

Splinters From the Tree – January 2014

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Section 1 - Welcome

I will be presenting my program "Genetic Genealogy and the Bassett y-chromosome project on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 21, 2014 7 pm Algonquin Library, Algonquin, Illinois

Tuesday, February 18, 2014 7pm Cook Memorial Library - Aspen Library, Vernon Hills, Illinois

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 7 pm Laporte County Indiana Genealogical Society (Parks & Recreation Building)

The following trees were added to the Bassett website database since the last newsletter:

466B. Robert Bassett of New York (22 individuals)

We are currently working on adding the more than 1,200 pages of descendants belonging to the #14B Jean Besset of Quebec.

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Section 2 - Featured Bassett: Newsletter survey results

Kathryn (webmaster) and I recently sent out a newsletter survey. To read more about the results, please click on the link below.

The main confusion I have heard is the mention of the \$15 fee. That was the cost to us for doing the survey. There is no fee to receive the monthly newsletter.

<http://www.bassettbranches.org/newsletters/2014/01/201401.shtml>

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Section 3 - Featured Bassett: Bassett's Garage of Minocqua, Wisconsin

Hubert Otto Bassett descends from William Bassett of Plymouth as follows:

William Bassett and wife Elizabeth
Joseph Bassett (b. 1635) and wife Martha Hobart
Jeremiah Bassett (b. 1678) and wife Mary Felch
Jeremiah Bassett (b. 1722) and wife Sarah Alger
Jeremiah Bassett (b. 1751) and wife Hannah Woodward

Samuel Bassett (b. 1782) and wife Hannah Stone
Samuel Washington Bassett (b. 1812) and wife Jane A. Dunham
Edwin A. Bassett (b. 1856) and wife Permillia Ann Marks
Hubert Otto Bassett (b. 1879) and wife Daisy Mae Annis



Bassett's Garage, Minocqua, Wisconsin

This is a picture of picture found in a building on the main road through Minocqua

History of Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas Counties, Wisconsin
(1924)

Burt O. Bassett, a prominent citizen of Minocqua, was born at DeSoto, Vernon County, Wis., Oct. 21, 1879, son of Edward and Anna (Marx) Bassett. The father, born at Taunton, Mass., and the mother, a native of Bridgeport, Conn., came west in their youth and were married in Vernon County, this state in 1877, remaining there until 1897. They then removed to Monroe County and settled on a farm near Tomah, where the father is still living; the mother passed away there in September, 1906. Six children were born to these parents: Burt O., subject of this sketch; Hattie M., now Mrs. Wesley Hunt, of Tomah; Louis, who died in 1905; Ella M., who is Mrs. Fred Cain and lives in Mexico; Clarence, of Minocqua; and Lol, living at Tomah, the wife of Richard Williams. Burt O. Bassett attended school in Vernon County and remained at home until he was 18 years old. He then came to Minocqua, and this village has ever since been his home. On first coming here he worked in the woods as a scaler until 1901, when he entered the mill of the Waykey-Bissell Lumber Co. as a setter, remaining for one year. He then followed various occupations until 1908, in which year he established a livery and sales stable. In 1914 he took over the Ford agency, and two years later he sold his other interests in order to be able to devote his entire attention to the automobile business. He built a garage in 1918, the building being 50x150 feet in

dimensions, constructed of brick and concrete blocks, and being the first fireproof building erected in Minocqua. He carries a complete line of accessories and his business is so extensive that he employs 15 men during the summer months. Mr. Bassett is a thoroughly capable business man, and he has promoted some of the largest interests of Minocqua. He was one of the organizers of the Security State Bank, and is a stockholder and director in this institution. He also helped to organize the Minocqua Co-operative Creamery, and is one of the directors in this enterprise. He owns a 160-acre farm in the town of Minocqua known as Riverview Farm, on which he has erected a fine set of buildings and which is now operated as a sheep ranch, and with R.C. Wassenburger he owns 4 1/2 miles of very desirable lake frontage. He erected a 7-room house, modern throughout, in Minocqua in 1911, and in this he and his family now make their home. Mr. Bassett was married at Minocqua, Oct. 17, 1904, to Daisy Mae Annis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Annis, of which parents the mother is now deceased and the father is residing in Oneida County. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bassett, as follows: Edward J., born Aug. 3, 1905, now bookkeeper for his father; Francis, born March 9, 1907, who is attending high school at Minocqua, and Dorothea Mae, born Nov. 16, 1919. The family belong to the Methodist church, and are highly respected in the community, a respect well-merited in view of Mr. Bassett's fine record of service to the welfare and future of Minocqua.

