



Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #21

July 2002

Vol. XI No. 2

Dear Cousin,

I am looking forward to the **Jessee Family Reunion**, and being in beautiful Russell Co., VA Wednesday, July 31 through Sunday, August 4th. I will be staying at the Motel 8 in Lebanon, and will attend the Russell Co. Genealogy meeting 5:30 p.m. Thursday, the Research Day, Friday, and the Picnic on Saturday, and do hope to see you there.

My only disappointment is that I will be traveling alone again this year. My wife Nelda and son Earl are going to Norway, to a Skogstad and Hermundstad family reunion on the 175 year old farm of Nelda's maternal grandmothers's family; and to Finland to reunite with her high school exchange family and will return home after the Jessee Reunion. Both daughter Emma and I had work, performance (my daughter is in a musical theatre production of *A Chorus Line* this summer), and of course the Jessee Reunion that would not allow us to join them. We are jealous but very excited for them, too.

The **Jessee Historical Foundation** is now well underway thanks to the efforts of the founding board and charter members. The auction of **Irene Jessee Perry's oil painting of Jessee's Mill** at the 2001 Reunion picnic along with charter year memberships, and other donations have provided a well funded beginning. Irene has done it again, donating another oil painting for auction at the 2002 Reunion and Picnic. See more inside.

I am always a bit daunted by this work. There is so much data entry to do, just the daily requests for help fill most evenings. Still, I am excited and gratified every time I extend the descendants for the Jessee Family and am always astounded as I see increasing evidence of the interrelatedness of all these SW Virginia families. We are all cousins.

We have another interesting newsletter thanks to so many of you who help support the effort through generous contributions of information, photographs, documentation, and money. My spirits are uplifted by your letters, email, and calls.

Jim Jessee

Featured This Edition

You are invited to the 3rd National Jessee Family Reunion, August 3, 2002, at the Russell Co. Fairgrounds, Castlewood, VA.

The Jessee Historical Foundation is well underway with 215 charter members. Read all about it and this years activities and achievements. Learn more about the proposed **Jessee Historical Marker Project, John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery protection** and more inside.

The historic Andrew Jackson Jessee home, across the road from Jessee's Mill is for sale. Read all about it and a proposal to acquire and restore Jessee's Mill, dam, school, and store as part of a vision for a **Mill Creek Historic Park.**

Southwest Virginia Families which have intermarried with the Jesse(e) family are featured. This time we are featuring articles about the **first settlers of Castles' Woods**, and the **Hilton, Stacer, Browning, Fuller** and possible Jewish origins of some Melungeon families.

Many contributors have provided new information regarding the history and genealogy of **Philip and Rachel Jessee**, their son **Gabriel**, and each of **John and Frankey Lea Jessee's** fifteen children. You will find news, stories and extensions of our family genealogy inside.

Several contributors have sent photographs which I am happy to feature, although the quality of printing is somewhat uneven. Historical family photos are most welcome additions to the newsletter, but please try to provide them to me no less than in 600 dpi resolution in a TIF format.

Correspondence and Missing Links is rich with news, inquiries, and information, as well as some genealogy humor we hope you will enjoy.

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

You Are Invited To The 2002 National Jessee Family Reunion

**Saturday, August 3, 2002--10AM to 4PM
at the Russell County Fairgrounds
Highway Alt. 58 near Castlewood, VA.**

**Family Research Day
Friday, August 2, 2002--9AM to 3PM
at the Russell County Library
203 NW Main St., Lebanon, VA**

**Russell County Genealogy Society
Meets Thursday, August 1, 2002 at 5:30PM
at the Russell County Library, Lebanon, VA**

Please visit www.jessee.org for details on how to get there, motel accommodation, the planned program of activities, and other activities and events in the area.

The Jessee Historical Foundation Board, especially **Joe Jessee, Toby Jessee, Laura Thomas, Mary Akers, Norma McHone, Mike and Joy Jessee, Carolyn and Rev. Cecil Jessee,** and other volunteers who I may have overlooked have been busy planning and arranging for the research day and reunion.

Thanks to the efforts of Toby Jessee, The Russell County Fairgrounds has been secured and improvements for the 2002 Jessee Reunion are well underway. The fairgrounds will allow more space for parking and the many planned activities. The addition of fans and a new bathroom in the main building will make things much more comfortable, but still be prepared for hot weather. Should it rain, there is plenty of cover, so don't worry.

Irene Jessee Perry has donated a new artwork, a 5' x 6' oil painting done as a folding screen, depicting Jessee's Mill and its environs, for auction at the 2002 Jessee Family Reunion on Saturday, August 3, 2002. According to Mary Akers, "Irene Perry has gone above and beyond the call to duty. IT IS FABULOUS!" The Folding Screen is on display at the Russell County Public Library now through August 2, 2002.

In her own word, Irene states "the 'Jessee Mill' painting is a folding screen approximately 5' x 6' and can be framed as a wall painting or used as a screen. The medium is oil. There is a suggestion of the Andrew Jessee Jackson house and school that I did from a description from a friend who learned to swim in the Mill Dam where we spent the summer with her grandmother. The school house, children, and hog pen are in the background plus the bar. Notice, the raccoon in the right corner." (Irene Perry, 6/7/2002) Minimum bid for the painting is \$3,000. It will be the not so silent highlight of the Silent Auction.

THE SILENT AUCTION--The silent auction will provide monetary support for Jessee Historical Foundation projects. To make the auctions a success, your contributions are needed. The future success of our Foundation projects depends upon your support.

Use your imagination to think of items to be contributed. The items for the auctions can be brought to the reunion picnic to be held at the Russell County Fairgrounds, Castlewood, VA. If you have any questions about what to contribute to the auctions, please contact:

Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee [vernon@cros.net];
phone 419-734-2021;

Mike and Joy Jessee Malone [drjoym@bellsouth.net];
phone or fax 954- 476-1148;

Mary H. Akers [phoenix@naxs.com]
phone 540-628-9239

The first Jessee family silent auction was held during the 2nd National Jessee Family Reunion picnic on August 4th, 2001 sponsored by the Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc. The silent auction proved to be a very successful fund raising event for the Foundation. Items were on display for bidding throughout the day and included original paintings by Jessee artists, prints of selected paintings, limited number of black & white prints of the Andrew Jackson Jessee home located in the Mill Creek area, wooden horse carving by a county fair blue ribbon & grand champion winner, carved Jessee name sign, commemorative signature quilt, afghan, pillows, crocheted doilies & dressed dolls, homemade jellies and honey, candy dishes, and many other items. We thank everyone for their donated items. The Silent Auction fund raising activity helps the Foundation in its quest to erect highway markers of Historical interest, to collect and disseminate historical and genealogical materials, and to participate in non-profit community service activities.

We can make the 2002 Silent Auction an even bigger and better event. Start thinking now about the items that you and your family will want to donate. Examples might include things painted, carved, canned, knitted, crocheted, quilted, embroidered, copies of old family photos, old tools, old dishes, and/or any other item. Your Jessee "cousins," related family members, and/or friends value these items as part of their collection of family keepsakes. Drawings and things made by your children and grandchildren are also needed for this auction. Watch for more information regarding the 2002 reunion activities as the year goes along. If you need donated items to be picked up and/or have any questions regarding the silent auction, please phone or fax Mike and Joy Malone at 954-476-1148 or e-mail us at drjoym@bellsouth.net.

Jessee Historical Foundation

On March 8, 2001, the Jessee Historical Foundation was formally incorporated by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Joseph H. "Joe" Jessee, Jr., President
Laura Jessee Thomas, Vice-President
Mary Akers, Membership Secretary
Carolyn Sue Jessee, Assistant Membership Secretary
Henry "Hank" Davis, Legal Advisor
Norma McHone, Treasurer
Taulbee "Toby" Jessee, Assistant Treasurer
James W. "Jim" Jessee, Newsletter/Web Page Editor
Members At Large: Peggy Jessee Adams, John F. Bolling, Susan P. Bonham, James B. Hughes, Carl Jessee, James C. "J.C." Jessee, J. D. Jessee, John Daniel Jessee, Joseph Harold "Doodle" Jessee, Sr., Joy Ann (Jessee) Malone, Robert Trigg Jessee, Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee, W.D. "Tip" Jessee, Irene Jessee Perry, Helen R. Reedy, Janice Sue Jessee Tiller

The first board meeting was held May 5, 2001 and the first annual meeting of the membership was held on Saturday August 4, 2001, in conjunction with the 2001 annual Jessee Reunion. The first Foundation board was in full attendance at this historic meeting. At the annual meeting a formal adoption of the by-laws, and the election of Board Members and Officers was held.

MIKE AND JOY MALONE [drjoym@bellsouth.net] drove from their home in Florida to make the **Jessee Historical Foundation (JHF) Board meeting**, held Saturday, March 2, 2002, 10 am - 1:30 p.m., Stringers Restaurant, 090 W., Main St. Abingdon, VA. Joy provided this report.

Eleven Board Members attended, Joe Jessee (President), Laura J. Thomas (Vice-President), Norma McHone (Treasurer), Mary H. Akers (Membership Secretary), Peggy Adams, Toby Jessee, John Bolling, Joy Malone, Helen Reedy, J.C. Jessee, Janice Tiller, and W.D. Jessee. Five guest members included Mike Malone, Nellie Jessee, Pauline and Vernon Salyers, and Nancy Elswick.

Vice-President Laura J. Thomas presided. Meeting opened with Welcome, Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance.

President Joe Jessee thanked all the officers and members for their work this past year. There were no minutes available for approval from the last meeting. Joe gave a verbal summary.

Vice-President Laura J. Thomas presiding:

Discussion ensued and several motions were made and approved. These excerpts are from the unapproved minutes.

1. A motion was made and approved including establishing the Budget Committee (Joe Jessee, Laura Thomas, and Norma McHone). They will meet and draft a proposed budget for the next Bd. Mtg. Vice-President Laura J. Thomas is a bookkeeper and will periodically review the Treasurer's books and sign off with Treasurer, Norma McHone. As budgeted expenses are approved - all receipts are to be submitted to Norma within two weeks. Discussion followed.

2. Membership report was given and a motion made and approved for a revised smaller version certificate, letter, membership card to be mailed to 2002 new members. The expiration date for all Charter Members and 2002 members will be December 31, 2002. A renewal form, etc., is being drafted for

review at the Oct. Bd. Mtg. The renewal form will be mailed to all members re: renewal/fees, etc. The Bd. will decide at the June meeting re: one year, 5 year, lifetime, etc. memberships - thought is to be given until then.

3. A motion was made and approved re: the remaining 2002 and all of 2003 Bd. Mtg. dates. A calendar of dates and meeting locations will be sent to all Bd. Members .

4. A motion was made and approved to establish a Jessee Reunion Picnic Committee. Toby Jessee will chair this committee and has already been working hard on this project. Norma McHone is on the committee with Toby. They will select assistance as deemed necessary. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to make this a success. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for **SILENT AUCTION ITEMS** as one of our major fund raising projects. Toby reported that 18 new ceiling fans have been installed in the picnic building, new men and women's restrooms have been build (four stalls for the women - should avoid the long lines).

Parking locations will be specific and directed. Specific servers will serve the lunch foods. Drinks and desserts relocated. Several refrigerators will be available. The air-conditioned room for the elderly, etc., will be cleaned and ready if needed. Plans include charcoal grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, etc. Bread being donated. All Jessees are to bring musical instruments - Toby plans a social - Jessee jam session - for entertainment - after lunch.

The Castlewood Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad will be available during the event. A motion was made and approved re: donations to both departments. Toby has visited 4 motels and reported renovations have been made. Toby stated that the local radio station WLRV 1380 AM will announce the JHF Reunion for \$550.00 and we will get sponsors to pay for the air time. The station also broadcasts on the worldwide Internet. To be funded by sponsors and there will be no expenses to the Foundation. Toby to oversee the fund raising and will work with the radio station regarding wording of the announcements.

5. A motion was made and approved that John Bolling begin the investigation re: the feasibility of purchasing the old John Jessee Cemetery and easements to allow access to the sites as well as the Jessee Mill. Toby Jessee and Joe Jessee will also assist on this project. John Bolling will also look into the project and purchase of maps re: listings of Jessee sites and other points of interest.

6. A motion was made and approved re: establishing a Highway Marker Project Committee. Committee made up of Chair J.C. Jessee, Joy Malone, Jim Jessee (historian), John Bolling, Mary Akers (local contact), Norma McHone (financial). The committee shall have the authority to complete the initial application, gather information/documentation, etc., word the historical marker and submit the application to the State for approval. J. C. Jessee gave a very detailed report on the project. He visited the VDOT and spoke with several officials. The cost of each marker at this time is \$1225.00. This completed application must be ready to submit by the June 15th deadline set by the State for the September review. Discussion followed. The Jessee Mill will be the primary focus.

Mike said check this site out www.dhr.state.va.us Tells all about Highway Marker program and placing a site on the Historic register.

Go to www.jessee.org for more information, minutes of Foundation Board meetings, photos of Foundation activities, and Foundation news and events. In building this family history foundation we learn by heart, and we are at heart, all cousins. We extend a welcome to all Jessee descendants, related family, friends, and neighbors. ***Please Join Us.***

Membership Information

The Jessee Historical Foundation extends an invitation and warm welcome to new members and welcomes your annual membership renewal. We appreciate your support and hope you will be involved with the many projects and activities planned. We welcome and need your ideas and input.

There are three categories of membership and the annual fee is \$10 per person for all categories:

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

Send an application (available on the Web at www.jessee.org) or provide the following information for each member to be enrolled:
Name, Street or PO box address, City, State, ZIP, phone, and email address. Please send your application and check, payable to Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc., for \$10 per person to Mary H. Akers, the membership secretary, at the following address. You may call or email Mary Akers if you have questions.

**Jessee Historical Foundation Inc.
C/O Mary H. Akers, Membership Chair
19643 Oakwood Dr.
Abingdon VA 24211
540-628-9239
phoenix@naxs.com**

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The following projects, activities, and undertakings have been discussed, and will be on the agenda of future Foundation meetings. Whether you are a board member or not, these projects and activities will need volunteers and other help. Please consider what you can do to help.

1. Public access to, fenced protection and restoration of the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery, as well as other Jessee family cemeteries. This will also involve land owner cooperation. This land is owned by Jimmy Herndon, currently of Texas, but it is leased and farmed by Sherman Wallace, Jr., who indicates Mr. Herndon is willing to cooperate.

2. Preservation of Jessee's Mill, Dam, and School. This will need much study and documentation, requests for appropriate historical designation, and major fund-raising and grant development. [Please see the articles that follow.]

3. The establishment of Virginia State Highway Historical Markers for Jessee's Mill and other appropriate Jessee Family sites. [See the following.]

4. Creating a Jessee Family History Book.

5. Planning for the next and future National Jessee Family Reunions, Research Days, and Annual Meetings.

6. Clean-up and preservation of other Jessee cemeteries and historical sites.

Historical Marker Projects

The Jessee Historical Foundation intends to undertake the establishment of one or two state highway historical markers pertinent to the history of the Jessee Family in Russell Co., VA.

Both **J.C. Jessee** and **Mike and Joy Malone** have researched what is involved to establish a state highway historical marker. In a nutshell the person or group requesting the marker must submit a 100-word (more or less) documentation that will support the request. Second, the group or person must verify that they have the funds to purchase the marker (\$1,300.00) no charge for tax or shipping. The marker must be placed on public land or a highway right-of-way. The group can suggest a location and the DOT will work with the group to approve a safe location. The group can suggest the location and write the inscription on the marker; however, the DOT has the right to edit.

MARKER 1: JESSEE'S MILL

Place a State Highway Historical Marker on State Highway 71, west of Lebanon at the intersection of County Road 645 with the heading "Jessee's Mill".

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](http://www.ls.net/~newriver/nrv.htm)

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 one room 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, Malcolm 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.

