

# Jesse Family Newsletter

Issue #29

Summer 2006

Vol. XV No. 2

## Dear Cousin,

**This has been a difficult Newsletter to do, but not for lack of news, views, and genealogy information. This one is late but chock full.**

For me it was a very full spring, with a renovation of our house, yard and garden preparing for a summer wedding, not to mention what Nelda and my daughter were doing, too! Then heartbreak all around as the relationship ended. We are glad they figured this out now, and my yard and garden have never looked better, but much more than my muscles hurt.

It is also a "catalog summer" full of intense computer work as well as my usual "classroom preparation" activities. In June my old disability, "bulging cervical disks," flared up and have me in muscle spasms and pain whenever I even think of working on the computer, drive the car, and other uses of my right arm. This newsletter has been a real pain to do, and I am worried about the future.

**I thank the JHF for all the work doing the Annual Reunion and Picnic, and feature their dedication of a memorial stone for John Jessee, Revolutionary War Soldier.**

**We have exciting news regarding our Frankey Lea, so I have asked again "Will the Real Frankey Lea Please Stand Up.**

**I am pleased that we have significant new contributions for some of their 15 children, but the newsletter has scant news about some of the others.** That news depends on you. While I have received fewer written news items, the family database continues to grow with about 44,000 records. There is always data entry to do; just the daily requests for help fill most evenings, and writing this newsletter takes most vacations. Still, I am excited and gratified every time I extend the descendants for the Jessee family and am always astounded as I see increasing evidence of the interrelatedness of all these SW Virginia families. We are all cousins.

**We have an interesting newsletter.** Thanks to you who help support the effort. My spirits are uplifted by your letters, email, calls, and renewals.

Jim Jessee

## Featured This Edition

**Vernon Salyers updates us on the activities at the 2006 JHF Reunion and the dedication of a Revolutionary War stone for John Jessee, Sr. in the Andrew Jackson Jessee Cemetery behind the Mill Creek Church.**

***The Jessee Family Photo Album* includes descendants of Phillip, but not Gabriel Jessee, which is explained further.**

***JHF News & Views* and the original John Jessee Cemetery and Mill Projects have some new information, and commentary, but little progress.**

***SW Virginia Families, Other Jesse/ee/ie/ey Families, and SW VA Family Origins* include a tidbit of information on **Henry Nathaniel Meade, German Gesse/Jesse** origins and surmise by **John Funk** that we may need to look to German or Dutch origins for the name, too.**

**We provide new *Lea* information and speculation by **Jim Jessee and Tom Rudder** regarding the origins of our own *Frankey Lea Jessee*, with much help from **Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde**, a *Lea* Family descendant and researcher.**

**Find news on **John and Frankey Lea Jessee and their fifteen children**.** See new information and photos, read heart-warming stories, and meet new cousins inside. Several have sent articles and photographs which I am happy to feature.\

**Letters sent to **Carlyne Ritter** from **Vivian Bales** are featured under *Mary Polly Jessee Kiser*, and the **obituaries for both *Elsie Salyer Jessee (wife of Rev. Cecil) and Robert Wayne Bob*** Jessee (former JHF Board member) are shared under *George Lea Jessee* columns.**

***Missing Links and Correspondence* have items of interest and requests for help.**

***Jessee Resources on the Web* has a few more Websites for us computer geeks and the latest information regarding the development of the *Jessee Family Database*.**

# The 2007 National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, June 16, 2007

at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center,  
300 Stanley Street, Abingdon, VA

The 2007 Jessee Family Research Day

Friday, June 15, 2007

at the Russell County Library  
203 NW Main Street, Lebanon, VA

Please put the 2007 Family Reunion  
and Research Day on your calendar.

The 2006 Jessee Family Research Day was held Friday, June 16, at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA. As planned, the activities began at 9 a.m. and ended about 4 p.m.

The 2006 Jessee Family Reunion and Picnic was held on Saturday, June 17, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park, Abingdon, Virginia. The Jessee Historical Foundation hold its annual membership meeting during the reunion.

**To get there:** Take exit 19 from Interstate 81, go north on Route 11-Main Street toward Abingdon, approximately 0.7 mile. Bear right (north) at the second light onto Thompson Street, beside the shopping center. Go about 100 yards, then go right on Stanley Street. Coomes Recreation Center will be around the big curve, over the hill on the right.

Remember to bring a covered dish, enough to feed your family and at least four additional "cousins." You may bring a folding chair. Bring your musical instruments.

For information about this historic area, lodging, golf courses, etc., please call the Abingdon Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-435-3440; Phone: 276-676-2282 or Fax: 276-676-3076, E-mail: [acvb@abingdon.com](mailto:acvb@abingdon.com) or Internet: [www.abingdon.com/tourism](http://www.abingdon.com/tourism).

## THE SILENT AUCTION NEEDS YOU

Plan to participate in the annual silent auction, held during the family reunion on Saturday, to help raise funds for the Jessee Historical Foundation. To make the auction a success, your contributions are needed. Use your imagination to think of items to be contributed. The items for the auctions can be brought to the reunion picnic to be held at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park Grounds, Abingdon, VA.

For more picnic and silent auction information, contact  
Mary H. Akers  
19246 Oakwood Drive  
Abingdon, VA 24221  
276-628-9239

# Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

## The JHF board, officers, and volunteers:

The following were elected by the JHF membership for 2005-2009. The membership voted at the annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Reunion and Picnic, Saturday, June 18, 2005.

**Hank Davis, President**

**Mary Akers, Vice-President**

**Norma McHone, Treasurer**

**Karen Hall, Recording Secretary**

**Patricia Jessee Stone, Membership Secretary**

**Board of Directors: Mary H. Akers, Beverly Jo**

**Elswick, Nancy S. Elswick, Diane Fuller, Sandra J.**

**Hood, James "JC" Jessee, Robert Trigg Jessee, Joy**

**Jessee Malone, Irene Jessee Perry, Helen R. Reedy,**

**Pauline P. Salyers, Vernon L. Salyers, Janice S.**

**Tiller.**

Go to [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) for more information on JHF activities, news, and events. *Please Join.*

## Membership Information

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

**Annual membership will now run from reunion to reunion each year.** Dues will be collected at the annual reunion in June for the following year. JHF membership dues for 2006/2007 will be due at the Family Reunion or mailed in after June 17, 2006. If you did not do so, you may need to renew your membership for 2005/06 now to receive the next JHF Newsletter in May, 2006.

**There are three categories of membership.** Anyone age 81 or older may request free lifetime membership. The annual fee is \$10 per person. Ask about lifetime membership, too.

- 1. Regular Member:** If you have a Jessee, Jesse, Jessey or Jessie surname, or are an adult Jessee descendant you are eligible to be a regular member with full voting privileges. Please provide information to verify your Jesse(e) lineage.
- 2. Associate Member:** Spouses, related family, or friends of a regular member, who are non-voting.
- 3. Junior Member:** Family members under age 18, who are non-voting.

**Send an application.** Get one at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) or provide the following information: name, street or PO box address, city, state, ZIP, phone, email address, and your Jessee pedigree. Please send your application and check, payable to Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc., for \$10 per person, to the membership secretary, at the following address.

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

## Highlights of the 2006 Jessee Annual Reunion

VERNON SALYERS [mailto:vpsaly@naxs.net] sent this notice, 3/16/2006, and then followed up, 6/29/2006, with the program and Lebanon News article about the event.

Just wanted to update you on some of the activities planned for the 2006 JHF Reunion. A Revolutionary War stone for John Jessee, Sr. has been procured and we plan to set it in the Andrew Jackson Jessee Cemetery behind the Mill Creek Church. A memorial granite stone will also be placed there with information about his & Frankey Lea's burial place. A dedication ceremony is planned for the afternoon of Friday, June 16th at the site.

I am attaching the article about the Memorial Stone & Marker Dedication as it appeared in The Lebanon News. The article also included the photo (that I sent you earlier) of the stone & marker. I am also sending a copy of the Dedication program.

The Welcome Get-together was well attended, however our musicians failed to show. The picnic went really well and over 100 were in attendance.

We had a new feature this year & hope that it proves successful for future events. On hand were two professional photographers from Premier Video Productions who videoed all three events' activities. It included interviews & conversations with the attendees. They are in the process now of editing and putting it on DVD & VHF. They will be available soon for purchase. The cost is \$25 each, which includes shipping. For obvious copyright reasons, they will not be released until **75 paid orders** are received. Norma McHone is handling the orders. Make checks payable to Norma McHone & mail to her at P.O. Box 7571, Roanoke, VA 24019-1571.

I will be sending out this info by e-mail as well as USPS. Feel free to post it on your site. Should you have any questions, please let me know. Vernon Salyers

### Headstone Dedication (Article from *The Lebanon News*)

On Friday, June 16th, 2006, the Jessee Historical Foundation held a dedication ceremony honoring John Jessee, Sr., Revolutionary War Patriot. The event, attended by over 60 people (the majority of which, descendants) was held at the Andrew Jackson Jessee (grandson of John Jessee, Sr.) Cemetery behind the Mill Creek Baptist Church. Although John, his wife, Frankey Lea and other family members are buried approximately a mile away on property that once was a part of their original settlement, it was deemed appropriate by the JHF Board of Directors to place the stone and marker here. The granite marker accompanying the military stone bears this information. The cemetery is surrounded by rows of shade trees, is well kept and easily accessible from Jessee's Mill road.

Participating in Friday's event were members of the Gen. William Campbell Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (of which 20 members are descendants of John Jessee, Sr.), Carter's Fort Chapter,



Daughters of the American Revolution, VFW Post 9864, and George, Lisa and Rachel Jessee.

John Jessee, Sr. was a soldier living in Caswell Co., NC during the American Revolution. He was listed as a musician in Yarborough's Company and a soldier in the 10th NC Regiment from April 1781 to April 22, 1782.

After the war, he relocated his family to Russell Co. Because the Jesses were one of the earliest families to settle here, and because the descendants of their 15 children are extremely numerous, it is not difficult to find someone now living in the county who can trace their lineage to John Jessee, Sr.

The Jessee Historical Foundation was founded in 2001 and is open to anyone who can trace his/ her ancestry to a Jessee line. Please direct any inquiries or comments to the JHF, PO Box 1617, Lebanon, VA 24266.

The JHF Memorial Marker Committee extends its sincere appreciation to all those who participated, attended the Dedication or helped in any way. A particular thanks goes to Jason Owens of Owens Funeral Service for his assistance in acquiring the military stone and in the creation of the granite marker and, also to Roy Kramer for his upkeep of the cemetery.

## The Program

JESSEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION  
**John Jessee Memorial Marker Dedication**  
**Andrew Jackson Jessee Cemetery**  
**Jessee Mill Road, Cleveland, VA**  
**2:00 P.M. - June 16, 2006**

Welcome & Introductions  
Henry "Hank" Davis, President, JHF

Star Spangled Banner  
George B. Jessee, Jr.

Presentation of Colors  
VFW Post 9864

Procession  
Gen. William Campbell, Chpt., SAR  
Tabitha Adams Russell Chpt., DAR  
VFW Post 9864

Pledge of Allegiance  
Harold "Doodle" Jessee

Invocation  
Harold "Doodle" Jessee

John Jessee Biography  
Harold "Doodle" Jessee

DAR Chapter Members  
Jackquetta Fletcher, Organizing Regent,  
Tabitha Adams Russell Chpt., DAR

Ashokan Farewell  
George B. Jessee, Jr.

Unveiling of Stone  
Mary Akers, Tabitha Adams Russell Chpt., DAR

Placing of Wreath  
Pauline Salyers, Tabitha Adams Russell Chpt., DAR

Memorial  
Mildred Davis, Chaplain, Tabitha Adams Russell Chpt., DAR

Mourning of Arms & Volley  
Gen. William Campbell Chpt., SAR

Amazing Grace  
George, Lisa & Rachel Jessee

21 Gun Salute  
VFW Post 9864

Taps  
VFW Post 9864

Jessee Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1617, Lebanon, VA 24266

## The 15 children of John, Sr. and Frankey Lea Jessee

John Jessee, Jr.  
Archer Lea Jessee, Sr.  
William J. Jessee  
Lea Jessee  
David Wilson Jessee, Sr.  
Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser Chafin  
Frances Jessee Stone  
Sarah A. Jessee Vermillion  
Boadicea Jessee Gose  
James Jessee  
Elizabeth Jessee Gose  
Jane Jessee Fuller  
Rebecca Jessee Burke  
George Lea Jessee, Sr.  
Martin C. Jessee

Members of the Memorial Marker Committee on behalf of the JHF Board of Directors express sincere appreciation to all those who had a part in making this day possible. We are especially grateful to Jason Owens, owner of Owens Funeral Services for his generosity in helping to procure the headstone and memorial marker; to Blair Keller and the General William Campbell Chapter, SAR, Jackquetta Fletcher, Organizing Regent and the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter, DAR, Harold "Doodle" Jessee and the VFW Post 9864, George & Lisa Jessee family, and to all the volunteers.

**VERNON SALYERS** [vpsaly@naxs.net], wrote to the Jessee List, 7/8/2006, with this report of the **2006 JHF Reunion Activities**

Greetings JHF Family

I just wanted to let all of you know that the 2006 Reunion & activities were well attended and enjoyed. For those of you who were unable to attend, we missed you and hope to see you next year.

The John Jessee, Sr. Marker Dedication was attended by over 60 people and the weather was beautiful. We also had good attendance at the Welcome Reception and over 100 at the picnic.

Mary Akers was elected Vice President to fill the vacancy left by Laura Thomas.

A new feature was added this year to the events and, hopefully, it will be successful. All 3 events (Military Marker Dedication ceremony, Welcome Reception & Picnic) were videoed by a professional videographer/ photographer from Abingdon. The finished product will be available for sale for \$25 (this includes shipping) on either, DVD or VHF. It will feature interviews & interactions with the attendees as well as the Silent Auction and music.

Hopefully, everyone will purchase one of these to keep for future generations to enjoy.

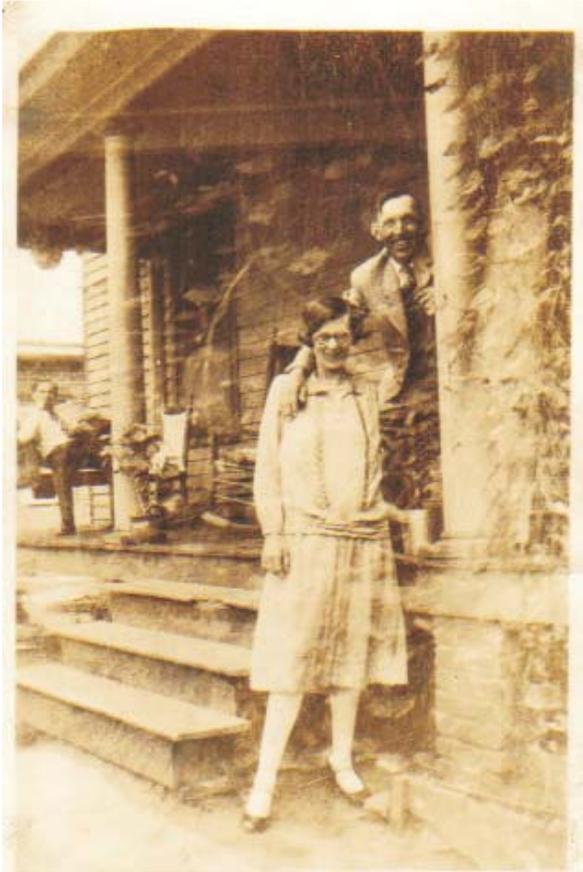
For copyright reasons, 75 paid orders must be received before they will be released. To order, make checks payable to Norma McHone and mail to her at:

P.O. Box 7571  
Roanoke, VA 24019-0571

# Jessee Family Photo Album

SHARON H. ANDREWS [SHAndrews@nbamerica.com] wrote, 8/25/2005, and sent photographs of her family, which have intermarried with descendants of **Philip and Rachel Jessee**. **Della Mae Jessee is the daughter of Charles Andrew Jessee, son of Charles W., son of John, son of Philip Jessee.**

Philip Jessee is sometimes referred to as Old Philip, for his longevity, who we believe was a brother of our John Jessee, Sr. His son John did not accompany him to Russell County. Another son was Gabriel Jessee of Russell Co. historical note, and ancestor of several of our JHF founders and board members.



