

[Bassett Family Newsletter, Volume XIX, Issue 2, 21 Feb 2021](#)

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You can either view in a PDF or in a word document format.

<http://bassettbranches.org/newsletters/newsletters2014on.shtml>

[Section 1 - Welcome](#)

Welcome from a very cold and snowy Chicago, Illinois.

Totals number of individuals loaded into the Bassett website: 180,123



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Section 2 - Featured Bassett: Luther Bassett Family Reunion, Danville, PA 1886

Luther Bassett descends from #8B John Bassett of New Jersey as follows:

John Bassett
Jeremiah Bassett (b. 1759) and wife Elizabeth Simpson
Luther Bassett (b. 1788)

The Wilkes-Barre Record, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Tuesday, September 14, 1886

Hassett Family Re-Union

A re-union picnic of the descendants of Luther Bassett was held in Boyd's grove, near Danville, on Friday, Sept. 3. Luther Bassett was a son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Simpson Bassett, his father being of Irish, and his mother of Scotch decent, white in the veins of his wife and German blood. The family all told (living members) numbers 111, of whom 56 were present. There are living five children, 32 grand-children, 44 great grand children, and five great-great-grand-children. Among those present were Dr. W. G. Weaver, of Wilkes-Barre; I. C. Kline, of Kline's Grove, formerly a teacher in the Wilkes-Barre public schools; Mrs. Margaret Morgan and three children of Kingston. Elliot R. Morgan, of Kingston, is also a relative.

An organization was effected and a committee appointed to arrange for a similar gathering next year.

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Section 3 - Featured Bassett: Death of James Robert Bassett of Washington State

James Robert 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 Willison
Nathan Bassett (b. 1685) and wife Mary Stetson
Joshua Bassett (b. 1723) and wife Martha McCarroll
Isaac Bassett (b. 1760) and wife Abigail
William Bassett (b. 1787) and wife Cemantha Powers
Charles Wesley Bassett (b. 1810) and Triphena Stewart
George Stewart Bassett (b. 1871) and wife Evelyn Frances Jones
Charles Francis Bassett (b. 1899) and wife Florence Sheldon
James Robert Bassett

Dahl McVicker Funeral Home
James Robert Bassett (Picture included)
March 1, 1935 - January 26, 2021

James Robert Bassett, 85 1/2, passed away during the big horse chase on Gunsmoke on Tuesday January 26th, 2021. It might have been the Virginian; frankly after years, they all look the same to his family.

"Jim Bob" was born in Detroit Michigan March 1st, 1935. He was the youngest son and second-youngest child of Charles and Florence Bassett, who had seven children (and obviously a lot of cold winters to get through). Born in the middle of the Great Depression, Jim learned how to squeeze the life out of a penny and fix anything so nothing new needed to be purchased; lifetime skills his daughters held little appreciation for, until they aged. He was raised "walking two miles to school in the freezing snow," which apparently was blizzard-like every single day of his school year. It's amazing he survived! He held memories of swimming holes, a one room schoolhouse, mink farm fun with his siblings, and shooting guns (but never his eye out). He let go of the memories that involved having three fun teenage daughters overseas. It's probably best he did.

Jim graduated Ithaca High School and entered the United States Air Force to become a pilot. He turned his life's passion of flying into a 26-year career as a fighter pilot, an embassy military group commander, a military base deputy commander, and eventually retiring as a full bird colonel. He received many honors and awards throughout his life, including earning an MBA from Auburn, the Distinguished Flying Cross given to him by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967, 3 Silver Stars, 1 2-Oak Leaf Cluster, 1 10-Oak leaf Cluster, a Legion of Merit Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal, and an Air Force Commendation Medal. He was accomplished.

He bought a farm near Mt. St. Helens and prepared to move right before the mountain erupted. With his wife, youngest daughter, and 2 dogs, he moved his family to Toledo and began his second careers as a volcano tour guide out of the Toledo Airport, a real estate agent, and a Centralia College Instructor. Primarily though, he was a farmer with no livestock or crops, just planes. He had a good crop of planes over the decades though, and a big herd of parts

and "stuff" to go with them. So farmer it is. After that, he just called himself retired and spent his remaining years having fun, doing volunteer work, flying his crop of planes, and dealing in antique model airplane engines.

Jim's was a long-time member of Toledo Presbyterian Church, known for tossing napkins at the church ladies, being an enthusiastic potluck partaker, and generous bake sale backer. Enjoyments included The Country House on Sundays in Kay's section, Denny's on Tuesday in Blanche's section, and Fridays at Papa Pete's in Castle Rock. He couldn't figure out how he wound up with heart disease, but he was pretty sure it wasn't diet related.

