

Jessee Family Newsletter

Number 10 Winter and Spring 1997

Dear Cousin, This work has proven to me that we are indeed all cousins; we just need to discover how. My experience proves that we can be colleagues and friends, too, sharing information and helping each other know what it means to be part of a an extended family and to appreciate our family heritage.

I recently made a presentation to the Paradise, CA Genealogical Society, which is a custodian of much Butte County, CA genealogy. I did a "book report" on *The Mountain of Names-- A History of the Human Family*, by Alex Shoumatoff, Simon and Schuster, 1985. Shoumatoff makes the case that we are all no more than 50 generations removed from a common ancestor. Those of English ancestry probably share a common ancestor within 20 generations, since 1492. Since 750 A.D., all people, that is "all mankind," of every race and continent, share one or more common ancestors. We are all cousins.

We are indeed a Family of Man.

Interest in the newsletter is steady and we have several new subscribers. I have received many letters, phone calls, and e-mail inquiries with much new information and many more questions than I can answer. I am behind in my correspondence, and I apologize to those of you to whom I owe responses. I will continue to share all I can in these newsletters, but fear I cannot do justice to the work that needs to be done. I welcome your submission of complete articles or items of interest ready to print.

Last year is the first year that I can say the newsletter broke even with respect to my cost. Please see the 1996 Honor Roll of those who were especially generous and thus enabled me to include more and do more work for all.

Thank you very much.

Jim Jessee

Origins of The Jesse(e) Family

Many Jesses in America are descended from **John Jessee (1750-1815)**, and **Frankey Lea (1752/61-1836)** of Cobb's

Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina and Carr's Creek (today Mill Creek) in Reed's Valley, Russell County, Virginia. They had fifteen children. There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," even "Jessie" families in the United States and Canada who are descended from those children. All of us living at this time who are their descendants, including most of the subscribers to this newsletter, are about fifth or sixth cousins, or even closer kin.

There are many "Jesse," "Jessee," "Jessie," "Jessey," and, perhaps, "Jaci," "Jacy," and "Jacie" families in America and the world who are not descendants of John and Frankey. Indeed, right in Russell County, all the descendants of "Old Phillip" and his son Gabriel Jessee are notable representatives. We have speculated that Phillip could have been an older brother of John Jessee, but we have no proof. Other Jesse(e) families in America are likely more distant cousins with whom we share common ancestors and research interest. I welcome them to this newsletter.

As "Jesse" and "Jessee" are the two most frequent spellings of this family name, and since the English form of "Jesse" appears to be the root, I shall adopt the convention of using "Jesse(e)" in reference to the larger family. I am taking extra care to differentiate the two spellings in materials provided below to reflect the spelling as found in the records, but those two "ees" are so habitual for me, that I beg for your corrections when needed.

Jesse is a Hebrew name, the father of Abraham, and holy for Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Some speculate that our Jesse(e) ancestors were Jews. There is more evidence to suggest they were ardent Protestants, early Baptists, persecuted and driven from Europe to England, then America.

We believe the Jesse(e)s largely immigrated to America from England, perhaps from Wales. There are many "Jesse" families in England, although a more precise demography would be welcome. Variations of this surname may also be found in France and Germany, and perhaps Poland and Moravia, if not more countries in the world.

Carlyne Ritter of Winchester Bay, OR asks, "Does anyone know where all those Jessees in Newfoundland (Canada) come from?"

I believe we may all be related through shared ancestors. I hope this newsletter will inspire the research we need to discover our common heritage. I am providing here a comprehensive review and new information I have received from many generous researchers regarding the origins of the several Jesse(e) families in America and the world.

Contributor **Reverend Henry Jesse** of Denver, CO, who is of comparatively recent English immigration, indicates that the name John Jesse is very widely recorded in various but specific places in England. We need a directory and frequency distribution map of the surname Jesse(e) in England, and more research on our English origins. Any volunteers?

In the May 1994 newsletter I provided information from **Victor DeWitt** on his family who descend from **three Jesse brothers from England: John** (b. 1829), **Samuel** (b. 1837), and **George** (b. 1843), who emigrated to Iowa in the 1860s. Their father in England was John Jesse (b. abt. 1810). All those Johns may not make research any easier, but we welcome efforts to connect the American Jesse(e) families to our English Jesse cousins.

In previous newsletters I have featured **Alan Selig's** research on evidence of Jesse(e)s in early America. I will summarize his material again, adding more names and sources, supplied by **Jack Hockett** and other contributors. Of special interest is evidence of an early American, Capt. James Jessey (b. bef. 1675), provided by **Virginia Bennett**. Please help us learn more about them

and their relationships to each other, and provide me whatever evidence you may have of other pre-1800 Jesse(e) family members in America and the world. Who are these early American Jessey, Jesse, or Jessee ancestors?

FROM: *Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight, VA* compiled by Roddie, 1980, pg. 466-467: "Samuel (Godwin), born 1687/88. Married (1) Mary, daughter of Capt. James Jessey of Nansemond, in 1711. Mary died 1720. ...Children by his first wife (Mary): Samuel (b. 1712), Thomas (b. 1714), Mary (b. 1717)."

Capt. James Jessey of Nansemond
(b. bef 1675)

FROM: *Complete Book of Emigrants 1700-1750*. A more complete citation is needed. **John Jesse** (b bef 1691), England, transported 1-13 to 3-31-1706 Ship "Ann" from Bristol, England to Virginia.

Caleb Jesse (b bef 1705), England, transported 9-3 to 10-20-1720 Ship "Nevi's Merchant."

FROM: *Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774*, by Murtie June Clark, Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1983. Pg. 240: #22 Private Jessey, Geo: Remarks: D (discharged) 17 June 1740, Pr Royal. Pg. 450: #52 Jessee, W:m age 20, 5'7", from Virginia, trade: Planter, Enlistment: drft, Isle White.

George Jessey (b. abt. 1715),
discharged 17 June 1740, Port Royal (VA).

William Jesse (b. abt. 1737),
drafted 1757, Isle of White (VA).

FROM: *Virginia's Colonial Soldiers, 7th Company, Virginia Regiment*, by Bockstruck. This appears to be a second reference to the same William Jesse.

William Jesse, 20, 5'7", planter, fair complexion.

FROM: *Marriages of Some Virginia Residents, 1607-1800*: 1964, compiled by Dorothy Ford Wielfich (from various sources), St. Park Ave., Naugatuck, Connecticut.

John Jesse (b. abt. 1762), m. Catherine Beamon, 4 August 1782, Christ Church, Middlesex Co., VA. See also *Hawkins-Jesse Families* discussion below.

Mary Jessey (b. abt. 1762), m. Samuel Goodwin (1st wife), August 1782, Middlesex Co., VA. This would appear to be the Mary Jessey, da. of Capt. James Jessey referenced above, but the data is in conflict. This needs to be checked.

FROM: *Virginia Marriage Records*; compiled by Elizabeth Petty Batly, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1984.

Thomas Jesse (b abt. 1766), m. Sarah James ,
23 September 1786, Amelia Co., VA.

FROM: *The First US Census, 1790*.
Jane Jessee, Middlesex County VA,
listed as head of household

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

FROM: 1810 Census Middlesex Co., VA. Also listed on 1810 Middlesex Co. Tax List.

Samuel Jessee, age 26-45, wife age 26-45,
9 children or dependents, 5 slaves.

John Jessee, Sr., age 45+, wife age 45+,
14 children or dependents, 18 slaves.

John Jessee, Jr., age 26-45, wife, age 26-45,
4 children or dependents, 5 slaves.

This **John Jessee Sr.** would have been born before 1765. We can speculate that Samuel and John Jr. are his children, but we need proof.

All of the Jesse(e)s noted here are antecedents or contemporaries of John Jessee of Russell Co., and their relationship to him is unknown. John Jessee may well have been part of a larger Jesse(e) family, which was well established for several generations in America.

Colonel Howard Gilmer Jessee provided me complete copies of two books: a personally autographed copy of *Hawkins-Jesse Families*, compiled by J. W. Singer, Stamping Ground, KY, 1972, and *The Jesses, 1601-1928*, prepared by J. S. Jesse, printed in 1928. These authors each trace their Jesse(e) family roots to various contemporaries or antecedents of John and Frankey Lea Jessee, and their relationship, if any, to John and Frankey is unknown. Here I will share information and excerpts which describe the origins of these Jesse(e) families in America and give us all more clues as to where we can focus our shared research interests.