James Arthur Jarrett and Della Mae Jessee Jarrett



James Arthur Jarrett and Della Mae Jessee Jarrett



George and Henrietta Jarrett Family



Ethel Jarrett

## JHF News & Views

The Jessee Historical Foundation publishes its own newsletter, *JHF News & Information--The Official Voice of the Jessee Historical Foundation*.

The JHF Board has indicated that I am only to publish in this Newsletter and on the Website information formally transmitted to me via their liaison, Vernon Salyers. In addition, I am not to suggest any further JHF involvement in restoration of Jessee's Mill, as well as the Jessee Cemetery, and to remove such references or inferences from the Website and Newsletter. I hope I have done so.

I will need you to be my reporters and to contribute stories and photos about JHF events and meetings. Please do so only with the understanding that I want to publish them on the Jessee List, in this Newsletter, and place them on the Jessee Website, and that I have your permission to do so, now and in the future. I make no profit doing this, so copyright is not an issue, but please know I will be placing your work in the public domain.

The editors of the JHF Newsletter ask for suggestions and comments for the JHF Newsletter in their *About This Publication*.

"It was decided by the Board of Directors that it would be a nice idea to communicate with the members in conjunction with our annual Research Day & Picnic. This publication is totally separate from and not to be confused with the Jessee Family Newsletter published by Jim Jessee. Our publication will only be sent out once a year prior to the JHF Research Day & Reunion. Please send any suggestions or comments to either of the publication committee members."

Vernon Salyers, PR Chairman  
Rt. 1 Box 97, Lebanon, VA 24266-9685  
276-889-0055

J.C. Jessee  
PO Box 83, Lebanon, VA 24266-0083

The JHF Newsletter carried a reminder that "All Membership Dues will now run from picnic to picnic, each June." Dues are \$10 per year per person.

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

The JHF Newsletter provided an *FYI* box:

*"FYI According to the Internal Revenue Service our Foundation is classified as a 501(a)(7) organization. In that we are a social and recreational club whose general nature of activities are pleasure, recreation and social activities."* [italics are JHF editor's emphasis]

I have lamented in several newsletters that as a JHF board member I have never received an agenda, nor minutes, notes, or even the recorded actions of any meetings. It is explained that by virtue of being this kind of 501(a) organization, there is no obligation to have agendas provided in advance, nor to have written minutes provided to all board members whether they can attend or not. JHF business can be done orally, without recorded votes by those attending, and without obligation to get input from or inform other board members of their actions.

The JHF board has never effectively responded to the above nor my specific request as a board member to consider more inclusive procedures, to inform and include all board members, at least of board deliberations and actions. I must take silence and lack of any minutes of their meetings this past year as their affirmation that this is the way the current board will also conduct business. **Therefore, I inform the JHF Board that I resign from the Board, effective August 15, 2006.**

I will continue to offer the services of the [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) Website, the Jessee List on RootsWeb, and this Jessee Family Newsletter as a vehicle for the JHF board to connect to the greater Jessee family, and to share information about issues and concerns of the board, membership, and others. If informed, I will gladly share here or on the Website JHF news and information of board agendas, minutes, and photos of activities and events, which I believe the JHF membership and many others sincerely want.

I get literally hundreds of "hits" per month on my Jessee Genealogy Service Website, and dozens of email messages from those who have first learned about the JHF and the Jessee Annual Reunions directly and only from this Website. You are free to use the Jessee List to communicate with fellow board members, too. I invite all JHF board members to join the Jessee List and to subscribe to this newsletter as one of our means for better communication. I will gladly publish your comments, too.

**When the JHF develops its own mailing list or Website, I will gladly link to it as its own "JHF official voice" and welcome you to the Web.**

## JHF and Other Projects

All of the following projects have been discussed in the Jessee Family Newsletter and on the Jessee List for many years, and were believed, and as emphatically stated by our own Rev. Cecil Jessee, to be the reasons for establishing the JHF in the first place. Several were adopted and acted upon by the first JHF board, and several milestones were achieved. **I hope the JHF board will consider all the activities and goals listed here, and I know they are well committed to the annual reunion and events.**

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

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

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

**3. Creation of a Jessee Book, *Remember When*, with family stories, histories, and photos.** See the May 2005 JHF Newsletter for more information on this new project, too. This is a terrific idea, and given enough time, there are many who would like to contribute, even me. Thank you, Mary.

**4. The establishment of Virginia State highway, Russell County historical, or private markers for Jessee's Mill and other appropriate Family sites.** The first of these, a private highway sign for Jessee's Mill has been accomplished, and now a commemorative marker for John Jessee, Revolutionary War Soldier at the cemetery behind the Mill Creek Baptist Church. This approach may set a precedent for developing further private directional, commemorative, and historical signs for additional family landmarks, cemeteries, and the like by the JHF. I hope so.

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

Sadly missing from this wish list for the JHF is any official support, be it money, volunteers, or leadership, for efforts to restore Jessee's Mill, or to be involved with efforts to protect, preserve, and provide access to the John and Frankey Lea Jessee cemetery. These the current board have refused to consider further and strongly advised me to bug off.

Several of these same JHF board members are also influential members, substantial volunteers, or sit on the boards of the area historical and genealogy societies, too, which makes me fear any hope for their assistance in those organizations to be doubtful. It is certainly true that all politics are local.

There will need to be separate efforts distinct from the JHF and most probably other Russell County public or private historical or genealogy organizations, to achieve the following projects. If you feel different about this, please tell them. I will continue to report on these efforts in this Newsletter.

## **John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery**

**Protection and restoration of the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery with family access, is a desire of many.** This cemetery is owned by Mr. **Jimmy Herndon, a Phillip and Gabriel Jessee descendant.** Mr. Herndon, who lives on the property, has indicated that he is not willing to cooperate with the Jessee family at this time. I believe we will need to seek the cooperation of Mr. Herndon to provide or pay for his costs for cleaning up, mapping and fencing this cemetery. We need to work with Mr. Herndon to find a way to hold him harmless for any liability and to protect his privacy, property and farming activities from those who may wish to visit this cemetery. **I ask that we not bother Mr. Herndon with unauthorized visits to his farm and this cemetery.**

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

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

**JHF efforts to establish a John Jessee memorial at the cemetery behind the Mill Creek Church are welcome, but do not mitigate the above goal.**

## **Jessee's Mill Declared National Historic Landmark**

**JOE JESSEE** (joejessee@yahoo.com), our JHF founding president (2001-2005), provided this terrific news for the Summer 2005 Annual Reunion.

**The US Department of Interior, Park Service, has declared Jessee's Mill in Russell County to be a National Historic Landmark.** This follows similar State of Virginia action to list Jessee's Mill on the Virginia Landmarks Register last December (see

Winter 2005 Newsletter and the *Lebanon News* article, 12/15/2004). Joe sent the press release with this good news to the *Lebanon News* on May 5, 2005, and the article appeared in the *Lebanon News*, 5/11/2005.

This is an historic event for the Jessee Family, Mill Creek Community, and Russell County. This action opens the way for an appropriate non-profit corporation to seek grants and other funding for the acquisition and restoration of Jessee's Mill. It will open other avenues for recognition and support, too. This was the necessary first step. Please see articles to follow regarding the next steps for restoration of Jessee's Mill, perhaps as an anchor for a Mill Creek Historic Community someday.

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

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

## **Mill Creek Historic Community**

**Kathryn Greever, Joe Jessee, Sherman Wallace and I, among many others, believe that an appropriate organization or benefactor should acquire Jessee's Mill along with the dam above it and the Jessee School for a Jessee's Mill restoration project, as the anchor for a *Mill Creek Historic Community*.** We have hopes to acquire enough land around the mill, dam, school, the Andrew Jackson Jessee home and the miller's home to preserve a sense of the historic Mill Creek Community. Sherman Wallace, the owner, indicates he is willing to work with a group or organization regarding these ideas. This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve these significant historical landmarks and perhaps create a small historical community around it for Russell Co. and all its sons and daughters across America.

In addition, Mill Creek Community members, landowners, and Russell County families with roots there, could seek land use zoning or historical designation to help preserve the character of the area. The Mill Creek Baptist Church and its members' support and participation would be highly valued.

I have asked various individuals, board members of the JHF and local history and genealogy groups in Russell County to consider how this project might happen. I asked whether the JHF, Russell County government, Chamber of Commerce, Genealogy or Historical Society, or other group would be willing to look into creating a Russell County or Mill Creek Historic Community with a renovated Jessee's Mill as its centerpiece. The response has been and continues to be nil, so I continue to offer the following idea.

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

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

The first chore is to determine whether there are enough interest, volunteers, and potential support to proceed further. If so, the group will need a lawyer to help us with the formalities, and I hope those family lawyers who have offered such help before will step up on this one.

I would like to see a complete proposal developed by this committee, with the purpose of the proposed organization well defined, and procedures for membership, election of a board and officers, done in accordance with Virginia law and those board procedural requirements, or by-laws, I outlined earlier.

**We have had many positive responses from others outside of Russell Co. offering modest donations and moral support but no offers of joining us or offering leadership from anyone nearby.** Sherman, Joe, Kathryn and I are disappointed to say the least, and may just have to shelve this dream until another time. May the Jessee Mill last so long.

I am too far away to be the leader, or even attend meetings, but I will gladly coordinate as best I can until the committee elects its own chair and handles its own affairs. I can collect your names and interests, and share them with the key individuals who may emerge to help us do this. I offer the services of this Newsletter, the Jessee List, and Website to this endeavor. Please write me at [Jim@Jessee.org](mailto:Jim@Jessee.org).

## Jessee's Mill Preservation

**Whether a Mill Creek Historic Community with a restored Jessee's Mill ever comes to be or not, the "preservation" of Jessee's Mill remains a major concern.** As a historic Russell County landmark, you would think someone there would also care, especially since the owner is willing to cooperate with any public or private entity to stop deterioration, preserve it, and restore it someday. I am willing to do what I can to encourage such an effort through this Newsletter and the Website and will donate to the cause.

**Here is a summary of what we know about the Mill from the many who have contributed.**

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

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

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

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

**See the July 2005 and January 2005 Jessee Family Newsletters regarding our having secured State and Federal recognition of Jessee's Mill as an historic landmark.** Here is the background and some of what needs to be done to preserve the Mill.

During spring 2003, Joe Jessee and Sherman Wallace submitted a preliminary application to the VA Dept. of Historical Resources for State historical status. On June 16, 2003, Joe and Sherman toured the Jessee Mill with Mike Pulice, the Architectural Historian, Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, Virginia

Department of Historic Resources. Mike Pulice believed the Mill to be fully eligible for both State and National Historical Register status, and commented on its remarkable integrity. Clearly his comments were true, and his help was instrumental, as we have now secured that recognition. He also advised Sherman Wallace on appropriate preservation measures, some of which are needed immediately.

**SHERMAN WALLACE wrote, 2/19/2003, with a request for donations to help him preserve at least the status quo at Jessee's Mill until some other arrangement for its long-term restoration is made.** You may find his complete letter in the prior newsletters and on the Website. There has been as yet little direct response to Sherman, although I and a few others have made donations to help Sherman take some action on the Mill now to forestall further deterioration. He is proceeding with evaluation and some work, but it will take a good deal of money to do what is needed, even for just preserving the status quo.

**I have requested that members of the family and other lovers of Mill Creek and Russell County history donate directly to Sherman Wallace for this specific purpose.** Sherman owns Jessee's Mill, Dam, and land around it, and is a Jessee descendant, as well. I have toured the Mill and Jessee lands (including the cemetery when he leased it) with him, and know of his interest in preserving the Mill. My wife and I were guests in his mother's home, and enjoyed his generosity and hospitality. I find him to be an honorable man, sincerely interested in the preservation of Jessee's Mill, and trust him to use donations for that purpose.

**JOE JESSEE** [[joejessee@yahoo.com](mailto:joejessee@yahoo.com)] sent along this article on 1/11/2006 to share with the family, always hoping for family inspiration and action regarding our own historic landmark.

**PRESERVATIONISTS BUY HISTORIC MILL**  
Shenandoah's Zirkle Mill will stay in its original location; foundation to provide for care.  
BY CALVIN R. TRICE  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER  
Jan 11, 2006

The sale this month of a 245-year-old mill ensures that one of Shenandoah County's most important landmarks will come back to life at its original site.

Apple grower Gordon D. Bowman II agreed to sell the Zirkle Mill to Robert Andrews of Woodbridge and his sister, Sherryl Belinsky of South Riding. The two are related to Andrew Zirkle, the German immigrant who built the structure around 1760.

Two years ago, Andrews and Belinsky began a foundation to prevent the mill from being moved and restored for display in Staunton's Frontier Culture Museum.

The state-owned museum had negotiated a deal with Bowman to buy the mill, located in the northern Shenandoah Valley area of Forestville near the West Virginia line.

But Gov. Mark R. Warner rejected the deal in July, citing local opposition from residents and from county government, who wanted the structure to stay.

The foundation is working on a business plan for the mill's long-term care and operation.

"The priorities for the future of the mill are preservation foremost, then education and finally tourism," Andrews said. "The mill will immediately undergo a period of evaluation, documentation and restoration."

The foundation says it hopes to have the structure anchor a planned "frontier trail" in the area.

Zirkle was one of the Shenandoah Valley's first European settlers. The structure he began building in 1760 is considered to be one of the few of its kind in the valley to have survived the Union advance at the end of the Civil War and mill obsolescence later on.

It is on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

Contact staff writer Calvin R. Trice at [ctrice@timesdispatch.com](mailto:ctrice@timesdispatch.com) or (540) 574-9977.

**VERNON CECIL JESSEE** [[vernon@cros.net](mailto:vernon@cros.net)] wrote to Joe and the Jessee Family upon hearing this news with this.

Hello Joe, This is good news about the preservation of the mill in northern Va. It would be great if there would be some type of organization formed so that we could see the restoration of the Jessee's Mill. The Jessee's mill would not be declared a Nat'l historic site if it hadn't been for the effort of you ,Jim Jessee, and Sherman Wallace.

