs courtesy of Michael B. Malone

The First Jessee Family Historic Tour of Russell County, Virginia took place on June 20, 2003 with twenty-eight participants that traveled from the states of GA, FL, IA, KS, MD, OH, TN, and VA. During past family reunions, many Jessee cousins traveled alone down back roads trying to find old family sites, churches and cemeteries and needless to say, several got lost! Tour sponsors, Michael and Joy Malone, mailed questionnaires in December 2002 to more than 200 out-of-town cousins regarding their interests in touring specific sites together. Information about the tour and survey forms could also be found in the *Jessee Family Newsletter* and also on the Internet at . By the end of January 2003, two buses were filled and the participants confirmed. Considering travel time, many of the sites that were requested by the group were incorporated into the tour route. This proved to be a great opportunity for cousins to socialize and have fun while exploring ancestral sites together. The success of the tour route is credited to local residents who spent many hours logging time and mileage between selected sites that encompassed a fifty-eight mile, four and one-half hours round trip.

The tour sponsors hosted a Welcome Reception on Thursday evening in the lobby of the Quality Inn & Suites in Abingdon, Virginia where most of the out-of-town tour participants were staying. Abingdon "cousins" also attended and helped to welcome the group. Jessee Family welcome signs and reunion poster information were posted at the desk and in the lobby. The buffet spread consisted of turkey wrap sandwiches, fruit platters, cheese & crackers, banana bread, coffee, hot chocolate, and cold drinks. About thirty-five Jessee cousins had a great time socializing and getting to know one another while enjoying the refreshments. They were busy taking photographs and video taping the activities until 10:30 pm when the "good-nights" and the "see you in the mornings" were said. This was a welcomed opportunity, in an informal setting that provided a little more time to get acquainted with each other. The sponsors noted that as soon as they boarded the tour buses on Friday afternoon, the socializing was in full swing again.

The Four County Transit provided the transportation for the Friday afternoon tour. They provided us with two new and very comfortable air-conditioned buses with large windows for viewing. Tour guides were J.C. Jessee, Pauline and Vernon Salyers from Lebanon and Joy and Mike Malone from Florida. David and Patricia Jessee from Kingsport, Tennessee assisted with traffic control. The buses departed from the Russell County Public Library at 12:30 pm. The route was to be a history lesson as the buses traveled through spectacular mountain valleys with opportunities to view the scenic beauty of Russell County. Storytelling, an ancient art that spans centuries, was a magical part of the tour as participants shared a part of their family histories with each other.

[This article continues after the photographs, page 7]

# Highlights of the 2003 Family Reunion

Photos Courtesy of Mike and Joy Malone



Lining up for the wonderful food at the Jessee Family Reunion



Doing what Jessees do best



John Jesse, Jr. Descendants



Archer Jesse Descendants



George Lea Jesse Descendants.



Jessee Research Day

# Highlights of the 2003 Research Day

Photos Courtesy of Mike and Joy Malone



Mildred Davis, Chaplain, Tabitha Adams Russell Co. Chapter, DAR, delivers the opening prayer at Research Day.



Mary Akers, Pauline Salyers, and B.J. Clouston at the Jesse Historical Foundation's membership table.



The house was full to hear Jacqetta Fletcher, Regent for the DAR. Note the Jesse photographs and history displays around the room.



One of the research groups at tables organized by the 15 families who descend from John and Frankey Lea Jesse. Lots of cousins!



Nellie Jessee, J. C. Jessee, and their daughter, Sandra Hood anchored the Philip and Gabriel Jessee table.



Members of the Tabitha Adams Russell Co. Chapter of the DAR: Jackquetta Fletcher, Janice Snead, Mildred Davis, Joy Malone, Pauline Salyers, Mary Akers, Norma McHone, and Nancy Elswick.

## Highlights of the Bus Tour “Once Upon a Time”



GROUP PHOTO: Donald & B.J. Clouston (IA); Evelyn H. Helton (TN); Earl & Peggy Simmers (MD); Mary H. Akers (VA); Patty Jessee (OH); Norma McHone (VA); David & Johnny McReynolds (TN); Freida Jessee (OH); Helen Reedy (VA); Sandra Miles (TN); J.C. Jessee (VA); Robert & Marye Clouston (KS); Michael & Joy Malone (FL); Angela & Ron Long (GA); William Akers (TN); Judy Kuniba (VA); Donald Jessee (MD); David & Patricia Jessee (TN); Diane Fuller (VA); Vernon & Pauline Salyers (VA).

BELOW: Jackquetta Fletcher & Mildred Davis (Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter of the DAR) host the Refreshment Break at the Old Historic Russell County Courthouse.



Archer Jessee Cemetery in Reeds Valley



David & Pat Jessee, J.C. Jessee, Earl Simmers, Don Jessee, Cedar Grove Baptist Church Cemetery.



Joseph Jessee Cemetery in Sexton Town (L-R): Donald Jessee, Robert & Marye Clouston, & Norma McHone.

## Tour of Russell County, continued

The first stop was at the Cleveland Baptist Church and Cemetery in Cleveland, Virginia. We continued to the original sites of the John Jessee, Sr. Cemetery, home place and farmlands. The drive brought us through the beautiful Mill Creek area, passing the Andrew Jackson Jessee home, Jessee's Mill, Schoolhouse, Mill Creek Baptist Church, and Cemetery. We continued through Reeds Valley where we passed numerous old family sites and stopped at several historic sites for photographs. The group walked up a shaded path to the Joseph Jessee Cemetery in Sexton Town where they photographed family tombstones. What a wonderful way to get a feel for the mountains and RC! We drove towards Castlewood and passed the Gibson home place and the Bickley Cemetery on our way to the Temple Hill Cemetery.

The next stop was at the Historic Old Russell County Courthouse (1796-1818) for a refreshment break that was hosted by Organizing Regent Jackquetta Fletcher and Chaplain Mildred Davis of the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Geneva Mullins represented the Russell County Historical Society and was also there to greet the crowd. The Dickenson-Bundy gift shop was opened to the group. The stop at the Courthouse was considered one of the highlights of the tour by many of the participants. The group lined up for their light lunch refreshment break that included turkey and cheese sandwiches, cheese and cracker trays, fruit trays, baked banana bread, cookies, and plenty of cold drinks and juices. Red, white, and blue decorations dressed the tables in the serving rooms. There were "happy cousins" seated in small groups in the Courthouse jury room and on the porch and lawn. The weather was near perfect. To the members of the DAR, we thank you!

After the break, the tour continued to the Copper Creek area where we passed the Vicars Cemetery and stopped for photographs at the Grassy Creek Church and Cemetery. The group enjoyed the scenery as we traveled a glorious stretch of road through the Moccasin Creek and Valley area that included the ancestral home place of Reverend David Jessee. We stopped at the historic Cedar Grove Baptist Church and Cemetery where participants walked the sites, awed at the giant oak trees and had their group pictures taken by our drivers. The drive included narrow and somewhat curvy roads through exquisite hillsides and valleys, a lot of farmland and rolling pastures.

By this time, it was late afternoon and we headed back to the Russell County Library. The Hanson Family Cemetery and Family Bluegrass Barn were pointed out as we entered the highway. When we arrived back at the Library about 5:00 pm, the Transit Manager was eagerly awaiting our comments. The sponsors were happy to report that all comments were overwhelming positive. We had wonderful time learning more about the region as Russell County is a special part of the Jessee family history. Mike and I extend our special thanks and appreciation to all of our "cousins" who helped us plan this very successful and rewarding First Jessee Family Historic Tour of Russell County. This "Once Upon a Time" historic tour gave us an opportunity to provide another avenue intended to inspire others to connect future generations by remembering the past. Many fascinating stories were shared as we drove, paused or stopped at sites.

The survey returns indicated that several from the tour group also wanted to meet for supper Friday evening. We met a small group of cousins who were from FL, MD, TN, and VA around 7:00 pm at Stringer's Restaurant in Abingdon, Virginia. A cool wind was blowing as we left the restaurant that evening. This was the end to a perfect summer day!

## Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

### 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., 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. *Please Join Us.*

## Membership Information

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

As of June 2003, Annual Membership will now run from reunion to reunion each year, dues being collected at the annual reunion in June for the following year. I will ask the Foundation to allow those who have previously paid dues through December 2003, to have their membership extended to June 30, 2004. Many of us can't make the reunions.

**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**  
**19346 Oakwood Dr.**  
**Abingdon VA 24211**  
**540-628-9239**  
**phoenix@naxs.com**

## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

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

**1. Public access to, fenced protection and restoration of the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery, as well as other Jessee family cemeteries.** This land is owned by Jimmy Herndon, who now lives on the property and has renovated 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 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 or Russell County 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, 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 determined. This option will be held in abeyance until work on establishing the Mill, Dam, and School as an official State historic site is completed. **JOE JESSEE is now chairing the committee working on requesting that Jessee's Mill be declared a Virginia State Historic site.** See report below.

## 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. The JHF could use your help.

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

As some of you may know, Kathryn Greever, John Funk and I, among many 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, as the anchor for a Mill Creek Historic Park.** See the following articles. We had hoped that we could acquire enough land around the mill, dam, school, the Andrew Jackson Jessee home and the miller's 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 these 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. 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 a separate non-profit tax exempt 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 email 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 of the JHF. As always, we need volunteers and leadership in or near Russell County. Your help is needed.

**There has been significant progress made towards having Jessee's Mill declared an historic landmark.** During spring 2003, Joe Jessee and Sherman Wallace submitted a preliminary application to the VA Dept. of Historical Resources for State Historical Status. On June 16, 2003, Joe and Sherman toured the Jessee Mill with Mike Pulice who is the Architectural Historian, Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

**Mike Pulice believes the Mill is fully eligible for both State and National Historical Register status, and commented on its remarkable integrity.** He is advising Sherman on appropriate preservation measures, some of which are needed immediately. We shall now need to complete a full application, providing what Mr. Pulice advises and requires. He was impressed with the historical significance and condition of the Mill, and will help with detailing the particulars required.

**Sherman Wallace has arranged a meeting with Mr. Pulice and all the land owners involved, including the Mill Creek Baptist Church, to discuss the option of having all these related properties donated to the VA Dept. of Historical Resources with appropriate arrangements for compensation.**

We await the results of this meeting and hope to report in the next newsletter.

**Kathryn Greever has been working with Joe, Sherman, John Funk, Tom Rudder, and Mr. Pulice to help make this happen, and has volunteered to help Joe prepare the application.** Joe indicates that the current committee should continue on this project. I think we welcome additional help, and ask the committee to also include Tom Rudder, Kathryn Greever, and me as much as possible, we are all eager to do what we can.

**Mike Pulice says that, normally, it takes a specialized consultant to be hired, and several thousand dollars to prepare a full application.** Some of us feel that we can do this with JHF members and resources, but it may mean many hours of volunteer time and coordination. **Please let Joe know how you can help.** Write to Joe at joejessee@yahoo.com.

KATHRYN GREEVER provides this additional information regarding the application.

