

Jessee Family Newsletter

Number 9 Summer and Fall 1996

Dear Cousin,

This work has proven to me that we are all cousins; we just need to discover how. My experience also proves that we can be colleagues and friends, sharing information and helping each other know what it means to be part of an extended family and to appreciate our common heritage. To these aims I dedicate this newsletter.

Interest in the newsletter is increasing and we have several new subscribers. Since the winter edition (#8), I have received many inquiries with new information and, of course, many more questions. I will continue to share all I can in these newsletters, but welcome your submission of complete articles or items of interest ready to print. Much in this edition is based on responses to the last newsletter with additional documentation and new materials provided by you. I thank you greatly.

I am once again chagrined that this newsletter will be late, and I am afraid that I cannot promise much better in the near future. It is not because of your lack of support. I thank many of you for your donations that sustain this newsletter, and I can say the last edition did break even. No, my only excuse is life is too swift-- family, school, work, and other community involvements have made this one of the busiest summers of our lives, and it's simply gone. As I write this, the family prepares for school in the morning, Nelda is off to Durham High School as an "independent studies teacher," my son Earl begins his first year at the University, daughter Emma begins her junior year at Chico High School and just made the varsity volleyball team, and I go to work, hoping the University is indeed ready for the 14,000 students who also begin classes tomorrow. We all have those Sunday-night-before-school-begins-dread, excitement, nerves, and anxiety.

Jim Jessee

Jessee Family Research

A major purpose of this newsletter is to support the effort to trace the ancestors, all the fifteen children, the grandchildren, and thousands of descendants of John and Frankey Lea Jessee. Here we focus on the results of this effort.

Tom and Shirley Rudder have been this newsletter's most steady researchers and constant contributors of valuable information to this goal. Having the energy of beavers, minds like a good Jessee Trap, and

the luxury of retirement, when Tom is not fishing, he and Shirley are constantly digging through the Sutro Library, the federal archives and repository near San Francisco, as well as other family history resources near and far from their home in Carmichael, CA, just outside of Sacramento. They are incisive and exhaustive researchers. With more than a healthy dose of skepticism, Tom must conclusively prove a fact of genealogical information before he will submit it, and he has solved many family mysteries and debunked several family myths. To humble the technophiles amongst us, Tom and Shirley do this without a computer or fancy genealogy software. They carefully record and summarize their information by hand and typewriter into beautifully organized materials. Shirley is Tom's superb random access memory, pulling just what he needs out of her memory and binders as he spins a good yarn, and she is a prodigious researcher herself. They do all this and drive to Russell County for the Dante Reunion every year, making strategic stops in various states and counties along the way to further the research. I am grateful to both of them for all their hard work, and occasional can of salmon that has come my way.

Tom and Shirley took it upon themselves to retrace the entire first three generations of John and Frankey Lea Jessee's family, verifying the birth, marriage and death of each and every child and grandchild through the evidence of county records, census data, and much more. They have done more than anyone I know to find the missing children and grandchildren, finding out especially where those missing daughters, sons-in-law, and their families went. They have done this in part by searching county and census records for every state between Virginia, and Missouri, 1790 to 1870, and found that in the first three generations, Jessee children and grandchildren migrated to Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, and Missouri, some only lighting for a brief time before they or their children moved on to such places as Texas and California. By the 1840s, the Jessees began to arrive in California. Lea and Barbara (Gose) Jessee's son (as proven by Tom and Shirley from the Will of Lea Jessee found in Missouri), Archer Catron Jessee served in the California revolt. Tom feels that he is closing on this task, if not finished, having pretty much exhausted all known sources of public information. Attached is his latest chart listing all the children and grandchildren of John and Frankey Jessee, with birth and death dates where known. If you compare this chart to the one we printed just last January, you can see the significant extensions on several families about whom we previously knew nothing or very little.

I am going to share several of Tom's facts and findings in this newsletter, beginning with his answers to questions in the last newsletter, and then his corrections to it.

In the last newsletter I reported that

Jon Wolf of Washington, DC, from the "Heritage of Person County, NC" provided the children and grandchildren of a Richard Lea, who by age would have been a contemporary or a little older than our Frankey. While his wife is unknown, his children's names include John Bradshear Lea, Mary "Polly" (who married Stephen Harris and named a daughter Fanny Archer and a son Lea), Nancy, Elizabeth, Frances Archer, Moses S., Reuben Richard, William, and George J. Lea. The name Frances Archer grabs your attention. We believe that Frankey Lea, daughter of William and Mary (Archer?) Lea, had an older brother named Richard Lea. Jon Wolf asked if these two Richards are the same. Tom replies, "Jon Wolf is on the right track in my opinion. The Richard Lea he mentions would in fact be a brother of Frankey. Kendall says this Richard was a son of William and Mary Lea. His will shows that he had eleven children (See Ben Rose pg. 93). Here again, only the descendants of William and Mary

use the name Archer."

