

Jessee Family Newsletter

Number 13 Summer and Fall 1998

Dear Cousin,

The response to the Winter/Spring 1998 edition was so gratifying that I have much information to share and the means to get this newsletter mailed early.

The unending rains of El Niño Winter of 1998 have provided me much time indoors, and thus time to work on our genealogy. In our unusually few days of sunshine, I have made progress in preparing and planting the garden, but it is still too cold here for good growth.

This has been a swift spring, with my daughter Emma graduating from Chico High School, and all the excitement and life decisions being made. This will be a "catalog summer," with my role as editor of the University Catalog moving to the fore and dominating my life from now until November.

I am deeply saddened to inform you of the death of Col. Howard Gilmer Jessee, of Jesse(e) Enterprises, Hondo, Texas. Howard was a devoted Jessee Family genealogist and a very good friend.

Jim Jessee

Featured This Edition

I will begin the newsletter with a memorial to **Col. Howard Gilmer Jessee** and a request to remember Howard with a donation to the Russell Co. Library, Family History Department, to which he generously donated over the years.

Tom Rudder provides more details on the historical record of the Phillip Gabriel and John Jessee families and

several more important leads regarding origins of the Jesse(e) family in America. Arise Lazarus Jessee.

Vivian Dickison Bales, a descendant of **Mary "Polly" Jessee**, shares more of her wisdom and fruits from years of research with us. **Iris Lambert Hall** also adds to our knowledge about Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser and more.

Hello Nelda's cousins! I have discovered that my wife, **Nelda Faye Meline Jessee**, may be related to more Jesses and other Russell County ancestral descendants than I. **John Plaat** of Davis, CA helped me close the gap and I share exciting news about Nelda's shared ancestry with the John Counts family of Russell Co., VA.

We ask **Who is Daniel E. Jessee**, renowned baseball coach and author, in an article about a famous but unlinked member of our family.

Correspondence provides new information, answers to questions as well as new ones to ponder, and colorful insights into the always interesting and many faceted lives of our ancestors. **Norman Jessee** and I ask whether the family is interested in forming a national family organization to organize a Jessee family reunion.

On the back cover I feature a photo of my grandparents, **Norval Clarence and Blanche Hester Richman Jessee**, and their eight boys, along with a story inside about "them Jessee boys." N. C. Jessee was a pioneering orchardist and well driller in Butte County, California.

In Memory of Howard Gilmer Jessee

Howard Gilmer Jessee was born on Nov. 9, 1921, in Lebanon, VA. A great great grandson, he grew up on the original Rev. David Jessee land on Moccasin Creek in Russell Co., VA. Along with his sisters and numerous cousins, Howard attended the country school and both Methodist and Baptist churches, and graduated from Lebanon High School. He left Russell Co. as a young man called to serve his country, led a distinguished military career, then retired in Hondo, TX where he enjoyed a second career as a businessman and gentleman. He loved Russell Co. with all his heart and soul, returning there many times over the years. He died April 28, 1998, in Hondo, TX after a brief illness. Howard was a member of the First Baptist Church of Hondo, TX and was held in high esteem by his many friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Colonel Jessee served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force. He was a B-24 bomber pilot during World War II. He returned to his home base many times with bullet holes all over his plane. He flew just about any and every plane with a "B" in it through the 1940s, 50s, 60s, and 70s, including operations in Southeast Asia. He was particularly proud of his years serving under the command of Gen. Curtis LeMay. Col. Jessee was awarded many military honors in his career.

Howard met Gladys Joyce Von Bohlen, born Dec. 9, 1926, in Hondo, TX, and they married Dec. 20, 1946. They raised two children. Gladys preceded Howard in death July 3, 1989.

Howard is survived by his sisters, Thelma Skates Jessee of Lebanon, VA, and Eva Carolyn Cooper of Kingsport, TN; his son, Michael Ernest Jessee of Greensboro, NC, grandson, Brandon Michael Jessee of

Chattanooga, TN, granddaughter, Sarah Michelle Jessee of Greensboro, NC, and great-granddaughter, Isabella Gibson; his daughter Virginia Karen Tauscher of Johnson City, TN, as well as two nieces, Jeane Bivins and Peggy Dean of Mt. Carmel, TN and many cousins. He spoke often of and was particularly close to his first cousin Robert Wood Jessee and his family. Among those is Robert's daughter Patricia Kaye Peters, who first shared the news of "Uncle" Howard's death with me via e-mail.

I was fortunate to have been acquainted with Howard as a result of our interest in the Jessee family. Previously I had run across his own genealogy endeavors under the name of Jesse(e) Enterprises, Hondo, TX. When I began the Jessee Family Newsletter in 1992, Howard was one of the first people to offer help. He called me regularly, and we talked for hours. In October of 1995, I spent a week in Russell Co. and visited with Howard several times. He joined Tom and Shirley Rudder and me on a research mission in the Russell Co. Courthouse one afternoon.

Howard took me on a tour of his boyhood home, schools, churches, and haunts, and we visited cemeteries and historical sites, as well as explored the original John Jessee land on Mill Creek. (A detailed account of that trip appears in the Winter of 1996 Newsletter.) We talked about Howard's military career, his years of research, and most especially about his wife and family. Howard shared photos and spoke lovingly of his wife and how much he admired her beauty. He took care of her during her lengthy illness, and I could see this took much out of him.

Howard was devoted to genealogy. He made enormous time and monetary contributions to the Texas and National Sons of the American Revolution. He published a History of the Texas SAR at his own expense, and won many SAR honors. He kindly shared volumes of genealogy materials with me, as well as donated generously to this newsletter. We did not always agree over some of our genealogy facts, but we always agreed about our love of family. He always warned me that if I did not "do right" by the Jessees he would come back and haunt me. I hope that I may always "do right" and have the respect that I pay to you, Howard.

**I ask that you join Tom Rudder and me in making a donation in Howard's memory to
The Russell County Library, Family History Department, C/O Geneva Mullins,
PO Box 247, Lebanon, VA 24266.**

Howard's Pedigree Chart Here

Origins of The Jesse(e) Family

Many Jessees in America are descended from **John (1750-1815)**, and **Frankey Lea Jessee (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 known descendants of those children. All of us living 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 the world whose kinship is unknown. I believe we are all cousins and welcome you. As "Jesse" and "Jessee" are the two most frequent spellings of this family name, I shall adopt the convention of using "Jesse(e)" in reference to the larger

family.

Please see Newsletter #10 for an extensive discussion and summary of what we know so far about the origins of the Jesse(e) families in America. The many clues there lead us to several new avenues of research on the origins of the Jesse(e) families in, at least, Amelia Co., Cumberland Co., Essex Co., Isle of Wight Co., King and Queen Co., King William Co., Lancaster Co., Middlesex Co., and Spotsylvania Co., VA, just to start.

Tom Rudder again provides a vital piece of information, and challenges my assertion that the English root surname for the American Jessee family was Jesse. His letter follows.