J. W. Singer, in his *Hawkins-Jesse Families*, traces their Kentucky Jesse family roots to a William Jesse, who appears to be the same William Jesse referenced twice above. Singer writes of his Jesse family:

"The earliest known ancestor of the Jesse line is **William Jesse, 1736-1796, born in King and Queen Co., VA**. He is listed in the Col. George Washington papers, King and Queen Co., Colonial Abstracts, by Fleet, Vol. 15 page 2: No. 52, William Jessee, age 20, 5 feet 7 inches, King and Queen Co., complexion fair. He served with Washington in the French and Indian War in 1756.

"The administrators' settlement of the estate of William Jesse was found by Miss Virginia Revere on pages 178-180 of Will Book 2, in the courthouse at Urbanna, Middlesex Co., VA. There is with the papers a map of the farm,

dated Nov. 16, 1799, showing how it was to be divided. It consists of 375 acres, one third of which was to be given to the wife for her lifetime, and the other two-thirds to be equally divided among the four children:

1. John Jesse, (b. abt. 1762) died in Essex Co., VA in 1814. Married twice: first to Catherine Beamon and second to Elizabeth Street." This John Jesse appears to be John Jesse whose marriage record to Catherine Beamon in Christ Church is noted above. He had three children by Catherine Beamon,

1.1 John B. Jesse (b. 1783),

1.2 William Jesse (b. abt 1784),

1.3 Thomas Jesse (b. abt 1786),

and one daughter by Elizabeth Street,

1.4 Catherine S. Jesse (b. aft 1787) who married Lewis A. Montague, and among his many descendants is Governor A. J. Montague of Virginia (Singer, pgs. 14-18).

2. Lucy Jesse, married Thomas Mullins in 1806. No descendants are recorded.

3. Elizabeth Jesse, married Edmund Stevens in 1800. No descendants are recorded

4. Thomas Jesse (b. abt 1765), married Ann Cawthorne (b. 1771, Essex Co. da. of Richard and Catherine Mitchell Cawthorne) about 1790 in Essex Co., moved his family to Woodford Co., KY, about 1814. Thomas and Ann Jessee had eight children, six lived:

4.1 Washington Jesse (b. 1796 in Essex Co., VA) ma. his cousin Eliza Ann Jesse, da. of John B. Jesse. They had two sons, George W. Jesse and Andrew J. Jesse (b. Feb. 24, 1830).

4.2 Richard C. Jesse (b. abt 1792 in Essex Co.), came to Woodford Co., KY about 1814. Married twice: First wife Patsy Wright, da. of Meredith Wright. Their daughter Martha Jesse married Giles Hawkins, Jr. [their descendants include and are largely the focus of Mr. J. W. Singer's research, and their descendants are provided in *The Hawkins-Jesse Family*, pg. 7-11].

4.3 Leroy D. Jesse (b. 1798 in Essex Co.) came to Woodford Co., KY in 1814, where he married his cousin Mildred Gough Jesse, da. of John B. Jesse, and had children: James P. Jesse (b. 1848) and John D. Jesse (b. 1850).

4.4 Reuben Jesse (b. aft 1792 in Essex Co.) married Jane Ann Steele, and had two children: Mildred Jessee, married George Nash, and John H. Jessee, married Sallie Stevenson, served in State Legislature, 1883-84.

4.5 James Jesse, who never married.

4.6 Ann Jesse, for whom there is no data.
(Singer, pgs. 19-21)

Mr. Singer provides insight into our dilemma by also discussing other Jesse(e) families he had discovered in his research. Writing in 1972 he states:

"There are several other Jesse families whose relationship to our own William Jesse line has not been proven. Many of the same given names occur in these families, and some are even from the same counties in Virginia. In addition to our own Jesses there was a second Richard Jesse and a Rev. Sam Jesse in Middlesex County at the same time, but no relationship has been proven. In Woodford Co., KY, about 1825 there was two other Richard Jesses in addition to our own Richard C. Jesse, as well as two or three Thomas Jesses and the Rev. Sam Jesse appears here again. ...

"There was a William Jesse from Prince Edward Co., VA, who was a Revolutionary soldier as well as John Jesse from North Carolina who was a musician in the Army, but no relationship appears. [This is John Jessee of Caswell Co., NC who ma. Frankey Lea].

"The most famous Jesse with whom we would all like to claim kin, was Elder Henry, who spelled his name Jessey or Jacie. He was born in 1601 and died in 1663. He was one of the greatest scholars and theologians of his time, well versed in Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, and Chaldee languages, and author of a number of books. He was pastor to Oliver Cromwell, but came into disfavor when he championed the oppressed Jews and adopted Baptist beliefs on the subject of baptism. As a consequence he was imprisoned, and died in jail. Elder Jessey had no children, but John Jesse of Llanbedr Hall, who was High Sheriff of Denbigh County, Wales, is said to have been a nephew. Many of the Jesses of America were Baptist preachers."

Editor's Note: I have included a current photo of Llanbedr Hall, provided to me by Janice Rodby, who recently visited the hall and met the current owner. Howard G. Jessee, who is acquainted with the owner, had previously provided me photos, and has also visited the manor, put her in contact with him.

Mr. Singer continues:

"In 1928 a little book was published by J. S. Jesse entitled *The Jesses 1601-1928*. This contains sketches of the lives of many Jesses, but none of them seem to be related to our Jesse family." [Nor our Jessee family, ed.]

"Howard Jesse, of Hondo, Texas, has invested much time and money in family research, and has discovered ancestors in earliest colonial Virginia and in England. He is a descendant of Elder David Jesse (SIC), pioneer Baptist preacher in Virginia."

"In Columbia, Adair County, KY, there is a Jesse family descended from a Thomas Jesse of Virginia, a Revolutionary War veteran, but there appears to be no relationship."
(Singer, p 26-27.)

J. S. Jessee in *The Jesses 1601-1928*

traces their Missouri Jesse family roots to

John Jesse (b. bef 1770) of Cumberland Co., VA. J. S. Jesse writes of his Jesse family:

"John Jesse. Wife's name unknown. It is not known where or when he was born. We have understood it was in Cumberland County, Virginia. He had four sons, John P., Thomas Hall, William Morgan, Samuel. Uncle Thomas Bradley knew him. He told me he was a soldier, and in a battle his captain was wounded, and he took him on his back and carried him off the battlefield. He and his wife died before William, their third son, had any recollection of them."

J. S. Jessee is the grandson of William Morgan Jessee, and his book is largely about the descendants of William

Morgan Jesse and Mary Ann Parker, as well as a record of other Jesses he discovered in his research whose relationship he did not know. It includes a much-detailed memorial to Elder Henry Jesse, A. M. (b. 1601 at West Routen, Yorkshire, England) who is mentioned by J. W. Singer above as having no descendants.

J. S. Jessee provides the following information about the known descendants of his ancestor, **John Jesse (b. bef 1770) of Cumberland Co., VA.**

1. John P. Jesse (b. bef 1791). Wife's name unknown. He settled in Washington, Georgia, and married there, and died there. He was a carriage manufacturer. He had two children, Thomas and Melissa. Thomas lost one leg in the Confederate Army. He was a jeweler by trade. He was a tax collector for some years in his county. Thomas or Melissa ever married. They died within a few hours of each other.

2. Thomas Hall Jesse (born Dec. 11, 1791). His wife, Nancy Dollins, was born Dec. 12, 1790, in Orange County, Virginia. They made their home in Kentucky. Thomas Hall Jesse died there. In 1852 his wife, Nancy Dollins Jesse, went from Shelby County, Kentucky to Southwest Missouri with her daughter, Martha Smith Flood and her husband. Her son, James Jesse and his family, went at the same time. He died soon thereafter. During the war both families were refugees in Montgomery County, Missouri. My grandmother visited them there. They returned to Southwest Missouri in 1867. Mrs. Jesse died at Humansville in 1876, aged eighty-six years."