Pat Jessee Mosser of Kingwood, TX, asked to obtain more information about the two Lea Jessees: Lea, son of John and Frankey, born 1781 and discussed above; and Lea, a son of William Jessee, born in 1811. Tom provides these observations. "Her ancestor Lea Jessee (born in Russell Co. June 13, 1811, son of William Jessee who moved with his family to Lea Co. about 1820) married Mary Ann Rebeck and not his cousin Mary Ann Vermillion, who did not exist (*MoSGA Journal.*, Summer 1983, pg. 163, Records of Marriages Solemnized by Rev. E. A. Carson: Lea Jessee to Mary Ann Rebeck, Nov., 26, 1839, Lee Co., VA, recd. \$5, comment: The lady a student of mine at the time.). The will of Wilson Vermillion pretty much confirms this (Russell Co. W. B. 7-1134). The will identifies three children and you (he is referring to my data base) believe there were five. It also identifies they remained in Russell Co." I have since corrected my data base.

Tom also sent me many corrections to information in the last newsletter, all provided in careful detail and substantiated by appropriate source references. They are:

1. "**Frances Jessee and William Stone** went to Sullivan Co. (not Browning), MO, and are buried there."
2. "**Martin and Jane Price Jessee** could not have had a son Jefferson born in 1854 because Jane died in 1853 (as evidenced in Russell Co. death records, attached). I have seen no record indicating they had a son Jefferson."
3. "The 1820 and 1830 Russell Co. Census shows that **James and Jane Burk Jessee** had a total of three children, one boy and two girls. There are records for Fleming Burk and Nancy, but nothing of the other girl. She could have died between 1830 and 1840."
4. "**Boedicia Jessee, daughter of Archer and Nancy Browning Jessee, married only George W. Candler** (no John Candler). census records show that George's father was the only John Candler in Russell Co. until 1834, when his grandchild John was born. George's mother Dorothy was living with Vincent and Elizabeth (Candler) Jessee in the 1850 Census."
5. "There is no record (census, Bible, etc.) of George Jessee born Aug. 3, 1819, indicated as the son of **William and Mary "Polly" Vermillion Jessee.**" [Ed. note, I could use some help identifying who this George is, the source of my information, or the right family to which he belongs.]
6. "**Elizabeth Jessee (b. 1830, daughter of Lea and Barbara Gose Jessee) married George Hudspeth** [my data base indicates a marriage to a Tyler]. There appears to be a question as to when they married. A Jackson Co., MO, marriage publication shows a date of 26 Mar 1857. When probate action [for Lea Jessee] started in 1853, she was still Elizabeth Jessee. However, when the sale of the slaves was completed, George Hudspeth along with James Saunders, James Alexander, Willis Luttrell, Stephen Jessee, and James Gray, sons and sons-in-law, all received equal shares. This would indicate to me that George and Elizabeth married during the time frame. If she married a Tyler it definitely would have

been a subsequent marriage."

"**The heirs of Lea Jessee** are listed in the appraiser's report of the probate report. They were Barbara, Mary Gray, Stephen Jessee, Rebecca Saunders, Archie C. Jessee, John P. Jessee, Martha Luttrell, Eliza A. Alexander, Elizabeth Jessee, Sophia Jessee. John P. was listed as guardian for Martha F. Jessee and Missouri Jessee, who were obviously not the children of Lea and Barbara."

7. "There are two **Andrew Fergusons**; one is born in 1815. The Andrew Ferguson born in 1830 married Susan Burk (da. of Rebecca Jessee and William Burk)."

8. "**Phynetty Ellis** did not marry the William Fuller you indicate. She married **William Fuller** the son of **Hawkins Fuller**."

8. "There is no record of a Jefferson Jessee indicated as the last son of **Martin Jessee and Virginia Jane Price**." [Ed. note, I could use some help identifying who this Jefferson is, the source of my information, or the right family to which he belongs.]

9. "Regarding **notes for John Jessee**: Archer bought 118 acres (Russell Co., D.B. 8 Pg. 87) and George L. bought 82 acres (Pg. 90). Both purchased their land from the John Jessee Sr. heirs. George did not purchase his 82 acres from Archer."

10. "Regarding Jane Jessee and Henry Fuller, delete any reference of moving to KY." Tom and Shirley Rudder have found "Portraits and Biographical Album Coles Co., IL" Chapman Bros., Chicago, 1887; "History of Coles Co., IL" Wm. Le Baron Jr. & Co., Chicago, 1879; and the Henry Fuller will in Illinois records, and provide their children and additional information in the attached chart. Jane's birth has been traditionally reported to be as late as 1803, but Tom asserts that her age with respect to the various census years would indicate that she was born about 1797, which also changes her birth order from traditional representation.

11. "**Fullen Jessee, son of William Jessee Sr. and grandson of Archer Jessee**, is the first child listed in census records, then Malissa, Andrew, Sousa, William and Alexander in the 1850 Russell Co. Census."

12. " **James and Jane Burk Jessee** sold 107 acres and 33 acres to Chas. C. Dickenson on June 3, 1840 (Russell Co. D.B. 11 Pg. 69). They also sold 150 acres to Jefferson Jessee on June 12, 1847 (D. B. 12 Pg. 103)."