January 1998

Hello Jim:

I've discovered a "Jessee" who migrated to America from "The Virginia Land Patent Book 28 (1 Oct. 1747 to 10 Jan. 1748) and published in the *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* Vol. 30, pg. 34." [In subsequent correspondence, Tom secured a copy of that original patent from our most helpful Lea Family researcher and friend, **Col. Ben Rose** of VA. There is no question about the spelling of Jessee with two ees. The full text follows.

"George the Second by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland and kingdom of the faith. To all to whom these Presents shall come Greetings. Know Yee that for causes and considerations but more especially for and in consideration for the importation of seven persons to dwell within this colony and Dominion of Virginia: John Nesten, Patrick Stewart, Bryant Certisley (?), **Lazarus Jessee**, William Commel, George Hankisson, John Bushel. We have given, granted and confirmed and by those persons aforesaid do give, grant and confirm unto James Farguson one certain tract or parcel of land containing one thousand five hundred and fifty acres lying and being in the County of Amelia, Beginning (condensed from this point) on the south side of Hurricane Switch to Jones line, to the Leveritt's line to Mitchell's line. 1200 acres formerly given to said Farguson by patent dated 12 March 1739 and 350 acres never before given." (1 October 1747)

Tom continues, "You may have to reconsider your position that 'the English form of Jesse is the root surname of all American Jessee families.' When Lazarus migrated to America, Amelia Co., in the 1730s [Lazarus would have been born before 1720] he obviously brought his family name "Jessee" with him. The different spellings predate, and are not unique to, America. It is possible that the two forms came into use during the evolutionary process [in England] since they are both used simultaneously. Perhaps both were offshoots of Joyce, Jesseman, Jessieman etc.

"The two Rev. War applicants from Amelia Co., Thomas and William, were both Jessees."

Dare we speculate that Thomas, William, Phillip, and John were Lazarus' children, all of whom originated in Amelia Co.? The name Lazarus was not used in the John Jessee family, therefore, I am doubtful about such a speculation.

Vivian Bales, Lebanon OH, contributes to our Jesse(e) family origins research with the following extracts:

Middlesex Co., VA 1810 Tax List:

Samuel Jesse 1-4-2

John Jesse, Sr. 1-4-2

John B. Jesse 1-1-1
(Not listed as head of family 1810)

John Jesse, Jr. 1-2-0

William Jesse 1-0-1

Census, Middlesex Co., VA 1810

Samuel Jesse 4-3-0-1--1-0-0-2-0

John Jesse, Jr. 2-0-0-1-0--0-0-0-0-1--0-1

John Jesse, Sr. 1-3-4-1-1--2-1-1-1-1--1-16

Vivian informs us that Middlesex Co. is on the very East Coast, a very small county. Her Everton Book says "Middlesex Co. formed 1673, Clk. Of Cir. Ct. has Mgs., Div. Civ. Ct. Pro. Records from 1668." She urges us to pursue research on or in Middlesex Co., VA and at the State Library in Richmond.

The last issue of *Southwest Virginia Ancestors*, Vol. 11 #43 & #44 provided a review of *Twelve Virginia Counties, Where the Western Migration Began* by John H. Gwathmey, reissued 1997 (Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc, 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore MD 21202-3897, \$30 plus \$3.50). This 469-page book is an "account of the origin and settlement of the counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Caroline, Essex, Gloucester, Goochland, Hanover, King William, King and Queen, Louisa, New Kent, and Orange." I would appreciate at little research in this book for evidence of our Jesse(e) family origins, and would welcome any evidence for this newsletter.

Phillip and Gabriel Jessee

Phillip Jessee (1742-1858) and his son **Gabriel Jessee (1804-1886)**, of unknown relationship to John Jessee (1750-1816), are among the early Russell County, VA families. In the last newsletter we featured information provided by their descendants, **Irene Jessee Perry** and **Janice Jessee Tiller**. Shortly thereafter, **Patricia Thomas Pegram** responded with even more descendants' information and some corrections. Thank you, Pat.

Tom Rudder responded with additional facts about Phillip Jessee which help us historically locate his whereabouts from 1800 to 1820.

1. Phillip Jessee was on the 1800 Bedford Co. Tax List.
2. His daughter Mary was born 1802 in Botetourt Co. (1850 RC Census)

3. His son Gabriel was born in 1804 in Franklin Co. (1850 RC Census)
4. Phillip Jessee is on the 1810 Botetourt Co. Census.
5. He first appears in Russell Co. records on the 1820 Russell Co. Census.

John and Frankey Lea Jessee

I am sorry there is nothing new specifically regarding our search for the antecedents of John and Frankey Lea Jessee, but much has been shared helping document their life and times, their fifteen children and, as of this date, 8,021 known descendants (not including spouses) that I have recorded in this database. It would take 629 pages to print it at this time.

Tom Rudder clarifies the last newsletter article regarding the John Jesse, Jr. land grant signed by James Monroe. He makes sure we understand that "Gov. James Monroe did not write the land grant, he only signed it."

Vivian Bales shares her research of Russell Co. records with the following extractions.

Russell Co., VA Tax List, Upper District:

1788. Abraham Fuller (1)

John Jessee (1)

1789. Abraham Fuller (1)

John Jessee (1)

Joseph Kyzer (1)

1790. Abraham Fuller (1)

Joseph Kizer (1)

1791. John Jessee (1)

Abraham Fuller (1)

1792. John Jessee (1)

Joseph Kizer (1)

1794 Abraham Fuller (1)

John Jessee (2)

1795. John Lee (1)

John Jessee (3)

1796. John Jessee (3)

1797. John Jessee (3)

Jessee Fuller (1)

George Fuller (1)

Abraham Fuller (1)

Henry Fuller (1)

Peter Fuller (1)

Stephen Fuller (1)

1799 Arch Jessee (1)

John Jessee (3)

1802. Archer Jessee (1)

John Jessee, Sr. (3)

John Jessee, Jr. (2)

Nathaniel Jessee (1) (Who is this?)

William Jessee (1)

1810. Archer Jessee (1)

John Jessee, Sr. (2)

John Jessee, Jr. (1)

William Jessee (1)

Russell Co., Land Tax:

1788 John Jessee--200a

1790 John Jessee--200a assigned of Price

1791. John Jessee--200a

1792. John Jessee--200a

1793. John Jessee--200a

1794. John Jessee--200a

John Jessee--200a assigned of Gilmer

1795. John Jessee--200+250a

Vivian Bales also provides more on John and Frankey and their children from *A Supplement To the VA 1810 Census*, by Yantis. "A Tax List of Counties for which the Census is missing." See the following.

1810 Russell Co., VA, Supplement to Census.

Wilson Vermillion List:

John Jesse, Jr. 1-0-3 (Mar. 2)

John Jesse 1-0-4 (Mar. 3)

Archer Jesse 1-0-3 (Mar. 1)

One stud horse \$1.75

William Jesse 1-0-2 (Mar. 1)

Joseph Jr., Kiser 1-0-5 (Mar. 1)

Henry Dickenson's List--No dates

Lee Jesse 1-0-2

David Jesse 0-0-2

Abednego Kiser 1-0-5

Joseph Kiser 1-0-2

1820 Russell Co., VA Census

Free Whites

Male Female

Archer Jessee 8 5

David Jessee 7 2

Frankey Jessee 3 2

James Jessee 2 4

John Jessee, Esq. 8 2

Lee Jessee 4 3

Philip Jessee 5 12

William Jessee 2 3

Mary Kiser ? ?

