



Jessee Family Newsletter

Issue #26

Winter 2005

Vol. XIV No. 1

Dear Cousin,

I am sorry to report that our faithful contributor and lifetime family genealogist, Vivian Bales has passed away. See Mary Polly Jessee Kiser column for her obituary.

The Jessee Historical Foundation has several significant accomplishments and an important board and officers election to prepare. See the JHF News and annual report by our Charter President, Joe Jessee.

Thanks to Joe, Sherman Wallace, and others acknowledged in Joe's report, Jessee's Mill and Dam have been declared an official state historic site. This, the naming of Jessee's Mill Road, and placement of the historic highway sign on Route 71 are major JHF accomplishments.

We will elect a new JHF board and officers at the 2005 Annual Meeting next June. I have asked that the board also consider a mail-in ballot be provided to those of us who cannot attend the annual meeting. Your JHF membership or renewal and willingness to volunteer as a board member or officer are needed. Some of the current board would welcome relief, and several JHF projects and activities need your help. We invite members to be JHF board members and officers.

The newsletter has a bit less news about each of the fifteen children, and that news depends on you. While I have received fewer news items, the family database continues to grow with over 43,000 records. There is always 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 an interesting newsletter thanks to 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

The 2005 and 6th National Jessee Family Reunion will be held Saturday, June 18, 2004 at the Coomes Recreation Center in Abingdon, VA. You are invited to the Research Day and the JHF Annual Meeting on Friday. I share inside a few more photos and memories of the 2004 National Family Reunion.

Joe Jessee provides a JHF annual review with much good news regarding several Jessee Historical Foundation projects. County Road 645 has been renamed Jessee's Mill Road, the Jessee's Mill private historic highway marker has been established, and efforts to have Jessee's Mill declared an historic State and Federal landmark are coming to be. Efforts to preserve Jessee's Mill and create an historic park around it continue.

SW Virginia families includes contributions regarding the **Kiser, Ramey, Fraley, and Nash** families. These historic families have intermarried with the Jessees over 200 years, so we have much in common. **Jack Hockett** provides a list of valuable genealogy resources for Washington Co., VA.

Other Jesse(e) Families and Family Origins includes a tidbit of information on the earliest Jessee to arrive in America, **Thomas Jessee, 1671.** We have contributions for the **Phillip and Rachel Jessee** descendants, too.

Find news on John and Frankey Lea Jessee and their fifteen children. See new information and photos, read heart-warming stories, and meet new cousins inside. Several have sent articles and photographs which I am happy to feature. See photos from **Dee Harding** and other historic family photos that have been shared.

Correspondence and Missing Links is scant this issue, seeking more input 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.**

The 2005 National Jessee Family Reunion

Saturday, June 18, 2005

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

The 2005 Jessee Family Research Day
Friday June 17, 2005

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

Please put the 2005 Family Reunion
and Research Day on your calendar now

The 2005 Jessee Family Research Day will be held Friday, June 17, at the Russell County Public Library in Lebanon, VA. The activities begin at 9 a.m. and end about 4 p.m. The Jessee Historical Foundation will hold its annual membership meeting at the Russell Co. Library at 4 p.m., June 17, after the research day. The JHF will elect new officers at this meeting, so your attendance will be welcome.

The 2005 Jessee Family Reunion and Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 18, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center & Park, Abingdon, Virginia.

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

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

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

For picnic day information contact the JHF Picnic Committee: Toby Jessee, Chairman, 276-623-1105.

THE SILENT AUCTION NEEDS YOU

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

Mary H. Akers
E-mail: mydante@earthlink.net
Phone: 540-628-9239.

Jessee Historical Foundation

Founded March 8, 2001

The JHF board, officers, and volunteers:

Joseph H. "Joe" Jessee, Jr., President
Laura Jessee Thomas, Vice-President
Norma McHone, Treasurer
Helen Reedy, Recording Secretary
Mary Akers, Membership Secretary
Carolyn Sue Jessee, Assistant Membership Secretary
Henry "Hank" Davis, Legal Advisor
Taulbee F. "Toby" Jessee, JHF Picnic Chair
W.D. "Tip" Jessee, JHF Newsletter Chair
James W. "Jim" Jessee, Genealogist/Web Page Editor
Members At Large: Peggy Jessee Adams, Karen Hall, Carl B. Jessee, James C. "J.C." Jessee, John D. Jessee, Joseph Harold "Doodle" Jessee, Sr., Robert Trigg Jessee, Rev. Vernon Cecil Jessee, Irene Jessee Perry, Helen R. Reedy, Pauline Salyers, Vernon Salyers, Janice Sue Jessee Tiller.

Go to www.jessee.org for more information, minutes of Foundation Board meetings, photos of Foundation activities, and Foundation news and events. *Please Join Us.*

Membership Information

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

Annual membership will now run from reunion to reunion each year. Dues will be collected at the annual reunion in June for the following year. JHF Membership dues for 2005/2006 are due June 2005.

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

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

Send an application. Get one at www.jessee.org. or provide the following information: Name, Street or PO box address, City, State, ZIP, phone, email address, and your Jessee pedigree. Please send your application and check, payable to Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc., for \$10 per person, to Mary H. Akers, the membership secretary, at the following address.

Jessee Historical Foundation Inc.
C/O Mary H. Akers,
Membership Secretary
19346 Oakwood Dr.
Abingdon VA 24211
540-628-9239
mydante@earthlink.net

Highlights of the 2004 National Jessee Family Reunion



Bill and Fay Jessee of Lebanon, VA
welcome Jim and Peter Jessee of Chico, CA



Fay Jessee with kin at the Reunion



Jessee Reunion Jam Session



Fay and Ernestine serve up the desserts at the Jessee Reunion



Some of the John Jessee, Jr. Descendants



JC Jessee with Hank Davis at the Reunion

Jessee Family Photo Album

DEE HARDING sent, 12/15/2004, these photos of the **Ephraim Kiser Jessee Family**, which she is using as part of ancestor albums she is preparing for her grandchildren. I am pleased to feature these photos. Ephraim Kiser Jessee is the son of Joseph Jessee and Cynthia Smith, the grandson of John Jessee, Jr. My great-grandfather was Ephraim's brother, John Tivis Jessee who married America Elizabeth Bickley, and moved from Russell co. to Illinois, while Ephraim remained on the home place in Russell Co., VA on Middle Valley Rd.



Ephraim Kiser Jessee and Mary "Mollie" (Smith) Jessee



The Ephraim Kiser Home, also believed to be the home place of John Jessee, Jr. and son Joseph Jessee



Ada, John Tivis, Ninna, Gilmer, Windom, Pearl Ephraim, Mammie, Molly, and Ruth Jessee. Missing from this family photo are Cosbia Cornelia and America Elizabeth Jessee. Children Charlie H. and Mary E. passed away in infancy.

JHF Foundation News

JOE JESSEE (joejessee@yahoo.com), the Jessee Historical Foundation Charter President, provided this **JHF Annual Review for 2004** with much good news about progress on several important projects and encouragement to join and participate in the next JHF board and officers elections, June 2005.

December 1, 2004

Dear Family and Members,
Jessee Historical Foundation

The Jessee Historical Foundation's ("JHF") first project has been completed [see article below]. The Jessee's Mill historical marker hit the dirt in November. The marker was finalized in June. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources ("DHR") approved a "private" historical marker. As you know, a state marker was not possible as the mill was deemed to be of "local significance" and not of "state or national significance."

We all should personally thank some Jessees who worked with me on this project: Directors Tip, Robert, Jim, Cecil, Carolyn, Carl, and Vice-President Laura Thomas, Dorothy and Eleanor Jones, Membership Secretary Mary Akers, Treasurer Norma McHone, Secretary Helen Reedy, Counsel Hank Davis and Bristol Sign. Also thank the ones who contributed over \$1,000 at the 2000 picnic. The final cost was \$2,200.

The JHF's second project was to make Jessee's Mill a state and national historic site. My application is to be approved December 1st by Virginia and in March by the U.S. Department of Interior. Yes! Our appreciation goes to the landowner, Mr. Sherman Wallace, for helping in every way possible. These formal historic site designations will make it much easier to raise money from governments, foundations and individuals for the restoration of the mill. It is almost certain that a legal entity will have to be formed with 'non-profit' or 'charitable' status to hold the mill and to raise money and restore the mill. It could/should be an adjunct legal entity of the JHF and we would still have 'control'. A rough estimate of the cost could be more than \$500,000.

[Update: From the Lebanon News, December 15, 2004--Jessee's Mill Named To Virginia Landmarks Register--see article below.]

Elections for the JHF board and officers will be at the June 2005 reunion. Paid membership is required to be able to vote or seek election. Officer terms are currently four years. Paper ballots will be used. Consecutive terms for officers and directors are allowed. An observation: we might want to put into the by-laws two year terms, instead of four year terms, which would allow movement among the offices, keep the organization more viable and fresh, prevent wearing-out those serving, and enable more members to give of their talents.

Officers to be elected are: President, Vice-President, Membership-Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer, Counsel and up to 19 Directors. JHF by-laws state that the Board of Directors is limited to 25 persons which includes the officers.