For Mike Pulice's organization, go to [www.dhr.state.va.us](http://www.dhr.state.va.us) Hit "enter" then hit "National & State Registers" then hit (near the bottom of page) "Preliminary Evaluation and Nomination Process" and then go down to near the bottom where it says: Downloading Preliminary Evaluation and Nomination Forms. There you will find 5 different "downloads" These are different forms for different kinds of projects. Hit the first one and you'll be led to the actual form. Now, this way you'll have first hand info.

SHERMAN WALLACE , wrote, 2/19/2003, with this **special request to help preserve Jessee's Mill.**

### To the members of the Jessee family:

Over the past three to four years, I have had the pleasure of meeting and becoming acquainted with many members of the Jessee family and have become aware of the ties the descendants have to their past heritage. This relationship with the Jessee's has also made me aware of the importance that Jessee's Mill is to this heritage. No other psychical object could express the contribution that the Jessee family has made to history. The hope of every Jessee seems to be that some day the mill could be restored to be a monument to this great family.

About three weeks ago, a very dedicated member called me to see what could be done to get this process going. We talked about the short term and long term needs of the mill. She asked to remain anonymous but is very committed to get things going. We talked about the short term needs of the mill, things that need to be done to preserve the structure now. I pointed out to her that weather boarding on the wheel side of the mill had deteriorated to the point that rain can now reach the main structure of the building and needs to be replaced about 1/3 the way up the side. Also, the roof which I have painted several times needs to be replaced. The windows on the west side have all fallen out and need to be replaced or covered temporarily with Plexi-glass. Over the years, hay, dirt, dust, and tobacco have accumulated on all the floors and has created a fire hazard as well as has prevented the wood floors from receiving proper ventilation. All this needs to be cleaned out and doors need to be installed to prevent vandalism and fire. The mill dam which has equal importance has a large stump blocking the lower gate which has caused water to back up. A large flood could cause the dam to fall from this pressure. A large excavator is needed to

remove this stump and allow the water to flow through the bottom of the dam.

This Jessee descendant mailed me a check for \$2,000 to establish a fund to address the needs to assure that Jessee's Mill is not allowed to deteriorate beyond restoration. This is why I am writing each of you to request your help to see that these needs are met before it is too late. Anyone who would like to donate to this fund could do so with a check now or a commitment to help once costs have been determined.

Please feel free to call me at my office at 276-889-2865 or home at 276-762-4433 or mail a contribution to:

**Sherman Wallace**  
**Rt 1 Box 18**  
**Cleveland, VA 24225**

You can also email me at [morganw@naxs.net](mailto:morganw@naxs.net).

**Editor's Note: I have requested that the Jessee Historical Foundation authorize a donation to Sherman Wallace for this specific purpose, well outlined above.** Sherman owns Jessee's Mill, Dam, and land around it, and is a Jessee descendant, as well. I have met Sherman, toured the Mill and Jessee lands with him, and know of his interest in preserving the Mill. My wife and I were guests in his mother's home, and enjoyed his generosity and hospitality. I find him to be an honorable man and trust him completely.

**I have recommended that the JHF establish a specific fund to which members and others might donate money for this purpose, and that the JHF manage this fund, making disbursements from it as able and appropriate.** Disbursement may be made to Sherman Wallace for these preservation actions needed and for directly related activities, such as the following.

**I have asked that the JHF also take the leader support others in establishing a separate non-profit corporation for the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of Jessee's Mill, if not to establish a Mill Creek Historic Park that would include Jessee's Mill, Dam, School, and historic Jessee home.** This separate corporation is needed if we are ever to ask the property owners and others to donate to this cause. This corporation could seek grants, donations, and other opportunities to accomplish these objectives, which the JHF cannot do. The JHF is already working with Sherman Wallace on seeking historical designation for the Mill, which is one of the first steps in this whole process.

**I very much believe we need much wider leadership, support, and participation from other Russell Co. government, groups, organizations, and individuals to establish this non-profit corporation.** Jessee's Mill is a Russell County historical icon. The legend and legacy of the Mill Creek Community with the mill, dam, Jessee home, school, store, Mill Creek Baptist Church, and the memories of all those wonderful people who lived there, are treasures to preserve for our children and grandchildren. I ask for help and advice on getting this message out to a wider audience.

**PLEASE NOTE: Those who do not wish to wait for all the falderal are encouraged to make donations directly to Sherman Wallace now. I know Sherman will put your money directly into repairs and preservation of Jessee's Mill. God bless him.**

**JOHN R. FUNK** [[renkiewicz1@earthlink.net](mailto:renkiewicz1@earthlink.net)] has corresponded with me, Kathryn Greever, Sherman Wallace, and the Jessee List providing several Websites with specific information on the architecture, design, construction, and operation of the mill. Here are excerpts of the information and ideas John has shared. His vision is an inspiration for me.

John Funk recommended this 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://jibwoodson.internations.net/woodsonsmill/](http://jibwoodson.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)

Tom has also provided a new map showing exactly where the John Jessee Land is situated and a revised list of all land records in Caswell Co., NC and Russell Co., VA, which I will feature in the next newsletter.

**SUE LESTER PATTERSON** [[omega84@ev1.net](mailto: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)

## KATHRYN GREEVER

[Kathryn.Greever@mail.wvu.edu], sent, 1/22/2003, this response and questions in regard to the dream about acquiring Jesse's Mill and the land around it.

When you talk about the mill and related area site, just how many acres are you talking about for this "Mill Creek Historic Park"? What is the estimated land cost?

I was thinking that if, for example, it was around 25 acres, maybe we could get folks to buy it like they do rain forest and other land. Just as an example, 25 acres represents 100 units of 1/4 acre land, or 200 units of 1/8 acre land. I don't know what land goes for in Russell Co., but—like some parts of WV—I assume there is not a land rush. Here in WV, we can get reasonable land for around \$2000-2500/acre if it's not good housing development land.

Assuming \$2400/acre, a 1/4 acre would be \$600, and an 1/8 acre would be \$300. A few immediate family members could go together and purchase a little piece. More financially well off might be able to afford 1/2 to 1 acre.

What do you think about that? Kathryn Greever

[I think it is wonderful, but we need leadership in Russell Co.]

## 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 Jesse'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 Jesse Historical Foundation can use this information to help establish the Jesse'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 Jesse'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)

TOM RUDDER (tomr@infostations.com) provides evidence, 6/20/2003, that the original dam and mill may have been established even earlier.

I think that everyone discussing the mill site should keep in mind that it was there prior to 1791. It is mentioned in the William Gilmore survey dated 13 June 1791. The mill was on Carrs Creek at the corner where the 200 acre and 50 acre survey lines meet. It appears that the mill was built by Aaron Vanhook who had made improvements on the land before he assigned his right to Gilmore who received a land grant on 17th. of Dec. 1792.

## 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.

JERRY CLINE [jerry.cline@huntington.com]

From: gc-gateway@rootsweb.com, sent, 1/21/2003, this information about **William Trigg Johnson** of Russell co, VA and the use of the name Trigg as a given name, which also occurs in the Jesse family.

The Trigg name/surname most probably derives from a family of that name who settled in SW VA in the mid to late 18th century. According to the book, "The Circle Goes Unbroken" (1996) by Sue Patterson, Stephen, Daniel and Abram Trigg, three sons of William and Mary Trigg, were prominent settlers in the New River region of SW VA.

Stephen Trigg was a colonel in the Virginia militia during the Revolution and was killed at the Battle of Blue Licks in present day Kentucky. A Kentucky county is named after him;

Daniel Trigg was the Captain of the Montgomery County VA militia during the Revolution and a justice of the county.

Abram Trigg held various offices and was also in the local militia. He served as a congressman from 1774 to 1809 and was a delegate to the U.S. Constitutional Convention in 1788.

Chapter Three of Ms. Patterson's book provides a very good background of this family. You can find the book online

at: <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~bearraid/circle.html>

There is also a Colonel Robert Craig Trigg, commander of the 54 VA Infantry (CSA). Many of the soldiers of the 54th came from Montgomery, Floyd, Carroll, Roanoke, Pulaski and Craig Counties. Only about 350 of the approximately 1300 soldiers who fought in this unit are known from existing muster rolls.

My William Trigg Cline/Johnson was the son of William and Sophia Cline/Johnson of Tazewell County, VA. We still do not know why they gave him the middle name, "Trigg". Because William Trigg Cline/Johnson was born during the Civil War, it may be that William Sr. fought under Colonel Trigg's command, possibly honoring his commander by naming his son William Trigg. It is also possible that a grandfather of William Sr. or Sophia fought under the command of one of the Triggs of the Revolution.

**THE RUSSELL COUNTY GENEALOGY GROUP**, at their meeting, 1/2/2003, featured speaker: **Gayle Fuller Stanley** author of *Mountain Legacy*. Her e-mail address is [gayle@optidynamic.com](mailto:gayle@optidynamic.com). You may also visit Dickenson County, Virginia Cemeteries Online at <http://www.dickensoncounty.net/~cemeteries>.

**Mountain Legacy contains history and genealogy relating to the early families and settlement of southwest Virginia. The book includes information on the following families: Fuller, Edwards, Owens, Viers, Ramey (Remi), Harrison, Gobble, Cannady, and many other related family lines.** In addition to the history of the area, it includes letters home from a World War II soldier who was later killed in action, copies of wills, Civil War records and much more. The book contains 247 pages of colorful history along with 147 pictures dating back to the 1800's and sells for \$19.95.

GAIL GARTIN GILBERT [gailgilbert@earthlink.net] wrote, 3/6/2003, with this inquiry about possible **Melungeon** ties of Jessee and other SW Virginia families.

When I see the names **Mullins, Collins, and Gibson** names all together, I cannot help but think of the Melungeon history. If you are unfamiliar with this group, there is an interesting website on the Melungeon settlement at Newman's Ridge, Hancock Co. TN and other Melungeon resources at:

<http://brendanichols.tripod.com/melungeon.html>.

There have been speculations in previous messages about the Jessees having Melungeon ties, and it would seem most possible, considering their allied family connections and the areas they settled in, - especially Russell/Lee Co. VA and Hancock Co. TN. My Robert Jessee, son of Wm. and Mary (Vermillion) Jessee, was in Hancock Co. TN (probably Hawkins Co. at that time) before migrating to Harrison Co. MO. He probably married Elizabeth Louisa Graves there, but I have been unable to find Hancock Co. records due to a courthouse fire. Does anyone else have leads to records for that area? Does anyone have more information on possible Jessee connections to Melungeons?

## 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.

**WILLIAM LEON JESSEE**, Fort Pierce, FL provided, 2/7/2003, a copy of a Maryland document with the file and folio numbers in the Maryland Archives: Hall of Records Commission, Department of General Services, State of Maryland, #813735. The copy is very poor and difficult to read, but I have extracted the following.

**June 8, 1671: Came (?) Capt. John Lee of the County of Westmoreland in Virginia approved rights (?) to 9,350 acres of land for transporting these persons following...**

The list of 45 names includes one **Thomas Jessee** (spelled with two ees). The remaining text is too difficult to transcribe, and I would appreciate further research and help understanding this document, and what became of Thomas Jessee.

