

[Bassett Family Newsletter, Volume XV, Issue 8, 27 Aug 2017](#)

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[Section 1 - Welcome](#)

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

- 114B. Thomas Bassett of Australia (33 individuals added)
- 374B. William Bassett of Cardiff, Wales (62 individuals added)
- 531B. Joseph Bessette of Poland and Vermont (21 individuals added)
- 532B. Ralph Bell Bassett of England (12 individuals added)

Totals number of individuals loaded into the Bassett website: 145,558



The Bassett Motel, Williamsburg, Virginia

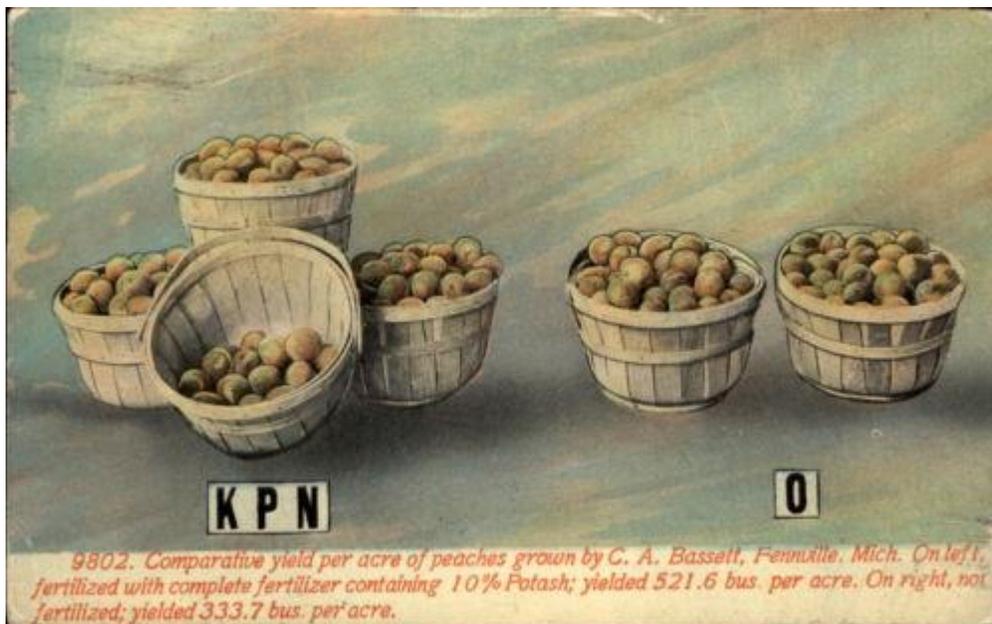
Section 2 – Featured Bassett: Charles Elisha Bassett of Fennville, Michigan Postcard

Charles Elisha Bassett descends from William Bassett of Plymouth as follows:

William Bassett and wife
William Bassett (b. 1624) and wife Mary Rainsford
William Bassett (b. 1656) and wife Rachel Williston
Nathan Bassett (b. 1685) and wife Mary Stetson
Nathan Bassett (b. 1715) and wife Thankful Fuller
Nathan Bassett (b. 1750) and wife Mary Bourne
Nathan Bassett (b. 1793) and wife Maria Houck
Elisha Bourne Bassett (b. 1822) and wife Anna E. Lawrence
Charles Elisha Bassett (b. 1864) and wife Carrie Kingsley

Muskegon Chronicle, Michigan, Thursday, March 20, 1913
Leading Fruitgrower As Grange Speaker
Charles E. Bassett of Fennville to Address Muskegon Pomona

Charles E. Bassett of Fennville, will be the principal speaker at the meeting of the Muskegon Pomona grange with Lake Harbor grange next Thursday. Mr. Bassett is secretary of the State Horticultural society and a practical fruit grower. He was for many years publisher of the Fennville Herald and has been prominently connected with the Michigan Press club.



Bassett postcard recently purchased on ebay

Charles Elisha Bassett and family were previously featured in the October 2012 newsletter.