The Jessee Cookbook is sold-out! Many thanks to Mary Akers for initiating and managing this project and to Director Karen Hall for putting the recipes into publishable form.

I think the JHF treasury now holds over \$10,000 thanks largely to our membership dues and to the paintings donated by Life Member and Director Irene Jessee Perry of Richmond. Irene has given so much of her time and gifts.

The JHF History Day will be at the Russell County library in Lebanon. The JHF Picnic will be at the Coomes Center in east Abingdon. Both the third weekend in June. These events will be about the same, so come and help out a bit, especially with the membership renewals and keeping track of everyone.

This has been an overview of the JHF. There is much opportunity for members to work on whatever project they want to, so talk to others about it. We have no paid staff and we are a volunteer organization. I hope that all of you are doing well and hope to see you before too long.

Joseph Jessee
Charter President 2001-2005

Jessee Historical Foundation
Post Office Box 1617
Lebanon, Virginia 24266

Jessee's Mill Historical Highway Marker Erected

Reprinted from the *Lebanon News*, 11/3/2004

On October 29, 2004 a historical marker for Jessee's Mill was erected at the intersection of Route 71 and Route 645 Jessee's Mill Road.

Jessee's Mill was an agriculture grain processing mill and community center for the areas surrounding Mill Creek from the late Eighteenth Century until 1932.

The marker was prepared and funded by the marker's sponsor, the Jessee Historical Foundation of Russell County, Virginia.

The marker was approved in June by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and erected in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation.

A formal dedication ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 27, 2004, at 1:00 p.m. at the marker site.

Jessee's Mill Named To Virginia Landmarks Register

Reprinted from the *Lebanon News*, December 15, 2004

Eighteen properties were recently named to Virginia Landmarks Register and Jessee's Mill on Mill Creek in Russell County is on the list.

On December 1, 2004, the Historic Resources Board and the State Review Board approved the listing of 15 new properties and three new historic districts in the Virginia Landmarks Register at a quarterly joint board meeting. The Virginia Landmarks Register is the official state list of significant architectural, archaeological and cultural resources administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the state historic preservation office.

Jessee's Mill is sited beside a waterfall on Mill Creek in the mountainous rural area of Russell County. The main building began ca. 1850 as a single pen log structure and was enlarged with a two-story balloon frame addition around 1890. The registered parcel includes the mill, dam and frame barn. Up until it ceased operation in 1932, the mill was important to the survival of the



Left to Right in photo above
 Courtesy of the Lebanon News, 11/3/2004:
 Joseph Jessee, President, JHF;
 Chad Moore, Jimmy Winebarger and Pete Henry
 of Asplundh, who installed the marker; and
 Carl Moore, JHF Director and marker designer.

surrounding community through the 19th and 20th centuries by providing grain processing and local wholesale distribution.

On October 29, 2004 a historical marker for Jesse's Mill was erected at the intersection of Route 71 and Route 645 Jesse's Mill Road. In the November 3, 2004, edition of The Lebanon News a picture and article of this event was featured.

The marker was prepared and funded by the marker's sponsor, the Jessee Historical Foundation of Russell County, Virginia. The marker was approved in June by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and erected in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Joe Jessee, President of the Jessee Historical Foundation 2001-2005, who contributed to the renaming of County Road 645, also arranged for the placement of the historical marker highway sign at the junction of Highway 71 and Route 645, now renamed "Jessee's Mill Road." Both are major accomplishments for the Jessee Historical Foundation. Thank you, Joe, for this legacy.

Jessee's Mill Historical Highway Marker

JESSEE'S MILL

Jessee's Mill is 2.5 miles north on Jessee's Mill Road along Mill Creek. The first grindstone mill, mortarless dam, and millrace were built before 1791. John Jessee, Revolutionary War musician and infantryman, purchased the mill and lands in 1794. Handmade wooden machinery was installed before 1814. Grandson Andrew 'Jack' Jessee built the brick home in 1878 and in 1890 converted the mill to three stories and automated roller process machinery. The mill closed in 1932. The community also included the church, school, blacksmith and general store.

John, wife Frankey Lea, and some of their 15 children lie buried one mile ENE of the Mill at 36 55' 04" N, 82 09' 23" W. * Most American Jessees descend from them.
 Jessee Historical Foundation 2004

MARY AKERS [phoenix@naxs.com], with Nellie Jessee, Pauline P. Salyer, Janice Tiller, Karen Hall, and W.D. "Tip" Jessee, along with dozens of cousins who contributed recipes, produced a **Jessee Family Cookbook**, titled *Recipes of Jessee Descendants*. It is dedicated to the memory of Mike Malone and includes a beautiful memorial statement. The following is taken from the JHF Newsletter, spring 2004.

THE JESSEE FAMILY COOKBOOK

We already know that there are a lot of good cooks in the Jessee Family and, thanks to the efforts of Mary Akers, everyone is going to have the opportunity to learn their secrets. Mary requested and received an assortment of recipes from Foundation members scattered across the United States. Thanks to all those contributors, we have been able to put together the first *Recipes of Jessee Descendants*. It has a total of 150 pages with 250 recipes.

The committee chose to dedicate the cookbook to her husband, Mike Malone, who did so much for the JHF and whose memory will be with us always. Although Mike wasn't a Jessee, he considered us his family and enjoyed the time he spent with us.

NOTE: This cookbook is now sold out!

You are welcome to contact Mary Akers if you are interested in a second printing for the 2005 reunion, about contributing new recipes for a second edition, and volunteering to help Mary if she is willing! If there is enough interest, Mary may do this again.

Mary H. Akers
19346 Oakwood Dr.
Abingdon VA 24211-6830

Joe and Mary's work well illustrates the need for board and project volunteers and leadership.

Joe indicates to me that he will not run for President of the JHF again in June 2005, although I hope he can be persuaded to remain on the board. I know some of our other officers are a bit taxed after four years of service, and also ask for volunteers to relieve them.

We will need a new President and other officers, and up to 25 board members for the elections in June 2005.

I hope that the current JHF board members will indicate their desire to continue on the board, and that we will have new volunteers to strengthen our numbers, spirit and support.

I do wish to continue on the board, but my distance from Russell Co, here in Chico, CA, makes it impossible to attend board meetings, except every once in one or two years as I am able to attend the Annual Reunion. Thus I cannot ever consider being an officer, but hope I can contribute to the JHF through this newsletter and Web site. Always willing to participate in a whole board conference call, too.

I am asking that the JHF Board Membership and/or Elections Committee for 2005 consider a special mailing to our membership early this spring.

It should ask for membership renewal and for volunteers and other nominations for board members and officers for the elections in June 2005. Perhaps a questionnaire asking if members would consider being a board member or officer, or volunteering to help on a specific project would be appropriate.

Since so many of us cannot attend the reunion or annual meeting, I also ask the JHF Board to consider mailing a ballot to all members in June.

Ask voting members either to return it at the Annual Meeting or Reunion (where new members may also be provided a ballot) or to mail it in by a June 30 deadline.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT ANY TIME NOW FOR 2005/2006 SO YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THESE IMPORTANT ELECTIONS.

JHF Projects and Activities

The following projects, activities, and undertakings have been discussed, and several have been acted upon by the JHF. 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. Providing public access to, fenced protection, and restoration of the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery and other Jessee family cemeteries is one of the main reasons for founding the JHF. This cemetery is owned by Jimmy Herndon, who now lives on the property and has renovated the home there.

Mr. Herndon is not now willing to cooperate with the Jessee family on these goals, and suggests that if we want access, we purchase his farm. I would love to do that, and hope we keep that in mind. For now, I believe we need to look at more options on how to protect the cemetery, how to hold the landowner harmless for any liability, and to help him with costs for preserving it.

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 or Russell County Historical Markers for Jessee's Mill and other appropriate Jessee Family sites. See Joe's news above. This may set a precedent for developing further private historical signs for family landmarks.

4. Creating a Jessee Family Cook Book. See the discussion above and the effort of Mary Akers. Volume 1 has been published, and there appears to be interest in another.

5. Planning for the next and future National Jessee Family Reunions, Research Days, and Annual Meetings. Local volunteers and several JHF board members are doing more than their fair share in organizing and managing these activities. Active committees are doing excellent work, but they always need help and volunteers to tend to the many details of providing a Welcome Reception, Research Day, Annual Meeting and Reunion Picnic. Please help.

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

2005 JHF BOARD MEETINGS (Tentative)

Saturday, March 5, 2005

at Quality Inn, Abingdon, VA.

Friday, June 17, 2005 after the Research Day Annual Meeting and Election of New Officers

at the Russell Co. Public Library

Saturday, October 1, 2005

at Quality Inn, Abingdon, VA.

Jessee's Mill Historical Site and Highway Marker Projects

The Jessee Historical Foundation has undertaken the establishment of one or two state highway historical markers pertinent to the history of the Jessee Family in Russell Co., VA, with Jessee's Mill as the first priority. Please see the JHF news articles for the exciting accomplishments on this project! Ahead is consideration of a much more detailed sign or an historical information display at Jessee's Mill, and other signs for family landmarks we may wish to consider.

John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery Protection Project

Protection and restoration of the John and Frankey Lea Jessee Cemetery, if not public access, is one of the main Jessee Historical Foundation goals. This cemetery is owned by Jimmy Herndon, who now lives on the property and has renovated the home there.