**Is this the first Jessee to come to America? Is this our common forebear?**

**NANCY FARRELLY** (NancendraB@aol.com) wrote, 6/15/2003 with this interesting information suggesting that **the Jessee family may be of Portuguese origins**. I have no idea if they are related, but find this kind of information fascinating and would like to share it, in case others have encountered such information. Nancy and her sister Jane Hill are grandchildren of **Ruby Nadine Jessee**, who is descended from both John Jessee, Jr. and Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser.

Hello! My Name is Nancy Farrelly and I live in Massachusetts. My sister, Jane Hill (Seattle) has contacted you regarding our Jessee heritage. (We are grandchildren of Ruby Jessee from Oregon.....) At any rate, yesterday I met a woman here with the maiden last name of Jessee. She told me that her Jessee's were from Portugal, and came to Plymouth, MA very early on and settled here in this New England area. So I am wondering.....are we related to those Jessee's too?The main reason I ask is because this woman looks EXACTLY like my sister !!!!

## OTHER JESSE(E) FAMILIES

**TOM RUDDER** [mailto:tomr@infostations.com] sent, 1/30/2003, this evidence of a **John Jessee family in Caroline Co., VA**.

### 1810 Caroline Co., VA. Census

John Jessee

Males (U-10) 4 (10-15) 2 (16-25) 1 (ov. 45) 1

Females (U-10) 1 (16-25) 1 (26-44) 1

Slaves 26

### 1820 Caroline Co., VA Census

John Jessee

Males (10-16) 2 (16-18) 1 (16-26) 3 (ov. 45) 1

Females (10-16) 1 (26-45) 1 (ov. 45) 1

Slaves - Males (0-14) 4 (14-26) 5 (26-45) 2 (ov. 45) 4

Females (0-14) 6 (14-26) 2 (26-45) 2 (ov. 45) 3

### 1830 Caroline Co., VA Census

Mary Jesse - Males (20-30) 1

Females — (15-30) 1 (30-40) 1 (60-70) 1

John Jesse— Males (15-20) 1 (40-50) 1

Females— (15-20) 1

Charles Jesse— Males— (30-40) 1 (40-50) 1

Females— (U-5) 1 (20-30) 1

Joseph Jesse—Males (20-30) 1

Females (20-30) 1 (40-50) 1

**CAROL JESSE** (jessefamily@earthlink.net) wrote, 2/22/2003, with this inquiry regarding **German Jesse** origins for her family.

I am looking for a **Heinrich Jesse** b1870, Heinrich Joaquim Jesse m1843 to Ulrica Loebel, Heinrich Franz Jesse... from Germany.

My father-in-law only immigrated to the USA in 1945... his wife also. He left Germany, was trapped in the Philippines during Japanese occupation, was associated with the USA and therefore was put in a concentration camp, when a German merchant got him out he ran a medical underground for the USA, after the war brought the German merchant's daughter to America as a war bride, received three medals for his work for the USA in the Philippines. The couple went to Montevideo Uruguay where he was a pharmaceutical executive... returned to the US and lived in New

Jersey and Pennsylvania. The three boys were born in Montevideo, their father Herbert Jesse, was born in Rostock, his wife Leonie Schleißen was born in the Philippines... no family in the USA on either side that I know of.

Herbert Hans Victor Gottfried Jesse came from Rostock. His father was Heinrich Jesse who died young of pneumonia in 1923 at 50. His mother was Jewish being converted Lutheran from the Altona-Hamburg community. She was Sara Aimee Pardo. I questioned if his ancestors also were Jewish as he was a bit defensive about the name, telling us over and over that it was not a "German name" that his family probably originated from England. No indication whatever of that. The only Heinrich Jesse I have located was on a Holocaust Victims list. My father-in-law left Germany because he "saw what was coming". He hid his mother's Jewish background from everyone - even his wife. I uncovered it accidentally when I was doing family genealogy. The Jesses in Germany may or may not be of Jewish ancestry.

I believe that his family was Lutheran for maybe a generation or two. I have little to go on. I have found more on the family of his grandfather's wife: Ulrica Francisca Elisabeth Loebel b1843, daughter of Johann Friedrich Loebel b 1804 and Carolina Sophia Christiana Koepcke ... I have also the parents for both of them.. and a list of Carolina Sophia's siblings.

I have a list of siblings on Herbert, (Bruno, Edgar, Erich...none came to the USA and there were no surviving sons in the next generation) I have some limited contact with cousins in Germany... I have also a list of siblings for Heinrich Jesse (Wilhelm (died WWI) Lise, Anna, Kathe, Hedwig)... a bit of information on who they married, not much.

**JANET TENNENT (JTennant@StarPower.net)** posted, 5/24/2003, this inquiry about a **Frances Jessee** of unknown origins.

Looking for anyone with information on a Frances JESSEE born about 1810 or so perhaps in Middle Essex, VA. She is married a **Robert DIDLAKE** on 28 January 1829 in Middle Essex, VA. They moved to King and Queen County, VA. by 1840. They had several children one which was **Melissa DIDLAKE** born abt 1829. Robert DIDLAKE died before 1850 leaving Frances with several children. Frances seems to have disappeared by 1860. Anyone with JESSEE's and DIDLAKE's in their family tree

**JEAN SANDERS SHUMATE AND JANE CHAMPION NORMAN** [jane.norman@worldnet.att.net] sent, 6/21/2003, this information regarding **Lucy Jesse and Thomas Mullins**.

My ancestor is Lucy Jesse who married Thomas Mullins in Middlesex Co, VA in 1806. I was excited to find your site and think I can shed some light on that couple for you.

From John Hutchins, 200 Edgewater Dr, Framingham, MA 01701: Lucy Jesse was born ca 1785 in VA. Her father was William, born in King & Queen Co, VA in 1736; died Middlesex Co, VA in 1796. William Jesse served under George Washington in the French & Indian War in 1756 and is listed in the Col. George Washington Papers, King & Queen Co, Colonial Abstracts by Fleet, Vol 15, p. 2. "No. 52. William Jesse, age 20, 5'7", King & Queen Co, complexion fair."

Some of the information below I found from family Bibles, courthouses, and family lore, but the transition from VA to KY I found in a little pamphlet by a Jesse descendant, J. W. Singer, entitled "The Hawkins-Jesse Family" dated 1972. Mr. Singer has since died, but his sister who lives in Woodford Co. KY. gave my cousin and me a copy and said he would be so pleased we found it helpful.

Mr. Singer includes a map from p. 178, Will Book 2, Middlesex Co, VA on Nov 16, 1799 showing William Jesse's division of 6 plots of land: 375 acres, one third of which was to be given to the wife for her lifetime (Mr. Singer and my interested relatives do NOT know Mrs. William Jesse's name, do you?), and the other 2/3 to be equally divided among the four children:

1) John Jesse, died in Essex Co, VA in 1814. Married twice 1) Catherine Beamon and 2) Elizabeth Street in Christ Church on 8 Mar 1787 by John Mullins (Christ Church Register 1653-1812). (Mr. Singer includes 2 more pages on this specific line)

2) Lucy Jesse married Thomas Mullins on 25 April 1806, Middlesex Co, VA. That's my line. Thomas and Lucy are in the Lincoln Co KY Census in 1820 (the part that is NOW Garrard County (county seat Lancaster). By 1830 Lucy is head of household in the census so we take that to mean Thomas died, but we can't prove it. Thomas was alive to sign as bondsman of their oldest son's marriage (Albert G) in Feb of 1828 so we're assuming he died between 2 Feb of 1828 and the 1830 census. We do not know where he was buried. Lucy and her children migrated to Anderson Co soon after it was formed from land lopped off part of Franklin-Mercer-Washington Counties in 1827 (family lore). I lose her after the 1830 census, but she witnesses the wedding of I'll draw dotted lines across the page after the four children and the include lots more info on Thomas and Lucy's progeny.

3) Elizabeth Jesse married Edmund Stevens in 1800. I suspect (have not proven) that this couple came to Lincoln Co WITH Thomas and Lucy.

4) Thomas Jesse married Ann Cawthorne about 1789. (Mr. Singer includes 2 more pages on this specific line).

VA Surveys 1735-1807, p. 45 I find:

5 June 1799, land of Benjamin Williams, deed, divided between Isaac Williams, heir to one half the land and the other legatees: Chaincarriers: THOMAS MULLINS and EDMUND STEVENS. Adjoins Richard N. Corbin, Segar's Swamp, THOMAS MULLINS, WILLIAM JESSE'S ESTATE, JESSE STEVENS and MARY STEVENS, James Trice, Dabney Miller and George Gardner. That looks like Lucy and Elizabeth Jesse married the neighboring boys.

As there were many Mullins/Mullen/Mullens families in VA at that time I have not been able to pinpoint where my Thomas fits in.

Exactly when Thomas and Lucy came to KY I do not know. On every census, Albert G, their oldest known son, says he was born in VA. My ggggrandfather, William G, was born in VA (where IN VA I also do not know) on 16 June 1814 and died 22 Apr 1880 in Anderson CO, KY. Wm G was a teacher and his information is consistent on all census records.

Known Children of Thomas and Lucy Jesse Mullins:

In the 1820 Fed Census of what is NOW Garrard Co, KY, the household of Thomas Mullins contains: free white males 2 (under 10), 1(10-16), 1(16-26), and 1(26-45). Free White Females 3 (under 10), 1(26-45).

1) Albert G Mullins who married Lucinda Blackerby in Lincoln Co, KY on 2 Feb 1828. Lucinda's father was Thaddeus Blackerby from Va.

2) Monroe Mullins, b 1812 VA (this might be James Madison Monroe) married Ann Griffey/Griffy in 1841, Anderson CO, Ky.

3) William G Mullins (like Albert's descendants, we also do NOT know what the G stands for) b 16 June 1814 VA, died 22 April 1880 Anderson Co, KY, buried on Bear Creek Cemetery, Anderson Co, KY. married 1) Sophrona Crossfield 7 Jan 1836 (the Crossfields were also from Middlesex Co, VA, and I have contacted their family asking if they knew each other before KY - they don't know either). After Sophrona's death, Wm G married a neighbor girl who was helping care for his children, Martha Jane VanDeventer (daughter of Martha) on 27 Sept 1849 in Anderson CO, KY. I descend from Wm G and Martha Jane.

4) Richard H. Mullins married Nancy Mullins on 26 April 1834 in Anderson Co, KY. Lucy Mullins gives consent so I'm assuming that's for the bride, but actually I don't know whether bride OR groom was Lucy's child.

5) Elizabeth R. "Betty" Mullins b 1810 Garrard Co (info from marriage bond) married A. B. Mitchell on 21 Dec 1857, Anderson Co KY.

6) Lucinda "Cindy" Mullins, b Lincoln Co, KY, resident of Anderson Co. (mother and father b VA) married widower James H. Cleveland, a shoe and bootmaker who was born in VA but resident of Anderson Co, KY (father b NY and mother b VA) on 10 Sept 1861, Anderson Co, Ky.

7) Susan F. Mullins married David Utterback (son of Nelson and Phebe (sic) Egbert Utterback) on 29 Jan 1851, Anderson Co, Ky. Lucy Jesse Mullins is the witness — so looks like she was around for 21 more years than I can find her on census records.

