

The Jessee Family Newsletter

Number 16. January 2000

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National Jessee Family Reunion

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REV. VERNON CECIL JESSEE (vernon@cros.net) wrote last year to encourage us to establish a national Jessee family reunion. He and **Joy Malone** provide the following reports on their 1999 reunion and invite us to join them next year.

National Jessee Family Reunion
August 5th, 2000--10AM to 4PM
Sugar Hollow Campground, off Rt 11
(Lee Highway), Bristol, VA.

Hello Jim, After so long a time I will try to send you an e-mail letter. I received your message a few days ago. Glad to hear from you. The next Jessee Reunion, will be the first Sat. in Aug. 2000, 10:00 AM to sometime in the afternoon? At the picnic area, Sugar Hollow Camp Ground, off Rt. 11 (Lee Highway) Bristol, Va. My niece, Joy Malone, suggested that those who would be interested, meet the day before the reunion, in The Russell Co. Library at Lebanon, Va. so we could do research, and share information on the Jessee Family. More about that sometime later, of course I'm all for that. Joseph Jessee, wife and daughter, Gate City Highway, Bristol, Va. was at the reunion this year, Aug. 1999, for the first time. Joseph is of the Archer Jessee line. There was pretty good attendance, I don't know what the actual count was. We need to do a better job on that next time around. I would be pleased to have the reunion widely announced. Anyone who would like to attend the next Jessee Reunion, and would need directions, or information about it can call Frank Jessee, Bristol, Va. Phone# (540)466-5272 or Norma S. (Jessee) McHone, Hollins, Va. phone # (540) 362-9385, or call me Vernon C. Jessee, Port Clinton, Ohio phone # (419) 734-2021. I wish we could get all Jessee's involved, and have this next reunion to be a National one.

JOY MALONE (joym@gateway.net) wrote 10/2/1999 with these notes from the reunion and provided the following photos.

I. Regarding the August 1999 Jessee Reunion photo....I forgot to tell you that Pat Jessee's parents Joseph Scott Jessee and his wife Anna celebrated their 53rd Wedding Anniversary on that date (August 22). It was their first Jessee Reunion as well. They are the three nicest people I have had the pleasure of meeting and so proud to be a cousin..... Joseph and Anna are so proud of their daughter Pat (Pat is an Artist-Designer, International Dance and Cultural Arts Educator, Festival Planner, and Project Coordinator). She is a fascinating person - - - her world travels and accomplishments are so vast - - one does not know where to start. Her father Joseph is an artist and also builds the most beautiful model planes in his workshop. Pat arranged an "exhibit of her father's models - in the Bristol area." So I have the feeling she is also very proud of her parents.

II. The August 1999 group - voted to hold next year's Jessee Reunion - the first Saturday in August - 2000 in order to give all the Jessee teachers, children, etc., an opportunity to attend - and avoid conflict with school schedules. The notice to family members will probably be via e-mail, etc.



[Census Russell Co. 1830](#)

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III. I am still going through the Jessee newsletters that I recently obtained from the Internet. In one you mentioned a book in which you were one of the authors - *A Small Corner of the West, A History of Butte Meadows, Chico Meadows, and Jonesville*. We travel to Utah, etc., and lived in Crescent City, CA for several years . . . I wonder if there might be a copy that I could purchase? If by chance there is, just let me know the cost and mailing charges. Congratulations on this accomplishment.

[This book may be ordered on-line through the Association of Northern California Records and Research, with which I am affiliated. <http://www.csuchico.edu/ancrr/>]

IV. Mike and I came across information that the Caswell County Record of Wills began in 1777 in ID record books and found a Henry Jessee with a recorded will - date 1781. Recorded copy - RBA/165 - AR "original" - p. 657 . (NC Wills: A Testator Index 1665 - 1900, C 1987 by Thorton W. Mitchel). Could he be in the John Jessee family?) We are so new to collecting family data that it gets very overwhelming at times and often we don't know what to do with it. One thing though, . . . it does make traveling and exploring a lot more fun. [We speculate Henry is John's father]

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Jesse(e) Family Origins

There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," even "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, Jaci, Jacy, and Jacie families in the world whose kinship is unknown. I believe we are all cousins and welcome you. As "Jesse" and "Jessee" are the two most frequent spellings of this family name, I shall adopt the convention of using "Jesse(e)" in reference to the larger family.

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

Among the prominent **JESSE** families in America are the descendants of **John Jesse** (1770-1808) and **Clia Smith** of Cumberland Co., VA. They have four sons recorded, **John P., Thomas Hall, William Morgan** and **Samuel Jesse**. The descendants of their son William Morgan Jesse, are well documented in the book, *The Jesses, 1601-1928* prepared by J. S. Jesse.

HARRY AND BEVERLY JESSE SHUPTRINE (4851 Royce Road, Irvine, CA 92612-2233) in their book *William Morgan Jesse and His Descendants* (July, 1995. Revised August, 1996), Gateway Press, Inc., of Baltimore, Maryland, August 1995, detail over 6300 descendants of William Morgan Jesse.

This book is a major revision to and update of *The Jesses, 1601-1928* by J. S. Jesse. This book may be ordered directly from Harry Shruptine at the address above. Harry has been so kind to provide me a GEDCOM file of this database. I have incorporated it into my own, and have made it available on the Internet through the RootsWeb World Connect Project.

PATTY KNUTSON (Patty>Knutson@SDInc.com) wrote, 7/20/1999, with encouragement regarding the alleged common **JESSE** origins of **Richard Jesse** (1768-1845) and **Samuel Jesse** (abt 1770-aft 1830) of Middlesex Co., VA.

I am with you, and believe that Richard and my Samuel are brothers. From what I have gathered, Samuel moved to Woodford Co., KY with an unnamed brother and the location (Middlesex Co., VA) and birth dates match. Also, Samuel died in Shelby Co., KY. My gg-grandfather (**Silas O. Jesse**) moved to Clay Co., MO just as Richard's family did.

JOHN PLAAT (johnp@mother.com) provided, 10/8/1999, additional clues to our **JESSEE** origins with these Tappahonock, Essex Co., VA records.

Robt Daniel m. Lucinda Jessee, 12/28/1824

Dora Taylor m. Logan Jessee, 7/8/1886

Thomas Jessee m. Amelia Montague, 5/19/1814

I wonder if this Logan Jessee could be Logan Sheridan Jessee, son of James Wilson Jessee of Kansas, but how he got back east to marry would be a question.

WANZA ZECH (wanzaz@yahoo.com) writes, 12/11/1999, with this help and possible correction to information regarding the descendants of **William Jesse (1736-1796)** born in King and Queens Co., VA. In Newsletter #10 I provided information regarding four of his children, **John, Lucy, Elizabeth**, and **Thomas Jesse** who ma. an **Ann Cawthorne**.

Hello Jim,

I ran across your newsletter for November 10th, 1997 winter and spring. You have a Ann Cawthorne married to Thomas Jesse(e)-same as I do. However, everything else you and I have is different. Please see my genealogy page (www.concentric.net/~lzech/), generation 4 and 5. Different parents, different dates, etc. Have I got this all wrong? I have this information from Index to marriages, book D33 page 498 Essex and Middlesex County, Va. 1600 to 1900. The birth record is from *The Cauthen Family Book* by Maryline Cauthen Westenhaver published 1980 and The Record of the Cauthorn Family by R. C. Phillips published in 1909. I do not show a Ann Cawthorne/Cauthorn born to Richard Cawthorne/Cauthorn and Catherine Mitchell. I do show a Ann Cawthorne born to Richard Cawthorne and Ann Vass who married a Thomas Jesse in 1793 per Va index to marriages, as stated above. I know this isn't very important in the scheme of things in this world, but if I am wrong please let me know either which way we are cousins.

Warmest regards, cousin,
Wanza Cauthen-Zech

CAROLYN JESSEE (carolyn@nwonline.net) sent, 6/28/1999, this research nugget.

I found John Jessee on a 1796 Greenbier County WV personal property tax list. Is this our John Jessee?

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Old Phillip and Rachel Jessee

Phillip Jessee (1742-1858) and his son **Gabriel Jessee (1804-1886)**, of still unknown relationship to John Jessee (1750-1816), are among the early Russell County, VA families.

PEGGY A. PELTON (peki2000@juno.com) emailed me, 8/23/1999, about her grandmother, **Nancy Jessee Gilbert Gillespie** and provides additional insight into this branch of the family.

Hi cousin! :)

I may have some information. I'm trying to learn about the "Jessees" for my manuscript I've been writing for years. ;) my grandmother was a Jessee, (or her mother was a Jessee) but this is the roots I need to dig up! :) I feel the alien heritage may be within the realms. She had been extremely gifted in the ESP phenomenon. She'd felt this "gift" was a curse and it was passed to her and to her children! LOL

(Sorry, these are the ghosts of the past I'm "only" seeking)!

Here is her lineage...

Nancy, (daughter of Samuel Sylvester Gilbert & Lucinda Jessee Gilbert)

Lucinda Jessee, daughter of Gabriel Jessee & Nancy Lee Wallis Jessee)

I looked in the Russell Co. Grave sites and discovered a buried Lucinda Jessee Gilbert born 1869 died 1948. I am confused, my grandmother Nancy Jessee Gilbert Giles pie died in 1945, and I know her mother died long before her! Lucinda and Samuel Gilbert are buried in Swords Creek, VA, Kent Ridge Road.

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John and Frankey Lea Jessee

Many Jessees in America are descended from **John (1750-1815)**, and **Frankey Lea Jessee (1752/61-1836)** of Cobb's Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina and Carr's Creek (today Mill Creek) in Reed's Valley, Russell County, Virginia. They had fifteen children. There are many "Jessee," "Jesse," even "Jessie" families in the United States and Canada who are known descendants of those fifteen children. All of us living descendants are about fifth or sixth cousins, or even closer kin.

I will report here new information with respect to John and Frankey and each of the fifteen (I-XV) children in the newsletter, and rely upon special requests and the new Jessee Family Website to provide the detailed genealogy information to those specifically interested in any particular branch.

HOPE DAVIS (iambored1@juno.com) provided, 6/11/1999, this new speculation about the parents of Frankey Lea.

Dear Jim,

I really hate to get into this **who is Frankey Lea** question, but . . . While looking for some other material yesterday I stumbled across records of deeds from Spotsylvania County VA which showed a **John Lea** of Orange Co. NC and his wife **Anne** who deeded 185 acres of land in Spots. Co. on Aug. 4, 1752. The next deed listed was from **William Lea** and Frances his wife - 100 acres on Sept. 1, 1752.

Checking my own Lea records I found both of these couples and William and Frances would be about the right ages and in the right place to be THE Frankey's parents. Frances was **Frances White** of Spotsylvania. Has anyone found these two and looked into the possibility of them as parents? This is a Lea line that I don't think you had on your information that you sent me. If you are interested and haven't seen this stuff before, let me know and I'll send you what I have. Obviously it would require much more research, but if it hasn't been checked it might bear looking into.

ED MARSH (emarsh@SPC.cc.tx.us) shared the following article on **The Jessee Mill** in Russell Co. from a wonderful resource for the Jessee and many other Russell Co. Families.

This is an excerpt from "Old Mills of Far Southwest Virginia" by Emory L. Hamilton, *Historical Sketches of Southwest Virginia*, Publication 7-1973, Historical Society of Southwest Virginia. This can be found on the Internet at **New River Notes**, a wonderful site full of many historical materials of interest. <http://www.ls.net/~newriver/nrv.htm>

The Jessee Mill

The Roller Process Jessee Mill was built between 1889 and 1900, by Andrew Jackson Jessee. It is located on Mill Creek four miles southwest of Cleveland on Route 645 and about six miles from Lebanon, in Russell Co., VA.

The mill was built from lumber grown and sawed on the Jessee farm which consisted of several hundred acres of land. Most of the lumber was yellow poplar and has not deteriorated with age. The machinery in the mill was made in Salem, VA. All the cogs or gears in the machinery are wood. Prior to the building of the present mill there had been a grist mill near the site of the present one for around fifty years.

The building consisted of three floors and the machinery was installed through the three floors. For several years the Jessee Mill was the only roller mill in Russell Co. People came from all over the county and surrounding counties to have meal and flour ground. Huge storage bins were located in the mill for storing grain for the farmers.

Mill Creek during that time was a thriving settlement. There was a general store, a oneroom country school and a church.

The mill was owned and operated by Jack Jessee until his death in 1922. His son, Wiley E. Jessee operated it for ten years. The mill closed in 1932.