13. "Regarding **James/John Calhoun Chafin** who has been suggested as a son of **Mary Polly Jessee Kiser** and her second husband, James Chafin: James Chafin and his first wife had 3 boys and 2 girls. The last boy was born 1820 to 25 and was probably the subject Chafin since James Chafin age 29 appears in the 1850 Russell Co. Census. Mary Polly Jessee married Chafin aft 1821."

Victoria Ring, a new subscriber who has a business Graphico Publishing in Bluff City, TN, provided several comments and corrections to the Jessee Family Data Base and Newsletter as well. Most significantly, she points out that John and Frankey's daughter **Elizabeth Jessee, who married George Gose**, could not have been born in 1796 as she had her first child in 1807, and suggest that she may have been born in 1786, which both changes her birth order, and refutes a long-held belief that Elizabeth and Rebecca Jessee, born in 1796, were twins. Tom Rudder writes, "I do not know when Elizabeth Jessee Gose was born but now I think I know why Rebecca and Elizabeth were thought to be twins. The D.O.B (date of birth) for George Gose as shown in the 1850 Russell Co. Census, was 1787 and the D.O.B. for his wife Elizabeth (thought to be Elizabeth Jessee) was 1796. In fact his wife at the time was **Elizabeth Cowan**. Knowing that **Rebecca Jessee** was born in 1796 and believing that her sister Elizabeth was the person reflected in the 1850 Census as the wife of George Gose it was logical to assume that Rebecca and Elizabeth were twins."

"When I look at the facts--i.e. the D.O.B for George (1787), the D.O.B. for their first child (1807) and the 1820 Russell Co. Census reflecting an age of 26-45 for Elizabeth--I would estimate her D.O.B. as ca. 1790/91."

Tom provides an attachment, his Elizabeth Jessee corrections, to our long-cherished Russell County source document that many of us hold and regard highly. Not only is her birthdate and therefore birth order shown there incorrect, based on this confusion with George's second wife Elizabeth Cowan, she is not Rebecca's twin sister, and her children listed are in fact the children of George and Elizabeth Cowan. Never fear friends, we have well documented Elizabeth's real family, but we do need help pinpointing her birthdate between 1786 and 1791.

While we are discussing Rebecca Jessee Burk, another new subscriber, **David Hanna** of Colleyville, TX, learned of our research from **Carin Vance's Internet site and Jessee Central (<http://pwp.usa.pipeline.com/~cvrhoden/jessee.htm>)** and wrote to me about the confusion regarding who married William Burk, noting that our data shows him married to Rebecca Jessee. The LDS Ancestral File data base indicates William Burk married Rebecca Vermillion, and many Burk researchers, including David Hanna, had concluded they were Vermillion descendants. Upon learning of our family information, he wondered if indeed he was a Jessee cousin after all. He wrote me several times via e-mail, conducting his own research, and finally concluded as follows.

"I have now copies of all source documents for both cases. And am now convinced that Rebecca Jessee is correct based upon Russell Co., VA Deed Book 6, pg. 409; Deed Book 8, pg. 87 & 90 entries where John Jessee's heirs are conveying their interest in inherited property to Archer and George L. Jessee. All three deeds mention 'William Burk and Rebecca his wife.' I believe that means I am a Jessee cousin."

"I am still curious about the other **Rebecca Vermillion Burk**. Russell Co. Will Book 5, p. 220, is a will for Jessee Vermillion, dated 30 June 1839, proven 8 Dec. 1840. In it he mentions his wife Polly Vermillion, son Jessee Vermillion, and daughters Nancy Taylor, Rebecca Burk and Polly Sutton. Which Burk was she married to?"

From my data base, and with thanks to several sources, I find that Jessee Vermillion Sr. is the son of William and Ann (Wilson) Vermillion. He married Mary Polly Scott. His children are as reported above. His daughter Rebecca married John Burk, son of Thomas and Anne (George) Burk. I also show his daughter Polly married Alexander Litton, not Sutton. David has studied these materials, keyed in the text of these important deeds and wills, and provided them to me and Carin Vance, who has placed them out in her Jessee Central page where they can be downloaded. I am attaching the complete text of the seminal deeds that are the primary source for identifying the fifteen children of John and Frankey Lea Jessee.

David Hanna further comments, "I plotted the 'metes and bounds' descriptions and find that they fit together, as expected, to form an irregularly-shaped tract with Carr's Creek crossing near the southwest corner. A small portion of each of Archer's tracts is on the southwest side of the creek with the majority on the northeast side of the creek, and all of George L.'s land is NE of the creek."

