

Bassett Family Newsletter, Volume XVI, Issue 3, 18 Mar 2018

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Section 1 - Welcome

There were no new trees added to the website this month.

Totals number of individuals loaded into the Bassett website: 148,051



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Section 2 - Featured Bassett: Donor of Bassett Park, Walton, NY identified

Benjamin James Bassett descends from #1B John Bassett of CT as follows:

John Bassett and wife Margery
Robert Bassett and wife Mary
Robert Bassett (b. 1640) and wife Elizabeth Riggs
Capt. Samuel Bassett (b. 1692) and wife Deborah Bennett
Benjamin Bassett (b. 1740) and wife Mary Hinman
Archibald Bassett (b. 1772) and wife Keziah Curtis
Benjamin John Bassett (b. 1812) and wife Mary L. Benton



Bassett Park, Walton, New York

Several people sent me articles showing that Bassett Park was donated to the city by Benjamin John Bassett. I published a picture of this postcard in the February 2018 newsletter.

The History of Delaware County, W.W. Munsell 1797-1880
The Town of Walton

Benjamin J. Bassett, son of Rev. A. Bassett, was born September 26th, 1812 at Walton, and was married, September 18th, 1839, to Miss L. Benton, of Hudson, N.Y. He was in the Assembly in 1869 and 1874; is president of the Delaware County Bank, and fully enjoys the confidence of the people. He lives in the so-called White Griswold house on Delaware street, a spot made historic by the erection there of the first frame house of the town by Judge North.

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Section 3 - Featured Bassett: Hotel Cherokee, Cherokee, Oklahoma

Clarence Arnett Bassett descends from #13B Richard Bassett of Georgia as follows:

Richard Bassett and wife Ann
John Bassett (b. 1787) and wife Agatha Heard
Thomas Jefferson Bassett (b. 1815) and wife Mary Traylor
John Alexander Bassett (b. 1840) and wife Arnett P. Kittley
Thomas Edward Bassett (b. 1861) and wife Fannie Onester Falls
Clarence Arnett Bassett (b. 1891) and wife Margaret Vada Henley

The following is match book cover found for sale on e-bay. I have not yet found any living descendants of Clarence and Margaret or located any pictures of the Hotel Cherokee.



Matchbook cover recently for sale on ebay.

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[Section 4 - Featured Bassett: Josiah William Bassett Collection of Artifacts, Maine](#)

Josiah William 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
Nathan Bassett (b. 1702) and wife Hannah Washburn
Joseph Bassett (b. 1747) and wife Hannah Lothrop
William Bassett (b. 1777) and wife Abiah Williams
Williams Bassett (b. 1806) and wife Sibyl Pattie Howard
Josiah William Bassett (b. 1843) and wife Ella Cornish

I received the following pictures and email from a company in Maine.



Pictures from the Josiah Williams Bassett Collection

We have recently acquired a collection of letters written by members of the Bassett family that include a number addressed to or written by Josiah Bassett, William Bassett, Ella S. Cornish (later Ella Bassett), George Bassett, Alice Bassett, Colby Bassett, and Charlotte Bassett. Items in the collection include a series of approximately 389 letters from Colby Bassett to home, mostly in the 1900-1910 date range; 8 Civil War era letters; 97 letters from 1866 to 1899; 267 letters from 1900 to 1905; 148 letters from 1906 to 1909; 10 letters from 1910 to 1919; 47 letters from 1920 to 1935; 70 letters from 1936 to 1938; 13 letters from 1944 to 1946; 60 letters with no obvious year; 53 miscellaneous cards, invitations, report cards, and ephemeral notes; a collection of WWII era envelopes addressed to Philly Swanson from S. Swanson; and a handful of photographs, most of which are unlabeled.

We will be putting it up for sale and would like to offer you first dibs on it if you (or any other genealogists pursuing the same research) are interested and are asking \$2500 for the entire collection. Please find photographs attached.

Thank you for your time.

