

# Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #37

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## Dear Cousin,

This has been another full winter and spring enjoying retirement. Nelda and I even joined a health club, dealing with our increasing bad backs, knees, hip and shoulder issues that are making any travel increasingly difficult for both of us.

I have not been making as much progress doing genealogy as I had hoped, until recently. This spring Nelda and I drove to Salt Lake City, and spent three days at the Family History Center (FHC), the Mecca for genealogists. Meeting with a Jewish specialist, I made progress with my Jewish mother's Bronfeld and Szlamkowicz families from Lublin and Czestochowa, Poland, respectively. Almost all of my mother's family perished in the Holocaust.

Nelda made exciting discoveries on her Meline origins in France, and traced her Tuck family back to 1639 in New Hampshire. We had the pleasure of being in the able guidance of a friend and docent at the FHC, Bob Standing. We also got to meet our cousin Dean Jessee and learned of his much respected work.

We also enjoyed touring the beautiful snow capped country across Nevada, and the National Parks of southern Utah. We met up in Moab, Utah with a dear friend from Chico, Dave Murray, who moved to Colorado and had a happy reunion as we explored the National Parks and restaurants of that area.

I am pleased that we have many new contributions in this newsletter and to our database, including very important corrections of errors and documentation.

If you have not recently checked the Jessee Database at Rootsweb, go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org), look up your kin and see possible new contributions to your line. As always, please provide me corrections, additions, comments and documentation where needed.

Often missing from the data is specific locations, if not complete dates, for births, marriages, and deaths. Please help provide these where missing, especially in the first five generations from John and Frankey Jessee which the JHF hopes to publish some time.

I am excited and gratified every time I extend the descendants for the Jessee family and am always astounded as I see increasing evidence that we are all cousins. My spirits are always uplifted by your letters, e-mails, donations and renewals. Thank you.

Jim Jessee

## Featured This Edition

**THE JESSEE FAMILY REUNION** has been scheduled for August 6 and 7, 2010. See also **JHF NEWS AND VIEWS**. I encourage you to go to the reunion and picnic this year to give them a boost and to help the many out-of-towners I hear will attend. I am trying to get my back better to travel and may yet be there...

This year the **COUNTS FAMILY REUNION** is on the same weekend, and many Jessees are also Counts descendants, so I hope you will also take this in.

I write about **OUR TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY**, where we had the pleasure of doing research at the LDS Family History Center, reuniting with a dear friend, **Bob Standing**, and meeting our cousin **Dean Jessee**.

**SW VIRGINIA FAMILIES** and **OTHER JESSE(E) FAMILIES** include information and news from descendants of other Jesse(e) families, and other prominent SW VA families with whom we share roots and history.

**JESSEE FAMILY ORIGINS** and **JOHN AND FRANKEY LEA JESSEE** and their fifteen children always have contributions of internet. See new information and photos, read heart-warming stories, letters, and meet new cousins inside. We have lots for the **Archer Jessee** family, but still very scant on other branches.

**JIM BRAY** is the hero again of this newsletter. He is a wonderful example of that distant cousin whose random acts of genealogical kindness help us all so much. Jim's contributions are all over the newsletter as he responded to many old questions and concerns, made vital corrections, and provided much new information for several branches of our family.

**JACK HOCKETT** is another hero for our family, even though he is not directly related. He continuously contributes information and documentation for the Jessee family database as he prepares genealogical resource books, and other sources for SW VA genealogists. Find his contributions in several places

**JESSEE'S MILL** has little good news to report. I share the correspondence of **John "Mark" Carter**, a historical mill restoration craftsman, who has offered **Sherman Wallace** help with Jessee's Mill, but who has fallen on hard times himself.

**MISSING LINKS** and **CORRESPONDENCE** has items of interest and requests for help, and **JESSEE RESOURCES** has a few more Web sites for us geeks, and always the immeasurable contributions of **Michael Dye** to SW VA genealogists, too.

# The 2010 National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, August 7, 2010  
10:30 to 5:00 pm in Lebanon, VA  
at the Russell County Conference Center

The 2010 Jessee Family Research Day  
Friday, August 6, 2010  
at the Russell County Library  
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

The Jessee Historical Foundation (JHF) will hold the National Jessee Family Reunion every two years, beginning in 2010. Families are encouraged to have local and regional family reunions in odd-numbered years. The Jessee Family Research Day is held on Friday, preceding the reunion, at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA.

The Jessee Family Reunion and Picnic is held the first Saturday in August every two years, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Jessee Historical Foundation holds its membership meeting during the reunion.

**This year the Jessee Reunion will be held in the new Russell County Conference Center, an air-conditioned facility, at 139 Highland Drive in the Russell County Government Center.** Highland Drive is off of E. Main Street (Bus.Rt. 19) east of downtown Lebanon, the Library and Courthouse.

Please remember to bring a covered dish, enough to feed your family and additional "hungry cousins." You may also bring a your musical instruments, family photos and memorabilia to share.

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 or  
Internet: www.abingdon.com/tourism.

## The Silent Auction Needs You

Plan to participate in the annual silent auction, held during the family reunion on Saturday, to help raise funds for the Jessee Historical Foundation. To make the auction a success, your contributions are needed. Use your imagination to think of items to be contributed. The items for the auctions can be brought to the reunion picnic.

**For picnic and silent auction information contact**

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

# Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

The JHF Board of Directors & Officers  
as of 20 October 2007:

Henry A. Davis, Jr., President  
Mary H. Akers, Vice-president  
Norma J. McHone, Treasurer  
Patricia S. Jessee, Membership Secretary  
Pauline Salyers, Recording Secretary

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Janice J. Tiller, Helen Reedy

## JHF Membership Information

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

Membership will run from reunion to reunion every two years. Dues will be collected by mail and at the biennial reunion in August for the following two years. JHF membership dues may be mailed to the Membership Secretary below at any time. The membership dues are \$10 per person.

There are three categories of membership. Anyone age 81 or older may request free lifetime membership.

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: Non-voting spouses, related family, or friends of a regular member.

3. Junior Member: Non-voting family members under age 18.

**Become a Member:** Simply provide the following information: name, street or PO Box address, city, state, ZIP, phone, e-mail address, and how you are related to the Jessee family or a copy of your Jessee pedigree. Please send your application and check, payable to Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc. for \$10 per person, to the membership secretary, at the following address.

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

## 2010 Counts Family Reunion

**Sunday, August 8th at 10:00 AM  
Bonanza Family Restaurant,  
2243 East Main St., Lebanon, VA**

**As many know, the Jessee family is very much intermarried with the Counts family of Russell County.** George Lea Jessee, one of the 15 children of John and Frankey Lea Jessee married Elizabeth "Betsy" Counts, daughter of John Counts of Glade Hollow, the founder of the Counts Family of SW VA. Many other Jessee and Counts lines have intermarried for over 200 years. To my surprise, I even discovered my wife Nelda is also a Counts descendant.

We are fortunate that the Counts Reunion is on the same weekend as the Jessee Reunion, allowing many of us to attend both events. The Counts Reunion will be on Sunday August 8th, 10 am at the Bonanza Restaurant, and attendees will order from the menu or buffet. For more information about the Counts Family Reunion, or to get on their mailing list, please email Gail Marney at gmarney@yahoo.com.

## Jessee Genealogy Book Proposed by JHF

**The Jessee Historical Foundation is proposing to publish a book on Jessee Genealogy.** I think this is a terrific idea and wrote the following to Hank Davis and Vernon Salyers to share this with the JHF.

Vernon wrote last summer that the Jessee Historical Foundation (JHF) is interested in doing a Jessee Family Genealogy Book, and that he has over 15,000 descendants recorded for John Jessee (1750-1816) and Frankey Lea Jessee (1852-1836), who moved from Caswell County, NC to Russell County, VA in 1790, and established a family of 15 children.

My genealogy records are available at our Website [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org), but the "public" RootsWeb version seen there excludes the names and information of living people. My private database includes full information for living and all I have recorded (I have boxes of data entry to do) about the descendants of John and Frankey's 15 children. My records also include the descendants of Philip and Gabriel Jessee, who settled in Russell County at the same time. I believe Phillip is a brother or cousin of John Jessee.

I welcome your scrutiny of my database and your help with additions and corrections for at least the first three to five generations for both families.

I have over 20,500 direct descendant records for John and Frankey Lea Jessee including their spouses. When you include the spouses' parents and related, I have well over 35,000 records. There are 45,000 total records in my public database which also includes many sons and daughters of other founding SW VA families over many generations.

I am willing to help and contribute my database to this effort. I wrote to Michael Dye that it would be great to compare the databases of major SW VA genealogists, and begin to carefully compare and integrate the databases, as I know we have much overlap and inevitable errors. However, the effort to track down the differences and discrepancies, and just different formats used, not to mention the errors between us, could drive a person bonkers.

I suggest that the JHF produce a book that includes only the first three to five generations at this time. It should include the descendants and related families of the two Jessee family roots in Russell County, John and Phillip Jessee. This will still be a huge book, and we need to carefully consider how to publish so much information and make it interesting, readable, inexpensive and accessible.

The cost of printing could be excessive, so we may just want to consider doing it on a CD or DVD with an index and search tools, too. That still means editing and preparing it like a book, as a PDF file, so it could be printed by someone from the DVD or CD.

As a first goal, we should concentrate on getting the publication's database comprehensive and correct for 4-5 generations from the founders. That just gets us into the time of photography, after the 1840s, for some photos to be included.

I think that each Jessee descendant family might consider picking up at generation four or five, which puts us into and after the Civil War, late 1800s, and do their own book from that time forward. Several branches already have done such. The Stanford Lea Jessee descendants have been well recorded in a book by Marshall Jefferson Jessee. I intend to do the same for my great-grandfather, Col. John Tivis Jessee, CSA VA 29th, who is the fourth generation removed from John and Frankey, via John Jessee, Jr., and his son Joseph. I would like to do this someday for my branch of the family. We have lots of photos after this time.

**ANGIE ROBERTS** posted on varussel@rootsweb.com, 9/18/2009, the following in response to an ongoing Russell County discussion about genealogy research and the use of psychics, if not prayer. This quote is a good inspiration for our work, and blessed be those distant cousins who help us.

*I personally like to think that God appoints someone from each family branch to be the family historian and the nudges are from Him. I love the way He keeps leading me to find the historians in our family that are 2nd and 3rd cousins, who are also the only ones in their family who have been impressed to do the family research.*

Amen, Jim

## Our Trip to Genealogy Mecca--Salt Lake City

In late April, Nelda and I drove to Salt Lake City to attend the National Genealogy Society Conference (NGS), and to do research at the legendary LDS Family History Center, the Mecca for genealogists. We drove across the Sierras, Nevada and Utah enjoying the beautiful scenery and wide open country, as we cruised in our new Prius (I got 46 MPG for the whole 2000 mile trip). We have had an unusual spring, with much needed rain and snow coming very late, even blizzards in April and May. All the mountains of Nevada and Utah were dusted with snow, and the desert was still green. We even had heavy snowfall in Salt Lake City that piled up on our heads and shoulders. After Salt Lake City, we toured the National Parks of Southern Utah. See photo of Nelda and Canyonlands National Park, the beginnings of the Grand Canyon.

We spent three days enjoying the sites and history of the Temple Square area in Salt Lake City, center for the Mormon or Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) Temple, Administration, Archives, Museums, Galleries, and Auditorium. The town was a buzz with genealogists there for the NGS Conference. The huge Salt Palace Conference Center was exciting and the exhibit hall of genealogy software and resources very stimulating.

We spent three days doing research in the Family History Center. My good friend and colleague from Chico State, **Bob Standing** [see top photo of Bob and Jim in snow storm], retired to Ogden, UT and has been a genealogy volunteer at the Center for many years. Not only did he come up and spend two days helping us and showing us around, he arranged for me to meet a specialist in Jewish genealogy too. Nelda and I both learned many new things, and more importantly got many new leads on several of our families, including her Meline and Tuck families, but unfortunately, not much new on the Jessees. The highlight was Bob taking us to a special concert with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and author and speaker David McCollough doing a special program on family history for the National Genealogical Society.

We also planned to meet cousin **Dean Jessee** [see photo on bottom] and had vague directions as to where to find him at work somewhere near Temple Square. With Bob guiding us, we inquired at two or three places. Everywhere they knew well of Dean Jessee, and we quickly got directions to his office. Bob also told us that Dean Jessee was a well known and highly respected scholar and historian who was



the chairman of a major research and multi-volume publication effort by the LDS Church to provide the Joseph Smith papers

We got to meet with Dean Jessee on two different days at the new and beautiful LDS Archive and Church History building. He was most gracious and kind, and gave me a copy of the first volume of his new book from this historical series on Joseph Smith. Dean is one of our most distinguished Jessee scholars. He descends from Archer Jessee and his grandfather's generation, James Ogden Jessee, became Mormons early in the Church's history. Since not many a Jessee actually has a Wikipedia article on him, I thought I would share this one here.