Vivian Bales researches the Jessee and other families who she states "went to Carter Co., KY, after 1850 and before 1860. The Ervin/Erwins were also from Russell Co., VA. John L. Erwin, md. Elizabeth Dickenson, Russell Co., VA. They went to Carter Co. KY (in the part of Greenup Co., that became Carter, 1838), they were in KY by 1833." She has me puzzled with the following items. Can you help me identify these people?

Some Carter Co., KY Marriages:

William Harris to Mary A. Jessee, 13 April 1857

James Jessee to Elizabeth Ervin, 9 Feb. 1868

Thomas F. McGuire to Ellen Jessee, 3, Sep. 1870

John C. Fuller to Mary E. Armes, 4 June 1871

Dan Jessee, wit. at Mg. Of Vivian Mead and Phett Strother, 1870.

Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser

Mary "Polly" Jessee (1787-1836) was the second of seven daughters of John and Frankey. She married **Abednego Kiser** and is the ancestor of many a Kiser from Russell Co as featured in Newsletter #12.

Iris Lambert Hall, of Pueblo, CO, shares the following from her research and provided me several more corrections, source citations, and additions to my data. It makes our Polly Jessee an even more sympathetic person as we learn of her untoward death.

January 28, 1998

Dear Jim,

I have my well-used copy of *Pioneer Recollections* by Sutherland here--met Mrs. Sutherland one day at the courthouse while we were on our last trip back there. She is a sweet little lady -- at that time not doing any research for herself, but still comes into the courthouse to check on things people have written to her about. At that time she was still walking down from her home on the hill every day to pick up mail.

Regarding Abednego Kiser who married Polly Jessee and then went off to the War of 1812 and died of disease -- I find the following.

From *Pioneer Recollections* by E. J. Sutherland:

Pg. 168 "Polly Jessee married Abednego Kiser, and after his death at the fight at _____ Creek, she married **Jimmy Chafin**. He had no children by her, but later married and had children..." (**Priscilla Harding**, dau. Of **Aaron Gose**, son of **Elizabeth Jessee** and John Jessee)

Pg. 389 "...Years later, Abednego's widow married Jim Chafin, but no children were born to them. They lived in Reed's Valley among the Jessees." This was from the interview of **Mahala Kiser Sutherland** who said she had married herself in 1851 and that Mary had died before she (Mahala) married, but "I saw her several times before I married." In one of the stories, it says that Jim Chafin mistreated Polly Jessee Kiser Chafin so bad that one day her son-in-law went to their home and brought Polly back to live with him and her daughter. After Jim sobered up, he came to the daughter's home and said he was taking Polly home but they would not let her go with him, which made Jim very angry. According to the story, Polly died soon after this and Jim married again and had a family. Mahala thought Polly was buried at Little Arch Jessee Graveyard in Reed's Valley."

Polly Jessee Kiser's gggg-granddaughter, **Vivian Bales** (Marion, OH) provides more stories and insight into her colorful life. I begin with ones I nearly lost in my pile of work to do.

13 January 1996

Dear Jim Jessee,

The politicians and whomever elected to take care of the records for Carter Co., Ky., were something else, and words that I usually use for the like... should have to come alive and do their job over. They sure did foul up the works and lose records we need now. The words I use for such are not nasty or vulgar or obscene. Just my hillbilly words. I often say that I am a product of the Foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

Have been told by many, that Salt Lake, has on microfilm, more records on Carter Co., than exist in the county, and also in the depository in Frankfort. The Mormons long ago microfilmed the loose papers and preacher's returns, which were never transferred into the marriage books. Also there were a couple periods that vitals were on the lawbooks to be recorded. Then finally a law requiring it. That didn't mean everyone in those two periods were included. Two of my ancestors d. in the first period, not recorded. It would have meant so much ... for their parents have been a mystery.

Maybe some didn't even know a law existed the 1st time, but just ignored the 2nd, and when it became a law to stay, a lot were missed the 1st couple years of it. My opinion was, they were used to preparing their own for burial, with the help of neighbors ... so they just went ahead as usual. They lived mostly in the rural areas, they would have had to walk so far or even SADDLE UP AND GO TO THE COUNTY SEAT TO REPORT A DEATH OR A BIRTH.

Faye Cargo, now deceased, looked for a lot of things for me in Carter. She said there is an old book, called the *Blue Book of Mg. Records*, that someone kept in Olive Hill, of those marrying in that area of Carter. And not every researcher looks at that old book, not knowing what it really was. Salt Lake has it with the other mgs.

My grandpa Tackett gave the land the Aiken Hall School was built on. That deed was never recorded. I asked Faye to get it for me ... she looked for weeks. Then she asked her brother (who was an attorney) about it he told her, there was a huge box in the basement of the courthouse, of deeds that were never recorded. His secretary had spent as much as 3 weeks hunting some he needed to prove. That was 3 weeks of 10 working hours solid, looking through them.

Years ago, I bought Hagy's soft back book. It is not very large, of Castlewood before 1800 ... not one word to help me on any ancestor name. He did this thesis to get his Ph.D.

Margaret Davis of Abingdon, VA hired to look in Russell and Washington Co.'s, told me that Washington Co., never lost a record, but they were stored all over the county. What a crime, no one ever put into book form any of it. A gold mine untouched. What a shame Salt Lake was not told and given permission to microfilm all those hidden records. Hidden from the public.

In the Carter Co. mgs. Whitt Boggs to Martha Ellen Jessee. This is not a declaration or even a hint or assumption on my part ... but I think, no proof, that this couple were parents of Mary Boggs Coleman, Mary and my Dad called each other cousin. That didn't mean they were first cousins. As long as they were kin, they were cousins. Mary Boggs was Ed Coleman's second wife. I know Ed and Mary had 3 children. Ralph, Lorraine, Lucille.

On our trips to Carter, I visited with them, Lorraine and I being the same age. My grandpa Tackett lived on Henderson Br., and every week, Ed Coleman went into Olive Hill, from Smokey, to get supplies for his store. Smokey Valley, the road going passed grandpa's house, went to Smokey Valley. Ed had a span of mules he used for his hauling projects. I rode with him on his wagon, a nice, for the day, spring seat. And when I came back after a week, Lorraine brought me back on horseback. She rode in the saddle, and me bare back. It was an ordeal too. It was a big jolty ride, I think it was 15 miles. Legs sore as boils and not easy to sit down for awhile. But it was fun anyway.

I remembered how good Mary's fried apples and her hot biscuits were. Swimming with fresh churned butter. Makes me think of my grandma Tackett's cooking. They had this very large fireplace. Had hanging hooks for kettles, at different locations over the fire. Every day, grandma had a kettle of beans, in an iron kettle. She put different things on at different times and different locations to cook. She had this large iron skillet, with 2 parts, both the same but made to be used together, as a sort of oven like. Anyway, she knew how to build a fire to cook over. She washed potatoes, raked out the embers and put them in the hot ashes, made a big pan of corn bread, and put them in a different spot with hot coals over the skillet/etc. And then she put on her bonnet, got her hoe, and went to the field to hoe with the men, until noontime. When they went in, dinner (noon) meal was all ready.