<http://www.bassettbranches.org/newsletters/2012/10/201210.shtml>

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[Section 3 – Featured Bassett: F. Bassett Hosiery, Lincoln, Lincolnshire England](#)

F. Bassett is so far unidentified.

Recently for sale on ebay was the picture of the 12th century Jew House Building on Steep Hill in Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England. According to Wikipedia, it is now a restaurant.



At the time the picture below was taken, the right half was occupied by F. Bassett Hosiery.



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[Section 4 – Featured Bassett: Death of Mary Elizabeth Bassett Morten of Bassett, Virginia](#)

Mary Elizabeth Bassett descends from #2B Thomas Bassett of Virginia as follows:

Thomas Bassett (b. 1716) 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
William McKinley Bassett (b. 1896) and wife Lela Gladys Clark
Mary Elizabeth Bassett (b. 1924)

Norris Funeral Services
Mary Elizabeth Bassett Morten
August 10, 1924 - August 21, 2017

Mary Elizabeth Bassett Morten, age 93, died on Monday, August 21, 2017 at home in Bassett, Virginia. She was born on August 10, 1924 in Martinsville, Virginia to William McKinley and Gladys (Clark) Bassett, and was the older of two daughters. She was married to the love of her life, Spencer Wood Morten, Jr., on June 11, 1949 in Bassett, Virginia. She was the mother to four, grandmother to nine, and great-grandmother to three.

Mary Elizabeth's family and friends knew her to be kind, gentle and generous. She was a devoted wife and Spencer's best friend. She was a loving mother, who cherished the company of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren until her end of days. Her friends knew her to be a gracious hostess and a tireless worker during her many volunteer assignments. Above all, she was a proud member of the Bassett family, and committed to honoring the legacies of her ancestors.

Many will remember Mary Elizabeth for her investment of time and treasure to benefit Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church, where she was married and raised her children. She was especially devoted to the church's music program: playing piano for the youth choir, hosting Christmas carolers, and gifting the current pipe organ. Certainly, her children remember the hours she practiced the piano at home to perfect whatever she was assigned to play in church.

She will also be remembered for her treasured affiliations. She was a dedicated member of the Colonial Dames of America, and an unwavering patriot of her country. Above all, she loved the institutions where she grew from child to young woman. Mary Elizabeth's childhood friends knew how much she loved summers at Camp Alleghany. Her children knew how much she loved her four years at Saint Mary's School in Raleigh, and how proud she was to be a graduate of Hollins University in Virginia. One of her legacies will be the anecdotal history of her camp, boarding school, and college years, which she frequently shared with her children and grandchildren. In her last days, she especially loved to talk about her time at Saint Mary's.

In 1950, she began a lifelong career as the mother of four, where she re-defined the meaning of hospitality coordinator. She celebrated her children's friends, who were welcomed to spend weekends at "the mountain," and even join

family vacations. Now adults, many guests still recollect the countless joyful rides in Mary Elizabeth's station wagon, innumerable "country boy" breakfasts on Saturday mornings, and the carefree atmosphere she fostered at all times.

She was a philanthropist: private education and scholarship were her paramount interests. It began with her commitment of time and energy as the first chairperson of the Carlisle fair in support of Martinsville's first private school, continued as chairwoman of the Virginia Episcopal School mother's association, and included service as a trustee of Averett University in Virginia. Her philanthropy primarily supported Saint Mary's School, Hollins University, and the Bassett Historical Center.

Her husband, Spencer, preceded Mary Elizabeth in death. She is survived by four children; Sarah Fisher, Bill, Spencer and Greg; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. A memorial service is planned for 3:00 in the afternoon of Friday, September 22, 2017, at Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church, 120 Bassett Heights Road, Bassett, Virginia. The family will greet family and friends in the church's fellowship hall on Friday from 1:00 pm until the time of service. There will be no graveside service.

The family thanks Drs. Paul Eason, Ben Lewis, and Heidi Klepin for their exceptional medical oversight, the caregivers who helped her live life as fully as possible to her last day, as well as Perry Potter, Ophelia Norman and Flora Dulin for making her days comfortable and easy. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Mary Elizabeth's name to the Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church in Bassett, Virginia.