Mr. Joe Axem served as the first miller at the Jessee Mill. Melvin Kestner operated the mill for twenty-five or thirty years. He lived in the white house just below the Jessee home. Jamie Chafin operated the mill for sometime, also Tilton Jessee. Other men who served as millers sometime during the life of the mill are as follows: Vince Fields, Malcom Buchanan, Red Joe Jessee, Clint Fields, Bruce Campbell and Newton Massie.

Jack Jessee built a large brick home in 1883 and lived there until his death, which house is still standing. The home is located just below the mill. The lumber was sawed on the place, and the carvings on the doors and wood work was hand carved. Located on the second floor hall is a red stained glass window which Mr. Jessee imported from England when the house was built.

In Mr. Jessee's later life, he was unable to go to the mill, but he would lie in bed and see people coming

to the mill through a large mirror near his bedroom window. He always wanted everyone to come in and talk with him.

This is also an excerpt from "Old Mills of Far Southwest Virginia" which I am sharing as it mentions many families who also intermarried with the Jesses. This site also has articles about the following mills: Wynn, Ball, Gibson, Wireman's, Bush, Duncan, Brickey, Logan Cox, Riggs, Patrick Porter, Beverly, Culbertson- McConnell, Semones, Caleb Hawkins, Elk Garden, Robinson, and Willam Gray

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Bickley Mills

In Castlewood, on lower Mill Creek there are the foundations of two old water mills and three abandoned mill burrs. In these remnants of a by-gone day one could almost say lies buried the history of Castlewood - the history of the first settlements ever made along the Clinch River, for it was around this spot that John Morgan led his settlers in 1769. Little is known of Morgan and his settlers who came into the beautiful Clinch River Valley, other than that each was to take up 400 acres of land for settlement. We do not know the names of any of the original settlers for sure, other than John Morgan and John Smith, not even the number in the settlement party, or from whence they came.

Somewhere in this vicinity also lived the legendary Jacob Cassell, for whom Cassell's Woods was named, shrouded in the mists of the past, about whom all sorts of legendary tales are told. Despite the fact that he was an ordinary person, but who probably preceded even Morgan's settlement the place bears his name after more than two centuries have blown over his dim footprint.

Mill Creek is a clear, beautiful stream emerging from under the red hills of Russell and cascading over an ancient limestone cliff to form a lovely waterfall. Just below this fall, which furnished water for the mill race, lie the two foundations and three grinding wheels, nostalgic reminders of a restless roaming race of men who were not content to remain here, but who helped to settle the great central part of America.

Nearest to the fall is the smaller and older of the two foundations. Some fifteen feet downstream is the other and larger of the two foundations and here lies the three heavy stone grinding wheels. This latter mill, built probably around 1783, creaked and groaned its way through well over a century of time, and lasted well into the memory of older citizens of Castlewood. No doubt the Red Men many times gazed upon these mills with hatred, seeing them as the symbols of the ever encroaching white men upon their land.

From scanty records it appears that John Lynch, who was a merchant and who did not live in the area had the smaller mill built and it was probably operated for him by Frederick Fraley. Colonel Daniel Smith, who was assistant Surveyor for old Fincastle County, which Russell was then a part of, wrote to his superior Colonel William Preston, on March 22, 1774, saying: "Yesterday, (March 21, 1774) I surveyed John Lynch's mill seat."

At this time Smith was making surveys for the original settlers from 1769, and Lynch either had the mill in operation at this time or soon thereafter. We also find in the court records of old Fincastle County in the year 1773 where John Lynch and his brother Christopher Lynch, business partner, brought suit against Castlewood residents for debts which appear to have been made at the mill. No record has been found permitting the erection of this mill and it may have been erected sometime between 1769 and 1774.

John Lynch assigned his "mill seat" property to Frederick Fraley, the latter having apparently settled upon the land when he arrived from Rowan Co., NC in 1769. It is highly probable that Fraley had, managed the mill for Lynch before he bought it, and it may be that he and his neighbors built the mill soon after their arrival in 1769, as bread is a necessity and a means of obtaining it would have been their first consideration.

Sometime around 1780, Frederick Fraley seems to have sold the mill to Henry Hamlin, and moved to the Moores Fort property in lower Castlewood which he had bought. Before acquiring the mill seat Hamlin had been living on land on the north side of Clinch River opposite the mill. Hamlin received his patent for the mill land sold him by Fraley from the Washington County Court on November 11, 1782, but had possession for sometime prior to receiving the patent.

Hamlin had the second mill built sometime around 1782 or 1783, for it was surely this mill upon which Charles Bickley, Simon Auxier and Henry Dickenson were working when 17 Indians attacked and scalped Ann Bush, later Ann Niece. It was around this old mill which was undoubtedly built of logs that the community grew. The mill shown in the picture while on the same foundation has to be of later construction.

Again we go to Daniel Smith, the Surveyor and Captain of Militia for Confirmation. In a letter written to Colonel William Campbell, dated May 19, 1783, he writes:

"On my return from the Cumberland, I came through Cassell's Woods, just after the Indians had been at the Fort at Hamlin's Mill." Henry Hamlin ran the mill for a few years and on June 19, 1787 sold it to James Bush with the deed showing, "it being part of land patented to him on November 12, 1782, the same land he purchased from Frederick Fraley. As further evidence of Bush's ownership is a Russell County deed of September 17, 1795 which reads: "lying on the waters of Moccasin Creek and Clinch River up to Bush's Mill Creek."

James Bush sold the mill tract on May 27, 1800 to Charles Bickley. It was Charles Bickley who put Bickley's Mills on the map, and who still had possession of it at his death in 1839.

Under Bickley's management Bickley's Mills became a trading center for the western frontier. He converted it into a rolling mill for grinding wheat and buckwheat. He opened up a mercantile business which flourished. One of the old Bickley Mills ledgers is now in possession of Mr. L. E. Gibson of

Castlewood, a descendant of Bickley. Many of the items mentioned in the 1830's sound strange today.

Charles Bickley not only expanded the mill, but built a sawmill further upstream, and along with Henry Dickenson, as a partner had installed Carding and Fulling Machines for cloth work. In his will dated April 3, 1825, Henry Dickenson leaves to his son, Henry, Jr., "My interest in the Carding and Fulling machines at Charle' Bickley's."

A Carding Machine was a machine for carding wool by separating fibers and cleaning them of extraneous matter, making it soft and ready for the bobbin. Before invention of the Carding Machine, and for a long time after, wool was "carded" by hand with devices known as wool cards. The wool cards were brush like devices with stiff wire bristles for combing the wool and removing foreign matter much as the carding machine did, but much slower.

A Fulling Machine was for fulling cloth by means of pestles or stampers which beat and pressed it to a close, compact state, cleaned it, and made a finer, less coarse cloth.

Here at Bickley's Mills on February 3, 1832, was established a post office, with John Bickley, son of Charles, as postmaster, known as Bickley's Mills, Russell Co., VA. This post office continued to serve Castlewood until February 1, 1907. Also here, for several years the "Bickley's Mills Post" newspaper was published, copies of which can still be found as proud possessions of Castlewood residents.

The late Mrs. Mamie Gose, descendant of both Charles Bickley and Henry Dickenson, and who remembered the last old mill, told me, "it stood and rotted and finally the wind blew it down."

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HENRY A. DAVIS, JR. has written encouraging letters and even provided a model articles of incorporation for a Jessee Family organization to preserve the site of the **John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery**. Please see 1999 Newsletters. Hank offers his legal assistance to whomever would wish to join him and **Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee** in saving this cemetery, where George Lea and a number of George Lea's family are also buried. It is on the original John Jessee land, and is also known as the Elihu K. Counts or Branson Cemetery. So far we have had no response to this offer but there is other related news in the offing.

PAT "MORNINGSTAR" SATO contacted me this summer regarding a number of things, including her impending lease/purchase of **Jessee's Mill** from **Sherman Wallace**. Pat, an author who is also known as "Morningstar," is not a Jessee descendant and is, I believe, of Cherokee descent. She writes about and teaches Cherokee wisdom and knowledge. Pat first contacted me in response to research for a descendant of Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser, **Kelly Everman**, who is a very dear friend of hers. Kelly's family believe **Mary Polly Jessee is Cherokee**.

This is a family legend that persists in several branches of the family. It strongly implies to me that Frankey Lea could have been Cherokee or Melungeon, as I have suggested before. Pat wishes to do a book on Mary Polly Jessee Kiser, and I directed her to the John and Frankey Jessee land and cemetery on Mill Creek in Reeds Valley. She did not find the cemetery, but found **Jessee's Mill** and fell in love with the place, feeling a very strong kinship with this land. She has secured a lease/purchase agreement from Sherman Wallace, and is attempting to get grants or other financial help to restore the Mill. I hope she will share her progress in future Newsletters.

DALE MCGILL (oma00509@mail.wvnet.edu) contacted me in October with the following exchange. Her father, **Sherman Wallace, Jr.**, owns **Jessee's Mill** and the Wallaces are descendants of both **John and Frankey Jessee**, by son **John Jessee, Jr.**, and **Old Philip Jessee**, by son **Gabriel**, and his daughter **Celia Jessee** who married **Major Wallace**.

I grew up visiting my first cousin who lived in the old Jessee place by Jessee's Mill on Mill Creek. My grandfather owned the mill, now my dad does. My grandfather, **Sherman Wallace** bought the land, house, and mill from **Wiley Jessee**, who was the son of **Andrew Jackson Jessee**. I haven't researched

my dad's side much, but I am pretty sure I am a descendent of **Major Wallace and Celia Jessee**. My great-grandfather was **Morgan Wallace**, he was 101 or 102 when he died around 1980.

Thanks for all your great work. I will be returning to your site many times. Maybe I can find some pictures for you. I am planning to do some visiting now that I have a digital camera. Hopefully I'll get a record of some old photos. My husband is from Sunnyvale, CA.

I provided her additional information and noted that by virtue of her Counts pedigree she is a cousin of my wife, too. She wrote as follows.

I called my dad last night to tell him about your website. He told me all about Pat Sato. He said he just hates to see it just sit there, so he is renting it to her, or renting to own. We would all like to see it fixed up.

My mom is an artist, too. She has done several drawings and paintings of the "Old Mill" as we call it. I would be very interested to know about the other artists in our family. Mom teaches art at Lebanon High School. I get down to see everyone several times a year. We usually visit Mom, who lives in Abingdon, then go to Dad's for a night. I am very close to my half sister, Morgan, and to Mary Frances, my step-mom.

JOY MALONE [joym@gateway.net] sent, 11/3/1999, this note.

We just got back home from North Carolina and Virginia, the fall colors were beautiful. We spent most of our time in Courthouses and libraries. We had good luck finding info on my Dellinger ancestors and some things on the Jessee family.

While I was in Lebanon I spoke to a real estate agent about buying the Jessee Cemetery. He thought that Mr. Sherman Wallace owned the Cemetery, but upon checking found out that Sherman owns the land where the Andrew Jackson Jessee Cemetery is located. He said it may be possible for me to purchase this one. He is going to check with the owner of the old Jessee Cemetery and let me know something next week. I guess we could get the Andrew Jackson Cemetery and put a monument to John Jessee and the others buried at the old Jessee Cemetery, stating the exact location of the old Jessee Cemetery. All this depends on the asking price. He also told me the new owner of the Jessee Mill (lease-to-buy) is attempting to get a grant to restore the Mill. It is very possible if the Grant is not approved, the Mill may be back on the market.

We did take pictures of the Jessee Mill and walked in and around it. I did talk to the people who bought the Andrew Jackson Jessee home, they are in the process of trying to fix it up.

REV. VERNON CECIL JESSEE (vernon@cros.net) may have the last word in this edition with this

12/9/1999 report.

Hi Jim, I receive the weekly Newspaper from Lebanon, Va. and I read an article with possibly good news about the Jessee's Mill. The article said that Russell Co. had been chosen to participate in the Va Dept. of Historical Resources cost sharing program. The program aims to develop a database of historic resources, and local preservation plans, National Historical register nominations for local governments. To facilitate this goal, VDHR provides matching funds up to 50% of the project's cost. Architectural Historian Kalli Lucas of Tenn. was chosen to research, and develop the Russell Co. cost share program. She and her team will be studying, and documenting 150 sites around Russell Co. Sites documented in study have the possibility of becoming eligible for receiving preservation tax credits. The study will also lay the ground work for the creation of historic districts, identification of structures which are eligible for placement on the National Historic Register, and/or the Va. Landmarks Register.