Mr. Herndon is not willing to cooperate with the Jessee family at this time. I believe we will need more investigation of our options and how to seek the cooperation of Mr. Herndon in at least providing demarcation and protection of this cemetery from further deterioration or damage from agricultural or other activities. I believe we need to work with Mr. Herndon to find a way to hold him harmless for any liability for those who may visit this cemetery with or without his permission.

In the meantime, I, and the JHF, ask that we not bother Mr. Herndon with unauthorized visits to his farm, home, and this cemetery.

[Please see prior issues of the Newsletter for much more detail, discussion and recommendations on this matter.]

We still need to get John Jessee recognized as a Revolutionary War Soldier and the cemetery where he and Frankey are buried acknowledged as a Revolutionary War grave site. We know that it is also a Civil War soldier grave site, and may need this recognition as well. New volunteers are needed to pick up this baton.

Mill Creek Historic Park Remains a Dream

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

The Jessee Historical Foundation, a non-profit corporation which limits its membership to Jessee descendants only, would not qualify as a public charitable non-profit organization for receipt of tax-deductible donations or other grants or contracts. 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 in or near Russell County to consider how this might happen. Would the Russell County government, Chamber of Commerce, Genealogy or Historical Society, or other appropriate group 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 a separate non-profit tax exempt 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. While the JHF supports this project and has budgeted money to support this effort, it is beyond the charter of the JHF to accomplish alone. As always, we need volunteers and leadership in or near Russell County. Your help is welcome.

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

dated, 13 June 1791. It was sold in 1792 to William Gilmore.

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

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

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

Jessee's Mill Declared An Historic Landmark

See the JHF News articles above regarding our having secured State recognition, and that Federal recognition as an historic landmark is expected this spring 2005. Here is the background and some of what needs to be done.

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

Mike Pulice believes the Mill is fully eligible for both State and National Historical Register status, and commented on its remarkable integrity. He is advising Sherman on appropriate preservation measures, some of which are needed immediately.

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

I have requested that the Jessee Historical Foundation and other members of the family donate to Sherman Wallace for this specific purpose.

Sherman owns Jessee's Mill, Dam, and land around it, and is a Jessee descendant, as well. I have met Sherman a few times, toured the Mill and Jessee lands (including the cemetery when he leased it) with him, and know of his interest in preserving the Mill. My wife and I were guests in his mother's home, and enjoyed his generosity and hospitality. I find him to be an honorable man and trust him completely.

I have recommended that the JHF establish a specific fund to which members and others might donate money for preserving the mill, and that the JHF manage this fund, making disbursements from it as able and appropriate. Disbursement may be made to Sherman Wallace for these needed preservation actions and for directly related activities, such as the following.

I have asked that the JHF also take the lead or support others in establishing a separate non-profit corporation for the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of Jessee's Mill, if not to establish a Mill Creek Historic Park that would include Jessee's Mill, Dam, School, and historic Jessee home.

This separate corporation is needed if we are ever to ask the property owners and others to donate to this cause. This corporation could seek grants, donations, and other opportunities to accomplish these objectives, which the JHF cannot do. The JHF is already working with Sherman Wallace on seeking historical designation for the Mill, which is one of the first steps in this whole process.

I very much believe we need much wider leadership, and participation from other Russell Co. government, groups, organizations, and individuals to establish this non-profit corporation. Jessee's Mill is a Russell County historical icon. The legend and legacy of the Mill Creek Community with the mill, dam, Jessee home, school, store, Mill Creek Baptist Church, and the memories of all those wonderful people who lived there, are treasures to preserve for our children and grandchildren. **I ask for help and advice on getting this message out to a wider audience.**

PLEASE NOTE: Those who do not wish to wait for all the falderal above are encouraged to make a donation directly to Sherman Wallace now. I know Sherman will put your money directly into repairs and preservation of Jessee's Mill. God bless him.

TOM RUDDER provided this Web reference to a **topographic map locating Jessee's Mill**. It can be found at [TopoZone.com](http://www.topozone.com) which is a fantastic topographic map resource with many **Jessee landmarks identified, including the cemetery**. **Have fun playing on this site.**
[Http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4085539&e=395992&s=25&size=m](http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4085539&e=395992&s=25&size=m)

Jessee's Mill Dam an Historic and Architectural Treasure

JOHN R. FUNK [renkiewicz1@earthlink.net] has written previously with extensive information regarding the dam just upstream from Jessee's Mill and suggested **the dam may have been established while John Jessee was still living, before 1815**. This information can be found in prior newsletters and on the Jessee Website. John Funk asserts that this may be one of the oldest and most unique structures of its kind in the United States.

From Russell County Court records we find this entry for December 7th, 1813.

Whereas it appears that John Jessee Senr. is proprietor of the lands on both sides of Jessees Mill Creek whereon he desires to build a water Grist Mill, and to erect a dam accross the same for working the said Mill; and having made application to this Court for a writ of adquod damnum, it is ordered that a unit of adquod damnum be awarded him directed to the Sheriff of this county commanding him to summon an informal twelve fit persons to meet on the lands proposed for the abutment on the 17th day of this month, then and there to be by him charged in the manner prescribed by the Act of Assemby in that case made and provided; and this inquest to be made and sealed by the said persons is to be returned by the said Sheriff to the next Court.

TOM RUDDER (tomr@infostations.com) provides evidence, 6/20/2003, that **the original dam and mill may have been established even earlier**.

I think that everyone discussing the mill site should keep in mind that it was there prior to 1791. It is mentioned in the William Gilmore survey dated 13 June 1791. The mill was on Carr's Creek at the corner where the 200 acre and 50 acre survey lines meet. It appears that the mill was built by Aaron Vanhook who had made improvements on the land before he assigned his right to Gilmore who received a land grant on 17th. of Dec. 1792.

TOM RUDDER (tomr@infostations.com) reponded, 1/15/2004, to the Winter 2004 Newsletter with clarification about **Aaron Van Hook**.

Jim: On page 13 on your Newsletter the reference to Aaron Van Hook is a little misleading when you say he lived in N.C. at about the same time period as the construction of Jessee's Mill. The Aaron in N.C. died in 1760 according to Van Hook Website. The Aaron Van Hook who built the mill on Carrs Creek was living in the area as early as 1781 when he had the 200a survey on Carrs Creek. In May 1781, Wash. Co. Court he certified Rev. Timothy Burgess as Baptist Minister. He was overseer of the road in Wash.

Co.sometime between 1777 and 1784. So there can be no doubt of his being there at the time the mill was built.

TOM RUDDER (tomr@infostations.com) wrote, 1/16/2004, to a question about the reference to **Carr's Creek** in the above article and if it is the same as **Beck's Branch** and **Mill Creek**, today.

I do not know how Carrs Creek got it's name but I suspect it was named for William Carr, one of the first Long Hunters in the area who settled on the Clinch River in what is now Tazewll Co. What I do know is that the first land surveys and grants identified the stream as Carrs Creek. In 1781 Aaron Van Hook had a survey there for 200 which he assigned to William Gilmore. Gilmore was granted the land and then sold it to John Jessee. William Dollarhide was granted 38 acres at the mouth of Carrs Creek. When the name was changed to Mill Creek I do not know but speculation has it that the name came into use because of the number of mills located there. How , when and where "Becks Branch" came into use I do not know. Betty Yates says that in the 1830's it was referred to as McLaughlin's Mill Creek. So that could be when the name Mill Creek originated.

Richard Jessee, of Chico, CA at Jessee's Mill, June 17, 2004

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.

HEATHER WILLIAMS [HeatherW@moaa.org] wrote, 9/27/2004, with additional information regarding the **Clementine Kiser and James Kiser gravestones in Archer Jessee gravesite on Mill Creek.**

Dear Jessee Family,

I was so excited to come across the Jessee family newsletter with a reference to the gravesite of my relatives!!! I thought you would want to know about two of the stones (and now I'm curious to see the others) in the Archer Jessee gravesite on Mill Creek. Here's the newsletter I'm referencing: Jessee Family Newsletter 22, the section on the Archer Jessee gravesite is on page 14.

At one time my greatgreat grandfather John Everett Kiser, Sr. owned a large farm that encompassed an area North and South of the Clinch river between Mill Creek and Meade creek and between Carbo and Carterton on the north side up Chaney creek and encompassing a large part of what is now the power plant. We do not yet know the extent or exact boundaries of the land but I'm sure they were right next to Jessee's Mill on Mill Creek. C.B. Parrott's family (who still lives in Carbo) were share croppers on the farm of both John E. Kiser Sr. and John Everett Kiser, Jr. and knew them very well. He may know more about the farm boundaries if you are curious since his family bought the land from John Everet, Jr.