TOM RUDDER provided this Web reference to a **topographic map locating jessee's mill**. It can be found at **TopoZone.Com** which is a fantastic topographic map resource with many **Jessee Landmarks** identified, have fun playing on this site. <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4085539&e=395992&s=25&size=m>

SUE LESTER PATTERSON [omega84@ev1.net] shares photos of Jessee Mill and Jessee School on her website. <Http://Omega84.Com/JesseeMill1.Htm>

The following wording for the first historical monument has been suggested, but is not final.

JESSEE'S MILL

Located 1.5 miles north on Road 645 on Mill Creek. The roller process mill was built between 1889 and 1900 by Andrew Jackson "Jack" Jessee, on the site of an earlier mill. For several years the mill was the only roller mill in Russell Co. Mill Creek during that time was a thriving settlement. There was a general store, a one-room country school, and a church. The mill was owned and operated by Jack Jessee until his death in 1922. His historic (1883) home is opposite. His son, Wiley E. Jessee operated it for ten years. The mill closed in 1932. [101 words]

Jessee's Mill is on the original land settled in 1790 by John (1750-1816) and Frankey Lea Jessee (1752-1836). Their 15 children (John, Archer, William, Lea, David, Elizabeth Gose, Mary "Polly" Kiser, Frances Stone, Sarah Vermillion, Boedicia Gose, James, Rebecca Burk, Jane Fuller, George Lea, and Martin Jessee) are the ancestors of many Jessees in America. [+55 words]

MARKER 2: PHILLIP & GABRIEL JESSEE HOMESTEAD AND CEMETERY

Place a State Highway Historical Marker on State Highway 80, near Honaker at the intersection of County Road 645 with the heading "Phillip and Gabriel Jessee Cemetery". I invite the descendants of Phillip and Gabriel to provide us appropriate physical directions, historic context and suggested text for a historical marker. We need the site for the marker validated, and other information provided relative to this sign.

John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery Protection Project

MIKE AND JOY MALONE [drjoym@bellsouth.net] sent, 2/18/01, important information and an opportunity to properly recognize and record **the grave site of our John Jessee Revolutionary War Soldier**. Mike and Joy may need help from the Foundation in providing the evidence and making a proper filing.

Below is a copy of an e-mail I sent to the Russell County e-mail site. The way I read this report is you must have some type of proof of the Veteran's grave site, statements, tombstone, story etc. You also must have proof of his service (we have that). You must also have the location of the site and the global positioning location of the site. I think if you do have any of the required proof we will at least have him listed in the report. There may not be any money for maintenance or restoration, but possibly the county could apply for a funds for a monument for all the veterans in Russell County.

The State of Virginia has published a Interim Special Report: Revolutionary War Veteran Grave sites in Virginia. (House Document NO. 91) The State of Virginia is trying to locate all Grave sites of Revolutionary War Veterans in the state. The purpose is to provide maintenance and restoration of the Grave sites. As I read the report it seems they will provide grants to organizations i.e.. DAR, SAR, or other organizations to maintain and restore the Grave sites. This report only listed 10 Veterans in Russell County. They are; Charles Bickley, John Coolbaugh, Henry Dickenson, William Dorton, Jr., Burton Caleb Litton Sr, John Richard Litton Sr, Solomon Caleb Litton Sr, Thomas Litton, Benjamin Ray, and Bernard Reynolds. I am sure there many more names that need to be added to this list.

Acquisition of Jessees Mill and Andrew Jackson Jessee Home Is Offered By The Owners

The following message from Ray Compson, forwarded by Sandra Jessee Hood, is very important information to the Jessee Historical Foundation (JHF), the Jessee Family at large, and Russell Co. Ray Compson owns the Andrew Jackson Jessee historic home, across the road from Jessee's Mill. A J Jessee was the last owner and operator of Jessee's Mill.

Hi Sandra, My name is Ray Compson. I am the current occupant of the Andrew Jackson Jessee house across from Jessee's Mill. This summer I plan on putting the house up for auction. Additionally, I have talked with Sherman Wallace about putting the mill property up at auction at the same time. I haven't heard back from him yet. I thought you might be one the people I met last year during the reunion - I am also selling a lot of antiques during the auction. I heard there was a Jessee newsletter - thought you guys would like to know. Maybe I'll see you this summer- Ray

I no more than posted the above to the Jessee List [jessee-l@rootsweb.com] regarding the possibility of acquiring the Andrew Jackson Jessee home, Jessee's Mill, Dam, School and land around them when this message from Carolyn Jessee arrived. I must say this is quite a serendipity, if not God given opportunity. Please read on.

Please forward this to all Jessees that you have in your mail list. I just spoke on the phone with Sherman Wallace in VA who now owns the Jessee Mill. According to Sherman he does not want the mill sold or taken out of the Jessee hands. All he really wants is to have the mill restored to its original condition AND he also wants the house across the street, that supposedly belonged to Andrew Jackson Jessee that the young man who now owns it bought, kept in the Jessee hands. Sherman feels that we as a Jessee Historical Foundation should be able to accomplish this task. I also feel that as a JHF Board Member we can get this done. The house, the mill, the cemeteries, the church, the schoolhouse, all belong to us Jessees and we need to get serious about getting these things restored or they will be lost forever. My feeling is the same as my dad's, Rev. Cecil Jessee, "if 10 Jessees gave \$100, that would be \$1000, and if one hundred of us gave \$100 that would be \$10 thousand dollars". Well, my dreams are more than my dads. What if [we could raise] \$200 thousand dollars. That would definitely be enough to buy the house and put forth a good effort toward restoring the mill. If we all get together for this mission, we can accomplish anything. Just look at the reunion for example. Only a couple years ago it was one man's (Rev Cecil Jessee) dream. Now look at us. Sure, we have a lot to work out, but we are working it out, and there are more and more Jessees attending each year. We got that together and I am confident that we can get the restoration of the mill and the purchase of the house accomplished.

As some of you may know, John Funk and I, among others, believe that the JHF or other significant benefactor or foundation should look into acquiring Jessee's Mill along with the Dam above and the Jessee School for a Jessee's Mill Restoration project, perhaps as the anchor for a Mill Creek Historic Park. See the following article.

We had hoped that we could acquire enough land around it to preserve a sense of the original environs. Mr. Ray Compsons information above may enable us to include the Andrew Jackson Jessee Home in this dream. Ray's note and several other communications with Sherman Wallace indicates he is very willing to work with the Jessee family regarding these ideas. This is a wonderful opportunity to preserve four significant historical landmarks and perhaps create a small historical park around it for Russell Co. and all its sons and daughters across America.

I have learned that the Jessee Historical Foundation, while a non-profit corporation, limits its membership to Jessee descendant's only, and thus would not qualify as a public charitable non-profit organization for receipt of tax-deductible donations or other grants or contracts. We do not wish to change this. Thus the JHF organization cannot undertake this project directly, but can help develop the ideas and lend support to a benefactor or an appropriate public non-profit charitable group, corporation, or foundation which could undertake this.

I ask members there in or near Russell County to consider how this might happen. Would the Russell County Government or Historical Society be willing to look into creating a Russell County or Mill Creek Historic Park with a renovated Jessee's Mill as its centerpiece? If not, is there sufficient interest to create and organization or foundation for this purpose?

Jessee's Mill Restoration

The restoration of Jessee's Mill is a dream shared by many of us who read this newsletter, or email me via the Jessee List. I am willing to do what I can to encourage such an idea, and offer this Newsletter and the Jessee Genealogy Service Website as one vehicle for sharing information about how to accomplish this. As always, we need volunteers and leadership in or near Russell County. Your help is needed.

JOHN R. FUNK [renkiewicz1@earthlink.net] corresponded with me and the Jessee List in March 2002, and shared interesting and important information regarding **the origins of the design and construction of the Jessee Mill and Dam**. He provided several Websites with specific information on the architecture, design, construction, and operation of the mill. He provided vital information with respect to preservation and restoration of the Mill and Dam. John, who lives in Las Vegas, NV, has considerable knowledge and expertise with regard to restoring Jessee's Mill, and he has offered to help evaluate the restoration potential of Jessee's Mill, within his limitations of health, distance, and time. Although John is not a Jessee descendant, he has kin in Reeds Valley who he visits from time to time. I have invited him to attend the Jessee Family Reunion and Research Day, and sincerely hope he can join us. Here are excerpts of the information and ideas John has shared. His vision is an inspiration for me.

March 30, 2002

Jim, I would love to see the Jessee Family restore the mill. I believe as time has gone by, a lot of valuable information has been lost to your family. For example, you say the mill was built in 1898 to 1900. But the equipment predates that period. They say another mill was in this area prior to this mill. I believe the bull gear and the gearing where recycled from the older mill. I would guess the gears could possibly be from 1870 or older. This was not uncommon. The old saying used to be if it's not broke leave it alone and if it works, why change it?

I had only a short while to look the mill over while passing by, the light was bad, and I was a little apprehensive, so I only got a very limited look at it, but I did take note of a few important things.

First the structure foundation appears to be solid. No signs of settling or severe decay. The side walls are straight and plum and the building looks level. The smoke stack from the fireplace and grain heater is gone but that is a very minor problem. All of this is available. In fact there is enough brick down the road by the Clinch River in an old fire place where a house used to stand to solve this problem. I understand Mr. Wallace owns that also.

I would guess that where the wheel is buried in the ground that an old quarried rock gutter is still in place but is now under soil. but this could be dug out easily.

The windows are gone but this is also a minor problem. These can be repaired and replaced with salvaged barn siding from other barns in the area.

I would not paint the mill, this would destroy the beauty of the antiquity of aging. I would soak the siding in Thompson Water Seal or linseed oil. I highly doubt if this mill was ever painted any way. I would guess it was linseed oil treated. This could account for the

really great condition of the wood. Most old barns and mills were not painted in the old days. The dampness would have peeled it off any way, but the linseed oil would have been perfect to stand against dampness.

The dam itself is in great condition. All that is needed here is to build a new wood gate and sluice to carry the water to the wheel. This is a minor thing. However I would use red wood this time to build the gate as it will survive in water, where other woods unless wolmonized treated will not. The Mill Pond also would now be on some one else's property, and that could end up a problem.

I read on the Jessee Site that the building was timber framed from Yellow Poplar. This could be a problem. Poplar does not fair well in damp areas or stand down the age, but if it had also been treated I would guess it could be OK. It appears from the Tobacco on the floor it has been used as a Tobacco drying shed. This probably accounts for it's good condition as the roof would have been maintained over the years.

The only problem I can see is the school house has been sold. This is a real problem and I will tell you why. All old mills had a one room school house that went with them. The early Millwrights and Millers required this in their pay package, that their children would have schooling available.

The lay out of the school Dam and Mill is essential to the over all plan. The reasons are as follows. The school would make a great museum and visitors center, and early period school desk are still available as are old black boards and old teachers desk can be made. The walls of the school would make a great place to hang up 1900 century period pictures and photographs.

Next I would believe if you really wanted to do this site right, that you would want to buy as much property up around the site as possible to preserve the aesthetics and original appearance of not only the mill but it's total back drop and surroundings.

You could also use the school as a lecture center. You could sell T shirts and souvenirs that promote the Jessee Mill and use the proceeds to support the Mill preservation project. If this site was advertised artist and nature lovers and wilderness hikers would come in groves to visit the area. The Clinch River would make a great place to have a canoe and river boat business and the old mill dirt road would be a great hikers trail. If done right the interest of the Jessee Family Foundation would be served by the tourist traffic and a lot of good will and commerce would be brought to the community without destroying the tranquillity and the originality of the mill creek area. Just some thing to think about.

April 5, 2002

I am also positive the business community of Lebanon would help you preserve and restore this mill site as they have very little in the area left to generate any tourism, The mill would make a great attraction to artist mill enthusiasts and I am sure the International Brotherhood Of Carpenters and Joiners of America would also like to run tours their with their millwright apprenticeship programs. At present they have very few sites where they can see to appreciate their heritage. This site is made to order and I personally know the general president.

I think it would make a great backdrop for a country western musical video, I know a kid in Morgantown, West Virginia who plays the guitar, banjo and mandolin. I can just see Reeds Valley and Mill Creek as the back drop to a sound track of dueling banjo's. Just another idea to put Jessee's Mill on the map.

John Funk first contacted me to share information about **Pond Lily Mill Restorations**, a Web site devoted to proving information and services relating to mill restoration. He believed it would be of interest to the Jessee Family regarding the restoration of Jessee's Mill. The Web site to explore is:
www.angelfire.com/journal/pondlilymill/.

John identified the designer of the original or prior Jessee's Mill as Oliver Evans, and provided this Website for information on him:
www.uh.edu/engines/epi1.htm.

John sent information regarding the original designer of Jessee's Mill Water Wheel, John Fitz, and information about the millwork. He provided these important comments corroborating a belief that the present Jessee's Mill was built on the site and used equipment from an earlier mill. This URL is for the Hanford Mills Museum which includes a picture of the designer of the water wheel, John Fitz:
www.hanfordmills.org/.

This site has a picture of John Fitz the guy who designed the water wheel on your grandfathers mill. You may also want to print it for your museum [or application for designation as an historic site]. By the way before your family does any thing with this mill email me and let me know. I believe that the bull gear and gear drives were salvaged from a much older mill and recycled. I am fairly sure they are from a much older mill as the fabrication and manufacture of them predates by far the date of 1900. I have a very good friend who is a mill wright, a gunsmith, and man of many talents coming back to your neighborhood soon, and if you would like I can have him examine the mill and he will tell you just about any thing you would want to know about it. He is half Cherokee Indian and may even chip a few arrow heads out for you while he is their. His name is Ron Mcneff and he presently lives in Pahrump, Nevada about fifty miles from me. I live in Las Vegas.

John provided additional information on the **Fitz Water Wheel** at these Web sites:
www.angelfire.com/journal/millbuilder/album6.html
www.angelfire.com/journal/millbuilder/album6.html

Here are additional Web sites John Funk has passed along relative to the restoration of Jessee's Mill.
[Http://jbwoodson.internations.net/woodsonsmill/](http://jbwoodson.internations.net/woodsonsmill/)
<http://www.spoom.org/>
<http://www.geocities.com/whitesmill/foundation.html>
<http://www.ls.net/~newriver/swva/hssv-7.htm>

In addition John Funk has provided descriptions, drawings, and photos of memorabilia items to sell to raise money for such a restoration project. He has very many ideas using the Mill Water Wheel, Bull Gear, and Mill itself as the theme or design for many items, from hats, to items of jewelry, belt buckles, coffee cups, to tee shirts, and more. These are all offered as a means for fund raising for restoration of the Mill. Here is just a sample of his correspondence on this matter.

Jim, I met with my jeweler today and I am having the bull gear and the mill stone made into a pendant in silver for now, about the size of silver dollar. I just could not resist. After all they are both very artistic items. In fact my jeweler even lowered the price for me as he is also anxious to see how they come out. He can not reproduce and sell them however. I have a contract and I own the mold.

He also has access to hundreds of other items, some are as follows. He has wall clocks which he can put the bull gear design

on the face, with the wording Jesse's Mill Reeds Valley Mill creek and Lebanon Virginia. The wall clocks are about ten to twelve inches in diameter. He can get these clocks for about \$20.00. He has resources to have belt buckles made from brass with the mill stone design. The bull gear or the actual Jesse's Mill on them for about \$9.00 a piece. He has enameled lapel pins about 3/4 in size that he will put any thing you want on them for about \$3.00 a piece. He has electronic wrist watches that could have the bull gear design on the face or the mill stone with the wording Jesse's mill on the face for about \$20.00 a piece. He can get money clips with the bull gear or mill stone made in brass silver or gold brass about \$10.00, gold a lot higher. He can make the mill stone ring in silver for about \$25.00 a piece. 18 ct Gold in two tones about \$200.00 as a follow up. The ball caps and T shirts are about \$3.00 a piece in volume and the coffee cups and ash trays are about 99 cents a piece. Jackets are about \$25.00 a piece.

In response to my note that the JHF may not have the means or be able to respond to these ideas in a timely way, he wrote as follows.