8) Thomas Perry Mullins b 1824 Lincoln Co KY, died 1907 (cemetery stone) Married

1) Susan Utterback (daughter of Nelson and Phebe (sic) Egbert Utterback) on 25 April 1846, Anderson CO, KY.

2) married Roane Peyton on 1st or 6th (bond unreadable) December 1866

3) married in 1871 in Anderson Co, KY, Ann Elizabeth Hahn (1848-1911) by whom Thomas is buried in Fox Creek Cemetery

9) Kitty Jane Mullins b 14 Jan 1827 Lincoln Co, KY, d 29 Mar 1912, Anderson CO, Ky. married widower Elijah Mothershead on 21 Mar 1855, legal age proven by Richard Mullins; witnessed by Monroe Mullins and Henry Mullins.

I can take you through several more generations on some of these folks; others I lose almost immediately. I grew up near the Anderson/Mercer Co. line so I was surrounded by people who called my grandparents cousins and visited regularly. However, it's taken us about 30 years to sort out exactly who everyone was - and we have some holes.

## PHILLIP AND RACHEL JESSEE

**Phillip Jessee (1742-1858)**, wife **Rachel**, and his son **Gabriel Jessee (1804-1886)**, of still unknown relationship to John Jessee (1750-1816), 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.

**KAREN EDWARDS-EVANS** [EMSCRS@aol.com] wrote, 4/10/2003, with this inquiry regarding **Emiline Compton and Richard Yates**, and the relationship to **Helms and Mary Jessee Smith**, a daughter of **Gabriel Jessee**.

Richard and Emiline Compton Yates are my 3g grandparents, through their daughter, Mary E. Yates who married Hershel Gregory Clark. Their marriage record (Jan 4, 1870 Russell Co) indicates that Emiline's parents were James and Emily Compton, yet in the 1860 Russell Co census she is living with Helms J Smith and Mary Jessee Smith, and I cannot find her parents anywhere. Do you have any information that might indicate whether they died and she was taken in by relatives?

## 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.

I enjoy corresponding with many descendants of John and Frankey's fifteen 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.

**DARLENE LACKEY** [adlackey@webworkz.com] wrote, 3/16/2003, with this information regarding **Richard Lea**, speculated by her as the son of **William "of Cobbs Creek" Lea**, who I have speculated is the father of our Frankey Lea. Please look up William Lea in my database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) to see this family. We find in Richard's family evidence of the common use of names, like **William, Archer, Frances, even Stanford Lea**, also found in the descendants of John and Frankey Lea Jessee. This leads us to speculate that they are brother and sister.

I will tell you what I know which is not much and some speculation. The will of Richard Lea d-ca. 1839 lists Richard, William and Reuben as sons along with several others including a John Bradsher Lea and a daughter Frances Archer Lea.

In 1850 Reuben, William and Richard had migrated to Macon Co. NC Reuben and William are in HH of Reuben's son George. They had changed their name to Lee and it states they all are from Caswell Co. Richard and his wife Sarah are in another HH and they

have son Stanford and Nancy daug. There is another dau. in a HH close to them that married a Wilson and her name is Isabella. That is all the children I have been able to find at this time.

On the 1880 census Richard and Sarah are listed as Lea's again and it has: Richard [96 yrs old] b- NC... Father b- VA mother b-NC Sarah{wife} b- VA father & mother b- VA. On Sarah tombstone it has Sallie Lee but all census records show Sarah. At this time I don't know her maiden name or the elder Richard's wife's maiden name but I feel sure Bradsher comes in there somewhere[still looking].

Richard's son Stanford named one of his children Jesse Bracher [Bradsher] Lea and a daug. Frances J.{A.} Lea called Frankie. There was also a William Jasper, Elihue Burton, Richard Madison, & George Washington Lea.

The strong indication that leads me to believe Richard the elder and Franky Lea Jesse were siblings was the fact that they both had grandsons named Stanford. Stanford Lea and Standford Lea Jesse born a couple of years apart. Stanford is an unusual name that I haven't been able to find anywhere else.

As to their being Cherokee or Melugeon I'm not sure as I don't have a description of my Richard but I do of his son Stanford on his Civil War Pension record it lists him as having fair skin, sandy hair and blue eyes. I have a picture of all of Stanford's sons and they have the same appearance...so they would have lost their coloring in a couple of generations if they were Cherokee or Melugeon.

After Stanford, all the newer generations list their name as Lee.

I don't know anything above Richard that died ca, 1839. I bought the Ben Rose book and have studied it well. He doesn't know who this Richard's parents are either. I am going with you on your theory on the basis that I believe Franky and Richard are siblings. Let me know what you think.

## I. John Jesse, Jr.

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

**BARBARA HALL** [ztbjhall@email.kcc.edu] sent, 1/24/2003, this photo (opposite) of **Rachel McKinney Jesse** with family. She married **Andrew Jackson Jesse**, son of **Archer Jesse**, son of **John Jesse, Jr.**

Rachel Mc Kinney Jesse Picture: back row left to right  
Jack Counts son of Frances "Fannie" Jesse and Criss Counts  
grandson of Rachel and Andrew Jackson Jesse  
Beatrice Counts daughter of Leonard and Mary Eliuzabeth Hollingsworth Counts

Leonard Counts son of Mary Jesse and John M Counts and grandson of Rachel and Andrew Jackson Jesse

Front row left to right:

Rachel McKinney Jesse wife of Andrew Jackson Jesse  
Mary Elizabeth Hollingsworth Counts wife of Leonard Counts

## II. Archer Jesse

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

**CHARLIE DOUGLAS THOMPSON** wrote, 2/1/2003, with this inquiry. Charlie does not have an active email address at this time, so if you will let me know I will pass information along.

There is a source that states **Vincent Jesse** [son of Archer Jesse] and his son **Vincent Jesse, Jr.** (My g-grandfather) both had the first name of "William" Does anyone have any knowledge and documentation of this?

## III. William Jesse

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

**GAIL GARTIN GILBERT** [gailgilbert@earthlink.net] posted, 3/6/2003, this interesting information and inquiry regarding her ancestor, **Robert Jesse**, of Buchanan Co., MO, son of William Jesse. She was responding to information on Robert provided by Mike and Joy Malone.

Joy, I have hesitated to include much about my great great grandfather Robert Jesse on the List because there don't seem to be any others of his line involved with genealogy. I was able to link Robert to Wm. & Mary (Vermillion) Jesse due to the fact that his birthdate in our Gartin-Woodruff Bible agreed exactly with that given in William & Mary Jesse's Bible.

His route to MO has been somewhat conjecture on my part. Since he was married to Elizabeth Louisa Graves in TN, and the Graves were early settlers in Claiborne Co. TN, I believe Robert must have joined [brother] Oliver in migrating to Hancock County. The family of his second wife, Jane Tyler, was also located in Hancock Co. which would indicate that also.

We know that Robert and George migrated in the early 1840s from there to Harrison Co. MO. Oliver apparently led the way in 1841, as I have read accounts that his wife Mary died on the trip. We find him later in 1853, settled in Andrews Co., MO. Mary B. Jesse d. 1May1841, 40y 1m 12d, and is buried in Pines Cemetery near Agency, MO. No sign of Oliver who is probably buried with his second wife in Martinsville, Andrews Co., MO.

Robert is known to have first settled in Harrison Co., MO ca. 1843 His wife inherited land in Buchanan Co. from her father, Boston Graves, in 1846 according to Boston's Will (Bk. C. p. 102)



which also names Robert Jessee as a son-in-law and executor of the estate. I believe this is when Robert moved to Buchanan Co. Month

That would also agree with the deed in 1847 (which determined the distribution of William Jessee's land) which named "Robert Jessee of the County of Buchanan State of Missouri." In addition, there are records for Robert purchasing additional land from the State of MO in 1855 and 1859. He is listed in the History of Buchanan County (1881) as a County Judge in 1850-2. His wife Louisa died 8 Jan 1852 and he remarried Jane Miranda Tyler on 16 Sep 1852. Although my great grandmother was the only child to survive from the first marriage, there were five more children by the second marriage, four of whom survived to adulthood and probably have descendants whom I would dearly love to make contact with.

As to Robert's ties to his siblings, my grandmother knew he had brothers named David, Oliver and George, and a sister Susie who married a Breeden (Breeding?) in Kansas. George and wife Mary Gilmore are in the 1850 Buchanan Co. MO census. Oliver's sons William and Elisha were in the 1880 census for Harrison County. Oliver's daughter Elizabeth married Henry Tyler in 1854, and we believe Henry may have been a brother to Jane Tyler, Robert's second wife. The Tylers of Hancock Co. TN migrated to Nebraska and that is where Jane Tyler Jessee went following Robert's death 20 Jul 1863, probate file #1727, Buchanan Co. MO.

Oliver's son Elisha died in Caldwell, Idaho where my grandparents settled. One of his descendants who was a Baptist minister in Eugene OR visited my grandmother there in 1938 and gave her a list of children with birthdates for Elijah Bishop & Levina Clark which agrees with what has been given by others in the Jessee newsletter (Jan 2000). We notice that the 171 acres of Wm. Jessee's land that was sold in Lee Co. In 1854 was adjacent to Elijah Bishop. I guess this would explain how Mary Bishop came to marry Oliver Jessee.

There are two mysteries concerning Oliver Jessee's son and the Bishops which I would like to have solved. I have a photograph of a Jonathan Bishop & wife among the family pictures and I wonder if Jonathan could be Mary Bishop's brother??? That Jonathan appears to have lived in TN however. There were Bishops connected to my Woodruffs in western PA also. Could they have been the same family? The second mystery is the Jessee grave which is included in the Gartin family plot in Canyon Hill cemetery in Caldwell, Idaho. According to my grandmother, there was a dispute among Elisha's children who didn't want to bury him, and my grandmother had him buried with our family. The problem is, I have a photograph of the gravestone and it doesn't agree with the information given by Dan H. LeVan Jr in his report to the Jessee newsletter. It reads W. E. Jessee, 1838-1919. Does any Elisha Jessee descendant have a comment on this?

I would love to make contact with other Robert Jessee descendants. The our children who survived (Henry d. age 2) were:

Lawrence Lafayette Jessee m. Annie Buckley  
Julia Amanda Jessee m. John H. Buckley  
Charles Kellogg Jessee m. Anna Margaret Brewer  
James Robert Jessee m. Sarah Ellen Clark

Are there any descendants of these Jessees out there? If so, I'd love to hear from you. Gail

From **THE OSAGE CO, KANSAS LIST**  
[KSOSAGE-L@rootsweb.com] I found this interesting posting.

From: "Jim Laird" <jlaird@bellsouth.net>  
The Debtor and Workingman, Friday, July 12, 1895

We wer glad to see "Uncle" Jim JESSEE on our streets Monday. He doesn't look much the worse for his severe spell of sickness.

This is **James Wilson Jessee (1838-1907)** of Osage Co., Kansas, the son of **William John Jessee**, son of **William and Mary "Polly" Vermillion Jessee**,

and my namesake. Here are some notes on James Wilson Jessee.

Source: Alan D. Selig transcribed "The Civil War Diaries of James W. Jessee 1861-1865" which was edited by Willam P. LaBounty and published by the McLean County Genealogical Society, PO Box 488Normal, IL 61761, in 1997.