According to Sharon Keith, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, some possible sites to be studied are the Jessee's Mill, The Russell Co. Court House, the Honaker Hotel, and Moore's Fort. My hope is that the Jessee's Mill will be selected, so that it will be restored, and preserved as a historical site, and in my opinion it could never be sold. Maybe you could voice some input in their decision making.

By the way as far as I know the mill hasn't been sold yet. Some woman started to buy it but the deal didn't go through. I will close. What are your thoughts about this?

Cousin: Rev. V. Cecil Jessee. Vernon@cros.net

My thoughts are that we should do everything possible to get Jessee's Mill included in the selected Russell Co. sites. Once again I feel the Jessees in Russell Co. must take a lead on this.

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IRIS LAMBERT HALL, who is a **James Jessee** descendant, provides another excellent commentary on the last newsletter, particularly addressing the issue of the location of the Jessee Cemetery, providing encouragement and counsel. She takes up the newsletter page by page, answering and asking questions, making corrections, adding information, and helping the entire Jessee Family by generously sharing her years of research. She has done all her research and record keeping the old fashioned way; no computers for Iris. Her letters are wonderful.

Dear Jim,

Glad as always to receive latest copy of the newsletter. Hope things will work out so that you can continue with it in some capacity or the other. I was sorry to read of your health problems; it is not uncommon. Another good reason for me to not become involved with computers?? Just teasing ..

Glad too that Mr. Davis is offering assistance in saving the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery. Back in the "olden days", at a time during my 40+ years as a legal researcher, I was involved in the restoration of an old cemetery in Missouri. An association was formed and trust account set up. The trustees were chosen from among descendants of those buried in the old cemetery who still live in Sullivan County, Missouri. Most of us just contributed to the trust funds as we were scattered far and wide. The cemetery was all cleaned up, fence and gateway repaired and stones set upright and repaired where needed. Ten years later it is a quite nice cemetery and has several sales of lots and new burials every year. The trustees arrange to have it all mowed and tidied up for Memorial Day ... but I found it sort of amusing to learn that several times during the summer, one of the trustees who has flock of sheep, let half a dozen or so graze in the cemetery. They keep the grass "clipped", as well as any weeds, and are not large enough to do any damage to the stones ... all at no charge to the association! Cattle are bad news to cemeteries!

I am confused about one thing. You mention that the cemetery where John and Frankie are buried is called "Branson Cemetery". In Laningham's Early Settlers of Lee and Adjacent Counties of Virginia.. as well as E.J. Sutherland's Pioneer Recollections, the cemetery where they were buried, as well as son George Lee Jessee, was called the Elihu K. Counts Cemetery .. are these the same place, just different names? [YES, editor] By the way, I am enclosing a page I typed from Pioneer Recollections which refers to this and other matters about John Jessee .. including the fact that, if this lady's memory is

accurate, that our John Jessee owned a slave.

There are two other Counts Cemeteries in Cleveland proper that my husband and I found. One, the Joshua Counts Cemetery is behind the Baptist Church. The other, the Ezekiel Counts Cemetery is located behind a private home within Cleveland, just across the roadway from the John Counts Memorial Bridge. There were several Jessee's buried at the Ezekiel Counts Cemetery. Nancy Carline 1870-1932, Casse R. 1904-1923 and Taz H. 1900-1920. In looking over my reading, I see that W. L. Jessee 1838-1922 and his wife, Eliizabeth P., d. 1916, aged "8_" are also buried in Ezekiel Counts Cemetery in Cleveland. Others could be buried there as there are many fieldstone markers. This was the former homeplace of John and Margaret (Kelly) Counts and a memorial stone was erected there by the Counts families in 1961.*

Re. p. 14 .. do you have a mailing address for Jackie Ross Jones, Laura Jane Jarrell Mitchell? I have some odds and ends on Stone family they might like to have. Also a mailing address for Donna Bogue/Carolyn Jessee, p. 19. The list of names she provided from her ggrandpa's book contain several of the allied lines I am researching in Russell County.

Re. p. 20 .. I found Stephen and Dicy (Jessee) Goss in the Jamestown area, Boone Count Indiana .. he is correct in that their son, Stephen Yancy Goss lived in Marion County, Iowa. Stephen is found in the 1850 Polk County, Iowa in the 1860-70-80 census. I have not read later census and at this time do not know when or where he died and is buried.

Re. p. 22, Michael Dye. Francis Browning Jessee, son of Vincent and Elizabeth Candler)Jessee, was born Nov. 17, 1825* in Russell County Virginia. He married first Lucinda Williams, daughter of Charles and Christina, ca. 1846. I am not sure where. The family moved to Sullivan County, Missouri. They built a very nice home in Browning, Missouri. I am familiar with the home, sort of, because it was just across the street from the home of one of my other lines, the Martin family. The county line is the street that runs between the two homes.. everything on one side is in Sullivan County (where the Jessee home is) and on the other side is Linn County (where the Martin home is). The two homes were being built at about the same time, and the two men, Francis Jessee and George W. Martin, vied with each other to see who could build the most pretentious home there in Browning. They must have done a good job, because both homes are still there, with some modernization, with families living in them. (*gravestone says b. 1826)

Lucinda Williams Jessee died Feb. 28, 1880 at the age of 56 y, 8 m. 10 d. She is buried at the Knifong Cemetery there just outside Browning, Missouri. As I understood from local people, Francis then returned to Virginia where he married Tabitha Anne Dye in Washington County, Va. on Nov. 29, 1883. I do not know how soon after that they returned to Sullivan County, Missouri, but they did return and Francis Browning Jessee died there on July 21, 1900 and is buried beside Lucinda at the Knifong Cemetery, Browning R. R., Sullivan Co., Missouri. His stone says he was 74 y., 8 m., 14 d. old at the time of death. There is no stone for Tabith Anne Dye Browning or any children, if they had some, and I do not know if she returned to Virginia or where she went after Francis' death.

My husband and I have been to Browning, Missouri and the Knifong Cemetery a number of times thru the years. Several of my Stinson and Martin family are buried there as well as a number of Jessee graves .. two inf. dau. of Jerile Dodge and Susan E. (Knifong) Jessee daughters .. no names .. one b. 1896 and died 10 days later .. another born 1883. d. age. Charles C. Jessee 1836-1909 and his wife, Judah 1842-1922 are buried there. Lucille Violet, dau. of Elmer V. and Lillian E. Jessee d. 1900, Age. 1 y. 3m. 9d, as well as Lillie F. (Sollee), wife of E.V. Jessee, d 1902 aged 24 y. 11m. 26 d. and Levonah V. Jessee, dau of Francis B. and Lucinda, d. Sept. 8, 1876, aged . . and an Inf. dau of F.B. and Lucinda Jessee d. Feb. 8, 1862.. buried nearby Francis and Lucinda, their parents.

There was also a Mary E. Browning, wife of F.A. b. 1832 and d. 1875 and a William .J. Browning d. 1880 26 y. 2 m. 5 d. also Elizabeth Browning d. 1884 62 y. 5 and William B. Browning, d. 1890 71.y. 1m. 22d.*

There were also a number of Meade graves .. Mary E., wife of Andrew J., 1856-1909 and said Andrew J. Meade 1859-1935 .. both "born Russell Co., Va.". Also a John G. Meade 1884-1914 and Floy Meade 1912 20 y. 10 m. 4 d. There were a number of old Gray graves nearby but I did not know whether or not they fit in anyplace.. just did note the many inscribed with "born Russell Co., Va." on them. I did not write them all down .. just those that seemed familiar somehow or that I knew were some of my lines.

Back to p. 13, Paul Alexander (no mailing address) sent information about the George and Elizabeth (Gose) Alexander family. I have found information about them researching in Linn County, Missouri and other publications here and there, but not much. I found death of William Gilmer Alexander given by one researcher as on Apr. 29, 1865 and another gave May 16, 1892 .. quite a difference!! I never found where he or Elizabeth were buried.. or when for sure. I did find their son,, George Goss Alexander 1842-1925. . he died in Linn Co., MO and is buried at Jenkins Cemetery in that county. He was married to Ann Isabella Northcott in 1866 and she is buried as "Belle" beside him.

I was not able to find David Brawley Alexander in Linn or Sullivan County I understand from papers I came across that he may have gone to Elgen, Oregon.

I found this while looking for something else in my Sullivan Co., Missouri book.

"JESSEE, J.D.: (b. 1852 in Russell Co., Virginia), came with his parents to Miller Co., Mo. in 1856. They located permanently in Sullivan Co. in 1859. In 1874 he attended the select school of H.M. Peterson. He was a teacher for three years, farmed and sold sewing machines. In 1875 he married Susan E., daughter of Caleb Knifong. J.D. and Susan were the parents of: Elmer, Leroy A., Floy B., Chloe, and Walter B. The elder Jesses were members of the Christian Church, in which he was an elder, and he was a Democrat. He held the office as road overseer. The parents of J.D. were F.B. and Lucinda Williams Jessee, natives of Russell,.Co., Va. F.B. was a blacksmith and farmer by trade. F.B. and Lucinda were the parents of eight children. She died in 1880. After her death, Mr. Jessee married Miss Anna Dye of Va. In 1884 he opened a store in Browning. He was a Democrat, having served as magistrate."

"J.D." refers to Jerile Dodge Jessee. From my records it appears that four of "F.B." (Francis Browning) and Lucinda Jessee's children were born in Russell Co., Va. before they came to Missouri. Carolyn Maryland Jessee (Belt), b. 1848 Eliza Ann Jessee (Paulson), b. 1850 Jerile Dodge Jessee, b. 1852, and Harriet Elizabeth Jessee (Pearson), b. 1854.

So far as I found, Francis Browning Jessee and his second wife, Anna Dye Jessee did not have children. Two of Francis and Lucinda's died young,.. five married in Sullivan County, Missouri and for some reason I did not find a marriage record of Eliza Ann to Amos Paulson .. but would not be surprised if she did not marry him there too .. or in Linn County, just across the street.

Thot I would send this along to you to include with other information on Francis you may use for the Jessee newsletter. Well, I have rambled on much longer than I intended. Hope you will be able to sift thru and find a few items worth passing on. My good wishes to you,

Iris Lambert Hall

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PIONEER RE COLLECTIONS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

by **Eliju Jasper Sutherland**

From p. 427/8 - interview of Eliza Jane (McReynolds) Turner - Sept. 21, 1924, Reeds Valley by E.J. Sutherland

"I was born right here in this house on May 11, 1846. My parents were Isaac McReynolds and his wife, Susannah Walker. My father's parents were Joseph McReynolds and his wife, Rebecca Bolling I believe. My great-grandfather McReynolds was named Robert, but I never heard the name of his wife.

My grandfather, Joseph McReynolds, came here and bought a tract of land from John Husk, where my grandfather lived the rest of his life. He actually came from Burke's Garden in Tazewell County, Virginia, and he had three children when he came here.

One of his nearest neighbors was John Jessee, whose wife was named Frankie. They lived where your uncle, Elihu K. Counts, now lives, just a short distance down Reeds Valley from here. Mr. Jessee and Grandpa were neighbors while they lived in Burke's Garden and I have heard that they also came together to Burke's Garden from North Carolina. They were said to have been together in the Revolutionary War and at the Battle of King's Mountain. They were at Buffalo Mountain, or some such name, during the war, and the Tories tried to surround them. Someone sent a boy to warn Colonel Campbell, the American commander. The colonel shouted to his servant: 'Jump hop, skip and run and fetch Young Selim out here quick!' This was done and the Americans escaped. Colonel Campbell loaded the boy with gifts.

Tom Colley and his son, John Colley, lived up the valley a short distance from Grandpa's where Sam Jessee now lives at the crossroads to Cleveland and Lebanon. After Uncle Tom and Uncle John died, some of Uncle John's children, and I believe his widow, built a boat in Clinch River, where the town of Cleveland now stands, and went down the Clinch to Missouri.

Some of the Kisers lived on Clinch River near what is now Carbo. Some of their names were Ab, Eph, Joe and John.

Several of the old Jessees are buried in the graveyard on the E.K. Counts farm near here. Among them

were Old John Jessee and his wife, Frankie, and his son, George and his wife, Elizabeth. I was at the burials of Uncle George and Aunt Elizabeth. She died a good bit first. One of their grandsons, Emmitt Jessee, lives down at Cleveland, Virginia, and a granddaughter, Causby Breeding, lives above Cleveland on Clinch River. Jackie Counts who married my father's sister, Aunt Phoebe McReynolds, lived down on Clinch River, just above the mouth of Mill Creek. He and his wife were both buried at the bottom below their old house. She died sudden. He was a small man, with one of his eyes smaller than the other.