Jim, I am not putting myself out on this. In fact it has been an inspirational experience. If you do not need the stuff. I am sure there are tourist mill sites that will want them. The Union Mill Wrights have already approached me about buying brass belt buckles with my design on them and the local business agent has even told me the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America may even want to buy the bull gear and mill stone design and sell them in their monthly magazine. If your dream comes true and you get the mill. I may let them use the design if they donate a dollar to the Jesse Family Foundation for every one they sell. I would have no problem if your Family Foundation made a few bucks from my efforts.

I have another suggestion. If Jesse's mill is a success then Lebanon, Virginia will benefit from it by the extra tourism that will happen as a result of it. I would consider if I was you that you may ask the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce if they have one, to ask, local gas stations and convenience stores and motels to assist in the sales of promotional items in their places of business. I would even go as far as Abingdon, Virginia for support. You may also consider adding a virtual store on your Website. [I am willing--Ed.]

Jesse's Mill Dam an Historic and Architectural Treasure

JOHN R FUNK [renkiewicz1@earthlink.net] writes, 4/21/2002, with the following information regarding the Dam just upstream from Jesse's Mill. He asserts that this may be one of the oldest and most unique structures of its kind in the United States. I hope the Jesse Historical Foundation can use this information to help establish the Jesse's Mill, Dam, and School as a Virginia or Russell Co. Historical Site.

Here is a little information about the dam that is at the Jesse Mill site. As your cousin [please someone help me identify this specific information and cousin source] found out in the Russell Co. Courthouse archives, the permit to dam the Creek was applied for and issued in the year of 1812. It is possible the existing mill was rebuilt in 1889 to 1900, but this dam was definitely built in 1812 and here is my reason's that I have come to that conclusion.

The first thing that catches your attention when you first see the dam is that it has no mortar between the rocks. It is logical to deduct that had this dam been built in 1900 that surely someone would have used masonry mortar to hold the rocks together and seal the joints from leaking water. However in the year of 1812 it is

highly doubtful that any cement mortar was available in this part of the country. And if it were it would have been very expensive—too expensive to use to build a dam. So other methods were necessary to build a dam that would not leak and hold back the water and endure heavy flooding.

The second thing that catches your attention is that it has an upstream sloop buttress instead of a down stream sloop. The first thing I thought when I saw this was this guy didn't know much about building dams. But at this same time I also observed that the face of the dam was straight as an arrow, and showed no signs of movement. It is still just as straight and true as the day it was built. I also noticed that even though there was no mortar between the rocks no water was coming through the face anywhere.

THIS GOT MY ATTENTION REAL FAST—Then the entire schematic of the dam hit me all at once. Whoever had built this dam definitely knew what he was doing. The reverse sloop was actually the best way a dam could be built with out the use of mortar. I will explain. This design would capture the weight of the water to hold down the dam and allow water to smoothly flow over it during flooding without creating any forces against its foundation base structure. And the earthen material used on the sloop would make a perfect water seal.

First the stones in this dam are on average about 8,000 to 10,000 pounds a piece—quite a load. I would guess that who ever built this dam first dug a ramp from the road to the bottom of the creek and dragged the stones on a sled with horses, as it would have taken a wagon much larger than was available at that time. The sleds were dragged to the bottom of the creek and pulled into place one by one, slid off the sled into place and stacked.

Next I would guess that large boulders were stacked behind the stonewall upstream and packed with varied size rocks and yellow fire clay gravel and sand. The indigenous yellow clay in the area was often used to make bricks in later years. The ramp was tapered back upstream until it had reached the desired angle. Sand and gravel was then placed all over the surface of the ramp and packed down. The creek during construction would have been routed through the gate area of the dam, probably by a wooden sluice. After the dam and gate had been installed the wooden sluice would have been tore out and the gate closed, thus making a very formidable dam of strength that has withstood 190 years to date of heavy floods without so much as moving even a fraction of an inch.

I would ball park guess that there are approximately at the least 200 stones and may be even 400 large stones and their estimated weight would be between 2000 to 4000 tons of stone clay, gravel, and sand. I did not measure it at the time I looked at it so I could be off a little. But one fact is crystal clear, this dam was not built in 1900. The fact it has no mortar and the basic design, which is the one and only I have ever seen in the United States, leads me with no other conclusion that this dam was definitely built in 1812.

Whoever built and designed and supervised this dam would have most likely been a skilled engineer and was familiar with the ancient 20 books of mechanical devices called Codex, usually only available to very rich Europeans with vast Catholic Church connections. *University structural and civil engineering students would freak out looking at this structure. it would be like shaking Leonardo De Vinci's hand.* [Perhaps we should invite some faculty, students, or other experts to look at the Dam] This dam may be even a greater treasure to the State of Virginia Historical Society than the Mill itself. I sincerely doubt that there is another one Like it in the United States today still in existence, especially in the State of Virginia.

SOME OTHER FACTS—The stones in the dam are what is called Blue Stone. This stone is found anywhere dolomite limestone is found. It usually has to be quarried from under the limestone. There is Blue Stone in the area and it is found all the way up through Appalachia. There is river out side Bluefield, WV called Blue Stone River. Blue Stone is a very hard type of dolomite limestone. Almost as hard as granite and could even be early stage

of marble. Stones as big as the stones in the Dam at Jesse's Mill would have been too big to have been loaded on wagons and it is doubtful that at that time heavy-duty wagons that could have hauled them were even around the region. However a simple sled would have most likely been used. Pulled by horses and actually dragged right into place, one at a time. I would guess it would have taken at the very least twenty men cutting and dragging and placing these stones and boulders, clay, sand, and gravel and possibly two years to build, including the temporary coffer dam and wooden floodgate.

Had this dam been built in 1900 it would have been built like most all the others that had been built at that time, and that would be a downstream sloped dam built of reinforced concrete or similar material, just like the foundation piers of the schoolhouse. If they had concrete for the piers of the school, why did they not have any for the dam? SIMPLE! The school and dam were built in different time periods.

Another fact—The foundation of the Mill is built out of cut stone, mortared together. This is also a mystery. Possible explanation—flat creek rock in the area is abundant. It makes sense to build the foundation out of creek rock. But once again we have the use of mortar. Mortar cement in 1812 in this region was very expensive. Look at the piers; they are formed concrete. The forms were made from sawed boards and the sawed boards left their impression on the surface of the concrete of the piers that are under the schoolhouse.

This dam was built some time between 1812 and 1814, and some where in this pile of rocks is a stone that will have some one's initials or a date when it was built. I would guess this dam may be the oldest remaining antique structure in the Mill Creek area, maybe even Lebanon and Russell Co.

In other correspondence John identified for us the style of buttress dam which is up stream from Jesse's Mill. **The architect of this style of buttress dam is Baldassare Peruzzi** of Siena, Italy. Here is the Website where you can find more information on this: www.simsience.org/cracks/advanced/butt_hist1.html

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

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

OTHER JESSE(E) FAMILIES

No new information to report this newsletter.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA FAMILIES

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

ROBERT COWAN [CSCUNC@aol.com], posted, 1/27/2002, to the VARUSSEL-L@rootsweb.com list the following information important to many SW VA families.

Castle's Woods: Frontier Settlement by Professor Hagy LOCATED!! Many of you have been following my posts concerning Professor Hagy's 1966 thesis on Castle's Woods: Frontier Virginia Settlement, 1769-1799 written while he was a student at East Tennessee State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Degree of Master of Arts (History) I was fortunate to secure an original copy of his thesis from a rare book dealer and subsequently offered to make copies for interested researchers. The thesis contained no copyright provisions but a couple of folks encouraged me to try to locate Professor Hagy, some 37 years after he published it. The results of my search are quite interesting, but before I tell you what happened let me first give a brief overview of the Castle's Woods settlement for those who are new to the list.

"This thesis is a narrative account of the frontier settlement of Castle's Woods. The community is an interesting case study of the ideas of Frederick Jackson Turner regarding the frontier.

Castle's Woods in many ways fits the pattern of the typical frontier community. Apparently first settled by a long hunter, Castle's Woods, like a magnet, drew westward the classic frontier types, hunters, farmers, speculators, surveyors, artisans, and preachers. Even some aristocrats settled there. The usual frontier customs and activities were observed in the community. These included a considerable amount of lawlessness. The greatest problem for the settlers in Castle's Woods was the Indians who were a menace from the time of the first settlement until nearly the end of the eighteenth century. After the Indian problem had been eliminated, the frontier stage quickly passed away.....

A large amount of primary materials were used in this study. The most important sources were county records, state archives, national archives, and the Draper Manuscripts."

The importance of Castle's Woods is twofold. First, it had its day of importance as a stepping stone to the West. Secondly, it is important as a case study of the American frontier. It was the first permanent settlement in Russell County, Virginia, founded in 1769 and located on the Clinch River.

Castle's Woods was a stopping off place for folks on their way West. A generation or two earlier many of these settlers had been in the Shenandoah Valley around Augusta and Rockbridge Counties and before that Pennsylvania and Ireland. Soon they would leave southwest Virginia and begin to populate Kentucky, Tennessee and later Texas, Arkansas, and points north and west. These were the pioneers that made Walt Disney famous; Daniel Boone, Samuel Houston, David Crockett and many like Boone, paused briefly in Castle's Woods before heading out into the pages of history.

So, where does one begin to look for someone 37 years after he writes a nice research paper? My 16 year old son looked up from his computer, said "whitepages.com" and in less than five

minutes I was speaking with Professor Hagy who is now almost 67 and living the good life in central Florida. We had a nice chat and I thanked him for the work he had done and told him I was making copies of his thesis for genealogists on the Internet and he said that he had no plans to reprint the thesis and to "copy away." We talked mostly about how important it was to preserve obscure source materials and what a great value the Internet was to accomplishing that task.

I have enjoyed seeing this project grow from finding a single copy of an important, somewhat obscure document to a situation where enough people have copies that it should always be available. As in the past I make the same offer again. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of Professor Hagy's thesis please contact me privately at escunc@aol.com for details. [If you are interested in receiving a copy of Professor Hagy's 140 page thesis please send check (personal check is fine) for \$25.00 to: Robert Cowan, 525 Harrogate Rd., Matthews, North Carolina 28105]

If I send this post to your list it means one of two things. Your surname is in the document OR there is a very high probability your county was settled by some of the people who lived in Castle's Woods. (On your Virginia map find Abingdon and look a little to the west. You see the small community of Castlewood which is how the named evolved.)

Some of the surnames are: Cowan, Walker, Russell, Montgomery, Porter, Moore, Campbell, Stuart/Stewart, Houston, Shelby, Anderson, Smith, Gist, Pitman, Robinson, Boles, Stapleton, Thompson, Fleming, Floyd, Kincaid, Knox, Woods, Fraley, Castle, Snoddy, Stoner, Dickenson, Bickley, Boone, Scott, Bryan, Preston, Christian, Crockett, Estill, Bledsoe, Lynch, Hamlin, Lewis, Harman, Bell, Gillespie, Cunningham, Osbourne, English, Kilgore, Green, Brown, Duncan, King, Johnson, Black, Davis, Wier, Kerr, Mccorkle, Hill, Phillips, Best, Asbury, Alley, Walls, Jones, Barnett, Calhoun, Beavers, Ward, Price, Bowen, Carter, Logan, Kennedy and others.

ROBIN STACER [haystac@home.com] sent, 1/11/2002, the following information regarding the **Hilton and Stacer** families of Scott Co., VA.

I am Robin Stacer while researching the Stacers I checked your sight. Celia Jessee daughter of John Stacer is my sister-in-law. I am related to the Hiltons of Scott County, Virginia. My branch is **John Hilton & Nancy Fulkerson**, Samuel Hilton, Enos Byrd Hilton, Matthew Hilton, Mary Virginia Hilton-Seitz to Rual Seitz and my Mom. I had the pleasure of meeting Celia, April 2001.

I have a book on the Hiltons of Scott County, Virginia written by James L. Hilton of Henderson, NC. The price of the book is \$24.50 per copy plus a \$2.00 charge to cover mailing. (Personal checks only). as of August 2001.

Hiltons of Scott County, Virginia

James L. Hilton

20 Indigo Way

Hendersonville, NC 28739-9318

I have emailed our cousin Toni who is also related to Enos Bird Hilton but his second wife Anne Bailey, I am from Susanna Burks who died in Scotts County, Virginia. Enos and his brother Jonathan moved to Barry County, Missouri. There are tons of Hiltons in Southern Missouri, Enos used his property to start the Hilton Cemetery where Jonathan is the first to be buried there. There is also another cemetery at the Hilton Church I believe everyone is related in some way. Toni has some information on Nancy Jessee.

GENIEBUG [geniebug@prodigy.net] posted on VARUSSEL-L@rootsweb.com, 2/10/2002, the

Revolutionary War Pensioners

Census of 1840 in Russell Co.:

Michael Sword Sr. age 82 Residing with Michael Sword Jr.

Benjamin Ray age 83 Residing with William Wallis

Francis Browning, Sr. age 87

Thomas Lovelady age 83 Residing with George Gose

John Hackney age 85

Daniel Price age 77

John Sykes age 83 Residing with James Sykes

Joel Ramsey age 81

James Rose 80 Residing with Jonathan Skeen

Jesse Vermillion 88

MIKE MALONE [drjoym@bellsouth.net] responded, 2/12/2002, to several inquiries regarding the **Browning** family heritage, with this summary.

The most authoritative publication I have seen on the Brownings is "Our Maryland Heritage - Book Twelve - The Browning Families" By William Neal Hurley, Jr. Published in 1988 by Heritage Books Inc. 1540 E. Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie MD. 20716 www.heritagebooks.com ISBN: 0-7884-1033-4. (Joy did donate a copy of this book to the Russell County Public Library Historical Room.)

This book uses well documented sources to verify the data. Francis A. Browning b. 11/24/1753 Culpeper, VA. was the son of John Browning b. c 1728 d. 11/18/1803 in Greene Co., GA. John married twice; first if 1751 in Virginia to Elizabeth Demarest, b. c 1725 in New Castle, Delaware and died before June, 1777 in Caswell Co., NC; daughter of Jan Demarest, Jr. and Elsie Earle Simons. John married second to Susannah Teague b. c. 1739 in Cecil Co., MD. and died 7/20/1812 in Greene Co., GA.....

John Browning was the son of Francis Browning, Jr. b. c. 1696 and died 1/21/1775 in Culpeper County. Francis was married c. 1716 to Elizabeth Lloyd, b. c. 1698 in Maryland, and died before 1740 in Culpeper Co., VA. She is said to be the daughter of William Lloyd (1680) and Mary Ann Crowley (1682), and a granddaughter of Colonel Edward Lloyd and Alice Couch.....

Francis Browning, Jr. is the son of Francis Browning b. c. 1672 in Maryland and died c. 1723 in Spotsylvania Co., VA. Marries in Cecil County, c. 1693 to Rachel Merrit/Marriott. The family lived in Essex County and the children were reportedly born there. They later moved to Culpeper County, VA.....

Francis Browning is the son of John Browning b. c 1640 and died c. 1690. John arrived in the Virginia Colony with his parents and his sister Hester about 1656; and about 1665 moved with his parents to Cecil County in Maryland. He apparently returned to England, either with his parents or alone, prior to c. 1699, when he was married there to Elizabeth whose parentage is not known. On February 3, 1670/1, John had 500 acres of land surveyed as Successor, on the forks of the Elk River in Maryland.....

John Browning was the son of Thomas Browning b. c. 1620 in England and died there in c. 1674/77. His wife was Hester who died c. 1705 at Brookthorpe, Gloucestershire, England. They had three children all born in England. It has been reported that Thomas was found in records of Rappahannock County, VA as early as 1652, but apparently went back to England for his family, and returned there before his death. Records at the Maryland State Archives show Thomas and Hester with their two children John and Hester, who came to America about 1656.....

This author concludes that the records of the Mormon Church, as well as those of Ruth T. Woods and David W. Auld which are nearly identical and may have been taken from some third source or from each other, are incorrect. The book The Genealogy of the Brownings in America 1908 has also been found to be incorrect and appears that all the information is suspect.