James Wilson Jessee lived in Kansas, cited in The History of Kansas by A.T. Andreas. His diaries are in the University of Kansas, Spencer Library. He served in the 8th Illinois Regiment during the Civil War.

Source: Kaye Jessee Peters (treehouse@sensible.net)

J.W. Jessee was born March 11, 1839 in McClain County, Illinois, where he lived until the breaking out of the war. In 1861, at Bloomington, Illinois, he enlisted in the 8th Illinois Infantry and served until the close of the war. In July 1865 he was married to Miss Caroline Standiferd, at Bloomington, and they came to Kansas the next year and settled in Douglass County. In the summer of 1868 they moved to the farm on the Marais des Cygnes, where the last sickness and death occurred on April 17, 1907. To this union were born seven boys and three girls, of whom four boys and one girl survive the father; the wife and mother also survives. The entire family were present when the end came, one of the boys coming from California and one from Colorado. Uncle Jim Jessee was known thruout Osage and Lyon Counties, and was an enthusiast in any thing he undertook. He was a member of the Reading G.A.R. Post and that organization had charge of the services at the grave.

## 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.

## 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 anyone 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.

**Patricia Stone Jessee** [dmjessee@preferred.com] sent, 1/25/2003, this very important artifact for the Willam and Frances Jessee Stone family.

This is a transcript of **The Will of William Stone** from Sullivan County, Missouri. I transcribed it to the best of my ability, but there are still a few question marks.

THE WILL OF WILLIAM STONE  
Dated 1850 in Sullivan County, Missouri  
Found in Will Book A, pages 7-10

The will is on pages 7 and 8, the other two documents are on pages 9 and 10.

Transcribed by Patricia Stone Jessee in January 2003

If words are uncertain, I have inserted a question mark. There was not punctuation or paragraphs, so I have transcribed the way it was written on the copies from the Will Book

Sullivan County the of Missouri

My last will and testament in manner and form the following that is say

First I have give out of my estate unto my son John Stone one sorrel horse worth seventy dollars one bay mare worth forty five dollars ?notes? of hand for cash fifty dollars one saddle one cow and calf a bed and other furniture to tedious to mention which is his proportionable part of my estate and all I intend him to have 2dly I have give out of my estate to my daughter Elizabeth Hamilton the

wife of Rob?? Hamilton one sorrel mare one saddle and bridle and cow and bed and other furniture to tedious to mention all amounting to one hundred and fifty dollars which is her proportionable part of my estate and all I intend her to have 3dly, I have give out of my estate of my daughter Dicy ?S? McCamey the wife of William McCamey a cow and calf a bed and other furniture to tedious to mention all amounting to seventy five dollars which is her proportionable part and all I intend her to have 4thly I have out of my estate to my daughter Mary C Reynolds the wife of Noah Reynolds one saddle a cow and calf a bed and other furniture to tedious to mention all amounting to sixty dollars which is total amount of my estate and all I intend her to have 5thly I have give out of my estate unto my son Stephen S Stone one sorrel horse worth sixty dollars and one grey mare worth seventy dollars one eighteen dollar saddle accompanied with a good bridle a cow and calf a bed and other furniture to tedious to mention which is his proportionable part of estate and all I intend him to have. 6thly I have out of my estate unto my son Martin G Stone one bay Geldon worth fifty dollars one yoke of oxens worth twenty five dollars a cow & calf worth ten dollars a saddle bridle and bed and other furniture to tedious to mention all amounting to two hundred dollars which is his proportionable part of my estate and all I intend him to have 7thly I also give unto my son H G Stone the certain tract of land towit the south west quarter of section No 14 of Range No 21 in Township No 63 Containing one hundred acres and sixty acres and lying in the County of Sullivan and State of Missouri and all my tools both farming and all other tools that I hold possession of and all the house hold and culinary furniture I give the same to my son Harvey G Stone above written Frances Stone the wife of William Stone holds her life estate of the land and tenements goods and chattles for and during the time of her natural life And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my son Harvey G. Stone Executor and my wife Frances Stone Executrix of this my last will and testament given under my hand and seal this the 3rd day of May 1850 Assigned sealed delivered

In presents of us

Attest John Dennis

David his X mark Boyd

NB And out of the properties above named all of my just debts and funeral expenses be paid given under my hand and seal this May 3 1850

WM Stone

State of Missouri

County of Sullivan

Probate court of Sullivan County this thirtieth day of March

AD 1853 Be it remembered that Allen Gillespie and Eson Hammer witnesses to the within and foregoing will personally appeared before me Stephen??? G Watkins Judge of Probate of same county and being by me duly sworn Allen Gillespie deposed and says he was present and heard the said William Stone acknowledge and declare ??the?? he signed the foregoing instrument of writing as his last will and testament and that by and of the subscribing witnesses John Dennis subscribe his name. X David Boyd make his mark to said instrument and heard the same Williams Stone acknowledge in the presence of said witnesses that he published the same as his last will and testament And the said Eson Hammer deposed and says that he was and is well acquainted with the hand writing of the said John Dennis in his life time and that he believes that the names of said witnesses subscribed to said instrument of writing by the said John Dennis and that said testator was at the time over the age of twenty one years and of sound mind which said proof is by me deemed sufficient to establish said will

Allen Gillespie

Eson Hammer

Sworn and subscribed to before me this day and year above written

SG Watkins  
Probate Judge  
State of Missouri  
County of Sullivan

Be it remembered that on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March AD 1853 before the undersigned Judge of Probate in and for the county aforesaid upon the affidavit of Allen Gillespie and Eson Hammer who are personally known to me A Gillespie being examined in regard to the signature of William Stone and the attesting witness ??? also Eson Hammer was by me examined in regard to the hand writing of John Dennis and of the witnesses to the within and foregoing will of William Stone and that the said will aforesaid is hereby cosigned the last will and testament of William Stone Legally executed attested declared and published by him as ??? that said William Stone is dead whereby Probate thereof is granted and said was filed for Record

In testimony whereof I have here unto signed my name and affixed my private seal no seal as yet being provided at office the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March AD 1853  
Filed March 30 1853  
S G Watkins  
Recorded April 3 1853  
Probate Judge

**KRISTIE (REYNOLDS) DAVIS** [sldavis@nwi.net] wrote, 4/25/2003, with this information about the grandson of **Frances Jessee and William Stone**, son of **Mary Chaney Stone and Noah Milburn Reynolds, Joseph Coleman Reynolds, Sr.**

Hi Jim, Nice to find your site today. I have read the newsletters in the past and am working hard on the Reynolds.

Found Joseph Coleman Reynolds Sr. b. 1847 instead of 1848 buried right here in Washington not in 1928 but 1930. ...and now have his death record which gives us exact dates. also has his parents listed as Noah Reynolds and Chaney Stone on his death record. Mary Chaney Stone I am told is the daughter of Frances Jessee and William Stone.

I am finding lots more on the descendants of this family who have tid bits of info to give me clues where to look for more info on my ancestors. I even now have a younger photo of Joseph on my website. I am told he also had one blue eye and one brown eye. Not only was a farmer but a wheelwright by trade and wrote poetry! His father Noah Reynolds was a brickmaker.

## 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 (Ketrion) 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.

**ANGELA JESSEE LONG** (along@mcg.edu) sent, 3/8/2003, this wonderful photo of the **James Able Jessee** family. James Able is the son of **Fleming Burk Jessee**, son of **James and Jane Burk Jessee**.

My husband Ron and I are sending you a photograph of the Jessee family that cousin Florence Boggs has in her possession and was kind enough to let us copy and reproduce. Ron has spent many hours restoring and repairing the scratches, and in some instances missing appendages. As many of you know we lost my Dad James "Ralph" Jessee last month to Congestive Heart Failure. This has been a difficult time, but I know Dad wanted me to get this photo out to the family.

Below is a list of the names of the people in the photograph. The only person in question is the gentleman on the far right next to Sam's wife Ellen (Begley) Jessee. Please feel free to drop me an email if you have any ideas. We believe that James Abel Sr. is holding a photo of missing siblings.

Top: Charles Lane Jessee  
Second Row: Seated James Abel Sr. holding Emory Hill, and Lettie Margaret (Bailey) Jessee.

Third Row: James Abel Jr. (Abe), Robert (Bob), Elisha Hill, Rebecca (Jessee) Hill holding baby Jim Hill, Lettie (Hill) Carter, Isaac, Emory, John, Sam, Ellen (Ellie Begley), and Unknown?

**NORMA SURRETTE** [surretdr@citcom.net] sent, 5/15/2003, this newspaper article, printed 1967, on **William Henry "Bill" Jessee**. Her Uncle Bill's parents were **James A. and Lettie Margaret Bailey Jessee**. His wife was **Ester Stone**. James Abel Jessee is the son of **Fleming Burk Jessee**.

**BIG STONE GAP** - He reads two daily newspapers and watches TV all day - they say he's a whiz at answering quiz show questions.

He quit his furniture business only three years ago - his health was failing. The only thing he figures might keep him from living forever is that he's been smoking for the past 74 years.

That's William Henry Jessee, who recently celebrated his 96th birthday. Spry as a youngster, "Uncle Billy" attends church regularly and up to the time he let his son-in-law take over the W.H. Jessee Furniture store in Big Stone, he kept a Bible with him at work so he could read it there in his spare time.

Uncle Billy was born on a farm at Horton's Summitt in Scott County, March 26, 1871, the next to the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Jessee.

JESSEE married his next-door neighbor when he was 24 and she was 17. They moved to Big Stone Gap in 1907 and he opened his furniture store. Since the death of Mrs. Jessee in 1960, he has been making his home with a daughter, Mrs. Holbrook and another daughter, Mrs. Lile, lives next door.

For his birthday celebration Uncle Billy received dozens of cards from relatives and one nephew called all the way from Florida to congratulate him. At his church, the Assembly of God, the



**James Able Jessee and Family**

congregation sang a special birthday song for him when the pastor recognized Uncle Billy's longevity.

Jessee enjoys frequent visits by his relatives. These include seven grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

**NORMA SURRETTE** also sent, 5/15/2003, this article that Vernon's wife, Marianne, and she compiled for the newest edition of *Scott and Its People*.