I hope that we can see the Jessee's Reunion get back to the purpose that it was meant to be. And get the Jessee's re-inspired, and the reunion will once again be attractive to the Jessee's all across the country so there will be a desire to come and be a part of it.

Lets not let a few spoil the whole Jessee Reunion. Let us work together to try and stir up the interest once again of the Jessee's across the Country, so that we will see the attendance begin to grow again. Rev.V.Cecil Jessee.

**JOHN FUNK** [[lshell@lasvegas.net](mailto:lshell@lasvegas.net)] wrote, 3/4/2006, with news of his latest endeavors and more information regarding Jessee's Mill and Dam.

I see things are moving on acquiring the mill. Now that it has been declared historical ,It will not end up as fire wood or furniture.

I have been busy myself, As you know I am one of the former workers in Nuclear weapons research and development support. And if you happened to look on the back pages of the news You would have read about our plight, How ever that drastically changed about three months ago--I got mad and organized those like myself into a group big enough to fight back and we are growing every day.

I have a web site you might like to visit for no other reason than to see photographs of Nuclear Bombs exploding. Even though they are extremely deadly they are never the less very beautiful.

My web site address is [www.avvnevada.com](http://www.avvnevada.com) I am still building it and it loads slowly but well worth the wait.

I am surprised the Federal land mark dept has not also jumped in and put a stake on the Dam, ... But this Dam at today's rates even using modern equipment would cost at least a million dollars to quarry deliver and place the stones. And to date I still have not located another one like it any where.

I have noticed that you guys never mention Jerry McCreynolds down by the falls or the falls period . My guess is the deep cut in the rock their is not natural and I would bet the stone in the dam came from this part of the creek. It has formations that suggest it was a quarry site.

Also remember this is where the saw mill was located. from what is left it was a pitman type not the circular type so common in later years . I believe the pit is still their. Pit type could be operated by hand or with water power.

## SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES

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

**JIM RICHEY** [[Terealtor@aol.com](mailto:Terealtor@aol.com)] wrote, 3/16/2006, with information regarding his efforts to provide a new Vol. 2 of his previous work on the **BROWNING** family genealogy.

Jim, I appreciate your offer to put a notice in the Jessee newsletter on my efforts on my Vol. 2 of the Browning Family. Here is my information.

Jim Richey, email [TeRealtor@aol.com](mailto:TeRealtor@aol.com) , has been doing research on the Brownings and related families for about 40 years. His Browning line goes back through James Browning who married Susan Hickman in Culpeper Co., VA, supposed son of John Browning and Elizabeth Demarest.

In 2003 he published his first book on the Brownings of early MD/VA/NC, etc., which was basically an update to E F Browning's book of 1908, Southern Line only. His book corrected most of the errors and added new names and families. He updated the early Browning lines in America back through Thomas Browning, b. c1620 and settled in Maryland. This versus E F Browning's tracing the line back to John Browning of Jamestown.

He includes many references and sources in his book.

A second volume is in the works and will include much more on the Brownings of the Logan Co., WV, area. He is seeking other researchers with Browning, and related families, in the area. He will gladly share his data with those interested.

**RON SAYLOR** [[saylorron@yahoo.com](mailto:saylorron@yahoo.com)] wrote, 3/19/2006, with this random act of kindness regarding **Henry Nathaniel Meade** and **MEADE** descendants.

I have spent my weekend going over the Hollywood Cemetery in Orange City, Volusia County, Florida veterans graves list and looking at the graves. The local Veterans groups I belong to is to make sure all graves get flags this Memorial Day. The records show Henry Nathaniel Meade, B: 28 Sep 1840, D: 11 Jan 1941, BU: 12 Jan 1941. Notes say "13 of 15 children survived him and 480 Grand-Greatgrand-Greatgreatgrand children" Died of Paralysis at 101 years 4 months." The headstone is a Civil War, Confederate style. In the same lot ( 089 ) next to him is Swanson Blane Meade, B: 17 May 1904, D: 22 July 1928, BU: 28 July 1928. Notes say "Auto Accident". Do not know how they relate.

I have been doing some of my family tree work and used Roots Web for some of the referances and this 101 year old caught my eye and so went to Roots Web and found your addresses. Hope this is of some help to you as it is all I could find.

I responded as follows.

Thank you for this volunteerism and kindness. I will share this with the Jesse and Russell County List, as their will be others who will also appreciate this information. I will also include it in the next Jesse Family Newsletter, as many have intermarried with the Meade Family in SW VA.

I believe I may have Henry Nathaniel Meade recorded in my database as Nathaniel T. "Nathan" Meade, RIN 15422, which one can look up in the database via [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org). If so, I have a marriage to Catherine Elliot, but no children, let alone 480 grandchildren and descendants. Corrections, if not additions to my information is always welcome.

Ron responded in turn.

Your "Thank You" makes my weekend. I guess what got me going on this was the note of the 480 "gradchildren". I was raised in a small Colorado farming town of 310 so made me think of what a family Christmas would have been like for them. that was more than my town. Hope this shakes out the Swanson Meade for you.

## JESSE(E) FAMILY ORIGINS

There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," and "Jessie" families in the United States and Canada that we know are descended from families whose American origins are in Virginia. There are many Jesse, Jessee, Jessie, Jessey and, perhaps, Jeshy, Jaci, Jacy, and Jacie families in the world whose kinship is unknown. I believe we are all cousins. As "Jesse" and "Jessee" are the two most frequent spellings of this family name, I shall adopt the convention of using "Jesse(e)" in reference to the larger family.

Please see Newsletter #10 for an extensive discussion and summary of what we know so far about the origins of the Jesse(e) families in America. The many clues there lead us to several new avenues of research on the origins of the Jesse(e) families in, at least, Amelia Co., Cumberland Co., Essex Co., Isle of Wight Co., King and Queen Co., King William Co., Lancaster Co., Nansemond, Co., Middlesex Co., and Spotsylvania Co., VA, not to mention the Isle of White and Devonshire, England.

**VICTOR GESS** [[vgess@cityfedcapital.com](mailto:vgess@cityfedcapital.com)] wrote, 2/15/2006, with this information and inquiry about **Michael Jesse of German and Plock, Poland origin.**

Hello Jim, My ancestry is German which goes back to Poland and before that Germany. Am curious if you have a Michael Jesse of 1837 vintage (in your data base) supposedly born around the Plock, Poland area? I've been searching for German records in Poland for many years and have never had success. His father is listed as Friedrich.

In my research I have documents with the following spelling. They all translate in Gess. Gesse/Gehs/Jess/Jesse/Jehs/Jeske/ My feeling is that Jesse was what was used most and at the time of their arrival in Canada in 1902. About 6 years later it was changed to Gess.

I'm searching for the birth record of my German greatgrandfather Michael Jesse born September 15, 1837 in the Plock, Poland area. My limited information indicates his father Friedrich Jesse was also born in that general area. Michael's daughter Julianna Jesse was born in the Kalisch, Poland area March

4, 1867. Some evidence suggests that Michael's son Ludwig (my grandfather) may have also been born in Kalisch. These two generations of the Jesse family slowly moved eastward and apparently lived in the village of Karolinow NE of Chelm where Michael and his wife Christina's daughter Pauline was born July 28, 1880. Some evidence exists that a son named Henry was born in the same village May 1879. I have a birth certificate for Pauline which is the only record I have of any of these events. The family moved to a province (called Volhynia) in Western Ukraine arriving there about 1881. In May 1902 this large family migrated to Winkler, Manitoba Canada. They lived there for five years and most of them moved west to Saskatchewan where they homestead.

**JOHN FUNK** [[lshell@lasvegas.net](mailto:lshell@lasvegas.net)] wrote 3/4/2006, with this extended commentary on **the origins of the Jesse and other SW VA family surnames.**

Jim, While visiting your site I noticed that many people are still trying to finger out where the Jessee name came from----As you know most all ideas are speculation and guessing

As you know I am some what of a problem solver, so here goes a few ideas for you to look into. Many early Virginia settlers were from Germanys mistakenly referred to as Dutch like Pennsylvania Dutch which should have been Douche as in Sprakeny Douche --Speak German--who were in fact Hanover Germans from Hanover Germany who were British subjects --as you know the house of Windsor was changed from the house of Hanover during world war one. And the British royal family name from Battenburg to Mountbatten under Queen Victoria. Grandmother of the Kiser, The Zar of Russia and many other sitting monarchs at the out break of world war one.

Recently I read that the English language as we know it today evolved about 1680. Prior to that English or Angelo Saxon language would be like a foreign language today. So lets for get all we know about today's ENGLISH DICTION and take a look at 17 century English and Hanover German language. And Dutch language.

After Holland broke away from The Spanish Happsburg Kingdom--This is not a miss quote--Charles the 5th from Switzerland began the Happsburg empire. at his death it was divided into the Spanish Happsburg and Austrian Hungarian Happsburg Empire. many Dutch who were some of the worlds greatest sailers and traders immigrated to the new world .after all wasn't New York once New Amsterdam, And who can ever forget the Dutch Masters. And --The House of Orange-- Holland Monarchy is related to the house of Windsor.

The name VAN HOOKS that surfaced suggest that early Virginia settlers of this part of Virginia were not Duetch as in Penn Dutch, But real Dutch From Holland. stone masonry and Carpentry done around the mill and Engineering point to real Dutch Craftsmanship. And similar engineering done on Jessee dam was done on the dikes of holland which use the exact same design. But in Holland it is two sided slopes.

During the 17th century when wood and Masonry were done by hand. Many different types of techniques were adopted by different nations. EXAMPLE--French made Their furniture and structures in their preferred manner--EXAMPLE--Mansard roofs, This French architecture was used almost on every structure built in early New Orleans, A total French settlement. Other French strongholds such as Canada and south Carolina also used this style.

British Builders and Carpenters preferred English Tudor type roofs and Hip roofs --German carpenters and builders also preferred gable typ roofs and Gamble typ roofs as attested to by Amish barns in the land of the Penn Duetch not Dutch.

Carpenters from different countries also had different joining techniques in timber framing and sheeting techniques as well.

One other point in favor of Holland Immigrants. Holland Millwrights were highly skilled in wood gear building as attested by windmill driven pumps and mills.

Holland Masons built similar types of dams when they built the Holland Dikes. Early dikes had no mortar either.

Names like KISER Which is found in Germany and Holland as well. only difference is the spelling.

Unless you were high born from a monarchist family. you usually took your last name from a variety of sources.,FROM YOUR CLAN--AND FROM YOUR TRADE OR WORK YOU DID--EXAMPLES--Mason --Carpenter--Couper--Tinker---Fletcher--Dyer--Tanner--Marshall--Skinner--Butcher---and to many more to mention--All of these names had counter parts in other languages--You may never solve this puzzle. But you might get closer if you researched the Dutch language used in the 17th century and look up any word that might suggest the Jessee name---You might even consider researching the Indian language of that area and see if a sound like Jessee might have been in the Cherokee of Shawnee languages. after all look over any map in the entire east coast--especially New York and most and more than half the names of towns rivers and mountain ranges are native American words.

And lets not forget the Brit's famous use of words. They invented using a persons initials as a name EXAMPLE--OJ AJ OC and even Jess -C.. Or even JC with a British accent. Or maybe the name was so difficult to pronounce people just used the initials JACEE.

My guess the name is something Dutch and that is where i would concentrate my efforts. every thing in Lebanon and mill creek suggest Dutch Settlers.

And one last Idea--This area had a lot of black slaves--Black slaves often addressed white by the first name in the following manner. Mr. James Or Mr John and may be aguy with a first name like Jessy took on the name Mr Jessy and if this person had been uneducated and illiterate as many were. In time he would refer to him self as Mr. Jessee. especially if he had a last name he could neither pronounce or liked.

As to the Different spelling of the name Jessee or Jessy or Jessie, early school teachers were not as educated as we have been led to believe. most people learned to spell their name for the first time by what ever they were taught by the old one room school house teachers. early teachers by today standards had barely 6 the grade educations by today standards and many parents had no education at all ,so they had no idea how their names were spelled either--Mills of many sorts such as grist stamp and carding and sawmill and weaving mills. along with varouse churches invented public schooling for common people. Prior to that any education was expensive and inaccessible to working class people.

Prior to the Gutenberg Bible barley 2% of the common class people had any education and if they could read. all the Books of higher education were hand written in Latin Greek and Arabic and a few in French. rarely ever in their native languages. English is the worlds greatest example of an evolving language--made up of words from Greek--Latin--German French --Gallic--Anglo and Saxony along with a lot of slang words made up from foreign and domestic words. Example--A restraint that serves any type of roast beef is referred to even today as a carvey as in carving meat. telephones are Telly's. No body is better at slang than the British.

Another reason for different spellings--My Great Grand father fought in the Civil war for the union forces. and he fought against his brother who was a confederate soldier. He came from a town called Webster Wva, Where he is buried. there are old family plots in the cemetery and i could not help but notice the differant ways people spelled the name smith-some spelled it smitt---some smith --other like fuller and fuler. I ask some local residents about this and this is how they explained it. It seems that those who supported the south changed their names from those who supported the north--other fall out revolved around religious differences. many Lutherans broke away and joined the Baptist and Methodist Churches, lost mixed and constant changing languages Internal family feuds Irreconcilable religious and political difference bad

spellers or victims of slang all were reasons that there are many different ways to spell Jessee.

But with a name like Kiser in the neighborhood and craft techniques and engineering and artecture ,I would put my money on finding the name Jessee some where in the Dutch language meanings. Check local court house records--The Dutch even had their own type of letters similar to old English and PA Dutch --and look for Dutch names in the early records--I would bet there are many Dutch settlers in this region, but do not forget Cherokee and Shawnee either. Just an idea.

## PHILLIP AND RACHEL JESSEE

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

**Gabriel Jessee descendants Irene Jessee Perry, Janice Jessee Tiller, Carl Jessee, and J.C. and wife Nellie Jessee have been generous supporters and stalwart workers who have helped establish the Jessee Family Foundation and volunteer for many other Russell County history, cemetery restoration, and genealogy projects.** For their work, we thank them. I invite family members to submit photos and other articles of interest for us all to enjoy.

**IRENE JESSEE PERRY** wrote, 1/17/2006, with the news that, after five generations, the family has sold the **Gabriel Jessee Farm**. Irene expressed their profound regrets, but they felt they could not well maintain the farm any more. It has been sold to **Rudy and Audrey Lester** who are working hard to make it the showcase it once was. Irene was kind to share with me a print she has done of the Gabriel Jessee Farm.

**SHARON H. ANDREWS** [SHAndrews@nbamerica.com] wrote, 8/25/2005, and sent photographs [see the Family Photo Album, preceding] of the **Jarrett** side of her family, which has intermarried with descendants of **Phillip and Rachel Jessee. Della Mae Jessee is the daughter of Charles Andrew Jessee, son of Charles W., son of John, son of Phillip Jessee.**

You have information on the Rootsweb site about my ancestors. I am a descendent of James Arthur Jarrett. My grandfather is the Living Jarrett [in the public Jessee Database on RootsWeb] descendent of Della Mae Jessee and James Arthur Jarrett, so that makes John and Patrick Jarrett (sons of Adda Jarrett) both my ggg grandfathers. My name is Sharon Haynes Andrews and I may be able to provide additional information for your research on the LIVING Jarrett side of the family.