John E. Kiser, Sr (son of James D. Kiser and Winnie Artrip) and Mary Alice Kiser (daughter of Harvey G. Kiser and Nancy Ramsey) had the following 5 living children listed in the 1930 census:

Winifred (not living in the same household)
John Everet, Jr. Kiser
Pearl Kiser
Ida Kiser
Clementine Kiser

In the 1910 census they asked women how many children they had and how many were still living. Mary Alice had had 10 children and 8 still were living at that time. She had three children with her first husband Jefferson D. Hensdill (Ruby, William, Jefferson, Jr.) who were not living with her and John E. in 1910 (they were living with Mary Alice's parents). The same children (except for Winifred who had married and moved) are listed on the 1930 census together with John E. and Mary Alice Kiser. And we know in our family stories that another son was killed when he was kicked by a mule at a young age. So the gravestone for James must have been John E. and Mary Alice's first born child after they were married in 1899 and not the child kicked by the mule. Clementine was 23 on the 1930 census and this also matches the birthdate on the gravestone.

I can substantiate that this Clementine Kiser is the daughter of John E. and Mary Alice because the birthdate matches the month and year on the 1910 census record. Furthermore this is the area where her family lived and with the grave of James Kiser and his parents initials I feel confident that I am identifying these gravestones correctly.

I hope all that makes sense! Do you have any pictures of the gravesite/stones? I can't wait to go down there and see them for myself! If you have any other info or want any other info on my family line please contact me. Heather Williams

Web Project Manager
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www.moaa.org

SUSAN E. DAVIS (SHASTA4737@aol.com), wrote 12/28/2004, with an inquiry regarding the **Ramey Genealogy in Wise, Scott and Washington Co., VA.** Ramey and the other **Fraleys and Nash** families have all intermarried with the Jessees or their descendants over 200 years, and while many appear in the Jessee database, I do not have recorded these specific individuals. Perhaps someone else can help.

I have been searching for my Grandfather Elbert Homer Ramey b. circa 1897 in possibly Benhams, Virginia. His mother was named Leora Ramey and she is supposed to be buried in Wise County, VA at Big Stone Gap. Elbert said that her family was from a mountain there. I have a huge brick wall because I have not been able to find out anything about her or Elbert Homer Ramey's father. Elbert said his father's name was Charles Ramey but the family story is that it might have been Carter. He was raised by a William R. Fraley in Scott Co., VA. He had said he was raised by an uncle, but he is listed as an orphan on the 1910 census.

I saw that you have some different Ramey names than the other sites and also many Fraleys. I also think that it is possible that Leora is on the 1880 Scott County Census as Leah Nash, and I saw the Nash name on your site.

You can also use anything from my web site or add a link to it. Here [you will find] pages with some photos, census images, and other information about my Rameys from SW Virginia. I'm trying to research the Rameys, Carters, Fraleys, and Nash and other families from SW Virginia to see if I can find my Leora Ramey and family. I'll be adding more information to my web site in the near future.

Web site: <http://www.tribalpages.com/tribes/shasta4737>

I am still researching and hope to find more information to put on my site. For example, I found an older Elbert Homer Ramey living with a George Frayley in Scott Co., VA in 1880. I just wondered if any of these names seem familiar to you.

Thanks for any help!

THOMAS-JACK HOCKETT (HocketT@wyeth.com) welcomed the new year, 1/1/2005, providing this catalog of resources for **Washington Co., VA.** Jack is a tireless researcher whose many efforts to make his information available to other SW VA researchers are much appreciated.

From the New Papyrus Publishing Company's On-Line Catalog for Washington Co., VA:

To order by phone, call 1-706-546-6740 M-F 8a-6p EST.

You may call the number above during business hours to check the status of an order, or E-mail us. Please see our HELP PAGE for mail-order instructions, wholesaler options and other contact information.

We specialize in records for Virginia 1650-1900.

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 3,
OCT.1802-JAN.1808 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 143 pages, index. One can locate considerable information on the county's history and

genealogy by referencing its deed books, containing not only deeds (Indentures of Bargain & Sale) but relinquishment of dower, powers of attorney and Deeds of Gift, Deeds of Trust, etc. This includes the all-important location of female surnames and also valuable clues to the misconstrued and translated (Anglicized) German and Swiss German names. This is a faithful transcription with the original deed book index provided.

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 4,
JAN.1808-NOV.1811 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 121 pages, index. As described above.
[WDB4] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 5,
NOV.1811-NOV.1814 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 124 pages, index. As described above.
[WDB5] \$25.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 6,
NOV.1814-NOV.1818 Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 199 pages, index. As described above.
[WDB6] \$30.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DEED BOOK 7, 1818-1822
Jack Hockett. 2004, ii, 161 pages, index. As described above.
[WDB7] \$27.50

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DISTRICT COURT DEED
BOOK A, 1789-1801 Transcribed by Tom Colley & Jane Fleenor
Colley. 2004, iv, 183 pages, index. The Judicial District Court was held at Montgomery County Courthouse prior to 1792 and at Washington County Courthouse after 1792; it heard cases originating in Montgomery, Russell, and Washington Counties. The record here contains the abstracted transcript of this region. It includes indentures, trust deeds, powers of attorney, wills, and transfers of real property.
[Wsd] \$35.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA DISTRICT COURT DEED
BOOK B, 1801-1840 Transcribed by Tom Colley & Jane Fleenor
Colley. 2004, iv, 266 pages, index. Continuation of Deed Book A above.
[Wsd] \$35.00

WASHINGTON CO. VIRGINIA SURVEYS AND
COMMISSIONERS; CERTIFICATES, 1781-1797 Tom Colley.
1999, iv, 405 pages, index. Washington County was created in 1777 from Fincastle County. At the time of its creation, Washington contained the territory for the later counties of Russell (1786), Lee (1793), Scott (1814), Smyth (1832), Wise (1856), and a portion of Dickenson County (1880). The author has carefully abstracted the first surviving land book for this important county, and included all of the significant genealogical and land references. Eighteenth century survey records are quite rare, and this record should add to the sources for genealogical research in southwestern Virginia.
[Wsc] \$35.00

1870 CENSUS OF WASHINGTON CO. VA Transcribed by
Jack Hockett, 147 pages plus introduction and every-name index (8.25" x 10.75" paperback). The first census following the Civil War, this census presents significant and detailed information on every member of the household. A thorough and meticulous transcription taken from two microfilms [Population Schedules of the Ninth Census of the United States 1870, Roll 1681, VA, Vol 28 (1-312) Film #0553180 [LDS/FHC] and Microfilm Copy M593, in order to circumvent the visual problems from one and the other.
[W70] \$29.95

WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA MARRIAGES: MINISTERS'
RETURNS, 1776-1859 by Marty Hiatt & Craig Roberts Scott.
1995, 315 pages, index. Washington County was formed in 1777 from part of Fincastle when the latter was abolished. In 1787 Russell County was cut off, with Scott County following in 1815, and part was taken to form Smyth County in 1832. The information is extracted from the sole surviving early marriage register (No. 1).
[Wash] \$25.00

WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA MINUTES OF THE BOARD
OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR, 1826-1863 by Jack Hockett.
1997, 151 pages, index. The author abstracts all of the data found in the records of the Board of Overseers of the Poor, an organization which supplanted the Anglican Church's duties following the disestablishment of the church. These records are especially important because of the paucity of records currently published on Washington County. surviving deed and will books tend not to contain mention of less affluent citizens of the county.
[Wcvm] \$25.00

WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA MARRIAGES, 1853-1880
by Thomas Colley. 1997, 511 pages, index. The author abstracts all of the data found in the Bureau of Vital Statistics forms for Virginia marriages, which was begun in 1853. A wealth of information, including ages, occupation, parents' names, etc. can be gleaned from these marriage records. Arranged alphabetically and contains both a bride and parent index of names.
[Wsh2] \$30.00

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.

WILLIAM LEON "BILL" JESSEE, sent information and a very good photo copy of the **Maryland State Archives document, Land Office (Patent Record) 16, p. 170, listing:**

Thomas Jessee, 1671;
Accession No.: 17,350
MSA No.: S 11-20
Location: 1/23/1/21
1 p.

This is the oldest known record of a Jessee with that specific spelling to land in America. Bill indicates he is unable to do active research anymore because of his health and asks for additional research in the Maryland State Archives for evidence of Thomas or other early Jessees to arrive in America. See Internet Resources at the end of this Newsletter for additional Maryland Web references.

OTHER JESSE(E) FAMILIES

No news this time; your contributions welcome.

PHILLIP AND RACHEL JESSEE

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

Gabriel Jessee descendants Irene Jessee Perry, Janice Jessee Tiller, and J.C. and wife Nellie Jessee have been generous supporters and stalwart workers who have helped establish the Jessee Family Foundation. For their past and continuing work, we thank them. I invite them and other family members to submit photos and other articles of interest for us all to enjoy.

Of note, Jimmy Herndon, owner of the John and Frankey Lea Jessee cemetery and original farm, is a Phillip and Rachel Jessee descendant.

MICHELE GRANT [crahslav@bellsouth.net] sent, 8/17/2004, the following article and information regarding Thelma Pauline Jarrett. Her mother was Della Mae Jessee, a descendant of Phillip and Gabriel Jessee.

Hello, I am a native of Rockingham County, NC. I have an old newspaper, Greensboro News, dated Sept 15, 1940. It has the marriage announcement of Thelma Pauline Jarrett in it, which I have scanned. Do you have any interest in this? If so, I will be glad to send it to you. I am related to the Jarrett family of Henry County - my great-grandmother was Annie E Jarrett, daughter of John Jarrett and Susan Bradley.