As we all know the serious researcher must verify the material with independent research, so go to it. Mike

NU? WHAT'S NEW?-NEWS ABOUT JEWISH GENEALOGY from Avotaynu Vol. 3, No. 3 - February 24, 2002, Gary Mokotoff, Editor, provided this very interesting article about **Melungeon Origins**. As many in SW VA share Melungeon ancestors, I thought there may be interest.

The Melungeons: Do They Have Jewish Blood?

The Anglo-oriented perception of American history gives the impression that the United States was first settled by the English—in such places as Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Roanoke and Jamestown, Virginia. In reality, the earliest colonies (16th century) in the U.S. were Spanish (let's ignore Leif Erikson and the Vikings). These Spanish colonies did not survive but there is evidence that the remnants of some may have survived in a group of people called the Melungeons.

The Melungeons are darker-skinned people who have roots in the Appalachian mountains (Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia). Their origin is not known. There are theories they have Indian blood, Portuguese, Turkish and, yes, even Jewish blood. It was the possibility that they may have Jewish blood that caused me to read a few years ago "The Melungeons: The Resurrection of a Proud People," by N. Brent Kennedy.

My conclusion from reading the book was that if the Melungeons are the descendants of the Spanish colony of Santa Elena which existed briefly (1566-1584) in what today is South Carolina, then they may indeed have Jewish blood. In Kennedy's book, he lists the names of some of the colonists of Santa Elena. The leader of the colony was a Spanish soldier named Juan Pardo. Pardo is a Spanish-Jewish name. Other colonists were named Braganza, Castillo, Chavez, Gallegos, Gomez, Lopez, Martin, Molina, Moreno, Navarro, Peres, Rivera and Zamora—all Spanish-Jewish names.

This is further evidence that many of the earliest Spanish American colonists were Crypto-Jews—people who were forced to convert to Christianity during the 15th century in Spain and Portugal but secretly practiced Judaism. The timing was perfect. The colonization of Spanish America started within a century of the conversion of these people. The colonies provided a remote place where they could secretly practice their Jewish religion and culture.

The whole matter of the Melungeons may be resolved in the next year or two because a DNA study has been undertaken to try to determine their heritage. More about the history of the Santa Elena colony can be found at:

<http://www.cla.sc.edu/sciaa/staff/depraterr/newweb.htm>.

Information about the Melungeons can be found at:

<http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/Inn/1024/>.

MICHAEL DYE [madye@fuse.net] wrote, 2/23/2003, in response to an inquiry regarding whether the **Fullers of Caswell Co., NC and Russell Co., VA** are descended from the **Mayflower Fullers**. The inquirer also provided extensive pedigree information connecting the Fullers of Caswell Co., NC and Russell Co., VA to the Mayflower Fuller.

Mike, I received a note asserting that the Fuller family of NC is descended from the Mayflower Fullers. Any truth to that? See The Mayflower Society Membership at the following URL. www.mayflower.org/member.htm

[Mike wrote back] I've seen where some people have said the RCV Fullers may be descended from the Mayflower Fullers, but I think most of the big Fuller researchers disagree with this and I don't take it too seriously at this point either. I see in your database that you have an Ezekiel Fuller listed as the father of John Fuller & Ezekiel's father as Samuel Fuller, so I can see where one might think that. [This has been since corrected] However, as far back as

I am willing to claim as probably being accurate is Henry & Nehemiah's father John Fuller. I haven't seen where any of the serious Fuller researchers had gotten any further back than that. Also, when I checked the LDS website for Ezekiel Fuller, all the entries listed his parents as William Fuller & Sarah Martiau, not Samuel Fuller. So anyway, I would be very suspect of anything past John Fuller, father of Henry & Nehemiah at this point. I did notice that the Mayflower Society website had descendant books on the various passengers. It says that each book is supposed to have five generations of descendants listed, so if our Fullers were descended from those, then there we have traced far enough back that one should be able to link them up. Of course you'd have to purchase the book/s to see what descendants are listed. I think I'll pass on that for now since I doubt our descendancy anyway.

Michael Dye followed up with more information regarding the heritage of **John Fuller** of Caswell Co., NC, believed progenitor to the Russell Co. Fullers. He takes up the alleged pedigree of John Fuller as widely found on the LDS and other genealogy sites and disproves them systematically.

My ancestor is Henry Fuller who married Katherine Salling and was a brother of Nehemiah Fuller. Henry was b. abt. 1721 in the Baltimore, MD. area. Info I have is that Nehemiah was b. abt. 1719, presumably in the same area. Henry & Nehemiah later migrated to Caswell Co., NC, Henry stopping along the way for awhile in Augusta Co., VA. The parents of Henry & Nehemiah Fuller were John & Sarah (Last name unknown) Fuller, not John Fuller & Sarah Hamlin. The John Fuller who married Sarah Hamlin was b. abt. 1727 in Middlesex Co. CT and married Sarah Hamlin 10 Feb 1746 in Middlesex Co. Both of these dates are well after Henry & Nehemiah's births and so it would be impossible for John Fuller & Sarah Hamlin to be Henry & Nehemiah's parents.

Also, according to the LDS website, John Fuller who married Sarah Hamlin was the s/o John Fuller & Mary Cornwall, not Ezekiel Fuller & Deborah Spivey. Apparently from info on the LDS site, John Fuller who married Sarah Hamlin was a descendant of Samuel Fuller son of Edward Fuller, Edward Fuller being one of two brothers, Dr. Samuel Fuller being the other, who arrived on the Mayflower. From info that I have gathered from a Mayflower site (I'll send that link also when I get home), Edward Fuller & his wife died the first winter after the arrival of the Mayflower and their son Samuel was raised by his uncle Dr. Samuel Fuller. Anyway, while John Fuller, who married Sarah Hamlin was apparently a descendant of the Mayflower Fullers, he was not the father of Henry & Nehemiah.

Ref. Ezekiel Fuller & Deborah Spivey, every entry I can find on the LDS site that has parents listed for Ezekiel lists his parents as William Fuller & Sarah Martiau, not Samuel & Patience Fuller. There is no ancestry listed before William & Sarah. In the listing of Ezekiel & Sarah's family there is a son, John Fuller, but he is listed as being b. abt. 1723, which is again after Henry & Nehemiah's birth which makes it impossible for him to be their father, which therefore makes it impossible for Ezekiel to be their grandfather.

Ref. Samuel & Patience Fuller, Samuel was apparently b. 31 Aug 1706 in New London Co., CT and Patience abt. 1710. This obviously was way too late to have been Henry & Nehemiah's great grandparents. Samuel & Patience did have a son named Ezekiel, but he was b. abt. 1741, way after Henry & Nehemiah's birth and I find no family listed for him. This Samuel Fuller was apparently also a descendant of Samuel Fuller, son of Edward Fuller, but he obviously couldn't be an ancestor to our Henry & Nehemiah.

Anyway, after doing some more research on the Mayflower Fullers, I'm more convinced than ever that our Fullers are not descendants of them. I believe our Fullers probably came into America in the Baltimore area where they originally settled and then later went to Caswell Co. They were apparently here in the 1600's, but I don't have the immigrant ancestor identified yet.

Here's the info from Beth Hillis on the ancestors of Henry & Nehemiah Fuller. This first entry is in regards to Henry & Nehemiah's parents John & Sarah Fuller. You will note it gives John a birth date abt. 1688 and says he was married by 1701. I suspect he was probably born earlier.

Notes from Beth Hillis on John Fuller & Sarah:

This may be the John Fuller of St. John's Parish who was age 40 in 1728 [b. 1688] ; m. by Oct 1701, Sarah [----] who joined him in a deed; in April 1705 John and Sarah conv. 200 a. of land on s. side of Bush R. to Nicholas Herbert; in 1720 leased 120 a. Gunpowder Manor for the lifetimes of his sons Henry and Nehemiah, born c. 1717 and 1719; by 1767 both sons were in Carolina; had issues: Henry and Nehemiah. \Source: Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759, pgs 233-234

This next entry is on the possible parents of John Fuller, father of Henry & Nehemiah:

Notes from Beth Hillis on John Fuller & Hester:

John Fuller - [2], possibly s/o John [1], or else identical to him, was in Baltimore Co. by 1682 when Hendrick Enlows conv. to him 100 a. Swallow Fork; in Feb 1687 surv. 148 a. Buck Range [later held by John Anderson]; in 1687 he and his wife, conv. 100 a. Swallow Fork back to Henry Enlows; in 1688 Fuller and wife, conv. 100 a. Fuller's Outlet to Robert Bengier; by 1692 was a taxable in n. side Gunpowder; purch. 70 a. Hap Hazard from John Bevan and wife, in 1693 and purch. 200 a. Windley's Rest from John Taylor in 1695; d. by 6 March 1700 when his estate was inventoried by Francis Dallahide and William Wright and was valued at 25.10.0 Pounds; in March 1700 widow Hester Fuller, conv. cattle and furniture to her sons John and Henry; she md. as her 2nd husband, by Oct 1701, John Peters, who made his wife, Hester and his son-in-law, John Fuller his atty.; in Oct. 1701 John and Hester Peters and John Fuller and wife, Sarah conv. Waterton's Neglect to William Peckett; had issues:

John and Henry. [Source: Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759, pgs. 233-234]

This next entry is on the possible father of John Fuller who was married to Hester above who's name was also John Fuller. Actually, I'm (Mike Dye) more inclined to think this was the same John Fuller as the one who was married to Hester. You will see below that he surveyed 100 a. known as Fuller's Outlet in 1655, and in 1688 the same 100 a. was sold to Robert Bengier. Obviously, as Beth notes, this needs more research.

Notes from Beth Hillis on John Fuller:

[1] most likely the progenitor, was in Baltimore Co. by 11 Jan 1655 when he surveyed 100 a. known as Fuller's Outlet [now this is pure speculation on my part and needs further research] [source: Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759, pg. 233-234]

Lastly, here is the additional Mayflower site I mentioned. It has info on each of the passengers as well as children etc.

<http://members.aol.com/calebj/mayflower.html>

PHILLIP AND RACHEL JESSEE

Phillip Jessee (1742-1858), wife **Rachel**, and his son **Gabriel Jessee (1804-1886)**, of still unknown relationship to John Jessee (1750-1816), are among the early Russell County, VA families. Phillip, who is reported to have lived to be 116, is sometimes referred to reverently as "Old Phillip" by researchers.

PATRICIA THOMAS PEGRAM posted on RootsWeb [www.rootsweb.com/~varussel/cemeteries/gillespiesmithcem.html] a record of the tombstones in the **Gillispie J. Smith Cemetery**.

Gillispie J. Smith Cemetery: From Lebanon take Rt. 19 west to Rosedale and turn left on Rt. 80. Take Rt. 80 to Blackford and turn

right (East) on Rt. 640. Go to Rt. 636 and turn left and go about 1 and 3/4 miles. The cemetery is on the left hand side of 636 high on a hill right beside the former home of Grat Smith (white 2 story house). The cemetery is in excellent shape and has a fence around it. Visited 9 October 2000.

Smith (one stone)

| Father | Mother |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| G. J. Smith (Gillispie Jackson) | L. L. Smith (Lethea) |
| B. 2 July 1831 | B. 3 Oct 1832 |
| D. 1 Sept 1906 | D. 26 Jan 1893 |
| Aged 75 yrs. 1 mo. 29 days | Aged 60 yrs. 3 mo. 23 days |

(s/o of Richard Jackson and Elizabeth Smith)
(d/o Gabriel Jessee and Nancy Wallis)

Mazie Dell
dau. of H. C. and G. B. Smith
B. 31 May 1905
D. 25 Mar 1911

Howard S. Smith
1915 -1918
(s/o Garland Bruce Smith & Hannah Kiser)

Smith (one stone)

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| G. Bruce (Garland) | Hannah C. |
| 1873 - 1943 | 1874 - 1930 |
| (s/o Gillespie J. Smith and Lethea L. Jessee) | (Hannah C. Whitt) |

Martha Lou Smith
B. 5 Jan 1944
D. 27 May 1945
(d/o Grat & Ruth Smith)

the following are buried in the cemetery with no stone marker.
Lorenzo Dow Smith - son of Gillispie and Lethea Smith
John Buryl Smith - son of Gillispie and Lethea Smith
Mary Smith Younger - daughter of Gillispie and Lethea Smith
Lola Smith Ray - d/o Barbara Smith
(dau of Gillispie & Lethea Smith)

JOHN AND FRANKEY LEA JESSEE

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

I will report new information for John and Frankey and each of their fifteen (I-XV) children in the newsletter, and rely upon special requests and the Jessee Family Database at www.jessee.org to provide the detailed genealogy information to those specifically interested in any particular branch.

CONNIE WILLIAMS [mailto:contim@kih.net],
posted on the Jessee List, 2/2/2002, this information
and inquiry regarding **Rev. Abednigo Kiser &
Margaret Jessee**, and suggest **Melungeon** origins.

I am reading N. Brent Kennedy's The Melungeons: The
Resurrection of a Proud People, and Margaret Jessee is mentioned
as probably being of Melungeon descent. Her dates are 1838-1902,
and she married Rev. Abednigo Kiser. Her parents are Jefferson
Jessee and Nancy Counts. Kennedy states that Jefferson Jessee had
North Carolina roots and that the Jessee name is one associated w/
Melungeons. I have heard of a Kiser connection to the Jessees, but
am having trouble connecting Jefferson Jesse. Is he a child of John
Jessee, Sr. and Frances "Franky" Lea/Lee?

You can look up Jefferson Jessee and Nancy
Counts on the database at www.jessee.org. He is the
son of John Jessee, Jr., son of John and Franky Lea
Jessee. Once again we have a persistent Melungeon or
Indian heritage being suggested in another line of the
Jessee family. Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser has been
thought to be of Indian descent, but I, too, think it is the
Kiser connection that is being confused on that point. I
will say this is the first that suggests that John Jessee,
Jr. or his wife Mary "Polly" Armstrong, or perhaps
John and Franky Lea themselves are Melungeon. I
think we need to consider that Franky Lea could have
been Melungeon.

VERNON & PAULINE SALYERS [vpsaly@naxs.net]
provided, 2/2/2002, a CD with images of Jessee
obituaries from over many years. Here is the list of
Jessees included

Jessee, Ada;
Jessee, Anna B.
Jessee, B. C.
Jessee, Ballard W.
Jessee, Beecher B.
Jessee, Bernard
Jessee, Bessie C.
Jessee, Betty Zane Jackson
Jessee, C. D.
Jessee, Clara Davidson
Jessee, Clayton Lee
Jessee, Cora L.
Jessee, Dema Cross
Jessee, Dorothy O.
Jessee, Flora Ellen
Jessee, Garland D. "Ike"
Jessee, Gladys
Jessee, Grat G.
Jessee, Grover
Jessee, Hazel Bundy
Jessee, Henry F.
Jessee, Herman F.
Jessee, Ira Fuller
Jessee, James E.
Jessee, James Robert
Jessee, Jessie P.
Jessee, Lee, Mrs.
Jessee, Lester "Billy"
Jessee, Lucy
Jessee, Martha Viers

Jessee, Mary Jane
Jessee, Nina B.
Jessee, Oakley Walker
Jessee, Ralph Stanford
Jessee, Robert M.
Jessee, Rose Brooks
Jessee, Sallie Russell
Jessee, Sam Vince
Jessee, Taulbee
Jessee, Tommy A.
Jessee, V. Gertrude
Jessee, Vernon Jefferson
Jessee, Walter A.
Jessee, Willard

MYRNA MCDONALD [MMcdon1700@aol.com]
provided, 4/3/2002, this excerpt from **PIONEER
RECOLLECTIONS - VIRGINIA**, the submission by
Priscilla Harding, August 24, 1942, Carterton,
Virginia (Page 167).

I am in my 93rd year, having been born in 1849. My parents
were **Aaron Gose** and his wife, **Nancy Powell Dickenson Gose**.
My father's mother was **Elizabeth Jessee**.