John Jessee had one slave. James Smith had some slaves. One of his slaves was named Pete, and he waited on Mr. Smith when he was old and feeble

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I. John Jesse, Jr

John Jesse, Jr. (1775-1834) married **Mary “Polly” Armstrong** (1780-1840) and they had six children. This is the editor’s line.

ROY LEE HONAKER and his sister **TINA HONAKER WILLIAMS**, corresponded in April 1999, providing photos of the Civil War memorial headstone for **Jefferson B. Jesse** (son of **Jefferson Jesse**, son of John Jr.) along with photos of their Civil War reenactment activities. See featured photographs on newsletter cover. This same headstone, found in the Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA, was referred to by **Irene Jesse Perry** in the last newsletter. Roy and Tina are Civil War reenactors and members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of the Confederate Veterans. When they joined the UDC and SCU, they had to show an ancestor who fought for the Confederacy. They chose Jefferson B. Jesse. Tina provided a gravestone. His remains rest near Gen. Pickett in the Gettysburg section of the Hollywood Cemetery.

From information provided by **Marshall Jefferson Jesse** in his book, *The Jesses of Russell County, Virginia*, and additional information by **Roger Owens** and Roy and his sister, we know that Jefferson was in Co. E, 37th Virginia Infantry. He was engaged in battle at Gettysburg all three days, July 1, 2, 3, 1863, in the area of Culp's Hill. On July 3rd he and his Regiment were beside the 1st Maryland when an assault was made that morning to try and turn the Union flank. As the 8th flag carrier in Pickett's famous charge up Little Round Top, he was shot down, got up, advanced with the flag flying and was shot down again. When his comrade, Henry Steele, reached him, he found Jefferson shot through both thighs. Seven men had already been killed carrying this flag on that fatal day. Soon the retreat was ordered and the tide of battle poured back over the slopes littered with the dead and dying. Jefferson was never again seen by his comrades.

He is on the “Roll of Prisoners of War” and was taken to Union XII Corp hospital in & about Gettysburg, PA and died there July 4, 1863. He appears on a register of soldiers who were killed in battle or who died of wounds or disease: "Gun shot wound left leg compound fracture. Remarks: Amputation." Jefferson B. Jesse was reinterred in Richmond, VA at Hollywood Cemetery in 1870 along with several thousand others.

Tina Honaker Williams arranged a headstone for Jefferson B Jessee only recently. Roy and Tina are descended from **Ezekial Counts**, son of **John Counts of Glade Hollow** and a brother of **Nancy Counts** who married Jefferson Jessee. Thank you for doing this very good deed for your cousin, Roy and Tina; the Jessee Family appreciates you.

C. J. "JESS" EVANS (jevans@adisfwb.com) provided new descendants information for **William M. Jessee**, son of **David "Davy" Jessee**, son of **John Jessee III**, son of John Jr.

JAMES DANA HALL (jdhall@ezwv.com) who goes by "Dana" provided, 12/1999, descendants information for the **Rev. William Henry Hall** who married **Sarah Jessee**, da. of **Isaac Jessee**, son of **John Jessee III**, son of John Jr. Dana provided a GEDCOM file and a copy of Sarah Jessee and William Henry Hall's marriage bond and certificate. He indicates that he has additional information on William Henry Hall's ancestors and the **Pope Family** as well. For more information email him or go to his website www.ezwv.com/~jdhall/hall.

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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.

ED MARSH (emarsh@SPC.cc.tx.us) provided, 10/20-26/1999, information and commentary which follows. **This has a proper caution regarding the Irish pedigree of the Candler family** as recorded in the Jessee Family database.

"I am a CANDLER researcher and one branch of the family, children of **John Candler, Jr.** (1765-1855), married multiply into the Jessee family. John Candler, Jr. moved to Russell Co., VA from Campbell Co., in about 1795. All these children were born there.

Elizabeth Candler ma. **Vincent Jessee** (1822)

Nancy Candler ma. **James Browing Jessee**

George W. Candler ma. **Dicy Jessee**

(All of the above Jessees are children of Archer Jessee)

Dorothy Candler ma. **John Jessee** (son of David Jessee)

John Candler, Jr. (1765-1832) and Dorothy Stovall (1778-1855) were married in Campbell County, Virginia on 24 July 1799. John Candler, Jr. was the son of John Candler, Sr. (c1730-1802) and Elizabeth Gibson (c1730-before 1801).

John Candler, Sr. was the son of Daniel Candler (c1700-1765) and Hannah (last name unknown) who survived Daniel (she was mentioned in his will).

Interestingly, in 1759, John Candler, Sr. bought the Lynch homestead in Bedford County, VA (this area became Campbell Co. in 1782). This was the home where Charles and Sarah Clark Lynch raised their children. John Candler, Jr. was probably born and raised there. The Lynches and Candler were neighbors and founding members of the Quaker church at South River Settlement (present-day Lynchburg). Charles Lynch, Jr. (after whom "lynching" was named) became a Col. in the Revolution and owned the lead mine near Fort Chiswell, VA. John Lynch (Charles, Jr's brother) would found Lynchburg in 1786.

By 1769, John Lynch owned a mill (he was an absentee landlord) in present-day Russell County (later it would

be called Bickley's Mill). The Candler boys -John, Sr. (above) and William (1736-1784)- were doing a lot of surveying and exploring in western Virginia in the late 1750's and early 1760's. William Candler contracted to bring supplies to Fort Frederick (near present-day Radford, VA) during the French-Indian War.

My hunch is that John Candler, Sr. had some land in present-day Russell County and his son John, Jr. (fourth-born son) went out there to take up residence in the 1790's. There was once a town of Candler, VA in Russell County. It was located at the present intersection of state roads 614 and 644 and was on Meads Creek of the Clinch River. There is a Candler Cemetery located near-by. Candler, VA was just east of Castlewood (Cassell's woods) where Bickley's Mill was located. By the way, just east of Candler, VA was Jessee's Mill.

All the Irish Candler historical data [as recorded in this database] is probably false - certainly never proven true. Most is based on the book Colonel William Candler of Georgia.... by Allen Daniel Candler (his great-grandson) which was written in 1890. I know (or know of) the people you mentioned. I am in frequent contact with Virginia Bennett and with Mrs. Glenn Turnell of Asheville, NC who is the genealogist who found and published the Candler-Stovall or Candler-Frick family Bible (of which I have copies). I certainly hope you will state that the early Candler history is pure speculation, circulated for years yet never proved, and probably false. It comes from a time when romance was more important than truth. I extend my offer to use my name and website as a reference:" <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Cottage/9778/>

DON DORTCH (DonD1226@aol.com) sent, 9/17/1999, this follow-up to Newsletter 15.

In regard to your August NEWSLETTER on page 28, I have the correct information for you. I am Donald Dortch of Glenwood Springs, Co. I made a trip to Clairborne County TN to get it all straight.

John W. C. Jessee is the son of **Thomas Jefferson Jessee**, from the **Vincent** and **Elizabeth Candler Jessee** Family. **Cora** is daughter of **John, W. G.** and **Sarah M. Senter**. John was born in TN and came to MO as an infant.

Thomas M. Jessee and **Frank** were younger brothers of John. Vincent was the second child of Archer Jessee. **Lucy Jane** was the wife of **Thomas Jefferson** (my great Grand parents). **Susan Alice** was the youngest in the family, **Frank N. (Gray)** was her husband and lived in Fayetteville Ark. This should fix this confusion

And as a follow-up to the follow-up, the Editor asks, how is the Frank N. Gray mentioned above related to the following?

GRAY NEWMAN (Dibloc@aol.com) sent, 11/10/1999, this note and accompanying information. Gray, a descendant of Archer's daughter **Nancy Jessee** who married **Nelson Gray**, provided over 60 newly recorded descendants of Nancy Jessee Gray.

Hello Mr. Jessee;

First, I must thank you for the work you have put into this page, I have spent several hours gathering info from it but I must say I am hurt, my line is not included, just kidding about being hurt. I am descended from John and Frankie (but it seems who isn't) through their son Archer and his wife Nancy Browning, then through their daughter Nancy who married Nelson Gray. I see that you have two of Nelson and Nancy's children listed but there were eight total. I am from one of the missing six. I would love to share with you what I have so maybe we could be listed on your page [I gladly accepted and this is now available on the database].

Here is my line:

Nelson Gray and Nancy Jessee

Henry Francis Gray m. Mary Alice Shomaker

Lucy Eva Gray m. Dr. Robert Henry Newman

Robert Henry Newman Jr. m. Vera Inez Coleman

William Gray Newman m. Juliet Ann Mabe

William Gray Newman Jr. (me)

NANCY GRAY DRAKE (nancy809@hotmail.com) first contacted me and also provided, 12/15/1999, desendants information for **Nancy Lee Jessee** who married **Nelson Gray**.

I have found your site and read it with great interest. My family tree branches are completely in Russell Co. VA with both sides of my family being connected to the Brownings and Vermillions. I have only begun to scratch the surface so far but I see a definite connection between the Gray and Jessee sides of my father's family too.

What I have gathered so far is that my family is descended from both Archer Jessee and from Martin Jessee (2 sons of John Sr. and Frankey Lea). Archer Jessee m. Nancy Browning. Their son Vincent Jessee (b. 9 Aug. 1800) m. Elizabeth Candler. Vincent and Elizabeth's son Archer Samuel Jessee (b.1823) married Christina Jessee (b. 1824) daughter of Martin and Jane Price Jessee.

Archer S. and Christina Jessee's daughter Elizabeth Jane (Bess) Jessee (b. 1850) married Edward Dolan Gray (my g-grandfather). To backtrack, Edward Dolan Gray (b. abt. 1842) was the son of Nelson Gray (b. 1800- d. 1867 s/o James Gray and Elizabeth Doran) who had married Nancy Lee Jessee (b. 1811- 1871) daughter of Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning.

Nelson Gray and Nancy Lee Jessee had 9 children:

1. Elizabeth D. "Bettie" b. 1832 d. 1896 m. I.B. Fickle

2. James Harvey b. abt 1833
3. Margaret "Pug" b. 25 Mar 1835 d. 27 Aug 1891 married Charles Carrell later married P. Browning.
4. Archer Jessee Gray b. 3 Sept. 1837 d. 20 May 1919 m. Mary Seacatt
5. William Nelson Gray b. abt. 1839 d. 1895 m. Elizabeth

Gose

6. Edward Dolan Gray b. 22 June 1842 m. 1871 Elizabeth Jane (Bess) grandd/o Martin and Jane Price Jessee.
Edward Dolan and two (maybe three) of his brothers were in the Confederate Army having served in 37th Calvary Jackson's Division Com. C. Edward was captured 12 May 1864 during the Battle of Spotsylvania and was taken to Fort Delaware for the duration of the conflict. He was released 20 June 1865 and returned to Russell Co. My father has the documentation stating the facts of the P.O.W. status.
7. Robert Emmett b. abt. 1846
8. Henry Francis Gray b. abt. 1849 d. 28 Dec. 1922 m. Mary Alice Shoemaker d/o Reynolds Sheppard Shoemaker and Rachel Gilmer. Henry and Alice had approx. 10 children. I have the names of 10 anyway.
9. Charles Carroll Preston Gray b. 01 June 1849 d. 01 April 1913 m. Leah Banner. I have the name of 10 children for them also.

Edward Dolan and Bess Jessee had 8 children:

1. Walter Preston " Colonel" Gray b. 1872 MO. - 1972 VA
2. Charles William Gray b. 1874 Mo. and d. 1962 Va.
3. Maude Ellen Gray b. 1877 Mo. and d. 1966 Va
4. Ethel died in infancy in Missouri
5. James Paul Carroll Gray b. 1883 d. 1972 m Bettie Shoemaker
6. Fred Garnet Gray b. 1886 d. 1964
7. Nelson Gray b. 20 May 1888 d. 5 June 1933 married Patty Hargis b. 01 Nov. 1898 d. 07 May 1988 d/o William L. Hargis and Mollie Powers.
8. Kate Gent Gray b. 1892-1974 m. Shoemaker

Nelson Gray and Patty Hargis Gray had three children

1. Elizabeth Jane (Bess) b. 1919 d. 1989 married Charles S. Hargis. Children Charles S. Hargis, Jr. b. 10 Aug. 1948 and Elizabeth Jane b. 09 Feb. 1950 d. 23 June 1967
2. Mary Katheryn Gray b. 23 April 1923 d. Aug. 1997 married Archie Armstrong. 2 children Patricia Armstrong Pido b. 8 April 1949 and Archie Armstrong, Jr. b. 08 Aug. 1952 d. Oct. 1993
3. Nelson Gray, Jr. b. 28 April 1927 married (07 Oct 1950)Doris Wilson White b. 11 April 1927 d/o John Clyde White and Eula Burns Wilson.