PS: Just checked my database, and found that James Arthur Jarrett's father is my great-grandmother's half-brother!

John and Frankey 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.

Here I will report new information for John and Frankey and highlight news and significant contributions regarding each of their fifteen (I-XV) children. I will rely upon special requests and search of the Jessee Family Database to provide the detailed genealogy information to those interested in any particular branch, rather than provide all the new information I receive in the newsletter. There has been much new information added to the database regarding the descendants of John and Frankey Lea Jessee, so please visit www.jessee.org and look up your line.

I enjoy corresponding with many descendants of John and Frankey's fifteen children and have gleaned much new descendant and pedigree information. I cannot provide all of it in the Jessee Newsletter. Please visit the family database at www.jessee.org to see many new additions each month.

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. **See the Dee Harding photos featured up front of Jim's great-great uncle, Ephraim Kiser Jessee.**

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.

RITA LEE RUSSELL [phillrussell@yucca.net] sent, 7/28/2004, these photographs of **Sarah Ella Cooper Stone**, descendant of **Rebecca Jessee Chafin**, daughter of **John Jessee and Mary Gose**, son of Archer Jessee and Nancy Browning.

JACK HOCKETT (Tlas101@aol.com) sent this along, 10/19/2004, via **Kathryn Greever**. Both are major contributors to the family research efforts. This regards the **Wilson Browning Probate Record** and Wilson's nephew, **James Browning Jessee**.

Jack well notes something I have observed many times with the **migration patterns of various branches of the family**, that is whole families, including cousins, related families, in-laws, and neighbors, too, often pioneered together or in successive waves to the same area. Or as Jack says, *Usually these people traveled in "pods"... for example, from Washington Co. VA, there was a huge clutch of people that went to Coles Co. IL.*

James B. Jessee was Wilson's nephew from Russell County. They went to IN together. Jessee's mother was Nancy Browning a sister of Wilson Browning who married Archer Jessee.

Source: "History of Montgomery Co., IN together with Historic Notes on the Wabash Valley," by H. W. Beckwith, 1881, pg. 364, from Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT. H. W. Beckwith History (Chicago: HH Hill, 1881) p 364. Up to 1829 all the settlement seems to have been in the northwest especially, and the northeast parts of the township (Walnut). In 1829 the stage of action enlarges southward, and history chronicles the arrival of Wilson Browning and wife, and James B. Jesse, wife and babe. Mrs. Browning being disabled for duty, Mr. Browning requested Mr. Jessee to abide with them the first winter, that Mrs. Jessee might perform the domestic duties. Mr. Jesse having arrived in the new country with but \$8 in pocket, and almost destitute of life's wherewith, gladly consented. By the united efforts of the two men a cabin of hewn logs was built, and the two families took possession. In the following year, 1830, Mr. Browning having suffered from illness, desired to visit an Indian doctor, Dudley, in Ky. Accordingly Mr. Jessee, his nephew, set out with him for that purpose. Arriving at Indianapolis the sick man was unable to go farther, and there d. in Sept. 1830 and was bur. there. This was most likely the first death from Walnut Twp. His widow married and moved away. James B. Jessee built a cabin where now the flouring mill stands, and there kept an occasional traveler, charging



This is a picture of Sarah Ella Cooper Carter Stone, my maternal grandmother. This was taken from her wedding portrait with Joseph Shelton Carter.



Sarah Ella Cooper's Family



This is the Sarah Ella Cooper Stone homestead in New Mexico. This house was built over the original half dug out that they lived in when they first came to New Mexico. Grandma and my old maid aunt lived there until 1955 or 1956. They never had electricity or running water.

him the usual fare. He also made a pair of shoes, or did anything that offered itself. In a short time he received \$60 from his brother in Virginia, a debt due him. To this he borrowed \$20 at Crawfordsville, paying interest at the rate of 20 per cent. The \$60 and \$20 added to the little he had saved, purchased his first 80 acres of land, on which, in 3 or 4 years, he built and occupied. He began to have company in the "wilderness" and succeeded in adding a little land till he owned 240 acres. In those early days Mr. J. hauled wheat to Chicago, sold pork at \$1.25 per hundred and went to Attica for salt, paying \$8.50 per barrel. In 1829 John Kelley entered land here.

Source: "History of Montgomery Co., IN together with Historic Notes on the Wabash Valley," by H. W. Beckwith, 1881, pg. 379, from Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT. "James B. Jessee, farmer (retired), New Ross, was born in Russell County, Virginia, October 13, 1803, and was the son of Archie and Nancy (Browning) Jessee, both natives of Old Virginia. James studied his book but forty or fifty days, his education being derived by looking over the shoulders of others, and gathering from observation. He adapted himself to any trade, now farming, then carpentering or blacksmithing, or sat on the bench of a shoemaker.

Mr. Jessee was married in September 1827, to Nancy Candler, daughter of Squire John Candler, of Virginia. She was born in April 1808. In 1829 Mr. Jessee, wife and babe, emigrated to Indiana and settled in Montgomery County. His uncle, Wilson Browning, came the same year and entered the land on which New Ross now stands, and Mr. Jessee having nothing but a few household goods and \$8 in cash, lived the first year with his uncle, whose wife being lame, Mr. Browning proposed that Mrs. Jessee keep house, and all live together, which was agreed to by the second party. Some three or four years after, Mr. Jessee received from his brother \$60, which was due him, and by pting what he had to this and borrowing \$20, and paying 120 per cent interest, he purchased eighty acres of land on which he still lives. He added to his farm until he owned 240 acrs. He now lives with his son, I. W. Jessee, on the homestead, about one forth of a mile south of New Ross. Mr. an Mrs. Jessee had seven children: Martha, Dorothy, Jane, Dosah A., Now Mrs. G. T. Dorsey; Thomas;, who died at Pittsburg Landing, during the late Civil War; James M., now of Aurora, Illinois, who enlisted three times in the Civil War,; and I. W. at home. Mr. Jessee has always been a warm Whig or Republican. He and wife are Methodists. His memory is still fresh, and he remembers well the War of 1812, in which his father was Captain of a light horse company. His father was also a member of the Virginia Legislature for twelve or fiteen years, and his grandfathers Jessee and Browning were in the Revolution, the later having been a Captain and having lived to be 102 years of age. Mr. Jessee has been a prominent man in this vicinity for fifteen years, and was Justice of the Peace. In his old age he is a great reader and good converser. His settlement of Montgomery County is further noticed in the general history of Walnut township."

Source: "History of New Ross and Vicinity, 1829-1967," by Crystal Pauline Randel Walters, Selby Publishing and Printing, from Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT, pg. 29: "In 1829, Wilson Browning and wife, Rebecca, and children, and his nepehw, James B. Jessee and wife Nancy (Candler Jessee and baby Martha, came from Virginia to what is now New Ross. Wilson Brownings' wife was ill, and needing help, they asked James and Nancy (Candler) Jessee to spend the winter with them, so that Nancy could do cooking and housekeeping chores for them. James and Nancy were glad to do this, for they only had \$8 when they came here in 1829.



Sarah Logan Jessee

In 1830 Wilson Browning became ill, and he wanted to go to Kentucky to see. Dr. Dudley, so accompanied by James B. Jessee they started out, but when they reached Indianapolis, Indiana, Wilson became seriously ill, and died September 1830. He was buried in Indianapolis. It was the first death of any settler who had come to Walnut Township, Montgomery County, Indiana. His widow, Rebecca, married James Anderson 1832, and left here."

DALE ROBERTS [daler1@comcast.net] sent, 9/6/2004, the photo of **Sarah Logan Jessee**, wife of **Robert Stinson Jessee**, son of **Elder David "Little Dave" Jessee**, son of **Archer Jessee**.

Hi Jim, I attended the 47th Fraley reunion in Scott County this weekend and uncovered another picture that might interest you. This is my Great, Great Grandmother, Sarah Logan Jessee (the wife of Robert Stinson Jessee).

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.

DENNIS MCINDOO [dejadoo@runbox.com] wrote, 9/17/2004 regarding a photo of a headstone of **A W Jessee**, who died 1900 in Idaho, who he believed to be Asher W. Jessee, son of Elisha Bishop Jessee, and descendants of Oliver and William Jessee. I agree that this is Asher, based on the coincidence of death date and location. The discrepancy in the birth dates he notes are understandable, as my date may be an approximation, and 1877 does fit into that family, too.

Just a little gift for you from my headstone photo project in Canyon County, Idaho. This photo of the headstone was taken in the Kohlerlawn Cemetery in Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho. There is no cost whatsoever. Sometimes I just look for family of the person mentioned on the headstone and found your research at Ancestry.com. For now I have gone ahead and put a first name on the file name. The mine at which he died isn't too far away from this cemetery. There have been countless others brought from Owyhee County to this cemetery. The birth year doesn't quite match as to what you have [1879] but the death year and initials sure seem to match. What is your opinion here.

His name isn't listed yet on the website as I am going through a set of photos from the Kohlerlawn Cemetery and will post a bunch probably later this weekend. If you wish to look for other names please visit my website at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~holton/cempics/headstones.htm>



Asher W. Jessee

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.

