

Bassett Family Newsletter, Volume XV, Issue 7, 23 Jul 2017

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Section 1 - Welcome

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

- 528B. Michael Bassett of Detroit, Michigan (44 individuals)
- 529B. Raymond Louis Bassett of Connecticut (48 individuals)
- 530B. Flem Bassett of Missouri & Illinois (48 individuals)

Totals number of individuals loaded into the Bassett website: 144,997



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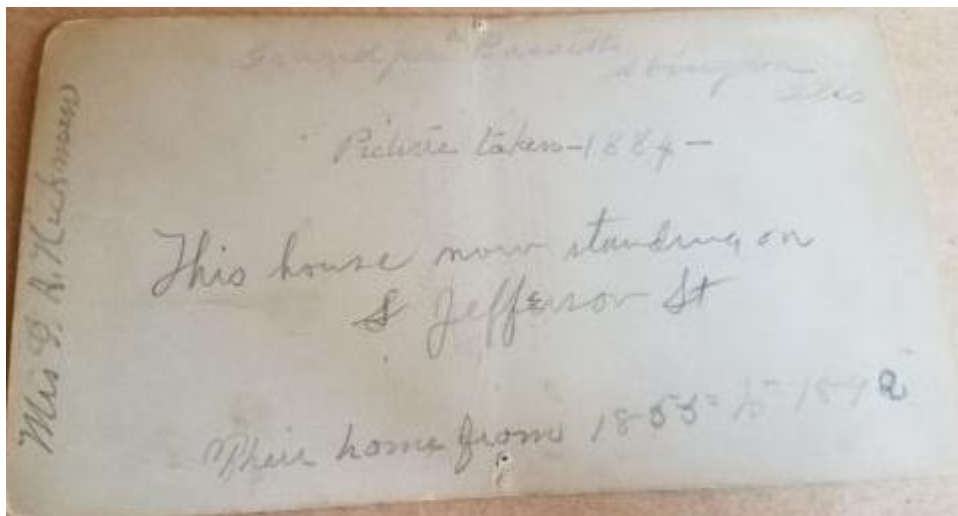
Section 2 - Featured Bassett: Abingdon, Illinois home of George Bassett

George Bassett descends from #56B Jonathan Bassett as follows:

Jonathan Bassett and wife Amy Finch
John Bassett (b. 1779) and wife Sabra Witter
George Bassett (b. 1808) and wife Nancy Wilson



1884 Picture of the Bassett House on Jefferson Street, Abingdon, Knox County, Illinois for sale on ebay



Back of photo mentions Mrs. G.A. Hickman, a granddaughter of George Bassett of Abingdon

Nebraska, The Land and the People, Vol. 2

George Bassett was born in 1809, and he and his wife were married at Russellville, Ohio, in September, 1837. When still a boy George Bassett left his home in New York State and came as far west as Ohio, and for some years worked at anything honest he could find to do, saving his money and investing it profitably until he had a sufficient amount to start in the mercantile business, which he did at Russellville, and there he achieved an admirable success, and there all of his children, with the exception of Charles K., were born. Leaving Russellville, he moved to Abingdon, Illinois, having sold his interests in his former home, and in his new one repeated his former successes, and during the war period of the '60s, served as postmaster of Abingdon, and was its leading merchant. A zealous Republican, he and his sons were loyal supporters of its principles and the Union, and when a miscreant tried to cut down the flagpole, from which the flag was kept flying in the public square, one of the sons shot at him and prevented the desecration. The life of this useful citizen and great patriot terminated in 1889, when he was over seventy-nine years old. His wife survived him for some years, passing away in 1906, at the age of eighty-eight years. They had three sons and three daughters, namely: Sarah, who married D. N. Strain, had three children; Cyrus, who served in the Union army during the war between the states, died from tuberculosis contracted in the war, shortly after the declaration of peace, [p.456] leaving his widow, formerly Mary Merrill; Louise, who married Paul Fearing, an uncle of Vice President Dawes, and they have two sons and one daughter; George M., who is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal faith, is now superintendent of the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago, and is married; Julia, who married W. F. Shoop, has three sons; and Charles K., who is the youngest.

[Section 3 - Featured Bassett: Catherine Mansel Bassett Memorial, Monkton Church, Somerset, England](#)

William Bassett of Combe Monkton Church descends from #292 Elias Bassett as follows:

Sir Elias Basset of Wales (b. 1320) and wife Margaret
John Basset (b.1350) and wife Joan
Thomas Basset (b. 1380) and wife Alice Marcross
John Basset (b. 1410) and wife Gwenllian
Jenkin Bassett (b. 1445) and wife Jennet Philip
William Bassett (b. 1477) and wife Catherine Fleming
William Bassett (b. 1510) and wife Catherine Mansel

William Bassett of Beaupre, son of William and Catherine (Fleming) Bassett, was born in 1510. He died 10 Mar 1586. He married Catherine Mansel, daughter of Sir Rees Mansel, Kt, about 1534. She was born about 1513. She died 10 Mar 1593. William was the 4th and 18th sheriff for the county of Glamorgan, which county he also represented in the

British Parliament in the years 1563 and 1571. He was buried in Combe Monkton Church, near Bath, Somersetshire.



