

## Splinters From the Tree – September 2014

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### Section 1 - Welcome

I have been travelling quite a bit for work lately, so if you are waiting for a reply from me for some research, please be patient. I will eventually get around to answering, especially now that summer is over and the cold weather is returning.

I will be near Atlanta, Georgia the week of September 29th in Lithonia, Georgia if anyone would want to get together for dinner during the week.

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### Section 2 - Featured Bassett: Bassett Family Gathering in New Zealand

William Bassett descends from #300B Thomas Bassett of Okehampton, Devonshire, England as follows:

Thomas Bassett and wife Charity Lane  
Thomas Bassett (b. 1740) and wife Ann  
Francis Bassett (b. 1768) and wife Elizabeth Macey.  
William Bassett (b. 1810) and wife Mary (Syms) Rooks

## **Bassett Family Gathering – New Zealand**

17 August 2014

Waitangi Week-end in 2015, 6-8 February, will see descendants of William and Mary Bassett in Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their arrival in Petone on 8 February 1840 on the "Duke of Roxburgh". This, the third ship of the Wakefield fleet, sailed from Plymouth, England on 5 October 1839, and landed passengers on the Petone foreshore on 8 February 1840, bringing the number of settlers there to about 500. Their voyage had a tragic end when the Captain, James Thomson, was lost overboard in a gale off Stephen's Island in Cook Strait. "The Duke" was brought in by Colonel Wakefield who went out to the heads on the 7th February in the "Cuba."

Mary and William brought Mary's daughter Emma Jane Rooks from a previous marriage with them and Mary gave birth to their first child, Thomas about three weeks before arrival. William and Mary had nine more children: 3 sons and six daughters.

Following flooding of the Hutt River in early March they, along with seventeen other settlers from Cornwall settled on 'The Rise', a shingle ridge nicknamed "Cornish Row", until a fire burnt down their tents in May. This is now Emerson Street. Although a number of the settlers moved to Thorndon, the Bassetts remained in Petone. They named a later home in Hutt Road, "Devonshire Cottage", after the county of their birth.

According to a granddaughter of Emma Jane Rooks, William Bassett became the leader of the group, taking "charge of food, grog, and tobacco. One of the Wakefields, Plimmer and others took exception to

*this and was the real cause of the break away of some of them and shifting to Pipitea now known as Wellington. Bassett and the majority stayed at Petone. Bassett got in touch with Maoris and cultivated their friendship. Te Puni was the paramount chief. Bassett was the first pakeha [there] to learn the Maori language."*

William, whose occupations were shoemaker then farmer, served in the garrison during the troubles in the Hutt Valley.

Mary died in 1877 and in 1879 William remarried. In 1883 he left for Cornwall on the "s.s. British King" after which he returned to New Zealand. He died in 1889. His obituary refers to his prowess as a wrestler in his younger years, and that he was "*well-known throughout the district to both Europeans and natives, and very much respected. Being a Maori linguist, he interpreted for one of the early Governors on several occasions.*" He was buried beside Mary in the Bridge street Cemetery, Lower Hutt.

Their eldest son Thomas, born on the "Duke", lived to a ripe old age and during an interview with the *New Zealand Times* in June 1925, spoke of his experiences as a boy.

*"There was no schooling in those days and as soon as Tom was old enough he took his share of the work in camp, later forming part of the garrison for the protection of the women and children. He also joined the volunteer cavalry in which he served for ten years. His first job was fruit picking for a Mr Ridler at a wage of 6s a week, great wealth at that time. He afterwards worked on the land farming and clearing, and when about forty, entered the service of the Hutt county council for whom he worked for 22 years at 6s a day"*

He remembered the earthquakes of 1848 and 1855, particularly the latter as printed in the *Auckland Star*, 18 June 1925. He was in a house with a young servant girl when "*Suddenly there came a terrific shake, the chimneys came tumbling down and the doors jammed. Young Bassett went to the girl and they tried to find their clothes, but could get nothing beyond what they were wearing. They tried to escape by the window, but were prevented by the fallen chimney. Both were terrified by the experience they were undergoing when the window blew open. To add to their terror came another violent shake, and blinded by tears they essayed to climb through the window. On looking through the lad found a great fissure had opened in the ground below it, but he believes the subsequent shake partially opened the door, and they escaped from the house by squeezing through. The huge crack in the ground was so wide that they were unable to cross it, so they followed it down the road towards the river. While crossing the garden the lad fell into the crack some feet deep, and was unable to get out. The girl went down and assisted him up, and lying at full length on the ground she was just able to reach his fingers and pull him up. Smothered in mud and fear and trembling they managed to make the Whitewood Hotel, which was nearby. This place had been tossed about like a shuttlecock, and whisky, rum, and beer were running all over the ground, everything having been smashed. They went further on to the shop by the Hutt bridge, only to find it had fallen in."*