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. and Crematory, Martinsville, VA is serving the Morten family



Bassett Historical Center
Mary Elizabeth Bassett Morten Collection

Mary Elizabeth Bassett Morten is the daughter of the late William McKinley Bassett and Gladys Clark Bassett. She is the wife of Spencer Wood Morten,

Jr. and they are still at home near Eltham where she lived prior to her marriage. She is a graduate of St. Mary's College and Hollins College and her education included furniture manufacturing and business that surrounded her and her family.

Mary Elizabeth grew up with a love of family and community and has always been a guiding influence in the many projects in which she believed. Her support of Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church which was named in honor of her paternal grandmother, Pocahontas Hundley Bassett (Mrs. J.D. Bassett, Sr.), and her support of many organizations and community projects have been ongoing.

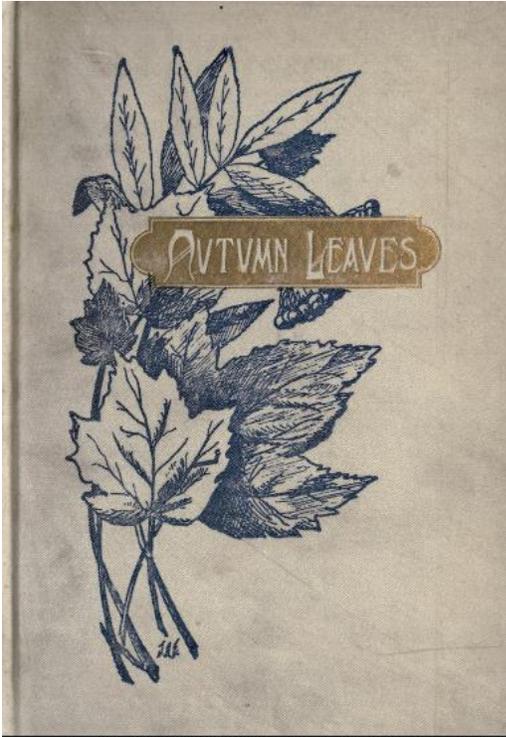
Both her paternal grandmother and her mother were charter members of Bassett Garden Club, a tenacious group of ladies who were determined to see that the Bassett area possessed a library for the community to use. This was in 1949 when store rooms and an empty elementary school were used. In 1955, Mary Elizabeth's father spearheaded a community drive for funds for Bassett Public Library to be built. In 1988, Mary Elizabeth herself spearheaded a community drive for an addition to Bassett Public Library, the building that now houses the Bassett Historical Center. With both of her parents being on the first Board of Trustees of the Library, Mary Elizabeth and her husband have also both served on the Board. Their son, Spencer III, is now serving on the current Board of the Historical Center.

The Mary Elizabeth Bassett Morten Collection is now housed at the Bassett Historical Center, a collection that deals with 731 families that are based on fifty years of genealogical research. This collection is indexed and is accessible and appreciated by many patrons. We at the Bassett Historical Center thank Mary Elizabeth for her suggestions and expertise over the years, for the benefactor that she has been to the Center, and for her gracious support of our efforts in caring for the Center.

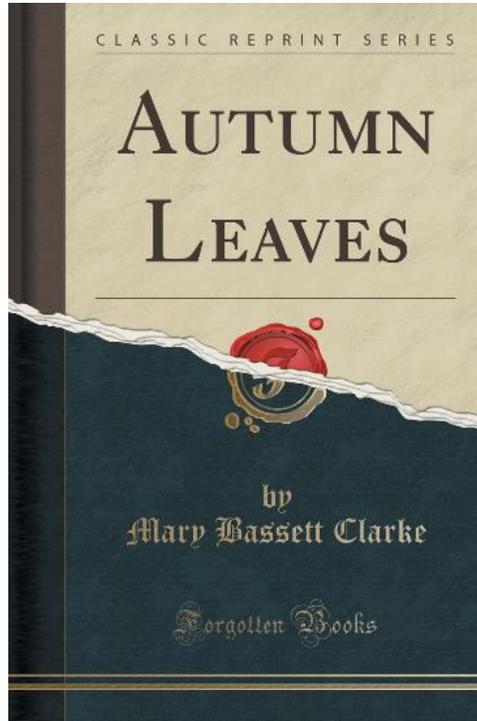
[Section 5 – Featured Bassett: Mary Bassett Clarke, Author of Autumn Leaves](#)