Nelson Jr. and Doris have three daughters:

1. Nancy Elizabeth Gray b. 09 Aug. 1952 (me !!) m. Ronald Drake
2. Susan Doris Gray b. 01 Feb. 1955 m. Alan Giles
3. Eula Patty Gray b. 08 Jan. 1958 m. Jerry Smith

By now I'm sure you are totally confused, but I wanted to fill in some of the blanks as far as our branch of the family is concerned. I still need to pin down some of the dates. As I have only scratched the surface of this whole thing, I certainly can appreciate all the hard work that you have put into the Jessee's.

My dad Nelson Gray and I both live in Mountain City Tennessee. We are only about 1 hour from Russell County and have been there extensively while I was growing up. I am anxious to go and look up some hard copies at the courthouse of what I have found so far. I hope you can use some of this information and I look forward to hearing from you sometime in the future.

Nancy Elizabeth Gray Drake

362 Cabbage Patch Lane

Mountain City, TN 37683

423-727-8547 FAX 423-727-9395

e-mail address nancy809@ hotmail.com

In subsequent correspondence Nancy gave permission to print the above in this newsletter and added these additional notes, commenting on her name as a family tradition.

All of the information that I have has not been documented as far as a hard copy goes. Much of it came from the Russell Co. History Book, and their web-site about birth, death records, etc. I did have a lot of family information, too.

Even though I'm sure it was not planned, I have found it interesting that my name is the same of the names of the two Jessee women that married into the Gray family - Nancy Browning and Elizabeth Jessee. And my birthday is the same as Vincent Jessee (s/o Archer). And I'm sure that wasn't planned!

Since my father's father (Nelson, s/o Edward D. and Elizabeth Jessee Gray) died when my dad (Nelson Gray, Jr.) was only 6 years old, he did not have the benefit of hearing family tales and history when he was old enough to remember them. He was close to the rest of the family, but that is not quite the same as hearing all the tales over the supper table. Thank you so much for all your hard work on this. Have a wonderful holiday with your family.

BILLIE GAIL MADISON HENDERSON (whenderson1@kc.rr.com) provided, 12/5/1999, information regarding herself and her pedigree. She is a descendant of **William Thorn Madison**, and indicates she had additional ancestry information for William Thorn Madison who married **Edith Mae Wilson**, a descendant of **Frances Howard** and **Elizabeth Jessee**, da. of **Archer Jessee**. In subsequent correspondence Billie provided extensive descendants information for this branch of the family.

DAN WOLFE(Birkenwolf@aol.com) of Clive, IA provided, 12/6/1999, information identifying **Charles Byrd Crittenden**, his birth, pedigree and sibling. Charles married **Laura Nancy Wilson**, a sister of **Edith Mae Wilson**, mentioned above, a descendant of **Frances Howard** and **Elizabeth Jessee**, da. of Archer Jessee.

NANCY WAINWRIGHT, wife of **Jeffrey Lee Jessee**, (nsw@alaska.net) provided the following note, 9/7/1999. Jeff is a descendant of **Theodore Robert Jessee**, son of **John Allen**, son of **Archer L.**, son of Archer Jessee. Nancy provides some vital genetic information. Nancy and I would be interested in learning if other branches of the family have this experience.

Dear Jim,

I just happened upon your website as I was playing around on the internet with my son, and we decided to look up everyone in our family's name. We hit the jackpot with my husband's name: Jeff Jessee! My husband Jeff (of Anchorage Alaska) is the son of John William Jessee of Sacramento (now 88 years old) who was a descendent of Theodore Robert Jessee (called "TR") from Missouri. My father-in-law, John William Jessee, told me that his father's family was originally from Virginia.

I'll find out where in Missouri they came from, but I noticed that some Jessees on your lists had migrated west to Missouri from Virginia, and thought that my husband's family might be descendants of one of the original 15 Jessees that you are seeking.

There are lots of Jessee descendents in the Sacramento area from this family, and if you wish, I can supply you with their names etc. Thanks for all of your work, and I look forward to your response.

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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.

JOAN HAYWARD HELM (pjhelm@pcpartner.net) provided, 11/27/1999, information regarding the family of **Elijah Bishop** whose daughter **Mary Bishop** ma. **Oliver Jessee**, son of William Jessee.

My husband's family is descended from Mary Bishop's brother **Joseph Preston Bishop**. One of their ancestors in the early 1900's wrote down names and dates in a journal and that is how I started on their family. Joseph's and his descendants lived in Lee Co. VA, Hancock Co. TN and then Nodaway Co. MO. I am going to post our GEDCOM soon to this site and keep in mind that some of the dates are from family records, I have found them to be off here and there once I get to the actual sources.

This site is on the Bishop family and includes your Elijah Bishop family. This page takes you directly to your Mary.

<http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/t/i/n/Samuel-D-Tiner/BOOK-0001/0003-0015.html#CHILD167>

This website is about Stamford, CT and its early settlers including **John Bishop**. It includes the **Stephen Bishop** from which Elijah is descended. http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctfairfi/stamford/settlers_page.htm

I have been organizing my husband's family information from their private papers including a copy of a **Bishop** family diary that starts with Elijah Bishop of Lee Co. VA. The following is just some basic info and if it applies to you please contact me and I can send you more detailed info. Please note that this family is known for having twins.

Also if you have any info, pictures or the like please let me know, I would love to surprise my mother-in-law with additional information.

Known Migration:

Lee Co. VA to Hancock Co. TN to Harrison Co. MO to Nodaway Co. MO

Elijah Bishop-14 Sept 1793/VA

12 Apr 1862

married 3 Oct 1811/Lee, VA to

Levina **Clark** 30 Mar 1795/Charlotte, VA

29 July 1886

(I believe her parents are Robert **Clark** & Judith **Weaver**)

Children-all born in Lee Co. VA

1. Elisha Bishop-27 Oct 1812
2. Mary D. Bishop-12 March 1814
3. Pleasant A. Bishop-27 June 1816
4. Joseph Preston Bishop-10 Dec 1817
5. Robert Clark Bishop-19 Nov 1820
6. Jonathan Bishop-14 Nov 1822
7. Nancy W. Bishop-11 Oct 1824
8. Lavina Bishop-17 Nov 1826
9. Lucy Bishop-07 Dec 1828
10. Judath C. Bishop-23 Jan 1831
11. Elijah Spottswood Bishop-18 July 1833
12. Issac T. Bishop-14 April 1836
13. Rebecca T. Bishop-14 April 1836

14. James Bishop-10 May 1838

4. Joseph Preston Bishop

b-10 Dec 1817/Lee Co. VA

d-abt 2 Sep 1897/Martinsville, MO

m. 16 Sept 1841 to

Martha Parson

b. 10 January 1823

Children-born in either Lee Co. VA or Hancock Co. TN

1. Phebe Ann Bishop-21 July 1842/VA
2. Levina Jane Bishop-13 Feb 1844/VA
3. William Preston Bishop-01 Mar 1846/VA
4. Elijah Washington Bishop-26 Dec 1847/VA or TN
5. Elisha Olivor Bishop-12 Feb 1850/TN
6. Robert Edward Bishop-16 Feb 1852/TN
7. James George Bishop-30 July 1854/TN
8. J.B.F. Bishop-25 Dec 1856/TN
9. Evan Spencer Bishop-2 April 1859/VA
10. Martha Elizabeth E. Bishop-21 Mar 1861/VA
11. Thomas Shelby Bishop-4 Mar 1863/VA

Elijah Washington Bishop

b-26 Dec 1847

d-1935/MO

m. 03 Oct 1867 to Mary Elizabeth Larmer

b. 03 Mar 1849

d. 19 July 1920/MO

Mary Larmer dau of John Larmer and Elizabeth Allen (have info on both names)

Children

1. William Vance Bishop-6 Feb 1869
2. Emmet F. Bishop-10 Nov 1875-
(from whom my husband descended)
3. Charles Evans Bishop-22 Oct 1875
4. Mattie Bishop
5. Dorsey Marvin Bishop-1877

All information provided by Joan Hayward Helm

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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.

TED GOSE (tedg@rapac.com) invites Gose family members to participate in his **Gose Family Web Site** at www.myfamily.com. Three of John and Frankey's children, Lea, Elizabeth and Boedicia married children of Stephen and Barbara Catron (Ketron) Gose, Barbara, George, and Stephen Jr.

This website contains information on the Gose family genealogy covering the first four or five generations of our descendants in the US including GEDCOM files, photos, and family history articles contributed by family members.

The website can only be accessed with a user name and password. The website is free and we are encouraging as many Gose Family relatives as is possible to participate.

To learn more and get permission to use this website, email Ted Gose at the address above, or call him evenings at 901-757-2408.

Ted Gose's website will also lead you to this *must see* site for Gose Family researchers.

BUTCH BOHL'S FamilyTreeMaker Page: Descendants of Johann Stephan Gosse, Sr. [Http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/b/o/h/H-B-Bohl/GENE2-0001.html](http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/b/o/h/H-B-Bohl/GENE2-0001.html). Here is a sample of what is to be found there.

1. JOHANN STEPHEN1 GOSE, SR. was born Abt. 1738 in STRASBOURG, ALSACE - LORRAINE, GERMANY, and died Bef. August 10, 1799 in CRIPPLE CREEK, WYTHE COUNTY, VIRGINIA. He married (1) ANNA CATHARINA SPRACHER Abt. 1759 in LYNN TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA, daughter of JOHANN SPRACHER and MARIA BECK. He married (2) ELIZABETH (LIZZIE) SPRACHER Abt. 1778 in WYTHE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, daughter of JOHANN SPRACHER and MARIA BECK.

Notes for JOHANN STEPHEN GOSE, SR.:

Several books have been published over the past several years with reference to the immigrant Stephen Gose who arrived at the port of Philadelphia September 22, 1752 from Rotterdam, on the ship Brothers. Although some articles state that three other brothers immigrated to America, I can find no record of their names.

Several books that have been used as source data by various GOSE researchers over the years include, but are not limited to:

1. Annals of Tazewell County, John Newton Harman, Sr.
2. Early Adventures on the Western Waters, Vol III, Kegley
3. Gose Book 2nd edition, Thelma Pearl Yost
4. Pioneers of the Virginia Bluegrass, George B. Gose

While comparing the data listed in the above, as well as other family data provided by other GOSE family researchers, several discrepancies are found. Without describing in detail the location of the various discrepancies, the following is offered as major areas that require further research and/or verification:

****Birth Date****

A review of above data indicates Steven was born in Alsace-Lorraine, Gemany in either 1719, 1738/1739, 1740 or 1745 and the following notes are offered:

1. He arrived in America at the age of 14 in 1752, which supports that he was born about 1738/1739.
2. He married Elizabeth, his second wife when he was 40, and after he arrived into what was then Montgomery Co Virginia about 1779, which also supports that he was born about 1738/1739.
3. He died in Wythe Co Virginia before August 10th, 1799 when his estate was appraised and he was about 60, which again supports the 1738/1739 date of birth.
4. He died in Wythe Co Virginia at the age of 80, which would tend to support the 1718/1719 date of birth.
5. Other data have him listed as being born in 1740 and 1745.

Pending further proof, I have elected to use the birth date of 1738/1739.

****Marriages and Children****

Again, comparing the books and data provided by other GOSE family reserchers, it's confusing at best trying to determine the Mother and actual birth places of all the children. Some data have children born in Pennsylvania, after the family was supposed to have relocated to Rowan Co, North Carolina, while other data have children born to one wife, after he had married the other. Some questions that need documenting are:

1. Did Catherine, his first wife die in North Carolina or in Virginia, and when did she die?
2. If Stephen married Elizabeth, his second wife about 1779, did they marry in Rowan Co, North Carolina or in Montgomery Co Virginia?
3. Catherine, his first wife was the Mother of at least nine (9) of his children, and Elizabeth was the Mother of four (4) of his children. Reference is made to 15 children...does this include the two that died young? Did Elizabeth in fact bare eleven (11) children?

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V. David Jessee

Reverend David Jessee (1783-1856) married **Catherine “Katie” Banner** (1788-1860) and had thirteen children.