3. William Morgan Jesse (b. September 2, 1798, in Cumberland County, Virginia; d. August 13, 1857, Mexico, MO). After the death of both his parents, he was 'bound out.' William Morgan Jesse and Mary Ann Parker were married January 6, 1820. They lived in Cumberland County, Virginia. In 1833 William Jesse decided to move to Missouri. In the fall of 1834 they settled on land ... three miles west of where the courthouse in Mexico (in then Callaway Co., now Audrain Co., MO) now stands." He lived the remainder of his life there. Their children included the following whose families are described in detail.

3.1 John Parker Jesse (b. abt 1819, Cumberland Co. VA, d. Nov. 18, 1876, Mexico, MO) married Sally Ann Bradley, Mar. 20, 1840 in Missouri. They had ten children.

3.2 Isham Thomas Jesse (b. June 23, 1822, Cumberland Co., VA. d. Dec. 21. 1878, Mexico, MO) married Julia Ann Bradley. They had eight children.

3.3 William Jeremiah Jesse (b. May 1, 1828, Cartersville, Cumberland Co., VA, d. Jan. 25, 1905, Mexico, MO) married Manerva Black, Dec. 10, 1851. They had nine children.

3.4 Royal Anderson Jesse (b. April 6, 1831, Cumberland Co., VA, d. 1913, Mexico, MO).

3.5 Mary Ann Jesse married James Samuel Oslin and had eleven children.

3.6 Sarah Guthrie Jesse married William Thomas Bradley and had twelve children.

3.7 Jesse Samuel Jesse married Sarah John Scott and had ten children.

3.8 Paulina Elizabeth Jessee married William Henry Day and had twelve children.

3.9 James Madison Jesse married Lucy Ann Beaty and had eight children.

3.10 David Lumpkin Jesse married Mary Elizabeth Read and had eleven children. Second wife, Elizabeth Spangler.

3.11 Columbus Clay Jesse married Obedience Long and had nine children.

4. Samuel Jesse. No information provided.

Harry R. and Bev Jesse Shuptrine of Irvine, CA are newsletter supporters, and descendants of William Morgan

Jesse and Mary Ann Parker. I am attaching two of their letters, which describe their efforts to knit together our various Jesse(e) lines.

The pedigree of Richard Henry Jesse leads us to another unconnected root Jesse family in America. **Mrs. Zella Detweiler** provided the following material from page 435 of a source which is not identified. I would appreciate any help giving proper credit to the following extract.

"Jessee, Richard Henry, doctor of laws, and eighth president of the University of the State of Missouri, was born March 1, 1853, in Lancaster County, Virginia, **son of William T. and Mary (Claybrook) Jesse** [da. of Rev Richard Claybrook of Middlesex Co., VA]. What is known as the old Ball Farm was his birthplace, and this was also the birthplace of Mary Ball, the mother of George Washington. This historic farm is still owned by Dr. Jesse and two members of his family. The family on the father's side came from England to Virginia in early Colonial days and settled in King William County. Thence the grandfather of Dr. Jesse removed to King and Queen Co. In this county Dr. Jesse's father was born and reared."

This article goes on to describe his education and illustrious career as a scholar and educator, a founder of the University of Louisiana, and the eighth president of the University of Missouri. It continues: "He married in 1882, Miss Addie Henry Polk, of Princess Anne, Maryland. ... They bore six children." J. S. Jesse's book provides his pedigree and descendants charts, although I cannot say I have had communication from anyone in this family.

Daniel Jessee II of Glendale, CA provides a pedigree back to his Jessee origins from **Walter Jessee** (b. 1807, Pipe Co., KY), his son, **Issac Jessee** (b. 1842, Pipe Co, KY), his son, **Daniel Jessee I** (b. 9-7-1867, Carter Co., KY). He had three sons, Walter, Otto, and **Boyd B. Jessee** (b. 7-4-1898, d. 7-9-1968, Ashland, KY), who had a daughter Mary-Betty Jessee and son, **Boyd E. Jessee** (b. 8-13-1923, Ashland, KY) now a retired civil engineer in Los Angeles, CA, who had a daughter Ellen Jessee Coffin (b. 5-2-1956, Los Angeles, CA) and son, **Daniel Jessee II** (b. 5-5-53, Los Angeles, CA) who has a son **Daniel Jessee III** (b. 10-29-1992, Glendale, CA).

Daniel's distinguished Jessee pedigree, and note the two "ees" in his surname spelling, leads us to yet another possible ancestral root, unless Walter can be connected to one of the Jesse(e) families noted above.

Marshall Jefferson Jessee asked who was **Confederate Colonel George M. Jessee**, who played a distinctive role in Kentucky Civil War history. Jeff provided an article of great interest by Jim Reis titled "The Great Train Robbery" which I included in Newsletter #8.

Tom and Shirley Rudder responded with a great deal more information about the Civil War service of George M. Jessee, including a Roll of Companies A, B, and C of Jessee's Battalion Mounted Rifles. Tom provides this speculation about his origins.

"I believe that research would reveal that he was a descendant of the **Thomas Jessee born in Amelia Co., VA (bef. 1760)** who moved to KY in 1815 and applied for a Revolutionary War pension there. (This may also be the Thomas Jesse of Adair Co., KY mentioned by J. W. Singer, above).

"Records indicate that most all the Jesse(ee) people from Amelia and adjoining counties use the "ee" and since it appears to me, the John Jessee came from that general area, I have to believe that John and Thomas were probably related."

Mrs. **Zella Detweiler** of Colorado also suggests we research the **John Jesse who witnessed 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.

Lastly, from a family group sheet, prepared by Harry A. Suffron, of Greeley, CO. and recorded from the Rawlings Family Bible, we learn the following information. I am sorry I do not know who sent me this group sheet.

1.0 Phillip M. Jessee (b. 9/15/1829, d. 7/22/1900) who ma. (5/27/1851) Susan Bristoe (b. 12/13/1828, d. 11/7/1891). They had the following children, all born in Kentucky.

1.1 Victoria Jane Jessee (b. 6/23/1852, d. 3/11/1928) ma. (5/24/1873) James Melvin McDowel Rawlings.

1.2 James M. Jessee (b. 6/1/1854, d. 2/6/1860).

1.3 Peter C. Jessee (b. 12/6/1856).

1.4 George S. Jessee (b. 5/7/1859, d. 8/22/1864).

1.5 Union Curtis Jessee (b. 7/3/1962, d. 2/25/1899) ma. Dora Hill.

1.6 Elzira N. Jessee (b. 8/3/1866, d. 11/15/1868).

1.7 Dora Annabelle (b. 4/2/1870) ma. (9/30/1891) Guy G. Kneeland (b. 1872, d. 1908).

1.8 Sherman Guinn Jessee (b. 12/3/1873, d. 7/22/1900).

The many clues above 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., Middlesex Co., and Spotsylvania Co., VA, just to start.

John Jessee and Frankey Lea Memorial

Tom Rudder and I have closed the fund and returned all contributions to donors. We hope that family or friends in Russell County will see the wisdom of establishing a memorial there someday. We stand ready to contribute to that effort and will pledge this newsletter to the fund raising effort, but we are unable to take appropriate initiative or lead such an effort from California.

John Jessee and Frankey Lea Research

The previous newsletters have provided many research leads on the Colonial origins of John Jessee and Frankey Lea. Tom Rudder of Carmichael, CA and Dean Jessee of Salt Lake City, UT provided 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. We need to continue looking for evidence of John and other Jessees in Mecklenburg and other more northern and easterly Virginia Counties. We need to consider that John could have met and married Frankey Lea in Virginia, and together they traveled to Orange, later Caswell Co., NC after 1772.

Dean Jessee, Jack Hockett, and Howard Gilmer Jessee have now all provided me copies of pages of the original John Jessee Bible which may establish both his birth year, 1750, and the spelling of his name with two "ees". This Bible was passed down for many generations, and appears to have passed through the hands of John Jessee Jr. and his son Joseph Jessee. At the request of many, I will provide a "copy of a copy" of this page, albeit poor, in this newsletter.

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 receive additional information on the Lea and Lee families, with no new breakthroughs evident.

There are at least eight "Frankey" Leas/Lees identified in the research, family lore, or speculation, and there is still the possibility that she is none of these. All of the following were discussed more completely in previous newsletters.