Several subscribers have requested copies of the deeds, wills, and John Jessee Bible that show John Jessee's signature. I had commented to Carin Vance and David Hanna that all the signatures looked alike. To which Dave replied, "My understanding of the process is that deeds and wills were written, signed, and then taken to the County Clerk's office where the clerk would copy the deed or will into the appropriate book. What we find in these county records are only copies of the original document, and the copies were not signed by the original parties. This is why the signatures all appear to be the same person; they were done by the clerk. The original documents probably do not survive, unless in some family records." This leads me to request special effort to discover these original documents and especially the John Jessee Bible, which may still exist amongst personal family records. My copy of the John Jessee signature from his Bible is so poor that I request help providing a decent copy for the next newsletter.

I will discuss two more examples of Tom and Shirley's research contributions before I address their really exciting news regarding the origins of our John Jessee. First, Tom and Shirley provided an abstract of recorded Jessee Deaths in Russell Co., VA, 1853-1896 as taken from a publication by Anita C. Adkins, of Grundy, VA. With full credit to Mrs. Adkins, I will provide this abstract with this newsletter. I have now incorporated much of this information into the Jessee Family data base, except those I have highlighted with an * on the attachment. I need help identifying those individuals, as they are not in my data base.

Tom writes, "When Howard called me a few days ago [This is **Colonel Howard Gilmer Jessee** of Hondo, TX], he said that he believed "Rachenpaugh" was an Indian name. That prompted me to do a little research on the subject." As Catherine "Katy" Rachenpaugh is the wife of John Banner, and an ancestor of many if not most in Russell Co., I am also attaching to this newsletter the essay Tom wrote based on his "little research."

The previous two newsletters provided significant research leads on the Colonial origins of our John Jessee. Tom Rudder and **Dean Jessee** of Salt Lake City, UT, provided exciting new information about a

John Jessee who lived in Mecklenburg Co., VA, and then "removed himself from the county" about 1772, only a few years before we have evidence of our John Jessee in Caswell Co., NC, only 40 miles away. Now Tom provides more evidence of John and other Jessees in Amelia Co. predating this Mecklenburg Co. period. I am attaching his essay regarding evidence of **John Jessee in Amelia Co., VA, 1768-1771**, as well as an indication of other potential brothers and sisters. The specific references cited by Tom from Amelia County Deed Books , 1766-1773, are as follows.

1. (D.B. 9/10, pg. 136) Deed. James Bernard of Amelia Co. to Frances Williamson of same....Wits: William Townes, John Jesse and James Gates. Recorded Jan. 26, 1769.
2. (D.B. 9/10 pg. 143) Deed. Frances (X) Williamson of Amelia Co. to Jacob Williamson of same.... Wits: William Townes, James Gates and John Jesse. Recorded Jan. 26, 1769.
3. (D.B. 9/10 pg. 230) Deed. David Ellington and Jarusia, his wife, of Amelia Co. to John Jesse of same. D. March 30, 1769. Consid: Lb. 40. 40 acres in Amelia Co. on N/S Walnut Branch, adj. lines of Williams, Crafford, & Whittlow, being part of same tract where Ellington now lives, with all houses, etc. Wits: Joseph Motley, William Mullins and Isam (X) Johnson. Recorded April 27, 1769. Jarusia, wife of David Ellington, relinquished her dower rights.
4. (D.B. 11 pg. 320) Deed. William Dearen of Nottoway Parish, Amelia Co. to William Pillow of same. D. Apr. 16, 1771....Wits: John Jesse, William Mullins and Jasper Pillow. Recorded Sept. 26, 1771.
5. (Amelia Co. Will Book 2X, 1761-1771, pg. 258) Williamson, Frances (X). Will d. Dec. 30, 1768, pro. Jan. 26, 1769. Wit. William Townes, John Jesse, Luke Watson.

Below follows a transcription of an abstract of the Revolutionary War pension record of a Thomas Jessee (the original was too poor to copy, and yes Jessee is spelled with two ees throughout), born 1754 in Amelia Co., VA, as provided by Tom and Shirley.

"The data furnished herein are obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, R. 5581 (or 5681, its hard to decipher), based upon the military service of Thomas Jessee in that war.

"Thomas Jessee was born in January 1754, in Amelia County, Virginia, where he lived until he was eight years of age with his father, whose name is not given, moved to Cumberland County, Virginia.

"Several years after the Revolution, Thomas Jessee moved to Prince Edward County, Virginia, where he lived for some years; then returned to Cumberland County, Virginia, and lived two years; then moved to Louisa County, Virginia, where he resided for about two years; thence to Goochland County, Virginia, and then for about two years; thence to Henrico County, Virginia, and lived until 1815, when he moved to Adair County, Kentucky.

"On September 13, 1836, while residing in Adair County, Kentucky, about fifteen miles from Columbia,

he applied for pension and alleged that while residing in Cumberland County, Virginia, he volunteered in January, 1781, and served three tours of three months each as a private under Captains Winston Marcum and Thomas Tucker, Colonels Woodson, Mayo or Major (illegibly written) and Moseby in Virginia Troops; and that he was at the battle of Guilford Court House, at the siege of Yorktown and surrender of Cornwallis and in several skirmishes.

"His claim was not allowed as he failed to furnish proof of six month's service as was required by the pension laws.