KENNETH HUGH JESSEE (micro@calweb.com) provided, 11/19/1999, the following information. Ken and his family are one of four known major branches of the Jessee family which settled in Northern California. [The editor’s family moved from Champaign and Douglas Co., IL to Chico, Butte Co., CA about 1908.]

My name is Kenneth Hugh Jessee. My wife and I live about 1 ½ hours south of Chico in the city of Woodland. I've wondered for years if we were distant relatives of the Jessees in Chico and now I've found info on the internet (www.jessee.org) that indicates that we are. I am a direct descendant of John Jessee Sr. (born 1750). I found my family tree at www.ancestry.com. It was researched and submitted by a woman by the name **Victoria Ring** who seems to move around the east coast.

Here is the route my tree takes to get back to John Sr.

John Jessee Sr. 1750 - 11/17/1815

David Jessee 3/6/1783 - 4/8/1856

John Jessee 1816 - 12/3/1891

Samuel Patton Jessee Sr. 8/27/1835 - 5/21/1864

William Wright Jessee 8/17/1862 - 11/13/1942

William Hugh Jessee 8/17/1883 - 5/6/1938

Hugh William Jessee (my Dad) 6/26/1916 - 10/6/87

Kenneth Hugh Jessee (me) 11/25/1945

I just found your web page yesterday afternoon so I haven't had time to take a close look at it. Will be going thru it over the next few days to see if I can figure out how we are related. My dad's twin brother Hubert B. Jesse and his wife Mary Katherine lived in Oroville for many years, Aunt Kitty contacted some of the Jesses in Chico to try to find out if they were long lost relatives, but had no luck. Hubert passed away 7 years ago and Kitty passed away 5 years ago.

Too bad she didn't find me -- editor.

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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.

MARILYN STONE REEVES (markyivan@webtv.net) provided, 11/29/1999, descendants information for **John Stone** and **Rebecca Sergeant** which provides valuable new information and calls into question our assumption that all members of this family moved to Missouri.

Hi, Jim. Your Francis Jessee that ma. William Stone (Russell then Scott CO. Va) had son John ma. Rebecca Sergeant. This John and Rebecca had William H., Martin G., John M., George W., Stephen J., James B., and Rudy, Martha, Mary, and Hanna (Stone).

John's and Rebecca's son Martin G. ma Sarah Pendleton in Scott Co. VA. They had children Ira T(rigg), Helen, Samuel, James B., and Martin G. Ira T. was my ggrandfather and I can supply their info: Ira moved to Johnson Co., KY sometime in the late 1800's. He ma. Araminta (Susan) Meade. He ran a sawmill and post office. The 1910 Johnson Co. census shows Ira-52, wife Susan-45, Everett 21, Laura 18, Earl T 16, Victoria 14, Armintie 10, Ollie 9, Junie 6, Jervie 3.

Everett (who had married a Eula Adams but died at an early age of which I'm still trying to get details). Also buried there are son Earl T and though the cemetery has about 10 others, I can't name them. The cemetery is on 825S.

I will continue my work on these Stones and can't believe how time consuming it is to find new info. I've sent your site to multitudes of people that apparently are searching these same Stones.

She followed this with more detailed information on 11/30/1999.

Your Frankey Jessee m William Stone had son John J. [Do you suppose Jessee?] m Rebecca Sergeant. Their son Martin m Sarah Pendleton in Scott CO. Va were my ggrandparents. Martin and Sarah had son Ira Trigg b Apr 26 1856 d Apr 10 1936 m Araminta (Susan) Meade b Jan 1865 d ca 1950 in Fayette Co., OH but buried in the Stone cemetery in Johnson CO. Ky. They were married and had all their children in Johnson CO. Ky:

1 Maducia "Ducie" b 1884 m Clint Salyer in Johnson Co.

2 Everett James b Mar 1888 m Eula Adams in Johnson Co, he died in 1921 and buried in the Stone cemetery there. Per LDS and contact with Eula's granddaughter, Eula took her daughters to Wash. State and remained there until her death.

3 Laura May b 1885 info unknown

4 * Earl Trigg (my grandfather) b Apr 21 1883 m Alma Howard b Aug 16 1902 on Jan 31, 1920. Earl T died in Johnson CO. Jan 25, 1929.

5 Victoria b 1886 info unknown

6 Armintie b 1888-1889 info unknown but believe this is Mint that m. a Day and d. in Fayette CO. Ohio

7 Ollie b 18 Jun 1900 m Mel but believe this was his second marriage. He had 3 children, believe 2 are deceased.

8 Junie 1903 per Johnson CO. census

9 Jervie 1906 per Johnson CO. census unknown

4 *Earl Trigg and Alma Howard had children b. in Johnson CO.

4.1 Ruth b Nov 24 1920, d Nov 8 1994 in Fayette CO. Ohio m (L).

2 Ruby F b Oct 13 1922 d Sept 21 1940

3 Everett b Jun 1924 m Nancy?(L) he d Feb 14 1990 Fayette CO. Oh

4 Betty b Nov 19 1925 m (L) Betty d ca 1990 Fayette CO. Ohio

5 Minnie Sue b Feb 2 1927 deceased info unknown

6 Earl (L) m Jane (L)

My parents were m in Fayette CO. Ohio and there are still a few descendants there. Most of this info came from census records, genweb posted records, Ruth Stone's records, SSDI, Ky Death index and family traditional genealogy. There were slight discrepancies in the 1880 and 1900 census but I don't think it causes any gross distortions and again, I hope it at least supplies some help to you and other researchers.

JACKIE JONES (jacknbill@newwave.net) wrote, 8/14/1999, with more information regarding the descendants of **Noah Milburn Reynolds** who married **Mary Chaney Stone**, da. of William and Frances Jessee Stone.

Hello Jim,

I was in touch with you quite awhile ago and I promised you some info on Mary Chaney's family. I had computer "difficulties" and am just now getting back to where I was. I lost everything including your E-Mail address.

My great great grandmother is Sarah Ann Reynolds d/o Mary Chaney Stone & Noah Milburn Reynolds. (I have 11 children listed for Noah and Mary Stone, thanks to our cousin's wife, **Janeen Reynolds**). Sarah was born March 14, 1833 in Scott Co., VA & died Sept 2, 1892 in Wayne Co., WV & married Jonas Powers 1848 s/o Forrest Powers & Mary Alley.

Sarah & Jonas' son, Wade H Powers (my ggrandfather) was born Jan 7, 1851 Scott Co., VA died Aug 8, 1924 Wayne Co., WV married 1882 Ida Shuff. Their daughter, Rebecca Powers was born Feb 5, 1883 Wayne Co., WV died March 25, 1964 married Zachariah Taylor Ross Oct 4, 1905 Wayne Co., WV s/o James Madison Ross, Jr & Mariah Jane Osburn.

Rebecca & Taylor's son, Muss, was born Dec 21, 1913 Wayne Co, WV died Jan 12, 1997 m Sept 2, 1938 Cleo Evelyn Jack d/o Clarence Cecil Jack & Zetta Ann Arthur. I am the daughter of Muss & Cleo Jack Ross, Elva M. "Jackie" Ross Jones.

I have located 11 children for Jonas & Sarah, 7 are buried in the Mt Vernon Cemetery, Wayne Co., WV (Off Rt. 152 & Big Creek Road) near their parents, as well as grandchildren & great grandchildren. Jonas served in the Civil War and I have copies of his service record. I also have pictures of most of these tomb stones.

My cousin, Lorna Corns-Workman has a web site now, and has part of the descendants on her page. She has an error on my grandparents' descendants, mainly my Aunt Mary's husband's parents. It should read Alvie Ashworth s/o Roy L. and Hester Spurlock Ashworth and my Aunt Elva's husbands are reversed (Boy - would she have a fit

if she knew that - the first one wasn't very happy but she got a wonderful son from John Canady!).

Lorna's web site is:

<http://www.newwave.net/-pworkman/lorna.htm>

She also has obits on there but the descendants are under Powers Research Page. If you want any of my info, please just let me know. I am more than willing to share info, pictures, etc.

Jackie Jones

2107 Fairlawn Ve., #48

Dunbar, WV 25064

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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.

JACK HOCKETT, of St. David’s Place, PA is a descendant and the main contributor to research on this branch of the family. His work has appeared in previous issues of this newsletter, and in several significant genealogy publications. He has been collaborating for a number of years with **Kathryn Burke Greever** and **Imogene Burke Verbal** on genealogy research, which has greatly benefitted the Jessee family. Please see the discussion under Rebecca Jessee Burk below.

X. Boedicia Jessee Gose

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

See the Gose Family discussion under Lea Jessee 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.

IRIS LAMBERT HALL, a descendant of James Jessee, is a regular contributor. Please see her outstanding contribution this month under John and Frankey Jessee.

PAUL BALLINTINE (pballintine@home.com) provided via email, 9/1/1999, the following information. He speculates that his ancestor **Fleming Jessee**, is the same as Fleming Burk Jessee, Jr. We have no proof that they are one and the same but the locale and age of these two Fleming Jessees does coincide. The following is a description of Paul's Fleming Jessee, as told by his granddaughter Yvonne Carson Ballintine, who is Paul's mother.

Fleming Jessee was the youngest of 16 children born in Admant, Virginia. Admant, Virginia no longer exists. It was located in the Cumberland mountains of Virginia where the 3 states (Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee) come together. The heart of "Hill Billy" country.

At the age of 28, Fleming Jessee was widowed with 4 children (3 boys and a girl). He married 16-year-old Alpha Thomas, the youngest of 3 sisters (Cora and Dora). In 1902, when my mother, Verna, was 5 years old, they emigrated across the States in an emigrant train with 3 of Fleming Jessee's oldest children (the daughter remained behind; she was only 5 years younger than her step-mother), and 3 of their own, Myrtle, Verna, and baby Jennie.

They homesteaded in Stevens County, Washington, about 50 miles north of Spokane in hill country about the same as they left in Virginia. The closest town was Colville, 8 miles away which was an all day trip and back by mule wagon. They were farmers barely making an existence. All the children left the farm as soon as they could, mostly working on the railroad. Two of Fleming's sons by his first marriage were killed on the railway. The oldest son lived to be 96 years old.

LESTER SHADRICK (Ishad@mounet.corn) wrote 11/12/1999 and again 11/16/1999.

Greetings Jim,

Just another "new" cousin checking in. My name is Lester Shadrick, son of **Bessie (Jessee) Shadrick**, grandson of **George Dewey Jessee**, g grandson of **Robert Fleming Jessee**, gg grandson of **James A. Jessee**, ggg grandson of **Fleming Burk Jessee**. I have been researching my family tree for some 25 years, but, only a few months on line. I was quite surprised (and pleased) to find your website last night.

I'm one of those who travelled around some, then returned home to southwest Virginia. My family and I live in Scott County, near Natural Tunnel State Park. We live about 5 miles from the ancestral homeplace. Fleming B. Jessee bought land there in the 1860's after leaving his Russell County home.

The 2 little guys are buried at the "Old" Jessee Cemetery at the homeplace at Mabe. This cemetery is in a very remote location (it took me 2 days to find it), and very few people know about it. The last burial there was J. A. "Abe" Jessee Jr. in 1957. There is another Jessee graveyard about a mile from this one (older, and even more remote), that has 2 marked graves and several more unmarked. Anyway, back to the 2 little guys. Their tombstones read:

Henry Bascom son of C. L. & Bell Jessee Nov 13, 1914-Oct 17, 1915 (inscribed) Asleep in Jesus peaceful rest whose waking is supremely blest

Auther Atice son of C. L. & Bell Jessee Aug 29, 1912-Sept 3, 1915 (inscribed) no pains no griefs no anxious fear

can reach our loved one sleeping here

These are the children of "Charlie" and Belle Jessee. Keep up the good work!

On 11/16/1999 Lester followed up with this very important addition to our knowledge about **Fleming Burk Jessee** and his family.

I noticed that you have in your data, that Mary "Polly" Browning Jessee died in Russell County after 1860. This is possible I suppose, but, I know that she and her husband Flemming B. Jessee were still living in 1883. I have a copy of a title bond dated July 9, 1883 (Scoff County) concerning some land, that reads in part ... that James A. Jessee binds himself to take care proper care, or that he sees that Flemman B. Jessee (sic) and Mary Jessee his wife and our mother is cared for during their natural lives...