**The Vernon Jessee Family**

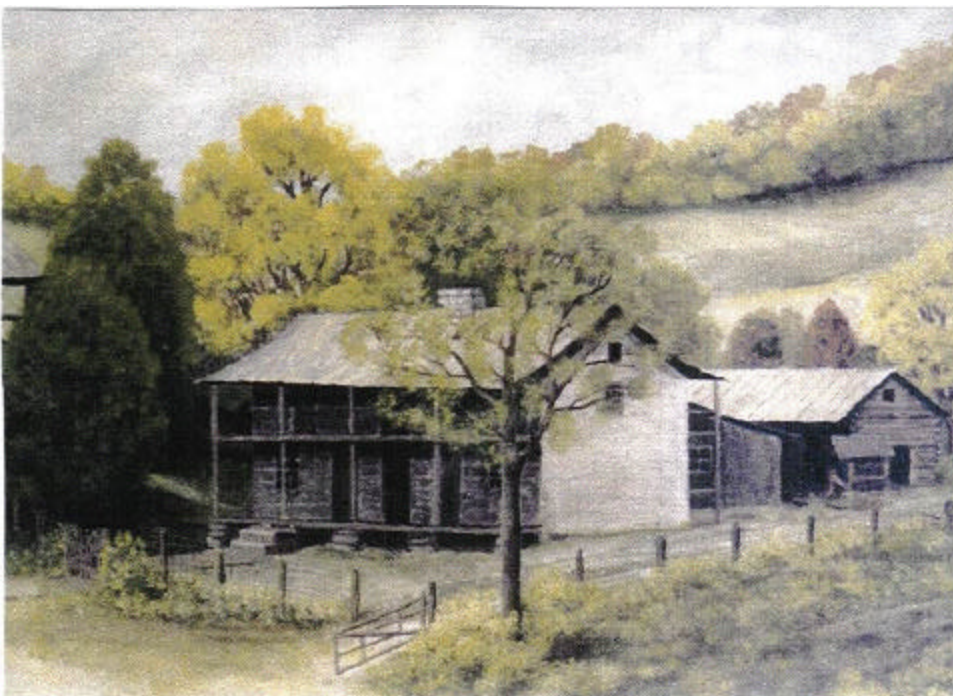
Vernon Samuel Jessee was born in Blackwater, VA on March 24, 1930. He was the third child and first son of Freeman Monroe and Dolly Mae Anderson Jessee. Freeman and Dolly's children in order of their birth are: Lillie Ruth, Ellen Elizabeth, Vernon Samuel, Joseph Lloyd, Mary Martelia, James Ralph, Martha Lucille and Janice Nell.

Freeman was the son of Samuel Jessee and Ellie Begley Jessee. Both of Freeman's parents were descendants of the John Jessee clan of Russell County, VA. Sam descended from James Jessee and Ellie descended from David Jessee. In Vernon's early childhood, the family moved to Uncle Abe Jessee's farm in the

Mabe community. Abe was Sam Jessee's brother.

Vernon attended school at Mabe. He left Scott County, Va. in 1948 and joined the U.S. Army. After his training at Ft. Bragg, NC, he served his country in Germany, Korea, Vietnam, Texas and Hawaii. He was a demolition expert in Germany and Korea and a platoon sergeant in Vietnam. His last assignment before retirement was serving with the famous Old Guard at Ft. Meyer in Arlington, VA where he was in charge of military funerals at the Arlington Cemetery. He began a second career with the U.S. Postal Service and worked for another 20 years. One of his hobbies was flying. He received his private pilot's license in 1965 and bought a Cessna 176 in the 80's.

While stationed in Germany in the late 50's, Vernon met Marianne Thieme. They were married on January 17, 1959. She was born January 23, 1934, the only child of Erich and Frieda Pollandt Thieme. Marianne and both her parents were born in Bernberg,



Jessee Home at Mabe, Virginia



**Here are some photos.**

- #1 is Dollie Anderson Jessee
- #2 is (front) Dollie Jessee (behind Dollie) from left partially missing is C.B. Minton, Jr. (Martha Jessee's husband), Ralph Jessee holding Jeff Dillon, Janice Jessee Zecharia, next row: Arthur and Elizabeth Jessee Dillon, Vernon and Marianne Jessee. Back row: Freda Thieme (Marianne's mother) and Mary Jessee Walling.
- #3 Dollie Anderson Jessee
- #4 Dollie with pictures of all the children: Vernon, Ralph, Elizabeth, Mary, Joe, Janice and Martha
- #5 Freeman and Dollie Jessee
- #6 Dollie Jessee and Mary Jessee Walling

**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

Germany. Her father was born August 26, 1906. He was drafted into the Germany army in 1940 and died in service on December 24, 1944 near Dzukste in the country of Latvia. Her mother was born August 09, 1909, and died July 30, 1986 in Silver Springs, Maryland.

Marianne studied at the Martin Luther University in Halle, Germany where she received a Master's degree in microbiology. She also received a master's degree in General Administration from the University of Maryland. She retired in December 1999 from her position as head of Microbiology at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. She stays very active in her church and is doing volunteer work at the Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington, DC.

Vernon and Marianne have one son, Michael Vernon Jessee born October 17, 1960 in Fort Hood, Texas. Michael graduated from the University of Maryland and earned a Master's degree in nuclear physics. He currently lives in King George, VA and works for Computer Science Corporation.

Vernon died of a massive heart attack at his home in Silver Springs, Maryland on April 17, 1998. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

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.

**REV. VERNON CECIL JESSEE** [vernon@cros.net] wrote, 1/27/2003, in response to the January newsletter with this.

You asked the question in the newsletter, if there were any in the Jessee family living today, as close to John and Franky Lea Jessee, as William Leon Jessee, the g.grandson of Martin Jessee [gr.gr.grandchild of John and Franky Lea Jessee]. The answer is yes there are! My grandfather, **Frederick W. Jessee**, was a gr.grandson of John & Franky Lea Jessee, and a **grandson of George Lea & Betsy Counts Jessee**, and a son of **Thomas Jefferson (Jeff) and Sarah Browning**.

My Grandfather was married twice, the first time to **Nannie Maryanne Jessee** daughter of John "Bull" Jessee (Jeff and John were brothers) my Grandparents Fred and Nannie Maryanne, had four Children:

1. **Dennie Edison Jessee**, (my father & the oldest) born 1897, died 1988.
2. **Aunt Hattie Jessee** born 1899, died 1918. She was found shot to death on the kitchen floor at Wilder, Va. The one who killed her got away with murder, my mother told me there was one that they suspected that did it but it was not proved, my mother said she believed that this man was jealous of aunt Hattie. I know the man's name but I will not mention it in this letter.
3. **Uncle Ezra Jessee**, born 1901, died abt 1980.
4. **Uncle Clifford Jessee**, born 1905 died 1974. Nannie Maryanne died 1910.

Grandpa married **Mary Virginia Dotson**, they had 8 children.

1. **Clarence S. Jessee**, the father of Norma Jessee McHone.
2. **Margaret Jessee Hall**
3. **Woodrow Jessee**
4. **Russell Jessee Breeding**. Russell is still living, and is 82 yrs old, she lives at South Clinchfield, Va.
5. **Henry Jessee**
6. **Paul Jessee**
7. **Glenn Jessee**, he lives at Lebanon, Va
8. **Franklin R. Jessee**, lives at Bristol, Va.

All are deceased, except, Russell, Glenn, and Franklin (Frank) and all are gr.gr.grandchildren of John and Franky Lea Jessee.

**SUSAN MCGINTY** [johnmcginty@redmac.net] sent, 1/25/2003, this "Greetings from a Texas Cousin."

Wow, my daughter Jordan wanted to know if we were French...so, off to the internet I went. I had some information and stories from my parents, but, I never expected to find an entire web site devoted to the Jessee clan. Do you know that in Texas, it's quite rare to come across anyone with that name except a few siblings and cousins. I didn't know we were from Virginia until I began this research. I feel like I hit the jackpot for the Jessee side.

My name is **Susan Jessee-McGinty**. My grandfather is **Noah Walter Jessee**, son of **Noah Taze [a George Lea Jessee descendant] and Cora "Belle" Jessee [A Martin Jessee descendant]**. My father is Walter Jessee, Jr., son of Noah Walter and Martha Louisa Ange.

I noticed on the website, that there were no children documented for my grandfather. He had three children:

Kathryn Belle Jessee married to Wilson Ross, one daughter, Martha Louise Ross (2 sons and grandchildren),

William Taze Jessee married to Eddice Ramsey, five children, Linda Lee Jessee, (2 children); Eddice Marie Jessee; William Walter Jessee (three sons); Bryan Jessee (two children); Jill Jessee

Walter Jessee, Jr. married to Patricia Louise Barry, three children, Susan Patricia Jessee, Troy Michael Jessee, and Sara Gail Jessee.

Susan married to John Patrick McGinty  
Two children, Jordan Elizabeth Jessee McGinty  
Emily Payton Jessee McGinty

Troy married to Rachel Ray  
Two children, Lawson Wells Jessee  
Parker Lee Jessee

Sara married to James Richard Shults  
Two children, Hannah Faith Shults  
Jackson Matthews Shults

My grandfather was the oldest child and I believe when there were too many to feed, he went to live with an uncle. At an early age, he joined the Army began a great career. That may be why there isn't too much information, except a few stories about Uncle Kizer and Uncle Troy. Obviously, a favorite.

**ROBERT CRADIC** [robanamycradic@earthlink.net] wrote, 5/29/2003, with an interest in receiving the Jessee Newsletter, based on the following.

I am married to Amy Crowder who is a step grand daughter to Oscar G. Jessee. Oscar is the son of Charles Benson and Jean Wallace Jessee, Charles Benson Jessee is the son of John Counts and Margaret Cross Jessee. I believe you know the rest of the preceding fathers. We have no actual blood connection, but my wife loved Oscar and thought of him as her grandfather, that it is why I am researching his line. Oscar passed on last year on Feb. 13 at the age of 89 and Hazel (his wife and my wife's grandma) passed away this year at the age of 89 also. Thank You, Rob Cradic

**MICHELLE ZICHELLA** [mwhittaker@gwi.net] wrote, 4/6/2003, with this kind note.

Hi, Jim, Michelle Zichella here. My parents are Jeanette (Edna) Jessee and Anthony Zichella. My mom Jeanette was Charles Benson and Nannie Jessee's youngest (**Charles Benson and Gennette Wallis** [don't know where the "Nancy" comes from - never heard of her referred to as such]; **"Bull" Counts Jessee** and **Peggy Cross** —John and Frankie Lea.) I wrote to you about a year ago to introduce myself and thanked you for the site.

I must tell you again how appreciative I am for all your hard work and tireless research. I have visited the Jessee website many, many times since I first heard about it several years ago.

My mom moved north as soon as she graduated from high school so I didn't have much interaction with her family aside from phone calls and a visit there w/ my mom and sister Lisa almost twenty five (!) years ago. So your site fills my imagination with visions of my relatives and thoughts of my Jessee heritage. It is so good to know where I come from and even though my mom told me lots and lots of stories, the site lets me see names (and what names they are!) and dates.

Sadly, my beautiful mother died last Monday. She lived in California, and I'm in Portland, Maine, but we were best friends and spoke every night on the phone. One week ago, about this very time, we had our last conversation. I asked her to tell me my favorite childhood story, the one where she would go to visit her sister Gladys in Castlewood, and she and her cousins would go to the ruins of an old mansion and play. My mom would sit near the old front door and find broken pieces of stained glass in the dirt around her. I never tired of hearing that story, and I know when she told it to me on her last night it filled her with happy memories of Richland and her childhood.

I've visited your site several times in the past week and it's helped me to get through the most difficult time of my life. I want to thank you again for all of your efforts to trace our history. I know it must be a labor of love for you and it's appreciated more than you know.

**REV. VERNON CECIL JESSEE** [vernon@cros.net] wrote, 7/15/2003 with this last minute report on the **2003 Jessee Family Reunion**.

The reunion day at Abingdon was real good, we missed you being there with us!!