"There are no data as to his family."

This last fact is the most disappointing of all, but I firmly believe the more we can learn about this Thomas Jessee and William Jessee discussed by Tom, who we speculate to be a brothers or cousins of our John Jessee, the more we will learn about the origins of the Jesse(e)s in America. Your help in this new area of research will be appreciated.

Frankey Lea Research

In previous newsletters I asked, "Will the Real Frankey Lea Please Stand Up," then had to follow that with "Will Some of You Frankey Leas Please Sit Down?" I continue to meet new researchers and receive additional information on the Lea and Lee families. I am tuned into the national genealogy bulletin boards on just this subject. Still we may never have a definitive answer. There are at least eight "Frankey" Leas/Lees identified in the research, family lore, or speculation, and the possibility that she is none of the above. Most of these were discussed more completely in the last two newsletters. There is little new to add definitively at this time, except the contributions of Tom Rudder, above, reinforcing his belief that she is the daughter of William and Mary (Archer?) Jessee. I invite your continued research, analysis, critique, and correction of the Lea Family information. We still have much to do to establish who is our Frankey Lea?

John Jessee and Frankey Lea Memorial

The central issue of my trip to Russell County last fall became what to do about the John and Frankey Jessee cemetery and proposed memorial. The last newsletter outlined where I think we stand with respect to the preservation of the cemetery and the establishment of a memorial there. I was apparently more frank in my discussion than some of our readers were comfortable, so I must apologize to any that felt I mis-stated, over-stated, or inappropriately characterized the situation. This feedback, and the fact that virtually no one in Russell County has responded to the appeal for help leaves many of us very disappointed. I had many positive responses from family members removed from Russell County, and more pledges of money to support a memorial, but we need people there to handle the nitty gritty. We have had virtually no response from Jimmy Herndon to many attempts to communicate with him both publicly and privately. At this time we are simply stalemated and do not wish to continue to collect

money. Tom and I will close the Memorial Fund account and return all the donations this fall.

The Jesse(e) Family in America and The World

There are many "Jessee" and "Jesse" families in America and Canada who are descended from our John and Frankey Jessee. There are many Jesse and Jessee families in America, even in Russell County, who are not descendants of our John and Frankey Jessee as well. The Old Phillip and Gabriel Jessee descendants in Russell Co. are notable representatives. There are Jesse families in England, France, and Germany, and perhaps Poland and Moravia, if not more countries in the world. I believe we may all be related through common ancestors. I hope this newsletter will inspire the research we need to discover our common heritage. I am providing here, as an ongoing feature, information I have regarding other Jesses and Jessees in America and the world.

In the last issue I featured **Alan Selig's research** on evidence of other Jesse(e)s in America before the Revolution. I will summarize his information here.

George Jessey, b. abt 1715, discharged 1740, Port Royal.

William Jessee, b. abt 1737, drafted 1757, Isle of White.

John Jesse, b. abt 1762, m. Catherine Beamon 1782.

Mary Jessey, b. abt 1762, m. Samuel Goodwin 1782.

Thomas Jesse, b. abt 1766, m. Sarah James 1786.

Jane Jessee, b. bef 1765, Middlesex Co., VA.

Carin Vance shared the inquiry of **Wilma Davis**: "My oldest Jesse ancestor was **William Morgan Jesse** born 2 Sept. 1798, Cumberland Co., VA. His parents both died while he was too young to remember them. He had at least 3 brothers: **John Parker Jesse**, born 1789; **Isham Thomas Jesse**, born 11 Dec. 1791; **Samuel Jesse** born about 1800. Can't find any records of sisters or the mother's name. His father was **John Jesse** of Cumberland Co., VA."

"After the death of his parents, William was 'bound out' to a wheelwright to be sent to school and learn a trade. The man didn't keep his contract and William never went to school. William married Mary Ann Parker, 6 Jan. 1820 in Cumberland Co. In 1833, they and a neighbor moved to Callaway, Co., MO."

This family is the subject of the book, a copy of which has been provided to me by Howard G. Jessee, ***The Jesses 1601-1928***, by **J. S. Jesse**, which I plan to review in future newsletters.

Zella Detweiler suggests we research the **John Jesse** who witnessed some deeds in Spotsylvania Co., VA, in the 1740s and to keep on the lookout for a Jesse(e), surveyor or chain carrier, on some old land grants.

All of the Jesse(e)s noted here are antecedents or contemporaries of our John and Frankey, and their relationship is unknown. John Jessee may have been part of a larger family who was well established for several generations. Please help us learn more about these individuals, and provide me whatever evidence you may have of other Jesse(e) family members in America and the world. Who are these Jessey, Jesse, or Jessee ancestors?

Missing Links

While I have had great success in linking many Jessee family members who have called, written or e-mailed me questions about their heritage, I have not been able to do so for all. I offer this column as an opportunity for you to make inquiries about missing relatives and other lost connections to the Jessee family. However, due to the limitation of space in this newsletter, I am saving several inquiries for the next.

