Bassett Family Newsletter, Volume XXI, Issue 4, 16 Apr 2023

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The newsletter link page is below. Once you get to this page, choose the current month to see the current newsletter.

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

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

Section 1 - Welcome

I apologize to the family from Australia waiting for my Y-DNA recap on their line. That will be included next month.

Totals number of individuals loaded into the Bassett website: 207,478



Unidentified Bassett Bros. Token

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Section 2 - Featured Bassett: Death of Linda Bassett of Rutgers University

I have been unable to identify the family of Linda Bassett. She was born 27 Apr 1953. She graduated from Boca Ciega High School in Florida.

TAPinto.net, New Jersey, Thursday, 2 March 2023 Remembering Linda Bassett, Who Connected Rutgers and Communities

Linda Bassett, Rutgers' longtime senior director of Community Affairs who launched Rutgers Day and several signature events for the Rutgers 250th celebration among a host of successful university outreach programs, died on Saturday after a long battle with cancer.

Bassett, known for her creativity, tenacity, advocacy and joyful embrace of challenges in work and life, was a graduate of Florida State University and a Harvard Loeb Fellow. She joined Rutgers University Communications and Marketing in 1989, where she worked to meet the community engagement goals of three Rutgers presidents until her retirement in 2017, which she timed to coincide with the culmination of the university's yearlong 250th anniversary celebration.

"Linda was a visionary who helped imagine these events, and because she was a hard worker and team player, she made them happen," said Richard L. McCormick, president emeritus of Rutgers. "Everyone who knew her appreciated her because she had a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for Rutgers and connecting it to the community. She believed in what she was doing and exuded that belief."

It was Bassett's charge to create a logistically complex program to take McCormick and a busload of newly appointed faculty for weeklong treks around the Garden State after commencement. The Rutgers Faculty Traveling Seminar tours, which ran annually from 2003 to 2008, built camaraderie between faculty members - many of whom were new to the state - while introducing them to the communities where their students were raised.

"We'd start each week in Trenton with our legislators. Then we'd see the high tech and the low tech, farms and factories, main streets, mountains and the beach," said McCormick of the tours, which earned the Rutgers President's Bridge Award in 2006 as well as a national Gold Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). "It was a wonderful way of connecting faculty with each other, with the state and the state with Rutgers."

Melissa Selesky, the current senior director of Strategic Events and Programs who launched Rutgers Day with Bassett in 2009, said she will always remember her longtime colleague for her creativity, tenacity and commitment to Rutgers.

"When I first started working for Linda, we'd go out and scout locations for the faculty tour. We were driving by the big cogeneration plant by the airport, and she said, 'Get us in there. Everyone knows that place but doesn't know what it is,'" said Selesky. "That was Linda: If she had an idea, she didn't let it go."**BULLSEYE

Those who knew Bassett agree that saying "no" to her was next to impossible.

"It was hard to say no to someone so full of good ideas and so focused on contributions she thought we could make," said Barry Qualls, emeritus University Professor of English.

In the early 1990s, Bassett tapped Qualls to help her develop the Rutgers Academic Challenge to meet President Francis L. Lawrence's goal of engaging more deeply with New Jersey's high schools. The challenge, which also earned a CASE Gold Award, brought students from across the state to Rutgers for an annual college bowl contest.**STANDARD

"Her career here is proof of what one person can accomplish," Qualls said. "She had ideas; she knew how to motivate her beloved staff to help develop these ideas; and she found ways to sustain so much, even amidst budget cuts."

One of those ideas, Rutgers Day, remains Bassett's legacy at the university. An ultimate celebration of everything Rutgers, the event marks its 14th anniversary on April 29. The annual opening of Rutgers' doors to the state each spring is credited with introducing the university's faculty, staff, students, farm animals, folk music and myriad academic programs to hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans.

Toward the end of her career, when Rutgers was on the cusp of a major milestone, Bassett was undergoing cancer treatment, recalled Kim Manning, vice president of University Communications and Marketing. But before retiring, she saw through the signature events she developed for the yearlong Rutgers 250th anniversary celebration commissioned by President Robert Barchi.**BULLSEYE

Those festivities included a massive outdoor kickoff party and the creation of the now-iconic "RevolUtionary" sculpture that - after multiple stops around Rutgers and the state - stands in front of the Rutgers Visitors Center in Piscataway.

"Linda and I worked together for more than 25 years and shared a commitment to strive to make everything the department did on behalf of Rutgers the best it could possibly be," Manning said. "She was bold, incredibly smart, innovative and fun. She was just a great person, and it was my honor and pleasure to work with her."

After her retirement, Bassett helped inspire the creation of the first-ever Patient and Family Advisory Council at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ), where she served as an advisor from April 2022 until her death, said Diane Haley, director of patient experience at CINJ.

"She was hugely invested in seeing CINJ be the best of the best in terms of patient experience, and I saw her as a partner in that endeavor in every sense of the word," Haley said.

A memorial service for Bassett will be held later this spring. Those who would like to donate in her name are encouraged to support the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey or the Rutgers Future Scholars.

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Section 3 - Featured Bassett: Will of Ann (Evans) Bassett of Neath, Glamorgan, Wales (1791)

Ann Evans was the wife of William Bassett of Neath. I have not yet placed him.