They churned butter fresh everyday, good fresh buttermilk. Grandma had an early garden on the east side of the house, a strip. She had lettuce early, onions, Rhubarb, but called Pie Plant, peas, and radishes. This strip was covered in a gauze material, and the veggies shielded from any chill or a frost. The Sun until noon to heat and nurture it all. Pie plant was a spring tonic too. Besides for eating, and pies. In season, us kids loved Pie Plant, the first fruit of the spring. My mother baked more biscuits for breakfast than we needed. Then she cooked a kettle of fresh Pie Plant (rhubarb today) and with lots of sugar of course. She arranged the biscuits in a large bowl, and poured the hot cooked pie plant over it, and it set until noon. It was our noon meal. With MILK TO DRINK. Us kids loved it.

Everyone had a big garden and it was canned or preserved or dried. Had to be a huge garden to keep a family. They dried green beans, and fruits of all kinds, made barrels of pickled beans and corn. They also sulfured apples, nice fresh and crisp in the winter to eat.

Dad's mother made a lot of hominy. She had a barrel that their wood ashes were kept and under a drain spout, the drippings became a lye substance. This was used to take the husk from the corn and the finished product was Hominy, just like we buy now in cans. My grandpa Tackett had a large smokehouse, and they had meat the whole year from it. Women made their own soap back then. With the lard not used and the lye from the wood ashes. When we were young and farmed and did lots of butchering, we had a lot of lard left over, so I made our soap to wash with until about 1960. Finally quit and bought it to wash with. Sounds like bragging but I really got to be real good at making soap. Some of my neighbors liked it too. You know until at least 1975, bar washing soap was sold on the grocery store shelves.

Once in awhile, I make a sorghum cake, or cookies or muffins. Been a long time since I made a stack cake. Made with sorghum and put together with good apple butter. Store bought apple butter isn't the same as good old fashioned made.

I watched and helped a little, when my grandma Tackett, each fall, made the fresh winter bed ticks. They had feather beds, you know about them. In those days they also had rope beds, and, they came before bedsprings were made. The women made shuck ticks and straw ticks, to go under the feather beds. A forerunner of the box springs now. If they had access to straw they filled it with that to go under the feather bed. If not and then they used the corn shucks. Corn was cut and stacked. Later transferred to the barn or crib. The corn shucked by hand, but the shucks saved until enough to make a shuck bed. I saw my grandma Tackett make hers in the fall. She took a fork from the table, and shredded each shuck and put in the tick until it was stuffed. Shucks and straw wears thin before the next year. Grandma had lots of beds, and enough to make some if needed to sleep on the floor. The feather beds with the under straw or shuck beds made a warmer and steadier than all feathers beds,

something like insulation.

Everyone had big families, then many kept or raised orphan kids, kin or not, and it was the custom that anyone traveling by as night was coming on, they stopped at a house and was let to stay over night, food and bed. When I was small, my grandparents on all sides didn't have a lock on the doors. A wooden latch was all I saw and remember.

In 1970, Vine Garnier, whose mother was Ellen Kiser, told me she remembered watching the men build covered wagons, to go to Jasper Co., Illinois, the broom county. She said the date and I forget, but she said Grandpap Kiser moved, for his sons had disgraced him. Always in trouble, and his dau. Martha had ma. a professional gambler. It was just too much, so they moved, but George and Moses kept going back to Ky. often and they ma. their cousins, daughters of their Uncle Jefferson. Moses ma. Victoria Kiser and George ma. Dicie her sister. So they went back to Ky. This time Grandpa settled at Globe.

Vine said the McKinneys, Grandpap's in-laws, were first to go to Ky. He went later, and bought land from the McKinneys. They had never given him a title or deed, but he thought nothing of it. But when he went to Ill. he needed it to sell his place. They wouldn't give it to him, so he had made arrangements to leave, and had to go. All his hard work, and building/etc., he had nothing. He was getting old. What an awful blow to such a good person as Grandpap Kiser. Vine told me. She was 87 in 1970 and going strong. Didn't look it or act.

Vine's parents stayed longer than Grandpap Kiser. Before they went back, she ma. a man from the Jasper Co., IL area. Anyway, she told me that she and her husband went over to Terre Haute, IN, which is in Vigo Co., and only the Wabash River separates IN, & IL. They went over to Terre Haute, to visit my Uncle Hugh Dickison in jail. What he was in jail for she didn't say and if I heard, has slipped my mind. I think Uncle Hugh was a well acquainted with the insides of jails. I saw his picture as a wanted man. He was good looking, maybe that helped him get out. This picture was well circulated, a small picture, not a billboard size. But he was caught for the reward. He had his brother Noah to move to Nashville, Wisc., and he used a dif first name, too, [than] Hugh, that is. Anyway, one day Uncle Noah forgot and called him Hugh. Next thing a US Marshall was at his door, took him in. Back to Terre Haute, Ind.

We all know things about our background, and also simple things about our ancestors that strangers do not.

4 January 1997

Mabel Everman Byrd, deceased, was a great grand daughter of **Noah and Dicie Kiser**. Mabel asked me about the black Kisers. My grandma said one of them was a black sheep in the family and she didn't say which family tho' ... He hung around with a Negro man, and they robbed and stole, and wouldn't work a day for anybody or anything. And he married the black man's daughter. Then, you know, that was a no-no, an awful disgrace. They had children right along. So, one day him and his black father-in-law was up before the Judge once too many... so they were sent to the pen. Put on the work gang, they refused. They were not sent to do labor. So, they were roped over a barrel naked, and WHIPPED, bloody body. And then told to report for labor, which they did, and was model prisoners to get out. And went to work after that on the outside too.

... [Regarding research for Washington Co., VA and other early records] Washington Co., VA erected from Fincastle and Montgomery Counties 1776/77. Russell Co. formed 1880 from Washington. Fincastle Co.

abolished abt. 1772. To find their early records look in Christianburg, VA records.

January 29, 1998

IF, I ever get back to Crawfordsville, Ind., where I lived for 50 yrs. A 2 hour drive back over there ... I want to go to their library and spend a couple hours seeing what Pendleton has in his book, SW Va.

Our Who's Your Ancestor Genea. Society, both times I was president, took on the task of copying and producing the records in Montgomery, Co., In. And sold a mighty lot of the books, with our sales which brought over \$2,000 for both projects. Two different hitches, I was president, we bought books and put in the Family section for the Library, Research books. The Librarian was not a genealogy-informed person. She was disposing good books. Like the Pa., archive, 100 of those books. When we got large enough and vocal enough, things changed. We got a somewhat room for us, and our books. A microfilm reader, we also bought films. Filing cabinets. Made a little splash.

I didn't get to look over the last books we bought. Was many deaths in our families, then we bought another house, and moved. Then I had a bout with cancer for awhile, then The Lord Healed me of that which was terminal, sent home to die. When man can't do any more, God can. Then my husband became ill and died. Many changes and moves since. Most disasters too.