I have heard that the first old Jessee to come to this section
was **John Jessee**. He was my grandmother Gose's father and lived
up above here in Reeds Valley where Elihu Counts now lives. I
have heard that he cut and split a hundred rails the day he was 100
years old. I don't know much about part of his children. The
following were some of them:

John Jessee, Jr. lived about where his grandson, **Ephraim
Jessee**, later lived up the valley. He had three sons.

1. Joseph Jessee -

Lived at the Eph. Jessee place. He married **Cynthia Smith** (of
Castlewood, not related to Billy Smith of near Cleveland). Their
children were: **Timothy, Tivis, Ephraim, Mary** (married **(Dr.
_____ Gilmer), Sylvesta** (Married **John Purcell), Eliza**
(married **John Browning** of Clintwood, Dickenson County), and
Unice (married **Abel Smith** of Billy).

2. Jefferson Jessee

Married **Nancy Counts** and lived at the forks of the road on
Meade Branch - where the Carterton road crosses the valley road.

3. Armstrong Jessee

Lived here and there among his relatives mostly. He was witty
by improvident. I don't think he ever married.

I don't know whether this John Jessee had any girls.

Elizabeth Jessee (my grandmother) grew up at the E. K.
Counts place and married **George Gose**. The son of **Stephen** and
Barbara Ketron Gose. Stephen was a captain in the
Revolutionary War. His wife's people - Catron or Ketron - were
from Holland. The Goses lived in Lower Castlewood. My
grandfather, George Gose, was married twice. The first time to
Elizabeth Jessee, and their children were: **John, Aaron** (my
father), **Barbara** (married **Frank Habern**), **Annie** (married **Robert
_____ Burk**), **Dacey** (married **Caleb Osborn(e)**), **Mary** (married **Jim
Long**), **Eliza** (married **1. David Gilmer; 2. _____ Stone**), **Frankie**
(married **Charles Gilmer**), **Temperance** (married **Axley Gilmer**),
Elizabeth (married **(_____ Alexander)**), and **Cynthia** (married
_____ Clinton). His second wife was **Elizabeth Cowan** and their
children were **Cowan, Charles, Maryann** (married **John Chafin**),
Martha (Patsy) (married **William Leece**) and **Nancy** (died about 4
years).

David Jessee was a Baptist preacher, and his son, **John
Jessee**, was also a Baptist preacher, who married a Candler and
lived in Lee County, Virginia.

One of the Jessee girls (whose name I don't remember) married **Fleming Burk** and lived in the upper part of the county.

Lea Jessee lived up near George L. Jessee's (E. K. Counts) but moved west early.

Polly Jessee married **Ab Kiser**, and after his death at the fight at _____ Creek, she married **Jimmy Chafin**. He had no children by her, but later married and had children.

I never heard of Phillip Jessee.

.....

My mother was **Nancy Powell Dickenson**, a daughter of **Henry Dickenson** and **Elizabeth Bickley Dickenson**. Grandmother Dickenson was a daughter of Charles Bickley, whose last wife was a Hatler. She was my mother's grandmother and was part french. They settled somewhere between St. Paul and Castlewood.

I. John Jessee, Jr.

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

GORDON B. JESSEE [jesseeqb@msn.com], sent along, 1/24/2002, this reference to a Website that has a photo of **Private Stanford Lee Jessee**, son of Jefferson Jessee, son of John Jessee, Jr.

Mr. Robert Perry has created a website dedicated to the **Civil War Battle of Middle Creek, KY**. This is where my GGrandfather Stanford L. Jessee (Descendant of John Jessee, John Jessee Jr., Jefferson Jessee) died in battle. It is a very informative website and displays a picture of Stanford in his military uniform. The URL is listed in the email below.

From: Robert.Perry@kctcs.edu

My new Battle of Middle Creek website includes the picture of Private Stanford Jessee that you sent me. It can be found on www.geocities.com/heartland/9999/MiddleCreekFoundationPage.html

MIKE MALONE [drjoym@bellsouth.net] wrote, 1/30/2002, with this information possibly pertaining to our **John Jessee, Jr** and brother **William Jessee**. He asks for some help on this matter.

I was sorting through some information we picked up in Richmond the last time we were there. This relates to Muster Rolls of the Virginia Militia in the War of 1812 printed in 1851.

1. "Pay Roll of Captain William L. Montague's Company, of the One Hundred and Ninth Regiment of Virginia Militia, Middlesex County, in the Service of the United States, at several places on the Rappahannock River, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Elliott Muse, from the 26th of April to the 26th of December 1814." The following Jessees were listed; William Jesse, Lieutenant served 2 months, and John Jessee, Private having served 15 days.

2. "Pay Roll of Captain Lewis Lee's Company, attached to the One Hundred and Ninth Regiment of Virginia Militia, in the Service of the United States, commanded by Colonel Elliott Muse, from the 9th October to the 12th December 1814." John Jesse was listed as a Private having served 15 days.

I don't remember seeing anything in the Jessee notes about William or John Jessee, Jr. serving in the War of 1812. I know that John Jessee Jr. Was made a Captain in the Virginia Militia in September of 1814 in Russell Co. Notice that the dates of the pay rolls overlap so John possibly only served one 15 day term. Do you have any information that would indicate that these entries were our William and John Jr.? [I don't - Ed]

SHAWNA HOLLAND [wholland@cgmailbox.com] sent, 2/23/2002, the following information regarding **Atha Jessee**, daughter of **Robert and Stella Walker Jessee**, son of **Cowan and Hannah Edison Jessee** a descendant of John Jessee, Jr. Shawna provided several photos, one of which is featured here.

I enjoyed your Jessee sight! Here is the information on my Grandmother Atha Jessee.

Atha Jessee b. 2-14-1914 d. 12-20-1998

parents: Robert & Stella Jessee

married: George Harrison Withrow 9-21-1935

George "Harrison" Withrow b. 6-14-1910 d. 5-13-1971

Children of Atha & Harrison

1. Martha Lou Withrow (living)

married: Phillip Wayne Grubb 8-13-1961

children: Shawna Dee Grubb-Holland (me)

Rance Wayne Grubb

2. James Robert Withrow b. 7-4-1936 d. 6-2-1997

Atha's siblings:

1. Margaret "Irene" Jessee-Whitt (living)

2. Ralph b. 3-11-17 d. 3-4-33

3. Roger (living)

4. Jack b. 1-16-22 d. 3-26-26

5. Juanita Jessee-Colley-Davis-Riley (living)

6. Arvil (living)

7. Joan (pronounced Joanne) Jessee-Davis

8. Bobbie Colleen Jessee-Suttles b. 11-10-30 d. 11-30-75

9. Ray (living)

I spoke to my Aunt Irene today and she said Robert (her father) worked in a brickyard in Olive Hill, Ky for about 30 years. He also ran a "Poor House" in two different locations. I found them listed on the 1920 census (page 9, district 62 on Ancestry.com) for Carter County-Olive Hill town. Robert spelled his name Jessie. I have seen his children listed as Jessee and Jessie.



left to right: Irene (back), Roger, Atha holding Jack, Ralph

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.

SHIRLEY LEONARD [SAAistrop@cs.com] sent this kind note, 1/29/2002, and helps us knit together more Russell Co. Families, including descendants of **Nancy Jessee Gray**, daughter of Archer Jessee

Hi Jim, Just got your newsletter and was looking through it. As usual, when I get it something surprising happens, 'cause after doing so, I guess out of guilt in not doing much genealogy work recently, I get back on the Internet and go to some sites looking for Campbells, etc., and came to Ancestry.com. Not really knowing why, I tapped onto an Aistrop query, "Oliver Aistrop" to be exact just to see who was interested in him. It seems the info was posted by a Browning. I went into the Ahnentafel and learned that Nancy Morgan Fickle Aistrop's parents were Isaac B. Fickle and Elizabeth D. Gray. Elizabeth's mother was Nancy Lee Jessee, daughter of Archer or Archibald Jessee and Nancy Browning. This was kinda of a shock to me as you know Bertha Jessee was my grandmother. Soooooo it seems that Grover Cleveland Aistrop, my grandfather, and Bertha Jessee, his wife were probably fourth or fifth cousins. Bertha's ggggrandfather and Archibald Jessee were brothers. So bottom line here is that I am related on both sides of the family to the Jessees. Thanks to you and others like you and to your newsletter, I now have a more complete picture of the paternal side of my family, as previously I was stuck with the Fickles meaning no maiden names came up until now. Wow..... how exciting is that.

One other thing..... is it Archer or Archibald Jessee. Just wanted to let you know about your good work with the newsletter.

Is it Archer or Archibald? I am thoroughly convinced that it was Archer, although later generations began to use Archibald. My belief for this is discussed in prior newsletters, but rests on the idea that Archer is a surname of one of our Lea family great-grandmothers, as yet unrecorded on the Frankey Lea side. Archer as a given name is also used in the family of who I believe to be her brother, Colonel George Lea of Caswell Co., NC, who names a son William Archer Lea. --ED

NANCY HILL [nhill@kc.rr.com] provided, 2/22/2002, an GEDCOM file that includes both descendants and extensive pedigree information for **Francis Howard** who married **Elizabeth Jessee** daughter of Archer Jessee. Nancy connected Francis' mother, **Rachel Herndon**, to **William Herndon** who married **Catherine Digges**. The Digges pedigree goes back to William the Conqueror and even earlier medieval generations, and connects to most of the royal families of Europe. You can look up Catherine Digges pedigree on the Jessee database at www.jessee.org. Howard descendants will also wish to look at the pedigree information for **Sarah F. Johnston** who married **Francis Howard (b. 1739)**, as well.

I am attaching my family GEDCOM with the information I have on the Herndons, Howards and Jessees. Much of the information is the same as provided by **Janet Lighthill-Ridley, Carol Atkinson** and **Laela Jo Lindner**. The birth dates I have for Francis and Elizabeth Howard's children are from guardianship papers filed in Boone County, Indiana after Francis's death and are dated 8/14/1848 with Anderson Howard listed as guardian.

The books I have used are *Johnston of Caroline County, Virginia* by Elbert Felton Johnston, Ph.D., and *Ten Generations of Virginia Howards* by Walter L. Howard, Ph.D.

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.

No new contributions to report.

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.

No new contributions to report.

V. David Jessee

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

WILMA GILLENWATER [4grannys@NETVA.COM] wrote, 3/30/2002 with this inquiry regarding the Gillenwater family, some of whom descend from **George L. Gillenwater** who married **Sarah F. "Sallie" Jessee**, daughter of **David Jessee**.

I am researching Gillenwaters. My husband's (James Gillenwater) grandfather was Garland Huston Gillenwater. He was born in 1890 in either Washington or Smyth Co Va. He married Cora Blanche Stump born 1892. I have found the Stumps but am having a lot of trouble with the Gillenwater's. I have found these Gillenwaters in Washington Co Va. George L. 60, Sarah F. 57, David 30, Margaret J. 20 George I 17. Also, (next door) Julius 34, Martha 25, Charles E.8, Lilla C6, David 4, William 1.

Do you know if any of these male Gillenwater's could be Garland Huston's father? Any help would be appreciated.

VI. Elizabeth Jessee Gose

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

No new contributions to report.

VII. Mary "Polly" Jessee Kiser

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

VIVIAN BALES (Marion, IN), Polly Jessee Kiser's gggg-granddaughter, is a faithful contributor to this newsletter. She constantly works at ferreting out little bits and pieces of information she gathered over a lifetime, and sends them my way. I attempt to keep up with her by keying her information into the database. Here she provides some good advice, memories, stories, and insight into Vivian's colorful life. I am happy to report that Vivian, who is now 89, has been writing regularly, and sending along the flotsam and jetsam of her genealogy research which I have dutifully recorded in the Jessee Family Database.

VIII. Frances Jessee Stone

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

I met two new Frances Jessee Stone descendants at the Jessee family reunion, and have had several contacts with Stone descendants from Missouri. I hope we have more to report here in future newsletters.

NOTE: Before the following information, I had **Harvey G. Stone**, son of **William and Frances Jessee Stone**, recorded as born abt. 1828 with no marriage or other family information. Based on the following I have made a SPECULATION that the following Harvey Stone is one and the same as Harvey G. Stone. Help to prove or disprove this would be appreciated.

DR. JOE W. STONE, JR.[StoneVetSe@aol.com], wrote 2/7/2002, with the following inquiry about a **Harvey Stone**.

My family has been searching for the ancestors of my G-Grandfather: Harvey STONE b: 22 Jun 1828 d: May 1914 he was married to Sallie J. Watters on 5 Apr 1874 in Perry Co. AL. We only know a few facts about Harvey Stone:

My father accompanied him via train from South Alabama to Chattanooga, TN for a Confederate Soldier's reunion in about 1913. And while in Chattanooga Harvey Stone took my father and showed him where he had been engaged in several battles at the Chickamauga/Chattanooga National Monument Park near Fort Oglethorpe, GA. He told his family that he had gone back to his home place after the civil war and it had been burned and no one knew where his Family members were or if they had survived. He told the family that he had a brother named Tom or Thomas STONE, but no one remembers him mentioning other family members. He had been involved in the Defense of Rome, GA and told how strong the defensive positions between two rivers and

behind barricades of cotton bales: that Sherman's Army by passed Rome and engaged Atlanta's defenders at Kennesaw Mountain.

After the Civil War was over Harvey STONE worked as a crew member on steamships cruising up and down the Coosa and Alabama Rivers from Rome, Ga and Mobile, AL He met his wife in Selma, AL on one of his trips married and built a home and became a large land owner and farmer at Sprott, AL.

My father Joe William Stone Sr., was born 27 Mar 1903, and when he told about accompanying his Grandfather Harvey STONE to the Confederate reunion in Chattanooga he did not tell when it was of what age he was. He just said that when he was a boy he made the trip. So if he was 10 the reunion was in 1913, which would have been the 50 year reunion of the end of the Civil War. So all of the exact dates are guess work on my part.

I am trying to find muster rolls of the Soldiers involved in the Battle of Chickamauga and those attendees at the Chattanooga Reunion.

Do you all think there is a possibility that my Great Grandfather could be the son of William Stone and Frances Jessee? Or is it a possibility that he could be a relative?

Dr. Joe W. Stone, Jr., 103 Bass Ave., Rome, GA 30165

Subsequent research by Dr. Joe W. Stone has disproved it.

PATRICIA JESSEE STONE [patjessee@hotmail.com] posted, 2/21/2002, on the STONE-L@rootsweb.com list, the following information.

My Stones have been a bit challenging to track, moving around in different counties but staying in southwest Virginia for the most part.

My husband and I share a common ancestor, John Jessee in Russell Co. VA. John's son, James, is my husband's ancestor and John's daughter, Frances, who married William Stone is my ancestor.

William and Frances Jessee Stone were both born about 1789 and moved from southwest Virginia to Sullivan Co. Missouri somewhere around 1830-1840. Some of their family accompanied them, while my direct ancestors remained in VA. William and Frances are buried in Sullivan Co.

William's father may have been Jeremiah Stone, that is as far back as I go and have not determined names of any siblings William may have had.

William and Frances Stone's son, John Jessee Stone (born abt. 1810) married Rebecca Sergeant (born abt. 1810). John and Rebecca's son, William Henry Stone (born abt. 1829) married Mary Jane Stanley.

William and Mary's son, Benjamin Franklin Stone (born abt. 1875-1877) married Mary Caroline Green (born 1883).

Benjamin and Mary's son, Jake Benjamin Stone, Sr. married Ethel Gertrude Collier, they are my grandparents.

I am researching these surnames.

JESSEE, STONE, GREEN, STANLEY, SERGEANT

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.

No new contributions to report.

X. Boedicia Jessee Gose

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

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

XI. James Jessee

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

IRIS LAMBERT HALL, a descendant of James Jessee, is a regular contributor who shares a lifetime of research, and more than a bit of wisdom.