Liberty Tool Company
57 Main St.
Liberty, ME 04949



Letters from the Josiah Williams Bassett Company

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[Section 5 - Featured Bassett: Sheldon H. Bassett of Connecticut and Missouri](#)

Sheldon H. Bassett descends from #1B John Bassett of Connecticut:

- John Bassett and wife Margery
- Robert Bassett and wife Mary
- Robert Bassett (b. 1640) and wife Elizabeth Riggs
- Samuel Bassett (b. 1692) and wife Deborah Bennett
- Ebenezer Bassett (b. 1731) and wife Hannah Smith
- James Bassett (b. 1757) and wife Betsey Canfield
- William Bassett (b. 1781) and wife Lucy Smith
- Sheldon Bassett (b. 1805) and wife Harriet Lenora Hull
- Royal Molton Bassett (b. 1828) and wife Frances J. Stratton
- Sheldon H. Bassett (b. 1867)

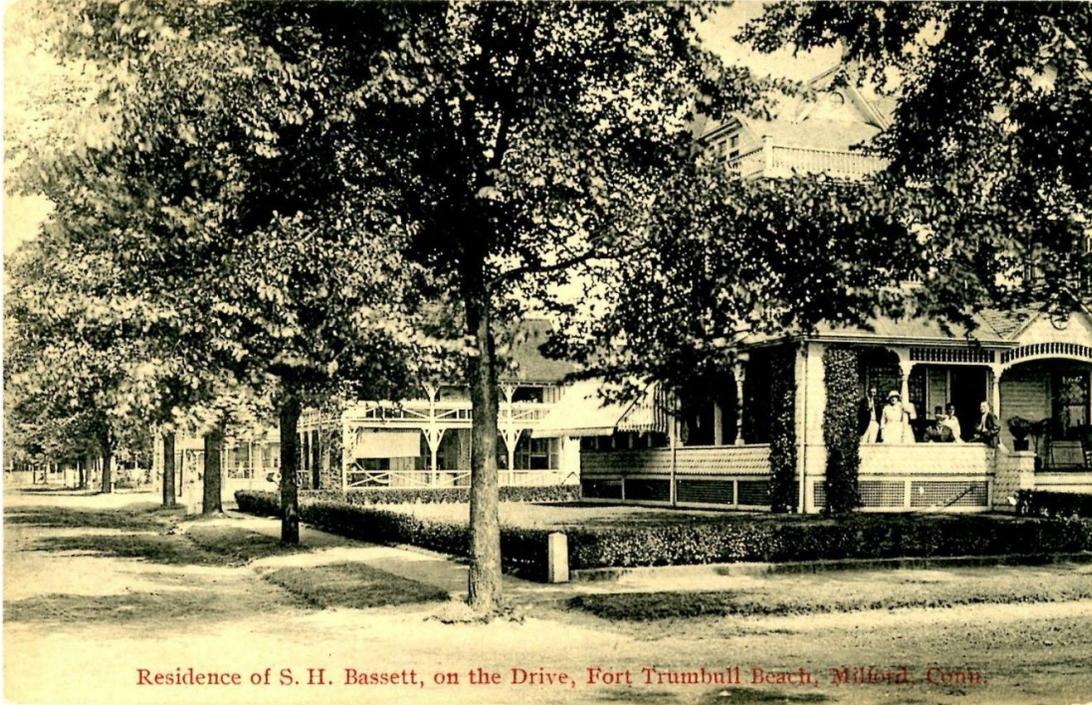


The Makers of St. Louis: A Brief Sketch of the Growth of a Great City
Sheldon H. Bassett

St. Louis is widely known as one of the greatest manufacturing and distributing points for cement in the world, and the name of Mr. Bassett is prominently connected with this great and growing industry. As president of the Iola Portland Cement Company he is a power in the commercial life of the city. Though he has resided here only a short time he has made his influence by reason of his energy and his progressiveness in promoting the interests of his adopted home.

He is a member of many important organizations which have for their object the upbuilding of the city's trade and in the conduct of his own business he has introduced many modern methods which he learned in his extensive travels both at home and abroad. He has a thorough and practical knowledge of the cement business, and is general manager as well as president of the big corporation with which he is connected.

Mr. Bassett is a native of Connecticut, having been born in Derby in 1868. After studying in the public schools of that place he received a thorough technical education in American colleges, after which he was sent to Germany to gain additional knowledge of chemistry and allied branches. Throughout the greater part of his commercial career he has been connected with the cement business. The rapid and remarkable growth of St. Louis early attracted his attention and the more he learned about the Western metropolis the more convinced was he that it would be the ideal distributing point for the product of his factories. Accordingly, after carefully looking over the field, he located here three years ago. Since then his business has steadily increased and he is now as firm a champion and as deep an admirer of St. Louis as though he had lived here all his life.