### Dean Cornell Jessee--From Wikipedia

Dean Cornell Jessee[1] (born 1929)[2] is a historian of the early Latter Day Saint movement and leading expert on the writings of Joseph Smith, Jr.

Jessee was one of the sons of Phillip Cornell Jessee and Minerva Boss.[3] He was raised in Springville, Utah as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). He served an LDS mission to Germany.[4]

In 1959, Jessee received his Master of Arts in LDS church history from the College of Religion at Brigham Young University (BYU)[5], writing his thesis on the controversial topic of Mormon fundamentalism (D. Michael Quinn claims BYU restricted access to this paper for several years.[6]) He then taught LDS Seminary for four years at West High School in Salt Lake City.[4]

In his career, Jessee was a respected archivist, editor and historian, as well as an authority on early Mormon handwriting[7]. Davis Bitton called him one of the "[Mormon] historians who are deeply familiar with the sources on Mormon origins [yet] still find it possible to remain in the fold." [8] In addition to his mission, Jessee has served in his local Salt Lake City congregation as a home teacher[9] and counselor of the high priest group,[10] as well as a stake family history coordinator.[11]

Jessee married Margaret June Wood[1] and they had eight children and reside in Salt Lake City.[12] Jessee's younger brother Donald served in the LDS Church as president of the Oregon Portland Mission[13] and as a Regional Representative.[14]

In 1964, Jessee was hired by the Church Historian's Office under Joseph Fielding Smith as an archivist in the church historical archives.[4] While Leonard J. Arrington was researching a book on the Mormon development of western America, he met Jessee in the church archives during 1967. As a cataloguer of manuscripts, Jessee informed Arrington of many useful documents in the archive that historians had not yet studied.[15] Arrington later recalled that at the time Jessee was "Intelligent, well-informed, hardworking, and modest," and that "he knew more about the documents of LDS history than any other person." [16]

In the late 1960s, Jessee was invited by Truman G. Madsen, at BYU's Institute of Mormon Studies, to publish articles on Joseph Smith and early Mormon history in *BYU Studies*. [17] This began Jessee's research and publication in early Mormon manuscripts and historical documents.

In 1972, Leonard J. Arrington became the official Church Historian. He requested the transfer of Jessee from the archives to the new History Division, a newly-created, impressive team of historians for researching and writing of new Mormon histories. [4] One such work, Jessee's 1974 *Letters of Brigham Young to his Sons*, caused Apostle Boyd K. Packer to bring concerns to the First Presidency about the Historical Department's "orientation toward scholarly work," an early sign of the tension that would eventually lead to the History Division's disbandment. [18] Jessee was also assigned by Arrington to locate, collect and transcribe all of Joseph Smith, Jr.'s writings, a work inspired by the Thomas Jefferson Papers of the 1950s and those of other Founding Fathers. [17]

In the 1980s, Jessee was a major player in the Historical Department's examinations of important historical documents produced by Mark Hofmann, which were later found to be forgeries. [19] Jessee was considered the preeminent expert on early Mormon handwriting, especially Joseph Smith's, and he authenticated and defended a number of Hofmann's forgeries, [20] [21] [22] including the famous "Salamander Letter". [23] Hofmann's extensive deception of document and forgery experts led him to be called "unquestionably the most skilled forger this country has ever seen". [24]

Jessee served as a research historian in the church's Historical Department until 1981, when he was transferred to the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History at Brigham Young University (BYU). [25] At BYU, he was also an associate professor of history and LDS Church history. [26]

As a Senior Historical Associate [27] then Senior Research Fellow [28], Jessee served for nineteen years in the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute [25]. During this time he continued his earlier work to produce the papers of Joseph Smith. In 1984, he published most of Smith's own writings and many of his dictations in *The Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*. This research continued to expand into two volumes of *The Papers of Joseph Smith*, one in 1989 on Smith's auto-



biographical and historical writings, and the other in 1992 on Smith's journals. [17]

Jessee's efforts were eventually made an official joint effort of BYU and the LDS Church in 2001, called the Joseph Smith Papers Project. This is intended to be a large multi-volume series, including virtually everything written by Joseph Smith, by his office, or under his direction. [17] That year, Larry H. Miller, a Salt Lake City businessman and philanthropist, began funding the venture. In 2005, Miller announced the goal of completing the project by 2015, "while Dean Jessee is still around", since Jessee was then in his 70s. [29] Jessee is general manager of the project along with Richard Bushman and Ron Esplin. [25]

## SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES

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

**MERRI ALLEN VINTON** [merzi@arvig.net] wrote, 4/20/2010, with this information about the roots of the **Allen Family** of SW VA.

Hi Jim.

Several years ago we communicated about our Allen family in Lee Co Virginia. At that time I questioned that Francis C. Allen was the son of James Allen who married Hannah Hanger. I just wanted you to know my latest findings after another couple of years of research and a trip to the courthouses of Lee & surrounding counties.

I stand firm that Francis C. was the son of John Allen b. ca. 1784 in Virginia & Martha Clark Allen b. ca. 1782 in Charlotte Co, VA. You may recall that a few weeks before he was married, Francis C. received a Gift of Deed from William Wilson for land in Lee Co "for the love and affection he had for his nephew." Francis C. was indeed the "nephew" of Wm. Wilson, but on his mother's side (Clark) not on his father's (Allen). Martha "Patsy" Clark was the daughter of Francis Clark and Nancy Walker. Francis Clark names both Ursley & Patsy and other siblings in his will in Lee Co. Another sister married a WEAVER, one a BISHOP. These names are mentioned in my correspondence with a g-granddaughter of Francis C.'s (Alexander P) a number of years ago as having gone to Nodaway County, Missouri with her grandfather. In my letters from her she identified others who accompanied her Allen family from Lee Co to MO as: Bishops, Sims, Duffs & Larimers. These are names that tie in directly with either Clark or Allen families.

Knowing that there are so many errors/assumptions made in the Early Settlers book by Bales I'm now taking another look at some of the "facts" about James/Hanger family. I do believe there is a very close relationship between John who married Martha/Patsy Clark and James who married Hannah Hanger, and was nearly ready to "conclude" that they were probably brothers until I revisited the records of Claiborne & Lee Counties on my trip. In Claiborne Co from 1801 to 1810 there are 3 Allens: James, John, & William. These folks buy/sell land. Witness other's transactions and appear in Minute books (John & James as co-defendants in one case). I obtained land transactions with a John & Patsy's names as well as another in the name of a James & wife Hannah.

These Allens of Claiborne sell by 1810 and the same names (James, John & William) appear on the 1810 Tax Records of Lee Co. I'm looking closer at James/Hanger migration. Some writings don't place him in Lee Co until the 1830's and others place him in Claiborne Co prior to 1800. That's not to say he didn't go to Claiborne/Lee, go back to Augusta Co, & return again. Could it be that there is another James/Hannah? Could it be that there is another family of Allens connected closely to Allen/Hanger, but not of the same lineage? Who is William Allen? Is the William Allen with James & John a 1/2 brother--son of Fannie Erwin (too young)? Is this William the father of this James & John? Could James/Hanger be in the wrong family group? (There is also another John Allen who married a Martha Clark....they were contemporaries of our John and Quakers, but from what I can tell, different Allen-Clark lines and their children don't match up at all with ours at all--although our Clarks were Quakers at one point.)

I don't know if you are interested in all of this or not...or if I'm just a nuisance! Regardless, let me know if you are still interested in the ALLEN research. I just wanted to let you know that Francis C. was the nephew to Ursley WILSON on the CLARK side and not on the ALLEN.

**DEMAREST AND BROWNING** family descendants should also see the article under Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning.

**WILLIAM FOSTER** [iwasa43fan@yahoo.com] wrote, 4/20/2010, with information regarding the **Davis and Combs** families.

First let me update you. Virginia "Jenny" Davis and Will Minnicks Grandson ( My Father William L Foster Sr ) past away last year . I continue research and have rejoined Ancestry.com. Today I decided to Brain Storm looking back at Sarah Combs possible parents. Looking at Couples going to and from Va to Tenn and back who might qualify as parents. 1st the Combs appear to have alot of Native American blood.

- Name: John Winfred Tilford Combs
- Birth: ABT. 1789 in Washington County, VA
- Death: ABT. NOV 1845 in Posey County, Indiana
- m:a Jinny Jackson
- Married: 15 JUL 1807 in Grainger County, TN
- They returned to Va
- JOHN's parents were
- Father: John Combs b: ABT. 1750 in Stafford County, Virginia
- Mother: Sarah Mabry b: ABT. 1756 in Virginia
- Our Sarah would have been named for her father's mother or John's sister Sarah "Sallie Combs"

Grainger Co is where the Clinch Mountain Blue Grass festival is. The Clinch Mountain Bluegrass Festival in Blaine is the fastest growing bluegrass festival in East Tennessee.

On my Foster side by the way one of my DNA matches is Dr Daniel Foster who was born in East Tenn ( his mother was full Blood Cherokee and somewhere a couple of generations back his Foster Ancestor was a Scottish Foster of my Clan :-> Dan is head of Medical service on The Rose Bud Reservation by the Way. He suggested I look in the Grainger area. Until we met thru the Foster DNA project He had no relatives with a Mustache or Beard.

As I mentioned I use the Swag factor in this research .

## JESSE(E) FAMILY ORIGINS

There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," and "Jessie" families in the United States and Canada that we know are descended from families whose American origins are in Virginia. There are many Jesse, Jessee, Jessie, Jessey and, Gesse, Gessey, Jessup, 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 name, I shall adopt the convention of using "Jesse(e)" in reference to the larger family.

**Please see Newsletter #10 available online at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) 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., Powhatan Co., and Spotsylvania Co., VA, not to mention the Isle of Wight and Devonshire, England.

**FAMILY TREE DNA** includes the Jessee surname in the derivatives of the surname Jessup. A newsletter contributor sent a document from **THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER** that provides a **Family Name History for Jessee**, which also suggest this Jessup/Jessep/Jessop origin as well others. I am inclined to believe the Norman French origin.

**JESSEE:** There are a number of explanations as to the origin of the surname *Jessee*. One is that it is a variant of *Jessep* which is patronymic. This means that it is derived from the first name of a father. In this case *Jessep* is a pronunciation of *Joseph* which itself means 'he shall add'. *Jessee* therefore would simply mean 'son of Joseph'.

Alternatively, *Jessee* may have developed independently of the surname *Jessep* and may mean 'son of *Jesse*.' *Jesse* comes from the Hebrew word meaning 'Jehovah is'. Finally, it is possible that *Jessee* is, in fact, a French surname which was brought into England in the wake of the Norman invasion of 1066. The French '*lessee*' is occupational in origin and developed to describe one who worked on the land. It has its origins in the French word '*gesse*' meaning 'sweet pea'.

An early record of the surname in England includes one Joan Jessop who is mentioned in the Subsidy Halls in Suffolk in the year 1524. Much earlier, in 1379, John Jesup appeared in the Poll taxes for Yorkshire.

Notable bearers of this surname are Fryniwyd Tennyson Jesse an English novelist and playwright and a grand-niece of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Also John Heneage Jesse (1815 - 1874) an English historian who wrote the Court Memoirs of King George III.

### John Jessee Male Line

I submitted my DNA to FamilyTreeDNA.Com, under the Jessup surname project, which includes our *Jesse*, *Jessie*, and *Jessee* surnames as variants. If indeed my *Jessee* male line is unbroken, then all John *Jessee* male descendants should have the same. The *Jessee* Y DNA Haplogroup is R1b1b2.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia and FamilyTreeDNA resources. In human genetics, Haplogroup R is a Y-chromosome DNA haplogroup, a subgroup of haplogroup P, associated with the M207 mutation.

Origins: It is believed to have occurred somewhere in Central Asia between 30,000 and 35,000 years ago.

Distribution: The majority of members of haplogroup R belong to the Haplogroup R1, defined by marker M173. R1 is very common throughout Europe and western Eurasia. Its distribution is believed to be associated with the re-settlement of Eurasia following the last glacial maximum. Its main subgroups are R1a (SRY1532) and R1b (M343). One subclade of haplogroup R1b, R1b1b2-M269, is the most common haplogroup in Western Europe. [We in fact descend from Cro-Magnon man-Jim].

The above assures us that our *Jessee* male ancestors were of recent European origin, with high probability that our *Jessee* male ancestors came from the British Isles. England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales are all in the hunt.

### Frankey Lea Jessee Female Line

If we can find a daughter of a daughter of a daughter only descendant of one of the seven daughters of John and Frankey Lea *Jessee*, we can discover Frankey's Mitochondrial DNA heritage, and determine if Frankey has European, Indian or Melungeon origins.

### RICHARD JESSE

**Richard Jesse** was born in 1768 in Middlesex Co., VA, and married Frances (Chowning). Their descendants have been provided to the *Jessee* Family database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) by **Donald R. Coleman**.