Your choices still are:

1. Frances "Frankie" Lee, (b. 1752)

Some unknown relation of Robert E. Lee

2. Frances "Frankey" Lea (b. 1755)

da. of John Lea of Country Line Creek,
Caswell Co., NC and Winneyfred.

3. Francis Lea (b. after 1752)

da. of Henry Lea and
Elizabeth Lea of Caswell Co., NC.

4. Frankey Lea (b. after 1752)

da. of James Lea of Cobb's Creek
and Elizabeth Lea of Caswell Co., NC.

5. Frances "Frank" Lea (b. 12/ 2/ 1761)

da. of George Lea and Lucy Tolbert
of Caswell Co., NC who
moved to Georgia.

6. Frankey Lea, (b. abt 1752)

unrecorded da. of William Lea
of Cobb's Creek, and,
an assumed, Mary (Archer?).

7. Frances "Frankie" Lee (b. aft 1750)

da. of Richard Lee, b. 1725 and
Lillie, b. 1727, of Edgecombe Co., NC.

8. Frankey Lea (b. aft 1750)

Cherokee or Melungeon from NC.

The first four choices remain doubtful to me based on the information and opinions of others that I have received. Frankey #2 is the popular choice and much adhered to by several Jessee researchers. Numbers 3 and 4 may be the same person reflecting two marriages for Elizabeth. I have seen nothing to disprove #5, and therefore she remains an option. Frankey #6 is the speculation of Tom Rudder and myself. This is based on the location of the families in Caswell Co., and the occurrence of common names, especially Archer, in their families.

I invite your continued research, analysis, critique, and correction of the John Jessee and Franky Lea family information. We still have much to do to establish the origins and parentage of John and Frankey Lea Jessee.

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. Most inquiries have been answered through your efforts.

Michael Shawn Jessie sent me an e-mail inquiry as follows. "My name is Michael Shawn Jessie. My grandfather **Haden Jessee** is from Carter Co., KY. My father, when he moved to Dayton, OH got the name mis-spelled from Jessee to Jessie. I don't know how it happened but it did. My grandmother was named Gladis Jessie. They have passed on now. I wish I could have asked them how the name was mis-spelled, or what my grandfather's name was. Any help, I would appreciate it."

Sherry Glendenning Jessee, Ft. Jones, CA (wife of **Stephen Norval Jessee**) is a faithful correspondent and provides the following. She asks how they fit into the Jesse(e) family. "I belong to the Wisconsin Genealogical Society. That is where one of my ggg-grandparent settled when they came to the U.S. I found a Jesse in one of my newsletters. 'From Greenwood Cemetery, Lincoln Co., and Township of Bradley, WI:
Jesse, Flora E. 1897-1970 AL Auxiliary
Jesse, and Arthur R. 1889-1949 AL."

Marilyn (GNEOLOG@aol.com) sends me tidbits of information she discovers in her research. She writes, "Hi, I have access to marriage CD for Illinois and Indiana 1790-1850 for a two week period and found this Jessee. Don't know who she goes to, but thought you could use the information."

Jessee, Mary J. ma. Brown, William H., 1/20/1850, Montgomery Co., IN.

Carin Vance Rhoden, of Lebanon, OH, operates *Jessee Central* a must-visit site for you Jessee Web surfers. Her Internet address is:

<http://pwp.usa.pipeline.com/~cvrhoden/jessee.htm>

Carin features a page "Unplaced Families," and asks your help in finding the missing links to connect them to our

Jesse(e) family.

Opportunities

Several of you have expressed willingness to do research if we could give you a specific opportunity, or inform you of a specific resource or lead to explore. Others have provided specific problems with which they need help. As a regular feature of the newsletter, I would like to share both and request your help with research, opinion, or documentation on the issues discussed.

Sandra Hall provides the following succession of counties for Giles Co., Virginia. It well illustrates the problems we have keeping our county names straight and the confusion of pinpointing ancestors actually born in the same place but recorded in different counties depending on their date of birth.

Giles Co., VA Formed in 1806

Tazewell

Monroe

Montgomery 1777

Fincastle 1772-1777

Botetourt 1770

Augusta 1745

Orange 1734

Spotsylvania 1721

Essex 1692

Rappahanuck 1656-1692

Lancaster 1651

Northumberland (York) 1645

The Battle at King's Mountain is often cited in the histories of our American Revolution era ancestors, and I

found the following references out on the Internet.

King's Mountain and Its Heroes by Draper, published by the Genealogical Publishing Co.

The King's Mountain Men, The Story of the Battle, With Sketches of the American Soldiers Who Took Part by Katherine Keogh White, originally published Dayton, VA, 1924. Reprinted 1966, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore. LOC 66-30368.

King's Mountain by Hank Messick...
The Epic of the Blue Ridge "Mountain Men"
in the American Revolution. Publisher not cited.

John and Frankey Lea Jessee's fifteen children need continuing research to trace all descendants to modern day. Tom and Shirley Rudder have provided us much new information about the first three generations of John and Frankey Lea Jessee's family, all presented in prior newsletters, that helps us greatly, but they are now concentrating on their Rudder genealogy, and other research. Here are a few special problems we would appreciate help researching.

Boedicea Jessee and Stephen Gose Jr.:

Tom and Shirley Rudder traced the family to Boone County, Iowa by 1832 and determined the names of their eight children. I have new information from Carin Vance Rhoden, which I will discuss further in the next newsletter. We need research in Iowa to discover these descendants.

Frances Jessee and William Stone: Previously we knew they had five children and moved to Browning, Missouri. Tom and Shirley have discovered the names of seven of their believed eight children. We need research in Browning and Jackson Co., MO.

Sarah Jessee and Wilson Vermillion:

We have a record of three of their five children and have yet to discover where this family went and their modern day descendants.

James Jessee and Jane Burk:

We know the names of only two of their children and have no new leads.

Elizabeth Jessee and George Gose:

We have nothing further on their twelve children, but lots of good leads here.

Rebecca Jessee and William Burk(e):

I now have a great deal of information on this family provided by Kathryn Greever of Morgantown, WV, which also reflects, among others, the research of Jack Hockett, Tom Colley, Imogene Burke Verbal, Colleen Cox, Iris Lambert Hall, and Helen Fritz. I hope to present much of this in a future newsletter.

Jane Jessee and Henry Fuller:

Tom and Shirley's research indicates they had at least ten children. They appear to have moved from Russell Co. after the 1830 census.

Correspondence

Marshall Jefferson Jessee provides another interesting article on "**The Battle of Middle Creek, KY**" in which his great-grandfather, Stanford Lea Jessee was killed. Stanford Lea Jessee was in the 29th Virginia Volunteers, along with at least a dozen other Jessees, including my own great-grandfather, John Tivis Jessee. The article is an excerpt from *From Sumter to Shiloh, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*.

On the Civil War, **Gregory Lapore** writes to request help. "I am collecting Civil War letters from Russell County for publication and with the large number of Jessees in the War, I hope that some have originals that are available for my use. I currently have a large collection of Gilmer letters, a smaller collection of Reynolds letters, and a Martin letter that has been in my family (Campbell).

"I will be annotating the letters by indexing all the personal names and footnoting each name with a brief description of the person. I do not plan to edit the documents in any way. I feel that first person documents are a valuable historical and genealogical source that can be easily overlooked. I will be putting the index of the book online so people can know that the book mentions an ancestor before they buy it. Since I am publishing it myself, the price will be as low as I can make it—probably \$10. Anyone who contributes a letter that I can use will get a free copy of the book. I think that is a fair deal."

If you are able to help Greg, please communicate directly with him:

Gregory Lepore
Ellicott City, MD
410-465-6814
lepore@jhu.edu

Tom Colley of Hanceville, AL has provided a complimentary letter and a great deal of new information for the Jessee family database.
He e-mailed me as follows.

"Greetings from Alabama. It is always good to hear from another interested in SW Virginia history. ... Being a long time researcher of Russell/Washington/Smyth counties, I have had occasion to see two of your *Jessee Newsletters*. Your work is greatly appreciated and an excellent reference copy source for many SW VA families. Thank you so much for sending me a copy. I'm always interested in any families resident this area before 1850. The two *Jessee Newsletters* ... sent me by Thomas (Jack) Hockett of St. David's, PA in regard to your Lea/Jessee relationship to Browning/Burk/Counts etc. families. Jack and I have combined our research on many surnames and part of his contribution to your pages was, no doubt, from this joint effort. So behind the scenes through Mr. Hockett and Ms. Greever, I have in some way helped to add to your database.