Research Resources and Opportunities

Several of you have expressed willingness to do research if we could give you a specific opportunity or lead. Others have provided specific problems with which they need help, and yet others have provided new resources to aid in our research. As a regular feature of the newsletter, I would like to share those and request your help with research, opinion, or documentation on the issues.

I would like to commend the wonderful effort of **Larry and Pat Taylor**, 18382-18 Wheels Drive, Lexington Park, MD, whose publications, *Russell County Cemeteries*, have recorded most of the cemeteries there. I now have Book #2 which is especially rich with Jessee Family. There are three books currently, they are working on Bible records from Russell Co. next, and ask our help by providing them copies of Bible records. The books cost \$20 each. With fear I am being too greedy, I sure would appreciate a donation of the remaining books to my library.

Correspondence

Retired Colonel Howard Gilmer Jessee of Hondo, TX, and Moccasin Valley, Russell Co., VA, whose generous contributions make this newsletter possible, calls me regularly, although he has slowed down a bit of late. He is, I am afraid, not in good health and was unable to spend this summer with his sister on the original David Jessee place in Russell Co. He has been down in the dumps and may well appreciate a

call from any of his cousins--he loves to talk about the Jessee family.

Howard has requested help locating **William Leon Jessee**, an outstanding Jessee researcher and friend, with whom he has lost contact. He was last known to be living in Lexington Park, MD. If you have any information regarding William Leon Jessee, please let me know, and I will forward it to Howard.

Louise Jessee Walton wrote me as follows.

March 10, 1996

Dear Cousin Jim,

My niece in California, **Jessica Aber**, shared her copy of the Jessee Family Newsletter, #8, with me. I can't tell you how excited this newsletter made me!

I have traced and authenticated my direct line to John Jessee, Rev. War soldier and to his father Henry Jessee who died in Caswell Co., NC....

About 1982 I visited Russell Co. for the first time and took pictures of the Jessee Mill but we were told that the original Geo. Lee (SIC) Jessee home had burned. We never knew about the family cemetery on the Jimmy Herndon property (Ed. note, it would have been owned by Catherine Smith's family at this time). However, we did locate the cemetery where Noah Jessee and his wife were buried. Enclosed are pictures of the headstones in a cemetery located above the old Noah Jessee cabin and on the property of Elihu Jessee near the barn belonging to Noah.

The idea of a John Jessee memorial sounds great. What a reunion we Jessees could have!

Louise Jessee Walton

Speaking of Jessee Family reunions, the descendants of **George Lea Jessee** through **Frederick W. Jessee** and **Nannie Mary Ann Jessee** had a reunion on August 17, 1996, at the Observation Knob Camp Ground, 5-6 miles south of Abingdon, VA. Several members of the family called or wrote to invite me, including **Ellawese Jessee Reed** and our long-time supporter, **Arlene Jessee**. I sure wish I could have been there. I am hoping one of the family will write an article for the next newsletter, and share with me any photos and information gleaned about this branch of the family. Here are excerpts from a wonderful letter of invitation I received from **Vernon Cecil Jessee** of Clinton, OH.

July 26, 1996

Dear Jim,

I am writing to say thank you for your research on the family history of the "Jessees." I have not corresponded with you before, but others of my family have, namely my daughter **Carolyn Sue** from Oak Harbor, Ohio, my sister **Ellawese Jessee Reed** from Florida.

I am the son of **Dennie Edison Jessee, Sr.** There was seven of us, but only three of us left, myself, my sister Ellawese, and my youngest brother **Barney Jessee** in North Carolina. Of course I have four children, 3 boys and 1 girl, also 12 grandchildren. (Ed. Note: Cecil, I sure would like to have detailed information on all these descendants). I am associated with the Free Will Baptist Church, ordained minister, pastor of a small congregation in Norwalk, Ohio. It's really a challenge to try and figure out the relationship of all the Jessees, since there are cousins, double cousins in their marriages.

.... Please excuse the way I write, I am not much of a hand at it. I don't have a great education, I grew up the hard way, my Father separated from my Mother when I was about 12 years old. But I went to see him a few years before he died, and put my arms around his neck and told him I loved him, and that there was nothing in my heart against him. I'm proud of my Jessee heritage, no matter what. I hope that someday I'll get to meet you and your family.

God Bless,

Rev. Cecil Jessee

Cecil, so do I, and letters like yours are what keep me inspired in this work. Thank you.

Below, at the end of John Jessee's will, and on the back page, please find photographs provided by **Marshall Jefferson "Jeff" Jessee** of Florida. Below you can see Jim Jessee on left, Tom Rudder on right, exploring the much overgrown John Jessee Cemetery near Mill Creek. On the will see a distance view of the cemetery and original John Jessee land. On the back page you can see Jessee's Mill.

Jessee Family Newsletter Reprints

At the request of many, I have now collected Jessee Family Newsletters #1-7, January 1992-August 1995, into a single reprint, although without some attachments, as they have become obsolete. You may request these and other back issues, as well as specific pedigree or descendants charts for \$10. Your continuing donations to help me defer the costs of research, printing, copying, and postage are very much welcome.