Section 4 - Featured Bassett: John Douglas Bassett of Bassett Furniture Industries. Obituary

John Douglas Bassett descends from #2B Thomas Bassett of Virginia as follows:

Thomas Bassett (b. 1617) and wife Mary
William Bassett (b. 1643)
Thomas Bassett (b. 1668) and wife Elinor
Thomas Bassett (b. 1696) and wife Lydia Howle
Nathaniel Bassett (b. 1721) and wife Mary
Burwell Bassett (b. 1767) and wife Mary Hunter
Alexander Hunter Bassett (b. 1795) and wife Mary Koger
John Henry Bassett (b. 1827) and wife Nancy Jane Spencer
John David Bassett (b. 1866) and wife Pocahontas Hundley
John Douglas Bassett (b. 1901) and wife Lucy Akers Brown



J. D. BASSETT JR.
... rites Thursday

Greensboro Daily News, North Carolina, Wednesday, May 25, 1966
Furniture Executive Succumbs
Special To The Daily News

BASSETT, Va. - John Douglas (Doug) Bassett Jr., 65, died Tuesday in a Roanoke hospital. He was chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Bassett Furniture Industries Inc.

Funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church. The body will be at the home this morning until it is taken to the church Thursday at 11 a.m.

The family has requested that memorial contributions be made to the fund drive of Martinsville General Hospital.

Bassett had been seriously ill since last Thursday. He first became ill at his winter home in Hobe Sound, Fla., in March, and underwent surgery in Roanoke May 6 for a spinal collapse.

Bassett had headed the furniture manufacturing and sales complex since 1960, when he succeeded his late brother, W.M. Bassett. First president of the corporation was Bassett's father, J.D. Bassett, who died last year at 98.

Bassett Furniture Industries Inc. is the world's largest producer of dining room and bedroom furniture and employs 4,000 persons. Three years ago it entered the upholstered furniture field with the purchase of Prestige Furniture Co. at Newton, N.C.

Bassett first began working in one of his father's plants when he was 12, and by the time he was 22 he was vice president of one of the companies that comprised the Bassett empire.

Bassett attended Blackstone Military Academy, Washington and Lee University and National Business College.

At the time of his death, Bassett was president of the First National Bank of Bassett and board chairman of Bassett Mirror Co., Bassett-Walker Knitting Co., Valley Veneer Co. and Burkeville Veneer Corp.

He was a director or an officer of various other enterprises, including the nation's three major furniture exhibition buildings, including the one at High Point.

He was a trustee of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, Roanoke College and Martinsville General Hospital. He was a member of the advisory committee for the Patrick Henry Branch of the University of Virginia in Martinsville.

He was a member of country clubs in Bassett, Martinsville and Hobe Sound, Fla.

Bassett is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lucy Akers Brown Bassett; daughters, Mrs. James Andrews of Martinsville, Mrs. D. H. Lane of Altavista and Mrs. Robert H. Stilman of Danville, wife of the executive vice president of Bassett Furniture Industries; a son, John D. Bassett III, a vice president of the corporation; a sister, Mrs. Thomas B. Stanley of Stanleytown. Her husband is a former governor of Virginia.

Section 5 - Featured Bassett: Roscoe Owen Bassett photograph on his wedding day

Roscoe Owen Bassett of Indiana descends from William Bassett of Plymouth as follows:

William Bassett and wife Elizabeth

William Bassett (b. 1624) and wife Mary Rainsford

William Bassett (b. 1656) and wife Rachel Willison

William Bassett (b. 1681) and wife Abigail Bourne

William Bassett (b. 1711) and wife Lydia Smith

Rufus Bassett (b. 1757) and wife Jedidiah Handy

Nyphas Bassett (b. 1785) and wife Thankful Ann Bruce

Samuel Bassett (b. 1815) and wife Permilia Drake

Robert Bassett (b. 1847) and wife Elizabeth Williams

Roscoe Owen Bassett (b.1890) and brother Franklin Bassett (b. 1887)



Roscoe Owen Bassett and brother Frank on Roscoe's wedding day
Picture provided by Kathy Bassett Davis

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[Section 6 - Featured Bassett: More on Emmett W. Bassett](#)

Emmett W. Bassett descends from William H. Bassett of Henry County, Virginia as follows:

William H. Bassett (b. 1846) and wife Lucy Jane Staples

John Henry Bassett (b. 1876) and wife Mary T.