(Re: "Experts" ...be wary of em, I do not consider myself such...but I do enjoy my hobby of genealogical research.)

"As you know the Jessee and Colley families have long been associated in early Washington/Russell Co. history and I'm happy that we can continue the association. Since you already have considerable Jessee information and I don't know specifically what you need, I will list a few births and deaths from my SW VA file of abstracts of Russell County birth and death register 1853-1867 in hope that you may find a few "new" names or dates of interest."

Mr. Colley provided nearly 100 names and associated dates of birth or death and names of parents. I was able to add much to my database, but had four individuals that I could not place in a known family. They are as follows.

Eliza J. Jesse, b. 25 Feb. 1853; Margaret Jesse.

Mary E. Jessee, b. 16 Nov. 1862; Martin C. and Mary C. Jessee.

Mary C. Jessee, d. 23 Dec. 1860; 1m 19d; Bold hives: Russell Co; d/o Elihue K. Jessee; b. Russell Co.; reported by a friend.

Mary Jessee, d. 06 Dec. 1866; 46y; Apoplexy; Castlewood; parents and birthplace unknown; a housekeeper; consort of Abednigo Jessee; reported by husband.

Larry Gaian of Chico, CA who is a descendent of John Counts of Glade Hollow, a family that has intermarried with the Jesses for generations, provided me an excerpt from the E. J. Sutherland collection, which mentions a Jessee and provides a most interesting tale. It is included in this newsletter.

Kathryn Greever, mentioned above, of Morgantown, WV has been a most generous correspondent and simply delightful to talk with on the phone. With her materials, I have entered or updated hundreds of records, but have yet to digest all the materials she has provided on the descendants of Fleming Burke, Sr. and the extensive intermarriage of Burk(e) and Jessee families. I promise to do better in future newsletters.

Virginia Bennett has also been most generous in her correspondence and materials provided on the Candler family, which has intermarried with the Jesses several times. She includes much of the work of Laura Grover and her research of the Candler and Stover Families. This, too, I must promise to do justice in future newsletters.

Donald Jessee, of Alberta, Canada has been in touch with me via e-mail, and reacquainted me with his uncle **Wilse Eugene Jessee**, of Vancouver, British Columbia, and his father **Fred Warren Jessee**, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. These Canadian cousins are descended from Archer Jessee, and their forefathers moved to Canada many generations ago.

Carlyne Ritter of Winchester Bay, OR has become a new contributor and correspondent, and she is an excellent and active researcher, too. I am including an extract she provided titled *Russell County: A Confederate Breadbasket*.

I am going to ask her to contribute more to this newsletter with a future article on her branch of the family. She has also put me in contact with several nice people, and especially Vivian Bales.

Vivian Bales of Marion, IN is a recent but most prolific and faithful correspondent. She is a remarkable woman of 83 years, who has worked on genealogy most of her life and all of it with pen and paper and an old typewriter. She was recently given an electric typewriter and claims it may get the best of her yet. Nevertheless, she cranks out pages and pages of information, extracted from her files, that she believes may be of interest or value to the Jessee Family Newsletter. Her stories are wonderful, very colorful, and stimulating. She has plenty of gumption, and really gave me the "what for" when I recorded some information incorrectly and provided other information without documentation. I am delighted she is entrusting me with so much and drying me out behind the ears. I am

providing an excerpt from one of her letters following.

4 October 1996

Dear Jim Jessee,

I have a typewriter on loan. I wonder if I will master it or it me. It is a 1996 electric model. I am 83 years old, never before even tried an electric one. This one has no instructions for all the "stuff" that is on it.. Please see my turkey tracks enclosed.

I descend thus:

John and Frankey (Lee) Jessee

Mary (Polly) Jessee and Abednego Kiser

Noah Kiser and Dicie Thompson

Hugh Tiffany Kiser and Levicey McKinney

Melvina Kiser and Griffith A. Dickison

John L. Dickison and Nellie Tackett

And me, Vivian Dickison Bales

Yesterday I received the NewsLetters. Spent the rest of the day and evening reading every word. Thank you for them.

The earliest migration of Jessees went to Floyd Co., KY. Later others came over to KY, some in Carter Co. My grandmother said those Jessees were related to her. ... of this migration to Carter Co., in later generations moved to New Castle, IN area. A lot of Kentuckians came to Indiana.. Gobs of them to this area (Marion, IN) and a bigger glob to New Castle.

My cousin, Albert Wilson who died last fall, lived in New Castle. He mentioned the Jessees there often, always saying that they were from around Olive Hill, KY and Grandma Dickison always said they were related.

Riley Jessee was a preacher in the little church on Henderson Br., a mile N. of Olive Hill, KY. Two buildings down from my grandpa Tackett's house. I must have been 4 or 6 yrs. old when I first remembered him.

I sat in church many times and heard him preach. He was a really good preacher (pastor). He worked at the brickyard for a living. I loved the song services. The singing was inspiring and beautiful. Riley was from the VA Jessees.

When I was 8 yrs. old and on death's bed, the Dr. told my parents that I would go about 2 a.m. and call in the morning to report when I passed away.

Well, the church prayer warriors, were in their evening prayers in their homes. Were 5 or 6 of them, when the Lord put it in their hearts to come to my parent's house and pray for me.

They obeyed, came. They prayed for me and I was instantly healed. I well remember it. I sat up, asked for a drink of water. The next morning I arose and dressed and was well and normal. When God heals, we are healed. It was a miracle healing.

Riley Jessee was one of those whom The Lord sent to our house that night, to pray for me. The last time I saw him I was about 15 or 16. Our annual KY visit, my Aunt Parthen, Mom's sister, still lived in the old Tackett home. Riley was still preaching in the little church.

I am a product of the foothills of the Appalachian Mts. My parents did us kids no favor when they took us away from our heritage in the foot hills. They are different people than the rest of the world. Good, kind, generous, honest, hard working people. The country is more beautiful than all the rest of America.

Most of the years, I have had the privilege of attending the Dickison Reunion in Ashland, KY. The beautiful country, the goodness and the friendship among the people, I will call "the natives." I know their ways, their speech, their everything I reckon. This 1996 Reunion will probably be the last one I get to attend.

"I was b. on Henderson Br. a mi. north of Olive Hill, in the house of my Tackett grandparents, on 2 May 1913. My roots are deep in that area of KY, and just over the line in SW VA."

"Cumberland Gap is the old National Road. The settlers used it to come into KY, then spread out. They came from SW VA, the Carolinas, Tenn., and Georgia. The counties along the eastern part of KY are closer allied to VA than the rest of the state of KY. It is like two states in KY.

"The Burkes in SW VA went over into Floyd Co. They also m. into the Tacketts in KY. My grandma Melvina Kiser Dickison said that when another group from Russell Co. came to Carter, it was a whole week celebration. They took the families in until they got a place and settled."

Sincerely,

Vivian Bales

Lastly, I will share information and excerpts from a long time supporter, contributor, and excellent researcher, **Jack Hockett** of St. David's, PA, and from a cousin right in my own backyard, **Larry Gaian**, of Chico, CA. They write.

22 September 1996 Dear Mr. Jessee,

Thank you for the recent newsletter. I hope you will reap back soon the benefit of my research handed to Mrs. K. Greever which should serve to further some of your lines quite a bit (was also glad to see the "Amelia Co., VA" hint I dropped to you 2 yrs. ago has been "bloodhounded!")

I must compliment you on how well your Jessee research is shaping up; I'm quite impressed. Equally, your Jessee Memorial project abandonment is sad and I hope you can eventually overcome the obstructions.

One point to help-refer to my Burk, Browning, (and some Jessee) abstracts published in the *SW Virginian*. Whoever said Mary, d/o Francis Browning Jr. married anyone other than Fleming Jessee is mistaken. This is very clearly confirmed in the papers relating to the estate of Francis Browning Jr. (& Sarah Nash (Hendricks), wife, i.e.)