In the Name of God Amen

I Ann Bassett Wife of William Bassett of Neath in the County of Glamorgan Gentleman do make and publish this writing as and for my last Will and Testament in manner following that is to say whereas by an Indenture made previous to and in consideration of my Marriage with my said Husband bearing date the seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six and made between the said William Bassett of the first part the said Ann Bassett then Ann Evans Spinster of the second part and Herbert Mackworth and James Gwyn Esquires of the third part I have Covenanted and agreed to convey settle and assure all and singular my freehold messuages tenements Ffarms Lands and Hereditaments in the several counties of Glamorgan and Brecon or either of them in possession Revertion Remainder or Expectancy to the uses upon the Trusts and for the Intents and purposes therein after expressed or declared (that is to say) as to for and concerning the Land Tenements and Hereditaments in the said County of Brecon to the use of my said Husband and his Assigns for and during the joint Lives of himself and me the said Ann Bassett without Impeachment of Waste subject to a proviso in such Conveyance to be contained for authorizing and Impowering me at any time or times during and notwithstanding my said Coverture by deed or deeds to be by me sealed and delivered with or without my said husband in the presence of two or more credible witnesses or by my last Will in writing or any writing purporting to be my last Will to be by me signed and published in the presence of three or more credible witnesses to Grant Bargain Sell Convey Assign Devise Limit direct or appoint the same premises or any part thereof to such person or persons and for such Estate or Estates and to and for and upon such Uses Trusts Intents and purposes as I should think proper And as for and concerning the said Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in the said County of Glamorgan to the use of my said Husband and his Assigns for his Life without Impeachment of Wast and from and after his decease to the use of me the said Ann Bassett and my assigns for my life without impeachment of wast with remainder after the determination of those estates to the use of Trustees and their Heirs during the Lives of my said Husband and me the said Ann Bassett and the Life of the longer Lives of us for supporting the Contingent Remainders therein after mentioned or expressed and from and after our respective Deceases to the use of the first and every other Son and Sons of him the said William Bassett on the Body of me the said Ann to be begotten severally successively and in remainder one after another and of the several and respective Heirs Male of the Body and Bodies of such Son and Sons lawfully issuing and for default of such Issue unto such person or persons to and for such Estate or Estates and to for and upon such uses Trusts Intents and Purposes as I the said Ann at any time or times whether married or sole should by any such good writing or will as aforesaid limit direct or appoint and by the said Indenture I the said Ann Bassett have also covenanted and agreed that I would when and so soon as it should be in my power purchase the ffreehold ffee simple and Inheritance of the remaining eight part of and in the premises therein mentioned called or known by the several names of Llelwydd Evan Yoha, Tyla Corh, Tynn Ywayn,, Maes Y Llan and Llwynthymorh in the said County of Glamorgan (whereof the other undivided seven parts or shares belonged unto me and were my right and Inheritance) and thereupon forthwith effectually convey and Assure the same Eighth part to for and upon the same uses Trusts Intents and Purposes as were therein before expressed and declared of or concerning the said seven other eighth parts or such of them as should then be capable of taking effect And it is by the said

Indenture declared and agreed that in the said intended Conveyances and Assurances there should be reserved or contained a power to my said husband and? and the said Ann Bassett to grant such Leases of the said Hereditaments and premises as therein is mentioned and also to open and work for their his or her benefit or profit all and every or any of the Collieries or Coal Mines and all other Mines of what nature or kind so ever within or upon any of the said premises and to sell or cut down for their his or her use or for Sale or Repairs and Timber or Cordwood standing growing or being in or upon the same as by the said Indenture relation being thereunto had may more fully and at large appear Made? in pursuance and by virtue of the power and authority by or to me reserved or given or meant or intended to be reserved or given and by the said in part recited Indenture and in Exercise thereof and in pursuance and by virtue of all and every other Power and Powers and Authorities whatsoever by or to and reserved or given or covenanted and agreed to be reserve or given or in any wise enableing me thereunto I the said Ann Bassett do by this writing purporting to be my last Will and by me signed and published in the presence of three credible Witnesses whose Names appear to be hereunto subscribed device limit direct and appoint all and singular the said Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in the said County of Brecon with the Appurtenances from and after my decease unto and to the use of the said William Bassett my said Husband for and during the term of his Life without Impeachment of or for any manner of Wast and with the like power to my said Husband of granting Leases of all or any part of the said Estates as is agreed might be granted thereof by me and my said Husband during our joint Lives and from and after the decease of my said Husband then to the only use and behoof of any own right Heirs for ever And in further pursuance and Execution of the said powers I do hereby devise limit direct and appoint all and singular the said Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in the said County of Glamorgan from and after the respective deceases of me and my said Husband And in case of failure of Issue Male of our two Bodies begotten to the use of all and every the Daughter and Daughters of me the said Ann by my said Husband begotten or to be begotten to be equally divided between and amongst them if more than one share and share alike as Tenants in Common and to the Heirs of the Body of all and every such daughter and daughters lawfully issuing and in case any such daughters shall happen to die without heirs of her or their body or bodies issuing then as to the share or shares of her or them so dying to the use of the survivors or survivor and others or other of such daughters and the Heirs of her or their Body or Bodies issuing And in case all such daughters but one shall happen to dye without Heirs of her or their Body or Bodies issuing or there should be but one such daughter then to the use of such one or only daughter and the Heirs of her Body issuing And for default of such issue then to the use of all or any such one or more of this Child or Children of any said Husband by any after taken wife or wives to be begotten in such parts shares and proportions and for such Estate and Estates and with under and subject to such power conditions restrictions and limitations as my said Husband by any deed or deeds in writing or by his last Will and Testament in Writing such deed or deeds or Will to be by him duly Executed in the presence of an attested by three or more credible witnesses shall give devices convey direct limit or appoint and for want or in default of any default of any such gift devise conveyance direction limitation or appointment I or in case of any such and the same shall not be a compleat and entire disposition and appointment of the whole of the said Hereditaments and premises in the said County of Glamorgan of the Estate and Interest therein taken? as to the same Hereditaments and premises or so much thereof and of

the Estate and Interest therein as shall not be so completely and entirely disposed of to the use of the first Son of the Body of my said Husband by any such after taken Wife or Wives to be begotten and the Heirs of the Body of such first son lawfully issuing and for default of such Issue to the use of the second and all and every other the Son and Sons of my said Husband by any such after taken Wife or Wives to be begotten severally successively and in remainder one after the other as such Sons and every of them shall be in priority of Birth and Seniority of age and of the respective Heirs? of the Body and Bodies of such Son and Sons lawfully issueing the elder of such Sons and the Heirs of his Body issuing to be always preferred and to take place before the younger of the same sons and the heirs of his or their Body and Bodies issuing and for default of such issue then to the use of the Heirs of the Body of my said Husband lawful issuing and for default of such issue then to the use of my own right heirs for ever And I the said Ann Basset do hereby so far as I may or can ratify and confirm the power in and by the aforesaid Indenture Covenant and Agreed to be given to my said Husband to open and work for his benefit or profit all and every of any of the Collieries or Coal Mines and all other Mines of what nature or kind so ever within or upon any of the Hereditaments and Premises within said County of Glamorgan and also to fell and cut down for his use or for sale or Repairs any Timber or Cordwood standing growing or being in or upon the same In Witness whereof I the aid Ann Bassett have to this my last Will and Testament containing three fair written sheets of paper to wit to the two first sheets of this my Will set my Hand and to the last sheet thereof my hand and Seal the thirtieth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven Ann Bassett This paper writing was signed and sealed by the above named Ann Bassett and was by her published and declared as and for her last will and Testament in the presence of us the underwritten and in Testimony thereof we do hereby at her request and in her presence and also in the presence of each other subscribed our Names as witnesses thereto Ann Jones Mattw Gwyn John Gwyn