SHIRLEY CONTRERAS (shirley2@pronet.net), a researcher for the **Santa Maria Valley Historical Society**, is a freelance writer, who has a weekly column in the *Santa Maria Times*. She wrote, 9/12/1999, the article, titled "*The Jessee Family Played A Big Role In Santa Maria's History*" which has been featured in prior newsletters, and may be found in the notes for Archer Catron Jessee, son of Lea Jessee. Archer is believed to be the first Jessee in California, well before the Gold Rush, and was among the founding fathers of this state. On November 8, 2004, Shirley contacted the family again expressing interest in doing a follow-up article and provided the following notes, additional photos (which unfortunately I cannot print here) and amplification of her original material.

Here's something that I wrote in April of 2001, along with some additional info that I picked up in the Santa Maria City Directory.

In the fall of 1846, Archer Catron Jessee, along with his wife, Mary (Harbin) and year-old daughter Mary arrived in what is now known as Sacramento.

Shortly after his arrival he enlisted in Fremont's battalion and was appointed first lieutenant of a company under the leadership of Captain John Grigsby. After his discharge in April of 1847, he returned to Sacramento, but only stayed there a short time before moving his family to the Napa Valley where he began trading and dealing extensively in land and stock. The following year he took his place on the Napa City Council where he served for two terms.

The family later moved to Solano County before moving south to San Luis Obispo in 1869. The Jessees were living in San Bernardino County when Archer went to Florence, Arizona to check on a mining deal that he'd bought into. After the mine failed, his health gave out and he died in Florence in 1877, leaving the family destitute. Mary and her children moved to the Central Coast the following year.

The new village of Grangeville hired young Madison "Matt" Jessee as its first night watchman, a position that he held while working on various farms and ranches, including the Suey Ranch.

In 1885 Matt became a constable for the city of Santa Maria, a position which was later filled by Alex Samson, John Waugh and I. W. "Doc" Southard, in succession. Matt's career as a police officer lasted for about twenty-five years.

When the game of baseball was introduced to the Santa Maria Valley in 1882, it quickly caught on and it wasn't long before each town had its own baseball team with "The Santa Maria Stars" capturing the interest of the locals. It seemed as though everyone, young and old, wanted his chance to play the game. However, when some of those who were less agile than others went home with mashed fingers, disjointed thumbs and, in some case, dislocated jaws, they soon settled for just being cheering spectators as they hooted and hollered from their wagon's cheering section.

This game of baseball was serious business best left to the younger guys.

In the spring of 1882 the Stars and the team from Guadalupe had its eyes on a challenge trophy, a championship belt, ball and silver-mounted ball which was finally won by The Stars in this hotly played contest of skills.

A playing field was created when level land was cleared off, a makeshift backstop was set up and four bags to be used as bases were set down. The team was then ready to "play ball."

Each oil lease supported baseball teams where the competition was fierce. Other area teams included both the Orcutt and the Santa Maria Fats.

In 1907, four years after the World Series was born, the young men of Santa Maria formed the "Golden Bears" Club, a single men's club. With Fred Haslam as manager, the team, complete with uniforms for each man, was made up of the Langlois Brothers, Landon Bagby, Elwood Bryant, Emmett Trott, Archie Cline, Elmer Boyd, Dick Doan, Bert Smith, Bert Jessee, Lee Brown, Nelson Jones and Fred Haslam.

Matt and his brother, John, played on the old Star Nine, a baseball team made up of the "young bloods" of its time. San Luis Obispo was the team's biggest rival.

When Matt passed away in 1937, his 83-year-old brother, John Victor Jessee lay dying in a Santa Maria hospital. John Victor passed away on April 26, 1937.

John, who was born in Woodland in 1852, was educated in normal schools and at a private college in San Bernardino where he studied civil engineering.

This was added to my notes:

Frank Jessee was the manager of the A.F. Co baseball team, a team sponsored by the A. Flasher Company, a company once located on the corner of Broadway and East Main Streets. The company furnished the uniforms, belts and hats for the benefit of the advertising derived.

Fred Lewis from the Santa Maria Bottling Works was the official umpire who saw that the home town boys got a square break and so well did he perform his duties that the team seldom lost a game. Of course, though, their winning streaks were all due to their superior ability.

The team was composed of Roscoe Jones, Roy Sherman, Dr. Blosser, Johnny Avila, Mike Price, George Miller, Joe Fisher and Henry Bunce.

Joe Fisher was the captain of the team, Mike Price was the pitcher, and Johnny Avila, catcher. Jessee looked after the business end while the rest of the players cavorted around the bases at the old race track.

The A.F. Co. team played and defeated Santa Barbara, Ventura, Oxnard, SLO, Lompoc, Arroyo Grande and Nipomo. On one memorable occasion they played a double header on home territory and won both games.

Enthusiasm grew in proportion to the team's success and before the season was over everyone in town was wild about the game, the attendance was large and betting was open and above board. Never since, has Santa Maria had a ball team that won the hearts and affections of the fans as did the old A.F. Co. in 1902

Henry Bunce, one of the earnest, hard working members of that team was connected with the Pacific Coast Railway for many years Billy Miles, third base; Tom Miller, first base; Boone DeWitt, outfielder; George "Don" Merritt, pitcher; and Haight Jessee, second base; R. O. "Bob" Walker of Orcutt, outfielder; umpire George Brown; Isaac Miller, pitcher; Henry Morris, outfielder; Frank Jessee, catcher; Herschel Miller, shortstop.

Note: Frank Jessee and George Brown, were volunteer firemen on Santa Maria's first fire department which was started in 1904 with Arthur S. MacLaughlin as Fire Chief. John Jessee subdivided the Bradley Ranch for the Santa Barbara Land and

Water Company and was frequently called to court to testify in property line disputes throughout Santa Barbara County. According to his biography in the "History of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties," he never lost a case.

At one time he did all of the county work in the northern part of the county, including the sub-dividing of the Suey Rancho.

Francis Marion Jessee, who was born in Lake County in September of 1866, was a member of the Santa Maria Lodge #90 of the Knights of Pythias of which he was Past Chancellor Commander. He was a volunteer on Santa Maria's first fire department, which was started in 1904 with Arthur MacLaughlin serving as fire chief. Both Francis and his brother, Henry, operated the "Bohemian" on Whiskey Row. Francis Jessee, a single man, passed away in June of 1928.

The Jessees, all of whom played a significant part in the growth of Santa Maria, are names that are no longer familiar in the Santa Maria area. However, there are still people living in the valley whose ancestry can be traced back to the Jessee family.

Members of the original Jessee family who came to the area in 1878 are all buried in the Santa Maria Cemetery.

More notes:

Frank Jessee was the manager of the A.F. Co baseball team, a team so named in honor of the A. Flasher Company, a company once located on the corner of Broadway and East Main Streets. The company furnished the uniforms, belts and hats for the benefit of the advertising derived. Fred Lewis from the Santa Maria Bottling Works was the official umpire who saw that the home town boys got a square break and so well did he perform his duties that the team seldom lost a game. Of course, though, their winning streaks were all due to their superior ability.

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Note: Frank Jessee, George Brown, were volunteer firemen on Santa Maria's first fire department which was started in 1904 with Arthur S. MacLaughlin as Fire Chief.

Per 1906 city directory, H. H. Jessee was a liquor dealer, Jessee Bros, Main St F.M. Jessee, liquor dealer, Jessee Bros, Lincoln St

I hope that you can make sense out of this as I kept adding notes to the bottom of the story, none of which were included in the original column that I wrote. They could well be repetitive. Hope that you'll understand...and know why I feel that it's important to write the story of the Jessees again.

Many thanks, Shirley

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.

VI. Elizabeth Jessee Gose

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

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.

I am sorry to report that VIVIAN BALES (Marion, IN), Mary “Polly” Jessee Kiser’s gggg-granddaughter, passed away, Oct 30, 2004.

Vivian was a devoted genealogist and did years of work the hard pick and shovel way. She helped dozens, if not hundreds of cousins with genealogy research and freely provided information. She was a faithful contributor to this newsletter and contributed tremendously to the family database and newsletters. She constantly worked at ferreting out little bits and pieces of information she gathered over a lifetime, and sent them my way. She often provided good advice, poignant memories, stories, and insights into her own colorful life. She was a family treasure and will be well remembered and missed.

The following obituary was provided to us by **Bill Rentzschke** taken from the *Journal Review*, Crawfordsville, IN.

**Vivian A. Bales, Marion
May 2, 1913 - Oct. 3, 2004**

Vivian A. Bales, 91, Marion and formerly of Crawfordsville, died 8:10 p.m. Saturday in Wesleyan Healthcare Center, Marion.

Her memberships included the DAR and she was a skilled genealogist, helping many people trace their family ancestry, as well as keeping the Dickisons and Tacketts (and those in-between) connected. She was a member of the first Assembly of God, Marion and Crawfordsville.

She was born May 2, 1913, at Olive Hill, Ky., to John L. and Nellie H. Tackett Dickison. She married Melvin K. Bales. He died in 1982.

Survivors include daughter Marjorie Hartley, Marion; brother Tom (Max) Dickison, Danville, IL; sister Mary Queen of Portland ME; and two grandchildren.

One grandson, Ward N. Schaeffer and one brother, Farrell Dickison preceded her in death.