Russell Co., VA Law Order Book 10; 447; 08 Aug 1837: On a motion of Fleming Jessee who intermarried with one of the heirs of Francis Browning, dec. ...ordered that Robt. Fugate, Henry D. Aston, and Jeremiah Munsey be appointed to lay off for Sarah Browning her dower... Mary Jessee is mentioned several times in Francis (Jr.) estate.

I am afraid I "mis-phrased" in my "Implied Marriages of RCV" the marriage of Stephen Jessee who married Sallie Jessee, an heir of James Lee. I listed her as a LEE, but should have said "heir." Somehow, some of the Jessees are apparently heirs ("of the 1/2 blood," if I recall) of James M. Lee. See 1850 Russell Co. census #514: LEE, James, 85, b. GA: Cloe, 39; James M., 19; Alex, 17; Nelly, 15; Wm., 12; Tivis, 9; Fletcher G., 8. Haven't been able to figure this one out.

I have a suggestion for "ye deare readers" and that is for some "blessed soul" to read and record the Jessees from the personal property tax list : RCV 0 (microfilm) glorious day.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Jack Hockett

From: Larry GaianTo: Jim Jessee

Subject: Of interest to you?

Date: Saturday, March 09, 1996

Came across the following in a group of papers that was in E.J. Sutherland's collection. Thought it might be of some interest to you. It was dictated by John Marshall Powers on 20 March, 1952 and mentions a Jessee.

FIRST GENERATION

1. John Marshall POWERS was born on 5 Jan 1883. He died on 14 Jul 1964. He has "John Counts" reference number F1978.

"I was born January 5, 1883, at the mouth of Bill Hardin Branch of Frying Pan Creek in Dickenson County, Virginia, and I have lived there all my life. My parents were James Harvey Powers and his wife, Elizabeth

Sutherland. Fathers parents were John Powers and his wife Sallie Leece, and my mother's parent's were Henry Sutherland and his wife, Margaret Counts.

I heard Dad say that Billy Jessee, of the Clinch River section, first cleared the Big Yellow Lick Field. He owned a lot of cattle and other livestock, which he brought out to range on Frying Pan. He also cleared up a field where Uncle Zack Sutherland later lived in Bucu. He raised crops at these places to feed his stock, and they would come in out of the woods often to get salt at these places. Grandpa Powers said he remembered he was at the Big Yellow Lick Field when he was 18 years old, and that at that time, he could have walked all over the fields on pumpkins.

Bill Hardin built a hunting cabin in the bottom where my farm is now - across the Bill Hardin Branch from my present home. I have been told this is what gave the name to this stream. Bill Cooper, a man who made tubs and similar things later lived there a few years.

I don't know who first settled at Bucu. Grandpa Powers lived near the Spurge Penland House a few years. He then moved up on the ridge where Uncle Arch Powers later lived. Grandpa Powers had lived before that on one of Jim Colley's farms on Big Ridge, where Patton Willis later lived or rather down under the hill from Pafton's place.

When I was a boy, Dad sold a black walnut tree on Bill Hardin Branch to John Valley, a timber man from New Jersey. This tree was seven feet and nine inches through at the stump. Mr. Valley cut two twelve-foot logs from the butt of the tree, split those logs so that the sappy outside was taken off, and then he had them hauled to Honaker. A few years later his brother, Jim Valley, sawed two more six-foot logs from the tree, which were about five feet in diameter. He bored holes in each end of the logs and fitted a frame about them, with pegs in the holes, so that the logs could be rolled down to the mouth of Priest Fork and from there to Honaker for shipment on the new railroad. Mr. Valley took Pa and Ma for a ride on the train up Clinch River from Cleveland to Pounding Mill. I heard them say they saw the logs that Jim Valley took out as they passed Honaker.

I was a party to one of the few fatal shooting incidents that ever happened on Frying Pan. Robey Johnson lived about a mile above my home, where my niece, Tenny Gilliam, later lived. Robey rented a little bottom field from Pa.

It was between our home and Robey's. Pa gave Robey permission to get some poles out of a little drain near the low end of his field to repair the fences. While getting the poles, he discovered that two strange men were camping under a small cliff about a hundred yards up the drain above the road. This was on the 19th day of April, 1918. We had heard rumors that some army deserters or slackers were abroad in our section. Robey did not know what to do; so he called John Wright, a peace officer who lived then on Breeding Branch, a little over a mile below our home. He didn't know what to do also, so they called my brother, Fletcher Powers, who was justice of the peace.

Fletch told him to go up where they were and find out what they were doing there, and to arrest them if they were violating the law. John Wright and Robey then came by my home and asked me to go with them. They had shotguns, so I got my shotgun. We went up to the mouth of the drain and found their tracks going up the hollow or drain. About a hundred yards up in the woods, we saw them standing on the other side of the hollow behind or above a big oak tree. John Wright called to them, asking who they were and what they were doing there. They didn't answer him. He then asked them to come over where we were, but they refused. John and Robey then went around the swag so as to get above them, while I stood and watched them. When I saw John and Robey get above them, I went down and crossed the hollow and walked up near them. I guess I was about 12 feet from them, We

did not know them. John again asked them their names and they refused again to give their names in an angry and defiant voice. John then told them to consider themselves under arrest. They both jerked their pistols and fired on John Wright, wounding him in the arm. They fired two or three shots at him. Robey shot one of them, who turned out to be Marcus Jessee, son of ??? Jessee, wounding him pretty badly.

The other man, who turned out to be Otto Counts, son of ??? Counts, both of them being from Russell County, Virginia wheeled on me, and John and I both shot him. He had his pistol on me when I shot, John's shot hit him in the right side, and my shot hit him in the hip. He died in a few minutes. They were using pistols and all three of us were using shotguns. Not much was said by either side and it was over pretty quickly.

We took Jessee and Counts' body down to my house, hauling Counts in a sled. Next morning, Counts' brother and Frank Kiser came to my place with a wagon and got Count's body and took it to Carbo. His brother told us that his people had tried to get him to go into the army when he was called, but he had not taken their advice and he and Jessee had come out on Frying Pan to scout from military service. His brother also said his people had expected this to happen, and they didn't think hard of us for the shooting. Jessee's daddy came and took Marcus home, where he recovered. Marcus later married one of my cousins, Powers, daughter of Uncle Vince Powers.

The Grand Jury indicted Jessee for shooting John Wright in this fight, and he was tried about a year later on this charge. Under the instructions of the Court, the jury found him not guilty on the grounds that we did not have a warrant of arrest with us.

About 1907, Andy Johnson lived at the Taylor Sutherland place at the mouth of Branch of Frying Pan. He and his family didn't live there long, because of some trouble that happened there.

It was said that Andy's wife had a bad reputation. A man named Vance, probably Aleck, visited them and it was reported in the neighborhood that he was courting Mrs. Johnson.

One day, Johnson's son, Ike, was up above the house on Bee Branch and came across Vance and his mother behind a log. He proceeded to shoot Vance with his 22 rifle. The bullet hit his spine and paralyzed the lower part of his body. He was kept at Andy's place about two weeks. One of his relatives came there and helped care for him until his people moved to his home at Swords Creek, I believe. He died there in a short time.

I think Andy Johnson was a relative of Levi Johnson, Father of Robey Johnson, but I don't know how close kin they were.

-Dictated to E.J. Sutherland (20 March, 1952)

He was married to Alia Iona "Ona" AMBURGEY on 15 Mar 1917 in Dickenson Co., Virginia. Alia Iona "Ona" AMBURGEY was born on 18 Sep 1899. She died on 13 Aug 1969. She has "John Counts" reference number F401. She has "Amburgey Ancestors" reference number 11 124025.

April 7, 1994

Dear Jim,

Recently I received a copy of your "Descendants of John Jessee & Frances Lea" 14 page computer print out of a family tree. It was sent to me by Janice J. Rodby of Joliet, Illinois.

My husband and I are deeply involved in making a similar study which will be the basis for a family history book we hope to publish in about a year. Our study will involve the descendants of William Morgan and Mary Ann (Parker) Jesse who moved from Cumberland County, Virginia to Audrain County, Missouri in 1835. They ultimately had 16 children - the basis of our study.