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JOHN AND FRANKEY JESSEE'S CHILDREN ARE NAMED AS HEIRS

IN RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA, DEED BOOK ENTRIES

John Jessee died intestate before 17 Nov 1815. On 28 Oct 1820 a deed was made and recorded on 1 May 1921 in Russell County, VA, Deed Book 6, p. 409. This deed conveys 50 acres of his 250 acre plantation on Carr's Creek (later know as Mill Creek) to his son Archibald (Archer) Jessee. All fifteen of John Jessee's children are mentioned by name.

On 7 Aug 1827, another 118 acres of the 250 acre plantation was deeded by James Jessee's heirs to Archer Jessee. This tract lies to the east and to the south of and is adjacent to the above 50 acre tract. This deed is recorded in Russell County Deed Book 8, p. 87. Again all children are named. Elizabeth Jessee is now shown as deceased. The text of this deed book entry is shown below.

The final 82 acres of the original 250 acre tract was deeded by James Jessee's heirs to George L. Jessee, also on 7 August 1827. This deed is recorded in Russell County, VA, Deed Book 8, p. 90. This deed also includes the names of all of the children. This tract lies to the east of the above two tracts that were deeded to Archer Jessee.

All three of these deed book entries are unusually rich in genealogical information. All children are listed several times in each deed. Spouses of married females are also named. There may also be some significance in the order that they are named. They appear to be listed in birth order, from eldest to youngest. If this is true, some existing birth order information may have to be revisited.

22 Aug 1996

David L. Hanna

Russell County, VA, Deed Book 8, p. 87-90

This Indenture made this 7th day of August in the year of Christ, One thousand eight hundred and twenty seven, between John Jessee, Lea Jessee, David Jessee, Mary Kizer widow of Abednego Kizer dec'd, George Gose for himself and the heirs of his wife Elizabeth dec'd,.

William Jessee, William Stone and Frances his wife, Stephen Gose and Boadicea his wife, Wilson Vermillion and Sally his wife, James Jessee, William Burk and Rebecca his wife, Henry Fuller and Jane his wife, George L. Jessee and Martin Jessee now or late of the County of Russell and State of Virginia of one part and Archer Jessee of said County and State of the other part. Witnesseth that whereas John Jessee Sen'r dec'd of the said County of Russell departed this life intestate leaving certain lands the title to which has descended to the said Archer Jessee, John Jessee, Lea Jessee, David Jessee, Mary Kizer the wife of Abednego Kizer dec'd, William Jessee, Elizabeth Gose wife of George Gose, Frances Stone wife of William Stone, Boadicea Gose wife of Stephen Gose, Sally Vermillion wife of Wilson Vermillion, James Jessee, Rebecca Burk wife of William Burk, Jane Fuller wife of Henry Fuller, George L. Jessee and Martin Jessee his co heirs in parcenary and whereas the aforesaid co heirs and co parceners Archer Jessee, John Jessee, Lea Jessee, David Jessee, Mary Kizer, William Jessee, George Gose for himself and Elizabeth his wife dec'd, William Stone and Frances his wife, Stephen Gose and Boadicea his wife, Wilson Vermillion and Sally his wife, James Jessee, William Burk and Rebecca his wife, Henry Fuller and Jane his wife and George L. Jessee for and in consideration of what they have received of their Father's estate by way of advancement and they refusing to bring it into hotchpot and the further sum of twenty five dollars paid Mary Kizer and twenty five dollars paid George Gose and Elizabeth his wife and Forty dollars paid William Stone and Frances his wife and twenty five dollars paid Stephen Gose and Boadicea his wife and twenty five dollars paid Wilson Vermillion and Sally his wife and twenty five dollars paid William Burk and Rebecca his wife and twenty five dollars paid Henry Fuller and Jane his wife by the said Martin Jessee and a deed made for his part of eighty five acres of his fathers land to the said George L. Jessee and he having sold the land which he was to receive in full of his legacy of his father's estate and the sums paid by him to Archer Jessee, for the sum of nine hundred dollars and this being known to the aforesaid co heirs and co parceners and the special request of the said Martin Jessee and Archer Jessee all of which is hereby acknowledged they the said co heirs have bargained and sold and by these presents do and each of them doth bargain and sell unto the said Archer Jessee his heirs and assigns their parts or portions of a certain tract of parcel of land containing one hundred and eighteen acres lying in the said County of Russell on both sides of Carrs Creek in Rieds Valley and bounded as follows Beginning at a sugar tree on the east side of a Ridge at and below a bunch of rocks corner to George L. Jessees' land and with his line N. 25 W. 192 poles to a poplar corner to said George L. Jessee then leaving his land S. 57 W. 72 poles to a rock between a chesnut oak and a red bud corner of said Archer Jessee's land and with his line S. 8 E. 156 [poles] to a white oak and sugar tree on the top of a ridge S. 89 W. 66 poles crossing said Creek to a walnut and horn beam corner to said Jessee's then leaving his line S. 15 E. 20 poles to a large white oak by a mill N. 72 W. 17 poles to a small sugar tree at the foot of a high hill S. 36 E. 74 [poles] to a large buck eye and sugar tree by a drain N. 40 E 73 poles crossing the creek to two dogwood saplings N. 67 E. 105 poles to the beginning. Together with all appurtenances privileges and advantages to the same belonging. To have and to hold the said tract of land and appurtenances unto the said Archer Jessee his heirs and assigns forever. And the said John Jessee, Lea Jessee, David Jessee, Mary Kizer, William Jessee, George Gose for himself and the heirs of Elizabeth his wife, William Stone and Frances his