On the seventh day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one administration with the Will annexed of all and singular the Lands Chattels and Credits of Ann Bassett formerly Evans late of Neath in the County of Glamorgan deceased was granted to William Bassett Esquire the lawful Husband of the said deceased there not being any Executor or Residuary Legatee named in the said Will having been first sworn duly to administer

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Section 4 - Featured Bassett: Death of Commander Frank "Bing" E. Bassett

Frank Eugene Bassett descends from #1B John Bassett of Connecticut as follows:

John Bassett and wife Margery Robert Bassett and wife Mary Robert Bassett (b. 1640) and wife Elizabeth Riggs Robert Bassett (b. 1699) and wife Eunice Clark Daniel Bassett (b. 1743) and wife Elizabeth Bassett Samuel Bassett (b. 1777) and wife Mary Caywood John Bassett (b. 1816) and wife Ervilla Coomer Eugene Bassett (b. 1840) and wife Elizabeth Hamlin Frank Peck Bassett (b. 1871) and wife Marion Foster Hughes Melvin Hughes Bassett (b. 1899) and wife Eleanor Sage Frank Eugene Bassett (b. 1936

> H.D. Oliver Funeral Apartments - Laskin Road Chapel - 29 March 2023 Commander Frank "Bing" E. Bassett

Commander Frank E. Bassett went to be with his Lord and Savior on the 21st of March 2023 after a valiant battle with an inoperable spinal tumor. "Bing" was born in San Diego, CA, on September 3, 1936, to the late RADM and Mrs. Melvin H. Bassett (USN ret. Class of 1920, USNA). He attended Rogers High School, Newport, Rhode Island, and graduated from USNA with Eighteenth Company, class of 1958. After graduation he posted to Surface Warfare School and initially served on Destroyer staff in San Diego. Initial orders were on the USS Orleck (DD-886), homeported in Yokosuka, Japan for 2 years. Bing was accepted to submarine school in Groton, CT in 1962 and upon graduation was stationed aboard the USS Sailfish (SSR-572) out of New London, CT. During this time, he met the former Bunny Buell of Waterford, CT, whom he married in 1964. Bing's submarine career intersected with the US Navy's need for non-nuclear trained weapons officers and navigators in 1965. He attended guided missile school in Dam Neck, VA in 1965 and then to the USS Henry Clay (SSBN-625). After a three-year tour, he returned to surface warfare and served on the USS Newport News (CA-148) before posting to the Naval Academy in 1971, where he was an instructor in Seamanship & Navigation, eventually becoming Chair of that department. In 1975 he was ordered to JUSMMAT (Joint US Military Mission for Aid to Turkey), Ankara, Turkey, during the Cyprus embargo, making this posting a challenging job. However, the family benefited from the multiple travel opportunities in Turkey and Europe where they viewed the assignment as a "gift." Returning to CONUS in 1978, Bing took an assignment with CNET in Pensacola, FL, honing his gift for team-management and book editing. He retired from the US Navy in 1984 and after a brief respite as house husband took employment with Tracor Marine and then Booz Allen Hamilton where he created his own team to train and undergird the Saudi Navy in their purchase of 12 patrol craft. During this time, he co-wrote and edited two professional books - "Farwell's Rules of the Nautical Road" and "Knight's Modern Seamanship." He took early retirement from Booz Allen Hamilton in 1999, bought a motorhome and toured North America with his wife Bunny for the next six years. Their favorite volunteer position was with the greater Yellowstone and Jackson Hole Visitors Center in Wyoming. The RV life allowed them to truly enjoy grandparenting as well as getting to know their children as adults. Bing raised three Labrador retrievers, two shelties, numerous cats and often claimed that "Jesus owned a lab." The happiest years in retirement were between 2005-2018 when they settled in Georgetown, Texas, in a Sun City Community. They joined Celebration Church where Bing served as a small group leader, lay pastoral counselor, and elder. Over the years, Bing served in many capacities in the Episcopal Church - his favorite being diocesan big brother to the teen renewal movement called "Happening." Above all else, Bing loved his Lord and his family. He leaves his favorite blind date, Bunny; three children: CDR Rob Bassett (USNR ret. Class of 1989, USNA) and wife Adrienne; Holly Robinson and husband, Chris; and CDR David Bassett (USN ret. Class of 1995, USNA) and wife Sandy as well as six grandchildren. He was predeceased by his sister, Patricia Pels, and his brother CDR Melvin Sage Bassett (USN ret. Class of 1953, USNA). "Well done, good and faithful servant."

The family would like to thank the Great Class of '58 tailgaters and their warm welcome of Bing's sons, Rob and Dave, as they attended the football games as midshipmen. A Celebration of Life will be held at Old Donation Episcopal Church on the 1st of April, 2023 at 1:00 PM. Bing's inurnment will be at the United States Naval Academy Columbarium on the 14th of July 2023 at 11:30 AM.

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Section 5 - Featured Bassett: Family Photographs of Benjamin, Fanny and Ada Bassett of England

Ada Margaret Bassett descends from #1249B Henry Bassett of Sussex, England as follows:

Henry Bassett (b. 1792) and wife Ann Smith Benjamin Bassett (b. 1807) and wife Elizabeth Rivail Benjamin Bassett (b. 1838) and wife Fanny Mary Howell (Brother to William below) William Bassett (b. 1839) and wife Esther Ellen Chatfield (Brother to Benjamin above) Ada Margaret Bassett (b. 1885) who married Austin Hopkins



Benjamin and Fanny Bassett

Pictures provided by Ann Eldridge



Ada Margaret Bassett

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Section 6 - Featured Bassett: George Bassett of Australia linked to Arthur Bassett of Ireland

Karen Brown of Australia has sent along the Death Registry for George Bassett of Australia (#373B1). It shows his father to be the Arthur Bassett (#34B22C) seen below.