Emmett W. Bassett (b. 1912)

Lydia Bassett Tyner, daughter of Emmett W. Bassett, came across my Bassett newsletter from November of 2013 and decided to share the following for publication.



Emmett W. Bassett (Picture provided by daughter Lydia Tyner)

The following is a speech given by Lydia Bassett Tyner about her father who was being honored for his work on the Human Rights Commission in Sullivan County, New York on May 19, 2013 just a few months before he passed away.

Good morning. I am Emmett Bassett's daughter Lydia. I'm thrilled to be here today to honor my father's work in human rights.

Dad, you were appointed to the Manhattan Human Rights Commission in the 1980s. After you moved here with Mom in the 90's, you were a founding organizer of the Human Rights Commission of Sullivan County. I asked you recently why human rights have been a constant commitment for you. Your answer was very direct. You said, poor people and working people don't have a chance without organizing to protect their rights. You want to try to give people a fighting chance. I think you spent your life doing that. -- For yourself, for your family and for all the families of this world. Even with Barack Obama as our president, we have to keep the pressure on for peace and justice. As Frederick Douglass said, power concedes nothing without demand.

Growing up in New York City in the 1960's with you and Mom, my brother and sister and I had the most wonderful childhoods. We had parents who were a loving team and you were the father children dream of. You played with us, you told us stories, you showed us how the world worked and there was nothing -- except maybe Mommy-- that you treasured more than us. In fact, it was very hard for us to get our heads around the idea of racial inferiority because

you were the smartest, strongest, most confident and handsome man we knew of! You could explain any phenomenon, fix whatever broke, and you understood each of us so well.

You were born in 1921 in Martinsville, Virginia. You went to a one-room segregated school house where sometimes there was no teacher for months at a time and school closed down for weeks in the fall for harvest. As a small child, you impressed everyone with your abilities as a gardener. You observed everything your mother and father did. You woke up at the break of dawn to milk the cows and you and your younger brother had to protect yourselves from the older boys in school who did not like it that you were smarter at your studies. Today, you probably would have been called "gifted" in mathematics. Then, early on, the teacher gave you advanced math books and told you to go ahead because you had reached a level that the teacher did not understand. Your childhood was filled with hard work on a farm in the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Your childhood was filled with a love of learning, ten brothers and sisters and an extended family that included three races and the complex legacy of slavery and Jim Crow. Once a neighbor watched you weed the vegetable garden in record time. He told you that in slavery days you would have been worth \$1,000. He meant that as a compliment. You told him that nobody would sell you for \$1,000 because they would have to kill you first. Your older brother survived polio and you remember meeting him at the train station when he returned from a doctor's visit in Roanoke. You hoped that he would be well again, but you saw he still limped. You were so disappointed, but your father said, "We got our boy back."

Tragically, you lost your father to a stroke when you were just 14. That must have seemed like the end of your childhood. You took on the responsibility of running the farm with your mother. I wish that hadn't happened to you. We know how much it has meant to us to have you in our adult lives. You went to college at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama when you were just 15 years old and you were selected to work with the great George Washington Carver, noted botanist and inventor.

After being drafted and serving as a sergeant in Germany in WW2, you attended graduate school at the University of Massachusetts where you met our mother, Priscilla, at a protest outside a roadhouse that refused to serve blacks. Mom was a junior at Smith College. Love at first sight. You married two years later in 1952. I'm sure people said it wouldn't last. I guess you both outlasted all that. You knew what was right and you had confidence in your love for each other.

We can imagine you both as newlyweds, excited about your new lives together just having moved all your belongings into your first apartment. You leave out for a while and upon returning find yourselves locked out. The landlord had met only Mom and when he saw you moving in together, he changed the locks as soon as he could. You battled that landlord for two years to retrieve your things, but only got back a few blankets. You were able to settle in at your next apartment near the Bowery, NYC's Skid Row in lower Manhattan where people were less particular about interracial neighbors.

Your next stop was Columbus, Ohio where you were working on your doctorate at Ohio State. Mary and Jonathan were born. Mom worked at General Motors on the factory line and was the UAW shop steward. You became the first African American in the country to earn a doctorate in Dairy Technology.

You and Mom were both active in the Progressive Party. At a NAACP meeting you started a fund drive for the mother of Emmett Till. Till was the 14 year old, African American boy who was beaten to death for whistling at a white woman in 1955. His mother bravely allowed an open casket at his funeral because she wanted the world to see what they had done to her boy. Your son was just a baby then. If a young boy like Emmett Till could be murdered with impunity, it could happen to your own son. You knew you had to do something. Your fundraising efforts were successful and there is a picture of you in your early 30's featured in W.E.B. Dubois' *Crisis Magazine*.