Sometimes I think back and see that I had many changes. I was b. Olive Hill, Carter Co., Ky., 2 May 1913, the foothills of the Appalachian Mts. I have been in all the 48 lower States, into Canada many times from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon. Dipped my feet in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. [Been]To the tip of Key West, Fla. And I have lived in 8 of the States. Lived 5 yrs. at Dunedin, Fla. right on the Gulf of Mexico. Looked out my window everyday to see the waves.

When we were married about 40 years, and out of debt, working like slaves almost to get to that point, we decided to see more of the USA. Every Aug., we were gone 2 and 3 weeks. Later in the winter, we crisscrossed Florida in all directions. One year, we looked over Fla. for about a couple weeks, and had to start back home. But this time, we didn't take 75, no. We followed the west-coast line of Florida, and kept on the coastline and sights until we landed in Texas. Far from Indiana, of course, and decision to get home and see the rest some other times. Took us 2 weeks to get home from Fla.

Another time, we started out to go see one of Melvin's cousins in Tacoma, Washington. We went over into Ill., on 74, then took another Interstate No. to 90. Well, when we saw a sign of something historical, we detoured to it. Going good and decided to drop down in Yellowstone from the north. By that time we had been gone two weeks, and Melvin said we will have to go to Tacoma another time. So we went down to Jackson Hole country, saw a Rodeo. Got close to Denver, and I said let's go down 25, we have been thru' Denver enough. So we went down to Colorado Springs. It was great, and where we stayed, met a young couple and their 2 kids, they sold their property in N.Y. to come West, and raise their kids out there. Melvin said we will come back here and live, I love it. And the air we breathe. It wasn't to be. We both had a lot of sickness, and other problems to see about.

Melvin's health wasn't good and got worse. Went to the hospital, there 30 days and died. He died the day after we were married 49 years. He told the nurse on Thursday, that we will be married 49 years Saturday. But

Saturday morning he was in coma. Died the next day, late. I suffered a great loss, took away my joy. Life is never the same.

We were a team. We worked hard. Farmers, and with livestock too. We had our nose to the grindstone a long time. Hardly got off the place. To get started we had to go deeply in debt. Just kids when we married, too. Time to get ready to plant, lots of times he and I were on the tractors all night working the ground. Weather is not always congenial with farming. The young has more stamina. More grit, and get up and go. And we did it.

I had the Appalachian bloodline... knew how to be frugal, and work. Our huge garden, we butchered our own meat, raised chickens, and canned everything, A few years later electricity came by. Then we bought a large freezer. So I put away frozen veggies and fruits. Made 24 to 30 pies and froze them. All we had to buy was staples, flour seasonings, coffee, tea, sugar, etc. I picked wild berries, from the woods.

I have lived a lot in my time. My parents had a traveling foot, and went many places and states. Us kids got a liberal education on how to adapt and get along with others. The upper crust can be real nasty looking down their noses at people working at menial jobs. And no root here. Finally my parents decided to settle down in Vermillion Co., Illinois, just across from the Indiana border. Before we went to Illinois, we lived in Brazil, In., and before that in northern Wisc. Before that in Irondale, Ohio. Etc.

Wisc., was pure pioneering. Small one room log houses, killing frost 1st week Sept., and still snow in March. Houses miles apart. Where we lived was a log barn, roof falling in. Some Kentuckian had a whisky still some time in the middle of the barn. It was still there, but not in good condition. This house was right at the edge of a big cranberry bog. Luscious berries. Wild berries, and big bushes of goose berries. The bears usually got the fruits before the people did. Prairie chickens, quails deer, bear, ground hogs, foxes, coyotes, squirrels, and porcupines. I have lived a lot in my time.

Vivian Bales

Vivian wrote 5/17/1998 regarding our **Stephen Jessee** questions, and an alleged wife **Sarah Lee**. She takes the following from the Osborne book, printed 1973.

"**James Lee**, b. 1765, died before 17 Oct. 1851, Russell Co., VA. Name of 1st wife unknown, 2nd wife [actually his 3rd] **Cloe Fraley**, b. 1809, da. of **William Fraley**, and a grand daughter of **Frederick Fraley** from Rowan Co., NC.

James Lee's bill of sale-17 Oct. 1851, B. 6, P. 345, Jan. 3 1855 Chancery Ct. James Lee's estate settled. Absent defendants were Stephen Jessee and wife, **Peggy McKinney** (Peggy was no doubt Margaret)" [or Margot-editor].

"I copied this because of Stephen Jessee. Why was he a defendant?" [I believe Sarah, wife of Stephen Jessee, and Peggy Lee McKinney were half sisters who were no longer residents in Russell Co. at the time of settlement of this estate-editor]

Hello Nelda's Cousins

One of the greatest delights in my many years of genealogy research is to discover that my wife, **Nelda Faye Meline Jessee** and her family, may be related to more Jessee and Counts family descendants in Russell Co., VA and more recipients of this newsletter than I am. And still I have not found that we are cousins. Whew!

In Newsletter #12 I speculated about the possibility that her Kemper/Camper ancestor, **Catharine Kuntze** (1720-1775) who married **Harmon Kemper** (1718-1774) could share a common ancestor with **John Counts of Glade Hollow**, a prominent Russell Co. forefather. Within a few days **John Plaat** (Davis, CA) responded with the following letter. I have combined John's data with my own, making at least two critical corrections to both my Kemper and Kuntze data (thank you, John) and provide the result here. Please know, additional information and corrections are welcome.

January 1998

Dear Jim

Per your e-mail request, I am enclosing information on my wife, Patricia Van Vickle Plaat's, pedigree. As I mentioned in my e-mail, she is apparently related to your wife, Nelda via the Kempers. The attached register report does not contain all of my Kemper information but goes back far enough to show the relationship. Edward Roy Van Vickle was Patricia's father and Hazel Morgan her mother.

I am also attaching a register report covering what I show as the John Counts of Glade Hollow pedigree. I show another generation between Jost Cuntze/Anna Reinschmidt and John Counts of Glade Hollow. This means that Catherine Kuntze was John Count's aunt. ..."

John Plaat

To emphasize the irony, at the same time I was learning this, I was corresponding with **Robert J. Gibson**, author/editor of the Gibson Times, whose e-mail I will share below. He was sharing information regarding the descendants of America Elizabeth "Liza" Jessee (who married William Alexander Gibson) and Dewey Alderson Jessee (who married Janie Caroline Gibson). I looked at each's pedigree (on pages following) and could see that their descendants are also Nelda's cousins, they share that Kuntze/Counts ancestor. These two pedigrees also reveal the great complexity of the many family relations in Russell Co. as their gggg-grandfathers are a veritable who's who of founding fathers.

January 16, 1998

Jim,

I just received your latest newsletter and found some useful information on the parents of America Elizabeth "Liza" Jessee (RIN 4438). I am researching the Gibsons in Russell Co., VA and have Liza and John William Alexander Gibson's line in fair shape. ...

I published *The Gibson Times* in 1993 and since have added approximately 50% more information to my database. My total database contains over 7000 names and I have well over a hundred pictures, publishing nearly 100 in the 1993 book. I also have complete information on the Dewey Alderson Jessee/Janie Caroline

Gibson line... I look forward to hearing from you.