Now, In my last letter I mentioned the older cemetery with 2 marked graves, and others unmarked. The marked ones read:

Rebecca Jessee - Born April 5, 1848 / Died Nov 6, 1895 "Asleep in Jesus" (this is a stone marker with an angel on it)

Mary Jessee - Born May 29th 1818 / Died May 1 st 1893 (this is a metal marker with praying hands on it)

I'm not sure about the birth month of May, it is so rusted it is almost unreadable. I believe that this is the grave of Mary Browning Jessee. There is an unmarked grave beside Mary (Rebecca is on the other side), that I feel is probably Flemming. This is purely conjecture on my part."

LINDA ROUDEBUSH (roude@iei.net) sent, 12/3/1999, information regarding additional descendants of Fleming Burk Jessee, son of James Jessee, and the Cottrell family

Jim, here is some census info sent to my sister showing Christopher Jessee who was the son of Fleming Burke Jessee. Johnson Jessee was my ggrandfather and his son Wright was my grandfather. Wright was born in 1900 but after this census was taken so he is not listed. The Cottrells listed are from my maternal line. My father James D. married my mother Fannie Hazel Cottrell who was the daughter of Wright Cottrell and Nora Verda Scott. Wright Cottrell's father was Arch, son of William Cottrell and Catherine Hubbard. Sincerely, Linda

1880 Census Lee Co., VA T9-1375 Rocky Station District S#5, E#42 Wilson B. Myers, Enum.

Pg 215A, written pg 13 9 June 1880

JESSEE, CHRISTOPHER 33 Farmer VA VA VA

" MARY 33 " " "

" Mary 13 " " "

" JONSON 9 " " "

" Joseph 6 " " "

" Nancy 3 " " "

" Alpha 1 " " "

Penly, William [cousin] 18 NC NC NC

Pg 236B/shee 26 1 Jun 1880 Rocky Station Dist. Jeff L. Duff, Enum

Jessee, John 65 Farmer VA VA VA

" Dauthey 68 wife VA VA VA

" Rebecca 32 dau VA VA VA

Pg 238, sheet 1 White Shoals Dist S#5, E#44 Geo. Holliday, Enum

Jesse, J R 22 Farmer no R/W VA VA VA

F M A 19 VA VA VA

A R 2/12 dau VA VA VA

Lee Co. Marriages by Carpenter 95-25 2-23-1898 **Charles Cotrell** 22 S b)Lee Co,VA son of A & A Cotrell and **Polly Hopkins** 22 S b)Lee Co, VA da. Of Mary Hopkins by SK Byrd

1900 Census Lee Co., VA T623-1715 S#9, E#31 Rocky Station Dist/Salem Voting Precinct by John D Russell, Enum Pg 90A 13 June 1900 *no read/write

JESSEE, JOHNSON Jan 1870 30 M12 VA VA VA farmer

“ America Jun 1871 28 M12 4/3

" Christopher Jan 1888 12 S " " "

" Amanda E Jan 1896 4 S " " "

" Leonard Mch 1898 2 S " " "

Pg 91A 14 June 1900

JESSEE, MARY Mch 1844 56 WD VA NC NC farmer OFF #97

" George C Feb 1882 8 S [son] VA VA VA frm lbr

JESSEE, JOSEPH Apr 1874 26 M9 VA VA VA farmer OFF #101

" Martha E Mch 1872 28 M9 5/3 VA VA VA

" Ollie (f)Feb 1892 8 S

" Ettie (f)Feb 1897 3 S

" Mellie (m)Mar 1900 2/12 S

Johnson, Martha E May 1886 14 S (niece)

Rose Hill Mag Dist/ Bales Forge Voting Precinct S#9, E#32 by Chas.C.Bales,En

Pg 99S, sheet 2 2 June 1900

COTRELL, WILLIAM May 1855 45 M21 VA VA VA farmer * Rent

" CATHERINE - 1862 38 M21 10/7 VA VA VA *

" Emily Sep 1880 19 M1 0/0

" ARCH Oct 1885 14 s

" Alice Aug 1888 11 S

" Robert W Jun 1891 8 S

" Sarah Apr 1893 7 S

" Gertie Jul 1895 4 S

" James May 1897 3 S

LIZ STRICKLAND (LizStrickland@aol.com) provided information, 12/26/1999, regarding her grandfather, **Mellie Jessee** of Lee Co. His father was **Christopher**, and his father was **Fleming**. Mellie is not listed above in the 1880 Census.

Hi Jim, My name is Liz Strickland. My grandfather was Mellie Jessee of Lee Co. his father was Christopher and his father was Fleming. There are so many Jessee's around! I have traced ours back to Russell Co. and some say that Henry and Elizabeth came over from England but that is still to be shown to me. I found your name on a message board and it led me to your page. I started looking for my grandmother, **Cora Johnson Jessee** a year or so ago and I still can't find out much about her. Records were burned. I have countless census records before and after but she is still a mystery. I remember her well and I know her history would be a rich one, Moma says her roots were the Hoovers and the Cherokee Indians. Anyway, I have enjoyed finding so many Jessee's out there. Have a great day!

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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 someone named **Stevenson** have published their book, *Some Descendants of John Burk, 1656-1699, Middlesex Co., Virginia*. It is now available from the Iberian Publisng Co., 548 Cedar Creek Drive, Athens, GA 30605-3408, for a price of \$34.95 softback, \$44.95 hardback, plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. It can be ordered on-line at www.iberian.com. All royalties go to the Russell Co. Historical Society and Russell Co. Library Family History Room for preservation of archival family history materials.

This book is 501 pages and details, among many others, 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. They have added much important information for each of these Jessee lines. Their notations and documentation of sources are tremendous. A simply great effort.

This book alone includes well over 1000 descendants of Rebecca Jessee and William Burk. None of this material has been keyed into a genealogy database program of any kind. It is a daunting chore and we need help! I would like to work with any volunteers who would be willing to help key in 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. They had fourteen children.

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

REV. VERNON CECIL JESSEE has written about his father’s cousin, and the oldest known living Jessee, **Grady Lee Jessee**, then 103 commenting in the last newsletter. “...my daughter and I visited with **Grady Jessee, Sr.**, last spring.... We found by talking with him and his wife, Mattie, that he is a son of my Grandmother’s (Nannie Maryann) brother, Charles Benson Jessee. So Grady would be a 1st cousin to my Father Dennie Edison Jessee, and also my 2nd cousin. Grady Jessee, Sr. lives at Lebanon, VA.

JOHN “JD” JESSEE has a Web site devoted to **Grady Lee Jessee**, which we attempted to publish before, but due to technical errors failed to print. Here it is again. <http://john.jessee.com>

CHARLENE SKEEN CONSTANT (CharMags3@aolcom) wrote, 11/9 & 11/1999, regarding **Grady Lee Jessee**.

Hello Jim, My great uncle is Grady. My grandmother Lake Skeen is Grady’s sister. My father was Charles B. Skeen. He passed away in 1991. I met with Cricket and Geraldine this past Sept. They said, they remembered me as a little girl. It's been over 40 yrs. As you know I've been to the [Jessee Genealogy Service] Web site and enjoyed it very much. A lot of Jessee's.

I wrote to apologize for misspelling their father’s name in my database as Skeens, with an s, assuming it was an error from her note above. Charlene wrote back with a story that well explains how variation on surnames come about.

You really didn't make a mistake on the last name Skeens in a way. Let me explain. The true name is Skeen. When my father went into the army, the army made the error and added the s on the end of his name. He never dropped it. His family remained with no s. My father continued with it the rest of his life. The only ones in the family that has an s on the end of their name is my family, the only descendant that carried it on is my brother.

I have a brother and two sisters and we only have two nieces. Brother Frank Everett Skeens married Nancy Pink, 1 child Shannon Marie Skeens. She is in college, 21 years old. Frank lives in Hyde Park, NY. I have a twin Darlene Skeens Wade, married Robert Wade, 1 child Maria Josephine Messina. My twin was married to another man when Maria was born. She is 26 now. My youngest sister is Linda Skeens Davis married Arthur Davis, no children. She lives in Accord, N.Y. By the way Maria lives with Linda for 6 years now. She likes New York. I have no children either.

FRANK JESSEE (frj345@aol.com) reported that **Grady Lee Jessee** died November 14, 1999, at age 103. We are saddened to learn this and extend condolences to his family.

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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.

AN ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDANT shares important information about the occurrence of "crinkled lip" and "cleft palate" in the Jessee Family, and asks if others have observed this characteristic.

Something you might be interested in is that some of these Jessee descendants have a distinctive condition on their lower lips, where the lips look a little "crinkled." The crinkled lower lip seems to be passed primarily to the male Jessees, not the females, and is not really noticeable unless you are looking for it--but once you see it, it is very distinctive. This lip feature is also sometimes associated with cleft lip and palates (there are three cleft lips or palates in the Jessee family that we know of.)

The reason I learned this was that when my son was born with a cleft palate, the researchers at the University of Washington told me that the lip "pits" as they are called, are genetic and have a high incidence of association with clefts of the lip or palate or both. [If a child has the lip pits, there is a 50% chance that the child will be born with a cleft lip or palate.]

This distinctive lip feature appears on lots of my Jessee family and I was wondering if any of your research has turned up cleft lips, cleft palates or this lip anomaly in your discussions with descendants. Fortunately, these days the surgery for cleft lips and palates has progressed to the point where it is nearly impossible to tell a child who has a cleft lip/palate that has been repaired by a skillful surgeon, and my son's is virtually unnoticeable visually or in his speech.

FRIEDA DAVISON (fdavison@sunmuwl.MUW.Edu) sent, 7/6/1999, this request for help to locate descendants of this **George Jessee**.

Hey Jim,

In case you don't remember, I am in the process of writing a novel based on my Dad's coal mining experiences. I have about 11 hours of audiocassettes of him talking about working in the mines.

He went to work in the first mine in about 1928 -- he was 13 years old. It was a small truck mine that was owned (he thought) by some of the Miller family and leased to two men named Ed Wise and Aught Thompson. They had hired him and two other men to work in the mines. One of the other two was named **George Jessee**. Daddy says that George was "Arnold Jessee's daddy and he lived on a farm that laid back off a road that turned off the main road up on Big A Mountain near Arnold's house. George lived to be an old man. There is probably a family cemetery on that farm that would have a marker showing just when he died. I know he was still living in the early 1940s; but he was considered an old man when I was working on this job with him."

Daddy worked in this mine until November, 1930 and he says that George worked there the entire time that he did.

Do you have anything in your database on this George? I would really like to get a handle on how he was when he was working with Daddy. Thanks

Frieda Patrick Davison

Professor and Director of Library Services
Mississippi University for Women
Columbus, MS 39701

PEGGY AKERS SIMMERS writes 10/27/1999 with a request for help. You may correspond directly with her at 99 Simmers Rd., Rising Son, MD 21911.

Hi Jim, Just returned from Russell Co., VA--looking up new cousins I had never met on the Akers side and Monk side. My new questions would be: Who was **Wilson O. Jessee**? Did he have a wife Liza? In 1912, did he keep **Eula Monk**? What was the reason for Eula? How long did they have her. Does Wilson O. Jessee have any children or grandchildren? Did they pass any stories down.? My mother was Eula Monk. She married **Daniel W. Akers** in 1915. Do any Jessees know what happened to John E. Monk, my grandfather?

I do not have a Wilson O. but do have a Wilson Jessee, b. 1858 in Russell Co. who married Eliza Hillard. He is the son of Archer S. Jessee (descendant of Archer Jessee) and Christina Jessee (daughter of Martin Jessee and Virginia Price). Eula Monk is a gg-grandaughter of Martin and Virginia Price Jessee, so this Wilson and Eula are cousins.

BRENDA (SeaRvrGal@aol.com) provided this inquiry, 10/24/1999, and asks if the Jessee family can help her find more information.

Hello Jim, I have a Jessee in my family (I think) that came "through the back door", so to speak.

My ggrandmother was raised **Eliza Virginia (Ginny) Bostic**. She was born in Russell Co., VA. I don't have a birth date for her but her first child was born in 1881 and her husband, **William Sykes**, was born in 1859. My mother told the story of how Ginny was found on the Bostic doorstep as an infant but everyone "knew she was a Jessee." I have also been told of how my Uncle Beecher was named after his father's good friend, Beecher Jessee. All of my relatives come from Russell Co. or surrounding area. As always, any help is appreciated. Thank you

BOB LYNN (SgtNoot@aol.com) asks for our help with an e-mail inquiry, 11/2/1999.

Sir, I am looking for information on a man named David Jessee. All that I know is that he was from Virginia, served the Confederate cause, and after the war moved to Kansas. Do you have any information on this man, what unit he served with or anything? This man is my great-great Grandfather on my Dad's Mother's side. Any information that you could provide would be helpful. Thank you,

Bob Lynn

TAMARA (TAMARA225@webtv.net) asks, 8/8/1999, our help to connect her with her Jessee family roots.