Mary 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
William Bassett (b. 1694) and wife Mary Crossman
William Bassett (b. 1726) and wife Lydia Fisher
Jedediah Bassett (b. 1751) and wife Elizabeth Chandler
John Chandler Bassett (b. 1795) and wife Martha St. John
Mary Bassett (b. 1831) and husband William L. Clarke



Original Version of Autumn Leaves



Reprint of Autumn Leaves

The Magazine of Poetry, Volume 6
By Charles Wells Moulton
Mary Bassett Clarke

Mrs. Mary Bassett Clarke, was born in Independence, N.Y., November 18th, 1831. She is the daughter of John C. Bassett, a well-to-do farmer of western New York, and Martha St. John Bassett, both persons of education and refinement. She was the seventh in a family of twelve children who lived to maturity. She was educated in Alfred University. Although ill-health limited her opportunities, she was graduated from the university in 1857. At the age of fifteen she commenced to write for publication, under the penname "Ida Fairfield," in the *Flag of our Union*. With some interruption by ill-health, she continued many years to be a contributor to that paper, to the *Rural New Yorker* and to local papers and periodicals. She became the wife of William L. Clarke on September 8th, 1859, and removed to Ashaway, R.I., which place has since been her home. For several years her writings, both prose and verse, have been principally given to periodicals issued by the Seventh-Day Baptists, of which sect she is a member. A collection of her poems has recently been published, entitled "Autumn Leaves" (Buffalo, 1894).

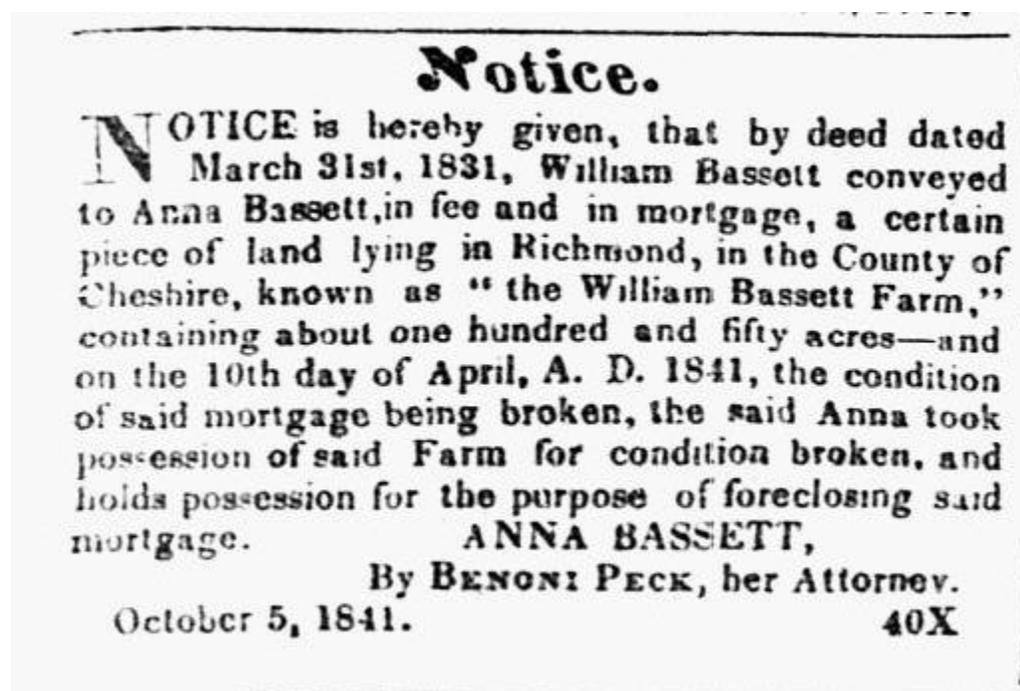
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[Section 6 - Featured Bassett: William Bassett of Cheshire County, New Hampshire, Mortgage](#)