## JOHN AND FRANKEY JESSEE

**Many, if not most, Jesses in America are descended from John (1750-1815) and Frankey Lea Jessee (1752-1836)** of Cobb's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina and Carr's Creek (today Mill Creek) in Reed's Valley, Russell County, Virginia. They had fifteen children. There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," even "Jessie" families in the United States and Canada who are known descendants of those fifteen children. All of us living descendants are about fifth or sixth cousins, or even closer kin. Here I will report new information for John and Frankey Jessee descendants and highlight news and significant contributions regarding each of their fifteen children.

**BRENDA TODD LARSEN** [BRNDALRSN@aol.com] wrote, 4/14/2006, with this inquiry about a connection for **Frankey Lea Jessee**.

Hi, Jim and others on the Jessee list.

Have you made a connection between James Roan (who witnessed with John Jessee and Frankey Lea Jessee) and Mourning Roan who married Barnett Lea (possibly Frankey's brother)?

Mourning Roan and Barnett Lea were married 21 Dec. 1782 in Caswell County, NC

Barnett Lea and James Roan were both in Caswell County in 1790 census. Someone has identified Barnett Lea as son of William Lea and Mary Barnett, b. 1762 VA - but I don't have the references for that information. Has anyone out there worked on this link?

**REV. DR. CYNTHIA FORDE** [cynthiaforde@direcway.com] wrote several times during March 2006, sharing generously Lea Family genealogy research that she has gathered from many sources over the years, but most recently and importantly from a current private research effort, **Lea Family Ancestry, by Raquel Lindaas**. However, she cautions that "My research team did not directly explore Frankey or the Archers or Henry Lea."

You may share the research report I sent to you... identifying the source:

**Lea Family Ancestry, by Raquel Lindaas**  
**Heritage Consulting**  
**Salt Lake City, UT (for The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde)**  
**March 2006**

The above correspondence sends us back to the original goal of my 40 years of mutual research and the still major unanswered question for us all:

## WILL THE REAL FRANKEY LEA PLEASE STAND UP?

**The 2006 research of the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde speculates that Frankey is the daughter of George Lea, son of this William Lea, and Lucy Tolbert, born in 1761.** This is one of the possible

candidates we have outlined for many years in previous Newletters, on the Frankey Lea record in the database, and mutual research. If true, it would mean she is the granddaughter of **William Lea and Mary Barnett**, not their daughter, as I and others speculate. It would mean she was 14 when she married John at 25. I do not see the alignment of names and other characteristics to make this the leading candidate to be our Frankey Lea, but it must be further researched.

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

**TOM RUDDER asserts, and I concur, that our Founding Mother Frankey is the unrecorded daughter of William Lea of Cobbs Creek and wife Mary "Polly" Barnett (or possibly Archer), making her a brother of Col. George Lea and several others who are well recorded in Caswell, Co., NC.**

Frankey's names for her children are most consistent with this assumption, because most of the names she uses are only found in this branch of the Lea family. John and Frankey name their children as follows: John Jr., then Archer (possibly her mother's maiden name), then William after her father, Lea (after her own maiden name), David (source unknown), Boedicia (after an alleged sister, see below), Mary "Polly" (after her mother), Frances (after herself), Sarah (after her sister), James (after her brother), Elizabeth (after her sister?), Rebecca (source unknown), George Lea (after her brother who was a prominent citizen and tended to many legal issues for John and Frankey in Caswell Co.), Martin and Jane (sources unknown).

**In additional correspondence, Tom provides this information and documentation for our conclusions.**

According to Zella Detweiler, "George Lea witnessed the wedding of a Boedicia Lea, I believe it is said to a McFarland, date I also believe was 1776 or a year or so later. This very well could have been a sister of our Frankey."

Frankey Lea is recorded in the 1830 Russell Co. Census as being between the ages of 70 and 80, with one other living in her household. Several family genealogy records indicate her birth as 1752, with no source for this information given.

There is no question about who is who in regard to the two George Leas. On page 27 of the Ben Rosebook (1995) and item 443 in the Caswell Co. Heritage Book (by Kendall) the family of Capt. Wm. Lea is covered. They both agree that this George married Lucy Tolbert. Likewise they both agree that George the son of

William and Mary married Jane Douglas, page 21-23 and item 444. I think that Kendall is the final word when it comes to the Lea family.

We all know that George, son of Capt. William Lea, moved to Wilkes Co. GA. George, son of William and Mary did not leave NC. This is confirmation that George, the son of Capt. Wm. Lea, married Lucy.

Col. George Lea, s/o Wm. & Mary Lea. m Jane Douglass in 1785. Child. William Archer, m Susan Cochran in 1809, Mary Logan Lea m John Johnson. George Lea, s/o Capt. Wm. & Frances Lea. m Lucy Tolbert. Child. Frances, Sarah, Rhoda, m. William Miles, Ransom, m. Cathey xx, Eunice, m Nathaniel Deane, Temple, m. Nancy Moffett, Judy, Letty, and Green. (names taken from old Lea bible)

I wonder how in the world V. Bales got the idea that the name "Archer" was actually "Archibald". She had not seen the many

records listing the "Archer" name in the William and Mary Lea family. Not one hint that it could have been "Archibald". When Kerr said "An Archer connection comes to light in this branch of the Lea family. Somewhere a mother or grandmother was nee Archer" she sure wasn't talking about an "Archibald". When all the other family members used the the "Archer" name not one has been called "Archibald" in the records. I guess this is how family legends get started.

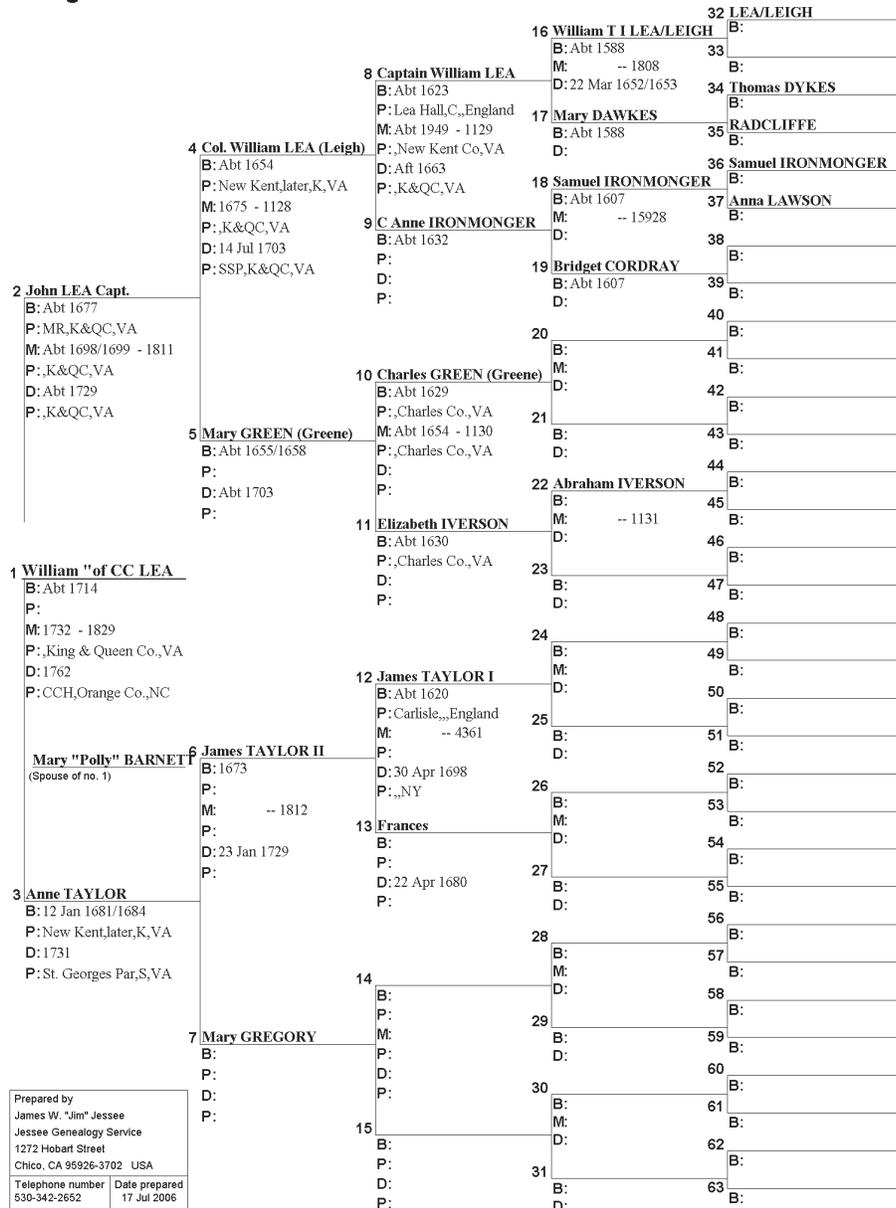
**NOTE: There were Archer families in Caswell Co, NC and areas of VA where we believe the Jesse and Lea families came from.**

**If we ever prove that Frankey is a daughter or granddaughter of William and Mary Lea, we can claim the William Lea pedigree, which extends our knowledge of Frankey's pedigree for several more**

**generations back into Colonial America and England.**

**Pedigree Chart**

Chart no. 1



Prepared by  
James W. "Jim" Jessee  
Jessee Genealogy Service  
1272 Hobart Street  
Chico, CA 95926-3702 USA  
Telephone number 530-342-2652 Date prepared 17 Jul 2006

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

**I. John Jessee, Jr.**

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

**RONALD WALKER**

[absolamjoe@sympatico.ca] wrote, 1/7/2006, with information regarding the descendants of **Thomas D. and Catherine Jessee Long**. Catherine is a daughter of John Jessee, Jr. Their daughter is **Eliza Jane Long**.

My great grandmother is Eliza Jane Long. For about 30 years I have been trying to find her family and have never been able to find anything until this past two weeks. The only information that I had about her was that she was born April 2, 1843 in Indiana, she died February 9, 1898, in Carl, Jackson County, Kansas, and is buried in the Boan Cemetery, Jackson Co., Kansas. I was searching the 1860 census and I finally found her in Saylor Township, Polk Co., Iowa.

I then found Thomas D. and Catherine Long in the 1850 census of Howard County, Indiana, and it has the same names of their children that you have listed on your page except it lists all of their children except Mary J. as born in Indiana. This past week I was in Des Moines and I found them again in the 1856 Iowa state census. In the 1856 and 1860 censuses Thomas D. was not listed and Catherine was listed at the head. I looked in the probate records and found Thomas D. Long died in 1851. In the settlement of the estate the following children are found: Jefferson Long, Richard D. Long, Clarence Long, John W. Long, Sarah A. Watson, Eliza Long, Elizabeth Palmer, and Pricilla Close.

Except for Clarence, these names are the same names that you list as their children. All of the other children must have been dead when Thomas D. died. One of the things that I have noticed is that almost everyone in this family died young. (My grandmother died when she was 26 and her mother, Eliza Jane was only 54, Thomas D. Long was 46 and Catherine, his wife, was about 55.)

Catherine sold land in 1868 but she was not in the 1870 census. Both Thomas D. and Catherine Long are buried in the Pine Hill Cemetery, Saylor Township, Polk County, Iowa. However, there is no headstone there.

So do you think that my Catherine might be the Catherine Jessee in your family? I would be interested in getting a copy of the deed you have listed with the source D.B. 10, 244, Russell County, Virginia. Is that Deed Book 10, page 244?

**DAVID JESSIE** [d.jessie@morehead-st.edu] wrote, 2/24/2006, asking for help finding the pedigree of his ancestor **Coy Jessee** who lived at Olive Hill, KY. We determined that Coy Jessee is the son of **Arch Lee Jessee**, son of John, son of Archer, son of John Jr.

My grandfather Coy Jessee is buried at Bethel Cemetery in Wesleyville, KY. He was married to Arvilla Fannin, I know his father was Arch Jessee and his mother's name was Tess. I am really new to looking all this information up, but I am really interested in finding out all I can about him and his family before him. My father is his youngest son, Leroy B. Jessie, I am Leroy's only son David L., and I have twin sons Hunter L. and David R., and a daughter Breanna N. Coy has another son living, his name is Harold, he has a son named Randy, and daughters named Deanna and Delena.

My father is on the board that takes care of Bethel cemetery and I take care of the mowing and grounds. If there is anyway we can ever help you in any way just email me and we will be more than glad to.

## II. ARCHER JESSEE

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

**Archer is variously referred to as Archa, Archable, Archibald in various family pedigrees and other sources.** It is my opinion that his name is

Archer, and I further speculate that Archer was the surname of his grandmother, or g-grandmother, perhaps in the Lea family. Furthermore, his three wives are buried with him in the Archer Jessee Cemetery, and their stones indicate each as the wife of Archer.

**TOM RUDDER** [tomr@infostations.com] wrote, 3/17/2006, regarding **Vivian Bales** insistence that Archer was short for Archibald, and takes me to task in a letter (see Mary "Polly" Kiser), on the idea that **Archer** was a family surname. [Repeated here]

I wonder how in the world V. Bales got the idea that the name "Archer" was actually "Archibald". She had not seen the many records listing the "Archer" name in the William and Mary Lea family. Not one hint that it could have been "Archibald". When Kerr said "An Archer connection comes to light in this branch of the Lea family. Some-where a mother or grandmother was nee Archer" she sure wasn't talking about an "Archibald". When all the other family members used the "Archer" name not one has been called "Archibald" in the records. I guess this is how family legends got started.

I knew I had seen that name (Archibald) someplace. Looking at the deeds I see that on Dec. 27, 1837 Armstrong Jessee sold 150 acres to Archibald Jessee. Stranger yet is that on July 7, 1807 Daniel Kirk sold 40 acres to Archelias Jessee. On July 2, 1838 Archibald, et al, Jessee sold 132 acres to Joseph Jessee. In the "Grantee" section the name "Archer" appears 10 times. In the "Grantor" section the name Archer appears 14 times. It appears to me that someone in the clerks office assumed that "Archer" was an abbreviation for "Archibald" on two occasions. That probably where V. Bales picked up the name "Archibald". How the clerk came up with the name "Archelias" is a mystery.

**RITA RUSSELL** [ritarussell@yucca.net] wrote, 1/6/2006, regarding **Sarah Ella Cooper Carter Stone**, great-granddaughter of Archer and Nancy Browning Jessee.

I had sent info couple or so years ago about my grandmother Sara Ella Cooper Carter Stone, daughter of John Franklin Cooper and Frances Jane Chafin who had moved from Russell County, VA prior to the 1880 census. you put the story on your website. At that time I told you that I would send more. I think you figured out that you and Sara Ella were fourth cousins once removed.

I found a list of Sarah Ella's siblings (including their birthdates) with a box of pictures that my mother left. I've found various ones of them on Lawrence County, KS censuses. I have copy of her marriage license to Joseph Shelton Carter and a copy of their divorce papers and a copy of her marriage license to James C Stone. I've tracked censuses on some of Sara Ella's siblings. I did not find the list of siblings until we came home from our trip two years ago. We didn't have enough time in Louisa, KY.

**NINEZ R GILES** [ninez@juno.com] wrote, 1/23/2006, with a photo of **Mary E. Jessee Skaggs**. Mary is the daughter of John Trigg or Taz Jessee, son of Vincent Jessee, son of Archer and Nancy Jessee.