34B22C. Arthur Bassett - born 1813, married Maria Rea on 6 Sep 1836 in Inch, County Down, Ireland. They had George Bassett and Eliza Bassett. Maria married Charles Bassett after the death of Arthur.

373B1. George Bassett of Australia

George Bassett, son of Arthur and Maria Bassett, was born about 1839. He died Jul 1921, aged 82 years. He married Henrietta Margrie, daughter of George and Caroline (Rawls) Margrie, in 1869 in Victoria, Australia. Henrietta was born 16 Oct 1842 in Holborn, Middlesex, England. She died 1892 in Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia.

Two documents linking #373B. Bassett with #34B Bassett families.

DEATH TRANSCRIPTION from NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Transcription requested by	KATE BROWN	07-Sep-21
Registration Number	13927	
Date of Death	24 JUL 1921	
Place of Death	FIGTREE, CENTRAL ILLAWARRA MUNICIPALITY	
Name	GEORGE BASSETT	
Occupation	LABOURER, OLD AGE PENSIONER	
Sex	MALE	
Age	82	
Cause of Death	SENILE HEART	
Duration		
Medical Attendant	HARRY H. LEE, 21 JUL 1921	
Father	ARTHUR BASSETT	
Father's Occupation	FARMER	
Mother - Maiden Name	MARIA RAE	
Informant	R.A. GIBSON, SON IN LAW, FIGTREE; REGISTERED 25 , WOLLONGONG	JUL 1921,
When Buried	26 JUL 1921	
Where	CHURCH OF ENGLAND CEMETERY, WOLLONGONG	
Undertaker	HENRY PARSONS	
Minister	CHAS. A. STUBBIN	
Religion	CHURCH OF ENGLAND	
Witnesses	JOHN PORTER, M.W. ROBSON	
Where born	NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Time in Colony/State	13 YEARS VICTORIA, 50 YEARS N.S. WALES	
Place Married	BEECHWORTH, VICTORIA	
Age at Marriage	31	
Spouse	HENRIETTA MARGRIE [sic] GRAVENMAKER	
Children of Marriage	AMY 50, ARTHUR 49, LOTTIE 46, EVELYN 43, FREDERICK 41, WILLIAM 38, LIVING, ONE MALE THREE FEMALES DECEASED	
Other Comments		

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Section 7 - Featured Bassett: Bassettaire and Hollyfield Manor, a Virginia Plantation

The following article is provided courtesy of Wesley E. Pippenger, Tappahannock, Virginia.

Hollyfield Manor 289 Hollyfield Lane, Manquin King William County, Virginia Brochure:

The stately Greek Revival manor that dominates the landscape of farmland is not the original home on this site. The original was a frame house built circa 1750. In the late 1700s the Honorable Burwell Bassett, the brother-in-law and close friend of George Washington, owned the property and named it Bassettaire. A fire destroyed the frame home and in the early 1800s a brick Georgian home was built. The present-day manor house was the vision of John L. Clark and his wife Elvira in 1935. He bought, remodeled and added to the old brick Georgian home that had stood vacant for many years doubling its size to accommodate his many guests. Today the house Clark renamed *Hollyfield* and its grounds of lush greenery, small settings for relaxation, and large patio overlooking a 28-acre lake is the site of romantic weddings, family reunions, and other events. Susie and Frankie Barham, owners.

Historic Virginia (c.1948), pp. 85-86

"Hollyfield" Historic Estate in King William County

Hollyfield was built by the Bassett family early in the eighteenth century and was known until recently as *Bassettaire*. It is located near Manquin in King William County along the Pamunkey River between Manquin and the Pamunkey River, about 18 miles east of Richmond on Route 360. The manor house of this old Virginia plantation is Georgian colonial of the white brick construction with massive *Mount Vernon* ionic columns extending to the base of the roof, and the plantation on which the house stands reputedly was visited on several occasions by George Washington in his travels through Virginia. The large brick veranda is very impressive as it has the appearance of a massive stage overlooking its spacious lawns. There is a full-size swimming pool with separate pool at the shallow end for children. The 25-acre lake well stocked with black bass and blue gills is one of the nicest fishing lakes in the state, including a rathskeller with broad fireplaces and rustic furnishings. The elaborate horse stables and cattle barns on the *Hollyfield* plantation are most desirable for a home of the highest type in Virginia.

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Clarification Regarding Two Burwell Bassetts and Visits by President
Washington
Wes Pippenger
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There are two people named Burwell Bassett, father and son. The elder, Colonel Burwell Bassett (1734-1793), who lived at **Eltham** in New Kent County, was a great friend and brother-in-law of George Washington. Records of Washington's comings and goings from 1768 to 1775 places all of his visits to Burwell Bassett (the elder, of course) at his home **Eltham**.

Burwell Bassett, the son (born 1764 at *Eltham*), was of **Bassett Hall** in Williamsburg, once a home of John D. Rockefeller. The *Bassett Hall* home was originally built in 1735 and owned by Colonel Philip Johnson. The younger Bassett attended William and Mary College, and while living at *Bassett Hall* served in the House of Representatives after having served in both houses of the state legislature. He

died in New Kent County in 1841 leaving no heirs to *Bassett Hall*. Soon thereafter the estate was owned by Abel P. Upshur, one-time member of President Tyler's cabinet. Thus Burwell Bassett's residence at *Bassett Hall* during his political career was many years after George Washington had died in 1799.

So, that there were two men named Burwell Bassett is often ignored by authors of traditional stories of "the nephew of Martha Washington entertaining George Washington" where and when Burwell Bassett did not live. Experts can prove that it was impossible for either Bassett, Senior or Junior to have been the host to Colonel Washington at *Bassett Hall* in Williamsburg, and it is not mentioned in Washington's detailed diaries. It is well established that the elder Burwell Bassett was host to George Washington numerous times at *Eltham*.