William Bassett descends from #4B William Bassett of Lynn, Massachusetts as follows:

Roger Bassett and wife Ann Holland
William Bassett (b. 1624) and wife Sarah Burt
William Bassett (b. 1647) and wife Sarah Hood
Joseph Bassett (b. 1692)

Joseph Bassett (b. 1717) and wife Alice Sprague
William Bassett (b. 1749) and wife Margery White
Cyrus Bassett (b. 1779) and wife Anna Shearman



New Hampshire Sentinel, Keene, New Hampshire, Wednesday, October 13, 1841

William Bassett, born in 1749, died 9 Jan 1841, Cyrus Bassett, son of William Bassett, died 29 Jul 1831. I believe the Anna Bassett listed is the widowed wife of Cyrus Bassett.

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[Section 7 – Featured Bassett: Richard Bassett of Eardisland, England](#)

Richard Bassett descends from #220B Richard Bassett as follows:

Richard Bassett and wife Elizabeth Hooper
Richard Bassett (b. 1685) and wife Sarah Caldwell
Thomas Bassett (b. 1731) and wife Mary Jones
William Bassett (b. 1776) and wife Jane Cambel
James Bassett (b. 1807) and wife Elizabeth Kinnersley
Richard Bassett (b. 1849) and wife Emma Alcock



Richard and Emma (Alcock) Bassett of Eardisland, Hereford, England
Pictured provided by Peter C. Bassett

Richard's Story, A son of the Village
Life in a time of Innovation

The winter cold on January 19th 1849 was thankfully held at bay in the White Swan Inn Eardisland by the fire being, generously tended by landlord James Bassett, for the benefit of the guests and especially his wife Elizabeth, who was about to bring their seventh child a son into the world. Richard was born into the rapidly changing Victorian era. Railways were spreading, the Corn Laws had been repealed, and information flowed via electric telegraphs and the penny post. Overseas the times were also changing, potato famine in Ireland was prompting emigration and after the discovery of Gold at Sutters Mill, California, the first ship carrying miners, the 49rs, immortalized in the song Darling Clementine, arrived in San Francisco, they even had their photographs taken.

When Richard was one year old, plans for the Great Exhibition were announced and work commences on the renowned building in Hyde Park made from Cast Iron and the recently invented Plate Glass, this would eventually be the Crystal Palace. In the same year Poet Laureate William Wordsworth died from Pleurisy. The Wordsworth's had a great affinity to Herefordshire spending much time at Brinsop Court which was tenanted by his brother-in-law. From Brinsop they traveled widely and Mary Wordsworth's nephew Thomas Hutchinson was vicar at Kimbolton from 1841, he was so pleased to have the famous family stay with him in 1845 at "Grantsfield" that he had their initials carved on what is now known as the Poet's stone at Leysters, a place where they sat and mused. This

is to have some significance in Richards's future.

Growing up Richard had plenty of relatives to visit nearby, his uncle Thomas ran the Old Bull as a stopping point for Drovers, later when trade began to dwindle due to the railways he moved into farming ending up at Limes Hall. Uncle John lived in the Orchard but after fathering six daughters moved into the Swan to be a lodger. Aunt Elizabeth was resident at the Bridge cottage where she stayed well into her seventies supported by the rents left to her by Richards's grand-father William. Just a stones throw away was the village school and when Richard started there the Crimean War was being fought, from which Florence Nightingale would return to confront parliament with the unpleasant truth that due to their poor support provided for the army more men died of disease than enemy action.

Growing up in these dynamic times with visitors coming with tales of the many new wonders, must have been enthralling for a young Herefordshire lad. Not only for Richard for just as the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable was being laid, his brother James set out for Church Stretton in 1858, where he was to train as an Architect, go into partnership, be bankrupted, and eventually successful in Aston Birmingham. By the time Richard reached twelve, elder sister Jane was in London and was soon married to Joseph Plumb from the Strand area.