### SAMUEL JESSE

**Samuel Jesse**, born abt 1770, who married Catherine George, is another distinct *Jesse* family in America that we report on from time to time. I have 11 children recorded.

### WILLIAM JESSE

**William Jesse**, born before 1745, we speculate had at least four children that we have recorded, John, Lucy, Thomas, and Elizabeth *Jesse*.

### JOHN AND CLIA (SMITH) JESSE

**Descendants of John and Clia (Smith) Jesse, and two of their sons, especially William Morgan Jesse, are well documented in the book, *The Jesses, 1601-1928* prepared by J. S. Jesse.**

**HARRY AND BEVERLY JESSE SHUPTRINE** in their book *William Morgan Jesse and His Descendants* (July, 1995. Revised August, 1996), Gateway Press, Inc., of Baltimore, Maryland, August 1995, detail over 6200 descendants of William Morgan *Jesse*. This book is a major revision to and update of *The Jesses, 1601-1928* by J. S. *Jesse*.

I get steady inquiries and bits of additional information from descendants of this *JESSE* family. We owe so much to the work of Harry and Bev *Jesse* Shuptrine, but due to health reasons they have retired from genealogy. I will continue to provide updates for this family in the database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org).

**TROY JESSE** [dr.jesse.phd@gmail.com] wrote, 7/3/2009 regarding John *Jessee*, 1766, VA.

Hi Jim, I just joined up on Ancestry.com, and got as far back as John *Jesse*, 1766-1808. I am a descendant of Thomas Hall, brother of William Morgan *Jesse*. I can't find any easy information on John or Clia - just read that even William Morgan did not remember his parents that well. Any help or contacts are appreciated.

### PHILLIP AND RACHEL JESSEE

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

Gabriel *Jessee* descendants Irene *Jessee* Perry, Janice *Jessee* Tiller, Carl *Jessee*, and the late J.C. and wife Nellie *Jessee* have been generous supporters and stalwart workers who have helped establish the *Jessee* Family Foundation and volunteer for many other Russell County history, cemetery restoration, and genealogy projects. For their work, we thank them.

## 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 Jessee descendants and highlight news and significant contributions regarding each of their fifteen children.

### John Jessee Research

I have wondered when would come the day that someone would seriously question if our John Jessee is the same John Jesse or Jessey who served as a musician in Yarborough's Regiment, NC Continental Army or in any capacity during the War. I can feel the shudder across the family, as all John Jessee-based DAR and SAR applications are dependent upon this fact. Our master researcher and chief myth debunker, Tom Rudder, has dared to ask the question and has been researching it for some time. The Winter 2007 Newsletter outlined the facts as Tom presented them. Tom has girded his loins to go public with the question to the family. Can we prove or not that our John Jessee is the same John Jesse/Jessey who is listed in Yarborough Regiment, or even served at all? And of course, we do not have any proof, only speculation about John Jessee's heritage, when and where he was born, his parents, etc.

**TOM RUDDER** [ruddert@sbcglobal.net] wrote, 1/17/2009, with further details on his thesis that our John Jessee may not have been a soldier at all.

Jim, I see that you have my doubts about John being in the NC Military during the Rev War in your Newsletter. I once sent you an article on "The Warrenton Army Frauds" about the use of names of people who were paid for time in service for which they never did. It was quite long and you probably didn't read it all.

From the article, "This process allowed one man to present the account of several former soldiers, draw their due bills and certificates, and then, after subtracting his fee, give the original claimant his money." As you can see this allowed one man to submit the names of many individuals whether they served or not. This article goes on to say that 65% of the names could not be found in the North Carolina military records.

I think I told you before that I checked all the North Carolina Military records at the National Archives and found no John Jesse(e). So the facts are that even if the name "John Jesse(e)" had been in Pierce's Register, the odds would be 2 to 1 against that John Jesse being in the North Carolina military at all. And when you consider the fact that not one of his descendants (children) filed for pension benefits for his Rev War service they had to have known that he was not in the Rev. War. No man with a wife and 4 kids would have spent a year in the Continental Army any way.

The article also said that by the time Pierce came to North Carolina the state had already paid most of the soldiers what was owed them, which would mean that Pierce's North Carolina list would have been greatly inflated. Tom

## Frankey Lea Research

The 2006 research of the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde speculates that Frankey is the daughter of George Lea, son of William Lea and Lucy Tolbert, born in 1761. This is one of the possible candidates we have outlined on the Frankey Lea record in the database, that we have found through much mutual research. If true, it would mean she is the *granddaughter* of William Lea and Mary Barnett, not their daughter, as I and others speculate. It would mean she was 14 when she married John at 25. I do not see the alignment of names and other characteristics to make this the leading candidate to be our Frankey Lea.

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

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

**NEW:** In my exploration at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City this spring, I found that another Jessee researcher had identified Frankey Lea's mother as Mary Archer. While I have always believed this to be the case, and the origin of Archer Jessee's name, I did not see any evidence or proof.

All of the above needs continued research and proof. We ask for research help and contributions.



## JOHN AND FRANKEY'S CHILDREN

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

### I. John Jessee, Jr.

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

**ROBIN JUDITH AND ROBERT MACE** [[epsiloncomputing@yahoo.com](mailto:epsiloncomputing@yahoo.com)] wrote, 10/11/2009 with this information regarding her grandparents, **Tessie and Newton Jessee**, descendants of John Jr., Jefferson, and Stanford Lea Jessee. To my pleasure, Robin and her brother Ralph, as well as husband Robert, all have become Facebook Farmville neighbors. It has been a pleasure getting to know them this way, too.

My name is Robin Judith Palmer Mace. My twin brother is Ralph Joseph Palmer. We are the children of Reville Virginia Jessee Palmer. Our grandparents are Tessie Elizabeth Childress Jessee and Newton (John) Roy Jessee. Our aunts and Uncles, (all of which have passed away), are in order of age: Archie Jessee, Charlott Jessee West, Reville Jessee Palmer (mother), Quinton John Jessee, Morris Burns Jessee, Sonia Jesse Fries, and Betty Jane (Lou) Jessee. My brother and I just turned 53 last month. I did a geneology search yesterday and found this website, as well as information that you had previously acquired. Your earlier efforts made my search easy. I was able to trace my Grandmother Tessie all the way back to Abraham Childers/Childress "The viking emigrant". I had my grandfather's chart from a search that my Aunt Sunny (Sonia Fries) had acquired back in 1994. The Jessee chart I have goes back to John Jessee born 1750. I just thought that you might want this extra information. And I want to thank you for making my search a lot easier than I thought it would be.

**JACK HOCKETT** [[tlas101@aol.com](mailto:tlas101@aol.com)] sent this, 5/31/2010, regarding **Martha Alice Jessee**, daughter of **Joseph Bishop Jessee**, who married **Granville Musick**. Note all the errors in this information below. See Archer Jessee discussion for more on Jack's immense contributions to our database.

Scott Co Death in Sullivan TN  
Name: Alice Jessie Music  
Gender: Female  
Burial Date: 04 Mar 1942  
Burial Place: Rfd Rogerville, Tenn.  
Death Date: 02 Mar 1942  
Death Place: Kingsport, Sullivan, Tennessee  
Age: 82  
Birth Date: 14 Nov 1859  
Birthplace: Scott County, Virginia  
Occupation: Housewife  
Race: White  
Marital Status: Widowed  
Spouse's Name: G.G. Music  
Father's Name: Joseph Jesse  
Father's Birthplace: Scott County, Virginia  
Mother's Name: Amy Brown  
Mother's Birthplace: Russell County, Virginia  
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: B06473-1  
System Origin: Tennessee-EASy  
Source Film Number: 1876909  
Reference Number: 6767  
Collection: Tennessee Deaths and Burials, 1874-1955

## II. Archer Jessee

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

Archer is variously referred to as Archa, Arch-able, Archibald in various family pedigrees and other sources. It is my opinion that his name is Archer, and I further speculate that Archer was the surname of his grandmother, or g-grandmother, perhaps in the Lea family. Furthermore, his three wives are buried with him in the Archer Jessee Cemetery, and their stones indicate each as the wife of Archer.

**JIM & NANCY BRAY** [[nancyb1@embarqmail.com](mailto:nancyb1@embarqmail.com)] wrote, 7/19/2009, regarding **Tyler Frazier Jessee**, son of **Benjamin Franklin Jessee**, a grandson of Archer.

I found a Tyler Frazier Jessee in my database. He was b. 14 Aug 1883 Russell Co, VA d. Aug 1973 Paris, Lamar Co, TX. His parents were Benjamin Franklin Jessee(b. Oct 1853 RCV d. after 1930 prob Lamar Co, TX) & Susan Jane Daughterty(b. Apr 1860 RCV d. bef 1930 prob Lamar Co, TX).

I also show that Tyler had at least 3 brothers(Garland B., Charles V.& Lloyd) & 2 sisters(Mary E.& Loula). Benjamin's parents were William Jessee(b.1801) & Eunice Habern(b. abt 1819). William's parents were Archer Jessee(1776-1862) & Nancy Browning(1781-1826)

Benjamin Franklin Jessee is listed in the 1900 thru 1930 Lamar Co, TX census. 1900 Justice precinct 1, Lamar Co, TX census #327-B. F. Jesse b. Oct 1853 VA VA/VA & Susan Jesse b. Apr 1860 VA VA/VA with 6 children:T. F. b. Aug 1893 VA, G. B. b. Feb 1886 VA, Mary E. b. Oct 1888 VA, Lula b. Nov 1890 TX, Charlie b. Jan 1893 TX & Loyd b. Nov 1897 TX/msrried 19 yrs/7 children/ 6 still alive.

1910 Blossom, Lamar Co, TX census #43-Benjamin F. Jessee b. 1853 VA VA/VA & Susan J. Jessee b. 1868 VA VA/VA with 3 children:Garland B. b. 1885 VA, Loula b. 1891 TX & Charlie b. 1894 TX/married 30 yrs/8 children/5 still alive/ farmer/rents home

1920 Justice precinct 4, Lamar Co, TX census #267-B. F. Jessee b. 1857 VA VA & Susan J. Jessee b. 1862 VA VA parents VA/farmer/owns home with 1 child: Charlie b. 1895 TX 1930 Paris, Lamar Co, TX census #444-Ben F. Jessee b. 1853(wd) VA VA/VA

Benjamin Franklin Jessee also had a brother-Lilburn Monroe Jessee whose family shows up in the 1910 & 1920 Lamar Co, TX census. 1900 Justice precinct 1, Lamar Co, TX census #-L. M. Jesse b. Dec 1854 VA VA/VA & C. E. Jesse b. Aug 1859 VA VA/VA with 10 children:L. M.(f) b. Mar 1893 VA, W. A.(m) b. Jan 1885 VA, J. A.(m) b. Mar 1886 VA Girty b. Feb 1887 VA, Earl b. May 1888, Nola(m) b. Aug 1889 VA, Arvel b. May 1890 VA, Emory b. Apr 1893 TX, Katie b. Jan 1896 TX, & Baylor b. Aug 1898 TX/married 18 yrs/10 children/10 still alive

1910 Justice precinct 1, Lamar Co, TX census #240-L. M. Jessee b. 1861 VA VA/VA & C. E. Jessee b. 1862 VA VA/VA with 8 children:J. A. b. 1889 VA, Earl b. 1891 VA, C. N. b. 1893 TX, L. H. b. 1896 TX, Katie b. 1898 TX, Bolsa? b. 1901 TX, Gracie b. 1902 TX & Rosa B. b. 1904 TX/married 27 yrs/12 children/11 still alive/farmer/owns home

1920 Jeter, Choctaw Co, OK census #284-Wilburn Jesse b. 1861 VA VA/Ireland & Christine E. Jesse b. 1862 VA TN/VA with 1 child:Rosa B. b. 1904 TX/farmer/ lives next to son James A. Jesse.

**JIM & NANCY BRAY** [[nancyb1@embarqmail.com](mailto:nancyb1@embarqmail.com)] wrote, 7/25/2009, with information on Jim's grandmother, **Florine (Flora) Ellen Burke** wife of **Samuel Vince Jessee**, and his own pedigree.

My grandmother was Florine(Flora) Ellen Burke(9 Jan 1887-8 Aug 1951). Her middle name is Ellen not "G." as listed in your database. In

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
County Jackson  
Township Kaw Registration District No. 599 File No. 6571  
or Village ..... Primary Registration District No. 3002 Registered No. ....  
or City Kansas City (No. 3246 Gillham Rd. St. .... Ward) (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)  
2 FULL NAME Joseph Crabtree

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX M. 4 COLOR OR RACE W. 5 SINGLE MARRIED WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (If write the word) Married

6 DATE OF BIRTH July 31, 1846  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE 69 yrs. 6 mos. 17 ds. If LESS than 1 day.....hrs. or.....min.?