In addition to the above two homes of the Bassett Family, **Eltham** in New Kent County, and **Bassett Hall** in Williamsburg, we have **Bassettaire** in King William County that is now known as **Hollyfield**.

At some point *Bassettaire* was split into two parts, yet both owners maintained the same name. Therefore, a chain of title for the current *Hollyfield* property may become confusing.

> Bassett Family Properties CHRONOLOGY

- Date Event
- 1654 New Kent County is formed from York County.
- 1664, JUL 3 Land grant to John Underhill and Wm. Bassett, 463 acres in New Kent County, southwest side of Weyanoke swamp, for transportation of 10 persons. [Patent Bk. 5, p. 240(161)].
- 1669, NOV 10 Land grant to Capt. Willm. Bassett, 1,800 acres in New Kent County. Formerly granted to Jno. Broch/Broach, decd. and by inquisition by escheater. [Patent Bk. 6, p. 248]. It is on this land that the *Eltham* plantation stands.
- 1670 Col. William Bassett (1670-1723), the Second, married Joanna, daughter of Lewis Burwell, the Second, of Carter's Creek, Gloucester County. Bassett was selected to the General Assembly from New Kent County in 1692 as soon as he was of age. He was appointed to the Council in 1707 but resigned, and reappointed in 1711. [Harris, Old New Kent County..., Vol. 1, p. 43]
- 1671/2 William Bassett, the First, died testate, will proved 4 JAN 1671/2 in New Kent County court. He devised to his wife Bridgett for her life the land on which he "now lives" bought of Charles Edmonds, and it seems this tract was the *Eltham* plantation proper. To son William, the Second, the 1,800 acres patent bought of Col. Robert Abrahall and John Broch [sic] and 1,200 acres marsh land adjoining to it. [Virginia Historical Society, Mss2 B2948b3]. Son William inherited almost 5,000 acres on the south side of the York River and his father's large brick house just below the present site of the town of West Point. [*Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Vol. 1, p. 387].
- 1684-1711 William Bassett, the Second, is a vestryman in St. Peter's Parish of New Kent County. [N.S. Colonial Dames, *Vestry Book of St. Peter's Parish* (1905), pp. 5, 10-18, 77, 107].

- 1688, APR 23 Land grant to Mr. William Bassett, 2,048 acres in New Kent County, in St. Peter's Parish, on south side of Pamunky River, adj. Col. Bacon. Granted to Capt. Wm. Bassett, his father, 29 APR 1687 for transportation. [Patent Bk. 7, p. 643]
- 1693, NOV 28 William Bassett, the Second, was married to cousin Joanna Burwell. [Bible; Harris, *Old New Kent County...*, Vol. I, p. 49]. He is the founder of *Eltham*.
- 1695, APR 21 Land patent to Capt. William Bassett, 1,086 acres in Blissland Parish, New Kent County.
 [Patent Bk. 8, p. 419]. Located on Pamunkey River from the new dwelling house of sd.
 Bassett, to mouth of sd. river and to his house called the Brick House where the County Court was formerly held. This patent ties to the Eltham house.
- 1701 King William County is formed from King and Queen County.
- 1703, OCT 23 Land patent to Thomas Bray, for 1,750 acres in King William County that lay on both sides of Goodwin's Swamp, for transportation of 35 persons. [Patent Bk. 9, p. 582]. Historian Malcolm Hart Harris ties the boundaries of this patent to those matching *Bassettaire*. At some point this land was added to the large holdings of William Bassett, the Third.
- 1704 Rent Rolls show Thomas Bray with 1,400 acres in King William County, and William Bassett with 4,100 acres in New Kent County.
- 1707 JUN 20 The feoffees of the town of Dillaware in King William County sell to the Hon. Wm. Bassett New Kent County, a ½ acre (town lot 3) provided Bassett build within 1 year a house of at least 20 feet square [King Wm. Records, 1702-1720, item 408].
- 1709, JUL 8 William Bassett, the Third, was born, and baptized the 10th of August following. [Bible¹; Harris, *Old New Kent County...*, Vol. I, p. 49].
- 1723, OCT 11 Col. William Bassett, the Second, dies, probably at his home *Eltham*. He was buried at *Eltham*, but in 1879 reinterred in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.
- 1734, MAR 3 Burwell Bassett, son and heir of William Bassett, the Third, was born at *Eltham*, Blissland Parish, New Kent County, and died there 4 JAN 1793. He inherited *Eltham* from his father and succeeded him in offices and honors held by his father in the county.
- 1737, MAY 3 Thomas Bray deeded to the College of William and Mary, 1,540 acres that was part of his 1703 patent, lying on both sides of Moncuen Swamp, in the place called Munkewin, in order that the lines might be corrected. [Malcolm Hart Harris, *Old New Kent County ...* (1977), Vol. II, p. 856, citing a deed in the manuscript collection of the College of William and Mary.
- 1743 William Bassett, the Third (1709-1744) is a Burgess.
- 1744 William Bassett, the Third, dies while serving in the House of Burgesses, leaving young Burwell Bassett as his principal heir. It is likely he died testate but no will copy has been

¹ The Bassett Family Bible record copy online at the Virginia Historical Society (Mss6:4 B2946:1) and is greatly more legible than the copy online at the Library of Virginia. Other family Bible portions are presented in Malcolm Hart Harris, *Old New Kent County...*, Vol. I, p. 49, and the Bible of George W. Bassett is published in the *Hanover Historical Society Bulletin*, No. 8 (May 1973).

found. At his death widow Elizabeth married her second husband, the Rev. Mr. William Dawson, president of the College of William and Mary.