I have a picture of Mary E. Jessee Skaggs, b. about 1864, with her young granddaughter Pearl Broyles. The picture was made about 1910. This is a picture postcard and there is writing from Mary Skaggs to her niece in Knoxville. Would you, and anyone else you know, have an interest in having a copy of this?

I understand Mary Jessee Skaggs was the daughter of John Taz Jessee and Mary Burk. I have other postcards also sent by Mary Jessee Skaggs. I don't know when she passed away, but she complained about not being well. I can make copies of this for you and any interested persons, also. I also have a picture postcard from the same album of three young children. There is no writing on this postcard, so I don't know who the kids are, but they could be related. The postcard would be from between 1908 and 1911. There is a little girl about 4 years old, a little boy about 3 and a baby about 8 months old. I wish I knew who they were!

**JOHN QUARTERMAN** [jquarterman@comcast.net] wrote, 3/4/2006 with a request regarding who has the **Archer Jessee Family Bible. Does anyone have the original or good copies to share?**

My complements to your impressive Jessee research site. I'm working on my wife's family. Her mother (Myra Lynn Hamm) was born in Coeburn, and traces her roots to the Jessee family thru Elizabeth Jessee, wife of Charles Horn and dau. of Rev. David Jessee. You mention in your database that most of the information about David's father Archer Jessee originates from his family bible. If you have an e-mailable transcript (or image) of the bible record available, would appreciate it if you could send me a copy.

I noticed that you have information about Elizabeth's family from her second marriage (Kilgore). If interested, I can provide information about Charles Horn and their three children.

**CAROLYNN GAWTHORP** [heirlooms@a5.com] wrote, 2/1/2006, with a very interesting story of her research on another Archer Jessee set of descendants, those of **Conley Trigg Jessee** who went to Texas.

Hello Jim, First, I must tell you that (as far as I know) I am not a blood relative of the Jessee family.

We reside in DeWitt County, IL. Our daughter who resides in McLean County, IL, is engaged to a gentleman in your Jessee line. About two years ago, his mother was trying to research her husband, Donald Bowden Jessee's lineage. She couldn't seem to make much headway and then she became ill and was not able to continue the research. She did pass away last summer. I thought I would try to do a little research for her husband & family, She had told me that his father, Bowden had been born in Texas to a Conley Trigg Jessee.

I began with the 1920 Census in Lee County, IL, where Bowden was born and I found Bowden and his wife there.

The 1910 Census of Lee Co. IL showed Bowden and another brother, Ballard with their father, Conley T. (born TN).

Then I found Conley T. in 1900 Census, Coleman TX with his entire family, stating he was born in TN.

In 1880 Census I located Conley Trigg Jessee in Claiborne TN with his father, John Trigg (Taz) Jessee, born VA.

I was stumped at that point, and did a Google search on "Jessee VA" and to my surprise, came up with your outstanding "Jessee Genealogy Service" Website. You know the rest ! We now know that the goes on back from John Trigg Jessee to Vincent to Archer ( brother to your John Jessee Jr.) and then John, the "founding father".

I read with interest, the biography of Dr. Robert E. Lee Jessee of Champaign County, Illinois, who is in your own line. My Jessee friends have resided in McLean County Illinois for many years and our daughter's fiance and his sister both graduated from the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana. Just as we have found in research of our own families, it is indeed a small world !

Your site supplied all those generations back. Needless to say, this Illinois Jessee family is thrilled ! All your years of research is so much appreciated. My husband and I have been doing research

on our many lines since 1973, so we can imagine all the time you have given this project. You are to be highly commended for your efforts. Certainly enjoyed the picture of your family.

I am trying to set all this Jesse information up in a "Family Tree Maker" data base for my friends. When I get this done, I would like to send you a copy of my friends & future son-in-laws lineage for your files.

Again Jim, THANK YOU !

**BILL GOSS** [oldbill@bitterroot.net] wrote, 3/5/2006, regarding **Augustus Wildey/Mary Jane Roberts** whose daughter **Odie Della Wildey** married **Abraham Lincoln Jessee**, great-grandson of Archer.

Jim - I note with interest your family tree information on Odie Della Wildey, daughter of Augustus Wildey and Mary Jane Roberts. Mary Jane was an older sister of my great-grandmother, Rachel Roberts. I have news clippings from Mankato, Kansas, concerning Gus Wildey and was under the impression from the 1880 census that there were no living children. Two of their children, Edward and Elsie were buried in Pleasant View Cemetery in Jewell County before 1880. Gus ran a restaurant off and on in Mankato and was in Scandia, Kansas, the last I could find of him.

I am very interested in talking with anyone descended from this family. They represent a lost branch of the Roberts family - for which I have a lot of family history.

### III. William Jessee

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

### IV. Lea Jessee

**Lea Jessee** (1781-1852) married **Barbara Gose** (1788-1862), da. of **Stephen Gose and Barbara Catron (Ketron) Gose**, and they had ten children. This family moved to Missouri, and includes among descendants Archer Catron Jessee, the first Jessee to migrate to California before the Gold Rush.

**MARILYN PITTMAN** [MJeanChoplin@aol.com] wrote, 1/10/2006, about her **Lea Jessee research**.

My daughter and I have spent 2 long days at the Jackson Count Courthouse and the Genealogy Library in Independence, Mo. Yes, My Martha Jessee, I am sure of now, is the daughter of Lea Jessee and Barbara Gose. Found deeds, statements, wills, mostly unreadable, but readable enough to get enough names to know we were getting the right ones.

Lea Jessee died intestate (estate 2 May 1853) with his children (Widow Barbara., Stephen Jesse and Archer Jesse in California, Rebecca Sanders, Mary Gray, Martha Luttrell, Elizabeth, Sophia, Ann Eliza, John and the heirs of David Jesse in Jackson Co. MO) listed as heirs. I'm getting together a folder to send but still looking for some more items. Name spelled Jesse, Jessee or Jefe.

The girl named Missouri in the censuses living with Lea is one of David's. ... You have [now corrected] Barbara Gose born 1796 and married 1805. I really don't think she was 9 years old when she married, but I guess possible So far my records tell me she was 14 when married. The oldest chld was born 1811 so probably they were married in 1810. Fun! Fun! Fun!

Help me out here, if you can, It seems impossible to find where he was buried. So many families cemeteries in back

pastures, that sub-divisions have taken over and so many cemeteries, new and old have been vandalized over the years that Lea Jessee is not listed in any of the cemeteries in Jackson County that we searched. Do you have any information that we could try and follow up on to find out if he and Barbara were buried around here or maybe taken back to a Jessee cemetery somewhere else. If Barbara was buried near the Luttrell's the stone has long been gone. Any leads appreciated.

**MICHAEL JONES** [uff\_da@hotmail.com] wrote, 1/10/2006, with extensive new information for Lea Jessee and Barbara Gose descendants, **Ann E. [Jessee] Alexander** and **Elizabeth G. Gray**, including excerpts from a book on **Fayette Alexander Jones, son of Martin O. and Elizabeth Gray Jones**. He served as the director of the New Mexico School of Mines. Please see the Jessee Database for additional genealogy data provided.

Attached is a copy of the death certificate for Ann E. [Jessee] Alexander. I found it at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/#search>. The dates and parent's surnames fit, but the parents' first names appear to be incorrect. I have her parents as Lea Jessee and Barbary/Barbara Gose.

I have also attached a copy of the tombstone for her and her husband found in Blue Springs Cemetery, Blue Springs, Jackson County, Missouri.

(Source: College on the Rio Grande: The Story of A Small School, 1989, New Mexico Tech's centennial year, Paige W. Christiansen, emeritus professor of history at New Mexico Tech) Chap. 2: The First Half Century, 1889-1939

In 1915 the School of Mines, led by President Fayette A. Jones initiated the Mineral Resources Survey of New Mexico. The object of the survey was to encourage the development of the mineral resources of New Mexico by basic research and geologic mapping. The survey personnel (School of Mines faculty) investigated mineral resources, collected information regarding mineral deposits and the mining industry, and then presented the information obtained in bulletins and personal communications. The work of the Mineral Resources Survey was limited because no regular territorial appropriations were made for its support. The first bulletin published by the survey was The Mineral Resources of New Mexico, by Fayette A. Jones.

## V. David Jessee

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

**RITA RUSSELL** [ritarussell@yucca.net] wrote, 2/28/2006, about **Catherine Jessee**, daughter of David Jessee who married **Elcanah Snapp**.

I came across this in a Hawkins County TN a Hawkins County Genealogical and Historical Journal. (My dad's family came from Hawkins and Hamblin County, TN). It was about the Snapp family. One of them, Elcanah D Snapp b. 18 Aug 1830 married Cathernine Jessee 31 Aug 1854. She was his first wife. Catherine was born 06 May 1829 and died 07 Nov 1860. The four Snapp children were George W Snapp (b. 20 July 1855 d. 23 July 1904). George was born in Russell County VA. David W (b. 15

May 1857 d. d. 1947), Samuel L (b. 4 May 1858 d. 1869), Elihue K Snapp (b. 23 May 1860 d, 1898). This information was taken from Elcanah Snapp's Bible Records. Catherine may be a Jessee who was "lost".

## VI. ELIZABETH JESSEE GOSE

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

**MICHAEL JONES** (uff\_da@hotmail.com), an ever faithful researcher and contributor to the database, wrote, March 2006, with more information on the descendants of **George and Elizabeth Jessee Gose** and these notes. Go to the family database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) to see many additional descendants provided by Michael Jones.

More proof Elizabeth Jessee married George Gose. Note George's birthplace is given as Grayson County, VA. Grayson County, VA was formed from Wythe and Patrick Cos in 1792-3, after George was born, so he was probably born in what was then Wythe County, VA, but is now Grayson County.

**Source: Biographical sketch of Joseph C. Toner in Past and Present of Pike County, Captain M.D. Massey, 1906, p. 393**

**JOSEPH C TONER:** "Joseph C. Toner, postmaster at Kinderhook and also a hardware merchant, was born in Pike county on the 3d of July, 1845, a son of William G. and Mary (Gose) Toner. The father was born in Jefferson county, Missouri, September 14, 1817. He finally came to Pike county, Illinois, in 1840, and on the 14th of September, 1844, was married here to Mrs. Mary Long, nee Gose, the widow of W.W. Long. Her father George Gose, was born in Grayson county, Virginia, whence he went to Russell county, that state, when a small boy, there spending his remaining days. He married **Elizabeth Jessee**, who was born, reared and died in Russell county. It was in that county that Mrs. Toner was born on the 20th of July, 1814, and she lived in her native state until twenty-two years of age. She then married W.W. Long and came to this county in 1836. They cast in their lot with the pioneer settlers and Mr. Long was connected with the early development of the county until his death, which occurred August 6, 1843, his remains being interred near his farm in Kinderhook township.

In his family were four children: Joseph C.; Louise J., the wife of C.H. Kennedy, who resides near Kinderhook; Elizabeth J., who married Ed Ferguson and after his death became the wife of George H. Leggett, their home being in Barry; and Frances E., who married G.C. Lock, and lives in Kinderhook."

## VII. Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser

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

**CARLYNE RITTER** shared these letters from our dear friend, faithful correspondent, and Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser descendant, **Vivian Bales**, now departed.

They well reflect her lifetime of genealogy research, done the old fashion way by letters and hands on research in county records offices. Vivian did not mince words, and was increasingly cranky in her later years. She gave me a good chew from time to time, and a real good smack in here, so I hope no one will take offense at Vivian's frank assessments of some situations and people. We all know there is more than one side to any story, so please some of take these with a grain of salt.

I asked Carlyne if she thought it would be OK to print these letters. She replied as follows.

Yes, I think Vivian would be pleased that we enjoy her letter enough to print them. I have quite a few more and am sending them along to you as I finish studying them. She could probably have her own little column for a while. LOL I loved Vivian enough to forgive her for a few harsh words. I think she got hurt badly a few times when people didn't treat her as well as she treated them, being so generous with her store of knowledge and documents, etc. She sent me her picture and was so generous even after I first contacted her that I would forgive her anything and not worry too much. She rambled quite a bit, but I also sent her unrelated tidbits on a regular basis — stuff I found on the computer and sent them because I thought she wouldn't otherwise see them, her not using a computer. As long as there is any chance at all that what she says would be of some help for someone, why not share her wisdom? I think her daughter would like you to do such a thing also. Her note to me after Vivian died seemed friendly enough.

My mom and I didn't get along very well, either, but we did love each other. She just needed to live long enough for me to get smarter. LOL Love, Carlyne

## Vivian's Letters

Dear Carlyne:

See the page I filled in some, about Henry Dickenson, Russell Co. Once upon a time I had a large box of material that I had copied thru'40 years of -research. Bonnie Ball was a popular person and had hundreds of people writing her and paying her etc. A great lot was about the Dickensons.

She would write and ask me to look what I might have. Well, I finally got sick and tired of that, so I sent her the whole box. She immediately realized she could make money from it in book form. She skipped around, and put together some, using a mimeographer to put the info on paper and send to her publisher in some western state.

She made so many errors, and misprints, it was disgusting. The Dollar sign in the eye isn't just right. She sold a lot of those books. People called her asking questions, and she answered none but gave them my address and phone number. I could not answer questions because I didn't know what she put in it, or how well she wrote. I finally became disgusted and told her to quit giving my name to anyone. She published the book and got the money. Not me.

Well she said she was going thru the box and put everything in sequence and then publish a book. Someone came up from a southern state and went to see her about researching her Dickensons. Bonnie had a reunion and a full week, so she gave the woman the box full and it was a big box, to go thru' and then send the box back to her. And you know exactly what I am going to day. She never heard from the woman again. Not even after writing and calling her. Someone answered the phone number she gave to Bonnie. But no word from the you know what.

The address above [Katherine Parsons Ray, 1703 36th St, Parkersburg, WV 26104], I ran across that months ago, and stuck it on this page. Then I would misplace it, and resurface and etc., until I layed it in plain view. I think you have Parsons in your names. If so, you have the address of one who claims to be a genealogist. She is in the country of ancestors, the early ones.

She claims to be a Bolling desc. and goes back to Pocahontis. Well, I too have Bolling, but from all that I studied, and that was a lot of records and books, I think many on the shirt tail, because of the Indian Princess Pocahontis.

I have Indian, but plain Indian in my ancestry. So I don't think I need to stretch the truth to have Indian bloodline.

I don't know how the lady got my name and address, but she wrote me about the Tacketts. She had stuff she didn't know, but this book said so and so and some very wrong dates.

Each latter she sent I correct her work and sent it back. She one day told me that she didn't send her work to me to be proof read, but to help me. I wasn't exactly real nice. I said I knew from whom I descended. I have the records to prove it and I didn't like for someone to try to brain wash me.

I am not a person who latches onto what ever I read and claim it. I dig for the facts. You know, jaw bone history has some merits in it, but a feller has to find the facts and separate it from their fantasy. I learned that that real quick

Gotta quit toddy. This is hard on my heart. A little things as this. Am on dif kinds of heart medicine, plus all the other prescriptions. But I am 86 plus, and the body wears out too. My brother -in-law, now deceased used to say "we just rip, ravel, run down hiill, all the way."