I met one of my first cousins and some of his family from Mooresville, Indiana that I had never seen before, and didn't know about him existing until a few months back.

Also one of my first cousins that I had not seen since she was a little girl and her son was there, and also her brother (my first cousin) and his daughter was there. My 1st cousin Betty Jessee Yates that lives in Milwaukee, Wis. Her son was there also. Roy Lee Jessee, is a son of Uncle Clifford E. Jessee, and Betty Deery Jessee. He lived in Lee County, St. Charles, Va. He was born 1905-died 1978. He was my father Edison Jessee's youngest brother, from my Grandfather Frederick W. Jessee's first marriage to Nannie Maryanne Jessee. Roy Lee, and his family live at Mooresville, In.

My other first cousin's that were there were, Barbara Jessee Maxfield, and Robert Lee (Bernard) Jessee, daughter and son of Uncle Ezra M. Jessee, and Molly (Rasnake) Jessee. Uncle Ezra, also a brother of my father. Barbara, and R.L. (Bernard) live at upper Reeds Vally on Rt#645 near Nashes Ford, Russell Co.Va.

THE REUNION WAS GREAT! Hope to see you next year.

## **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.

See **Susan McGinty** letter under George Lea Jessee.

## **MISSING LINKS, PROBLEMS AND OTHER CONUNDRUMS**

**Please help us solve these riddles.  
Oops, no riddles this edition**

## **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.

**ROBERT COWAN** [CSCUNC@aol.com] posted on VARussel-l@Rootsweb.com, 1/27/2003, this tidbit about **Scotch-Irish Genealogical Research Materials**.

It is only on rare occasions that I add a book to the list of "must haves" for the study of Scotch-Irish genealogy. This one is for our friends with Pennsylvania connections and it is certainly a rare item. Published in 1856 "by a descendant" it is titled:

*A Tribute to the Principles, Virtues, Habits and Public Usefulness of the Irish and Scotch Early Settlers of Pennsylvania*, Chambersburg, Pa., Printed by M. Kiefer & Co. 1856, 171 pages.

From the preface the following: "The writer of the Tribute contained in this work, had long desired to see from the Historical publications in Pennsylvania, a vindication of the character and principles of the Irish and Scotch early settlers of this great State and their descendants against reproach, as well as aspersion, cast upon them in some modern publications having pretensions to Historical accuracy...The writer, feeling as if the sand of his Time glass was nearly run out, and that he ere long must be laid aside from labor... has hastily thrown together in his leisure hours, taken from other avocations, the remarks contained in the subsequent pages."

Those other avocations are Dr. Foote's Sketches of North Carolina and Virginia, Day's Historical collections, Dr. Smith's Old Redstone, Dr. Alexander's Log College, Dr. Miller's Life of Dr. Rogers, Dr. Elliott's Life of McCurdy and others, Craig's History of Pittsburgh, Hazard's Colonial Records and Archives of Pennsylvania, and American Archives by Force and Gordon's History of Pennsylvania, Mr Rupp's Histories of Lancaster, Cumberland and Franklin counties.

The style of writing and knowledge of early Presbyterian history indicates the author may have been a member of the clergy\*. There is a lot of detail on the early members of the church as well as problems with the Indians and the struggle over land rights during the westward expansion. The book reads a bit like Prof. Hagy's thesis on the early frontier settlement at Castle's Woods, Virginia and it is a combination of history, genealogy and geography.

\*I have been told recently that Judge Chambers is the author of this work.If you are interested in purchasing the above (I would like to make copies for free but I can't) contact me at cscunc@aol.com for details.

Robert Cowan  
525 Harrogate Rd.  
Matthews, North Carolina 28105

**BILL SUTHERLAND** [toybill@naxs.net] wrote to family members, 5/13/2003, with information regarding the **2003 SUTHERLAND AND COUNTS FAMILY REUNIONS**.

I am familiar with two reunions. The William Sutherland and the John Counts reunions. **The William Sutherland reunion will be on August 9th (Saturday) at the Sulphur Springs Church in Dickenson County near the Buchanan and Russell County State lines. The John Counts reunion will be on August 10th at the Breaks Interstate Park in Dickenson County near the Ky state line.** One of Daniel Sutherland's son's, William, married a Counts and left the Carbo area of Russell County to go about 10 miles over into what is now Dickenson. He was a year older than your ancestor Elijah Sutherland. I am not aware of any reunions that would let you see any of your direct Sutherland kin. We would be very happy to see you at either or both of the William Sutherland and John Counts reunions.

There is a motel that is a part of the Breaks Park. Their telephone number is 800 982 5122. The nearest motel in Russell County would be the Oaks at Rosedale - about 10 miles north of the County Seat at Lebanon. Their telephone is 276 880 9000. A motel in Lebanon is the Town & Country - telephone 276 889 2772.

To get to the Breaks Park from Lebanon go about 10 miles north to Rosedale and turn left on Rt 80. Go about 40 miles on Rt 80 (go over Big A mountain, thru Birchleaf & Haysi). The park entry will be on your left about 3 miles before you get to the KY state line. I will mail you a map showing you how to get from Rt 80 to the Sulphur Springs Church.

Again we would welcome a visit from you and we trust you would enjoy the reunions.

Bill Sutherland

**JIM JESSEE** (Jim@Jessee.org), your editor, is one of the contributors to the exhibit **Pioneer Graveyards and Genealogy at the Chico Museum**, in his home town of Chico, California. **The Jessees** and his wife's **Meline, Rabo, Camper, Tuck, and Ware families** are early pioneers in Northern California. This exhibit has led to several new discoveries for Jim and wife, **Nelda Meline Jessee**

The following Internet and Email exchange with **Sandy Ellis** and **Lois McDonald**, of the Paradise Historical Society, has helped locate the unrecorded descendants of a missing child of **John and Hannah Parker Ware**, their first son, **Edwin Ware**. This exchange with Lois McDonald, and later with Jim and Nelda Meline Jessee, explains, perhaps, why the descendants of Edwin were not recorded.

Dear Lois,

I noticed a posting made by John Ware on Ancestry.com (from the database of James W. Jessee which refers to Lois McDonald as the source of information). ... I noticed the following in reference to John Ware:

John Ware had seven children, five of whom had descendants. (See Chico Museum Exhibit on the Descendants of John Ware) 6 of the 7 children are listed on the site: Edward (Edwin), Henry, William, Sarah, Annie, and Ellen, with the last 5 having descendants. I believe Edwin also had descendants, but they were never recognized by the Ware's.

I believe I am a descendant of this Edwin. The Edwin from my family was born about 1846 to John and Hannah Ware. He was supposed to have lived in Indiana as a child. He died about 1926.

Edwin married in 1888, and his marriage made his family extremely unhappy. They never did get over it, and that may be why no descendants of his are listed.

You see, Edwin married an Indian woman, Mariah Williams, in an Indian marriage ceremony. Not only that, but this was Mariah's second marriage. Mariah's child with Edwin, Elsie, is my grandmother - and there are many, many descendants. After Edwin died Mariah was to receive food, but it was just thrown off the train and it was always moldy, because she was an Indian. Grandma also spoke of how they had an organ, which was unusual in those days, especially so far from any roads. Edwin and Mariah lived in Plumas County on a mining claim. Edwin was supposedly red-headed and spoke with a heavy accent. My grandmother thought the family may have come from Germany originally. Edwin was a veteran from the Spanish American war and did receive benefits from that.

Information about Edwin, including his approximate date of death, life in Indiana, and parents' names is included on the 1928 Indian Rolls Census application filled out by my grandmother on behalf of her and her mother Mariah.

Mariah was a full blooded Indian, the child of Capt. Charles Williams (Ti-paw-nim) and To-lem-ma. She was born 7/25/1856 and died 1/15/1930. My grandmother, Elsie, died in 1988, and 2 of her 4 children have also passed away. However, most of Edwin's direct descendants are still living. This branch of the family has tended to marry and have children late in life. Hence, Edwin and Mariah my great-grandparents, not further removed as might otherwise be expected.

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The Graveyards and Genealogy Exhibit at The Chico Museum, showing now through September, 2003, had helped find several missing descendants of local pioneer families, and thrilled many more who have discovered their previously unknown local history. The exhibition, which includes descendants charts for several pioneer Butte County families, has stimulated much genealogy interest among the Jessee, Meline, Rabo, Tuck, Ware, and Camper families illustrated. Many viewing the exhibit have been surprised to find their own names and to learn that they descend from more than one historic Butte County family.

At the recent lecture at the Chico Museum by Jim Jessee on Using the Internet for Genealogy Research, an unknown branch of the Meline family attended, who drove down from Shasta County for the exhibit. There was an unexpected reunion of several Ware, Camper, and Meline family cousins who were meeting each other for the first time.

Additional contacts through the Internet have led to the discovery of another whole branch of John and Hannah Parker Ware descendants, the Edwin Ware Family of Plumas County, who were previously unrecorded. This branch of the family believes they were unrecorded because Edwin Ware married an Indian woman, Mariah Williams, in an Indian marriage ceremony. Mariah was a full blooded Indian, the child of Capt. Charles Williams (Ti-paw-nim) and To-lem-ma). She was born 7/25/1856 and died 1/15/1930.

Several other families have contacted Jim Jessee, author of this part of the Chico Museum Exhibit, to provide additional descendants information for several of these families. All is being recorded in the Jessee and Meline Family Database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org).

BARBARA MOWERY [bsm1963@ntelos.net] sent,  
7/1/2003, *Voices In My Heart* - Genealogy Poem

Poem of the Census Taker. Voices In My Heart

It was the first day of census and all through the land  
each pollster was ready...a black book in hand.  
He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride,  
his books and his quills were tucked close by his side.

A long dusty ride down a road barely there,  
toward the smell of fresh bread wafting up through the air.  
The woman was tired, with lines on her face  
and wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place.

She gave him some water as they sat at the table,  
and she answered his questions the best she was able.  
He asked her of children. Yes, she had quite a few.  
The oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.

She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red.  
His sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.  
She noted each person who lived there with pride,  
and she felt the faint stirrings of the wee one inside.

He noted the sex, the color, the age,  
the marks from the quill soon filled up the page.  
At the number of children, she nodded her head,  
and he saw her lips quiver for the ones that were dead.

The places of birth she "never forgot" ...  
Was it Carolina, or Virginia, or Kentucky or not?  
They came from Scotland, on that she was clear,  
But she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.

They spoke of employment, of schooling and such.  
They could read some and write some...though really not much.  
When the questions were answered, his job there was done,  
so he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun.

We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear,  
"May God bless you all for another ten years."  
Now picture a time warp...it's now you and me  
as we search for the people on our family tree.

We squint at the census, and scroll down so slow,  
as we search for that entry from long, long ago.  
Could they only imagine on that long ago day  
that the entries they made would affect us this way.

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

Courtesy of the author Darlene Stevens

## 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 online 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 marvelous 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.

MICHAEL DYE [madye@fuse.net] posted,  
4/12/2003, the following.

To: VARUSSEL-L@rootsweb.com

Subject: Need info on **Early Indian Tribes** for School Report

Penny Fraley Richardson wrote: Can anyone tell me what Indian tribes were responsible for killing the early pioneers in western & southern Virginia about 1750-1780. THANKS.