- 1755, JUN 26 Burwell Bassett [Sr.] (d. 1793) married (1) Ann Kidley Chamberlayne. [Bible, VHS]
- 1757, MAY 7 Burwell Bassett [Sr.] (d. 1793) married (2) Anna Maria Dandridge, b. 30 MAR 1739, d. 17 DEC 1777. [Bible, VHS]
- 1757 Burwell Bassett [Sr.] is a churchwarden and vestryman of Blisland Parish, New Kent County, as is his son in 1786. [C.G. Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of St. Peter's Parish*, p. 680; C.G. Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of Blissland Parish*, pp. 137, 231-232].
- 1762-1775 Burwell Bassett (1734-1793) served in the House of Burgesses from New Kent County, 1762-1775, in the commission of justices, and served in the Revolutionary Convention of 1775-1776. After the war he was elected to the state senate from 1780-1788 and 1788-1793. He was a son of Col. William Bassett III of Eltham (1709-c.1744) and Elizabeth Churchill. Burwell Bassett married (1) 26 JUN 1755 to Anne Kidley Chamberlayne, and (2) 7 MAY 1757 to Anna Maria Dandridge, sister to Martha Dandridge who married Daniel Parke Custis and then George Washington. One child by Burwell's first marriage died as an infant.
- 1764, MAR 18 Burwell Bassett Jr., son of Burwell Bassett and Anna Maria Dandridge, was born at *Eltham*, and died testate there 26 FEB 1841. During his father's lifetime he served in the General Assembly and later in the state senate from 1798-1803. He was elected to Congress in 1805 and served until 1813, and again from 1821-1831.
- 1765, AUG 30 John Bassett, son of Burwell Bassett and Anna Maria Dandridge, was born at *Eltham*, and died intestate in 1826 at *Farmington*. He marries Betty Carter Browne, and they are parents to George Washington Bassett, born 23 AUG 1800 at *Farmington*. John graduated William and Mary, was a lawyer, and resided at *Farmington* until his death in 1826.
- 1768, MAY 7 George Washington "came up to Colo. Bassett's to Dinner." [John C. Fitzpatrick, *The Diaries of George Washington*, 1748-1799, Vol. I, p. 268].
- 1771, MAY 19 George Washington "went to church and returned to Colo. Bassett's to Dinner." [Fitzpatrick, Vol. II, p. 18].
- 1777, DEC 17 Anna Maria (Dandridge) Bassett, wife of Burwell Bassett (d. 1793) dies.
- 1782 While Burwell Bassett is taxed for 1,600 acres in King William County, that year his taxable lands in New Kent County are 5,980 acres (1,000a St. Peters, 3,840a *Eltham*, 390a *Rootes*, and 750a [at the] Courthouse). He also owned 900 acres in Hanover County.
- 1788, JAN 10 Burwell Bassett Jr. (1764-1841), of New Kent County, son of Burwell Bassett by his second wife Anna Maria Dandridge, married at *Eltham* to Elizabeth McCarty, daughter of Daniel McCarty of Pope's Creek, Westmoreland County. Bond dated 10 JAN 1788 in Westmoreland County. They had no children. Thus the younger Burwell Bassett was a nephew of Martha (Dandridge) Custis Washington.² Burwell Jr. married (2) to

² William M. McCarty and Kathleen Much, *The McCartys of the Northern Neck* (Baltimore, Md.: Gateway Press, Inc., 2005), p. 165, note Eltham was built in 1730 and was the plantation home of Col. Burwell Bassett. The house lay slightly off George Washington's

Philadelphia Ann Claiborne, daughter of William Dandridge Claiborne of *Liberty Hall* in King William County.

- 1785, FEB 16 Burl Bassett is one of several witnesses to a deed by Carter Braxton, of King William County, to [blank] Claiborne, of *Windsor*. [King Wm. Co. Records, 1722-1786]
- 1793, JAN 4 Burwell Bassett died testate at *Eltham*, New Kent County, in consequence of a fall from his horse. His son John Bassett was devised *Farmington* and *Clover Lea* plantations in Hanover County, and the land across the river in King William County known as *Bassettaire*. [Library of Congress, Letter, Henry Lee to George Washington, 6 JAN 1793³].
- 1800, AUG 23 George Washington Bassett is born at Farmington [tombstone] to parents John Bassett and Betty Carter Browne. He later owns *Eltham, Farmington, Clover Lea*⁴ and *Bassettaire*.
- 1811 SEP 24 Burwell Bassett [Jr.] is an Executor of the estate of William Dandridge Claiborne and offers for sale at public auction the valuable plantation on the Pamunkey River called CAHOKE.
 [VG, 11 SEP 1824; John Frederick Dorman, Claiborne of Virginia... (Baltimore, Md.: Gateway Press, Inc., 1995), p. 55]
- 1816 John Bassett has a Mutual Assurance Policy on a King William County property at the Pamunkey River [Reel 5, Vol. 44, policy 2043], being a renewal of policy 652, for \$2550 property value including a dwelling, kitchen and barn. This is for the 583-acre property called *Tarvincque* that Bassett purchased from William Fleming in 1817. [KW DB 7, part 1, p. 197].
- 1820The second Burwell Bassett [Jr.] is taxed for lands in New Kent County: 3,840 acres Eltham,
396 acres Roots, and 645½ acres Courthouse, AND 100 acres in Williamsburg [Bassett
Hall].
- John Bassett dies intestate at *Farmington* in Hanover County, as evidenced in the King William land tax record for in 1826, showing "John Bassett Est." taxed for 1,600 acres. Also, land tax records for Hanover County change from John Bassett, for 1,300 acres in 1825 and 1826 to George W. Bassett, 1,300 acres in 1827.⁵
- 1826, AUG 1 Capt. George W. Bassett of Hanover County married Betty Burnett Lewis, daughter of Robert, at the Mary Ball Washington House in Fredericksburg. Bond dated 1 AUG 1826 in Fredericksburg. [Enquirer, 8 AUG 1826, p. 3, Bible VHS; Richmond Whig, 25 DEC 1886, p. 6]
- 1832, OCT 4 Deed of Release, property containing [six]teen hundred 50 acres called *Bassettaire*, George W. Bassett having fully paid the whole amount. [KM DB15, part 1, p. 104].

route to and from Williamsburg, but he usually found time to visit there. The families were even more entwined by the marriage of GW's nephew George Augustine Washington to Col. Bassett's daughter Frances (usually referred to as Fanny). Eltham burned in 1876 and the bricks from one of the dependencies were used in the Williamsburg restoration.

³ Henry Lee writes, "Your amiable nephew at Eltham continues to linger without the smallest chance of recovery, and Mrs. Washington enjoys a tolerable state of health in the midst of calamity—this information I have from Doctor Mcclurg who attended Colo. Basset during his illness." From 1779-1783 McClurg was a professor of anatomy and medicine at the College of William and Mary, afterwards moving to Richmond.