HUBERT BURKE JESSEE [hjessee@rapidgrid.com] has been corresponding and providing information about the family of **Fleming Burk Jessee, Jr.** (1863-1930), who was the son of **Fleming Burk Jessee, Sr.**, son of **James Jessee and Jane Burk**. This branch of the family moved to Washington State, and Hubert lives in Hawaii. Please go to www.jessee.org and look up these names to see the information Hubert has helped me compile. Still we have many questions about this family, and much to prove. Regarding his Uncle Fleming Jessee, he wrote, 5/4/2002 and 5/22/2002, with the following.

My name is Hubert Burke Jessee. I've been trying off and on for the last couple of years to trace some of my family background with hardly any success. Three days ago I stumbled on your remarkable work at Ancestry.com and discovered my link to Fleming Burk Jesse who lived in Marcus, Washington. I would like to pass on the information I have and would appreciate any help you can give my in tracing my branch of the Jessee family. First let me explain how I connected the "dots". My father was born in Marcus, Washington and that his mother's name was Alpha. I met her twice when I was very little, when she was living in Kettle Falls, Washington. I also saw the names of my three aunts, Myrtle, Verna and Jennie, in an e-mail Paul Ballantine sent you on 9/1/1999 that you copied in your Jessee Family Newsletter number 16, page 15. Here's what little I know:

My father, Burke Jessee, had three sisters: Myrtle, Verna and Jennie; and four brothers (at least): Fleming, Gilbert, Ira and one who died at birth. Fleming and Gilbert Jessee worked on the railroad until they retired. I first met all of them, except Ira, when I was a boy. I last saw Fleming when we attended my father's funeral in August 1981.

Gilbert Jessee was born on 19 May 1910 in Marcus. He died in 1973 in Seattle, Washington, I think in an auto accident. He was married to Goldie. She died on 24 Feb 1994. They had three daughters, I think. I don't know their names.

I don't have any information on Fleming or Ira Jessee.

Burke Jessee was born in Marcus on 19 April 1916 and died in Aug 1981 in Longview, Washington. He was married to Lorraine Doris Nixon, my mother. She was born in Jul 1919 in Colorado, I

believe Durango. She is still alive. They had four boys: myself - born 4 April 1939 in Colville, Washington, Brett Alvin Jessee - born in 1942 in Polson, Montana (still living), Rogue Allen Jessee - born in 1950 (still living), Wade Jessee - born in 1951 (still living).

I have a little more information but its kind of iffy. I need to do more research before I pass it on. Hubert Jessee, Aiea, HI

I see the Jessee genealogy lists Fleming B. Jessee as being one of Fleming Burk Jessee Jr's sons who died in 1980. There is a discrepancy about this entry that I can't reconcile with what I know. My uncle Fleming Jessee was alive in 1981 when he and my Uncle Herbert Jessee attended my father's wake. I have a picture of them, my three brothers and myself at the wake. I also never knew him to have a middle name or middle initial. My mother told me that Alpha Jessee did not want to give her children middle names or initials. I suppose, though, it is possible if my Uncle Fleming was the son of Grandfather Fleming Burke Jessee's first wife. It doesn't seem realistic that there would be two sons named Fleming Jessee does it? I'm afraid I don't know what to make of this. Incidentally my Uncle Fleming disappeared after the wake in 1981 and I can't find any trace of him so far.

Unfortunately, I don't know how old Uncle Fleming was. My father, Burke Jessee was 65 when he died and he was the youngest of the boys. Uncle Fleming had to be over 65. I'll ask my brother, Rogue, to see if he knows or can find out from Mom. It will be a while before I can find out since none of my family has a computer.

Incidentally, I'm sending the picture I mentioned to you. Starting in the back row on the left is my uncle Fleming Jessee, my brother Brett Alvin Jessee, b. Feb 1942, my brother Rogue Allen Jessee, b. Apr 1950, my brother Wade Loren Jessee, b. Sep 1951 and the front row starting on the left is my uncle Herbert Jessee and me, Hubert Burke Jessee, b. Apr 1939.



XII. Rebecca Jessee Burk

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

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

This 502 page book 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 information for each of these lines. Their notations and documentation of sources are tremendous. A simply great effort.

This book includes over 1000 descendants of Rebecca Jessee and William Burk. None of which has been keyed into a genealogy database, other than those small portions in the Jessee Database. 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.

KATHRYN GREEVER [kgreever@wvu.edu], wrote, 1/26/2002, in response to an Anthony the following additional information about the **Burk Family History**.

Hi Anthony. You have a question about the ancestors of Fleming Burk, Sr. I agree that there are a couple of other researchers who have a different interpretation. Each researcher satisfies him/herself with certain levels of proof. I'll share a summary of ours.

1. Fleming Burk, Sr.'s daughter Nancy (Burk) Vermillion lists her birth state on the 1850 Russell Co., VA census as GA.

2. Fleming Burk, Sr.'s younger brother, John, who was in Russell Co., VA, married there and then went to Adams Co., IL. lists his birth state on the 1850 Adams Co., IL census as GA. Now, in 1870, VA is listed; however, by that time his wife had died and he married his young German servant girl. But, that does represent a conflict.

3. Fleming Burk's brother, Thomas, Jr. was also in Russell Co., VA but went to KY where he died in 1821. However, some of his older surviving children in 1850 also list GA as place of birth.

4. Fleming's sister, Mary Polly married William McKinney. They moved from Russell Co., VA to KY, too—Pulaski Co. A descendant trying to get into the DAR said Mary Polly was born June 1772, GA; and, although she lived there, evidence suggests she was really born in VA. All this is enough to suggest that someone should at least look in GA. So what is there?

5. In 1785 There is a Thomas Burk in the GA tax digest. in Wilkes Co. He seemed to travel around those northern GA counties. We do find in 1794 there is a Fleming Burk in Elbert Co., GA Land Warrants. (Elbert was formed from Wilkes). Also, in 1794 in Elbert Co., Fleming (Flemmen) Burk witnessed a deed from Thomas, Sr. to John Staples. Thomas, Sr., and Thomas, Jr. are also found on fragments of lists of Headright & bounty grants. So, we find a Thomas, Sr., a Thomas, Jr. and a Fleming.

6. But where did they come from? There are two court references for Thomas Sr. giving authority to two different people—the last in 1812—to try to collect what was due him from his father's (Henry) estate in Caroline Co., VA.

7. Although Caroline Co., VA is a burned county and records are scarce, Henry's estate was in question for over 30 years. Although that may have been a nightmare for his children, it is

helpful to researchers. His will mentions Thomas and his other children. Thomas is found in Caroline Co. as late as 1772. There is an absence of over a decade where Thomas is not definitely traced. However, there was a Thomas Burk in Montgomery Co., during that time and Thomas had a son (Thomas, Jr.) who married a Tuttle. These Tuttle were also in Montgomery Co., VA. Possibly a coincidence, but at least interesting.

The Burk book outlines this in some more detail, and I suggest you take a look at the book and make up your own mind.

The greatest confusion with this line was, to us, in saying that Fleming's father was Thomas who married Clara Fleming. Researchers disagree on what Clara's maiden name was. Some say Clara Frazier. These are what we refer to as the Augusta Co., VA Burks who seem to have come from PA or possibly MD.

So, we have the Augusta Co., VA Burks (and James Burk of Burkes Garden is speculated to be related to them—with James having been from PA and a Quaker. And, we have the Caroline Co., VA Burks. Then we have a group of NC Burks among whom are found some of James Burk's descendants.

In any case, in Caroline Co., VA there was a Col. Fleming who was a famous Indian fighter. Being a Col. he was from a good family and certainly had standing in that Co. We speculate that Fleming might have been named after him.

You are descended from Isaiah Jessee Burk, son of Wm. Burk and Rebecca Jessee (and we believe we have conclusively proved that this was not Rebecca Vermillion who married Fleming's brother John) which is reported in LDS and other records. Isaiah married Mary E. Thompson.

Your Thomas Bilton Burk was born May 26, 1784 in Tazewell Co., VA. Your Devine Thomas Burk was born Jul. 8, 1911 in Ogden, Weber Co., UT. Couldn't go much further with this because of the privacy code of LDS records. However, I wonder if they went to Lenton, IN. Hope this helps. Cousin Kathryn.

XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

Jane Jessee (1797-1869) married **Henry Fuller** (1792-1872), son of **Abraham Fuller** and **Mary Sargent**. They had ten children. This family moved to Illinois.

While I have a scant amount of descendants information, I do not correspond with any descendant of Jane Jessee Fuller. This is a family that needs much research.

XIV. George Lea Jessee

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

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

XV. Martin Jessee

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

MISSING LINKS, PROBLEMS AND OTHER CONUNDRUMS

Please help us solve these riddles.

JANA FERN JESSEE BECKER [JFJBecker@aol.com] sent this request for help on 7/13/2001, which appeared in the January Newsletter.

My name is Jana Fern Jessee Becker. I was born in Kansas City, Missouri (Jackson County), on 9/10/50. I have two brothers: Randall Boone Jessee (b. 1/1/42) and Lance Hart Jessee (b. 5/29/43), both also born in Kansas City, Missouri.

Our father's name was Randall Smith Jessee (b. 7/10/14, Prathersville, Missouri, Clay County; d. 10/5/76, Liberty, Missouri, Clay County). His father's name was Daniel Boone Jessee (b. 9/24/1873, near Sullivan, Missouri, Franklin County; d. 2/22/46, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, Clay County). Our great grandfather's name was Jasper Jessee (b. 12/12/1833, near Nashville, Tennessee; d. 12/5/1879, Prathersville, Missouri).

We have no record of the Jessee family before Jasper Jessee. Jasper's mother was Martha (Marthey A. Craige Jessee) who died 12/11/1879, in Prathersville, Missouri. On 3/12/1857, Jasper married Mary Ann Hayes Jessee, (b. 6/12/1836; died 1922). Jasper had one brother and many sisters. His brother, Newt, reportedly moved to Colorado, married, and had children. It is believed that Jasper's family came from Virginia.

After the Civil War, Jasper and Mary Ann moved from near Nashville, Tennessee, to near Paducah, Kentucky, to Illinois, and then to Missouri, first to near Sullivan in Franklin County and finally to Prathersville in Clay County, in 1874.

GAIL GARTIN GILBERT [gailgilbert@earthlink.net] responded, 1/22/2002, with the following.

Hi Jane, I received the Jessee Newsletter today and saw your letter to Jim on page 6 [above]. It caught my attention because of the locations for your Jessees. I suspect Jasper may have been a son of one of William Jessee and Mary Vermillion's sons.

I descend from their son Robert and he located in Buchanan Co., MO from TN. He was married to Louisa Graves whose family was from Claiborne Co. TN, then Union or Sullivan, I believe, and then around Paducah KY.

Their dau. married J. R. Woodruff, my great grandfather, and he settled in Liberty, MO. My grandmother, Ella Woodruff, married James G. Gartin and the Gartins were in the Gower area. All these towns were very near St. Joe.

JANA JESSEE FITZWATER [rayfitzwater@juno.com] wrote, 3/26/2002, with this inquiry regarding her **John Wesley Jessee** pedigree from Nolan Co., TX. I am unable to connect her to the larger Jessee family.

My maiden name is Jana Jessee. My father's name is James R. Jessee from Nolan, County, Texas. His fathers name is Erbie Lee Jessee from Nolan County, TX I believe and his father is John Wesley Jessee from Sweetwater, TX - also Nolan Co, TX I could not find any of these names in your genealogy tree. I don't think anyone knows about us. So here we are! My tree stops with John Wesley Jessee— can you help?

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2002

All the information I have is as follows.

John Wesley Jessee married to Lela Clementine Hargrove

born: December 22, 1888 Born: February 3, 1889

Died: June 15, 1948 Died: August 15, 1958

Both lived in Sweetwater, Texas or Nolan, County, Texas and are buried there. My grandmother tells me that John Wesley was from Missouri or Illinois?

Children include: Mable Jessee, Rena Mae Jessee, Erbie Lee Jessee (my grandfather) Mattie Marie "Sis" Jessee, Billie Neil (twin sister died) Jessee.

Erbie Lee Jessee married to Vera Mozelle Lambeth

Born: September, 24, 1915 Born January 8, 1920

Still living Died: April 1959

Buried Artesia, New Mexico

Children:

Olan Pete Jessee

James Roland Jessee my dad- Jana Jessee Fitzwater

JOYCE COLLINS [joycecollins@compuserve.com] posted, 4/8/2002, to the Clay Co., KY List [KYCLAY-L@rootsweb.com] a response to a question about the 1860 Clay Co. Census, and the use of the terms MB, MM, FB, and FM to denote the sex and race of individuals recorded. Her most interesting example to illustrate her point brings up the subject of **Black Jessees**, who are indeed descendants of John and Frankey Lea Jessee by virtue of some of their sons and grandsons who owned slaves and had black children. The Jessees themselves may have been Melungeon, and we believe that several Jessee wives were Melungeon, and any of these could have been classified as BM/F or M/F, too. We also know that some of the slave owning Jessees did free their slaves, who retained the surname Jessee, as well.

QUESTION: I've noticed a couple of abbreviations in the 1860 Clay County census that I recently downloaded. After some people's gender there is an additional letter in parentheses, either an m or a b. For example F(b) or M(m). Does anyone have any idea what this could be? Could it possibly be b=black and m=? Or am I thinking along the wrong lines?

RESPONSE:

I am not looking at the 1860 census right now but from other census records I have seen, where it is indicated MB or MM, that would stand for Male Black or Male Mulatto. Often there will be some sort of a guide at the beginning of a transcribed census where the various types of abbreviations are spelled out. As I look at the transcribed Knox Co. Fed. Census for 1860 sold by the Knox Co. Gen. Society, they have chosen to show race other than white as these examples illustrate:

Dwelling 403

JESSEE, Susan, 70, f, VA

.. Anna, 50, f, VA

.. George, 20, m., VA

.. Daniel, 18, m, VA

.. Andes, 16, m, VA

.. Rachael, 13, f, VA

.. Jane, 12, f, VA

MAYES, George, 50, m, VA

(Susan JESSEE was Black; her children and George MAYES were Mulattos)

In another couple of Dwellings, this particular transcriber has placed notations at the end such as (All of the above family were Mulattos) or (the children, and Sally were deaf and dumb) , or (Rachel is listed as Blind)

Some transcribers chose to indicate the race of each and every person listed in the census even if the great and over-whelming majority of the persons listed fall under the two categories MW (male white) or FM (female White). Others will only indicate the race as indicated by the original census enumerator if it is OTHER THAN WHITE.

There is a guide in the front of my transcribed 1860 census which shows:

FB - Female Black
MB - Male Black
FM - Female Mulatto
MM - Male Mulatto

Please also remember that this 1860 census was prior to the Civil War. Therefore, any male or female Black or Mulatto persons shown in Clay Co. (or I would assume any county) must also be assumed to be FREE. Otherwise, they unfortunately would have not have been named. If a person fell into the "Slave" category, they were only counted as a male or female with NO names as such persons were treated in those days as property - not human beings.

Joyce responded to me with more information

I've noticed in the past there seemed to be a number of Black or Mulatto families in Clay Co. and they were associated with the salt-making industry which was there at that time. The listings on the 1850 Clay Co. seem to also point this out.

1850 Clay - annotated and sold by James WELCH
Dwelling 369

WHITE, B. F., 33 (Benjamin, son of Hugh)

.. Alabama, 29, b. TN (mar. Alabama TAYLOR on 1-1-1837
in Clay Co

.. John, 12
.. Dilleon, 11
.. catherine, 9
.. Beverly, 8, male
.. William, 6
.. Ann, 4
.. Ellen, 1

BOWLING, William, 22

JONES, Jack, 40, Black

JESSE, James, 19, Black

NOTE: also listed: Slaves, 35 MB, 33MB,

21FB, 19FB, 40FB, 55FB, 25MB, 27MB, 8FB, 7FB, 2MB, 5MB
(this family was part of the salt industry - - the WHITE family, that is.