Graveside services are scheduled 2 p.m. Tuesday in Oak Hill Mausoleum with the Rev. Rachael Rollins officiating.

Hunt & Son Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
Memorials may be made to the Jessee Historical Foundation, Inc., 19346 Oakwood Drive, Abingdon, Va. 24211.

Vivian had a particular interest in learning about and getting to know the **Jesse/Jessee families of New Ross and New Castle, near Crawfordsville, Indiana.** We welcome help from anyone with information or connections there. She wanted us to bring them into the family fold, and for her, I thought I would try one more time.

CARLYNE RITTER SQUIRES [jessee@oregonfcu.com] wrote, 11/24/2004, when she learned this sad news from the **Mary Akers'** post to the Jessee List.

Cousins, May I also testify that Vivian Bales was a treasure. I am going to have pull the Christmas card I just addressed to her out of the stack to be mailed before we leave for vacation Monday. It's a sad task, for if I remember correctly I found Vivian before I found our treasure in Jim Jessee, and it was such a thrill to receive her warm letters, full of news and family tid bits. I am hoping to make the trip to Virginia to the next reunion, God willing, and had hoped to go pick her up and take her with us if her health permitted. Vivian had true family spirit and a love for our ancestors, their lives and our heritage that is rare in any generation. I'm honored to have known her. I wish I'd known her better. I hope I'll have an opportunity to tell her heir(s) if we learn who they are and how to contact them and spend time together beyond the veil.

Love, Carlyne Ritter Squires

(Descended from Archer, Wm Vincent, and Alex Jessee and tracking my JESSEE, BLACK, PARSONS, RAY, BAKER and other VA & NC ancestors from the beautiful Oregon Coast)

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.

IX. Sarah Jessee Vermillion

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

X. Boedicia Jessee Gose

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

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

XI. James Jessee

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

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. She is in increasingly difficult health, but keeps in touch.

XII. REBECCA JESSEE BURK

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

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

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

XIII. Jane Jessee Fuller

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

XIV. George Lea Jessee

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

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

XV. Martin Jessee

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

RICK (Genealogy521@aol.com) wrote, 11/23/2004, with an inquiry regarding **May and Rhetta Jessee**, two daughters of **Daniel E. P. Jessee's** and his second wife, **Nancy Kiser** or Counts, or now, thanks to Rick, Logan, as her possible surname. This well explains the origin of their son's name Logan, too. Unfortunately, I cannot shed more light on May Jessee or Jesse, for whom I have no other information. Please see the notes under Daniel E.P. Jessee and Logan Jessee in my database at www.jessee.org. Perhaps she died young.

I don't find a May Jessee for Daniel Edward Jessee and Nancy C (Logan). I have the name Logan from a death cert. of Rhetta Jessee who married my grandfather David Lincoln Thompson. The Death Cer states Rhetta's Father as Daniel E Jesse and Nannie Logan or Nancy Logan. 1910 census shows no May Jesse but does show, Dannie, Grace, Rhetta J, Logan and George W. Her Death Cer shows she was born 26 Nov 1893 in Olive Hill Kentucky. She died 26 Nov 1967 in Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio She is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Lancaster Fairfield County, Ohio. She had two Children with David L Thompson. She was David's second wife, she would be my Step Grand Mother. Davids first wife was Ruby Young She was born Kentucky 1888 and died 1920 Greenup Greenup County Kentucky, she is buried in Plumgrove Community Cemetery Greenup Greenup County Kentucky. Her parents are also buried there. Can you help me with May Jessee, I just cannot find her on any census.

Rhetta's two children are I have no information on her except she died. Ruth Lillian Before 2001 in Ohio, David E was born Jan 24 1923, I believe Ohio. he Died 29 May 2003 in Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, buried 2 Jun 2003 Floral Hill Memory Gardens Lancaster Fairfield County, Ohio, Services held in The Chapel Frank E Smith Funeral Home, Lancaster, Ohio Monday 1:00 P.M. June 2, 2003. Officating The Rev. Sam Halverson.

Lancaster Veterans Burial detail conducting Military rites at the Cemetery David Married Marie K Sims in 1946, She was born about 1918 in Ohio Died 24 Dec 2002 Lancaster Fairfield County, Ohio She is buried at Floral Hills Memory Gardens Lancaster Fairfield County, Ohio They had One son Living male married Living Ford. No idea of children.

Rhetta and David L Thompson were married in 1920 Ohio I believe David E their son was married before to a Berry, who is unknown to me at this time.

David L Thompson son of Thomas T Thompson and Emeressa / Aramesa (Meese) Moore. Thomas T thompson son of John Samuel Thompson and Elizabeth J Moore I have information a ways back also Kelly Bilik has that at rootsweb.com.

David and Ruby Young had Grace, Jessie who married Unknown Porter, Mammie R, who married Marshal Reffitt They had one son one daughter Mammie R second marriage To Roland "Cotton" Eaton they had a son and a daughter. All of David Lincolns children have passed away. You are welcome to use this in your Jessee news letter, If you wish a copy of the Death Cer I can send it via e mail as a pdf file. Just let me know, I also have the 1910 census as a pdf file if you wish that.

David E. Thompson had much of the history of his family, I received some from him and some from others, he did at one time have Family genealogy sheets that he sent to me on my Thompson line. I would guess that David E knew who his mothers, Mothers name that was being shown as Nancy J. Logan. Just ask if you need some help, I will do what I can to help you and thanks for your help.

MISSING LINKS, PROBLEMS AND OTHER CONUNDRUMS

Please help us solve these riddles.

No new riddles were provided this issue, but we have lots of the old ones to resolve. Please help.

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.

No other miscellaneous correspondence was provided this issue. Please write.

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.

MITCHELL, GWENDOLYN, AND LUKAS JESSIE [mjessie@woh.rr.com] wrote, 8/14/2004, with this link regarding his son Lukas' Website on the **Jessees in the Civil War**. It is terrific.

Hey Jim, Hope all is treating you well. I wanted to see if you could take a minute to look at my twelve year old son, Lukas' Webpage that is all about the Jessees in the Civil War.

Since he was seven, he's been obsessed with American history which goes hand in hand with his interest in the Jesse family. I think he did a good job... He put a link on the page for your site as well. He found some great comments you've made concerning the Jessees in the civil war. Check it out if you get a sec.

<http://www.mitchelljessie.com/civilwar.htm>

MITCHELL & GWENDOLYN JESSIE followed up, 12/5/2004, with this update.

Hey Cousin, Hope all is going well. Just wanted to check in with you and let you know that I was thinking about you... I've updated my Jesse Family page and included a pretty neat audio recording of our cousin, Grady Jesse. Also, I've added a little bit more to the Jesse Family Civil War Page. Stop by and check it out if ya get a minute. I'll talk to you soon!

<http://www.mitchelljessie.com/family.htm>

THOMAS-JACK HOCKETT [HocketT@wyeth.com] wrote, 8/19/2004, with this extract from the Website for the **New Papyrus Publishing Co.**

<http://genealogyresources.org/index.html>

Welcome to New Papyrus Publishing! Locate Your Ancestors from Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and Other States with our Quality Reference Books.

New Papyrus Publishing Company supplies genealogical reference materials including marriage records, census records, wills, deeds, land tax lists, guardian bonds and tithing lists, plus Civil and Revolutionary War records, timesaving aids, charts, atlases, and other research materials for the novice and professional genealogist alike.

We specialize in VIRGINIA records. Use the table of links below to jump directly to our records on a specific Virginia county. If you prefer to order by phone, call 1-706-546-6740 Monday through Friday, 8a-6p EST. See our HELP PAGE for information on mail ordering instructions and information for book vendors on setting up a wholesaler account. For customer service, please call the number above Mon.-Fri. 9a-6p EST. or E-MAIL Us.

IRIS DEEL SERVAY at www.thedeels.com provides a wonderful Website to explore, although she really needs to disclaim the accuracy of the Jesse pedigree before our John and Frankey Lea Jesse. We

have no proof of that. Here is her welcome and list of families represented. It is pretty impressive.

Hi there everyone! Yes, you are still at the right place. I decided to do some house cleaning here.....you know how a lot of little things start to get loose, and besides, I enjoy changing my graphics every now and then too. I am also going to try to add a few new things, like Ged Coms and the pictures.

A special "Thank you" goes out to Michelle Potter for all her wonderful help, without her, none of this could have been possible. I have accumulated so many things and needed the extra room. She has so graciously provided this site for me with lots of extra room to put it all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart Michelle, you are an angel. Be sure to visit Michelle's site "Mountainkin", I have their banner listed below, just click on it to go there.

I am Iris Deel Servay. I come from the Southwestern part of Virginia, the Appalachian Mountains.

Come on in and see if we are related or not. I carry several surnames in my file's. Including Deel, Owens, Viers, Looney, Counts, Fuller, Edwards, Mullins, Sykes, Barnett, Fleming and Sutherland, just to name a few.

If you find that we are related, please email me and let me know. Or if you need help with one of the files please let me know also.

These are my Ged Com's, I hope you enjoy them.