Hi, I am trying to find my great-grandfather's name on the Jessee side. My grandmother was **Amanda Jessee**. She had several brothers and sisters. Here are some of their names: **Kate, Ida, Charity, and Letch**. A few more I can't remember. The family is from Virginia. I think her Dad's name was **Johnson**.

CHERYL EURE (eure4nc@gibraltar.net) kindly shared some family correspondence that brings **Hurricane Floyd** right home.

Mom, Tell brother Jeff we are thinking of him. I will pass the "Floyd" message along to those on my e-mail list. Crystal was the only one that got " the bug" from working in the County Line Building last weekend. Mark has that pressure washer if it is needed for the "spray-down" of clorine, and can bring it in next weekend if needed. I will not be able to get home again until Dad's surgery on the first.

Can you do the "Floyd"?

Jeff Hill of the County Line Cloggers can.

First you run from the water.

Then you go down on your knees and thank God your family is safe.

Then you paddle back in. Grab a hammer and start to rebuild.

Hurricane Floyd's rising flood waters poured six feet of water into the County Line Clubhouse in Franklin, Virginia September 17, 1999. Everything is completely destroyed. The first shock is the beautiful wood floor, not slightly swollen but jerked and buckled six feet high. Mirrors that once covered the walls are cracked and shattered all over the floor. The sound equipment is now filled with water. Boxes of records CD's and tapes lay in heaps covered with a filthy slime. The closet full of colorful costumes are now sodden rags. Was that clump of trash once a syllabus?

Where are the picture albums? Fifteen years of memories of kids you watched grow up with the team are now just colorful rivulets of water. Even grown up men sometimes have to stop and cry awhile.

Where do you start? Your apartment above the studio suffered only slight damage but it is not safe to live there. Your family is homeless. Your insurance won't cover any flood loss. FEMA offers a low interest loan but how do you pay it back? Paper work and forms take hours to complete. How much money did your business take in each month for the last three years? Where is the receipt for that mike? It begins to look hopeless.

Then comes the good news. Family and friends arrive to help. For days they pitch in and haul mountains of debris to the street. A wonderful assistant takes the team and finds a place to dance. The team begins to dance again and hold fundraisers to help out with the bills. It is beginning to look better.

There will be a new County Line Clubhouse. Not this month, not next month but maybe next year. If you or your team would like to make a donation. Make checks payable to County Line Clubhouse and mail to

Jeff Hill
12438 Grand Square
Carrollton, VA 23314

Marilyn Hill
sqlady@-juno.com

JIM JESSEE, your editor, has recorded three early marriages in Illinois and does not know to whom these Jessee daughters belong. The unknown Jessee marriage records are as follows:

Dora Jessee m. S. C. Bruner 12/8/1904, Warren Co.
Emma V. Jessee m. W. K Folks 1/28/1880, Champaign Co.
Mae Jessee m. Emil R. Grable, 12/18/1894, Champaign Co.

CARL L. RAY (Raysearcher@aol.com) provided a correction to the last newsletter on page 28: "Some Jesses in TN 1900 Census should read McDonald, Bradley Co., TN. Bradley Co. Is NE of Chattanooga, TN.

MICHAEL JESSEE (Mike_Jessee@csx.com) inquired as to how he is related to the Jesse family. I don't know. Can we help him?

I am Michael Ricardo Jesse. I was born and raised in Castlewood, VA. I now live in St. Paul, VA (PO Box 1384, 24283). My father was Walter Jesse and my mother was Trula Ellen Sexton. I am glad to see something about the Jesses in the computer. Am I some kin to you?

MCMAHAN (McMahan6@aol.com) writes, 11/23/1999, with this inquiry.

I was born in Louisville, KY on 7/15/1967. My birth mom's name was Janice Gray. If this information rings a bell, please email me.

As we have many Gray descendants in the **Archer Jesse** family, I elected to share this inquiry.

ROBERT GIVIDEN (buyadozen@AOL.com) emailed, 7/28/1999, with this inquiry about our mystery Jesse, **Col. George McCrocker Jesse**, CSA 12th KY.

I hope you can help me with some information on Col. George M. Jesse, CSA 12th KY. He is buried in the New Castle Cem. in New Castle, KY, Henry Co. I am working on getting some family information on him so I can try to get a KY. history marker for him to be placed on the roadside in front of the cemetery. I am a member of the Kentucky Orphan Brigade Kinfolk and Henry and Trimble CO.'s are the two counties that I take care of. Any information would be helpful.

VIRGINIA BURKE MAY RHOADES (ginnyburke@aol.com) wrote, 7/3/1999, with this inquiry.

Could you put a query in the newsletter for information about **Larkin Holdway** (L. C. Holdway, M.D.) who married **Nancy Spears**. The only data I have for either of them came from my grandmother who said they were her grandparents. (**Mattie Burke**, da. of **Isaiah Fuller Burke** (Burk), s. of **Fleming Burk Jr.** and **Nancy Ann Jesse**).

Most of the info about the Jesse family that I have came from the book by Anne Wynn Laningham "Early Settlers of Lee County, Virginia and Adjacent Counties, Vol. I" that I found at Frankfort, Ky at the Hist. Soc. Library. Other data was from Jesse Stuart's "1850 Census of Russell Co., VA", and "Implied marriages of Russell Co., VA" compiled by Mary D. Fugate in

1971 which I also found at the Hist. Soc. Library, Frankfort, KY.

Thanks again. It has been a great pleasure to find your fine web page. My May family web page is: **www.Mayhouse.org**.

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Jessee Resources On The World Wide Web

The World Wide Web or Internet is a revolutionary and 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.

ROOTSWEB (<http://www.rootsweb.com/>) is the premier non-profit volunteer based genealogy resource on the Internet and is worthy of your support. Please visit this site. I have now placed my entire 32,000 record Jesse(e) Family database as a GEDCOM file in its WorldConnect Project <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com>.

This is generating daily inquiries and bits of new information all the time. The surname search service and tools to display pedigrees, descendants charts, and download GEDCOM files are wonderful. In addition, the USGenWeb Projects are one of many RootsWeb genealogy endeavors and extremely worthwhile. I recently was able to find land patents and other records of sale of federal lands to several ancestors through this service. There you can also subscribe to the Jessee Family or Russell Co. VA Mailing List Services.

DONNA BOGUE (donna.bogue@iname.com) is making a significant contribution to SW Virginia genealogy with her Website. You can find her pages with the following links. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/-bogue/>

or book mark your favorite area with these links:

Home Page <http://bogue.cjb.net>

Donna's genealogy page <http://genes.cjb.net>

Jessee Central <http://jessecentral.cjb.net>

Goad Central <http://goad.cjb.net>

Casto Central <http://castocentral.cjb.net>

Thomas Central <http://thomascentral.cjb.net>

Nester Central <http://nestercentral.cjb.net>

Counts Central <http://countscentral.cjb.net>

Ginther Central <http://ginther.cjb.net>

Meade/Mead Central <http://meade.cjb.net>

Skeen Central <http://skeen.cjb.net>

Kiser/Keyser Central <http://kiser.cjb.net>

Buckles Central <http://bucklescentral.cjb.net>

Aldridge Central <http://aldridge.cjb.net>

Castle Central <http://castlecentral.cjb.net>

KISER, KAISER, KEYSER GENEALOGY -- Descendants of Charles "Karl" Kaiser (Kiser), using **Julie Voyle's** database as supplemented by **Harvey A. Kiser** and **Carlis B. Wilson**.

<http://www.geocities.com/~kiser/gen/homeplace.htm>.

JODENOY BOOKS -- Genealogy Specialists, Free resources for genealogists

<http://www.jodenoy.clara.net/dealers/freebies.htm>

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 on-line 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 Jessee researchers at

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

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA a publication of the Historical Society of Southwest Virginia can be found on the Internet at **New River Notes**, a wonderful site full of many historical materials of interest. <http://www.ls.net/~newriver/nrv.htm>

ILLINOIS STATE MARRIAGE INDEX 1763-1900 is a marvelous resource for Jesse(e)s with roots in Illinois. This and similar projects are making genealogy research easier all the time. There are many **Jesse** family members on this site.

<http://www2.sos.state.il.us/cgi-bin/marriage>

THE MORMON CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS has done more for genealogy than any organized effort in the history of mankind. They have now made their extensive genealogy records available at <http://www.familysearch.org>

CYNDI'S LIST of Genealogical sites on the Internet represents one of the greatest efforts by an individual, Cyndi Howell, to compile and catalog genealogy websites ever. Her work has been exhaustive. See her award-winning website at <http://www.cindyslist.com>

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

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

I am asking you to respond to this newsletter with answers to questions, documentation, your own materials, and, of course, current information about your branch of the family. Please feel free to correct anything I may have wrong.

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

How To Help

I need and appreciate your donations in defraying the considerable cost of research, printing, and postage of the newsletter and other materials I send to inquirers. I am asking for a minimum donation of \$10 a year for two issues of the newsletter; more will help support the effort and those who can't afford to pay.

Newsletter Reprints

At the request of many, I have now collected Jessee Family Newsletters #1-7, #8-9, #10-11, #12-13, and #14-15 into separate sets of reprints (without some attachments that have become obsolete). You may request these, as well as specific pedigree or descendants charts for \$10 a set, or \$40 for all back issues and subscription to the current year. Your additional donations to help me defray the costs of research, printing, copying, and postage are very much welcome.

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The National Jessee Family Reunion is our first story with a special invitation to join us in August 2000 for the next reunion.

Jessee Family Origins has several new contributions, but I am saving a “block buster” for the next newsletter. **Harry and Beverly Jesse Shruptrine** provided a GEDCOM file with over 6300 descendants of **William Morgan Jesse**.

John and Frankey Lea Jessee research is furthered by several contributors and related articles. **Hope Davis** gives us new leads regarding the parents of Frankey Lea Jessee. **Ed Marsh** shared articles on **The Jessee Mill** and **The Bickley Mill**.

Pat “Morningstar” Sato informs us she is doing research on Mary “Polly” Jessee Kiser, and attempting to buy and restore **Jessee’s Mill**. **Dale McGill**, whose father, **Sherman Wallace**, owns Jessee Mill, and is a Jessee descendant, shares her memories. **Joy Malone** and **Rev. Cecil Jessee** share what they know on this subject.

Iris Lambert Hall provides extensive feedback on the last newsletter, answering questions, raising new ones, and sharing great gobs of good stuff for us on several branches of the family in her lengthy correspondence. Thank you Iris.

Many faithful and new contributors have provided information regarding the descendants of each of John and Frankey’s fifteen children. **Tina Honaker Williams** and her brother **Roy Honaker** contribute our cover photo story and exciting information about **Jefferson B. Jessee**.

Kathryn Burke Greever, Jack Hockett, and **Imogene Burke Verbal** have published their long awaited book, *Some Descendants of John Burk, 1656-1699, Middlesex Co., Virginia*. It is now available from the Iberian Publishing Co. See details inside.

Correspondence is rich with news, inquiries, and some sobering comments that give us pause about this computer revolution, use of the Internet, and the ethics of genealogy research.

Jessee Resources on the World Wide Web has a few more clues for us computer geeks.

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Dear Cousin,

I believe we have another interesting newsletter thanks to so many of you who sustain this effort through generous contributions of information, photographs, documentation, and money. My spirits are always lifted by your wonderful letters, email, and phone calls.

In spite of concerns about the downside of this computer revolution, the Internet, and the ethics of genealogy research, I have taken a significant step making the **Jessee Family Genealogy Database** more public and easier to use. Our database is now over 32,000 records. I do mean "our" database, as it is made up of the thousands of hours of your research whose results you have kindly shared with me over the years.

I have placed the family database on the **RootsWeb World Connect Project**. RootsWeb is the foremost volunteer based non-profit genealogy organization out there next to the Mormon Church. This World Connect site provides an index to multiple databases, excellent display options, and allows people to download GEDCOM files. Go to <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com>.

After twenty-five years of working at a keyboard, I have developed a slipped disc, which after rest and therapy has stabilized, and I can avoid surgery. I am now out of pain. I do have a permanent disability which makes any prolonged time typing a very painful prospect. 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 the database in the future if it is to grow.

I intend to continue the newsletter, although I would welcome help. I am finding new ways to capture text and avoid typing. I am steadily reducing my mailing to include those who have expressed interest, have helped in some way, or are a family treasure. If you are getting this newsletter, you are at least a family treasure.

Jim Jessee

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