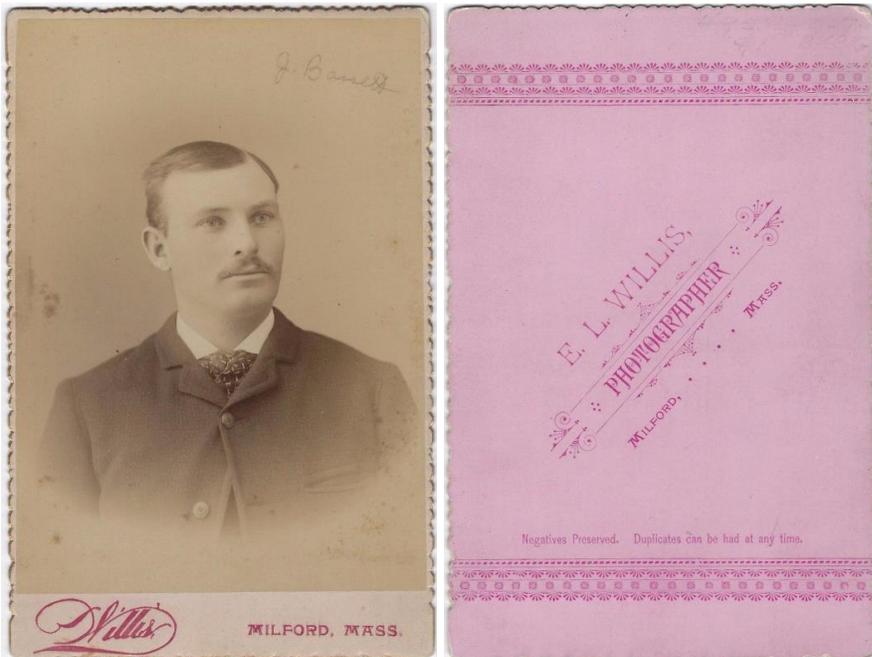


S.H. Bassett postcard from ebay

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Section 6 – Featured Bassett: J. Bassett photograph taken in Milford, Massachusetts

I am trying to identify the J. Bassett seen below.



Picture of J. Bassett currently for sale on ebay.

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Section 7 - Featured Bassett: Supt. Herbert James Bassett. M.B.E., of Coventry, England

Herbert James Bassett descends from #130B Richard Bassett of Claybrooke as follows:

Richard Bassett of Claybrooke, Leicester, England
Richard Bassett (b. 1621) and wife Ann
Richard Bassett (b. 1660) and wife Elizabeth Moore
Richard Bassett (b. 1690) and wife Mary Osborne
Richard Bassett (b. 1739) and wife Ann Freer
Richard Bassett (b. 1772) and wife Elizabeth Lawrence
Charles Bassett (b. 1811) and wife Comfort Tansur
James Bassett (b. 1834) and wife Jane
Herbert James Bassett

The Midland Daily Telegraph, Wednesday, May 31, 1933
Death of Supt. Bassett
Deputy Chief Constable of Coventry
Thirty-Six Years Police Service
City Loses Popular and Efficient Officer

We regret to record the death of Superintendent Herbert Bassett, M.B.E., Deputy Chief Constable of Coventry, who passed away at his home, Raleigh Road, Stoke, early this morning. Superintendent Bassett first encountered signs of impending illness about a year ago, and spent several months in a Birmingham nursing home, where he survived a serious operation, and was able to return to duty, but complications set in, and his condition had been the cause of anxiety for several weeks past. He was 58 years of age.