Robert J. Gibson

Carin Vance Rhoden e-mailed to say she has had to take a leave of absence from her genealogy due to life's vicissitudes. At this time she has discontinued her "Jessee Central" Web page on the Internet, but has expressed a willingness to transfer her work to me and my son Earl, we hope to get a new Jessee Family Genealogy page up on the Web this summer.

Carin also writes with respect to the "Counts Relationship to Jessee Family" and informs me that she completed her daunting project of keying in all the genealogical data from the book *John Counts of Glade Hollow*. She also has a great deal more information on the descendants of George Lea Jessee who married Elizabeth "Betsy" Counts. This is a great contribution to Russell Co. genealogy.

Henchen Cuntze
Descendants Chart 1-6 Here

America Elizabeth Jessee
Pedigree Chart Here

9

Dewey Alderson Jessee
Pedigree Chart Here

Who Is Daniel E. Jessee ?

Anyone who has done any library search for Jesse(e)s who may be authors may have run across Daniel E. Jessee (1903-1970), a famous coach and sports author, who is described in the article below. I don't know how this Carter County, KY Jessee is related to our Jessee family, and ask help in further identifying his pedigree. The following article was provided by Vivian Bales, and is from Carter County History, 1838-1976, put out by the Historical Society.

SPORTSMAN

Daniel E. Jessee (1903-1970)

Many Carter Countians have excelled in business and their chosen fields of endeavor, but none has surpassed the success of Daniel E. Jessee in the field of sport.

He was born at Counts Cross Roads, Kentucky, the son of James Jessee and Virginia Meade Jessee. At an early age his family moved West and he received a Bachelor Of Arts Degree from Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon, in 1926, where he played baseball, football and basketball. Upon graduation in 1926, he turned to professional baseball, joining the Seattle Club in the Pacific Coast League. In 1927 he was with the San Francisco Seals, and in 1928 went to the New Orleans Pelicans of the old Southern Association, as property of the Cleveland Indians. He then joined the Cleveland Indians of the American League, but was injured and had to give up professional ball after six years of professional baseball. He then entered Columbia University where he earned his Master's degree. Later in his career he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree of Humane Letters.

After obtaining his Master's degree, in 1932 he became coach at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, founded in 1823, where he remained until his retirement in 1967. His tenure of thirty-five years was one of the longest in College history. On the banquet circuit as the "Dean of the New England Coaches," he always proudly told of his birth in a log cabin near Olive Hill, Kentucky.

It was here that he was acclaimed as one of the most successful of the coaches of his time.

In football, Coach Jessee's teams won 150 games, lost 76 and tied seven in the 35-year career. It is a record of excellence probably unequalled over such a long term in modern college football. In January, 1967, Jessee was named "Coach of the Year" in the College Division by countrywide vote of his gridiron colleagues. Throughout 1966 he had served as President of the American Coaches Association - the first coach of a small college to be thus honored. He was given a plaque for "Distinguished Service to Football" by Connecticut coaches. The University Club of Hartford made him its "Connecticut Man of the Year," and as president of the National Coaches Association, he headed the committee that presented the McLaughry Award to former President Dwight D. Eisenhower at Palm Springs.

In baseball at Trinity, his teams won 237 games and lost 156, a figure that would win pennants in any league. He beat Yale seven straight years. He coached Varsity squash racquets from 1947 through 1958.

In 1939 Jessee wrote "Baseball" an instructional book on the sport, published by A. S. Barnes. He has written many articles for professional journals. During and after World War II, he traveled around the world conducting clinics on football and baseball for service men. He is a member of the Helms Football Hall of Fame. In 1958 he received the Gold Key presented by the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance, and held a commission as "Kentucky Colonel" granted by Governor Breathitt in 1966. He was also a member of Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame of America.

At the end of his 35 year span of service in 1967, the Trinity Trustees named the Varsity football field "Jessee Field." Upon his retirement, he and his wife moved to Florida where he died April 30, 1970.

Correspondence

The following letters, notes, and e-mail inquiries are only a few of the many I am fortunate to receive. These, in particular, give color to our work, address problems of shared concern, provide new information, corrections or updates to previous newsletters, and both answer and ask new "missing links" questions.

In the last newsletter, **Arvin Jessee** of Greenville, SC asked for help. Even with the excellent clues he provided, I could not place his Jessee ancestors, although I feel certain he is one of our Russell Co. clan.

Mr. Jessee,

... My Dad and his brothers were born in Kingsport, TN. I know that our lineage goes back into Backwater, Lee Co., VA. My grandfather's name was **Oscar Jessee**, and my great-grandfather was **Charlie Jessee**, who was married to Belle Collier. All of them, I believe to be buried in Sullivan Co., TN. I would appreciate any information you may have on how our family line ties into yours."

In a very quick response to the newsletter, **Kathy Jean Jessee Flynn** (York Springs, PA) provided the information to link Arvin with the rest of the family. Both Kathy and Arvin are descendants of Charles Lane Jessee, son of James Abel Jessee and Lettie Baily, son of Fleming Burk Jessee and Mary P. Browning, son of James Jessee and Jane Burk, son of John Jessee and Frankey Lea. Kathy provided extensive information on the descendants of Charles Lane Jessee, which I will be happy to share with others if requested.

Iris Lambert Hall (Pueblo, CO) wrote with additional facts and some questions to previous inquiries.

"February 18, 1998

Dear Jim,

Was just looking through a pile of accumulated correspondence, newsletters, etc. and found copy of your No. 11, Summer and Fall 1997 Newsletter with some notes I had attached. ...On page 9 of Issue No. 11 there is a letter dated May 11, 1997 from Carlyine Ritter of Winchester Bay, OR regarding William Jessee, Cora Jessee, etc. I am sending some information I have come across for your consideration.

I have pretty well settled on Eunice Monroe Habern as being the wife of William Vincent Jessee. In the deaths in Russell Co. 1853-1896, it says the Unice was the daughter of George and Mary Habern (Habron?). Then I found deeds in Russell Co. Book 12, p. 404, Dec. 19, 1848 and p. 184, Oct. 14, 1849, showing Andrew Habern (Habron) as father of Eunice Jessee. Which of these men do you think was Eunice's father?

Regarding Noah T. Jessee and his wife Cora B(elle) Jessee, I found Noah T. Jessee and Cora B. in Russell Co., VA 1890 Census with family... and N. Taze and Belle (m. 24 yr. - 12 ch. 9 living) with part of family, still in Russell County, VA in 1910 Census.

Regarding William Jessee, son of Daniel and Eliza A. Jessee, born 25 Mar 1870 in Scott Co., ... in the Social

Security Death records, there is a William Jessee born Mar. 26, 1870 who died in Oct. 1971 in Wise Co., WV. I wonder if they are not the same William Jessee?

Norman Jessee (S. Jordan, UT) writes to share his lines of research and asks an important question, whose answer I also wish to know.

April 18, 1998

Dear Cousin Jim,

Thanks for your leadership in Jessee Family history and the newsletter. I look forward to receiving it and noting the large amount of work which has gone in to identifying our ancestors.