In 1928 Rev. John Samuel Jesse published a family book entitled "**The Jesses, 1601-1928**" that speaks of the people we include in our study. It is our aim to bring that booklet up to date and supply as much of the date/place information that was lacking as we can gather. Our work has proceeded well and we currently have over 4000 relatives in our study. Our study only contains Jesses with the single "e" spelling of the surname.

In your work, have you found any relationship between the "Jessee" and the "Jesse" families? I could not find one in your 29 January, 1992, "Descendants ..." listing. Both families appear to come from Virginia in the early 1800s and the names are very similar. Is there any connection?

Please contact me or my husband, Harry, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Bev Jesse Shuptrine

July 21, 1994

Dear Jim,

It has been almost two months since my wife, Bev Jesse Shuptrine, received a very interesting packet of papers from you. Since then we have each gone over the two charts you included very carefully, looking for a possible similarity to people in the "Jesse" family (with one "e") that we are studying. The charts I refer to are your Ahnentafel Chart and your Decendancy Chart (both are dated 25 May, 1994).

It hardly seems possible that there are two large groups of people who undoubtedly pronounce their surnames alike but who are not related to each other. That is the conclusion we come to, however. There are now more than 4800 people (living and dead) who we have connected to the family line we are studying and out of that group there is only one married couple who have names for the husband and the wife that appear to match a married couple in your "Decendancy Chart of 25 May, 1994. I am referring to your John Jessee (#8454) who married Sarah (#8455). Your chart shows that both of these people were born in 1850. Enclosed you will find a Family Group Record for a name match in our study. Our John Parker Jesse married Sarah Ann "Sally" Bradley in

Mexico, Missouri, on 26 March, 1840, which would make them about two generations before your John and Sarah. And this is the best match we found!

Much as we would like to believe our family is traceable to your family, we have not yet encountered a clue that is strong enough for us to devote a great deal of time studying it. We are concluding that there are two distinctly different families, both of which were in Virginia in the early 1700s. Let me know if you can prove this to be a false conclusion.

I wish to congratulate you on your *Jessee Family Newsletter*. It is very well written and presented in an interesting manner. How many subscribers do you have? It appears to be an excellent tool for gathering details that would be hard to come by otherwise.

Thank you for your help and cooperation in our study. We'd like to hear from you soon, if you disagree with our conclusions, as expressed in this letter.

Sincerely,

Harry Shuptrine

RUSSELL COUNTY:

A CONFEDERATE BRE.ADBASKET By Theodosia W. Barrett, 1981 Copyright Notes taken by Carlyne Ritter, August 1996 Microfiche No. 6089076 Reedsport Family History Center File name: Breadbasket.notes

RUSSELL COUNTY wasn't involved by a single full company of Union soldiers, but at least 1,450 wore the grey uniform, fought and died on battlefields in northern Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, etc. Others served in local militia and Home Guard, patrolling routes from Kentucky to the saltworks and Saltville.

The first hunters and explorers arrived during 1600s. Southwest sector of Virginia, west of Blue Ridge and Clinch Mountains on the eastern fringe of Appalachia was a beautiful area which Indians reserved for hunting. All the surrounding tribes had forbidden human habitation in "The American Garden of Eden. However they all shared hunting privileges., Settlers arrived in 1700s. Hostile Indians were determined to preserve their hunting lands, but settlers were lured by the good land and incentives such as land grants. When Russell County was formed it contained 3,000 sq. miles.

The first court met on the second Tuesday in May 1786 at the home of William Robinson in the Castle's Woods settlement. The governor commissioned justices of the peace to preside at court. They were citizens of character and ability and served without pay. First were Alexander Barnett, Henry Smith, David Ward, Andrew Cowan, Samuel Ritchie, Thomas Carter, Henry Dickenson, and John Thompson. Later that same year, Charles Bickley, Richard Price, William Martin, Christopher Cooper, James Wharton, John Frazer, Charles Cocke, John Tate and John Bowen.

Henry Dickenson was named County Clerk, the most important office of the County Court. He was required to keep an office at the Court House and was paid a small salary from fees collected. He donated a log cabin courthouse in 1787 near his home in Dickensonville. He also operated a general retail store in the building and

later added a tavern.

Voting was required of all males who owned 25 or more acres.

In 1850 there were no public schools, they raised large amounts of wheat, rye, corn, oats, potatoes. By 1860 cattle grazed there. The first cattle were inferior breeds, but after the Civil War, superior breeds were imported and the area eventually became famous for its cattle.

In 1850 the railroad built through Abingdon and the newspapers were *Virginian* and *Abingdon Democrat*. Russell County didn't have a newspaper until 1860. Virginia withdrew from the Union in 1861.

June 4, 1861 policemen were appointed by the County Court to protect the county: H. H. Dickenson, William F. Jese, Joseph Jese, Thomas I. Dickenson, Francis A. Browning, among others.

At the July 2 Court Jefferson Jese, Isaac Vermillion were added to a committee which was to execute and sell bonds.

Stonewall Jackson died May 10, 1863.

On July 1, 1863 at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the Northern Army of 90,000 met General Lee's army of 75,000. The battle ended July 3 and "an indeterminate number of Russell County soldiers fought and died during those three days. Captain Henry Hopkins Dickenson's company was included in General Pickett's division. William Jessee was under Captain Dickenson's command ... On July 3 Jefferson B. Jessee was General Pickett's eighth flag bearer up Little Round Top, the battle where men and officers fell by the scores. When a flag bearer fell, another leaped forward to hold the Stars and Bars aloft.

"Jessee was soon shot down, but he managed to get up and advance a short distance with the flag flying proudly in a hailstorm of bullets. He was shot again and again. Henry Steele, Russell Countian who survived, said when he last saw Jessee on the field he had seven bullet holes in his thighs. His body was not recognized after the battle."

In June 1863 the governor requisitioned the county to furnish a quota of slaves to work on fortification around Richmond. Persons selected to furnish the quota included John, Henry and James Dickenson, Isaac Vermillion and Vincent Browning.

Distribution of salt for civilian use was critical in early summer 1863. On August 4, the court appointed Vincent Browning contact man between the county residents and John N. Clarkson superintendent of the saltworks and Saltville. He stayed at the courthouse beginning August 13 and issued certificates for salt until he had orders for 1,000 bushels at \$2 per bushel.

On July 30, 1864, the Battle of the Crater near Petersburg was a Confederate victory. The Federal losses were estimated to be 4,000 and Confederates 1,000. Captain Henry Hopkins Dickenson's company participated. John C. Jessee of Hayters Gap was in Captain Dickenson's company.

At home in 1864 the February court justices included David Jessee and Thomas Dickenson. Their priority was to provide food for destitute soldiers, families, determined to be 103 families and 527 persons. There was a terrible shortage of food.

In 1864 Henry and John Dickenson were among those ordered to furnish slaves for work in the saltworks. John Dickenson and others ... gave reasons for not delivering their slaves to be sent.

When spring came and the soldiers came home things were difficult, but there was time to plant and they went to work. Captain Henry Hopkins Dickenson of Castlewood immediately attended to his neglected plantation. "He was also a successful lumberman and owned the Mud Store, a retail one-stop shopping center."

August 10, 1865 court justices elected included Stephen Yancey Gose, T. Dickenson and others.

John Browning lived in Russell County during the War. He moved to Jackson County in 1889. He enlisted in Captain Edward 's Company G., 29th Virginia Infantry in 1861. He was in the battle of Second Manass, Gettysburg, and the Crater.

There were 12 millers and 1,313 farmers in Russell County in 1850 -- 13 shoe and boot makers, 7 Baptist ministers and 7 Methodist ministers.

"In New Garden 18 April 1831 Thomas and Phebe Jesse, free persons of color bought a male slave from John Thompson. George was Phebe's husband. He was bought on the installment plan. The purchase price being \$300 with a down payment of \$60. The payments of \$30 per year were paid by George's labor. In case of Thompson's death, the payments were to automatically stop.