⁴ The Bassett Family Bible, copy at Virginia Historical Society (Mxx6:4 B2946:1), has a note atop one of the family record pages that "Clover Lea house finished 1844 we moved in Sep. 27th."

⁵ This is in St. Paul's Parish, and the 1,300 acres are described as located 17m SE of the courthouse.

- 1841, FEB 26 Col. Burwell Bassett died in New Kent County in the 77th year of his age. He was formerly a member of the Virginia Legislature and a member of Congress. [National Intelligencer, 9 MAR 1841]. When he died he left to his brother John Bassett (1765-1826) his large estate and *Eltham*.
- 1851, JAN 1 Deed [of mortgage or trust] by George W. Bassett to James M. Jeffries, for tract on Pamunkey River known by the name of **Bassetterre**, adj. B.B. Blake, Walker Tomlin est. and Goodwins, containing [?]teen hundred and 60 acres. [KW DB14, p. 181]
- 1857, NOV 24 Deed [of mortgage or trust] by George W. Bassett to James M. Matthews, for Bassettaire, containing 1550 acres and slaves. [KW DB16, part 2, p. 564].
- 1861, JUL 21 George W. Bassett, of Hanover County, to Richmond T. Lacy, deed of trust to secure Bassett's debt to Henry Webb. [KW DB15, part 2, p. 486].
- 1868 George W. Bassett, son of John, son of Burwell, sold his inherited 1,600 acres to Robert Polk. [KW DB16, p. 568].
- 1878, AUG 28 George Washington Bassett, dies at *Clover Lea* [tombstone] in his 79th year. He was the last owner of *Eltham* with the Bassett name. [Bible; Harris, Vol. 1, p. 48]
- 1886, DEC 15 Betty Burnet Bassett, relict of Capt. George Washington Bassett, of *Clover Lea*, Hanover County, died at *Mordington*, the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Charles T. Mitchell, near Charlestown, Jefferson County, West Virginia; the daughter of Robert Lewis of Fredericksburg and his wife Judith Carter Browne. [*Richmond Whig*, 25 DEC 1886, p. 6]
- 1927, OCT 11 Richmond Times-Dispatch article (p. 17), sale of Bassettaire, "Morton G. Thalhimer, Inc., Real Estate Auctioneer, 1013 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia." Deed of trust by W.F. Yarlett, Sr., trustee in his own rights, Emma G. Yarlett his wife, and William H. Campbell and Elizabeth J. Campbell his wife, to John P. Leary, trustee [King William Deeds, Bk. 37, p. 327], default having been made in payment of \$750 and of the principal note for \$25,000. For sale that tract in Acquinton Magisterial District, King William County, near Newcastle Bridge, known as **Bassettaire**, containing 840 acres, including the pond adjacent to the lands of John T. Dale (which farm also known as Bassettaire is part of the original Bassettaire farm and called *Eoscene* and owned by Robert W. Tomlin).
- 1931 DEC 11 *Virginia Gazette* article, "No. 11—*Bassett Hall*, The Vice-Presidential Home of President John Tyler" [VG, 11 DEC 1931, p. 5]
- 1932 JUL 1 *Virginia Gazette* article, "Washington Was Not a Guest Of Burwell Bassett—Kibler" [VG, 1 JUL 1932, p. 6]
- 1935, MAR 24 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* article (p. 48), for sale by auction due to default. Ref. Deed Book 43, p. 307, owners Wirtley T. Lipscomb and Olive Lipscomb his wife are possessed and have the right to convey; *Bassettaire*, containing 840 acres more or less, including the pond.
- 1945, NOV 24 Richmond Times-Dispatch article (p. 5), "'Hollyfield,' in King William Is Sold; To Be Livestock Farm". Sold by Col. Albert E. Pierce, of Galena, Md., to Jerome Levinson, of Hampton. Swimming pool constructed by John L. Clark, a New York business man.

- 1947, JUL 18 *Virginia Gazette* article, *"Bassett Hall* History Relates Of Romance And Adventure" [VG, 18 JUL 1947, p. 66]. This relates to a home of the name off Francis Street in Williamsburg.
- 1948, JAN 18 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* article (p. 27), "Historic 'Hollyfield Plantation' is Scene of Unusual 'Manufacturing Plant' for Beef."
- 1952, APR 20 *Daily Press* (Newport News) article (p. 49) states that the home was built by the Bassett Family and given to Burwell Bassett who married George Washington's sister-in-law Anna Maria Dandridge. That the two married is correct; beyond that there is no evidence the home was "given."
- 1953, DEC 4 Virginia Gazette article, Washington Never At 'Bassett Hall'" [VG, 4 DEC 1953, p. 12]
- 1976, APR 18 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* article (p. 110) states owners Mr. & Mrs. John H. Martin, Jr.

CHAIN OF TITLE PIECES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1703, OCT 23	Thomas Bray, land patent for 1,750 acres [PB9:582]
1744	William Bassett, the Third, dies and leaves young Burwell Bassett as his principal heir.
1744-1793	Burwell Bassett [Sr.] owns <i>Eltham</i> in New Kent County, <i>Farmington</i> and <i>Clover Lea</i> in Hanover County, and <i>Bassettaire</i> in King William County. Burwell Bassett is taxed for 1,600 acres in King William County, from 1782 to 1793.
1793-1826	John Bassett (1765-1826), son of Burwell Bassett [Sr.] owns <i>Bassettaire</i> . During the entire period John is taxed for 1,600 acres in King William County. John dies at <i>Farmington</i> in Hanover County. [Land Tax records]
1851	George W. Bassett appears to mortgage <i>Bassetterre</i> [sic], containing [?]teen hundred 60 acres, to James M. Jeffries [KW DB14:181]
1826-1878	George Washington Bassett (1800-1878), of Hanover County, son of John Bassett, owns <i>Bassettaire</i> . From 1826 through 1863, George W. is taxed for 1,600 acres in King William County. I don't have ready access to tax records after 1863.
1927	W.F. Yarlett, Sr. and wife Emma G., and William H. Campbell and wife Elizabeth J., to John P. Leary, in trust; they default. [<i>Richmond Times-Dispatch</i> , 11 OCT 1927, p. 17; DB37:327].
1935	Wirtley T. Lipscomb and wife Olive owners are in default. [<i>Richmond Times-Dispatch</i> , 24 MAR 1935, p. 48; DB43:307]
1935-1945	John L. and Elvira Clark
1945	Albert E. Pierce, of Galena, Md., to Jerome Levinson.
1976-1990s	Mr. and Mrs. John H. Martin, Jr.
2023	Susie and Frankie Barham.