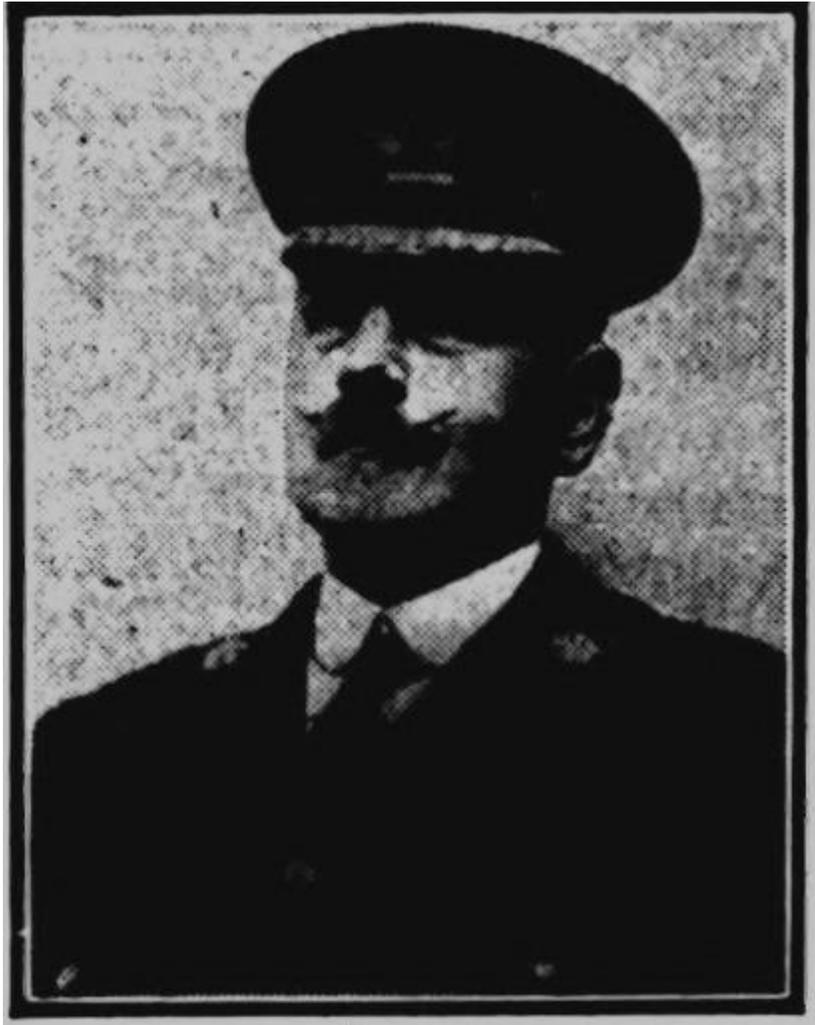
One of the most popular officers ever associated with the Coventry City Police Force, Deputy Chief Constable Bassett not only enjoyed the affection of his men but even earned the friendship of many of the offenders for whose convictions he was directly responsible, and in this connection many of his experiences were unique in police annals.

PRIDE OF TRADITION

Possessing an immense pride in the traditions of his profession, Deputy Chief Constable Bassett fostered them to the fullest extent throughout his career, and he possessed a flair for maintaining the high degree of discipline for which the City Police Force has become known without sacrificing a fraction of the friendly relationships existing between himself and the men under his control. He possessed the complete confidence of the Chief Constable (Captain S. A. Hector), as he had also enjoyed that of the late Chief Constable William Imber, and in no smaller degree that of the members of the Watch Committee.

Superintendent Bassett's popularity was equally pronounced among the citizens as a body, who appreciated the unfailing courtesy with which he carried out his often difficult duties. His cheerfulness and good humour were rarely absent from his make-up, and few things in his life disturbed his equanimity to a greater degree than the findings of the Royal Commission on police procedure following a certain well-known case some three years ago. Superintendent Bassett felt that the restrictions then placed upon police officers in making inquiries were calculated to hamper seriously the work of

crime detection.



AN EXPERT RAILWAYMAN

But for a sudden desire to join the police, Mr. Bassett might have finished his career in an equivalently high position in the railway world. When a lad he was taken into the employ of the London and North-Western Railway and worked in the locomotive fitting shops at Rugby. A very high standard of ability and conduct was demanded of the apprentices, and he often used to say that the discipline on the railway was as rigid as in the police force. By the time he had finished his shop training he could have undertaken any job on a locomotive.

He next became a fireman, first on goods and then on express trains. There was no eight-hour day. Mr. Bassett would recall the long periods he had on duty, twelve and sometimes fourteen hours. He was soon firing the engines on expresses between Rugby and London and Rugby and Crewe. The drivers in those days were aristocrats of their profession. One man for whom he fired always wore a bowler hat, frock coat, and starched collar and cuffs - yet he always reached his journey's end as spick and span as when he started. Mr. Bassett's last run was on the footplate of the Scotch Express.

TURNED DOWN AS A POLICEMAN!

After nine years as a railwayman, Mr. Bassett felt a keen desire to join the police, though it would mean an immediate drop in salary of 12s. per week. On a day off he visited Warwick and saw the late Superintendent Gleed. The latter blankly refused to enlist him. "You would be tired of the police in a month," he said. His enthusiasm still undamped, Mr. Bassett went to Coventry, and was welcomed by the late Chief Constable Gray with open arms. "Can you bring me another twelve men of the same type?" he asked. Mr. Bassett used to chuckle as he recalled the medical examination which followed. All the doctor did was to admire his physique, ask him a couple of quite haphazard questions, and pass him! It is a peculiar fact that the railway company never gave him his discharge. His superiors were so annoyed that they refused to discharge him, doubtless in the hope that someday he would return. But he was destined to make such progress in his new profession that the day was to arrive when, after he had conducted a case at Warwick Assizes, he was mournfully told by Superintendent Gleed, "I wish I had taken you on."