Some time around this period Richard sets out in the world but not following in anyone's footsteps. Times have changed some what, the rush to build railways is petering out, the American civil war blockade is preventing exports of cotton, and manufacturing is in a downturn. Richard goes into service and lands a position to one W. Wordsworth in Cumberland. It is "Willy Wordsworth" the Poet Laureate's son. I can imagine when asked at the interview where he came from and Richard replying Eardisland, then Willy Wordsworth saying: "Ah my cousin is just the other side of Leominster." You can see it would be plain sailing after that!

Richards mother is taken ill and sister Jane returns from London with Husband Joseph Plumb and two daughters to take over running the Swan Inn, with father James staying on as a lodger and returning to his original trade as a builder. Richards mother Elizabeth Bassett nee Kinnersley died in 1868 and is buried in the grounds of St. Marys church Eardisland. Her imposing monument is on the right of the path just through the entrance.

The next part of the story is somewhat of a surprise to find out that Richard marries Emma Allcock, abode: Manchester Jail. Emma's profession: Chaplain's Servant. We may never know how they met, but Willy Wordsworth is a Magistrate so there is a chance they may revolve in the same circles some time. Fate having brought Richard and Emma together, they get married by special license at Old St. Pancras London, August 1877. Richard's profession is now Butler, the witnesses are his sister Elizabeth Plum and brother John who has moved to London and trained to be a Chemist and Druggist. John lives with his wife of ten years Ellen in St. Pancras, unfortunately he will be a widower in the next ten years, also Richards's sister Sarah will pass away at age of thirty, and his cousin George will begin a new life in the USA.

Richard and Emma return to Cumberland and hold several local positions bringing up three children Emma, John and Mary. Not long after the Wright Brothers first flight, Richards wife Emma passes away in 1904 and his Son John Henry moves on to manage Aspdens Wood yard in Blackburn, where in 1907 he married Belinda P Doyle from Carlisle. On the Wedding Certificate Richard

describes himself as Warehouseman. Richard passed away in 1912, during his latter years he has seen the introduction of Electricity, the Telephone, Motor Cars and Marconi Wireless Telegraph.

Richards's son John Henry fathers three children Harry, Elsie and Fred, before he answers the call to the Great War, which he survives and is awarded the Military Medal for Bravery rescuing wounded from no-mans land. John succumbs to Pneumonia in 1932 at the age of 51, in his lifetime: public broadcast Radio & TV, Commercial Flight and the first Plastics were introduced.

Richards's grandson Harry marries a local girl Edith in 1938 and at the time of the Second World War is in the reserved occupation of Draftsman at Bristol Aircraft, so joins the Home Guard. Fred is conscripted and ends up as Staff Sergeant in REME in the North African campaign and Elsie Joins the St John Ambulance. Harry and Edith have two sons Peter in 1944 and John in Emma's profession: Chaplain's Servant. We may never know how they met, but Willy Wordsworth is a Magistrate so there is a chance they may revolve in the same circles some time. Fate having brought Richard and Emma together, they get married by special license at Old St. Pancras London, August 1877. Richard's profession is now Butler, the witnesses are his sister Elizabeth Plum and brother John who has moved to London and trained to be a Chemist and Druggist. John lives with his wife of ten years Ellen in St. Pancras, unfortunately he will be a widower in the next ten years, also Richards's sister Sarah will pass away at age of thirty, and his cousin George will begin a new life in the USA.

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were allocated alphabetically and Harry Bassett got seat:1A.

Richard Bassett was my Great-grandfather.

I survived what killed my Grandfather thanks to Antibiotics, and you are reading this thanks to Computers, Mobile Phones and Internet, and we all know about Nuclear Power, Space travel, Lasers and DNA.

Peter Bassett 2013



James and Elizabeth (Kinnersley) Bassett and one time owned the White Swan Inn of Eardisland. They are the parents of Richard 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.

114B. John B. Bassett family into the #14B Jean Besset of Quebec Family

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

114B. Thomas Bassett of Australia
531B. Joseph Bessette of Poland & Vermont
532B. Ralph Bell Bassett of England

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Section 9 - DNA project update.

One new participant joined this month with Bassett roots in South Africa.

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.familyreedna.com/group-general-fund-contribution.aspx?g=Bassett>

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.familyreedna.com/public/Bassett/>

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