Slaves owned in 1820 by Dickensons and Jesees:

Dickenson, Henry Sr. 17

Dickenson, Henry Jr. 9

Dickenson, James Sr. 2

Dickenson, James Jr. 5

Dickenson, Nathaniel 1

Dickenson, Thomas 1

Jessee, Frankey 8

Jessee, John, Esq. 1

The 1996 Honor Roll

I thank those who made monetary contributions above the minimum subscription (\$10) to sustain the newsletter and further this effort during 1996. In the order of your generosity I honor you. Without your assistance I would not be able to continue.

Howard Gilmer Jessee, Hondo, TX

Beverly L. Rasmussen, Chico, CA

Charles D. Thompson, Campbell, CA

Jack F. Robinson, Newport News, VA

Richard L. Jessee, Chico, CA

Ruth Skeen Going, Sacramento, CA

Faynola Osborne, Wilmington, DE

Sandra Hall, Franklin, TN

Thomas F. Hiebert, Mountain Ranch, CA

Ellawese Jessee Reed, Fountain, FL

Margaret Jessee Young, San Luis Obispo, CA

Bill and Fay Jessee, Lebanon, VA

Diana Jessee Shockley, Forest, VA

Evans B. Jessee, Roanoke, VA

Helen Perkins, Fort Worth, TX

John R. Wallace, Montclair, VA

Woodrow R. Thompson, Hilliard, OH

Bethel J. Stolte, Atwood, KS

Dean Cornell Jessee, Salt Lake City, UT

G. Vivian Haas, Cillicothe, MO

Hans J. Plaat, Davis, CA

Iris Lambert Hall, Pueblo, CO

Jon. I. Wolf, Centreville, VA

Kathryn B. Greever, Morgantown, WV

Susan D. Lowe, Santa Clara, CA

Tom Rudder, Carmichael, CA

Vernon Cecil Jessee, Port Clinton, OH

Virginia Bennett, Asheville, NC

Lois Carlyne Ritter, Winchester Bay, OR

Pat Jessee Moser, Kingswood, TX

William I. Taylor,

If I have left anyone out or made an error, please inform me, I am grateful for you help and wish to fully acknowledge your contributions.

The Jessee Family Newsletter

James Wilson "Jim" Jessee, editor

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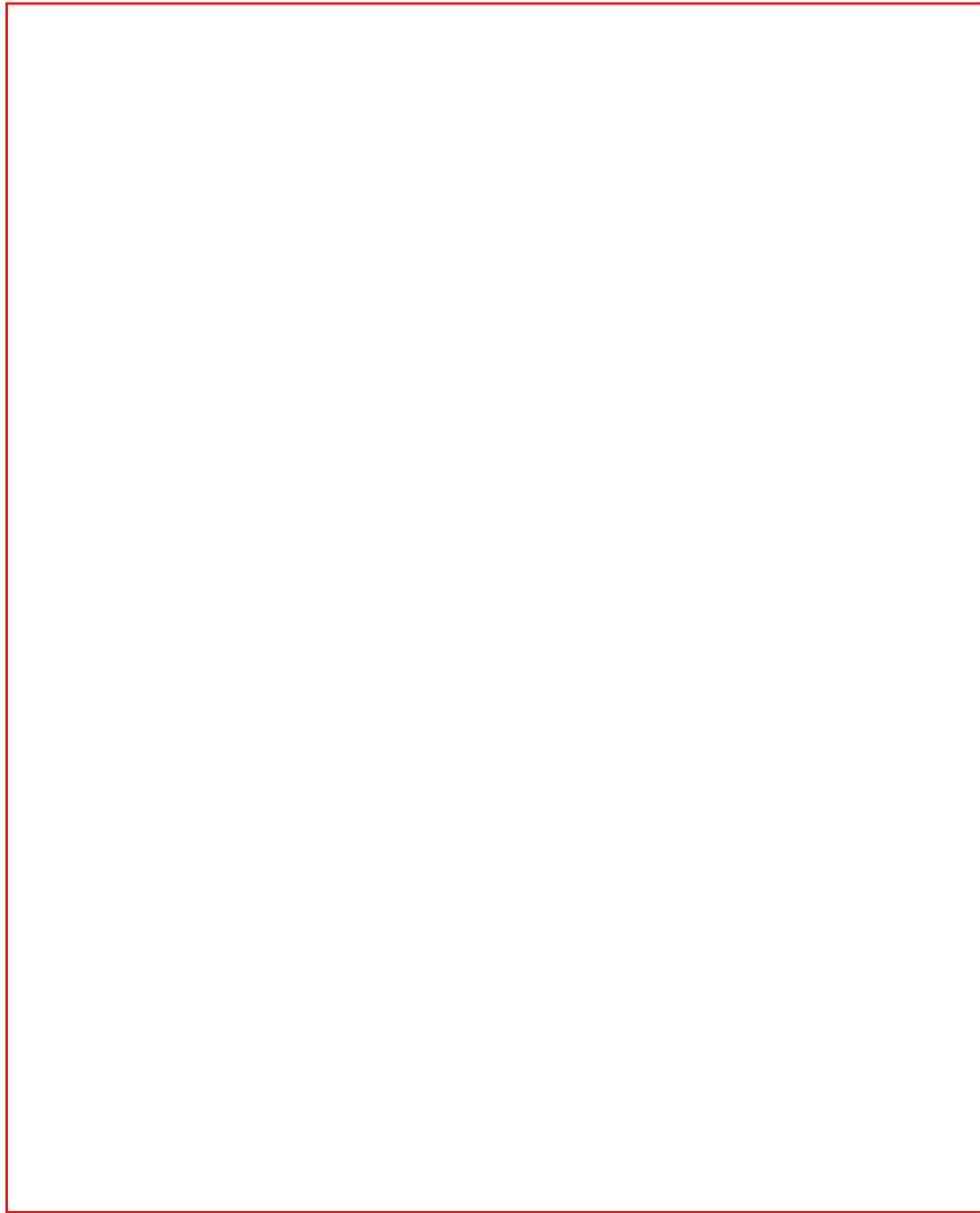
The Purpose of

This Newsletter

I research my immediate ancestors: the Armstrong, Smyth/ Smith, Porter, Duncan, Bickley, Richman/ Richmond, 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 and record all of the descendants of the fifteen children of John Jessee and Frankey Lea, and assist other Jesse and Jessee family members with their genealogy research. This is admittedly a monumental chore. I am giving myself the rest of my life to accomplish it, and may he live so long! The fun is in the learning and the friendships I develop along the way. I am rewarded all the time by the visits, conversations, and correspondence I have with you.

The purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate the exchange of information and significant documents relative to the genealogy of the Jessee and related families whose roots may be found in Southwest Virginia. I will enter all genealogy information provided me into a Jessee Family DataBase. I will share charts or data files with you on request.



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. Please feel free to correct anything I may have wrong. My goal is an accurate and well-documented database for our posterity. Please provide me addresses of others who may be interested in our effort. I am looking for those willing to help provide and exchange information or represent their branch of the family or area of the country. I can provide and receive genealogy information by computer using diskettes and by e-mail.

I very much appreciate your donations in defraying the considerable cost of research, printing and postage of this newsletter and the other materials I send to inquirers. I am asking for a minimum donation of \$10 a year, for two issues of the Newsletter, more will help support the effort and those who can't afford to subscribe. Please share what you can.

Jim Jessee and his family, wife Nelda Faye (Meline), and children, Earl Wilson and Emma Elizabeth Jessee

The Jessee Family Newsletter
C/O James Wilson "Jim" Jessee
1272 Hobart Avenue
Chico, CA 95926-3702



**Llanbedr Hall, above, was once owned by John Jesse,
who was High Sheriff of Denbigh County, Wales.**

African-American Jessees

In the August 1995 issue we provided a copy of the 1830 Russell Co. Census page illustrating the Frances Jessee household. Just following our Frankey is listed Thomas Jessee as a free colored person, head of household age 34-55 with 19 dependents. Where these freed Jessee family slaves? Many families in this part of Virginia freed their slaves after 1800. I believe many of these freed slaves eventually moved away from Russell Co. We find CIVIL RECORDS to be continued.

While I consider this a sensitive part of our family history, it is clear the Jessee family owned slaves in both North Carolina and Virginia. Many were freed in Russell Co. as much as 40 years before the Civil War and some took the Jessee family surname if not shared closer bonds. We find further evidence of interracial Jessee descendants in the following information. CARLYINE MATERIAL HERE.