I have been compiling Jessee Family records for over 20 years and have several thousand names on the Jessee, Fraley, White, and Browning lines, all on computer. ...

Do you think our Jessee family would be supportive of an attempt to organize a national society and even try to have a family gathering on occasion?

Norman Jessee
njessee@juno.com

I would support with this newsletter, but would not like to lead such an effort--Editor.

Reverend Cecil Jessee writes and provides valuable documentation that resolves another mystery. He provides a copy of the marriage license for **Frederick Winfred Jessee** (son of **John Counts Jessee** and **Margaret "Peggie" Cross**) and **Nannie Maryanne Jessee** (daughter of **Thomas Jefferson Jessee** and **Sarah "Sally" Browning**). John Counts and Thomas Jefferson Jessee are brothers, sons of **George Lea Jessee** and **Betsy Counts** (Nelda's cousins, again).

This document shows clearly how one may have gotten the mistaken idea that John Counts had the nickname "Biggie" as well as the known appellation "Bull." The license (dated 2/29/1896, married 3/1/1896 by **Reverend Elihu Kiser**) shows the following: "Names of the Wife's Parents, J. C. & Beggie Jessee." (It should have read Peggie, which is her mother's nickname) and "Names of Husband's Parents, T. J. Jessee" (his wife Sally Browning Jessee was deceased at this time). All parties born in Russell Co., VA.

Cecil provided the following photos.

"Picture #1 is my father, **Dennie Edison Jessee** holding my oldest brother Charlie, and my mother **Zemie Elizabeth Delinger Jessee** holding my 2nd older brother, Thomas F. Jessee... about 1919. Picture #2 is my mother holding me Vernon Cecil Jessee. I was the baby then. Left to right, my brother **Edison, Jr.** (born 6/1921), **Delton E.** (born 8/1924) sitting on stump, **Charlie E.** (born 5/21/1917) and **Thomas F.** (born 2/21/1919). I being the baby born Mary 26, 1828, so this picture was probably about the year 1929.

Picture #3 on the right is my father Dennie Edison Jessee with the bottle, middle is his 1st cousin **Marcus Jessee** (**Sam Jessee** and **Frances "Ces" Ellen Jessee's** son), and on the left I don't know, but my guess is the he is my father's brother Uncle **Ezra Jessee.**"

Editor's Note: Photo #2 appears below and Photos # 1 on the next page. Photo #3 was not printed as I could not get a good image.





Another of Nelda's Jessee and Counts cousins, **Ruth Skeen Going** writes with more information about Reed's

Valley families.

Winter 1998

Dear Jim,

I enjoyed your last letter. I noticed my mother's and Aunt Eliza's names in your last one. It motivated me to draw a rough map of the area. I was born and lived until I was 13 about 2 1/2 miles east of the Cleveland school, up the valley road toward Nash's Ford. My Breeding family inherited land in that area. It came originally from John Breeding--awarded to him for his service in the Revolutionary War. He was German. The Breedings were very prolific--large families--and held and occupied much of the land around Artrip. That is how we came to own land near Nash's Ford. My father's mother was a Breeding. [See Ruth's Pedigree following page]

Ruth S. Going

Jack P. Martin (Sanderson, TX) writes with an inquiry whose answer I do not know but would help us in determining the origins of the Jessee family in America.

19 February 1998

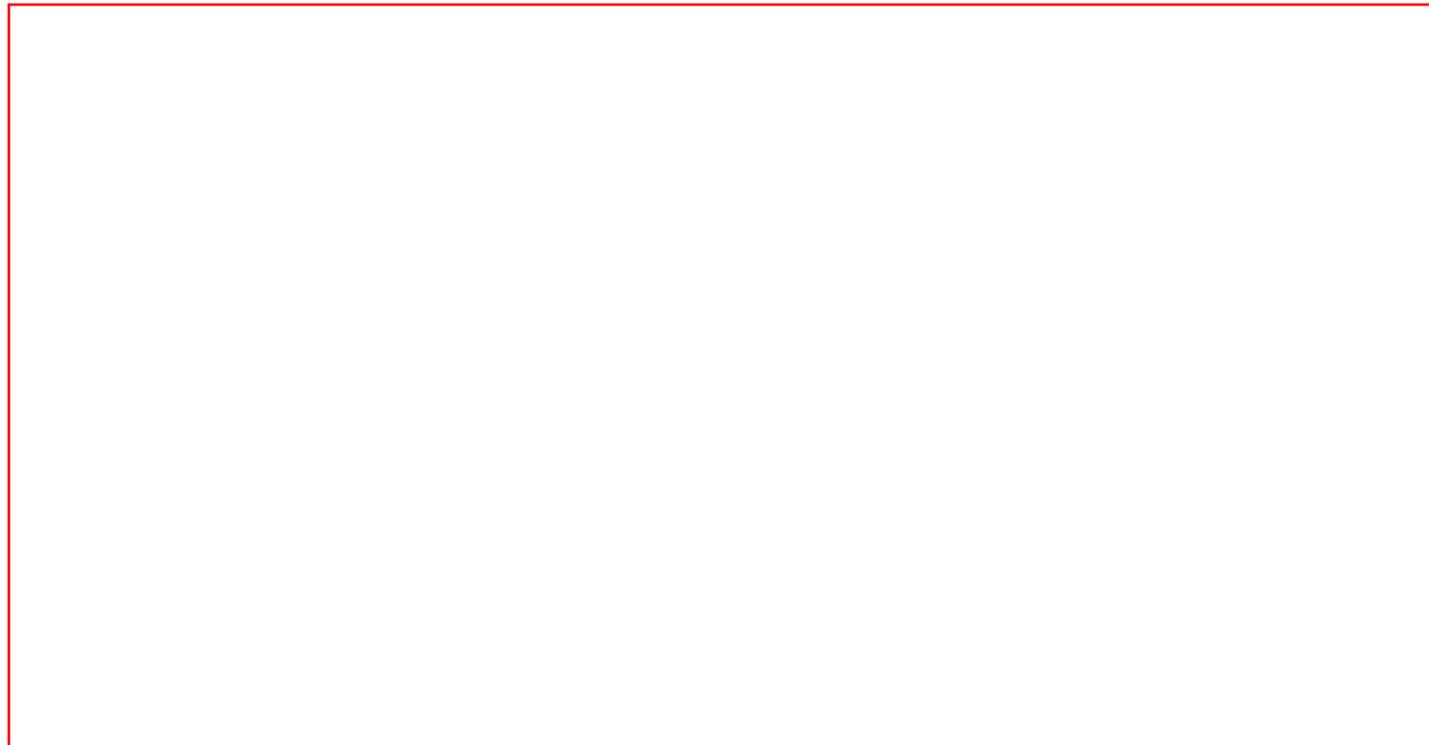
Dear Mr. Jessee,

I received your name and address from Vivian Bales of Marion, Indiana, who answered my query about Jane Jesse in *Heritage Quest* magazine. She said that you have a Jesse/e Newsletter and I would like information on your newsletter.