Descendants of William and Mary include the children of Emma Jane ROOKS and her husbands Edward HUMPHREY and JOSE LEAL Silva De SIMAS; Thomas BASSETT and Sarah Jessica HUDSON; Elizabeth BASSETT and Joseph GIGGER; William BASSETT and Mary Ann VOLLER/MARSH; Francis BASSETT and Sarah MAIDMENT/PARKIN; Annie BASSETT and her husbands William BASSETT and William WOOD; Naomi BASSETT and her husbands William Eden JUDD, Richard PERRY and William LAWRY; Martha BASSETT and John WRIGHT; Mary BASSETT and George CHIGNELL; and Ruth BASSETT and Isaac SAWARD.

Email contact enquiries:gsthom@xtra.co.nz

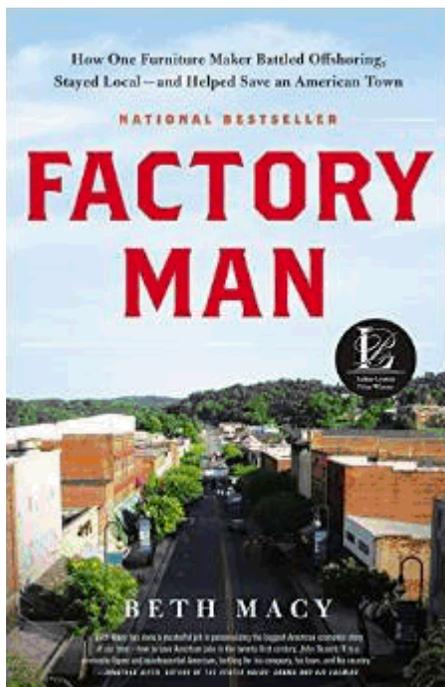
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[Section 3 - Featured Bassett: Book on John Bassett III and Bassett Furniture](#)

The following recently came out and is available on Amazon.com and other outlets.

John Bassett III 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)  
John Douglas Bassett III



Factory Man Book Cover

### **One man's battle to save hundreds of jobs by taking on China and demonstrating the greatness of American business**

With over \$500 million a year in sales, the Bassett Furniture Company was once the world's biggest wood furniture manufacturer. Run by the same powerful Virginia family for a century, it was also the center of life in Bassett, Virginia -- an unincorporated town that existed solely to fuel the business. But beginning in the 1980s, the Bassett company suffered from an influx of cheap Asian furniture as the first wave of imports struck, and ultimately moved nearly all its production to Asia.

Only one man fought back: John Bassett III, a shrewd and determined third-generation factory man who used grit, tenacity, and will to compete against China and ultimately save his family's company. In *Factory Man*, Beth Macy brings to life John Bassett's fascinating business, with wildly colorful stories from an American industry that once ruled the world and might again see better days. As Macy shows how he uses legal maneuvers, factory efficiencies, and sheer will to save hundreds of jobs, she also discovers the hidden history of industry in America.

Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company today employs more than seven hundred people, with John Bassett at the helm. His story unveils shocking truths about American business, including the hidden fallout of offshoring on communities across the country. By revealing how one businessman took on China -- and won -- *Factory Man* raises a flag for the return of made-in-America products.

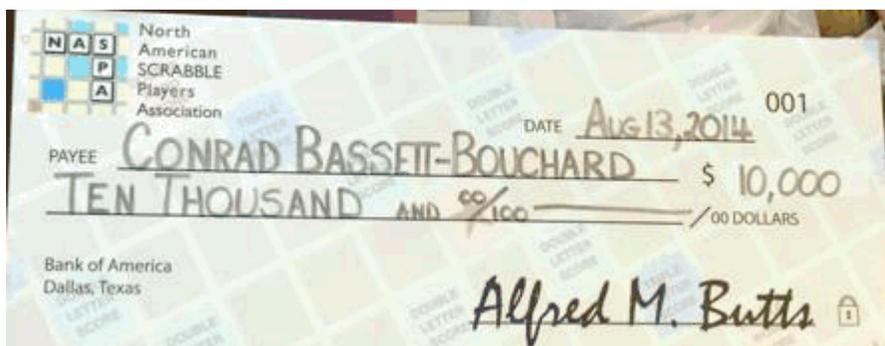
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#### Section 4 - Featured Bassett: Conrad Bassett-Bouchard, National Scrabble Champion

Conrad Bassett-Bouchard was recently named National Scrabble Champion.