Jim is survived by his no-western-watching-anymore wife of 61 years, Judith Ann Bassett. Also left behind were those three teenage girls all grown up. Eldest and most responsible daughter Barbara Shillingford of Salt Lake City, middle and most over-achieving daughter Linda Geer of New Port Richey Florida, and youngest most talented daughter Diane Bassett Geister of Vader Washington (they're going to hurt me for that). Sons-in-law Gary Geister, Steve Shillingford, and Don Geer will all miss his insight into the three daughters. Other survivors include grandchildren Ryan Ehin, Sarah Buck, Sam Shillingford, Alex Shillingford, Shane Geer, Jake Geer, George Geer, Charlie Geer, Mathew Keksi, Katherine McGraw, Samantha Geister, Jessica Rudkin, and Mellissa Willard. Great-Grandchildren Addisyn Ehin, Harper Ehin, Harper Redding, Reid Redding, Jackson Buck, Carson Buck, Vanessa Geer, Nessa McGraw, Christopher Willard, Renee Willard, Ryan Willard and Marilyn Gomez.

There will be a private ceremony for the family. Due to Covid-19, there will be no big-gathering life service until restrictions have been lifted. We'll dig him up for that... wait... never mind. I'm being told he stays put once buried. We'll still have the service, but no viewing this summer apparently. That's probably a good idea.

We hope Dads obituary brought you as many smiles reading it as he brought us smiles knowing him. Life is short, love deep & laugh hard.

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[Section 4 - Featured Bassett: Bassett Boys at the Bassett School. Shelby County, Indiana](#)

Ralph, William and Harold Bassett descend 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 Willison
William Bassett (b. 1681) and wife Abigail Bourne
William Bassett (b. 1711) and wife Lydia Smith
Rufus Bassett (b. 1757) and wife Jedidah Handy
Nymphas Bassett (b. 1785) and wife Thankful Ann Bruce
Oliver C. Bassett (b. 1824) and wife Elizabeth Monroney
Marshall Bassett (b. 1858) and wife Sonorah J. Israel
Ernest Bassett (b. 1883) and wife Grace Lee Bass
Ralph, William and Harold Bassett



Bassett Boys at the Bassett School, Marion Township, Shelby County, Indiana. Circa 1920
Boys in the front row are from left to right Ralph Bassett, William Bassett and Harold Bassett
The back row are Bassett cousins not yet identified

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[Section 5 - Featured Bassett: Fire at Richard Bassett farm, 1883, Castlemaine, Australia](#)

Richard Emanuel Bassett descends from #44B Emanuel Bassett of St. Enoder, Cornwall as follows:

Emanuel Bassett (d. 1676) and wife Grace
Richard Bassett (b. 1643) and wife Jane Vanson
Emanuel Bassett (b. 1685) and wife Mary Rogers
Thomas Bassett (b. 1717) and wife Rose Kendel
Emanuel Bassett (b. 1755) and wife Honor Hill
Emanuel Bassett (b. 1780) and wife Ann Ford
William Ford Bassett (b. 1808) and wife Ann Halls
Richard Emanuel Bassett (b. 1843) and wife Caroline Dowsing

CASTLEMAINE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TUESDAY.