Catherine Mansel Bassett memorial found in Monkton Combe Church, England
Picture by David Attride



Picture of the Moknton Combe Church near Bath, Somerset, England by David Attride

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Section 4 - Featured Bassett: Arthur John Bassett Tombstone, Natal, South Africa

I am looking for help to identify which Bassett family Arthur John Bassett belongs to.



Highflats (Natal) St. James Parish Cemetery, South Africa

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Section 5 - Featured Bassett: Ann Bassett, niece of Benjamin Harrison

Some may remember the discussion several years ago about trying to identify the parents of niece Ann Bassett and nephew Carter Bassett mentioned in the will of Benjamin Harrison of Virginia. He married Elizabeth Bassett and they were the parents of President William Henry Harrison.

Excerpt from will:

I give to my Niece Ann Bassett to her and her heirs forever at the death of her Aunt Stith her choice of the negro children which the woman now has that I lent her; and I give to my nephew Carter Bassett the next choice of the said children - and whereas I omitted to give my dear wife the tools of my carpenters and the plantation tools, waggons and carts, I hereby declare it as my will that she should possess the whole of them with the millstones and every article belonging to my mills, my share in the Salt pans in Gloster and the great pot I have there for the purpose of making salt.

Benjamin Harrison (Seal) January the eighth, 1780.

Bill Orr has passed on the following from the First Census of the United States from 1782.

Note living in household with Benjamin Harrison is Miss Bassett, aged 18 years.

A list of inhabitants and property in the city of Richmond: 1782—Continued.

WARDSHIP No. 4—Continued.

NAME.	Age.	Occupation.	Time of residence.	Lots improved and their numbers.	Slaves tithable.	Slaves not tithable.	Cattle.	Horses.	Mares.	Colts.	Mules.	Wheels.	Billiard tables.	Miscellaneous.
Harrison, Benjamin.....	54	Governor.....	1 year.....	.....	7	9	2	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harrison, Sady.....	52	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bassett, Miss.....	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harrison, Sattley.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harrison, Benjamin.....	30	Merchant.....	4 months.....	1	1	2
Denholm, Archibold.....	25
Cormick, M.....	33

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[Section 6 - Featured Bassett: Death of Thomas Bassett of Tomales, California](#)

Thomas Bassett descends from #117B Charles Bassett of Cowbridge, Wales as follows:

Charles Bassett

Thomas Bassett and wife Jane Leyson

Richard Bassett (b. 1774) and wife Elizabeth Edmunds

John Bassett (b. 1805) and wife Elizabeth Griffith

John Bassett (b. 1847) and wife Mary Ellen Bailey

Mill Valley Independent, 19 March 1909

Thomas Bassett Passed Away

Thomas Bassett, formerly of San Rafael, passed away at his old home at Tomales at 1:30 a.m. Friday after an illness of only three days, his death being due to pneumonia. The news of the demise of the pioneer will cause deep regret to his hosts of friends throughout Sonoma county.

Thomas Bassett was a native of Glamorganshire, Wales, and was aged 61 years. He came to California in May 1869, and since that time has resided here continuously. He came here with Daniel Davis. They came via the isthmus, reaching San Francisco on the last of July and came direct to Petaluma. He was first employed on the Capt. Allen ranch in Chileno valley west of this city, and in August of the same year went to Tomales. He worked there for G.W. Burbank, brother of Luther Burbank, for nine years, then bought the ranch near Tomales which he conducted with success up to the time of his death.

On November 6, 1877, he married Miss Mary Bailey, a daughter of the late Robert Bailey and she survives with three children who are, Mrs. Hattie Winn, wife of Dr. Winn of Tomales, Robert H., and Ralph Bassett. He was a brother of David and William Bassett and uncle of M.D. Bassett, all of Tomales.

For four years Mr. Bassett and family lived in this city, their home being the old George Pierce homestead now the Conway place, at the head of B street. About 7 years ago the family returned to Tomales.

Mr. Bassett was a highly esteemed and upright citizen, whose life has been an ideal one. He was a man of high integrity and one whose life was an open book. He commanded the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.

The funeral took place from the family home on Monday at 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Fisher of Tomales officiated and the interment was made in the church yard in Tomales.