I have also put queries in the Adair County review, but so far no luck on finding out who Jane Jesse's father was. Jane Jesse married Rane McKinney on 21 March 1816 in Adair County, Kentucky. Her mother, Polly Jesse, was present at the wedding and listed as her mother. Also present at the wedding was Lazarus who I believe was Jane's older brother because of the date of his first marriage in 1806 so he was probably about 10 years older than Jane Jesse. Lazarus Jesse married 3 times in Adair County--Sarah Sparks (19 April 1806), then Rebecca Hughart (12 January 1808), and then Elizabeth McGlosson (7 August 1823). Do you have any

information on Jane, Polly, or Lazarus Jesse?

In Newsletter 12 (you report) the marriage of Thomas Jesse and Polly Warriner, 10-15-1796 in Powhatan Co. VA. Could they be the parents of Jane Jesse?



Place Ruth Going Pedigree Here

Mary Lee Rainbolt writes with an inquiry about the **Banner** family, who is intermarried with the Jessees. As I am beholding and grateful to others for all Banner information, and since I have done no original research nor do I have original sources, I am unable to answer her questions. I would welcome a response to her letter that I may print in the next newsletter.

April 18, 1998

Hello Jim,

I am working on the Banner Genealogy, and you have submitted a lot of info on the Banners. John Fransler Banner was my great grandfather. In going through your records, I find that the father of John Banner (Catherine E. Rackenpaugh) is different from the book that John Cullen Banner put out. You show that Charles Banner is the father and Margaret Ann Gose is the mother. Where did you get our records? Did you have some family Bibles to get your information? JC Banner shows that Jacob Banner is the father of John Banner. Since he could not find any information on the Jacob Banner, only the name, I think that you may be right, but I would like to find out where you got your information, before I write to John Cullen Banner. I am on the GenServ Service, and I am really enjoying getting all this information. My grandmother's name was Birdie Lee Banner, daughter of John Fransler Banner, and my mother's name was Birdie Beatrice Garner. My dad's name was Henry Alfred Berna.

I would like to hear from you on this matter. Thank you,

Mary Lee Rainbolt

PO Box 488

Edinburgh, Texas 78540

e-mail: mberna@hiline.net

Sharlene Boyer (Livermore, CA) writes with information about **Elisha Bishop Jessee**.

6 May 1998

Hi Jim,

The mail yesterday brought the copies of past Jessee Family Newsletters, and I stayed up late last night to read them all. Thank you so much for the time you put in doing all of the work--it boggles my mind that you can keep track of so many of us. [Believe me, my mind is well boggled—Ed.] I am looking forward to keeping up with the family news in future newsletters.

I was interested in the items about Jessee Civil War veterans, and would like to send on the information I have about my great-grandfather. Eliza Bishop Jessee was the son of Oliver Jessee, who was the son of William J. Jessee, who was the son of John Jessee, Sr. My copy of his military records spells his name as Jessie, Jesse, and Gessie. He served as a Corporal in Company H of the First Missouri Cavalry of the Confederate Army. He was captured 17 May 1863 at the Battle of Big Black River during the siege of Vicksburg. He was interred in Vicksburg and Fort Delaware, sent to Point Lookout (Maryland) for exchange and then to Elmira (New York) for processing his pardon. He was among the 3,038 Confederate officers and men exchanged 13 February 1865. He was 25 years old when he was captured.

From my own back yard, the June 15, 1939 issue of *The Sandy Gulch News* reports:

Orchard Sprayer Beats Fire Truck

The Sandy Gulch Fire Department, represented by **N. C. Jessee's** orchard spray equipment, saved another house last week when **the Jessee boys** sprayed shot hole fungus antidote all over Chester Rose's house to keep it from going the same way \$4,000 worth of lumber piles went.

The fire had a fair start before the Jessee boys arrived but the orchard sprayer, kept going by a milk can brigade, saved the home, just as it has saved four or five other homes in that section in the past few years. The county fire truck from Oroville (25 miles) came by too late to roast any weenies over the coals, as there were no coals left, the fireladdies having too far to go and too many fires to look after elsewhere.

[Norval Clarence Jessee (1881-1947) was my grandfather, who came to Butte County California in 1908, and with his wife, Blanche Hester Richman (1886-1958), raised a family of eight Jessee boys (See Cover Photo).--Editor]

The Purpose of This Newsletter

I believe that we are, indeed, all cousins and that we can be colleagues and friends, too, sharing information and helping each other know what it means to be part of an extended family and to appreciate our common heritage. To these aims I dedicate this newsletter.

I research my own JESSEE ancestors, including the Armstrong, Smyth/ Smith, Porter, Duncan, Bickley, RichmOND/RichmAN, BARTEE and Barrick families; and many other SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES who have intermarried with the Jessees, including: the Banner, Browning, Burk(e), Counts, Fuller, Gose, Kiser, Stone, and Vermillion families. I have an abiding interest in family history.

I would like to discover and record all of the descendants of the fifteen children of John and Frankey Lea Jessee, and assist other Jesse(e) family members with their research. This is admittedly a monumental chore. I am giving myself the rest of my life to accomplish it, and may he live so long! The fun is in the learning and the friendships I develop along the way. I am rewarded all the time by the visits, conversations, and correspondence I have with you.

The purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate the exchange of information and documents relative to the genealogy of the Jessee and related families whose roots may be found in Southwest Virginia. I 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.

I am providing this newsletter free to anyone who has asked for it, provided me information, or has expressed serious interest in this work. You are welcome to provide addresses of others that may be interested in our effort and would like to help. I am looking for those willing to provide and exchange information or represent their branch of the family or area of the country. I can provide and receive genealogy data by computer diskettes and via Internet e-mail.

How To Help

I need and appreciate your donations in defraying the considerable cost of research, printing and postage of the newsletter and 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 pay.

Newsletter Reprints

At the request of many, I have now collected Jessee Family Newsletters #1-7, #8-9, #10-11, and #12-13 into separate sets of reprints (without some attachments that have become obsolete). You may request these, as well as specific pedigree or descendants charts for \$10 a set, or \$40 for all back issues and the current year. Your additional donations to help me defer the costs of research, printing, copying, and postage are very much welcome.

The Jessee Family Newsletter

**is edited and printed by
James Wilson "Jim" Jessee
1272 Hobart Street
Chico, CA 95926-3702
Telephone: 530-342-2652
Internet: Jim@Jessee.org or
jjessee@csuchico.edu**

© All Rights Reserved.

The Jessee Family Newsletter

**c/o James Wilson "Jim" Jessee
1272 Hobart Street
Chico, CA 95926-3702**



The Norval Clarence Jesse Family about 1928 in Chico, California. Front Row: Earl Wilson "Toby" Jesse (1918-1958--editor's father), N. C. Jesse (1881-1947), Blanche Hester Richman Jesse (1886-1959), Rex Leslie "Jack" Jesse (1920-1980). Back Row: Emery Francis "Mutt" Jesse (1912-1988), John Tivis Jesse (1909-1972), Norval Riley "NR" Jesse (1907-1978), Eugene Milton "Gene" Jesse (1910-1994), Marion Willard "Jerry" Jesse (1914-1966), Robert Lee "Bob" Jesse (1916-1975).