8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Chief Engineer  
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) Stationery, P.O.

9 BIRTHPLACE (City or town, State or foreign country) Virginia

PARENTS

10 NAME OF FATHER John Crabtree

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (City or town, State or foreign country) Unknown

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Matilda Jessie

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (City or town, State or foreign country) Unknown

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE  
(Informant) Mrs. Mary Crabtree  
(Address) 3246 Gillham Rd.

15 Filed FEB 17 1916 1916 Paul Regum Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH Feb. 17, 1916  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from Feb 16, 1916 to Feb 16, 1916, that I last saw him alive on Feb 16, 1916, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 12:35am  
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows  
Stroke. Father.  
(Duration) 50 yrs. .... mos. .... da.  
CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) .....  
(Signed) J. Robinson M. D.  
1916 (Address) 2150th St. Bldg

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents)  
At place of death 25 yrs. .... mos. .... ds. In the 31 yrs. .... mos. .... da.  
Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? .....  
Former or usual residence.....

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Washington DATE OF BURIAL 7-15-18, 1916

20 UNDERTAKER Burman's Sons ADDRESS 2111 G 9th St

census records her middle initial was E.& on her death certificate her maiden name was listed as Florine Ellen Burke. She died at University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville, VA. She is buried in Russell Memorial Cemetery, Lebanon, VA. Florine married Samuel Vince Jessee 9 Feb 1910 in RCV. Sam is also buried in the Russell Memorial Cemetery in Lebanon.

Her parents are in your database but are not linked. Flora was the d/o John George Burke #I12788 (b. 11 Mar 1836 Elk Garden, RCV d. 11 Nov 1908 RCV) & Sarah "Sallie" Gilmer #I12477 (b. 4 Mar 1836 Elk Garden, RCV d. 11 May 1909 RCV). Sarah was the d/o Cummings Gilmer. Both John George & Sarah Burke are buried in Fleming Burk(e) Cem., Elk Garden, Russell Co, VA.

A few more items-my mother's (Margaret Burke Jessee) dod is 7 Feb 1975 not 8 Feb 1975. Margeret Burke Jessee married James D. Bray, Sr on 18 Jan 1947 in Bristol, Sullivan Co, TN. My father was the s/o William Clinton Bray (1896-1969) & Lillie Belle Church (1897-1999).

My parents died in Sullivan Co, TN & are buried at Oakhill Cemetery, Kingsport, Sullivan Co, TN. They had 2 children: James David Bray, Jr b. 2 Sep 1948 & William Vince Bray b. 29 Jan 1953. I am married to Nancy L. Mann b. 8 Jan 1959 & have 2

daughters-Jessie Nichole Bray b.20 Feb1981 & Jaime Elizabeth Bray b. 20 Feb 1987.

JACK HOCKETT [Tlas101@aol.com] is a regular contributor of information and essential documentation for SW VA historians and genealogist, and most helpful to our family database, often with the pick and shovel work, one person at a time. On these pages you will find two examples of very many documents sent to me as digital images by Jack. These are Missouri Death Certificates for Matilda Jessee, daughter of John and Mary (Gose) Jessee, son of Archer, who married John T. Crabtree, and Virginia Merle (Kiser) Jessee who married Archer Edward Jessee, Grandson of Archer Jessee. This is the nuts and bolts of genealogy research. Thank you, Jack

Registration District No. **388**

Primary Registration District No. **6175**

Registrar's No. **17**

1. PLACE OF DEATH:  
(a) County **Sullivan**  
(b) City or town **Harris Liberty Twp**  
(If outside city or town limits, write "RURAL" and name of township)  
(c) Name of hospital or institution:  
(If not in hospital or institution, write street number or location)  
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution \_\_\_\_\_ (Specify whether  
In this community **60 years** years, months or days)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:  
(a) State **Mo** (b) County **Sullivan**  
(c) City or town **Harris Rural**  
(If outside city or town limits, write "RURAL")  
(d) Street No. **Liberty Twp**  
(If rural, give location)  
(e) Citizen of foreign country? **Mo** (Yes or No)  
If yes, name country \_\_\_\_\_

3. (a) PRINT FULL NAME **Virginia Marie Jessee**  
3. (b) If veteran, name war \_\_\_\_\_ 3. (c) Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION  
20. DATE OF DEATH: Month **May** day **3**  
year **1947** hour **5** minute **45** P. M.

4. Sex **F** 5. Color or race **w** 6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced **Married**  
6. (b) Name of husband or wife **A.E. Jessee** 6. (c) Age of husband or wife if alive **61** years  
7. Birth date of deceased **Aug 3 1886**  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from **4-20-1947** to **5-3-1947**  
that I last saw her alive on **4-30-1947**  
and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.

8. AGE: Years **60** Months **9** Days **0** If less than one day  
hr. min.

Immediate cause of death **Organic heart disease (mitral regurg)**  
Due to \_\_\_\_\_  
Due to \_\_\_\_\_

9. Birthplace **Sullivan Co Mo**  
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

Other conditions (include pregnancy within 3 months of death) \_\_\_\_\_  
Major findings: \_\_\_\_\_  
Of operations \_\_\_\_\_  
Of autopsy \_\_\_\_\_

10. Usual occupation **Farmer wife**

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:  
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) Date of occurrence \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State) \_\_\_\_\_  
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Industry or business **Farmer wife**

While at work (Specify type of place) \_\_\_\_\_ (e) Means of injury \_\_\_\_\_

12. Name **Hawkins Kaiser**

23. Signature **J. C. Weston** (M.D. or other) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address **Salt Mo** Date signed **5-4-47**

13. Birthplace **Russell Co Va**  
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

14. Maiden name **Nancy Bege**

15. Birthplace **Sullivan Co Mo**  
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

16. (a) Informant **A.E. Jessee**  
(b) Address **175141 Mo**

17. (a) **burial** (b) Date thereof **5-5-47**  
(Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month) (Day) (Year)

18. (a) Signature of funeral director **Silva**  
(b) Address **175141 Mo**

19. (a) **June 15 47** (b) **Srita Caldwell**  
(Date received local registrar) (Registrar's signature)

(Licensed Embalmer's Statement on Reverse Side)

WRITE PLAINLY—USE UNFADING BLACK INK—MAKE A PERMANENT RECORD

DAVE CONOVER [dave@conovergenealogy.com] wrote to me, 1/14/2010, with information of interest to Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning descendants, particularly about the pedigree of Nancy Browning. Her pedigree is very extensive, largely because of the Demarest connection with her grandmother, Elizabeth Demarest, who married John Browning.

I thought you might find the attached of some value in your research. You along with three others have a lot of information. The attachment [information found on the Websites below] combines the information as well as that of other sources.

Dave Conover, West Jordan, Utah

dave@conovergenealogy.com  
http://www.conovergenealogy.com/  
http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/%7Econover/conover-p/

I wrote in response: I visited your Website, and thank you for such a treat. What beautiful country you live in. This is a huge amount of work here.

Thank you for sharing it. It will take me some time to go through it. May I share this communication in the Jessee Newsletter, too? Who are the three other researchers with Archer Jessee descendants information that you reference? Dave responded.

I can't remember one of them, the other two are Don Sanford and Phillip Walker. Both are on Rootsweb. I am a Demarest Descendant. Many years ago I worked with a girl to make the Browning-Demarest connection. It was for this reason I did the Archibald Jessee update. Diane and I moved from Maryland to Utah in December 2002. I enjoy the dry air and don't miss the humidity back east one bit. I had visited Salt Lake five times to do genealogy work and decided this is where I wanted to go and retire.

JIM & NANCY BRAY [nancyb1@embarqmail.com] wrote, 7/22/2009 regarding several corrections for Elizabeth "Puss" Jessee (b.1841) d/o Vincent Jessee (b. 1800). I have since corrected the Jessee database. This kind of help and documentation is invaluable, and I say thank you.

Jim, In my database I have only 1 marriage for Elizabeth Jessee(b. 1841) d/o Vincent Jessee (1800-1877), & that was to Samuel David Williams s/o George Calhoun Williams & Elizabeth Davenport.

You have an add'l marriage for her in your database to Charles Wesley Horn(b. abt 1831) s/o Nicholas & Nancy Horn, which I believe is not correct for this Elizabeth. Perhaps you may need to check your sources for this Charles Wesley Horn marriage in your database. My research indicates Elizabeth Jessee (b.1841) d/o Vincent Jessee(b.1800) had only 1 marriage to Samuel David Williams.

Michael Dye's Russell Co website marriage records indicate on 20 Sep 1855 Charles W. Horn(b. abt 1834) Scott Co, VA s/o Nicholas & Nancy Horn married Elizabeth Jessee (b. abt 1837) Russell Co, VA d/o David & Martha Jessee. In your database you also have a Charles W. Horn(1831-1862) married to Elizabeth Jessee(b.1837) d/o David "Little Dave" Jessee. Russell Co VA.

Add'l information-census summary, etc for Samuel Williams & Elizabeth Jessee (b. 1841)

1850 Russell census indicated Elizabeth Jessee(b. 1841) was living in Vincent Jessee Household. Samuel Williams & Elizabeth Jessee lived on adjoining farms in childhood. Both not in parents household in 1860.

1860 Russell census indicated Samuel was age 25 & Elizabeth was age 20 married within past year. William was farmer. Household # 69. Live 2 household from brother Charles C. Jessee(23) # 71.

1870 Russell Co, VA census-Samuel Williams b. 1834 & Elizabeth Williams b. 1841 with 4 children: Mary b. 1862, Laura b. 1863, Sarah b. 1868, & Rachel b. 1869/ Live next to Samuel parents.

In 1877 Elizabeth's father willed 40 acres on Cedar Creek to her. Samuel Williams inherited land adjoining Elizabeth's 40 acres.

1880 Lebanon, Russell Co, VA census Samuel age 45 b. VA parents b. VA & Elizabeth age 40 b. VA parents b. VA with 8 children: Mary(18), Laura(16), Sarah(14), Rachel(11), Charles(8), Nancy(5), Harriett(3), Lucy(1). Sister Hannah Williams age 49 b. VA also lives in household. p. 85A.

1900 Lebanon, Russell Co, VA census Samuel age 65(Oct 1834) b. VA parents b. VA & Elizabeth age 59(Nov 1841) b. VA parents b. VA with 3 children : Carrie C.(32) Mar 1868, Charles (28) May 1872, & Dolly (15) Jun 1884. Hannah William, sister, age 64 Feb 1836 & 2 grandchildren: Brittck William b. Apr 1893 & Edmund R. Williams Apr 1896 live in household(Brittck & Edmund were Garretts not Williams). Samuel was a farmer & he & Elizabeth had been married 41 years. Elizabeth had 10 children with 8 still alive. Both Samuel & Elizabeth could read & write. Household # 190/3 households from Elizabeth's brother -Vincent Jessee.

1910 Lebanon, Russell Co, VA census#235- Sam D. Williams b. 1835 VA & Elizabeth Williams b. 1842 VA with 1 child:Dollie b. 1886 VA/ married 51 yrs b. VA farmer/Also listed grandsons- Brisco Garrett b. 1893 VA & Edmon K. Garrett b. 1896 VA/farmer/owns home

1920 Russell Co, VA census-Elizabeth Williams(widow) b. 1841 living family of her son Charles Williams b. 1872

Addl info- census for Charles W. Horne & Elizabeth Jessee (b. 1837)

1860 Wise Co, VA census #707-Charles W. Horn b. 1832 VA & Elizabeth Horn b. 1837 VA with 3 children:Nicholas F. b. 1856 VA, Martha C. b. 1858 VA, & David P. b. 1870(3 mo) VA/

**The following is very important information and corrections for me, again from Jim Bray. I have updated my database with the information below, including the correct marriage of William Jessee to Sarah Miller in Oregon, not Nancy Snapp. William is one of the earliest Jessees to go West. I thank you for helping us discover this California Gold Rush and Oregon pioneering family. William's parents are Vincent & Elizabeth Candler Jessee. Vincent is a son of Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning.**

**JIM & NANCY BRAY [nancyb1@embarqmail.com] wrote, 7/23/2009, with this information and corrections regarding William Jessee of Oregon s/o Vincent Jessee (b.1800)**

Jim, While researching William Jessee(b.1830) s/o Vincent Jessee(b.1800)& Elizabeth Candler I came across this Feb 2005 email.

From: Clyde M Senger [mailto: <mailto:sengercm@juno.com> sengercm@juno.com], Sent: Friday, February 25, 2005, Subject: William Jessee of Oregon

While working on a web page on James Pearl descendants, I was researching a William Jessee of Linn Co Oregon 1860-1870. He listed his personal wealth at \$1000 in 1860 which suggests he may have been in the California gold rush and thus might be the son of Vincent (1800 VA) that you mention on the Jessee Genealogy Service family tree at Ancestry. Also, he names his son Vincent. I am still working on the web page but am finished with the Jessee part as far as I know. Feel free to utilize this information if you wish.