Thomas Bassett grave from Find-a-Grave

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[Section 7 - Featured Bassett: Obituary for George Barclay Bassett of Buffalo, New York](#)

George Barclay Bassett descends from William Bassett of Plymouth as follows:

William Bassett and wife Elizabeth
William Bassett (b. 1624) and wife Mary Raynesford
William Bassett (b. 1656) and wife Rachel Williston
William Bassett (b. 1680) and wife Abigail Bourne
Elisha Bassett (b. 1714) and wife Ruahamah Jennings
Lot Bassett (b. 1755) and wife Deborah Howes
Francis Edward Bassett (b. 1796) and wife Mehitabel Ford
Charles Ralph Bassett (b. 1836) and wife Elvira Rogers
George Barclay Bassett (b. 1861) and wife Anna Kingman



The Buffalo Meter Company Building, ca. 1920s

The Buffalo Evening News, Friday, April 15, 1955
George B. Bassett Dies at 93;
Founded Buffalo Meter Co.
Manufacturer Built Nationally-Known Company
From Ground Up; Was Active in Civic Affairs

George Barclay Bassett, founder of the Buffalo Meter Co. and one of Buffalo's most distinguished senior citizens, died Thursday evening (April 14, 1955) in his home at 270 Depew Ave. He was 93.

A healthy constitution, an agile mind and a lively interest in day-to-day affairs spared him, until the past few weeks, from the inevitable infirmities of old age. Long after he entered his 90s he took his daily walk, and was up and around until the last few days.

Life in Buffalo began for Mr. Bassett at the age of 25 when he came here from Watertown with his brother, Edward W., to establish Bassett Bros., a company which designed and built 53 waterworks in Western New York.

Company Started in 1892

After six years, Edward forsook the engineering and contracting business in favor of the law and went to New York, where he was to distinguish himself as a representative in Congress and - in originating the city's first zoning plan - as "the father of zoning in the United States."

Building waterworks started George B. Bassett on the trail of a simpler and more practical water meter - an idea he fussed around with for years until on Oct. 1, 1892, he started the Buffalo Meter Co.

That day he trudged up to a third-floor loft he rented at 363 Washington St., across from the rear of old Hotel Iroquois, and was in business.

Now Used in 2500 Communities

It was a business that was to grow to a point where the company's

meters are used in more than 2500 communities in the United States. It was to be expanded to take in all kinds of liquid meters, including oil and gasoline, and measuring apparatus for such materials as sulphuric acid, molten chocolate and asphalt.

The company made fuel-oil meters for naval and commercial vessels in World War I, and during World War II was selected by the Government as the only meter concern to remain exclusively in the manufacture of liquid meters. In this period it made meters for more than 600 naval ships and more than 1000 commercial vessels, as well as for war industries.

From its humble beginning on Washington St., the meter company was moved by Mr. Bassett to 290 Terrace in 1903. In 1917 he built the present plant on a 9 acres site at 2917 Main St.

The Early Years

It took hard work to bring the company to a leading position. Mr. Bassett recalled its early years when he alternated at "hitting the road" on selling trips and taking a turn on the bench making meters.

It was a proud day for the young manufacturer when he shipped his first order for water meters to the Village of Bath, April 7, 1893.

From the beginning he commanded the loyal co-operation of his employes. When he decided to erect a new plant he asked veteran employes their choice of location and built on it.

He gave liberally in time to the city of his adoption. For 30 years he was a director of the Children's Aid Society, which he also served as treasurer. For nearly as long he was a director of the YMCA.

A Story That He Told

He also was an organizer of the Main Street Association and a veteran of Buffalo Rotary.

Mr. Bassett and Miss Anna Kingman of Palmyra were married in 1891. They lived for many years in a spacious brown brick home at 6 91 West Ferry St. which he designed. Gardening was her hobby and she laid out a beautiful formal garden in the rear of their house. They spent every Summer for 40 years at Bay Beach.

Mrs. Bassett died in March, 1941. Three years later, Mr. Bassett gave the 15-room house and adjoining lot to Westminster Presbyterian Church as a manse for its minister.

Dr. and Mrs. Albert G. Butzer have since made a tradition each year of picking the garden's first peonies, which were Mrs. Bassett's favorite, and presenting them to Mr. Bassett in her memory.

Interested in City Planning

Mr. Bassett was a life elder of Westminster Presbyterian Church. His son, Robert S. Bassett, is a member of the church's Board of Trustees and his son, Charles K. Bassett, is former treasurer of the church.

He early became interested in city planning, recalling an anecdote he told of his early years.

"I remember when I first came to Buffalo - I went into the old Genesee Hotel and asked where I could find the finest part of the city. The clerk told me to take a green Allen St. car to the Circle, then walk to Delaware and North. I did that and was much impressed by the beauty of the spot."

His civic interest led him to become a member of the City Planning Commission and a director of the Buffalo City Planning Association.