RAPID PROMOTION

Mr. Bassett was born at Brownsover, near Rugby, on October 12th, 1874. It was in 1897 that Mr. Bassett first donned the uniform of a constable of the Coventry City Police Force, and for two years he had an opportunity of ruminating upon the wisdom of his choice while patrolling the streets. Any doubts he may have entertained were largely dispelled when he was appointed to the detective department, and here his ambition soon began to bear fruit. He had found his vocation. In 1905 he was promoted detective sergeant, and in 1906 detective-inspector, remaining in charge of the detective department until March, 1919, when he was made superintendent. He was appointed Deputy Chief Constable in 1832. In January, 1932, Superintendent Bassett was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire for his police services. He had many commendations, including one from the Postmaster-General in 1922, and one from the War Office in 1918 in recognition of his services in assisting the administrative of the Defence of the Realm Act.

SECRET SERVICE WORK

This latter commendation had reference to work of a secret service character carried out by Mr. Bassett during the War, and concerning which he was naturally reticent, but as chief of the detective department all secret police inquiries naturally came under his supervision. He carried out a far greater volume of work of this kind than is generally realized. By no means the last exacting part of Superintendent Bassett's work during the War and post-War period was that of dealing with the serious trade disputes which arose. It was here that his charm of personality found its full scope. Strongly opposed to the use of force, Superintendent Bassett found it more effective to gain the confidence of the men with whom he was dealing, and he succeeded in doing this with remarkably good results. His policy of peaceful persuasion, backed by transparent honesty of purpose, gained him the friendship of men who were scarcely well disposed towards the forces of law and order.

A DIFFICULT SITUATION

While acting as a detective officer Mr. Bassett handled two murder cases, both of them containing some remarkable features. In one instance an elderly local baker was found lying dead in this bakehouse. The doctor then acting as police surgeon examined the body and came to the conclusion that

the man had had a seizure, and that in falling his head had struck an iron spike, and had pierce his brain. Mr. Bassett was unaware that his conclusion had been arrived at, or that the medical man had submitted his report. He examined the bakehouse and arrived at a different conclusion. Imagine the consternation at headquarters when the detective brought in a man on a charge of murdering the old baker! Mr. Bassett was even snubbed for making what was regarded as an absurd faux pas. The consternation subsided when the prisoner was found "Guilty" at Warwick Assizes and was ultimately executed.

FRIEND OF WRONG-DOERS

On another occasion an old lady was found dead, and a medical practitioner formed the conclusion that she has succumbed to heart failure and old age. This was equally unfortunate for Mr. Bassett, who had formed the conclusion it was a case of murder. At the risk of further official complications the detective arrested a son, who was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Nothing has been more remarkable than the friendly relations Superintendent Bassett maintained with many of the wrong-doers whom he has arrested and arraigned. He was probably one of the few policemen who received a mourning card from the family of a man whom he arrested and who was executed as a result of his evidence. For a number of years he received regular friendly greeting from a "tough nut" who had been through his hands, and who subsequently wandered into some of the most remote parts of the world.

Superintendent Bassett leaves a widow and one son. The funeral will take place at Stoke Church on Friday at 2.45.

Magistrates' and Solicitors' Tributes

Sympathetic references to the death of the Deputy Chief Constable were made before the ordinary business of the Coventry City Police Court was started today.

Mr. A.L. Bill, who was in the chair, said that Mr. Bassett's great amiability of character had endeared him to every member of the public as well as to his colleagues in the police force. His ability in his profession, said Mr. Bill, had earned for him the recognition of His Majesty the King.

"The city, the Force, and this Court are all the poorer for his passing, and I feel we cannot let this occasion pass without showing that we sympathise with those he has left," concluded the Chairman.

A moment's silence, with the court officials and members of the public standing, was observed, and then Mr. S.F. Snape rose to add a tribute on behalf of the solicitors practicing at the court.

Mr. Bassett had always been faithful and assiduous in his duties, said Mr. Snape, but he also possessed a very human side to his nature. He possessed the kind of personality which it would be well for not only police officers but for all others to emulate. He would be sadly missed in the courts.

Everyone, said Mr. Snape, admired the fortitude and bravery with which the Deputy Chief Constable had faced the illness which he had so long suffered.

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

No new lines added, combined, or eliminated this month.

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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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