You mention a marriage to Nancy SNAPP ca 1850 but gave no details and I could not identify William in the 1850 census. Have you? <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~sengercm/pmil.html>

Mr Sanger website indicated Vincent Jessee married 23 Dec 1861 Linn Co, OR to Sarah Miranda MILLER, born 3 June 1845 (cp) or 1844? (calc) Union Co IN (cp), died 19 Nov 1871 age 27y 5m 16d Linn Co OR (cem), interred Brownsville Pioneer Cemetery Linn Co OR (cms)

My compiled information & census data on William Jessee:

1850 Russell census indicated William age 20 living with parents-Vincent & Elizabeth Jessee.

1860 Linn Co, OR census p.316B William Jesse age 28 w/personal property \$1,000 & is farm laborer b.VA. living in household #324 of Perry Evans (25) & Evans family (wife & 4 children). The adjoining family household # 325 was Enoch Miller & family which included Sarah Miller age 14 b. IN who would be William Jessee's future wife.

A daughter who died in 1867 was buried in the Halsey Pioneer Cemetery which is just west of Brownsville, OR. His wife Sarah, who remarried, was buried in the Brownsville Pioneer Cemetery, located just NE of Brownsville, in 1871. I would assume that William Jessee is died between 1867-1870 & is buried in an (UM) grave probably near Brownsville. Brownsville, located in the Willamette Valley along the Calapooia River, was settled in 1846 & became a town in 1853. Brownsville is surrounded by flat agricultural fields to the west & forested hills to the east.

dod-Will of Vincent Sr dated in 1876 mentions heirs of son William, deceased.

Sarah Jessee(wd) remarried Silas Keeney(wd) 10 Mar 1870 whose wife Malinda Pearl Keeney d. 8 Jun 1869

1870 Sand Ridge, Linn Co, OR census #70- Silas Keeny b. 1832 MO & Sarah M. Keeny b. 1844 MO with 5 Keeny & 3 Jessee children:(Keeny children)Mary J. b. 1857 OR, Elizabeth C. b. 1860 OR,Martha U. b. 1862 OR, Sarah C. b. 1864 OR & Laura M. b. 1866 OR; (Jessee children) Vincent b. 1862 OR, Amanda b. 1864 OR, & Mary O. b. 1866 OR/(children listed with last name Vincent in error) \$3,000 real estate/\$600 personal property/farmer

Sarah died 19 Nov 1871(27y 5m 16d) & Silas died 17 May 1875 & by 1880 census the 3 Jessee children were living in 3 different households in Linn Co, OR.

In your database you indicate Nancy Snapp b. aft 1830 d/o William A.Snapp & Priscilla Price was the wife of William Jessee & that William & Nancy Jessee had a child-Vincent. Do you have any sources for this marriage?

William Jessee was unmarried living with his parents in 1850. The William Jesse in the 1860 Linn Co, OR census was unmarried. Nancy Snapp should have been in William A. & Priscilla Snapp's household in Russell Co in 1850, but she was not. I could not find a Nancy Snapp in William A. Snapp's household in the 1840 thru 1860 census as follows:

1840 Russell census-p.24 line 20 William Snapp 030001-000001 age 30-40 & wife 30-40 with 3 males 5-10.

1850 Russell census-#906 William A. age 47 b. TN & Priscilla age 46 b. Russell Co with 5 children: William D.(20), Elkany D.(20), Benjamin P.(13), Christopher A.(7), & Catherine(5).

1860 Russell census # 1107 Wm A. age 56 & Priscilla age 56 w/ 4 children: William D.(29), Benjamin P.(25), Christopher A.(17), & Catherine(15).

Is it possible that information in the Vincent Jessee(1800-1877) Will was misread (see below)? "Nancy Snapp & heirs of William Jessee deceased" could have been misread to mean that Nancy Snapp was William Jessee's widow. But this Nancy Snapp in the Will was actually William's sister, Nancy Jessee b.1832 who married William Delaney Snapp s/o William A. Snapp & Priscilla Price on 4 Jun 1861 in Russell Co, VA. Based on my research, I do not believe that William Jessee was ever married to a Nancy Snapp.

Will Book 4, pg. 75 Russell Co, VA Will of Vincent Jessee Sr: First to my son Vincent Jessee I will my home farm 200 acres & the balance of my Carter land & 12 acres known as my Fugate land. Vincent is to pay back to the estate \$1,300 in 4 equal payments in 1, 2, 3, 4 years. 2nd-to my son Archer S. Jessee 180 acres where he lives, he is to pay \$800 to my estate in 4 years. 3rd- I give to John T. Jessee, Francis B. Jessee, Thomas J. Jessee, Charles C. Jessee, David L. Jessee, Nancy Snapp & the heirs of William Jessee deceased, his share, daughter Elizabeth Williams 40 acres on Cedar Creek.

Executors: Vincent Jessee Jr & Leonard S. Hargis Nov 30, 1876 & sealed by Vincent Jessee; Witnesses-Lafayette Gilmer & George W. Williams; Probated 6 Mar 1877

I hope this information is not too confusing, but I'm trying to get our databases to agree in case a Jessee Genealogy book is written sometime in the future. Thanks, Jim Bray

**ARYEH WETHERHORN** [elisha6@bezeqint.net] wrote, 11/5/2009 with information about the family of **Ballard P. Jessee**, son of **Conley Trigg Jessee**.

I've been looking into my family records and found that a Mary Obrien (b 1901) married Ballard P. Jessee around 1920. They were living with her parents and he was an engineer at the Charleston Navy Yard. Your data base shows them with a daughter, Mary, born 12 May 1920. (I think we match up to here).

I haven't been able to locate others from that branch, although it's possible that Mary Jessee Biering, whose 2004 obit you also have, has an aunt, Rita Rourk, related to my side of this family. Mary had a younger sister named Rita. Her mother was Mary Rose Wetherhorn Obrien. Do you have anything else about this family connection?

I wrote back, and Aryeh responded: I do not have additional information, but find all this very interesting and thank you for your interest and help. Please look at the source notes on my record for Ballard P. Jessee at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org). Jim Bray may know more. What has you in Israel? We were there two years ago.

Thank you for the prompt reply. We've been living just a bit South of Jerusalem for the past 30 years. I was a systems manager for the computer network at an Israeli government office until I retired a couple of years ago. Abraham Wetherhorn, the grandfather of Mary Obrien, was the brother of my own great grandfather. I trust you enjoyed your visit. If you ever come back, I'm still a reasonably competent guide for Jerusalem and the vicinity.

**SALLEY JESSEE** [byrnwick@gmail.com] wrote, 10/29/2009 with an inquiry about **Edgar Wiley Jessee**, a descendant of **Andrew Jackson Jessee**, son of **Archer**.

I am trying to find some information about the birthdate of my grandfather Edgar Wiley Jessee, who lived in Lebanon Virginia and was born sometime in the 1800s. He had three sons, Jack, Forest, and James Robert. James Robert Jessee was my father. Hope you can help with any information you may have.

I responded: You may look up the information I have at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org), then look up, Jessee, Edgar Wiley (RIN 1475). If you go to your father, the second child listed, and display his pedigree, you will see I have a lot of information for you on both the Jessee and Buckles sides of your family. I would appreciate learning more about the descendants of Edgar Wiley Jessee, his boy's marriages, and their families, too. She responded:

Edgar Wiley and Laura Mae Jessee had three sons: Jack, Forest, and James Robert.  
Jack married Sarah (?) and had one child Janice. I do not have information about her.  
Forest also married (can't remember her name) and had two children: Forest Jr. and Sam. I think both married but I do not know their children.  
James Robert Jessee (my father) married Maxine Fletcher and had three children: James Robert Jessee Jr., Salley Sue Jessee, and Edgar Howard Jessee.  
James Robert Jr.(J.R) married Barbara Breitling and had two children: James Robert Jessee III (Jim) and Mary Katherine.  
Jim (JRJ III) married Allison Ivey and has two children; Taite Breitling and Ivey Marie  
Mary Katherine married Larry Earnest Elsner and is divorced and has one child: Keegan Elsner  
Salley did not marry and has no children.  
Edgar (Ed) married Ellen Murphy and has two children: Sean Patrick and Ryan Christopher

### III. William Jessee

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

### IV. Lea Jessee

Lea Jessee (1781-1852) married Barbara Gose (1796-1862), da. of Stephen Gose and Barbara Catron (Katron) 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.

### V. David Jessee

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

**JOHN SANDERS** [jwsknoxville@gmail.com] wrote, 4/11/2010 regarding a car he had purchased, whose original owner was **Col Howard Gilmer Jessee**. **John is restoring Howard's 1979 Cadillac** and wanted to learn more about the original owner and the car's history.

On March 28th I bought a 1979 cadillac fleetwood cadillac formerly owned by Howard Gilmer Jessee. I purchased it from Autmn Davis of Cosby Tennessee. Her son Zachary bought it to restore but was unable. I'm proud to take on the task and thrilled to have the car. It's in remarkably good shape for being 31 years old. It's running good and I drive it every day. I'm doing my own genealogy of sorts on the car. I would greatly appreciate any information or even family stories you have concerning the car. Mr Jessee obviously loved the car and so do I. Please feel free to contact me via email @ [jwsknoxville@gmail.com](mailto:jwsknoxville@gmail.com).

I helped him get in touch with Howard's son.

I spoke to Michael Jessee this morning about the car. he seemed excited that its being restored. According to him I'm the only one outside the family who has owned it. He gave it to his son-in-law who sold it to me.

**TRACEY DINGUS** [tdingus@bristolvaschools.org] wrote, 2/17/2010, regarding the passing of her father, **Robert Leland Jessee**, son of **Robert E. Lee Jessee**, grandson of **Robert "Cat Eye" Jessee**, and gggg-grandson of David Jessee and Katie Banner.

It's been a few years since I last talked with you via email. Hope all is well with you and your branch of the family.

I was looking for ideas for baby names, when I came across our family information. I need to give you an update regarding my dad, Robert Leland Jessee (143203). He passed away on December 21, 2006, after a lengthy battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Tracey L. Jessee Dingus, NBCT, 6th/7th Mathematics, Virginia Middle School

## VI. Elizabeth Jessee Gose

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

## VII. Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser

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

## VIII. Frances Jessee Stone

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

**MICHAEL DYE** sent, this link for the Frances Jessee Stone Family--The Martin Stone Bible Record

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/vitals/bible/martin-stonebible.html>

## 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 (Ketrn) Gose. They had eight children. This family moved to Iowa.

See the Gose Family discussion under Lea Jessee, 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.

## II. Rebecca Jessee Burk

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

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

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

## XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

Jane Jessee (1797-1869) married Henry Fuller (1792-1872), son of Abraham Fuller and Mary Sargent. They had ten children. This family moved to Illinois. While I have a scant amount of descendants' information, I do not correspond with any descendant of Jane Jessee Fuller, except, Vins Holbrook, previously featured in this newsletter, who is a Fuller descendant. 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.

**WILLIAM JESSEE** [wjessie@mgma.com] wrote, 2/17/2010 with this sad new regarding the passing of **Willie Mae (Haga) Jessee**, wife of **Floyd Harrison Jessee**, a descendant of George Lea Jessee.

A short note to update some of the information on my branch of the family. My mother, Willie Mae (Haga) Jessee, ID # I16625, passed away on Feb. 4, 2006, in Mesa, AZ. She is buried at Mountain View Cemetery, Bristol, VA. .... In addition, two of my uncles have also

passed away. R. Ralph Jessee (ID # I16605) died on 17 July, 2000 in Bristol, VA and Bernard Francis Jessee (ID# I16606) died in Knoxville, TN on 8 July, 2007. Obituaries for both appeared in the Bristol Herald-Courier. Ralph is buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Bristol, but I'm not certain about Bernard. Thanks for all the work you do on the family!

**BECKY EVANS WRIGHT** [coalminersdaughter-undpin@hotmail.com] wrote 9/28/2009 with this information about her Jessee Clan. Becky descends from both **George Lea Jessee**, via **Asa Jeter "Acie" Jessee**, and from **John Jessee, Jr.** via **Nancy Belle Jessee Hughes**, daughter of Noah D. Kernan Jessee.