SUMMARY HISTORY FOR DOCENTS

Welcome to *Hollyfield Manor*. While we wait, I offer some background information about the property.

More details are perhaps known about the land and the people rather than the structures that have been here. So let us begin with the land and its owners. While the tract here was owned by the Bassett Family it was known as *Bassettaire*. After the tract sold out of the family, it was renamed after 1935 as *Hollyfield*.

Historian Malcolm Hart Harris traced this land back to a patent with similar boundaries granted in 1702 to Thomas Bray for 1,750 acres in King William County. At some point the land parcel became the property of William Bassett, the Second (1670-1723) who had married his cousin Joanna Burwell of Gloucester County. William was a vestryman and churchwarden of St. Peter's Parish and Blissland Parish in New Kent County, selected to the General Assembly from New Kent in 1692, and appointed to the Council in 1707 and 1711. William had inherited thousands of acres of land from his father William, the First, who died testate in 1671/2 in Blissland Parish of New Kent County. Son William also died in Blissland Parish in 1723 at his home called *Eltham*.

William and Joanna's son William Bassett, the Third (1709-1744) was a member of the House of Burgesses. At his death in 1744, William owned thousands of acres in the tri-county area, and his young son Burwell Bassett (1734-1793) was his principal heir. Burwell Bassett, who was born at *Eltham*, served in the House of Burgesses from New Kent, was in the commission of justices, and served in the Revolutionary Convention of 1775-1776. After the war he was elected to the state senate from 1780 until his death in 1793.

Because of extensive damage and destruction to court records in King William County by fire in 1885, researchers must rely on tax records and alternate sources to piece together what can be learned. Virginia's tax records began in 1782 and were two-fold: land taxes and personal property taxes. Copies were sent to Richmond and it is the Richmond copy that survived for our study from which details may be gleaned.

In 1782, Burwell Bassett, the Elder, was a taxpayer and owner for 5,980 acres in New Kent County where he lived at *Eltham*, plus 1,600 acres here in St. David's Parish of King William County, and another 900 acres across the river in Hanover County. In 1782, he was taxed here for 1 white person over age 21, probably his overseer, 29 slaves, 13 horses, 58 cattle and 2 wheels (like a sulky). Bassett was married to Anna Maria Dandridge, sister to George Washington's wife Martha.

Burwell Bassett, the Elder, died in 1793 in consequence of a fall from his horse, and the ownership of the 1,600 acres passed to his son John Bassett, of *Farmington* in Hanover County. When John died in 1826, ownership passed to his son George Washington Bassett (1800-1878). G.W. Bassett sometimes resided in Spotsylvania County where his wife was from, but mostly in Hanover County. He owned the 1,600 acres here through the Civil War. After his death in 1878 the property left the Bassett Family.

As a side, Burwell Bassett, the Elder, had a son by the same name who for a while lived at *Bassett Hall* in Williamsburg. Confusion of the two men of the same name and where each of them resided has led to misinformation about the common story George Washington visited and dined here. The fact is that Washington frequented the residence of the Elder Bassett at *Eltham* in New Kent County—not at a Bassett home in Williamsburg, and not even here at *Hollyfield*. Remember that Burwell Bassett, the Elder, owned this tract but did not live here.

It is likely that soon after Burwell Bassett, the Elder, came of age he arranged for a frame dwelling to be built on the *Bassettaire* tract, probably for use of his overseer. Tradition is that this earlier structure was

destroyed by fire, and was replaced by a brick structure during the life of John Bassett (1765-1826), of *Farmington*. In 1813, John Bassett's 1,600 acres here were described in the tax record as "good river land." Thus, it appears that John Bassett is credited with constructing the dwelling here at *Hollyfield*.

Not until 1820 do the tax records show us a value for buildings on the land. Even though the term "buildings" could include barns, ice houses, dairies, or smoke houses, etc., the tax amount for buildings was often focused on the dwelling. So in 1820, John Bassett, of Hanover County, owned the 1,600 acres here that are described as being on the Pamunkey river near New Castle, 12 miles west of the courthouse—the land was valued at \$40,000 including buildings worth \$200. Between 1838 and 1840 the value of the buildings increased from \$200 to \$800 indicating that the size of the dwelling was likely expanded. The \$800 value remained through the Civil War, with a reduction in value to \$500 between 1851 and 1856. One could continue review of tax records after 1863 to learn when the size of the land changed and the value of the buildings changed. In 1935, the *Bassettaire* tract contained about 840 acres.

Since the Bassett Family ownership the property has changed hands quite a few times, suffered at least two transfers due to default or bankruptcy, and even stood vacant for a short while. A recent real estate sale described the tract as just over 1,100 acres including a 27-acre pond, and fronts 2.3 miles on the Pamunkey River.

The central portion of the dwelling you see today is brick in English and Flemish bond. Its massive Greek revival columns are similar in style to another Bassett Family home, *Clover Lea*, in Hanover County, that was built and first occupied by the George Washington Bassett family in 1844. The manor house here measures about 7,500 square feet with an additional 2,400 square feet in a 5-room basement. It contains 8 bedrooms, 4½ bathrooms, a main kitchen and a separate breakfast kitchen, a formal dining room, formal parlor, study or library, family room, and more. There are many out buildings, including a block barn, dairy barn, office buildings, a garage/shop, stables, and even a swimming pool. During the ownership of the Clarks the land use was changed from primarily agricultural to pasture for cattle.

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Section 8 - New family lines combined or added since the last newsletter

No families added or combined since the last newsletter.

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Section 9 - DNA project update.

One new results to be reported on next 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:

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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