How brave you and my mother were. During this time, union leaders were charged with being secret communists. You went to the Columbus court house where union leaders were on trial. A group of professors' wives asked you why you were there. "'To make sure they are getting a fair trial!'" you replied. The atmosphere was tense in Columbus, Ohio in the early 50's. At night you and Mom would sometimes receive frightening calls to, "Come to the morgue to identify the body." The city was segregated. You couldn't even take Mary and Jonathan to the town pool. But you and mom discovered a beautiful state park, Lake Hope, sixty miles away. That was better than a concrete swimming pool.

After getting your doctorate at Ohio State, you sent your resume and transcripts to three businesses in Chicago. The response was enthusiastic. In days, you had three plane tickets and reservations at the best hotels. I can imagine you, tall and accomplished in your dress clothes, traveling to Chicago. But they didn't expect to meet a black man and the reception was very different when they met you. One man who was supposed to interview you at the Beatrice Foods Company told you there wasn't a single black person in all of their huge operation and that if he hired you, which he wanted to do, that he would be fired.

Eventually, you got a job as an assistant professor in Microbiology at Columbia University. That's around the time I was born. We spent one year in Sweden when you worked in the lab of Arne Tiselius, who was a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. That was a great family adventure--sailing to Norway, living in Sweden and traveling all around Europe in the Taunus bus, camping. Later you taught at the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry for 18 years.

You were one of the earliest organizers of the March on Washington in 1963 with Bayard Rustin and A. Phillip Randolph. You served on community boards working for better housing and schools in New York City for ten years. Both you and mom were founding members of the Presbyterian Hospital Community Health Council.

Every single day for three years, you picketed against the cruelty of apartheid outside the South African Consulate in New York City. For months after that you marched daily to save Sydenham hospital and preserve quality healthcare in Harlem, New York.

Around that time in the early 80's a young man from Grahamsville needed some help moving and storing a mattress from his apartment in the city near where he attended Columbia College. You offered to let him store it at the house. Phil and his roommate couldn't manage the bulky mattress so you, then 60, hoisted it on your back and carried it alone while Phil made sure the coast was clear and the other young man, Barry Obama, made sure no one came from behind. Yes, that was Barack Obama, our president. Of all the ways your path could have crossed with a president, it does not surprise me that it was in the act of helping another to accomplish something that seemed impossible.

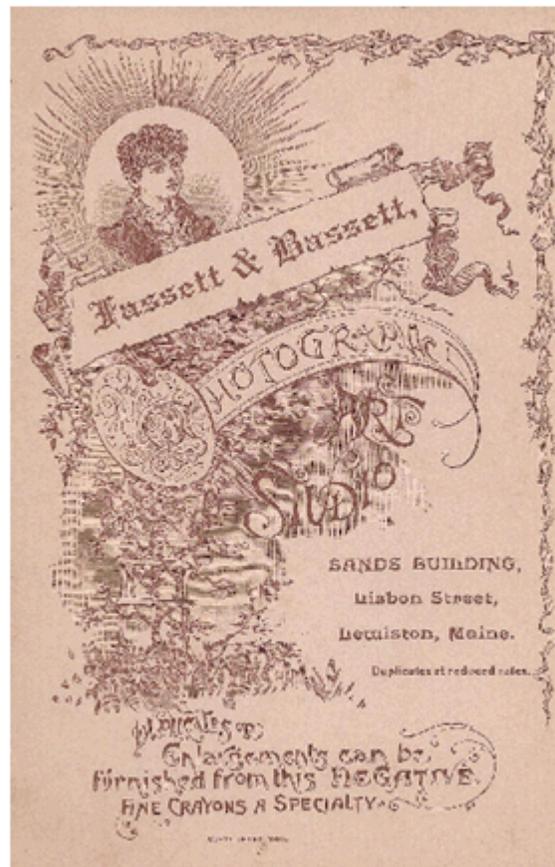
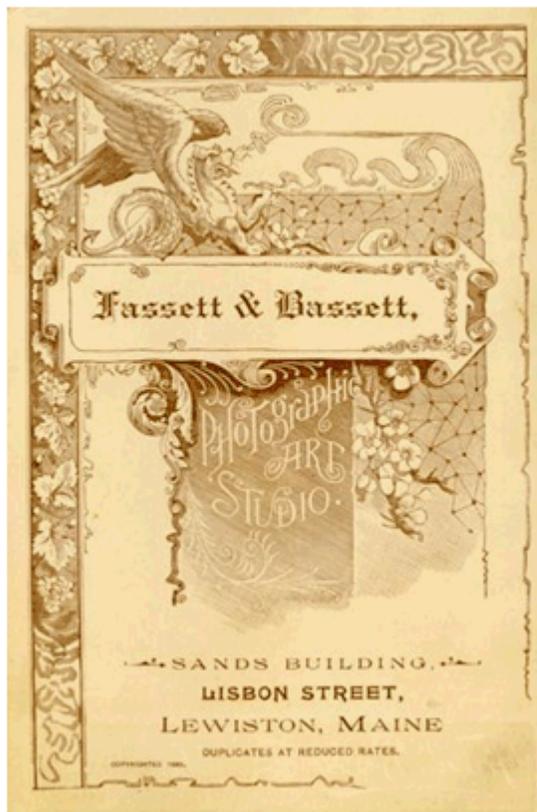
The gift of your life has been in contributing to the possibility of a better world. You never gave up working hard to create the best conditions for progress. As Frederick Douglass said, you can't have the crops without first plowing up the land. Like the farmer you were first trained to be, you cultivated a lot of fields and did all you could to give those plants a chance to grow. You never hesitated. You have always embraced work. We could not love you more. Like your mother and father, we are so proud of you. You planted some seeds, and they grew. They grew very well.