Here is what I understood:

Descendants of Asa Jeter "Acie" JESSEE

10 Sep 2009 Page 1

1. Asa Jeter "Acie" JESSEE (b.Ab. 1875-,Russell Co.,VA)  
sp: Ida F. ASHBY (b.Ab. 1876 m.5 Jan 1898)
2. Bessie F. JESSEE (b.Oct 1898-Lebanon,Russell Co.,VA)
2. Charlie Berniece JESSEE (b.Oct 1900-Lebanon,Russell Co.,VA)  
sp: Bertha MARTIN (m.4 Oct 1922)
2. Ann JESSEE (b.Aft 1900)
2. May JESSEE (b.Aft 1900)
2. John "Jonas" JESSEE (b.18 May 1905-,Russell Co.,VA d.12 Sep 1987-,Russell Co.,VA)  
sp: Ethel Eliza HUGHES (b.5 Jun 1909 d.16 Oct 1971)
2. 6 more children JESSEE

John "Jonas" Jessee (b.18 May 1905) and Ethel Eliza Hughes (b.5 Jun 1909) are my grand parents on my Mothers side. This Ethel Eliza Hughes (Jessee)(my grand maw) her parents are Cowan Hughes (b.1864- d. 1941) Nancy Belle Jessee (b.24 Oct 1883-d.6 May 1977) Cowan and Nancy (Jessee) Hughes are my great grand parents on my mothers side.

My great grand mother Nancy Belle Hughes (Jessee): Her parents are Noah D.Kernan Jessee (b.1885-d.17 Sept 1936) and Elizabeth Betsy Ann Davis. Noah D. Kernan Jessee parents are Stanford Lea Jessee and Sarah "Sallie" Fuller

So I think this Jessee line crosses the other Jessee?

First line ...John "Jonas" Jessee b.1905). John" Jonas" Jessee parents are Asa Jeter Acie Jessee and Ida F. Ashby. Asa Jeter Acie Jessee parents are John Counts "Bull" Jessee and Margaret "Peggie" Cross  
Second line.. Noah D.Kernan Jessee Elizabeth Besty Ann Davis. Noah D.Kernan Jessee parents are Stanford Lea Jessee and Sarah Sallie Fuller. Can you figure this family of Jessee's I have?Thank you, Becky.

I sent her a pedigree chart and showed her how her parents are 3rd or 4th cousins, twice removed. The twice removed comes from the fact that John Jessee is the ggg-grandfather for John Jonas, and John Jessee is the ggggg-grandfather for Ethel Hughes. John Jonas descends from the youngest son of the 15 children, George Lea Jessee, Sr. and Ethel descends from the eldest son, as do I, from John Jessee, Jr. She wrote back:

THANK YOU!!!! But I think you meant my Grand Paw and great grand Maw are 3rd or 4th cousins..As I said I will send dates tonight for you.I'm still at work .You see Jim one of Jonas and Ethel Jessee's daughters .(My Aunt) is dieing of cancer.And wanted to read all about her Jessee Family.She found out I was working on Family Tree.She has been waiting on my Family information.But for the life of me,I couldnt figure out their kinship.Thank goodness for you!!!!

## 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.

## Missing Links & Conundrums

The following are only a few of the e-mail 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 or other conundrums.

**CAROL FRALEY LAFERTY** [cjfl@roadrunner.com] wrote, 3/11/2010 with these questions regarding **a slave named Temperance or Tempy** who was owned by **Jefferson Jessee**.

I have a question. In looking at the Russell County birth records..., I've noticed Jefferson Jessee had a slave named Temperance or Tempe. I found births attributed to her three times before the Civil War.

Have you ever heard anyone mention these people? In the records they are listed as Jessee's. One girl Caroline died at 11 months in 1858. Two were boys Patton Jessee, born March 15, 1855 and Samuel born Dec 1861.

I'm just curious about these men. In your research do you know what happened to slaves and their children after the War? Do the Jessee's ever talk about these people? Temperance for example?

**Ryan Jessee** [rjessee@creativeinfluenceinc.com] wrote 8/14/2010, with this inquiry regarding the origins of the **Jesseees in Orlando, Florida**.

In my initial research, I think I can trace back to John Jessee, Sr. however, I've found little evidence to support that James P. Jessee (b. 1850, married to Elizabeth Jessee b. 1850) had a son, Andrew Curtis Jessee (b. 1894).

I'm also struggling to verify that James P. Jessee's father was Archer Jessee, Jr (b.1814). I've made conclusions using deductive reasoning, i.e. right time, right place, etc. But I just can't find the obvious facts. Any insight would be very helpful. Thank you!

Ryan Jessee  
Orlando, FL  
407-677-6322

I wrote in response: I am not getting any hits on these names directly, in the marriages and relationships you cite below, in my database. I do have a James R. Jessee, son of Archer Lea Jessee & Eunice Dyer, Archer is the son of Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning. James R. is shown to be married to a Nancy E. Foster. This does not seem to fit. I will share this in the Jessee Newsletter, and hope we get some help from our several crack genealogists.

**HOLLY JESSEE** [hjessee1322@centurytel.net] wrote 3/27/2009 in search of her the elusive Jessee line.

Hi Jim, What a nice site you have. Although I haven't found the connection I was looking for. I have ran into what seems to be a huge wall looking for more information on:

George Henry Jessee (also went by John Henry Jessee)  
b. 2 march 1876 in either Kentucky or Tennessee  
d. 23 Oct. 1946 in Kern County California  
He married Nora A. Cannady  
Children: Dewey E. 1902-1973  
Clifford G. 1906-1984  
Lonnie H. 1907-1976  
Hobart L.  
Fred L 1909-?  
Bertha Mae 1916-1998

I know that Lonnie Married Ina Mae Stinnett as they are my husband grandparents.

Any help at all would great. I am really hoping that there wasn't a name change, but it is a strong possibility. I talked to one relative of my husbands and I quote "Those Jessee's where nothing but outlaws and scoundrels"



**TOM RUDDER** [ruddert@sbcglobal.net] wrote, 8/10/2009, in response regarding John H. Jessie, but still no clue as to which Jessee line they belong to.

Holly the entire family is in the 1910 census in Tillman Co, Okla. Under the name John H. Jessie and Nora A. Jessie. John was born in TN in 1886 and Nora in Ark. in 1886.

**ROBERT & WANDA KEITH** [rlkwlk@yahoo.com], wrote, 1/8/2010 with this photo of the two of them and another of their daughter [above], and with an updated appeal to help Robert find his Jessee biological parents. This was in the Winter 2010 Newsletter.

This is Robert's wife, Wanda. I am the photo nut in the family:) But, as it turns out, I can't seem to find a single picture of him by himself, that I like. Maybe you can crop the one of he and I together, which is a good one of him. Also, I sent a picture of our daughter, Mary Elizabeth, in case you might want to print it, too. She looks just like him, and I thought it might spark someone's memory if she happens to look like his biological mom or dad, too. Here is Robert's request again.

Hello, my name is Robert Lynn Keith. I was born on March 10, 1959, in Blount Co, Tn. I think it was in Maryville. I was given up for adoption at a very early age, possibly even right after birth. I was in several foster homes, and at least one orphanage. I was adopted at the age of 5, and grew up on a farm about 30 miles from Nashville, Tn. I had bright red hair as a child, which has turned in to more of a brownish red now. I stand 5'11" tall, and weigh around 280 pounds. I have hazel colored eyes. I love to hunt, fish, and collect knives. I'm an avid reader, reading about 5 or more books a week. I have a very laid back personality, takes quite a bit to get me riled up.

I don't really know anything about my birth family, except I may have been a Jessee (Jessi; Jessy, etc) I would love to find my family, if at all possible. I don't mean to stir up any bad memories for anyone, or to create any problems for anyone. I have no anger or animosity toward whoever gave birth to me, and for whatever reason, had to let someone else raise me. It takes a lot of love to realize that you can't care for your child, and to give them to someone else who can. I've had to make a lot of decisions in my own life, too, that was life changing. Some I feel like were good choices, some I wish with all my heart that I could change. I have a beautiful daughter and two beautiful granddaughters, and I think they also deserve to know about their biological family. I was raised an only child, so it would be great to have brothers and sisters and family members that I actually look like! lol

My email address is rlkwlk@hotmail.com  
cell # is 615-389-9148  
home # is 615-667-1186

If anyone knows any information that will help me find my family, please let me know. Thank you, Robert L. Keith.

## Correspondence

**CARLYNE RITTER** [2ritters2@charter.net] sent me, 5/17/2010, the Genealogy Programming Schedule for BYU TV. Most Cable TV has BYU TV, and they offer these excellent genealogy programs with how to information and much inspiration for genealogists presented in a non-denominational way. **Look for these programs: *Ancestors, The Generations Project, and Questions and Ancestors.***

**BARBARA COGBURN** [stardust725@cox.net] wrote 4/16/2010 in response to my thank you note to her for being a generous supporter of the Newsletter. This is one of those very heartwarming correspondences that give me cheer. Here is my original note followed by her response.

Thank you for your very generous support of the Jessee Newsletter and my work. I am still unsure if I will go to the Jessee Reunion in VA this year. I am getting to like travel less and less, especially by airplanes. No thanks.

I hope you are well and enjoying life. I retired over a year ago, and it has been the fastest year in my life, and getting faster, and I can't say I am getting much done, either ... Jim Jessee

You are most welcome - it is the least I can do to show my appreciation. I know what you mean about travel - especially by air. I haven't flown since before 9/11. Aside from the rigors of flight, I realize that the older I get the less I'm willing to be away from home and familiar health services. I will be 80 at the end of this year so doubt I will ever make a Jessee reunion.

Retirement is wonderful - the years go even faster when there are satisfying things to do - like genealogy. I always look forward to the Newsletter even I have nothing much to contribute. Jessee is my husband's family and I know it's those great Jessee genes that made him such a wonderful person. Til next year.....Barbara

**ROBBIN ANDREWS** [vball\_4\_97@yahoo.com] wrote, 1/2/2010, with this sad news regarding **Sadie Leota Berryhill**, daughter of **Dovie Lee (Jessee) Henslee**, a descendant of John Jessee, Jr. via **James Mathias Jessee, a well known son of Jefferson Jessee.**

Hello Jim. Please forgive my absence of not being in touch for quite some time. I need you to add something to the Jesse genealogy page. Grandma Dovie's last living daughter Sadie Leota Berryhill passed away on November 30th, 2009. She had been ill for quite sometime. They only living "Henslee" (Grandma Dovie's children) is John. He is still alive. He had a stroke about a year ago, but is still living.





**JOE JESSEE** sent along the photo above from *The Lebanon News* of **Jessee's Mill** this winter. At least it is still standing.

**JOE JESSEE** [joejessee@yahoo.com] wrote, 5/5/2010, regarding the new Russell County Motor Vehicle Sticker featuring Jessee's Mill. Still waiting for it...

Virginia counties have "county stickers" like inspection stickers for the windshields. Purpose to make sure everyone has paid their property taxes. The new russell county stickers of Jessee Mill are quite lovely. Will get you one.

**JOE JESSEE** also sent along this web address for **Jessee Ring**, who must be a relative. Perhaps someone can connect him to our family. Here is his blog spot, *The Ring of Truth*, for 5/19/2010. He sure sounds like a Jessee.

As you may know, I'm a 9th district (VA) native son who lives and works in the district I want to represent. I have deep SWVA roots with strong ties to coal country and world-wide experiences.

I'm running due to a sense of calling, not as some new career move. We all know that the electorate isn't going to unseat one career politician in November only to install another one.

I'm running because I, like you, am deeply concerned about the direction the country is taking. We're all concerned, but the question is what do we do about it, and that's where the differences are among between the candidates.

In my 5 in 10 Commitment, I've laid out a specific plan for getting our country heading back in the right direction, and I look forward to discussing that with you. You can download it from my website ([www.jesseeringforcongress.com](http://www.jesseeringforcongress.com)).

If we all stay focused and on track, we can win this one in November, and I'm the Republican who can do that, because I'm the kind of candidate that the incumbent fears the most.

- o I'm not a career politician.
- o I'm a 9th District native-son with deep Southwest Virginia roots and world-wide experiences.
- o I have the time for this race; this isn't my second job.
- o I'm a staunch conservative and a constitutionalist.
- o But most of all, I'm a new face with fresh perspectives.
- o I was the 1st candidate to declare my candidacy.
- o The 1st to issue a call for a debate.
- o The 1st to issue a legislative plan of action with my "5 in 10" commitment.
- o The 1st to issue a call for campaign funding solidarity among the nominee and former candidates going forward from May 22.
- o And there have been other firsts.

I've taken the initiative in this campaign and I'll continue to take the initiative in Washington.

I'll answer to you the people, not the political bosses. I'll do what's best for SWVA and what's best for the country.

Thank you, my name is Jessee Ring, and I ask for your support

**CRISTI CHILDRESS** [cristi3@vzw.blackberry.net] sent me this note, 6/7/2010 via her Blackberry, regarding her father Hubert Childress. This is an example of notes and messages I get from time to time as people discover [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) and search the family database.

I was just playing around on the internet and typed my dad's name in and all of this information came up. Thank you so much. It's really nice to find all of this info out.

## Resources

The Internet is a remarkable resource for us. I will provide here information regarding Web resources and other links of interest to the Jesse(e) family.