wife, Stephen Gose and Boadicea his wife, Martin Vermillion and Sally his wife, James Jessee, William Burk and Rebecca his wife, Henry Fuller and Jane his wife, George L. Jessee and Martin Jessee for themselves and their heirs do hereby covenant and grant to the said Archer Jessee his heirs and assigns the tract of land aforesaid free from the claim or claims of them the said John Jessee, Lea Jessee, David Jessee, Mary Kizer, William Jessee, George Gose and the heirs of his wife Elizabeth, William Stone and Frances his wife, Stephen Gose and Boadicea his wife, Wilson Vermillion and Sally his wife, James Jessee, William Burk and Rebecca his wife, Henry Fuller and Jane his wife, George L. Jessee and Martin Jessee or either of them their or either of their heirs and of all and every person or persons whatsoever shall will and do warrant and forever defend by these presents. In witness whereof they the said co- heirs and co parceners have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first herein written.

/s/ John Jessee {Seal}

/s/ Lea Jessee {Seal}

/s/ George Gose {Seal}

/s/ David Jessee {Seal}

/s/ James Jessee {Seal}

/s/ Wm. Stone {Seal}

/s/ Frankey Stone {Seal}

/s/ Henry Fuller {Seal}

/s/ Jane Fuller {Seal}

/s/ Mary Kizer {Seal}

/s/ William Burk {Seal}

/s/ Rebecca Burk {Seal}

/s/ George L. Jessee {Seal}

/s/ Martin Jessee {Seal}

/s/ William Jessee {Seal}

/s/ Wilson Vermillion {Seal}

/s/ Sarah (her X mark) Vermillion {Seal}

/s/ Boadicea (her X mark) Gose {Seal}

/s/ Stephen Gose {Seal}

Russell County, to wit:

We Henry Dickenson and James Dickenson Jr.

Justices of the peace for the county aforesaid in the State of Virginia do hereby certify that Stephen Gose party to a certain deed bearing date on the 7th day of August 1827 and hereunto annexed personally appeared before us in our county aforesaid and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed and desired us to certify the said acknowledgment to the Clerk of the County Court of Russell in order that the said deed may be recorded. Given under our hands and seals this 28th day of March 1828.

/s/ Henry Dickenson {Seal}

/s/ James Dickenson, Jr. {Seal}

Russell County, to wit:

We Henry Dickenson and James Dickenson Jr.

Justices of the peace for the county aforesaid in the State of Virginia do hereby certify that Boadicea Gose the wife of Stephen Gose parties to a

certain deed bearing date the 7th day of August 1827 and hereunto annexed personally appeared before us in our [county] aforesaid and being examined by us privately and apart from her husband and having the deed aforesaid fully explained to her she the said Boadicea Gose acknowledged the same to be her act and deed and declared that she had willingly signed sealed and delivered the same and that she wished not to retract it. Given under our hands and seals this 28th day of March 1828.

/s/ Henry Dickenson {Seal}

/s/ James Dickenson, Jr. {Seal}

At a Court held for Russell County the 7th day of August 1827 --

This Indenture of bargain and sale was acknowledged in court by John Jessee, Lea Jessee, George Gose, David Jessee, James Jessee, Wm. Stone and Frances his wife, Henry Fuller and Jane his wife, Mary Kizer, Wm. Burk and Rebecca his wife, George L Jessee and Martin Jessee parties thereto to be their act and deed the said Frances Stone, Jane Fuller and Rebecca Burk having been first privately examined as the law directs.

At a Court held for said County the 2nd day of October 1827.

This Indenture was acknowledged in Court by William Jessee a party thereto to be his act and deed. At a Court held for said county on the 4th day of December 1827. This Indenture was acknowledged in Court by Wilson

Vermillion and Sarah his wife parties thereto to be their act and deed, she

the said Sarah having been first privately examined as the law directs.

And on the first day of April 1828. This Indenture was produced in the

Clerks Office of Russell County together with the acknowledgment of Stephen

Gose & Boadicea his wife certified by two Justices of the Peace for said

County thereto annexed and admitted to record.

Teste

/s/ James P Carrell, C.R.C.

The Jessee Family Newsletter

Below is a view of Jessee's Mill, Russell County, Virginia

The Jessee Family Newsletter
1272 Hobart Avenue
Chico, CA 95926