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Section 7 - Featured Bassett: Harry Cushman Bassett, Maine Photographer

Harry Cushman Bassett descends from William Bassett of Plymouth as follows:

William Bassett and wife Elizabeth
Joseph Bassett (b. 1635) and wife Mary Lapham
William Bassett (b. 1667) and wife Sarah Sweetland
Joseph Bassett (b. 1696) and wife Elizabeth Ames
Joseph Bassett (b. 1731) and wife Phebe Cushman
Cushman Bassett (b. 1779) and wife Polly Haskell
Hiram Bassett (b. 1816) and wife Susan Butler
Harry Cushman Bassett (b. 1860) and wife Carrie Libby



Back stamps from two photographs from the Fassett & Bassett studio, Lewiston, Maine

Photo on left supplied by Mike Brubaker.

The Eastern Gazette 15 Mar 1939, page

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Harry Bassett

Harry C. Bassett passed away Saturday morning, March 11, at the home of his sister, Mrs. Celia A. Page, with whom he had lived for the past seventeen years. Funeral service was conducted at the residence, Monday afternoon by Rev. Kenneth R Hutchinson of the Universalist church, of which Mr. Bassett was a loyal member. Interment will be at Mt. Pleasant cemetery.

The deceased was born in Dexter June 9, 1860, the son of Hiram and Susan Butler Bassett. Besides his sister, he is survived by a daughter Miss Hester Bassett of Cambridge, Mass., and son, Stanley Bassett of Auburn and two granddaughters, Theresa and Mildred Bassett also of Auburn, and two nephews, Guy and Harry Flynt, of Massachusetts.

Mr. Bassett was an excellent photographer, being for many years located in Lewiston. He has had studios in Skowhegan, Farmington and Dexter, in fact has done work in many Maine towns. He was also skilled in crayon portrait work.

He was a true friend, a kind neighbor, had a keen sense of humor, and was always an interesting and enjoyable companion who will be greatly missed in the community.

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Section 8 - New family lines combined or added since the last newsletter

The following family lines have been combined/eliminated since the last newsletter.

236B. Walter John Bassett family has been combined into the #225B Stephen Bassett of Brown County, Wisconsin family.

The following family lines have been added since the last newsletter.

293B. Joseph Basest of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada

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Section 9 - DNA project update.

One new kit was sent out this month.

Donations of any amount can be made to the Bassett DNA project by clicking on the link below. Any funds donated will be used to fund select Bassett DNA tests that will further our project as a whole and benefit all Bassetts worldwide.

<http://www.familytreedna.com/group-general-fund-contribution.aspx?g=Bassett>

This is just a reminder that the DNA portion of the Bassett Family Association can be found at:

<http://www.bassettbranches.org/dna/>

A current spreadsheet of results can be found at:

<http://www.bassettbranches.org/dna/BassettDNA.xls>

If you don't have Excel and can't open the spreadsheet above, you can now see the DNA test results at the following website.

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Bassett/>

Jeffrey Bassett
520 Salceda Drive
Mundelein, IL 60060 USA
bassettgenealogy@gmail.com