Conrad Bassett-Bouchard is descended from William Bassett of Plymouth as follows:

William Bassett and wife Elizabeth  
William Bassett (b. 1624) and wife Mary Rainsford  
Nathan Bassett (b. 1667) and wife Mary Huckins  
Samuel Bassett (b. 1693) and wife Martha Pease  
Colonel Cornelius Bassett (b. 1722) and wife Lydia Norton  
Ebenezer Bassett (b. 1751) and wife Abigail Adams  
Elishab Adams Bassett (b. 1785) and wife Esther Bouton  
Peter Norton Bassett (b. 1812) and wife Arluna Samuels  
Summerfield Bassett (b. 1855) and wife Minnie Catherine Brossman  
Arthur Summerfield Bassett (b. 1889)  
Conrad Berlyn Bassett  
Conrad Berlyn Bassett-Bouchard



Daily Herald, Thursday, August 14, 2014  
He begins with 'zilch', then wins Scrabble title

By Carolyn Thompson (Associated Press)

BUFFALO, N.Y. - Conrad Bassett-Bouchard started his championship Scrabble game Wednesday with the word 'zilch' and finished with the opposite - the \$10,000 prize and the title of national Scrabble champion.

The 24-year-old player, from Portland, Oregon, beat 29-year-old Jason Li, of Montreal, in the final round of the five-day 25<sup>th</sup> National Scrabble Championships played at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center.

Bassett-Bouchard, the tournament's second seed, said he knew luck was with him when he drew a wild-card blank tile and an "s" on his first seven-tile rack. He won by a score of 477-350.

Li, the 18<sup>th</sup> seed, said, "I was playing catch-up right to the end."

Li had the letters to play an obscure but potentially high-scoring word but didn't see it, creating a buzz among experienced onlookers.

"He's going to be kicking himself for missing 'gramarye'" tournament director John Chew said after the play.

Chew, co-president of the North American Scrabble Players Association, the event's sponsor, called Li's presence in the final round the biggest surprise in the tournament, which was an emerging group of younger players edge out the old guard.

Six of the top 10 finishers are in their 20's, and one, Mack Meller, from Bedford, is 14.

Tournament favorite and five-time champion Nigel Richards, 47, described by one competitor as the Michal Jordan of the game, finished a surprising 16<sup>th</sup>.

"All these younger players are avid online players," said Will Anderson, 29, trying to explain the success of the tournament's 20-somethings at an old-fashioned board game.

The winning board contained the words florigen, trooz, venerate, contuse and barf.

Bassett-Bouchard said his win seemed imminent when Li played "jug", giving him room on the board to spell "docents" and pull further ahead.

"From that point on," he said, "it was going to be pretty hard for me to lose."

The tournament began days after the announcement that 5,000 new words had been added to "The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary," but players won't be able to use those entries - including much-anticipated two-letter words da, gi and po, along with selfie, hashtag and bromance - until after this year's championship.

The 25<sup>th</sup> National Scrabble Championships drew 525 players from 11 countries.

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#### [Section 5 - Featured Bassett: William Henry Bassett of Tuscola, Douglas County, Illinois](#)

William Henry Bassett descends from #7B John Bassett of New Jersey as follows:

John Bassett

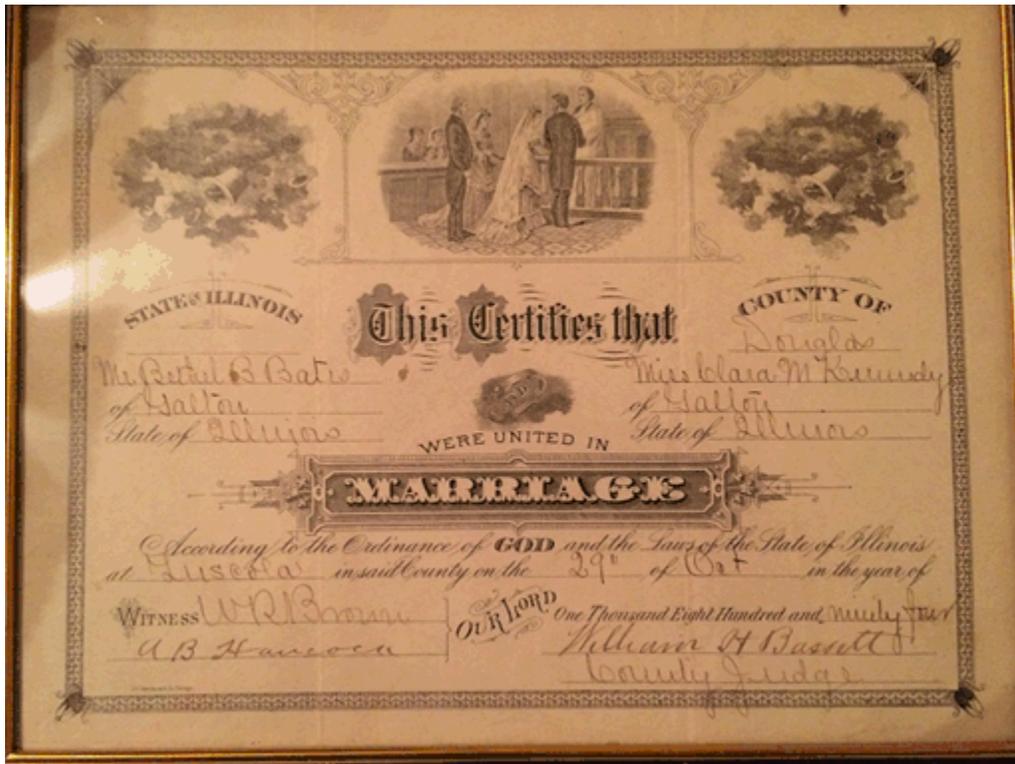
Amos Bassett (b. 1760) and wife Susan Stout

Jonathan Stout Bassett (b. 1880) and wife Elizabeth Helm Disher

William Henry Bassett (b. 1832)

County of Douglas, Illinois (1884)

William H. Bassett, County Judge, was born January 12, 1832, in Harrison County, Ky. He graduated at Bartlett's Commercial College in 1854. He came to Coles (now Douglas) County in 1857, and farmed until he enlisted, July 21, 1862, Company K, Seventy-ninth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry (Co. Buckner). He held all the offices from Corporal to Captain. While he was in rebel prison, he was commissioned as Captain, but was not mustered in. He took part in the battles of Stone River, Liberty Gap and Chickamauga. At the latter battle, September 19, 1863, he was captured, and spent eighteen months in prison; he was in Libby eight months, Macon four months, in Charleston under fire of our guns one month; was then taken to Columbia, where he remained until two days before Sherman's army came; thence removed to Raleigh, later to Goldsboro, and through our lines March 1, 1865. He then went to Benton Barracks, Mo., and remained there until the fall of Richmond; then, realizing that the war was over, he resigned, and returned to Arcola, his home. He has lived here most of the time since, and has been engaged in mercantile pursuits. He has frequently been honored by his fellow-citizens with office; he was Assessor of the township several terms, and held the office of Justice of the Peace from 1873 to 1882, when he was elected County Judge, which office he still holds. It is generally acknowledged that his official record has been marked by honesty, promptness and ability. He was married, in 1860, to Nellie M. Gruelle, from Kentucky; Jonathan H. and Hezekiah M. are their children. Both parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Bassett united with the church in Arcola by letter in 1858; he is now the only surviving member here who was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this place at that time. The Judge has been an Odd Fellow for a number of years. Politically, he is a Republican. Jonathan, his son, was married on his twenty-first birthday to Miss Nora, daughter of Rev. J.W. and Mollie Perkins, of Arcola; Nellie is their only child. Jonathan is editor of the Arcola Record, one of the leading papers of the county.