Have a good Thanksgiving, Happy Christmas.

And God BLess you always. My prayer.

Vivian

=====

The ages in the census records [copied in handwritten form] cannot be sure the exact ages, unless it is the children. One never knows who turned in the info to begin with. Also thru the years, I have noticed if a big gap or even more than 2 yrs between children, in time one will turn the couple had lost a child.

I was rereading some info someone had written and they thought Frankey Lea Jessee was from some one of the N.C. Leas she was an unnamed daughter. Why would anyone come up with such a suggestion without even a hint or a shred to go by ... ?

Then proceed to say who she had named her sons after, etc. One was Archer, that I recall. Archer was not a surname. (I studied records for 40 yrs.) Archer was short for Archibald/Archabald. Not only that in a bunch of papers, I sent to Jim Jessee, he copied and then returned them to me. The Bible record said plainly Archibald Jessee. [His grave stone clearly says Archer-JJ]

My grand father Dickison, he was named Griffith Archibald Dickison. Originally it was spelled Dickenson/Dickinson. The civil war period the change was made. Gr. Uncle John whom the family adored and leaned on (Levi, the father d. 1852 suddenly, leaving 12 children.) The oldest son Benjamin enlisted in the Confederate and used Dickerson. John enlisted in the Union and signed Dickison.

You already know too, that how ever someone thought a name should be spelled, that is how it was. We had many nationalities to arrive here, with better educations in reading and writing (?), who were used and hired and elected to do the work.

There is Tacquette, French who came here in the 1690's. Today it is Tackett. Some early ones spelled it Tackkitt. My Zorn... 99% now spell it Zornes, a few Zournes.

When Social Security was written into law, how the name was spelled that you claimed, that is what it stays at... you are identified by it, with your number.

I am a product from settlers of the Appalachian Mountains foot hills, even today, they all haven't lost some of the old old way of pronouncing words and names. In going back, and after I got older,

if there was 2 or 3 year gap, some of their words was foreign, but in a few days, I was back in the mould again and talked like them too.

Times have changed. Too many people mixing, coming, going, moving in or moving out.

In E. Ky and along those counties, they are even changing the lands. The old land marks are gone. The mountain and foot hills are getting the bull dozer at work. Where my grandpa Tackett & many of his are buried, was once high on a steep hill. They cut it down and it is close enough to the road, the names can be read most of them , from the road that goes by.

The Cem. that my grandma Dickison is bu. was once only reached by foot on a steep steep mountain. It was called Corey switch. The trains that built to ride the rails up, they used 2 engines. To Get the load to the top of the Hill Mountain. Then the extra engine was switched off, the train went on with it-s load, and the Engine went back down the hill to get the next one up the Mountain.

Now they have roads cut in all over the place. One goes right by the cemetery where my grandma is buried. It was once called the McKinney Cem. Now it is called The Mountain Top Cem.

There was a swift booming creek behind grandpa's house, wound down around, called Henderson Br. Now, is no more than a ditch in places, and some places houses are built where once was this big flowing swift branch of water.

Time rolls on and things change.

#### **From the SW\_VA-L@Rootsweb.com, 7/5/1999.**

Hi List Members,

I do have a little info on Henry Dickenson,,,,,of course I would like more!

Henry Hamblin and his wife Mary Polly Dickenson were my 4th great grandparents. Mary Polly was the daughter of Henry Dickenson,Sr. and Angie Jennings. Mary Polly also had a brother, Henry Dickenson Jr., who Dickenson Co. was named in honor of. He was a deligate to the Virginia Constitutional Convention Ratification, Richmond June 2nd, 1786. He mustered troops, in the Revolutionary War, fought in the Dunsmore War against Indian Chief Cornstock and the Battle of King's Mountain

Mary Polly was scalped by Indians in 1990, along with some of her children. One child Francis (Frank) was captured . He was 10 at that time and returned some eight years later. Two sons, Charles (My ancestor) and John were saved by a giant slave, who later was, given his freedom (1822) and a farm.

Henry Hamblin's 2nd wife was killed by Indians several years later. There is some controversy about the dates involved in the two incidents. Several people have questioned the validity of "a nice story , but is it true". Since then I have found a copy of the Deed of Emancipation for Swan Hamilton and copy of his Deed to land next to the family. Any further info would be appreciated. Nancy Morris Brown

#### **Vivian responds:**

I ran across the above, from 2 or 3 yrs ago., that you sent to me. You already know that I am a stickler to the exact records, dates and names.

35 or 40 yrs ago, I had the work of a lady in Fla., who compiled her Dickenson records. I gave her works to another lady in Fla., Mary Jane Knisely, who died about 3 yrs ago at age 87. Mary Jane was a desc. of both Henry and his brother Archelus Dickenson.

The first one mentioned above, her names slips my memory right off. She was from Mary (Polly) daughter of Henry & his wife Agnes. (Not AnGie, but Agnes.)

In some Augusta Co., Va., records is mentioned some about Henry Hamblin. and also Rev. Archibald Scott, whose wife was Frances(Fanny) Dickenson, dau of Henry and Agnes. Fanny was taken prisoner and escaped/etc Her husband and children killed by the maurauding Indians.

At the time these records were made, Augusta Co., covered a mighty lot of the country, from Orange Co., west. So we cannot state the precise location where they lived. Archibald Scott was listed as a Rev., in the Augusta Co., records.

I came in contact with Mary Jane some how and don't recall how. Mary Jane descended from Henry, Jr., and his older brother Archelus. Henry's son Thomas, m. Nancy dau of Archelus. They had 2 children and Thomas died.

In time the girls grew up and married. The dau Elizabeth, m. John Erwin. and eventually they went to Carter Co., Ky. Where they died.

Mary Jane's grandmother was a dau of Elizabeth and John Erwin. And shem. and went to Kansas to live and died there. Mary Jane's mother when Mar Jane was 7 yrs old. She grew up and graduated from the University of Kansas. Mary Jane was a very well educated and talented lady.

She took all that I had collected, and each year she spent 3 & 4 months in Va., searching in the many counties, going back to Griffith Dickinson to NO. America 1659.

Long before I came across Mary Jane, I had hired a lady in E. Va., to do research for me. She found for me the land Henry.Sr had bought, from the money he sold the land he inherited from his father. He was giving his sons acreage as they became older.

His son William Jennings, who must have been the oldest, and never married, died. I forget the exact year now. 1785 I think, he had a will. He named 3 men as executers of his will, but they refused to be administrat ors... and his brother Archelus went back, and took care of things. In his will, he said he gave back to his father Henry, all his lands, and to his mother Agnes Jennings, all his personal property.

The county he died in, only had a reference to his will, but not the rest. They told me to write to the Va. State Library, as all records prior to a certain date was sent there. I got it, and then sent it to Giles Dickenson a gr. grandson of Henry, Jr. in Lebanon, Russell Co.

He was such a nice man. He was quite old too. Giles had never heard of William J. or Archelus. That was strange, for Archelus became disgusted in Russell Co., and moved back to Washington Co. and died there.

Remember, Archelus dau. Nancy m. her cousin Thomas Dickenson, son of Henry, Jr. They m.in Washington Co., Va.

In Washington C. is a record where Henry S. gave his grandson John, a slave and some money. He said, for the love I have for my grandson John Dickinson, son of Humphrey.

Archelus and Humphrey had gone to S.W. Va., first. Humphrey was killed and they thought it was maybe Indians. His body was left on a rock in a branch/water way in the area. Could have been by white man or men too, for the Dickensons fought in the Revolution, and there were torries there too who didn't take part.

Archelus, Humphrey, and Henry, Jr., all were in the battle, where Charleston, W.Va., now stands. This was a decisive battle and they won it against the Indians instigated by the British.

Henry, Sr. said who his father was, when he bought his land in another county. Since his children were grown, and began to go westward; Agnes died but no date, and Henry then followed his sons west too.

Russell Co., became saturated with Dickensons. Look at the land record books. At one census was so many it was called Dickenson Valley.

I know much more and names, also the father of Henry.Sr.

**RICHARD JOHNSON [rgjohnsn@nccray.com] wrote 1/19/2006, with information about his descent from Mary Polly Jessee Kiser.**

My name is Richard Johnson. I am a decendent of Abednego and Mary Kiser. My grandmother is Beulah Kiser "Tilsley".

I am wondering about Mary Polly Jesse (Jessee). I have seen on some listings that she was also called "Morning Star". Do you know anything about this. I would appreciate any info on her and her decedents. I am very new to this genealogy stuff. I have only just received a large amount of researched papers from my step sister in Chicago. We were mostly trying to find out where the Indian comes into play in my family. However, it is great to find "relatives" out there that I did not know I had! [I directed him to the Website and the several articles on Mary Polly in the Newsletter.]

I am going to try to get this right on the lineage:

ME: Richard Johnson

My Mother: Joy Ann Tilsley

Grandmother: Beula Kiser

Beula's Father: Wallie Jacob Kiser (wife: Matilda McGinnis then Pearl Parker)

Wallie's Father: Abednego Kiser (wife: Mahala Burton)

Abednego's Father: Absolom Abednego Kiser (wife: Elizabeth Couch or it was Eliza Ann)

Absolom's Father: Noah Kiser (wife: Boadicea D Thompson "Dicie or Dicey or Dice")

Noah's Father: Abednego Kiser (WIFE MARY POLLY JESSE\*E\*)

According to the paperwork most of these were from Russell Co, Va then worked their way to Carter Co, Ky

## VIII. Frances Jessee Stone

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

**GLORIA JONES LYLES** [gjlyles@ftc-i.net] sent, 3/5/2005, new information regarding descendants of William and Frances Jessee Stone and the **Jessee/Stone/Shoop** Family. She also well illustrates the nuts and bolts of good research and documentation.

John Jessee Stone (Rebecca), son of William and Frances, then William H. Stone (Mary J.), then Elisa A. (per 1880 US Federal Census) Taylor Dist., Scott County, Va. (Henry C. Shoop listed in the next house with his mother, Catherine and brothers.)

I believe that Elisa A. was Elisabeth Ann Stone who married Henry Clay Shoop of Virginia. They lived in Wise County where they had several children, one of whom was my grandmother, Laura. They are listed on the 1910 Census as visit #4, En. District 151 in Wise County. In 1900 they are listed in the Richmond Magisterial District (East Stone Gap), Wise County, Va. The ages are different but that is not uncommon. Do you any information that you could share?

1860 census-Estillville, Scott County, VA (Date 20 Sept. 1860)

William H. Stone-31-Farmer

Mary J. Stone-spinster-26

George W. -5

Rebecca-2

Matilda-3/12

All were born in Virginia.

1870 census-Taylor Dist., Scott County, VA (date 7 Sept. 1870)

Stone, William H. -41-Farming

Mary J. -36-keeping house

George W. -15 attending school

Rebecca M. -13 at home

Matilda E. -10 at home

William H. -7 at home

Sarah V. L.-4 at home

Eliza A. -2 (next line left blank)

All were born in Virginia.

1880 census-Taylor Dist. Scott County, VA (date 11 June 1880)

Stone, William H. -51 Farmer

Mary J. -46 keeping house

Rebecca M. -22 at home

Matilda C. -20

Sally V. -15 (I think this is the same as Sarah.)

Elisa A. -12

Marten G. -Polly C. -7

Benjamin F. -5

Sauna R. or B. -1 (this name may be Saura-it was hard to read)

Since the next census is not available, the next information is on the 1900 census. Here is where I find my great grandmother and great grandfather.

1900 Census- District 128, Richmond, Wise County, VA (date 2 June 1900) (East Stone Gap)

Shoop, Henry -b. May 1845 (55) Farmer married for 17 years

Elisabeth -b. Feb. 1860 (40) married for 17 years, which

would have been 1883 approx. when she was 15) mother of 7 with 5 living

Worlelly -b. June 1883 (16) (his name is spelled Worley on later documents)

Hoge -b. October 1887 (12) (Hoge is a nickname for Charles per email from a family member of his)

Ida -b. July 1890 (9)

Laura -b. September 1877 (3)(She is my grandmother, through her son, Walter Jones.)

Pearl -b. October 1898 (1)

Laura had a daughter, Kathline, with a man named Neorria Caps or Capps. Then she had my father, Walter, who on the 1930 census is listed as the stepson of Hiram L. Jones. Laura is listed as Laurie. Kathline is listed as his stepdaughter. I cannot confirm a marriage for Laura and Neorria. I have a copy of the marriage license for Kathline and Willie Thompson, but the handwriting is hard to read so I am not sure that first name really is Neorria.

Henry died between 1920 and 1930, Elisabeth died after 1930. She was living with her daughter, Ida and son-in-law, John H. Johnson on the 1930 census for Wise County.

(Henry Clay Shoop was the son of Ferguson Shoop and Catherine Or Katherine Lanter.)

## IX. Sarah Jessee Vermillion

**Sarah "Sallie" Jessee** (1790-1851) married **Wilson Vermillion**, son of **Jessee Vermillion, Sr. and Mary "Polly" Scott**. They had three children.

## X. Boedicia Jessee Gose

Boedicia "Dicey/Dicy" Jessee married **Stephen Gose Jr.** (1792-bef. 1842), son of **Stephen Gose** and **Barbara Catron (Ketron) Gose**. They had eight children. This family moved to Iowa.

See the Gose Family discussion under Lea Jessee, who married Barbara Gose, and Rebecca Jessee Gose above, as well as additional information under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

## XI. James Jessee

**James Jessee** (1794-aft 1846) married **Jane Burk** (1795-aft.1846), d. of **Fleming Burk, Sr.** and **Rebecca Miller**. They had four children. See also discussion under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

**NORMA DILLON SURRETTE** (Elizabeth Jessee Dillon, Freeman Monroe Jessee, Samuel Patton Jessee, James Abel Jessee, Sr., Fleming Burk Jessee, James Jessee, John Jessee) [surretdr@citcom.net] wrote, 6/23/2005, with this wonderful news from her brother, **Jeff Dillon**, about the **Fleming BurkJessee Farm**. Previously she has written the following.

After the land was sold at auction, my grandparents, Freeman and Dollie Anderson Jessee continued living there until the late 60's. Jeff lived with them on the farm for a couple of years in the early 60's. He is in seventh heaven since he acquired the farm. I think he will be fascinated to learn more of the Jessee family history. Hopefully he will get excited about our heritage and the interest will multiply.

The Scott County Jessee's appear to have raised sheep as well as grain. No sheep were on the farm when I was a child but I remember a huge shed with a "carding" machine in it and I remember that it had something to do with processing wool from the sheep. Robert, son of James, Sr and Letty Margaret had a grist mill in the Cliff Mountain Community of Scott County which is about three miles from the farm my brother bought. Nothing remains of it.

This follow-up was provided.

Dear Jim, It's been a while since I've written to you. Being from the James and David Jessee family lines, there doesn't seem to be much info to gather - particularly from my closer relatives!