Dwelling 750

JESSE, Lucy, 50, b. VA; Black

.. Margaret, 22, b. VA; Black

.. Catherine, 12, b. VA; Black

.. William, 9, ; Black

.. Benjamin, 8; Black

NOTE: Let it be noted that just on this one page, there are 3 white families who are: W. H. WALKER with 5 slaves; Leander MILLER with 12 slaves; and a Thomas ANDERSON, 39, from VA with 6 slaves.

SANDY FAUGHT [sfought@tymewyse.com] wrote, 5/29/2002 with this information and inquiry.

I sure hope you can help me clear up some facts about my ancestry. My great great grandfather was Arvil Kiser. I have been unable to discover who is parents were. Every avenue I follow keeps turning up "parents unknown". My grandmother was Edna Kiser Gardner.

In 1998, as a descendant, my mother received an oil and gas lease prepared by a firm in Tennessee. This document references to a parcel of land (Tract 2) on which Abednago Kiser retained mineral rights. It references unrecorded affidavits of heirship from: Abednago Kiser, Alice Ball and Edna Gardner. It states that this deed was recorded in Deed Bk 18, Page 251 in Dickenson County.

For a number of years there has been a rumor that Abednago (his first name seems to have 3 different spellings) fathered 2 or 3 children by his daughter Alice. Could she be the "Unknown Kiser"? Is that why Arvil, Eugene and Roxie were raised by Abednigo and Margaret? Thank you for any help you can provide.

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.

VERNON & PAULINE SALYERS [vpsaly@naxs.net], sent, 1/23/2002, this letter recognizing Vernon's sister, **Nancy S. Elswick** for being an instrumental part of their wonderful genealogy research team.

Thanks for the recognition of our cemetery records in the latest newsletter. However, Vernon's sister, Nancy S. Elswick, should share the credit, also. We generally work as a trio on the cemetery treks as well as the indexing of the information for our records/database. We are continually searching for new (old) cemeteries to visit; so if you hear of any, let us know.

Also, we collect funeral home and/or newspaper obits. We presently have over 2700 scanned into our files. There are about forty-five with the Jesse last name. Since we have no idea whom you might be interested in (if any), we will be glad to send you those on a CD (jpeg format) if you wish.

DONALD DRAKE [ddd@surfnetnc.com] posted, 4/4/2002, to VARUSSEL-L@rootsweb.com documented names for **Big A Mountain**, which he had indicated was originally **Big Arse Mountain** and then **Big Butt Mountain**.

On October 20th, 1796, Francis Wilkinson sold to George Robinson "100 hundred acres lying and being on the head waters of Lewis's Creek a branch of Clinch River . . . bounded as follows vis. Beginning at a walnut and hickory sapling on the side of the Big Arse Mountain . . . on the side of a steep hill by a spring . . ." Deed Book 2 page 151

On March 23, 1821, George Robinson and wife Elizabeth sold to Thompson Johnston "a parcel of land containing 30 acres . . . on the head waters of Lewis's Creek a branch of Clinch River . . . bounded as follows viz: Beginning at a walnut and hickory sapling on the side of the Big Arse Mountain . . ." Deed Book 6 page 534

On January 24th, 1837, John Johnson and his wife, Elizabeth, sold to Samuel Robinson two adjoining tracts of land (106 acres and 30 acres) "in the New Garden on the south side of Big Butt . . . beginning . . . near the top of a steep bank by a large spring a corner of George Robinson's land . . . the edge of a small sink hole on a line of George Kindricks . . . on a line of Abraham Fuller's . . . on the east side of a spur near a small spring . . . corner to said George Robinson . . . also one other tract of land containing 30 acres . . . on the side of the Big Butt . . . said tract conveyed to said John Johnson from Thompson Johnson by deed bearing date of 7th day of June 1825 . . ." (This is the same 30 acres referenced above on March 23, 1821 from George and Elizabeth to Thompson Johnston.) Deed Book 10 page 125

I am descended from Samuel Robinson above who was born about 1796 in Russell County and died before 1874 in Pike County Kentucky. There was a group of Robinsons from Elk Garden who went to Kentucky previous to Samuel. I believe that they are his cousins. Those Robinsons appear on two wills: First is the will of Samuel Robinson, Jr (their father) and the second is George W. Robinson (their brother who died young, unmarried and without issue).

I am trying to document New Garden Sam's parents. I think that they are the George and Elizabeth Robinson mentioned in the earliest deed above. There were two George Robinsons on the tax lists for Russell County during this time period: One between Elk

Garden & Lebanon and the other in New Garden. One was a Black Smith. It would help me greatly to know which one was the Black smith. I am pretty certain who the Black Smith's father was. If the Black smith was the George Robinson in New Garden then that would extend my family tree back about 5 more documented generations.

JOY MALONE AND PAULINE SALYERS provided, 5/26/2002, this report regarding the establishment of a **Charter Russell Co., Virginia-- Daughter of the American Revolution Chapter.**

The Organizational Celebration of the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was held at the Old Russell County Courthouse in Dickensonville, Virginia on May 12, 2002.

Jackquetta Fletcher, Organizing Regent, welcomed everyone to the celebration. The invocation was given by Mrs. Mildred Davis, Chaplain. Troop 408 of the Boy Scouts of American presented the Colors. Jean Carr, Vice Regent, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Janice Snead, Registrar, led the reading of the America's Creed. Everyone was asked to join in the singing of the National Anthem led by Miss Marsha Rasnake, Miss Sophie Chafin and Miss Fawn Price.

Honored guests recognized were: DAR members from Black's Fort, Maiden Springs, and Levisa River Chapters. Erin Belcher the recipient of the DAR Good Citizen Award from Honaker High School, Mr. Mike Bush, Commonwealth Attorney, Mr. Randy Williams, Commissioner of the Revenue, Hope Dickenson, Nancy Dickenson, Attorney at Law and Geneva Mullins, President of the Russell County Historical Society. Later in the program they were given the opportunity to address the group.

Mrs. Betty Byrd St. Clair, District Director and member of the Maiden Springs Chapter, told the history of the DAR which was founded on October 11, 1880 and now has a membership of 786,000. She also spoke about the DAR motto, "God, Home, and Country" and congratulated the founders of the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter, Jackquetta Fletcher, Jean Carr and Janice Snead.

Mr. Fred T. Thrasher, past president of the General William Campbell Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, spoke and shared photographs of historical places he has visited.

Mrs. Kitty Henninger, a member of Black's Fort Chapter, performed the installation of the organizing charter members of the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter. Members are as follows Shelia McCroskey Boyd, Jean Martin Carr, Lora Carr Chafin, Jean Meadows Cox, Mildred Patrick Davis, Nancy Salyers Elswick, Jackquetta Ratliff Fletcher, Gail Dorton Gilmer, Patricia Dickenson Gray, Carole Meadows Griffith, Linda Campbell Harris, Norma Faye Hite, Mary Sue Cox Johnson, Joy Ann Jessee Malone, Josephine Boyd Osborne, Addrienne Adams Robinson, Pauline Patrick Salyers, Janice Madeline Snead, and Shirley Patrick Stapleton. Mrs. Eugenia Phillips, Regent of Black's Fort Chapter performed the installation of the following chapter officers: Jackquetta Ratliff Fletcher-Organizing Chapter Regent, Jean Martin Carr-Vice Regent, Josephine Boyd Osborne-Recording Secretary, Patricia E. Dickenson Gray-Corresponding Secretary, Pauline Patrick Salyers-Treasurer, Janice Madeline Snead-Registrar, Norma Faye Hite-Historian, Shelia McCroskey Boyd-Librarian and Mildred Patrick Davis-Chaplain.

As the Colors were retired everyone joined in singing "God Bless America." Following the program everyone was invited to the reception which was held in the Old Russell County Courthouse.

Several members traveled to the burial site of Tabitha Adams Russell and placed a wreath on her grave. Our chapter has been named Tabitha Adams Russell in her memory.

The Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter of the DAR would like to extend an invitation for membership to any woman who is no less



Charter Russell County DAR Members in photo: 1st row - Jackuetta Fletcher, Jean Carr, Janice Snead 2nd row - Pauline Salyers, Jo Osborne, Mildred Davis, Lora Carr, Joy Malone, Gail Gilmer 3rd row - Shirley Stapleton, Adrienne Robinson, Pat Gray, Linda Harris, Helen Ray (pending), Nancy Elswick

than eighteen years of age and can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence. She must provide documentation for each statement of birth, marriage and death. If you are interested in becoming a member of this chapter please contact Jackquetta Fletcher Ph 276-889-2515 or Jean Carr Ph 276-889-3563.

Pauline noted that six of the 19 organizing members as well as five (pending NSDAR certification) others are all descendants of the patriot, John Jessee. And I am sure others will follow. Pretty good representation for the Jessee Family, wouldn't you agree?

RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

The 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.

JOY MALONE [drjoym@bellsouth.net] sent, 3/30/2002, this announcement regarding release of the **1930 US Census.**

The 1930 US Census was released April 1, 2002. You can search by name or location at <http://1930census.archives.gov/> once you find the microfilm publication and roll numbers, you can call to either rent or buy the reel.

To rent a reel or reels for up to thirty days, call 1-301-604-3699. You may rent 1-4 reels of film at \$3.50 per roll. To purchase reels, call 1-800-234-8861. The reels cost \$34. each.

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/>.

IRELAND.COM provides a service dedicated to finding Irish Ancestors, and more. Go to: <http://www.ireland.com/ancestor/>.

ROOTSWEB REVIEW, 2/13/2002 , [subscribe at RootsWeb-Review-L-request@rootsweb.com] included an article on **Presidential Ties**.

George Washington, known as the father of his country, did not father any children. Washington is, however, related to four of his successors: Franklin Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, George Bush, and George W. Bush. They all descended from a 15th-century English couple, Henry SPENCER and Isabella LINCOLN.

The five U.S. presidents you are most likely to be related to are: Richard Nixon, Franklin Roosevelt, Millard Fillmore, Rutherford Hayes, and William Howard Taft. Anyone with early New England ancestry is probably related, though perhaps distantly, to five or six of the presidents. However, you never know where those twisted roots and branches will go. For example, former President Jimmy Carter and Elvis Presley are sixth cousins once removed — both descendants of 1709 Palatine (German) immigrants Valentine PRESLAR and his wife, Anna Christiana FRAMSE.

You might discover a president perched upon your family tree by exploring the Ahnentafels (ancestor tables) compiled by Gary Boyd Roberts that are available at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/presidents/>

TOPOZONE.COM is the Web's center for recreational and professional **topographic map** users. We've worked with the USGS to create the Web's first interactive topo map of the entire United States. In addition to serving maps on the TopoZone, we provide interactive mapping services to partners like maps.com, MapQuest, trails.com and others. We're also the Web's best source for custom digital topographic data sets for Web, GIS, and CAD applications. We think these maps are great just the way they are, but we've got big plans for the future. We're adding lots of new features to make the TopoZone the place on the Web for topographic map users. For the TopoTimes to find out more about our plans! We've got every USGS 1:100,000, 1:63,360, 1:25,000, and 1:24,000 scale topographic map for the entire United States. Puerto Rico (1:20,000) will be coming soon. Just type a place name in the search box and go!

DANNY DIXON [danny@mounet.com] sent, 4/10/2002, this Website regarding his **Echoes From the Past CD**

I finally got my website completed (well, more or less). The page listed below contains a description of "Pathfinders, Pioneers, and: Patriots" that your readers might enjoy.

www.mounet.com/~echo/ppp.htm

I have recently completed a Historical C.D. (Pathfinders, Pioneers, & Patriots) that shadows the early explorers to "the New World" then follows the progression of the frontier across America to 1800. From 1760 to 1800, it focuses on the largely untold history

of S.W. Virginia, E. Kentucky, and N. E. Tennessee (and includes many of the lesser-known stories of Daniel & Squire Boone).

It was completed in a MS- Word '97 Format which allows the user to literally "point and click" their way through history. It also contains a MS-Word Viewer for those without a compatible word processor. (It will run on virtually any computer.) Complete instructions are included with the C.D.

It contains a historical time line of over 30 pages with hyper-links to over 100 pages of the stories about the people and events listed (along with many original color pictures and primary documents). Those interested in history or genealogy are responding very well to the C.D. Any help you could be in getting the word out to those who might be interested would be greatly appreciated. It sells for \$25.00 (plus \$ 3.00 for tax and shipping) and can be obtained by sending a personal check to:

Danny Dixon
Echoes From the Past
Rt. 2 Box 872
Nickelsville, Va. 24271
(540)479-2325

* Reviewed and approved by Eastern National (for National Parks Visitor's Centers), the Sons of the American Revolution, and numerous Libraries, Museums and Historical Societies in Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA is pleased to announce the availability of the new **Revolutionary War Bounty Warrants and Rejected Claims databases and digitized documents**.

The new resources are available via the Library's web site (<http://www.lva.lib.va.us>) in the "What We Have" section under "Military Records and Resources."

Here is a description of the collection:

Bounty Warrants and Rejected Claims

The Bounty Warrant files consist of accumulated documents intended to verify dates of service of officers, soldiers, and sailors in a Virginia or Continental army or naval unit during the Revolutionary War. The files may include affidavits of commanding officers or fellow soldiers, discharge papers, and other records of service. If the soldier or sailor had died while in service, his heirs were required to submit documentation verifying their status as legal heirs as well as proof of the military service. The governor's office reviewed the application and filed approved records in a record group now identified as Bounty Warrants.

The disapproved papers are known as Rejected Claims and are indexed in the second database. In order to qualify for an award of bounty lands for Revolutionary War service, an applicant must have served continuously for at least three years in a State or Continental unit.

Once proof of proper military service had been established and a claim approved, the Governor's Office issued a certificate authorizing the Land Office to issue a warrant for a specific amount of land. The amount of land awarded depended on the applicant's rank and time of service. The warrant directed the surveyor of lands to set aside that quantity of land in the western reserves of Kentucky and Ohio. Information concerning the disposition of the warrants is in the state records of Kentucky and Ohio.

Information regarding more than 10,000 individuals is available via 25,000 digital images of original documents.

Please contact me if you have any difficulty using these databases.

Elizabeth Roderick email (eroderick@lva.lib.va.us)
Director, Digital Library Program voice (804) 692-3761

THE VIRGINIA REGIMENTAL HISTORIES SERIES. (VARosterC) Published in 1987; an extract of Jessees

listed posted on VARussel-l@Rootsweb.com, 2/2/2002, by Geniebug [geniebug@prodigy.net].

The American Civil War Research Database is a historic effort to compile and link all available records of common soldiers in the Civil War. This database makes it easier than ever before to find information on ancestors who fought in the Civil War.

Historical Data Systems has compiled and linked a wide array of record types including state rosters, pension records, regimental histories, photos, and journals. The genealogical value of this record is immeasurable. More than authoritative names and dates, this database connects researchers with the history their ancestors lived.

The collection is divided into four sections: soldier records, regiment records, battle histories, and officer records. This section, the soldier records, may contain any of the following information about an individual soldier: the soldier's name, residence, date of entry, regiments, companies, rank, promotions, transfers, events (such as POW, wounded, etc.) and how and where the soldier exited the military (discharge, desertion, muster out, or death). Some states also include in their official records a soldier's birthplace, age at enlistment, occupation, and physical description.