Of Old Colonial Stock

He felt that the entrance to Buffalo along the lake shore was not properly utilized and suggesting extending Delaware Ave. to the waterfront and setting aside space between Delaware Ave. and Main St. for a transportation plaza. He was a tree-lover and while he was the necessity of widening streets, he advocated planting trees inside the sidewalk lines.

Mr. Bassett was born in Ballston Spa, June 17, 1861, the day of the Battle of Bull Run. He was descended from old colonial stock, seven of his ancestors having come to Plymouth on the Mayflower. He was ninth in the line from the progenitor of the family in this country.

He acquired his early education in the Brooklyn and Watertown public schools, but soon made up his mind that high school was no place that interested him.

The Woolworth Beginnings

In Watertown he got a job in a drug store - "sort of a porter's job" - and earned \$3 a week. He confessed in later years he did in mainly to keep out of school and avoid Latin and Greek which he detested.

Next door to the drug store was Moore & Smith's, a store which dealt in notions. The managing clerk was F.W. Woolworth, who made \$10 a week. Another employe was Woolworth's cousin, Seymour H. Knox, who worked part time for \$8 per week.

They had an unusual idea, Mr. Bassett used to recall. They put tables down the middle of the store, everything on the first table being \$1, the second 75 cents, down to 10 cents and 5 cents.

"I always noticed that the 10-cent and 5-cent tables were empty," Mr. Bassett said. "People bought the stuff quickly. That was the beginning of the 5-and-10 enterprise."

Studied at Yale

Mr. Bassett began his engineering career with Hinds & Moffett in Watertown in 1879, learning it through apprenticeship. He spent a year study in hydraulics and bridge-building in the Sheffield School at Yale, and inasmuch as he had some experience was pressed into service as assistant instructor in the junior class in land surveying.

After seven additional years of work with engineers in Watertown he came to Buffalo.

In an interview with The Buffalo Evening News in 1941, Mr. Bassett casually revealed that an idea he had when a young man working for Hinds & Moffett later became a potent factor in development of Niagara Falls hydro-electric power.

His Niagara Falls Idea

At that time his company was considering building a tunnel under the flume of the Black River. A new calendar arrived in the office with a picture of Niagara Falls, showing the long flat land above the Falls.

"It came to me," recalled Mr. Bassett, "that a tunnel under that land might be the solution to Jacob Schoellkopf's problem.

"Mr. Schoellkopf had taken over the water-power development in 1878 and had built seven mills, all located on the brink of the Falls. He had a hydraulic canal from which the mills drew their water, but obviously the power was drawn only at the point of fall and the space at the brink was limited."

Mr. Bassett's idea was to run a tunnel under the flat land for a mile or more. Then new mills could be erected on the land drawing water from the surface canal and providing the drop themselves, the water being used to turn the wheels and turbines and then being discharged into the tunnel below.

New Took Credit

He became obsessed with the idea and, having business in Syracuse, made a special trip to Rochester to discuss it with Thomas Evershed, division engineer on the Erie Canal.

Histories of the falls and its power developments divulge that Mr. Evershed suggested the tunnel idea to the Schoellkopf interests and that it materialized and made possible the first large-scale development of the falls waterpower. It became known as the Evershed Tunnel.

Mr. Bassett modestly never took credit for the tunnel but passed it along to Evershed, who pushed it to final achievement.

Mr. Bassett was past president of the Engineering Societies of Buffalo and Western New York.

On Hospital Board

He was a member of the Buffalo Club, the Buffalo Athletic Club, the Mercer Club, Sons of the American Revolution, the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, the Buffalo Library Association and the Buffalo Canoe Club.

Mr. Bassett was a member of the Millard Fillmore Hospital board of directors from 1911 until 1949, serving as president in 1921 and chairman of the Building Committee in 1927.

He is survived by two sons, Charles K. and Robert S. Bassett. Robert joined the company in 1916 as treasurer, became general manager in 1926 and president in 1945 on his father's retirement. Charles K. started his career with Buffalo Meter in 1914 and has been vice president and secretary since 1916, except for Army service in 1917-1918.

Also surviving is a sister, Mrs. Mary B. Harrington, who resided with Mr. Bassett; 8 great children and 10 great grandchildren.

Memorial services conducted by Dr. Butzer will be held at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in Forest Lawn Chapel with interment in Forest Lawn.



George Barclay Bassett

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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.

373B. Richard Bassett of Holsworthy, Devon has been combined into the #285B William Bassett of Devonshire line

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

528B. Michael Bassett of Detroit, Michigan

529B. Raymond Louis Bassett of Connecticut

530B. Flem Bassett of Missouri & Illinois

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Section 9 - DNA project update.

No new results to report on the Bassett DNA project.

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:

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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