**Attendance at the National Genealogical Society Conference and our experience at the LDS Family History Center has convinced me that genealogical computer research databases and search software have really come of age, and are bounding into an exciting future.** I recommend use of both [Ancestry.Com](http://Ancestry.Com), a fee for service organization, and/or [FamilySearch.Org](http://FamilySearch.Org) and [RootsWeb.Com](http://RootsWeb.Com), both still free services, as starting places for your research. All have added huge new amounts of data and improved their services, most especially [FamilySearch.Com](http://FamilySearch.Com). Their new search tools and database will knock your socks off. Go to [pilot.familysearch.org](http://pilot.familysearch.org) for a peek.

**SHEILA HARRISON** [[sheilanneharrison@gmail.com](mailto:sheilanneharrison@gmail.com)] wrote 5/24/2010 with this resource regarding Confederate Texas Soldiers. Sheila often sends along leads and other bits of information.

Subject: Texas Military Record Source

List of confederate soldiers of Caldwell County, Texas

This card file, compiled by Donaly Brice, is in the Historical Research Center, Luling. Information includes birthdates, places, death date, place, marriage date, wife's data, parents, service record. It was extracted from many sources, cited. Some have much info, others have scant. For detail of your soldier send your request to the Caldwell County Genealogical and Historical Society email address: [hsoc@bcsnet.net](mailto:hsoc@bcsnet.net)

**SHEILA HARRISON** [[sheilanneharrison@gmail.com](mailto:sheilanneharrison@gmail.com)] wrote, 4/14/2010 with information about a little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

This story appeared in today's Los Angeles Times: A government genealogy service lets family history leap off the page. A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provides information that bridges oceans. The documents came from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which runs a little-known genealogy service for relatives wanting to learn more about their family history.

The records include naturalization files, visa applications and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries, said Marian Smith, the agency's historian. "The details of the story have been told over time, and the edges kind of wear off," Smith said. With the documents, "there are a lot of ah-ha moments." In the past, genealogy researchers had to file document requests under the Freedom of Information Act and sometimes waited years for a response.

Under the genealogy program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. For \$20, the government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files.

**JACK HOCKETT** [<mailto:Tlas101@aol.com>] is a very regular helper, who sends on nearly a weekly basis, basic research items and documentation for our Jesse database. Several appear in the Newsletters, and all are incorporated into the database. I thank Jack for his undefatigable work, his help, and friendship.

Jack has helped produce another important Washington County resource book which he announced, March 3, 2010. Here is his release.

It is out! It has hit the streets! 482 Pages!

Latest deaths - WCV... If you have an insatiable urge to part with a shekel or two, you can order from New Papyrus Publishing Company (online)!

**WASHINGTON CO. VA. SELECTED DEATH RECORDS WITH ANNOTATIONS** Abstracted by Donald Helton. iv,482pp., every-name index (8.25" x 10.75" paperback). The author has gathered together more than four thousand death records from Washington and surrounding counties, primarily from 1912 to the present. In addition, most of the records carry annotations drawn from a myriad of sources. To best explain how the volume was conceived and grew, we have reproduced the text of the author's foreword below;

Some years back, I became acquainted, thru the wonders of the Internet, with Thomas Jack Hockett. Our ancestors were from the same general area of southwest Virginia. I knew of his folks and he knew of mine. We corresponded via email for several years, asked and answered questions about family history and exchanged information. Then came the death records, more death records, even more death records. I printed them out as they came in and put them in a big notebook. Soon, they were too much for any notebook, eventually numbering more than a thousand pages. Every time I needed a death date....where did I see it? I knew it was in that pile of records somewhere, but exactly where! These records needed to be put in some kind of order. Thus began the tedious work of sorting, compiling and entering all this information into a word processor. Over a period of several winters, it finally came together, all in one place, sorted by years, listed in alphabetical order, and I even had an index.... Much better! But, many of the records were missing information vital to a researcher. Names of parents, husbands and wives, places of birth, etc. were either not included or could not be read from the microfilm of the death certificate. Quite often, the informant was a neighbor, or someone not of the family volunteering to report the death. Not knowing the answers to questions posed by the recorder, this important information was lost.

Enter Mr. Tom Colley.... Jack and Tom were working together on another project, unrelated to what I was doing, but requiring much of the same information. Jack asked Tom if he might be able to fill in some of the missing data. That question produced a preponderance of information!

Together, we decided it would be very useful to include Tom's comments along with Jack's census information in this work. It would be remiss of me not to express my appreciation to all those who contributed to this effort, and especially to Jack and Tom and their assistance in helping bring together a valuable, and I may say, somewhat unique research tool. [WCDR] \$44.95

**SHEILA HARRISON** [[sheilanneharrison@gmail.com](mailto:sheilanneharrison@gmail.com)] wrote, 5/27/2010, with these Web sites she found.

<http://www.eogen.com/Home> - Encyclopedia of Genealogy

I found this website today and think it is quite interesting. I watched 5 of their videos about the U.S. Census. As long as I've been working with these reports, I still found the videos to be very informative and they were very well done.

I signed up for their newsletter - I'm anxious to get it. You don't have to register or anything like that in order to view the free videos.

<http://www.rootstelevision.com/index.html>

## The Russell County Page

MICHAEL A. DYE has created **The Russell County Page** of the VAGenWeb division of the USGenWeb Project.

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

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

MICHAEL A. DYE provides the most excellent genealogy resources for SW VA genealogists and those just interested in local history through his extraordinary efforts to make public genealogy and historical records. I recommend you explore his work now available on DVD and CD including complete publications of the following: *The Southwest Virginian* magazine; a *Southwest Virginia Historical Book Collection*; the *Southeast Virginia Ancestors* publication, and collections of SW Virginia Family Genealogies. Michael has outlined his future project, too.

### *The East Kentuckian*:

I'm not sure how many people here are familiar with a quarterly magazine named *The East Kentuckian*, but it was an excellent genealogical quarterly magazine, similar to *The Southwest Virginian* and *Southwest Virginia Ancestors*, which ran from 1965 - 1995 and then again from 1998 - 2001. It concentrated mainly on eastern Kentucky, but also carried over occasionally into Southwest Virginia as many families coming to KY came from that area. I currently have every issue from 1979 - 2001 scanned (82 issues) and am in the process of formatting and OCR'ing them. I also have access to the 1965 - 1978 issues and will be scanning them as I can. Since *The East Kentuckian* was such a long running quarterly, I'm probably going to need to break it down into 2 DVDs to hold all the material, one including the issues from 1965 - 1980 and the other from 1981 - 2001. This being the case, I should have the one from 1981 - 2001 ready shortly if anyone is interested in getting a copy.

### *The Mountain Empire Genealogical Quarterly*:

*The Mountain Empire Genealogical Quarterly* was another quarterly magazine similar to *The Southwest Virginian* and *Southwest Virginia Ancestors* that, as far as I can tell, ran from 1982-1989 (8 volumes). Tom Rudder sent me vol's 2 - 4 (12 issues) awhile back. Since that time I have acquired 10 more issues and believe that I have located the remaining ones that I am missing. Not sure how long it's going to take yet, but when I get these copied and scanned I'll be making this available.

*Harlan Footprints* (5 vol's, 1982 - 1991, printed irregularly), *Harlan Mountain Roots* (10 vol's., 1986 - 1996) and *Letcher Heritage News* (20 vol's from 1995 through 2005 and possibly more beyond): These are also quarterly magazines, the first two put out in Harlan Co., KY and the third in Letcher Co., KY. Is there an interest in these as I think I have them available to me?

I also still plan to try to put together a CD/DVD of SW Virginia records, but that will probably be after at least *The East Kentuckian* and *The Mountain Empire Genealogical Quarterly*.

I plan to provide Michael Dye the entire library of Jessee Newsletters for possible inclusion in a future DVD Collection. May I also urge the JHF to consider providing their book *Jessee Stories and Remembrances* for such a DVD.

MICHAEL DYE posted on varussel at RootsWeb the following tool to find topographic cemetery maps.

I was wondering if there might be an interest in this. I've been working on pinpointing cemeteries on the USGS Quad topographic

maps. Initially I started doing this so I could see which cemeteries I'd been at and which ones I still needed to go to, but then I thought that others might have an interest in these maps for their own research.

I've loaded up the Big A Mountain quad for everyone to look at and see what you think. It's in pdf form. The link to download the map is:

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/cemeteries/Big\\_A\\_Mountain.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/cemeteries/Big_A_Mountain.pdf)

To be able to use all the features, you may also need the TerraGo Toolbar. This is a neat toolbar used by Adobe Acrobat and the Acrobat Reader. It allows you to view the longitude and latitude coordinates on the map as well as allowing you to measure distances and areas and has a few other features. If you want to download that here's the link to it:

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/cemeteries/TerraGo\\_Toolbar.exe](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/cemeteries/TerraGo_Toolbar.exe)

Now, as a key to the map. I've placed several different color notes at cemetery locations. The yellow notes indicate cemeteries that I've either personally been to or have the info about who's buried there. The red notes indicate cemeteries that I don't yet have info on and still need to visit. The blue notes are cemeteries that I think I have the info on but I need to revisit to confirm the name of the cemetery. Actually, two of the red note cemeteries, the Honaker-Wilson & Ira Ray cemeteries in the bottom part of the map, I've been to, but must have misplaced the data and am still trying to locate it.

You can see the name of each cemetery by just moving your mouse pointer over the note for each one. Another neat little feature that I can do is to include the people buried in the cemeteries within the notes. Check out the Moses Harris and Jackson Cemeteries in the bottom right corner of the map (just move you over the notes and then double click the note to see all the data.) I've been thinking about re-doing the cemetery books the Taylors did years ago and finishing the series (they stopped with many cemeteries not yet charted). Now I'm trying to decide whether to put them out in book form by USGS Quad with an included CD showing their locations or to include to persons buried in each cemetery directly on CDs. I like the idea of being able to view them directly on CDs, but think putting it in book form would be more practical.

By the way, we went down to Russell Co. this past week and I went tramping around the mountains in the Lynn Spring and Hollow Poplar Ridge areas placing a few of the cemeteries I already had as well as locating a few new ones I previously was unaware of, including ones where Confederate soldiers John G. Hurt & Jerome Bonaparte Whited are buried. My next toy's going to be a handheld gps device with topographic maps installed :)

MICHAEL DYE posted on RootsWeb this link for the **North Church Street Cemetery in Lebanon**.

I've received some new names and a bunch of photos of tombstones in the North Church Street Cemetery in Lebanon (Old Lebanon Cem) from Faye McCraine. I'll probably be receiving more over the next few days and will be adding those too. If you're interested, I've added the info and loaded the photos up on the website. Here's the link:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/cemeteries/north-churchcem.html>

If you want to see where the cemetery is located, go to google maps and then copy and paste the below coordinates exactly as they appear below:

36.905855, -82.081035

This will take you to the hill the cemetery is located on and pretty close to the exact location of the cemetery. Now if you look just a little below that you will see what looks like a white house with a brown roof. If your having difficulty locating it, here's the coordinates for it:

36.905371, -82.080370

## JHF News

The **Jessee Historical Foundation, JHF**, publishes its own newsletter, *JHF News & Information--The Official Voice of the Jessee Historical Foundation*. They have asked me to differentiate this newsletter from their "official one" for the JHF.

I am no longer a JHF Board member, but I continue to offer the [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) Website, the Jessee List on RootsWeb, and this Jessee Family Newsletter to share JHF news and events. I invite all JHF members to join the Jessee List and subscribe to this Jessee Family Newsletter.

In August 2008, the JHF decided to hold annual reunions every two years, on even numbered years beginning in 2010. Jessee families are encouraged to hold local and regional reunions in odd numbered years.

In October 2007, the JHF Board voted to pay (not exceeding \$500) for the purchase or repair of headstones for any of all of the 15 children born to John and Frankey Jessee, and those born to Old Phillip Jessee. If interested, please contact any of the committee members below for information and assistance. Carl Jessee: 276-669-6352; Norma McHone: 540-362-9385; Jim Bray: 423-246-7157; Sandra Hood: 276-676-2348.

**VERNON & PAULINE SALYERS** [[vpsaly@naxs.net](mailto:vpsaly@naxs.net)] wrote, 5/7/2007 announcing the first volume of *Jessee Stories & Remembrances*, for purchase.

They are \$25 plus \$5 per book if mailed. Please make check payable to JHF & mail to:  
Pauline Salyers  
5074 Green Valley Road  
Lebanon, VA 24266-6553

If you have any questions contact me 276-889-0055.

### JHF 2010 Board Meeting Dates

Unless otherwise stated, JHF Board Meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Exit 19, Abingdon, VA.

**March 13, 2010 10 am:** JHF BOD Meeting

**August 7, 2010** JHF Annual Meeting, Reunion & Picnic

### Jessee Genealogy Book Proposed

From the President: Your JHF Board of Directors proposes to produce a Jessee family genealogy book (or books) and is asking for you help in this endeavor. Please send your suggestions as to what you wish to be included and the format you would desire, keeping in mind we currently can catalog 15,000 + names from John and Frankie Lea Jessee to the present. We are also asking for volunteers to help edit the book which may well be a monumental task, but is we believe a greatly desirable goal of the Jessee Historical Foundation. Please respond to the Foundation at: P. O. Box 1617, Lebanon, VA 24266 or e-mail to [vpsaly@naxs.net](mailto:vpsaly@naxs.net).