Penny, The Cherokee were in the area of North Carolina & Tennessee. The Shawnee were in the area of Ohio. Both tribes used far western Virginia as hunting grounds. Most of the attacks on the settlers have been attributed to the Shawnee Indians, but there were probably some by Cherokee also. A good book to have is "Unsettled Sttlements, Indian Forays on the Holston & Clinch Rivers, 1773-1794" by Hamilton, Mullins & Weaver. It includes many of the stories that I have on the website, but there is also other info. You used to be able to get it from Mullins Publishing. I'm not sure if Betty is still selling books now though since John passed away, but you can check and see. I have a link on the website with info on what they had available.



SUNSET SALYER [sunset@mounet.com] posted,  
4/12/2003, the following in response.  
To: VARUSSEL-L@rootsweb.com

**INDIAN ATROCITIES  
ALONG THE CLINCH, POWELL, AND  
HOLSTON RIVERS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA  
1773-1794**

**By Emory L. Hamilton**

The Following is the unpublished manuscript, Indian Atrocities Along the Clinch, Powell and Holston Rivers of Southwest Virginia, 1773-1794, written by the late Emory L. Hamilton. The original manuscript consists of 255 pages and has 99 stories throughout, #59 missing from the original manuscript. For convenience, the individual stories have been seperated below. Special thanks goes to Rhonda Robertson for her contribution of the manuscript for publication on this website.

1. Scouts Patrolled the Sandy Passes to Guard Virginia's Frontier Cabins
2. The First Massacre On Powell's River
3. The Henry Family of Tazewell County Massacred
4. Samuel Lammey Captured on Holston River
5. Two of Captain John Blackmore's Slaves Captured
6. The Killing and Capture of John Robert's Family
7. John Duncan Killed at Moore's Fort by Chief Logan
8. Capture of General Evan Shelby's Negro Girl
9. Dale Carter Killed At Blackmore's Fort
10. The Dreadful Year of 1776 on the Western Waters
11. One Mitchell Killed on the Wilderness Road
12. Killing of Jonathan Jennings's Son and Negro Slave
13. Killing of Samuel Cowan at Houston's Fort
14. Isaac Crissman Killed in Rye Cove
15. The Slaying of John Douglas at Little Moccasin Gap
16. Robert Elsom Killed on Clinch River at Gray's Island
17. Jacob Lewis and Family Killed On Stock Creek
18. Killing of Frederick Mongle
19. Killing of William Henry Creswell
20. Killing of William Parks in Powell Valley
21. Killing of Matthew Rowbottom
22. One Cook Killed in Powell Valley
23. John and Titus Benton Killed in Rye Cove
24. Bowman and Johnson Killed, James Bunch Wounded in Powell's Valley
25. The Capture of Jane Whittaker and Polly Alley
26. Killing of Fanny Napper and Her Children
27. John Evans, Captive
28. The Killing of Humphrey Dickenson
29. Attack on Henry Roberts' Home and Killing of David Roberts
30. Killing of Burton Litton and William Priest at Glade Hollow Fort
31. Captain John Dunkin, Solomon Litton and His Wife Taken Out of Elk Garden by the Indians
32. Killing of Richard Lynam in Powell Valley
33. William Ferrill Killed in New Garden
34. Indian Tragedies Against the Walker Family
35. Samuel Walker Slain, Anne Cowan and William Walker Captured
36. The Killing of the Phillip Phillips Family Near Hunter's Ford
37. Killing of the Starnes Brothers and Michael Moyer
38. Killing of Jesse Evans' Children
39. Massacre of the Roark Family of Tazewell County
40. The Killing of James Coyle
41. Capture of Ann and Mary Bush and Killing of William Dorton

42. Killing of Solomon Kendrick
43. Unnamed Killings in Powell Valley in 1781
44. Four Men Taken Prisoner from Fort Blackmore
45. Capture of Captain Abraham Bledsoe's Son
46. Capture and Rescue of the Ingles Family and Killing of Captain Thomas Maxwell
47. Two Sons of Captain Robert Moffett Captured
48. Eight Horsemen Killed in Powell Valley
49. John Brown Killed in Cumberland Gap
50. Cliff Overton Killed
51. Joshua Butcher and Son and Samuel Pepper Killed in Powell Valley
52. Captain James Maxwell's Two Daughters Killed
53. Slaying of the Halbert McClure Family
54. Killing of Jesse Adams and His Family
55. William Long, The Indian Spy Slain
56. John Ingles Home Attacked Cox and Two Hunters Killed
57. Killing of Joseph Ray & Family Samuel Hughes and Scalping of Ann Neece
58. Unnamed Killings In Tazewell County
60. Unnamed Killings In Powell Valley in 1784
61. Capture of James Moore, Jr., in Abbs Valley
62. Richard Pemberton's Fight With the Indians
63. Two Unnamed Families Killed and Captured in New Garden
64. Combs Family Killed and Captured in New Garden
65. Frederick Fraley's Son Chased by Indians
66. Mrs. John Wallen Killed in Powell Valley
67. Capture of Hugh Logan and (One) Gibson
68. The Tragedy of Wallen's Creek
69. Masscare of Captain James Moore and His Family in Abbs Valley
70. Dial and Thomas Killed In Tazewell
71. Unnamed Killings on Clinch and Holston Rivers
72. The Sugar Hill Massacre
73. John Carter's Family Killed on Clinch
74. Two Carter Boys Taken From Rye Cove
75. Killing of Ambrose Fletcher's Wife and Children
76. Henry Harman's Fight With the Indians
77. Ginsang Diggers Killed on Black Mountain
78. Man Wounded in Powell Valley
79. Killing of Joseph Blackmore's Children
80. Chief Benges' Attack on the House of John Wallen
81. Massacre of Joseph Johnson's Family
82. John Frazier's Son Taken Prisoner
83. Killing of William Whitley
84. The Capture of Jenny Wiley
85. Killing of Captain Isaac Newland's Family
86. The Slaying of the Thomas Osborne Family
87. The Wives of Henry Hamlin Slain
88. Killing on the Kentucky Road
89. Frontier Stations and Conditions in 1791
90. Andrew Davidson's Family Killed
91. Daniel Harman Killed
92. Pendleton and McDowell, Farris and Wharton Families Killed
93. The David Musick Tragedy
94. Harper Ratcliffe Family Killed
95. Four Militia Soldiers from Powell Valley Slain
96. Gilbert Killed - Lusk Taken Prisoner
97. Ensign Moses Cockrell Attacked and Two of His Men Killed
98. Fraley Kills An Indian
99. Killing of John Davidson
100. The Last Indian Raid Upon the Western Frontiers of Virginia  
A History of Robert "Bob" Benge Since Robert Benge was closely tied to many of the above stories, a history of his life is included here.

Findings from the Fullerton Genealogy Study

PAMELA J. DRAKE has posted her master's thesis project on genealogy at:  
<http://psych.fullerton.edu/genealogy/>  
Here are some excerpts.

### A Master's Thesis Project

"We are all related if you look far enough back"  
Introduction Methodology Results

Terms to know when reading this page:

Genealogy--The science of studying family origins, generally utilizing pedigrees.

Genealogist\*--One who collects vital statistics about birth, marriage, and death events and organizes these facts into pedigree charts and family trees.

Family historian\*--One who enriches pedigrees by adding biographical, historical and other contextual information.

Generativity--Concern one has in "establishing and guiding the next generation." (from Erikson's theory of life long development)

Generative action--Behavior that reflects generativity. (e.g., having children, actively preserving and maintaining the family)

Generative concern--Conscious concern with leaving a legacy for the next generation.

Sense of place--The subjective experience of belonging to a social community.

\*The terms "genealogist" and "family historian" will be used interchangeably.

Introduction

According to some sources, genealogy is the number one hobby in the United States<sup>1</sup>. Indeed, the percent of U.S. population interested in family history has increased from 45% in 1996 to 60% in 2000 according to a recent national telephone survey<sup>2</sup>.

Genealogy's popularity is also demonstrated by the number of genealogy-related World Wide Web sites. One search engine showed 7.2 million hits for the term "genealogy" and 1.8 million hits for the phrase "family history."<sup>3</sup>

Although interest in family history appears to be increasing, little is known about who genealogists are and why they pursue this hobby. The goal of this study was to learn more about genealogists and what needs are met by the pursuit of information about one's ancestors. Specifically, the following questions were investigated:

Do individuals prefer the term "genealogist" or "family historian"?

Was the stereotype of genealogists being female and elderly supported by the participants in this study?

What is the average amount of time individuals have been doing genealogical research?

When did the participants start doing their genealogical research?

What are the immigration patterns of the family/ancestors of those who are doing family history research?

Are genealogists generative (i.e., concerned with caring for future generations)?

What is the level of genealogical behavior reported by participants?

What is the relationship between genealogical interest, genealogical behavior, years of participation in genealogy, mobility, generativity, and sense of place?

What variables best predict genealogical interest?

What variables best predict genealogical behavior?

**AN ANIMATED MAP OF THE US** depicting the formation of political units, colonies, territories, states, and counties from 1650 to 1983 is provided.

[www.ac.wvu.edu/~stephan/Animation/us.gif](http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~stephan/Animation/us.gif)

## 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*

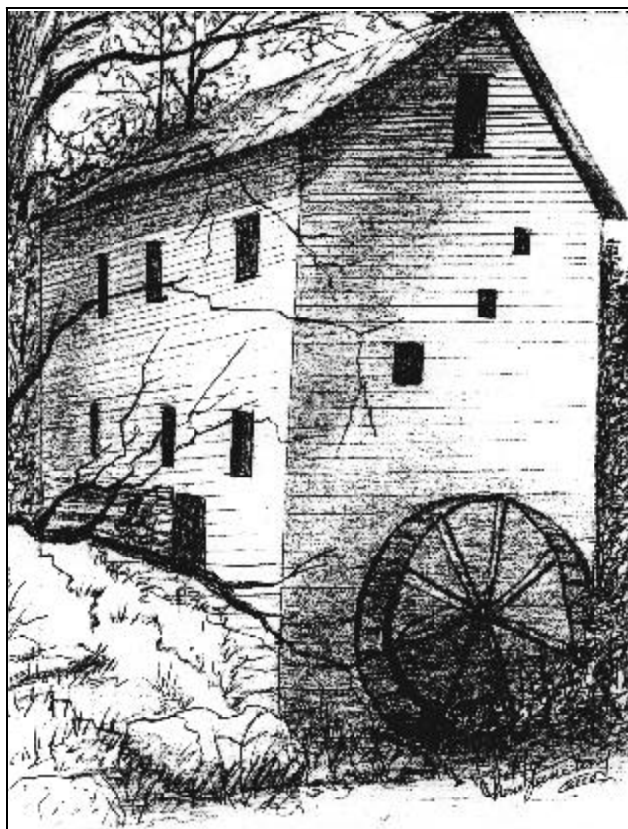
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A rendering of Jessee's Mill by Irene Jessee Perry.

**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 to renew. I am hoping you will respond to renew for the new calendar year, 2004. 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 additional 3donations 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.