Last night, a disastrous fire broke out on the farm of Mr. Richard Bassett, situated on the Muckleford Creek, near the Orville Hotel, six miles from Castlemaine, which has so far been attended with an estimated loss of £500. This morning I went to the place and gathered the following particulars :- Last night about 20 minutes past 7, as Mrs. Dowsing, Mr. Bassett's mother-in-law was milking a cow in the cow-yards, situated near two large stacks of wheat and one of hay, each being within 15ft. of each other, she was startled by a crackling sound, and rising to her feet, she saw a flame of fire burst out from the nearest wheat stack. She ran to the house some 50 yards distant, and gave the alarm to Mr. Bassett and others. By this time the stack, which must have been specially inflammable after the extreme heat of the hottest day this summer, was wrapped in fire, long tongues of flame darting high into the air, and as they were horizontalised by a gust of wind, they caught hold of the other wheat stack, which, as though it had a coating of gunpowder, immediately burst into a mass of flames, which in an instant extended to the haystack. Several persons seeing that it was impossible to save the stacks, went for wet blankets to endeavor to protect the stables and cowshed. Others ran to unbail the cows, and to drag the machinery out of the implement-sheds, which were situated to the leeward of the burning stacks. However it was found that the cowshed was already on fire, and the cows frantic with the heat had pulled the bails down, and, almost suffocated with the smoke, were endeavouring to leap over the fence. The implement shed had just been emptied when it took fire, and in a few seconds the whole was enveloped in a mass of flames. Some 15 men working in connexion with a threshing machine which was operating upon the stacks of Mr. Talbot, about a quarter of a mile distant, were soon on the spot, with 12 or 14 farmers residing near, but their services at that time were of no avail beyond confining the fire to its present holdings. A messenger was then sent to Haddon for the fire brigade, who arrived with their engine and appliances at about 10 o'clock, after travelling nearly six miles in little over 25 minutes. They at once placed their engine on the banks of the creek, and a stream of water was soon playing on the nearest stack, the buildings by this time having been totally consumed. After pumping for five hours the flames of the one stack were overcome, and the remaining sheaves at the bottom of the stack were commenced to be carted away, to put aside at a safe distance to store for pig's feed. Towards daybreak the wind rose, and during the morning was almost of hurricane force, and up to 2 o'clock today the brigade had worked without ceasing to keep the fire from spreading to the stables and dwellinghouse. The farm belongs to Mr. J. Jackson, and is leased by Mr. Bassett, this being the third year of his tenure. He had an area of 100 acres under wheat, and 10 of oats. The wheat was anticipated by the farmers around to yield 20 bushels to the acre, and with the produce of 20 acres cut for hay. The cow-shed and implement-sheds were substantially erected, and these, with sheep and other yards, were also destroyed. As above stated, the estimated loss is £500, the property being uninsured. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

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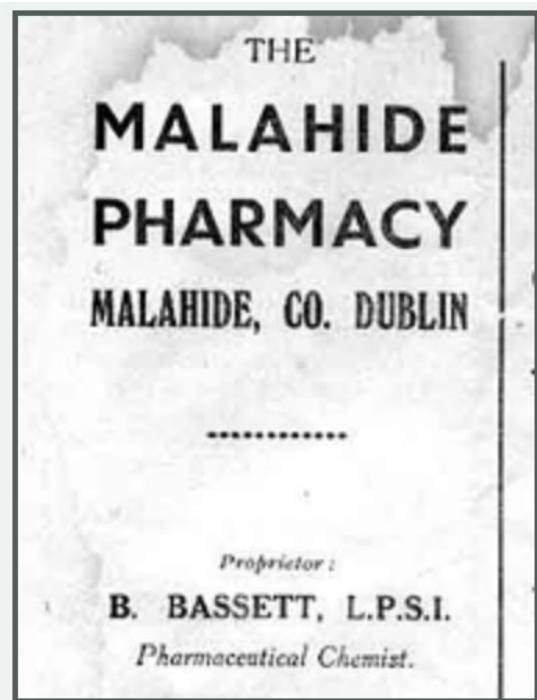
Section 6 - Featured Bassett: Benjamin Bassett & the Bassett Pharmacy of Malahide

Benjamin Bassett descends from #510 Thomas Bassett of Ireland as follows:

Thomas Bassett (b. 1831)

George Walter Bassett (b. 1850) and wife Sara Jane Caldbeck

Benjamin Bassett (b. 1885)



Benjamin Bassett

All pictures courtesy of the Kenora Great War Project

The following article is from the Kenora Great War Project

Bassett, Benjamin

Benjamin Bassett was born on 10 September 1885 in the city of Waterford in Ireland. His father George Walter Bassett, a wine merchant, was from Waterford, while his mother Sarah Jane Caldbeck was from County Wexford. The couple had married in Waterford in 1877. Children born to the family were George Thomas (1878), Frederick Richard (1880), Herbert John (1882), William Frederick (1883), Benjamin, Theadora Esther (1888), Richard Stanley (1890), and Thomas Walter (1891). The 1901 Ireland census found George and Sarah with children William, Benjamin, Dora, Richard, and Thomas in Waterford along with general servant Margaret Breen. By the 1911 census household members were George, Sarah, and Richard and servant Johanna Fennell. Benjamin, a druggist, and Thomas, a labourer, were found on the passenger list of the *Canada* that arrived in Portland, Maine, USA in April of 1910, on their way to Montreal, Quebec in Canada.

Benjamin found his way to Kenora in northwestern Ontario where he was working as a druggist when he signed his attestation paper on 3 January 1915. He gave his father George back in Waterford as next of kin. The 52nd (New Ontario) Battalion was raised in northwestern Ontario in the spring of 1915 with headquarters in at Port Arthur, Ontario. With the 2nd Reinforcing Draft of the 52nd Battalion Private Benjamin Bassett embarked from Montreal aboard the SS *Missanabie* on 4 September 1915.