At any rate, I am so happy to report that the Fleming Jessee (James, John) farm in Scott County, VA is again in the family. To refresh your memory, Fleming had a son James who owned the farm after Fleming's death. Abe, (James A. Jessee, Jr. (1878-1957) and his brother Isaac (1891-1985) inherited the land when James, Sr. died. When Abe died suddenly in 1957 without a will, the farm was sold at auction. This spring, my brother, Jeff (Kay Jefferson Dillon, son of Arthur A. Dillon and Elizabeth Jessee Dillon) bought the farm from the John and Berry Howard heirs. John and Berry were the high bidders when the land was sold at auction. Jeff is in the process of clearing the land and hopes to build a retirement home there. Perhaps the next time you are in the area, you can arrange to "tour" the farm. At least two old cemeteries are on the property. We have found grave markers for Mary (Browning), wife of Fleming and their daughter Rebecca. It is thought that Fleming is buried in that same cemetery but there's no marker. In the other cemetery are the graves of James A., Sr. and his wife Letty Margaret Bailey Jessee. Their children John, Margaret (Maggie), James, Jr., (Abe) and two of Charles Lane Jessee's children (Arthur and Henry Bascom Jessee) are also buried there. Joseph Ingle and Mary Ellen are thought to be buried there but we have not found markers for them. They could be buried in the older cemetery where Mary Browning Jessee and Rebecca are buried.

## XII. REBECCA JESSEE BURK

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

**KATHRYN BURKE GREEVER, JACK HOCKETT, IMOGENE BURKE VERBAL, and RUE BURKE STEVENSON** published *Some Descendants of John Burk, 1656-1699, Middlesex Co., Virginia*, available from the Iberian Publishing Co. Order online at [www.iberian.com](http://www.iberian.com). All royalties go to the Russell Co. Historical Society and Russell Co. Library Family History Room.

This 502-page book details the descendants of **Fleming Burk, Sr.** Four of his children married Jessees, two children and two grandchildren of John and Frankey Lea Jessee. Jane Burk married James Jessee; William Burk married Rebecca Jessee, Fleming Burk, Jr. married Nancy Ann Jessee, daughter of David Jessee; and Robert Burk married Anna Gose, daughter of Elizabeth Jessee and George Gose. This book includes over 1000 descendants of Rebecca Jessee and William Burk. I would like to work with any volunteers who would be willing to help key this information into an appropriate genealogy database.

## XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

Jane Jessee (1797-1869) married **Henry Fuller** (1792-1872), son of **Abraham Fuller** and **Mary Sargent**. They had ten children. This family moved to Illinois. While I have a scant amount of descendants' information, I do not correspond with any descendant of Jane Jessee Fuller. This is a family that needs much research.

## XIV. George Lea Jessee

**George Lea Jessee** (1798-1882) married **Elizabeth "Betsy" Counts** (1799-1880), da. of **John Counts, Jr. of Glade Hollow** and **Margaret "Peggy" Kelly**. George and Betsy had fourteen children.

Many George Lea Jessee descendants are subscribers and have contributed very much information to the database. It is one of our best researched and recorded branches of the family.

**CAROLYN JESSEE** [steve.doust@adelphia.net] wrote, 4/14/2006, with this sad news regarding the passing of her mother, **Elsie Salyers Jessee, wife of Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee**.

Hi Jim, It's been a while since I have talked to you. I just want to let you know that my mom, Elsie (Salyers) Jessee passed away on Wed. April 12th. I know that my dad will want you to know. Here is the wording of the obit that will be in the Port Clinton Ohio News Herald today, and will also be run in the Bristol Herald, the Coalfield Progress and the Lebanon News:

**Elsie J Jessee, 77 of Port Clinton, OH died Wednesday April 12, 2006, at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo, OH.** She was born in Toms Creek, Wise County, VA on March 12, 1929 to Luther and Bertha (Standford) Salyers. On May 19, 1948 she married Reverend V. Cecil Jessee and he survives. Elsie worked in housekeeping at H. B. Magruder Hospital until her retirement in 1989. She was a past member of the Freewill Baptist Church, Cline Street, Norwalk, OH and a current member of the Freewill Baptist Church, Elm Street, Shelby, OH. Elsie loved spending time with her family and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include: Loving husband of 57 years: Reverend V. Cecil Jessee of Port Clinton, OH; Daughter: Carolyn (Steve Doust) Jessee of Oak Harbor, OH; Sons: Dennis (Barbara) Jessee, R. Kenneth (Vicky) Jessee, both of Port Clinton, OH and Vernon C. (Sandy) Jessee, Jr, of Oak Harbor, OH. Grandchildren: Jennifer Walleman, Steve Doust II, Christy Ernsberger, Dawn Kreager, Jamie Jessee, Kevin Jessee, Melissa Longshore, Cpl. Dane Jessee (U.S. Marine Corp.), Jara Jessee, Ashley Jessee, Brandon Jessee, and Casey Jessee; Step-Grandchildren Cody Fleenor and Bobby Fleenor; 11 Great-Grandchildren; Sisters: Edna Whiteaker of Port Clinton, OH and Ruby Rainwater of Coeburn, VA; Brother: Bill Salyers of Coeburn, VA; many loving nieces, nephews and friends. Elsie was preceded in death by her parents, brothers: John Salyers, Cecil Salyers, Joe Salyers and Clement Salyers, sister: Marie Culbertson, Great-Grandchildren: R. J. Walleman, Samantha Walleman and CaseyAnna Buckley.

Visitation will be from 6-8 PM Friday, April 14, 2006 at the Gerner-Wolf-Walker Funeral Home, Port Clinton, OH. Visitation will be 6-9 PM Monday, April 17, 2006 at the Sturgill Funeral Home in Coeburn, VA. Funeral services will be conducted at 1:00PM at the Sturgill Funeral Home. Interment will be in the Greenwood Cemetery, Coeburn, VA.

Jim, I will try to keep in touch with you and will let you know how my dad and family are doing. Dad is having a difficult time coping right now, but he is and we all are grateful that God has spared my mother any more of the suffering that she has gone through, especially in the last couple of months. Mom was admitted into the hospital one month ago and deteriorated day by day. It was her time to go on home to a better place, but we know that she will always be with us. She passed peacefully with all of her children, most of her grandchildren, her sister, and several nieces and great nieces at her bedside. Even though on her last day with us, she was not able to open her eyes and talk to us, we know that she knew we were all there with her and how much we all love her.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. My dad and I both have great respect for you and the work that you have done for the Jessee family.

Subsequent correspondence indicates that Rev. Cecil has moved to Coeburn, VA to be closer to family there, and that his health is poor. Carolyn wrote:

We moved Dad down to Coeburn, where he has been living since May 1st. (at his insistence, of course, not ours) and I have been spending allot of time there. Anyway, Dad has been very lonely without my Mother, and has not been very well since Mom's passing. Last Friday night, he had a mild stroke which has left him blind in the left eye. The stroke occluded an artery behind his left eye, and the physicians don't think that he will get his vision back in that eye. After spending a few days in the hospital in Johnson City, TN. he is now home and doing ok. Thank God that there was no other problems with the stroke, such as paralysis, etc.

Rev. Cecil is one of the founders of the Jessee Historical Foundation and organized the very first Jessee Reunions. He has been a steadfast supporter of this Newsletter, its editor, and all our family efforts to save Jessee's Mill and the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery. We love him dearly--Jim.

**KITTIE BUTLER** [kjbutler@iquest.net] wrote, 1/22/2006, with this information about her George Lea Jessee family line.

Hello Jim, I am a Jessee girl (an older one 80 years on 3-15-06) One of my daughters wants to bring me to the 2006 Jessee Reunion. I've been working on my branch of our family tree. As far as I can tell I'm the third eldest surviving.

Otto S. Jessee (deceased 1982) my dad was born in Cleveland, Va. I haven't been there since I was about 12 years old, but I would like to visit there one more time if it still exists.

Kittie J. (Jessee) Butler  
Martinsville, Indiana

**HOPE DAVIS** [iambored1@gamewood.net] wrote, 5/16/2006, with this note about the passing of JHF Board member **Robert Wayne "Bob" Jessee**, a George Lea Jessee descendant. "Bob was a member of JHF and attended a couple of reunions before his health got bad."

GREENSBORO - Robert Wayne "Bob" Jessee, 74, of Greensboro born on December 31, 1931 in Lynchburg, Virginia, passed away Sunday, May 14, 2006. Published in the *News Record* on 5/16/2006.

**ELLAWESE JESSEE REED** wrote, 2/1/2006, with this note and news about her own health problems, too. But her Jessee humor comes through strong. I thank Ellawese for her steadfast support, and wish her well.

Dear Jim,

We enjoyed your Christmas letter/card. Thank you again for the newsletter. It means so much to me, especially now. I can't do anything on the computer, but I'm very lucky. God blessed me. I can read, do my bills, etc. If I just keep my mouth shut no one knows I had a stroke. Ha! Ha!

I wish I could get my thoughts on paper about the things of the J.H.F. Board, etc. I guess some people want to be in charge!! I'm so glad that you can speak/write for me and I'm sure others too.

You, Joe Jessee, Sherman Wallace and others are just great. Thank you again for everything you have done.

Yours, Ellawese Jessee Reed

## XV. Martin Jessee

Martin Jessee (1801-1879) married first **Virginia Jane Price** (1801-1853), da. of **David and Jane Price**, and they had eleven children. He married second **Mary Jane Darnell** (1834-1907), and they had seven children. Martin, with a total of 18 children, may have the most Jessee descendants in America.

**SHELIA NALLY** [sjnally@hotmail.com] wrote, 5/16/2006, with information about the descendants of **Ballard Thomas Jessee**, son of **Thomas Ballard Jessee**, son of Martin Jessee and Mary Jane Darnell. Shelia was also seeking someone to caravan with her and her mother to the Jessee Reunion where she was to rendezvous with her aunt referenced below. I hope all made it to the Reunion and learned more about their Martin Jessee cousins.

My mother's maiden name was Jessee. She is from Russell County, Virginia. I just started being interested in genealogy. I noticed that here a few people in Texas that are Jessee's. My mother is Loletta Abernethy. Her birth certificate shows her name as Lodeta oline/aline May Jessee. DOB:08-22-1925. I am her only child. She married my father: Jack Winston Drawhorn on November 17, 1945, in Richmond, VA. They moved to Texas, my father's home. After my father died, she remarried a couple times, her late husband was Abernethy. I am in the process of getting her birth certificate and her marriage license.

I spoke with my aunt in Richmond today. She is 84 and they will try to make the reunion. My mother's birth certificate shows that her parents were Ballard Thomas Jessee dob 01-Jan-1895 and her mother was Ida Mae Lillian Meade dob 30-July-1905. Ballard Thomas Jessee worked for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad until about a month before his death. Mother says he went to the coal mines and died from injuries incurred in an accident about a month after going to work in the coal mines. He died on 16-Jan-1930. Ballard T Jessee married Ida Mae Lillian Meade in 1919. They had three daughters: Loretta Pauline Jessee dob 16-Sept-1921 in Castlewood, VA she is still living in VA.; Loletta A.M. Jessee dob 22-Aug-1925 in Castlewood, VA living in Nederland, Texas; Irene Teresa Jessee dob 24-Sept-1927, deceased.

Mother says that Thomas Ballard Jessee was Ballard Thomas Jessee's father. Pauline says his wife at the time of Ballard's birth was Martha Buckle Elam Jessee. According to mother and Pauline, Thomas Ballard Jessee was married four times and that Martha was his third wife and that Ballard Thomas Jessee was the only child by Martha Buckles Elam Jessee. Mother feels that there were other children but not with Martha. Mother says his fourth wife they called "Aunt Ginney" Jenney?

## MISSING LINKS, PROBLEMS AND OTHER CONUNDRUMS

**ROB JESSEE** [r.jessee@cox.net] wrote, 3/26/2006, with this request for help to locate the family history of his estranged father, **John Arnold Jessee**.

My father was named John Arnold Jessee he was born sometime in the 50's. I am pretty sure he was born in that area. He married my mom in Rockingham County in the late 60's maybe even early 70's I was born in 71' he left before I was born. I know he currently lives in TX but I have not had contact with him. Does anyone know him or his parents trying to do my family history and really would rather not contact him. An old child that new wives do not know about causes problems.

**LEE ANN HENDERSON** [leeann.henderson2@verizon.net] wrote 2/11/2005 with this request for help regarding her husband's relationship to the **Jessee/Jesse Family of Smithville, Clay Co. MO**.

I am LeeAnn Henderson. My husband's Uncle was James Russell Henderson, aka Russ. I have a letter from him in my files dated 9-12-1994 in which >he states that "Mom gave me to Mr. & Mrs. Jesse at Smithville on June 27, 1927". I also have a photo of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse. The best >detective work I could do was to narrow my search to Smithville, Clay County, Missouri. The photo shows two people both appearing to be over 60 yrs old. Can you help me? Census records show in 1850 there was a James H. Jesse living at Fishing River near Smithville. I know this is some vague information, but perhaps you can send me on the right track.

The spelling in both the letter and the back of the photo spell the name JESSE. The man is holding a pipe close to his mouth and the woman is very square jawed and wearing glasses. They are standing in front of a tree. The background appears to be rolling hills and some type of animal herd --the fence I see appears to be hog panel fencing. I have asked the family and they remember the incident, don't know why Russ Henderson was given to the Jesse folks. They say they have never heard them called anything but Mr. and Mrs. They do say however, that they recall no children ever visiting nor the mention of any children of this family. I will look again at your database, I was not sure which name to pursue. Please keep me in mind regarding this family of Jesse. Russ Henderson lived in the Smithville area most of his life.

I reponded with a suggestion to search my database at [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) and look up **James Henry Jesse**, born 1842 in Clay Co., MO and he has a son, James Henry Jr., too. If so, this is a JESSE branch of the family about which I know little.

**GEORGE J. EMMEL** [George@KrasGrossLaw.com] wrote, 8/31/2005, with this inquiry regarding family or others familiar with the **Reeds Valley home of Tivis Jessee**.

Greetings, I am interested in learning a bit about [Tivis Jessee] as I have purchased some land in Reeds Valley where there is an old 4 room 2 story house. People refer to the hose as the Tivis Jessee place. Thanks

## CORRESPONDENCE

The following are only a few of the many communications I am fortunate to receive. These, in particular, give color to our work, address problems, provide new information, corrections, or updates, and both answer and ask new "missing links" questions.

**DALE MCGILL** [oma00509@mail.wvnet.edu] wrote several times this spring regarding her own **Wallace, Williams, Davis, Jessee, Hubble, Smith, and Meade** genealogy research, asking questions, and significantly helping me update, correct, and add to the Jessee Family Database. She connected together several Russell County families by linking up existing individuals in my database. She gave us a lot of time and attention, and enriched our resource. If you have shared family with any of these surnames, please visit [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org) to see what new information and connections of families Dale has provided.

Dale is the daughter of **Sherman Wallace**, the owner of Jessee's Mill. Her father Sherman is a John Jessee, Jr. descendant, coming down through Jefferson and his son Stanford Lea Jessee. Her mother, **Cheryl Smith**, is also a Jessee descendant, coming down through John Jessee, Jr. via Jefferson's brother, Joseph Jessee, also my gg-grandfather.

Dale is also a baker, making bread from grain milled at White's Mill in Abingdon, VA. So you know Jessee's Mill and its potential is near and dear to her.

For a time I had Sherman recorded in my database as descended from **Major Lee Wallis** and his second wife **Celia Jessee**, daughter of Gabriel Jessee, son of old Phillip, not Eleanor, his first wife. Dale provided this very important correction for her pedigree, and excellent documentation for all her information and conclusions.