## JHF Projects

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

**1. Planning for National Jessee Family Reunions, Research Days, and Annual Meetings.** This is the first and foremost goal of the JHF. A dedicated few are doing more than their fair share in organizing and managing these activities. They always need volunteers to help with the details of providing a Welcome Reception, Research Day, Annual Meeting and Reunion Picnic.

**2. Creating a Jessee Family Cook Book II.** By the effort of Mary Akers and several other volunteers, who have been featured in previous newsletters, the first cookbook has been published and sold out. Let Mary know if interested in another publication.

**3. Creation of a Jessee Book, *Remember When*, with family stories, histories, and photos.** This too has been accomplished, the first volume was available at the 2007 Reunion.

**4. Creation of a Jessee Genealogy Book or Books.** (See article)

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

A private highway sign for Jessee's Mill and a commemorative marker for John Jessee, Revolutionary War Soldier at the cemetery behind the Mill Creek Baptist Church (see photo) have been accomplished. These accomplishments may set a precedent for developing further private commemorative signs for additional family landmarks.

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

Missing from this list is any support for efforts to restore Jessee's Mill, or to be involved with efforts to protect, preserve, and provide access to the John and Frankey Lea Jessee cemetery. These will need to be separate efforts.

## John Jessee Cemetery

Protection and restoration of the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery with family access, is a desire of many. This cemetery is owned by Mr. Jimmy Herndon, a Phillip and Gabriel Jessee descendant. I believe we need to seek the cooperation of Mr. Herndon to provide or pay for his costs for cleaning up, mapping and fencing this cemetery.

We need to work with Mr. Herndon to find a way to hold him harmless for any liability and to protect his privacy, property and farming activities from those who may wish to visit this cemetery.

It is clear that Virginia law (see the Summer 2005 Newsletter) makes it illegal for Mr. Herndon to do harm to the cemetery and he is obligated to provide descendants access. I continue to hope that if Mr. Herndon were asked and agreed, the new JHF Board would again undertake and fund this project.

We still need to get John Jessee formally recognized as a Revolutionary War Soldier and this cemetery acknowledged as a Revolutionary War grave site. We know that it is also a Civil War soldier grave site, and may need this formal recognition too. We need the cemetery surveyed and marked, if not fenced. Volunteers are needed to pick up this baton.

## Jessee's Mill Declared National Historic Landmark

**JOE JESSEE** ([joejessee@yahoo.com](mailto:joejessee@yahoo.com)), our JHF founding president (2001-2005), was a key player in achieving our finest accomplishment to date, but so much work needs to be done to take it from here.

**The US Department of Interior Park Service, has declared Jessee's Mill in Russell County to be a National Historic Landmark.**

This follows similar State of Virginia action to list Jessee's Mill on the Virginia Landmarks Register last December (see Winter 2005 Newsletter and the *Lebanon News* article, 12/15/2004). Joe sent the press release with this good news to the *Lebanon News* on 5/5/2005, and the article appeared in the *Lebanon News*, 5/11/2005.

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

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

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

## Mill Creek Historic Community

**Many of us believe that an appropriate organization or benefactor should acquire Jessee's Mill along with the dam above it and the Jessee School for a Jessee's Mill restoration project, as the anchor for a Mill Creek Historic Community.**

We have hopes to acquire enough land around the mill, dam, school, the Andrew Jackson Jessee home and the miller's home to preserve a sense of the historic Mill Creek Community. Sherman Wallace, the owner, indicates he is willing to work with a group or organization regarding these ideas. This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve these significant historical landmarks and perhaps create a small historical community around it for Russell Co. and all its sons and daughters across America.

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

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

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

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



# Jessee's Mill Preservation

**Whether a Mill Creek Historic Community ever comes to be, the "preservation" of Jessee's Mill remains a major concern.** As a historic Russell County landmark, you would hope that Russell County leaders would share interest, especially since the owner is willing to cooperate with any public or private entity to preserve it and restore it someday. To our friends in Russell County, we need your help.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Recently there has been new interest and activity with an offer from a metal worker and millwright, John Mark Carter to work with Sherman Wallace to first preserve, then later restore the mill.** I also spoke with Sherman Wallace in December and he has been doing repairs of the Mill roof and painting. He is excited about this prospect below and will arrange for John Carter to visit the Mill.

The notes below from **JOHN "MARK" AND AMY CARTER** are the latest of several I have had over the last several months. John is a craftsman, who works on restoring historic mills like Jessee's Mill. He has volunteered to assist us with first the preservation, then restoration of Jessee's Mill, if we can ever organize an effort to do this. This is his latest offer, among much extensive correspondence about his experience and desire to help save Jessee's Mill.

From: Mark & Amy [mailto:johnmatisse@myway.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 11:28 AM  
To: Jim@Jessee.org  
Subject: Very Intersted in helping save your Family's Mill

I own a small Metal fabricating shop In Bedford VA. I just recently have been donating my skills as a Welder & Metal fabricator for The Historical society for the county of Bedford VA. when i saw that the Jessee Mill had a National Plaque assigned to it I decided that maybe I should offer my skills to you . I like to restore old machinery as a hobby on the side of my ornamental & welding shop. Right now I am involved with the restoration effort going on with The Big Otter Mill, located In Bedford County VA. I am helping to restore the water wheel . I would very much like to help you restore you mills wheel also. I hate to watch such valuable landmarks fall down. I am not rich but I have window frames & the glass that fits them .Most are the six Glass panes type window . They were taken from old houses that were being torn down in Lynchburg VA. I have a huge old cattle barn on my property filled with Junk taken from old Houses & some were manufactured in a wood shop that was located on our farm before we moved here. If you could tell me the size windows the old mill needs I could see what I have . I would like to help save your water wheel also if . The Water Wheel factory normal quote for a rebuilt single rimmed wheel is right around \$19,000 to restore the wheel back to working condition. that is at rock bottom price quote . big Otters wheel is costing the town of Bedford a even \$34,000.00 dollars. That is with me dismantling the wheel as a free donation. If you want to see a trailer I built for one of my customers . .http://www.ornamentalironart.com . I have been a metal fabricator for 21 year now . I know a lot about water wheels .Especially Fitz type now. if your wheel is a Fitz wheel ,and it is Riveted it was built before 1918. I know right off the top of my head where I can get a used wrought iron slew -gate , Bearings , Babbette & a knew Gear if needed, I would like to see your mill some time . If your interested please email me . Sincerely yours, John Mark Carter

I responded eagerly, and Mark and I had much correspondence until this January. As you see below, life goes on, and things happen, and things don't. I haven't heard from him since. I still hope Mark is able to connect with Sherman Wallace someday.

Mark & Amy [mailto:johnmatisse@myway.com]  
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 8:47 PM  
Subject: Snow mothers natures wrecking ball !

The big snow we got three days or so before Christmas damaged the right back corner of my barn . The weight of the snow snapped 4 rough cut 5"x 6" studs . More damaged to an already damaged roof line ! It was damaged first in a F3 tornado that came across the back side of our land 9 years ago. I have been trying to peace it back together ever since ! The barn is more like a ware house then a barn ! it was built to house a saw mill plus a large commercial wood working shop at one time . I have been making real progress on it but the snow was a real set back. I don't plan to stop my effort at all towards the Jessee mill . i plan to try again calling Mr Sherman next week some time or this week end . every time I think I get some free time ,I seem to get swamped with work. .... I can't wait to see the mill up close . I just wanted to let you know why I had been absent from emailing you . Thank you for being so understanding !

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

**<http://www.jessee.org>**

Our database is over 45,000 records. I do mean "our" database, as it is made up of the tens of thousands of hours of your research, the results of which you have generously and kindly shared with me. I have concerns about the downside of this computer revolution, the Internet, and the ethics of genealogy research, but still conclude that greater good is done by making our work public. However, I am using filters to delete information on living persons.

I know that by the standards of some, I have violated best if not ethical practice, by making so much unverified information public. It is already clear that errors in this database, even when later corrected, show up all over the Internet in other people's work, too often uncredited. Others, many unknown to me, have used and cited this database as an authoritative source. Beware, it is not!

I very much regret it when I see known errors, which appeared in this database in earlier years and have since been corrected, show up in others' genealogies, 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.

## Our Purpose

**I believe that we are, indeed, all cousins, and that we can be colleagues and friends, too.** By sharing information and helping each other, we come to know what it means to be part of an extended family and to appreciate our common heritage.

I research my own JESSEE ancestors, including the ARM-STRONG, 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. The fun is in the learning and the friendships I develop along the way. I am rewarded all the time by your e-mail, calls, visits, conversations, and correspondence.

I am asking you to respond to this newsletter with answers to questions, documentation, your own materials, and, of course, current information about your branch of the family. I will filter out living individuals in the version of the database that is made public. Please feel free to correct any errors found. I wish to have a correct and trustworthy database as a resource for the family. I welcome the submission of pedigree and descendants charts, letters, manuscripts, electronic or scanned images of source documents and photos.

# 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.

Unfortunately after 34 years of working I have developed a disability which makes any prolonged time typing very painful. My computer time has been significantly limited and my regular data entry routine has all but stopped. While I continue to plink at it, I am not denting the perhaps 3000-4000 records piled high and waiting to be keyed in. I will need help with data entry into the database in the future.

I provide the newsletter free to anyone who has asked for it, provided me information, or has expressed interest and cannot afford to subscribe. I am providing the newsletter free to several historical and genealogical organizations and libraries. You are welcome to provide addresses of others that may be interested in our effort. I am looking for those willing to exchange information or represent their branch of the family or area of the country.

I am sometimes disappointed to find that less than 50% of readers 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 \$20 a year for two issues of the newsletter.** I need and appreciate your additional donations in defraying the considerable cost of research, printing, and postage of the newsletter and other materials I send without charge to inquirers. Additional donations also support those who can't afford to pay.

## Newsletter Reprints

Back editions are available on the Website, and you are free to print them from there. I have some separate original sets of prints: #1-7, #8-9, #10-11, #12-13, #14-15, #16-17, #18-19, #20-27 (although I am out of certain years and without some attachments that have become obsolete). You may request these for \$100 for copies of all back issues *still in print*, and a subscription to the current year.

## *The Jessee Family Newsletter*

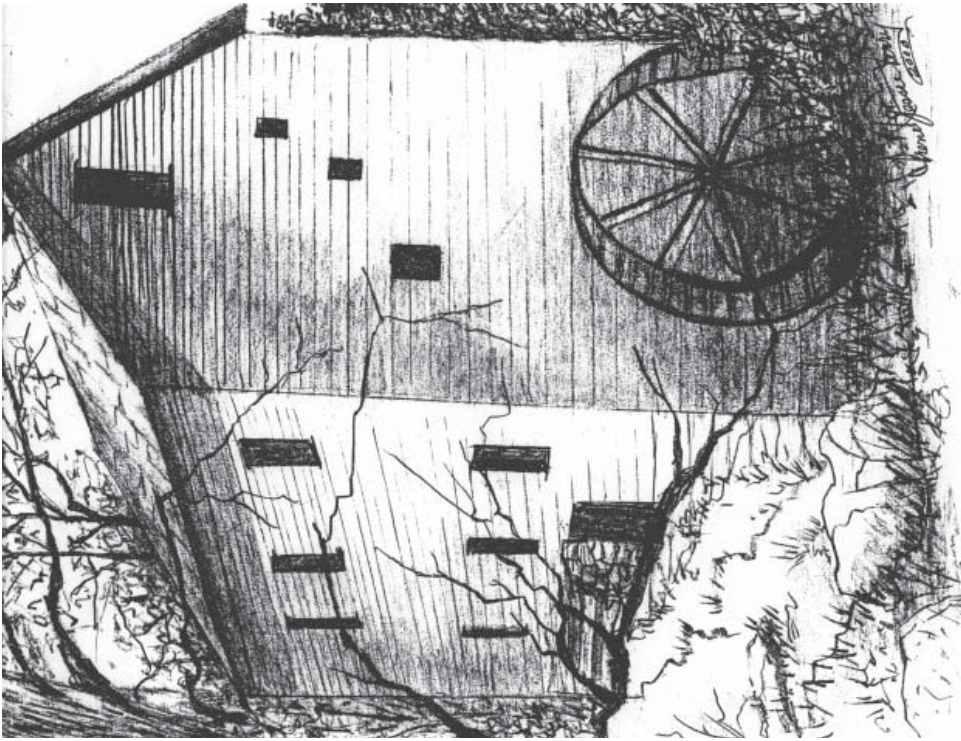
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