Once in England Benjamin was taken on strength with the 12th Battalion at Shorncliffe. In January of 1916 he was struck off strength to the 27th Battalion, joining the unit in the field in early February. The 27th Battalion (City of Winnipeg) had arrived in France the previous September. *The 27th Battalion, with the 2nd Division, arrived in France in September, 1915, and met up with the 1st Division by mid-month. Together these two divisions formed the Canadian Corps and were led by General Alderson. The Canadian Corps, including the 27th, would not participate in any major offensive for almost a full year, when the Battalion would receive its 'baptism of fire' at the Battle of St Eloi 5 kilometres from Ypres. It was reported the officers of the 27th had not slept for over 100 hours, this was most apparent with the Commander, I.R. Snider, a veteran of the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 and the South African War, of the 27th Battalion who, during the Battle of St Eloi, stayed awake for 6 straight days trying to relieve the strain 'on his beloved boys'. After the battle he broke down and cried, he was removed from command 'being diagnosed with shell shock'. The Battle of St Eloi had claimed 40 of his men's lives and wounded another 189. The Somme Valley became the new objective of the Canadian Corps. When the Canadians arrived in the Somme Valley the British had been fighting for 3 months and they had traded 250 000 men for 8 kilometres German trenches. On the opening day of the Somme offensive alone, July 1, 1916, 20 000 British, Canadian and Commonwealth soldiers died and another 40 000 were wounded; it was the single heaviest day of casualties in history. One of the most notable battles of Somme the 27th Battalion participated in was the Battle of Courcellette on September 15, 1916. This battle marked the first time in history tanks were used in warfare. However, all 6 tanks that used that day were knocked out; they were incredibly unreliable. The Canadians suffered around 7000 casualties during the battle which lasted until the 22nd of September. Despite all this the Canadians, more specifically the 27th, were successful as they were at the Battle of Thiepval Ridge, September 26, 1916. (Wikipedia)*

In August of 1916 Benjamin was admitted to the No 6 Canadian Field Ambulance for a few days, suffering from PUO, fever of unknown origin. In early January of 1917 he was awarded a Good Conduct Badge, followed by a ten day leave later that month. In late March he was transferred to the Canadian Army Medical Corps General and attached to the 27th Battalion for Water Detail. In December he was granted a fourteen day leave, returning in early January of 1918. In August he was posted to the 1st Canadian Field Ambulance. That December he was granted a fourteen day leave to the UK, returning on the 30th. With the end of the war, Benjamin returned to England in April of 1919. After the war Benjamin did not return to Canada. Discharged in England, he took up residence in Malahide, County Dublin in Ireland where he became the proprietor of the Malahide Pharmacy. During the second quarter of 1922 he married Nora Jessica Taylor, marriage registered in the district of Balrothery (Malahide). Born in 1899, Jessica was the only child of George, meat purveyor, and Mary Susan Bishop (née Evans) Taylor of Malahide. Both born in England, George and Mary had married on 24 July 1898, marriage registered in South Dublin. Benjamin and Jessica gave birth to three children: William George, Pamela, and Patricia.

Four of the Bassett boys had immigrated to Canada. Herbert Bassett married

Frances Brownwell in 1913 in Amherst, Nova Scotia and lived in Galt, Ontario where he died in 1947. Brothers Richard and Thomas were living in Westmount/Montreal when they signed their attestation papers, Richard in 1915 and Thomas in 1916. Richard served overseas with the No 6 Canadian Field Ambulance, earning a Good Conduct Badge and Military Medal in 1917. Richard died in 1977 in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Thomas went overseas with the No 6 (McGill) OS Battery Siege Artillery CEF, serving with the 1st Brigade Canadian Field Artillery. Thomas died in Montreal in 1959. Predeceased by his father George in 1921 and his mother Sarah in 1933, both interred in Waterford City, Benjamin died on 21 June 1974 in Malahide. His wife Jessica died in 1980 and is interred beside him in the Saint Andrew Cemetery, Malahide.

Benjamin's brother William Frederick, a Lieutenant in the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), was killed in action in northern Russia on 27 October 1918. He was posthumously awarded the Military Cross. William has no known grave but is listed on the Archangel Memorial in Russia.

by Judy Stockham



Benjamin Bassett Pharmacy Picture from Kenora Great War Project

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Section 7 - New family lines combined or added since the last newsletter

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

521B. Bassett of Saltmills, Wexford, Ireland has been combined into the #510B Thomas Bassett of Wexford, Ireland family.

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Section 8 - 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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