I'm pretty sure that Major Lee Wallis and Celia Jessee had no children. Both John Wallis and Beverly were with Eleanor in 1870, but it looks like Major Lee had left her for his younger cousin, Celia Jessee. Please check the 1870 census when you have a chance, I'm attaching it. I'd like to get this changed if possible.

**CAROL J LAFERTY** [mailto:cjfl@adelphia.net] wrote, 2/22/2006, regarding this article on a **Janie Jessee, 105 Years Old**.

Hi Jim, My brother Fred Fraley who lives in Lynchburg, VA sent me this link from the Lynchburg News & Advance. This might make a good story for the newsletter. Wonder who her father [and husband] was?

### **Janie Jessee: A century plus five Lynchburg News & Advance Monday, February 20, 2006**

The last time I'd seen Janie Jessee, it was right after her 100th birthday celebration.

"I'll be back again when you're 105," I told her as I left.

She smiled and replied: "I'll be here."

I was half-kidding, but she wasn't. Last Friday at the Valley View retirement center, Jessee's 105th birthday party was in full swing. There was cake and other snacks, sweet lime-colored punch, the women's choir from the Fort Hill United Methodist Church, and Nancy Van Zant - who played three different instruments and a long table full of bells.

The real star, though, was Janie Jessee, and she dressed the part.

"I bought that for myself," said Jessee's daughter, Jo Griffin, of her mother's sparkly blue and purple jacket, "but wound up giving it to her. She always brings it out on her birthday."

Jessee is breaking new ground every day at Valley View, simply by sticking around. Although centenarians are not uncommon these days, none of the current administrators can ever remember any resident making it to 100 plus five. And with such apparent ease.

"She's definitely amazing," said Sherry Byers, a nurse in Valley View's assisted living section. "Her only real physical problem is her eyesight right now, which is pretty much gone."

Or maybe not.

"She does put on her own makeup, every day," Byers said. "And we help her get dressed, but she'll let you know if the color is wrong."

"High heels," noted Fort Hill Methodist member Carolyn Maness. "Most of us are here are wearing flats, but she isn't."

This despite a broken ankle suffered in 2004, but more about that later.

Over the years, I've often found interviews with centenarians to be problematic, since most are auditorally challenged. Forget telephone conversations, unless you want all of your co-workers within a 200-yard radius to listen in. I remember one interview that involved a long series of shouted questions, after which the elderly woman on the other end of the phone said: "The newspaper? I already get the newspaper," and hung up on me.

As with almost everything else, Janie Jessee is different. She can probably still hear a pin drop, and talking with her is like chatting with a 50-year-old. Last Friday, she stood up from her chair and greeted a long line of admirers as if she were running for public office - smiling, shaking hands, remembering each person.

"I'm her boyfriend," announced a man in a motorized cart as he cruised slowly by, leaned over and gave Jessee a kiss.

Jessee didn't have many birthday parties growing up, she once told me. Not as one of a family of 13 children in Southwest Virginia's Russell County.

"With all those kids, we would have been partying all the time, and we had a farm to run," she said.

Her father lived to be 90, her mother 93. She even has a surviving sibling who is younger than her daughter. Thus, she credits her longevity to the proverbial strong genes - plus a long life unsullied by tobacco or strong drink.

She moved to Lynchburg 80 years ago, and her husband died in 1984. For the past two years, she's lived on Valley View's assisted living floor, but largely because her eyesight made it difficult to cook for herself.

"I do miss that," she said. "I loved to cook."

Including the birthday cake for her 100th birthday party. But about the ankle.

"I was leaning forward in my chair to pick something up," she said, "and I fell out and somehow landed wrong on my ankle and broke it."

In two places. To hear her tell it, orthopedic surgeon H.C. Eschenroeder was a bit taken aback when she showed up in his office.

"I don't think he knew quite what to do," Jesse said. "Do you operate on someone 104-years old? I think they were afraid to give me anesthesia.

Afraid I wouldn't wake up, I reckon."

But they did operate, inserting several screws to stabilize the ankle.

So often, in conversations about the demise of someone of advanced age, you hear: "She (he) started going downhill when she (he) broke (insert body part)."

Not Janie Jesse. The ankle healed perfectly, and she now walks without a limp.

"I think the doctor was happier about it than I was," she said with a smile, jacket and eyes sparkling.

"I'll see you in five years," I said.

**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RUSSELL COUNTY** *Newsletter, May 20, 2006*, always has articles of interest to the Jesse family, but the article on **Mark Whitaker-My Third Great-Grandfather by Bob Whittaker** was particularly meaningful on how all these pioneering Russell County families have become interconnected over the generations, and how all our Russell County gggg-grandparents all new each other! Witness, Mark Whitaker. Here is an excerpt.

Mark Whitaker began his Ministry in Castle's Woods, Virginia, about 1780, to a small congregation. Francis Asbury admitted him as an itinerant preacher in 1785, and he served the Southern Seven Districts. During the period 1780 to 1793, he established many churches. Included in these churches was one at Bickley's Mill in 1786 that became known as the Fort Gibson Methodist Church in present Castlewood, Virginia.

## RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

The Internet is a remarkable resource for genealogists. From time to time I will provide here pertinent information regarding Web resources and other links of interest to the Jesse(e) family. I invite you to provide me with addresses for Web pages developed by family members and other resources of interest, too. Do a Google Search for Jesse, too.

**MICHAEL A. DYE** has created **The Russell County Page** of the VAGenWeb division of the USGenWeb Project. This is an award-winning site, and a terrific resource for all families whose sojourn in America included time in Russell Co., VA. Michael has been instrumental in assembling a vital online depository of Russell Co. records, indexes and abstracts, genealogical data, historical maps, local history, and lore. We thank you. You can join the Russell Co. List Server. This is a must-see site for Jesse researchers at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~varussel/>.

**TOM RUDDER** provided this link to the **Department of Veterans Affairs "A Sacred Trust" Nationwide Gravesite Locator**. [http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL\\_v1](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1)

Search for burial locations of veterans and their family members in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, various other military and Department of Interior cemeteries, and for veterans buried in private cemeteries when the grave is marked with a government grave marker.

The Nationwide Gravesite Locator includes burial records from many sources. These sources provide varied data; some searches may contain less information than others. Information on veterans buried in private cemeteries was collected for the purpose of furnishing government grave markers, and we do not have information available for burials prior to 1997.

**GLENDIA WRIGHT HINKLE** [tgk@smta.cc] wrote to the [VARUSSEL-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:VARUSSEL-L@rootsweb.com) regarding the **1853 Russell Co. Road Map**

For those of you who are interested, I have a copy of the plans to build a road in 1853. It has many Russell Co families mentioned and is very interesting to read. Here's the link: [www.geocities.com/lookinforancestors/1853roadmap.html](http://www.geocities.com/lookinforancestors/1853roadmap.html)

### **1853 Plans To Build A Road In Russell County For The Convenience Of Traveling To The Courthouse**

"On the application of Simpson Dyer and others for a new road in this county from James Mullins on Holly Creek to the Sand Lick road above William Grizzles for the convenience of traveling to the courthouse, John Beckley to whom said application was referred this day made his report, on consideration whereof, said road is established as located by said commissioner: and is ordered that David Mullins be appointed Surveyor of said road from John Mullins to where James G. Hale lives, and that he open the same with the following tithables: William Mullins, Pound, Solomon Mullins, Pound, Jacob Johnson, Preston Mullins, John M. Mullins, George Reed, Hiram Reed, Simpson Mullins, Robert Fields, Lewis

Stone, Enoch Moore, Dennis Moore, Joseph Stanley, William Stanley, Benjamin Taylor, William Sanders, Thomas Adams, Jacob Estep, Marshall Mullins, Jr., Isham Potter, James Osborn, Henry Vanover, David O. Phipps, Preston M. Phipps, John Vanover, Morgan Long, Joel Long, James Briant, Lewis, a slave of Dr. Mullins, Jefferson Fleming, Philip Fleming, John Fleming, Senior, John Fleming Jr., Solomon Mullins, Issac Mullins, Eli Vanover, Joseph Elkins, Richard Justice, Doctor Mullins, son of William, Armistead Elkins, John Rose, John M. Rose, Kelly Keel, Marshall G. Keel, Harmon Mullings, John Mullings, William Mullins, Jacob Yates, James Mullings, William Henley, James Estep, Anderson Estep, Richard Mullings, son of Solomon, James Mullings, son of Eli M., William Vanover, James Venters, Martin Venters, Joseph Briant Jr, Simon Reed;

That William Taylor be appointed Surveyor from James D. Hale's to the Baptist meeting house, and that he open said road with the following tithables:

Jonathan Wright, Aaron Wright, Solomon Wright, Jacob Hutchins, Lovel Stanley, Benjamin Stanley, Edward Stanley, John Stanley, Larkin Stanley, Charles Taylor, Alexander Taylor, James D. Hale, Nathaniel McKinney, Wilson McKinney, Joseph Cantril, William Hill, Swinfield Hill, Sr. Swinfield Hill Jr., Samuel Rose, John Rose, James Hale Jr. James Smith, William Green, John Green, William Hay, William H. Hale, James M. Hale.

That Simpson Dyer be appointed Surveyor of said road from James G. Hale's to John Ervins Mill, and that he open the same with the following tithables:

George Smith, David Smith, John Yates, William I. Yates, Jacob Blair, Senior, Jacob Blair Jr., David Blair, George Blair, Elias Green, George McClanahan, James McClanahan, Benjamin McClanahan, Henry Neece, Charles Turner, James Turner, William L. Counts, William Blair, Jacob Blair, Jacob Chaney, Preston Chaney, John Ervin, Micajah Erwin, Erasmus Mitchell, Alexander Mitchell, Elisha Mitchell, Alexander Counts, Elijah Counts.

That the said William Taylor and Simpson Dyer with the tithables aforesaid assigned to them, so open said road from John Ervin's mill to the top of Sandy Ridge.

"That James Kiser be appointed surveyor of said road from the top of Sandy Ridge to the fork above William Grizzles, and that Joseph Kelly, gent., do furnish him a list of sufficient number of tithables to open said road. Each of the foregoing precincts is to be opened 6 feet and dug and leveled 4 feet." January 4, 1853

Note: John Ervins Mill was at Trammel near the mouth of Trammel Creek where it joins the McClure River.

## THE FAMILY DATABASE

The Jesse Family Genealogy Database is on the Web at the RootsWeb World Connect Project. RootsWeb is the foremost volunteer-based non-profit genealogy resource on the Internet. Please go to: <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com>

This World Connect Website provides an index to multiple genealogy databases, provides excellent display and print options for pedigree and descendants charts, and allows people to download GEDCOM files. It is public and easy to use. Do a search for one of your favorite ancestors. Look for data records submitted by "jimjessee," and if you select one it will take you to our database. You can also navigate to the database directly from our Jesse Genealogy Service home page.

**Please go to: [www.jessee.org](http://www.jessee.org)**

Our database is now over 44,000 records. I do mean "our" database, as it is made up of the tens of thousands of hours of your research, the results of which you have generously and kindly shared with me over the years. I have concerns about the downside of this computer revolution, the Internet, and the ethics of genealogy research, but still conclude that greater good is done by making our work public. However, I am using the filters provided by the World Connect project to delete information on living persons.

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

I very much regret it when I see known errors, which appeared in this database in earlier years and have since been corrected, show up in other's genealogy, and quoting me as the source! I shudder at the fact that I know there are many unknown errors in the database, along with ignorant speculations, fantasy and plain lies.

Nevertheless, I have had so much expressed gratitude from dozens, if not hundreds, of people who have been helped in their research by our database, that I persevere. I certainly do welcome corrections, updates, additions, and documentation of information, and you who are receiving this newsletter have been very generous in that regard.

Some feel the need to wag their finger at me, too, just to make sure I know how important it is to get this right. I do get down when I have been given a good scold, but perk up when the next inquiry is made. **I think there is no greater gift than to help people learn where they come from. I cannot "not help" someone on this quest. Please forgive me for the rest.**

## OUR PURPOSE

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

I research my own JESSEE ancestors, including the ARMSTRONG, SMYTH/SMITH, PORTER, DUNCAN, BICKLEY, RICHMOND/RICHMAN, BARTEE and BARRICK families; and many other SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES who have intermarried with the Jessees, including the BANNER, BROWNING, BURK(E), COUNTS, FULLER, GOSE, KISER, STONE, and VERMILLION families. I have an abiding interest in family history.

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

The purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate the exchange of information and documents relative to the genealogy of the Jessee and related families whose roots may be found in Southwest Virginia. I wish to enter all data provided me into the JESSEE FAMILY DATABASE discussed above. In return for information shared, I will share charts or GEDCOM data files with you on request.

I am afraid I am now accumulating more information than I can key into the database on my own. After 30 years of working intensively at a keyboard, I have developed a permanent disability which makes any prolonged time typing very painful. My computer time has been significantly limited and, in particular, my regular data entry routine has all but stopped. While I continue to plink at it, I am not denting the perhaps 3000-4000 records piled high and waiting to be keyed in. I will need help with data entry into the database in the future if it is to grow.

I am asking you to respond to this newsletter with answers to questions, documentation, your own materials, and, of course, current information about your branch of the family, preferably in the form of a GEDCOM file you will allow me to integrate into the database. I will filter out living individuals in the version of the database that is made public. Please feel free to correct any errors found. I wish to have a correct and trustworthy database as a resource for the family.

While limited in my ability to type, I will continue the newsletter, although I would welcome help. I am finding new ways to capture materials and avoid typing. I welcome the submission of pedigree and descendants charts, letters, manuscripts, electronic or scanned images of source documents and photos in JPG or TIF formats (600 dpi TIF files are best), as well as any word-processor or text files.

## HOW TO HELP

I am operating on subscriptions and donations and don't even break even on out-of-pocket costs. The labor is all volunteer. I provide the newsletter free to anyone who has asked for it, provided me information, or has expressed interest and cannot afford to subscribe. I am providing the newsletter free to several historical and genealogical organizations and libraries. You are welcome to provide addresses of others that may be interested in our effort. I am looking for those willing to exchange information or represent their branch of the family or area of the country.

I am sometimes disappointed to find that less than 25% of readers actually subscribe or donate anything. *I do need help, even if it is simply informing me to stop sending you the newsletter if it has become junk mail.* I am steadily reducing my mailing to include those who have subscribed, provided donations, helped in some other way, are sponsored by someone else, or are a family treasure. If you are getting this newsletter, you are at least a family treasure. If I drop you in error, just let me know. Please inform me of address changes as returned and re-posted mail costs me, too.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

**I am asking for a minimum subscription of \$15 a year for two issues of the newsletter.** I need and appreciate your additional donations in defraying the considerable cost of research, printing, and postage of the newsletter and other materials I send without charge to inquirers. Additional donations also support those who can't afford to pay.

## NEWSLETTER REPRINTS

**Back editions are available on the Website, and you are free to print them from there.** I have some separate original sets of prints: #1-7, #8-9, #10-11, #12-13, #14-15, #16-17, #18-19, #20-27 (although I am out of certain years and without some attachments that have become obsolete). **You may request these for \$75 for copies of any and all back issues still in print, and a subscription to the current year.**

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

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