Historical Data Systems, comp. Military Records of Individual Civil War Soldiers. [database on-line] Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, 1999-. Data compiled by Historical Data Systems of Kingston, MA

Archer Jessee Gray

Service Record:

Enlisted on 08 March 1862 in Lebanon at the age of 28
Enlisted in Company C, 37th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 08 March 1862
Admitted on 09 August 1862 at Lovington Hospl, Winchester, VA (With scabies)
Hospitalized on 15 September 1862 at Lynchburg, VA (Estimated day)
Returned on 15 October 1862 at (Estimated day)
Furlough on 15 November 1862 at (Sick, estimated day)
Returned on 15 December 1862 at (Estimated day)
Received clothing on 15 February 1863 at (Estimated day)
Admitted on 08 May 1863 at Richmond, VA Hospl (With dysentery)
Hospitalized on 14 May 1863 at Danville, VA (With lumbago)
Returned on 20 July 1863 at
Admitted on 15 September 1863 at Charlottesville, VA Hospl (With rheumatism)
Transferred on 21 September 1863 at Lynchburg, VA Hospl
Received pay on 15 December 1864 at (Estimated day)
Received a disability discharge on 09 February 1865 in Camp Ewell, VA

James P Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 10 May 1861 in Lebanon
Enlisted in Company C, 37th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 May 1861
Died of disease on 02 August 1861 in Monterey, VA

Jefferson D Jessee , Sr

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 10 May 1861 in Lebanon
Enlisted in Company C, 37th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 May 1861
Absent for sickness on 15 August 1861 at Monterey, VA
Received pay on 18 February 1862 at Camp Mason, NC
On rolls on 15 April 1862 at
Admitted on 22 July 1862 at Chimborazo Hospl, Richmond, VA
Returned on 20 August 1862 at
Wounded on 28 August 1862 at Manassas, VA
Furlough on 15 September 1862 at (Sick)
Returned on 15 October 1862 at (Estimated day)
Received clothing on 26 March 1863 at
Wounded on 03 July 1863 at Gettysburg, PA (Carrying colors when wounded)
Hospitalized on 04 July 1863 at 12th Corps Field Hospl, VA (Left leg amputated)
Died of wounds on 04 July 1863 in Gettysburg, PA

Jefferson D Jessee , Jr

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 10 May 1861 in Lebanon
Enlisted in Company C, 37th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 May 1861
Absent for sickness on 15 August 1861 at Monterey, VA (Estimated day)
Furlough on 15 February 1862 at (Sick)
Admitted on 22 July 1862 at Chimborazo Hospl, Richmond, VA
Returned on 20 August 1862 at
Admitted on 08 September 1862 at Charlottesville, VA Hospl
Died of disease on 13 October 1862 in Charlottesville, VA

William Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 14 July 1863 in Burton's Farm, VA
Enlisted in Company C, 26th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 14 July 1863
Surrendered on 09 April 1865 in Appomattox Court House, VA

Albert Browning Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 01 August 1862 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company G, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 01 August 1862
On rolls on 15 October 1862 at
On rolls on 15 February 1863 at
Hospitalized on 08 April 1863 at Petersburg, VA
Transferred on 15 April 1863 at Farmville, VA Hospl (Estimated day)
Furloughed on 02 May 1863 at Farmville, VA Hospl
Hospitalized on 12 September 1863 at Richmond, VA

Charles C Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Corporal on 27 March 1862 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company G, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 27 March 1862
On rolls on 15 April 1862 at
Discharged on 01 June 1862

David Lee Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 10 July 1861 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 July 1861
Promoted to Full Corporal on 15 May 1862
On rolls on 15 December 1864 at

Elihu Kiser Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 05 August 1862 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 05 August 1862
Absent, without leave on 08 November 1862 at
Returned on 29 January 1863 at
On rolls on 15 April 1863 at
Deserted on 15 December 1863

Ephraim K Jessee

Born on 27 January 1844.

Service Record:

Promoted to Full Sergeant (1863)
Enlisted as a Private on 27 March 1862 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company G, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 27 March 1862
Sick on 15 April 1862 at
On rolls on 15 April 1863 at
On rolls on 15 April 1864 at
On rolls on 15 December 1864 at

Fullen Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 10 July 1861 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 July 1861
On rolls on 15 October 1861 at
On rolls on 15 January 1862 at
Absent for sickness on 15 February 1862 at (Unfit for duty)
Transferred on 01 January 1863

John C Jessee

Born on 28 December 1842.

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 10 July 1861 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 July 1861
On rolls on 15 October 1861 at
Furloughed on 15 January 1862 at
On rolls on 15 February 1862 at
Furloughed on 15 June 1862 at
On rolls on 15 April 1863 at
Hospitalized on 15 November 1863 at
On rolls on 15 December 1863 at
On rolls on 15 December 1864 at
Surrendered on 09 April 1865 in Appomattox Court House, VA

John T Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Sergeant 1st Class on 10 July 1861 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 July 1861
Promoted to Full Lieutenant 2nd Class on 13 May 1862
Promoted to Full Lieutenant 1st Class on 03 June 1862
On rolls on 15 June 1862 at
On rolls on 15 October 1862 at
Detailed on 15 December 1862 at (Gathering absentees)
On rolls on 15 February 1863 at
On rolls on 15 December 1864 at
Wounded on 01 April 1865 at Five Forks, VA (Shot in right foot)
Hospitalized on 02 April 1865 at Farmville, VA
Paroled on 15 April 1865 at Farmville, VA (Estimated day)

Joseph Jessee

Born on 22 September 1828.

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 05 August 1862 in Russell, VA

Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 05 August 1862

Absent for sickness on 15 October 1862 at
Absent for sickness on 15 April 1863 at
disch , furnished substitute on 01 November 1863

Martin C Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 05 August 1862 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 05 August 1862
POW on 15 October 1862 at Kentucky (And paroled, estimated day)
Returned on 29 January 1863 at
Hospitalized on 15 April 1863 at
On rolls on 30 April 1863 at
Absent, without leave on 15 May 1863 at
Returned on 05 November 1863 at
On rolls on 15 April 1864 at
Absent, without leave on 14 November 1864

Noah Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 05 August 1862 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 05 August 1862
POW on 15 October 1862 at Kentucky (And paroled, estimated day)
Returned on 29 January 1863 at
Hp on 15 March 1863 at Petersburg, VA
Hospitalized on 15 April 1863 at Farmville, VA
Absent, without leave on 15 June 1863 at (Estimated day)
Arrested on 15 October 1863 at
Returned on 19 October 1863 at
On rolls on 15 December 1863 at
On rolls on 15 December 1864 at
Hospitalized on 12 March 1865 at Richmond, VA (With fever)
Furloughed on 27 March 1865 at

Noah K Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 10 July 1861 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 July 1861
Transferred on 12 September 1862
Transferred in 16th Cavalry Regiment Virginia on 12 September 1862

Stanford L Jessee

Born on 23 October 1832.

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 10 July 1861 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 July 1861
Killed on 10 January 1862 in Middle Creek, KY

Thomas Jefferson Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 10 July 1861 in Russell, VA
Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 July 1861
Absent on 15 January 1862 at
On rolls on 15 February 1862 at
Absent, without leave on 15 April 1862 at (Sick)
Returned on 29 January 1863 at
On rolls on 15 April 1863 at
Absent for sickness on 15 December 1863 at
Absent for sickness on 15 April 1864 at

Timothy S Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 05 August 1862 in Russell, VA
 Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 05 August 1862
 Sick on 15 October 1862 at Kentucky
 Absent, without leave on 22 December 1862 at
 Returned on 15 January 1863 at
 Hospitalized on 23 February 1863 at Petersburg & Farmville, VA
 Returned on 29 May 1863 at
 Wounded on 03 June 1864 at Cold Harbor, VA (Shot in shoulder and eye)
 Hospitalized on 04 June 1864 at Richmond, VA
 Furloughed on 15 June 1864 at (Home)
 Died of wounds on 01 November 1864 in Russell, VA

Vincent Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 27 March 1862 in Russell, VA
 Enlisted in Company G, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 27 March 1862
 On rolls on 15 December 1864

William L Jessee

8Born on 27 September 1838.

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 01 August 1862 in Russell, VA
 Enlisted in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 01 August 1862
 Absent for sickness on 15 December 1862 at
 On rolls on 15 February 1863 at
 Hospitalized on 11 March 1863 at Petersburg, VA
 Returned on 09 April 1863 at
 On rolls on 15 December 1863 at
 On rolls on 15 December 1864 at
 Hospitalized on 12 March 1865 at Richmond, VA

William Mc Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Captain on 10 July 1861 in Russell, VA
 Commission in Company A, 29th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 10 July 1861
 On rolls on 15 October 1861 at
 Detailed on 15 January 1862 at
 On rolls on 15 February 1862 at
 On rolls on 15 April 1862 at
 Discharged on 13 May 1862

Vincent Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 01 May 1861 in Scott County, VA at the age of 22
 Enlisted in Company C, 48th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 01 May 1861
 On rolls on 15 October 1861

David A Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 25 June 1861 in Russell County, VA at the age of 26
 Enlisted in Company K, 48th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 25 June 1861
 Absent, without leave on 17 April 1862 at
 Returned on 30 April 1862 at
 Court-martialed on 18 May 1863

George L Jessee

Service Record:

Enlisted as a Private on 01 May 1861 in Scott County, VA at the age of 20
 Enlisted in Company C, 48th Infantry Regiment Virginia on 01 May 1861
 Detailed on 31 October 1861 at (As a nurse)
 Furloughed on 14 February 1862 at
 Hospitalized on 30 April 1862 at
 Hospitalized on 21 July 1862 at Charlottesville, VA (Acute dysentery)
 Returned on 11 August 1862 at
 Hospitalized on 29 November 1862 at Charlottesville, VA (Chronic rheumatism)
 Detailed on 11 March 1863 at Montgomery Springs Hospital (As a guard)

A CONTRIBUTOR who wished to remain anonymous submitted this testimonial.

The One Room School House.

At some time, someone may want to know what it was like going to school in a one room school house similar to the Jessee School on Mill Creek. In case you did not know, grades one through six were all taught in the same room at the same time. I highly doubt that a teacher of today could even teach in such a school. Amazingly those who did, some times did impossible things. Just imagine teaching six different grade levels in the same room at the same time, and doing so seamlessly.

There was also the age gap between the students, six years old to twelve years old and older. There was also the problem with maintaining order and keeping the attention of all the students. Amazingly some teachers managed to do both very effectively. The problem of moving seamlessly from one grade level to the other with out compromising the learning of the students from the various grades and still achieve the objective of success in teaching all students equally.

All of the above was accomplished by a variety of methods. Alphabets were taught to first graders in the form of rhymes and all the students from all grade levels, were required to sing the ABC's. In barely two days the first graders could say their ABC's just by remembering the ABC song.

First grade teaching was confined to teaching the basics reading and some writing and some early introduction math. Second grade taught more reading more writing and spelling and introduced the first level of multiplications two through five. Third, fourth, fifth, and six grades were all taught different levels of math, English, geography, and history. Science class and music was taught to all grades at the same time, as were class plays where all grades participated.

Teachers often read classics to all the students like *Call Of The Wild* and *Moby Dick* and old classic stories. These stories often opened the curiosity of the students to read even greater stories.

Order was maintained by corporal punishment. Teachers were tough and strict, and made use of a good paddle or switch. But most were dedicated and took a students success or failure personally.

There was no PTA board, but teachers often visited parents at their homes and parents often visited with the teachers in church or other public functions. Parents in the old days were probably more apprized of the progress or failures of their children then they are today.

The one major objective of a teacher of a one room school house was to teach students to teach themselves. This was accomplished by having the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders to help the first and second and third graders learn. Their was rarely any home work, as the school books were usually left at school, and their were plenty of study periods for different grades as the teacher taught one on one classes of each grade level.

This system was actually far more advanced than teaching of today. They say the first major step in teaching a child to learn was to get them to adsorb what they read and retain it. The teachers of one room school houses accomplished this by having the students write down in full what she wanted them to remember. It seems we retain more what we actually write down than what we just read.

Nobody really liked the teachers and nobody disliked them as well. We grew up to respect them and good manners were also something we learned immediately. We did not fear them for who they were as much as what they were, and that was a person who deserved total respect of their position and authority.

There were recess periods where we would get a break and go out side for some fresh air and there were times during the day when we were encouraged to take a short nap.

Seating arrangements was done on the basic of each student's eye sight. near sited students sat in front regardless of what grade they were in and the eagle eyes sat to the rear of the class room.

There was another benefit to this type of school, by the time most students got to the third grade they had been exposed to the higher grades classes they soon knew all the answers to any questions so well they often moved up in grades regardless of their age.

The one most important thing you learned was how to teach yourself which would enable most to continue a life time on a learning curve, of non-stop self education. This is some thing that is missing in today's education system.

Most any student who ever attended a one room school house will for ever remember their teacher and their fondness would grow with the years of that teacher as they would in time place more value on the person who opened their minds and gave them the most valuable asset they have, and that is the ability to overcome ignorance whatever form you would encounter it in.

I knew my teacher as Mrs. Owens. I never knew her first name as we never addressed her by her first name. She had long bright red finger nails. She was about 65 years old, her face was wrinkled like the map of china. She wore a clean neat different dress and a corsage every day. She rewarded you with a smile, and punished you with a switch on the butt, but only when you deserved it. She had no favorites. We were all her favorites, and every one was treated equal. I never heard of a slow learner until I attended public schools. I feel very fortunate to have had her as a teacher, as most students who attended one room school houses felt about their teachers.

In my life time I have had very high paying prestigious jobs all over the world. I have held this nations highest clearance levels—Q level—I served in the armed forces and have far more experience than one could think humanly possible. I have held the distinction in my work of being the last resort —In short, if I can't fix it, no body can.

And I can thank Mrs Owens for that ability.

Jim this is what it was like going to school in a one room school house.

THE FAMILY DATABASE

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

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

Please go to: www.jessee.org

Our database is now over 40,000 records. I do mean "our" database, as it is made up of the tens of thousands of hours of your research, the results of which you have generously and kindly shared with me over the years. I still have concerns about the downside of this computer revolution, the Internet, and the ethics of genealogy research, but still conclude that greater good is done by making our work public. However, I am using the filters provided by the World Connect project to delete information on living persons.

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

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

Nevertheless, I have had so much expressed gratitude from dozens, if not hundreds, of people who have been helped in their research by our database, that I persevere. I certainly do welcome corrections, updates, additions, and documentation of information, and you who are receiving this newsletter have been very generous in that regard. You might be surprised how many take and give back nothing.

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

OUR PURPOSE

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

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

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

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

I am afraid I am now accumulating more information than I can key in to the database on my own. After 25 years of working intensively at a keyboard, I have developed a permanent disability, a bulging disk, which makes any prolonged time typing very painful. My computer time has been significantly limited and, in particular, my regular data entry routine has all but stopped. While I continue to plink at it, I am not denting the perhaps 3000-4000 records piled high and waiting to be keyed in. I will need help with data entry into the database in the future if it is to grow.

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

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

HOW TO HELP

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

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

I am asking for a minimum subscription of \$10 a year for two issues of the newsletter. I need and appreciate your additional donations in defraying the considerable cost of research, printing, and postage of the newsletter and other materials I send without charge to inquirers. Additional donations also support those who can't afford to pay.

NEWSLETTER REPRINTS

At the request of many, I have now collected Jessee Family Newsletters into separate sets of reprints: #1-7, #8-9, #10-11, #12-13, #14-15, #16-17, #18-19, #20-21 (without some attachments that have become obsolete). You may request these for \$10 a set, or **\$60 for all back issues and a subscription to the current year.** Your additional donations to help me defray the costs of research, printing, copying, and postage are very much welcome.

The Jessee Family Newsletter

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

The mailing label above indicates the last issue (month and year) to be mailed to you based on your assumed interest, paid subscription, or donations received to date. I have been determining the expiration date generously, providing you the first issue of the next year free, as a reminder to renew for the current year. My apologies if you have responded and this last issue date is still in error. Please inform me of any corrections needed.

Please subscribe, renew, or inform me if you wish to continue receiving the newsletter. The generous donations of some allow me to provide free issues to history and genealogy societies, libraries, and those who cannot afford to subscribe. Thank you.

Some of you have been subscribed for "Life" if you have been a significant contributor or are a family treasure. Due to a very low response to my request for subscriptions and donation and the fact that I am not even breaking even, I am having to reevaluate this status, and some may find they will need to subscribe in the future to continue the newsletter. I am sorry.

I wish to thank all those who have responded to my request to help me update my mailing list by sending in your subscriptions, renewals, and requests to stop. I do not wish to be sending you junk mail. My feelings will not be hurt and you will save me money if you will simply let me know if you prefer to have it stopped.