Wedding certificate signed by William H. Bassett, County Judge  
Picture provided by Daniel L. Carpenter

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Section 6 - Featured Bassett: Don R. Bassett and Bassett Packaging Sales of Oregon

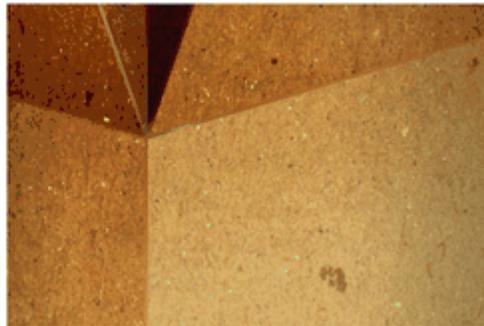
Donald R. Bassett descends from William Bassett of Plymouth as follows:

William Bassett and wife Elizabeth  
Joseph Bassett (b. 1635) and wife Martha Hobart  
Jeremiah Bassett (b. 1678) and wife Mary Felch  
Joseph Bassett (b. 1726) and wife Judith Leonard  
James Bassett (b. 1768) and wife Anna (Walker) Durgin  
Joseph Bassett (b. 1791) and wife Sally Smith  
John Webster Bassett (b. 1823) and wife Harriet Knight  
Isaac Chandler Bassett (b. 1849) and wife Alice A. Goodrich  
John E. Bassett  
Don R. Bassett

In visiting a few of our PCA packaging plants in Washington and Oregon, people kept asking me if I was related to Don Bassett, owner of Bassett Packaging Sales.

It turns out we share a common ancestor, William Bassett.

Below is the home page of Bassett Packaging Sales.



## Welcome

Founded in 1985, Bassett Packaging Sales provides high quality custom made packaging with a focus in the retail and institutional packaged food markets.

An emphasis on quality, exceptional service, integrity and helping meet our customer's needs by delivering top level competitively priced products is what helps set us apart in the industry. [Learn More >](#)



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## Section 7 - Featured Bassett: Bassett House of Captain John Bassett of North Haven, Connecticut

Captain John Bassett descends from #6B William Bassett of Connecticut as follows:

William Bassett and wife Hannah (Dickerman) Ives  
John Bassett (b. 1652) and wife Mercy Todd

Information in this article is courtesy of Steven Nugent and the North Haven Connecticut Historical Society.

I have included an excerpt from the article below.



Historic Bassett House of North Haven, Connecticut

Excerpt from the article written by Steve Nugent

The “Bassett house”, located in the corner of Outer Ridge Road and Ives Street, is likely the oldest continuously occupied residence in North Haven. Research conducted in the 1980’s by Sylvia Garfield, Mary Krinsky, Lucy Brusic and David Apter has shown that the back “half house” section, constructed in 1720, succeeds as the oldest residential structure still standing in North Haven.

But we’re getting ahead of ourselves. After the Mayflower anchored off Cape Cod November 11, 1620; and the New Haven Colony “purchased” title to a large area of land from Sachem Montowese of the Quinnipiac tribe on December 21, 1638; private land ownership began. Due to the absence of recorded deeds, it is suspected that Samuel Street (1635-1730), while a Wallingford minister, gained huge tracts of land during New Haven Colony’s third division of 1680. Samuel deeded several parcels located in the northern area of the “neck”, a reference to the area between the Mill and Quinnipiac Rivers, to Samuel Bassett and Captain John Bassett on June 15, 1695. Thus began the Bassett tenure.

When Captain John Bassett purchased the Street Farm in 1695 there were no buildings noted in the deed. By the time Captain Bassett’s land was divided in 1719, the farm was described as having “buildings thereon.” Just how much before 1719 the buildings were put “thereon” or what type they were is not a question that the documents can be made to answer. However, a deed

transaction in March of 1720 described the Bassett property as Joseph's "house lot," so the researchers surmise that the house was on the property by early 1720.

When Captain John Bassett died in 1713/14, his sons Joseph (1697-1761) and John (1691-1757) Bassett equally divided their father's 500-acre estate. The property division was delayed until Joseph was "of age"; and John was awarded first choice of the parcels. Capt. John willed the remaining one-third of his estate to his wife Mercy; and sums of money to his two unmarried daughters, Abigail and Rebekah.

To read the complete article, please click on the following link:

<http://northhavenhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com/historicproperties/bassett-house-ridge-rd-and-ives-st/>

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[Section 8 - New family lines combined or added since the last newsletter](#)

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

[500B. Jesse Bassett of York County, Virginia](#)

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[Section 9 - DNA project update.](#)

Nothing new on the DNA project 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/>

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