Descendants of Unknown Szervej
Descendants Of Aaron Lyall
Descendants Of Elias Churchill
Descendants Of John Fuller
Descendants Of Richard I "Fearless Of Normany"
Descendants Of Henry Jessee (John and Frankey Lea Jessee)
Descendants Of John Winston Spencer
Descendants Of Thiel Goff
Descendants Of Jesse Grizzle
Descendants Of Richard Heale/Haile/Hale
Descendants Of Johnson/Tuttle
Descendants Of Carter Barnett
Descendants Of Berry Wood
Descendants Of Christopher Runyon
Descendants Of Thomas Colley
Descendants Of John Counts
Descendants Of Malachi Deel
Descendants Of David Deel
Descendants Of Lewis Edwards
Descendants Of John Yates
Descendants Of Joseph Keyser/Kiser
Descendants Of The Melungeon Mullins
Descendants Of My Deel Line
Descendants Of Nicholas Diehl
Descendants Of Harden Owens
Descendants Of William Sutherland
Descendants Of My Via/Viers Line
Descendants Of Absalom (Abner) Willis
Descendants Of Hugh Boyd
Descendants Of Thomas Selfe
The Descendants Of John Hay
The Descendants Of John Church
The Descendants Of Henry Dyer
The Descendants Of Jeffery DeHatch/Hatch
The Descendants Of John Glover
The Descendants Of Thomas Johnson
The Descendants Of Isaac LeFebure/Leffew
The Descendants Of John Looney
The Descendants Of John McRanald/McReynolds
The Descendants Of Patrick O'Quinn
The Descendants Of James Sykes

SUTHERLAND BOOKS NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2.
November 5, 2004, www.sutherlandbooks.com.

Did your Southwest Virginia ancestors fight for the Confederacy or for the Union in the Cival War? See below* to find out how some of my kinfolk fought.

The Cumberland Moutian Rangers, Virginia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, have been conducting Memorial Services for Confederate Veterans in Dickenson and Russell Counties. The services include laying a bronze marker at the grave of the Confederate Veteran. This summerr I was priviledged to attend two of of these services, for Elijah Sutherland & Noah Baldwin Sutherland, and to help arrange the service for my great-grandfather, Noah Counts. About 10 of the Rangers attended dressed as Confederate Soldiers and were joined by 3 or 4 ladies dressed in Civil War era clothing. The services were very impressive and some have been attended by State & Regional Officers of the Daughters of the Confederacy. The two Sutherland Memorials included bagpipe music - as was appropriate for a Scot's Memorial. If you are interested in attending a future Civil War Veteran Memorial Service, they are announced in the Dickenson Star/Cumberland Times, Clintwood, Virginia.

In going through my mother's collected material, we have found a few first edtions of my father's books, some of which we are offering for sale. These include Meet Virginia's Baby, which has been advertised for sale over the web (www.alibris.com) for more than \$250.00; In Lonesome Cove (poetry); Dickenson County in Wartime A Community History; Folkgames From Frying Pan in Dickenson County; & Kiwanis Club of Clintwood Virginia Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. For details see attachment.

This newsletter is being sent to the known e-mail addresses of those who have attended family reunions; who have provided information for my parents' books; or have purchased these books. We would appreciate your providing us with the e-mail addresses of relatives or others who might be interested in the families or the books.

* From Pioneer Recollections pages 402-403. "I, (Noah Baldwin Sutherland) ... first volunteered in the Southern army for 3 months ... in the fall - Uncle Zeke Counts made up his company at Sandlick where I again reinlisted ... He was brainy and resolute but he was nearly too quick tempered. Noah Counts was first lieutenant ... had a fine way with men - smooth & reasonable."

* From Swindall-Austin Families of VA & NC pages 156-157. "John Calvin Swindall stated 'When Pa (John Wesley Swindall) came here (Osborn's Gap, Dickenson County) he settled in the old log house ... until the Civil War began. He then moved beyond Picketon (KY) during 1861. Some rebels soldiers whipped ... Pa here & he had to leave. (He) was in the Yankee Army part of the time down there." On page 282 "Eli Swindall (John Wesley's brother) served in Co I, 61st NC Infantry, C.S.A."

For more information please click on <http://www.sutherlandbooks.com>.

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

THE MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES to be found at www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/homepage/html/ offer a *Guide to History/ Family History Research in Maryland*

The last decade has seen an explosion of sources available to the researcher. New records are being evaluated as to their usefulness to the historians. New books are being published, making abstracts of these records available to people who live too far away from the library or archives to visit easily. In the last 3 or 4 years, many new sources have been made available on the Internet. However, both the beginning and experienced researcher may feel overwhelmed by the multitude of new products available in the historical research "candy store."

This guide attempts to provide help to the researcher, by suggesting orderly procedures to attack problems, by creating links to online sources, and by referring to some of the helpful books available. The compiler of this Guide must note the work of two pioneers in the area of compiling guides to research in Maryland: Eleanor Passano, and Mary K. Meyer. Over the years, their attempts to catalog and describe the recourses in Maryland have made the researcher's task much easier.

THE FIRST STEPS TO TAKE

Survey the field to see what has already been done.. Whether researching the history of a house, a military unit, a family, or a town, it is essential to see if the subject has already been researched. The holdings of libraries and archives, many of which are now on-line, should be consulted as should the book reviews in journals and the publishers' catalogs (many of which are now also on line).

Contact as many living relatives as possible.. Find out what they know or suspect. Ask them to be as specific as possible as to names, dates, and places. When anyone tells you anything, write down who told you, and the date the conversation was held.

Search for any family papers. They might be in the attic, the basement, or a safe-deposit box. Family Bibles, letters, diaries, insurance policies: any documents left by family members may be helpful.

Plan trips to library or archives. There are a number of research facilities you may wish to visit. For government records in Maryland, the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis is the place to go. Other libraries have family and private records.

Before visiting any libraries or archives, analyze exactly what objectives need to be achieved. Listed below are some topics of interest to many researchers. Each topic contains a link to a page with some suggested sources.

For each problem, keep a research calendar. At the top of the page state your objective and then list every place you looked, whether you found anything or not. Include the date you searched.

COMMON TOPICS AND HOW TO RESEARCH THEM

See also Understanding Maryland Records

Court Records Dates of Birth and Death Genealogy Web Sites
Ethnic Groups Land Records

Libraries and Archives Maiden Names Military Records
Missing Records Naturalizations and Immigration

Parents of an Individual Places of Residence Probate Records
Published Sources

Please Note This guide is a work in progress. From time to time new material will be added.

Try the Topical Index for specific research related topics.

Questions regarding Archives collections and services should be directed to the Reference Services Department at:

ref@mdarchives.state.md.us

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THE FAMILY DATABASE

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

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

Please go to: www.jessee.org

Our database is now over 42,000 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 e-mail, calls, visits, conversations, and correspondence I have with you.

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

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

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

I am asking for a minimum subscription of \$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

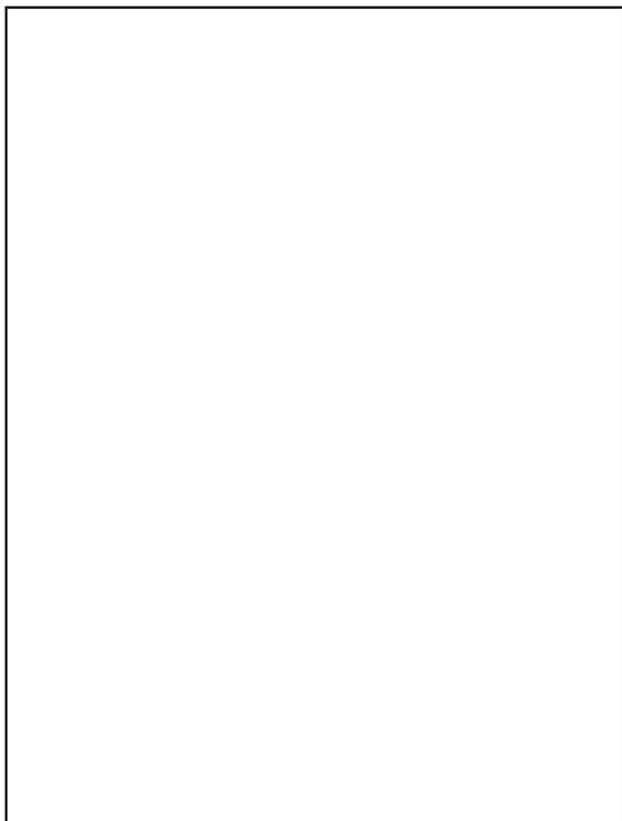
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A rendering of Jesse's Mill by Irene Jesse Perry.

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If your label says "expired" or 1 Jan 2005, this is your last issue. Please renew. Those whose label indicate your are a NP JHF Board, please also consider subscribing. I hope this newsletter keeps you abreast of JHF as well as other family matters. Please inform me of any errors or corrections needed regarding your expiration date or degree of interest in receiving this newsletter.

I have continued to provide a copy to a few whose subscription has lapsed, because, I believe you still want it. Please subscribe or inform me if you wish to receive it gratis or if you wish to stop.

The generous donations of some allow me to provide complimentary copies to history and genealogy societies, libraries, major contributors of research materials, and those who cannot afford to subscribe. Still I am not breaking even.

A special thank you to those who have provided those precious additional gifts and donations that keep me going.