

## Splinters From the Tree – April 2014

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### Section 1 - Welcome

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

- 497B. John B. Bassett of Salem, Massachusetts (23 individuals)
- 498B. Jacob Bassett of Washington, D.C. (18 individuals)

I will be doing another Bassett family DNA presentation on Tuesday, June 10th, 2014 at 7 pm at the McHenry, Illinois Library.

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### Section 2 - Featured Bassett: Samuel Bitar Bassett

I have not found much on Samuel other than his father was #498B Jacob Bassett from Syria.

The following is a class picture of Samuel Bitar Bassett, Class of 1922 from the University of Washington Law School Yearbook.

If you are related to this family and would like a more pictures from the yearbook, please contact me.



Picture provided by Troy Bassett of Oakland, California

1940 Federal Census of McGilvra, King County, Washington (18 Apr 1940)			
Samuel B. Bassett	43 M Head	DC Same	Lawyer Private Practice
Virginia	33 F Wife	NE Same	
Halcyone	7 F Daughter	WA Same	
Stephen	4 M Son	WA	
Barbara	1 F Daughter	WA	

Seattle Daily Times, Monday, January 18, 1971  
 Samuel B. Bassett, labor lawyer, died

Samuel B. Bassett, 75, of 2621 Magnolia Lane W., a prominent labor lawyer for many years, died Saturday after a long illness.

At his request there were no services. There was cremation.

A native of Washington, D.C., Mr. Bassett came here in 1920. He graduated from the University of Washington Law School in 1924. During the late 1920s he became a law partner with the late George Vanderveer, known as "counsel for the dammed," who represented unions.

In the early 1930s, Mr. Bassett began representing the Teamsters Union and later the Retail Clerks Union. He also represented several other unions for many years.

Mr. Bassett established that unions have the right of collective bargaining as a matter of common law. He also was instrumental in many labor laws for the unions. In 1968 both labor and management and members of the judiciary honored him for his work.

Mr. Bassett was a senior partner in the firm of Bassett, Donaldson & Hafer. He was a member of the American, Washington State and Seattle-King County Bar Associations, the College Club and the Masons. He was an Army veteran of World War I.

Surviving are his wife, Virginia; a son, Stephen S. Bassett, Woodinville, two daughters, Mrs. Don Coutts, Marina Del Rey, Calif., and Mrs. Todd Smavelly, Torrance, Calif., and two half sisters, Mary and Estelle Bassett, and a half brother, Harry Bassett, all of Washington, D.C.

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[Section 3 - Featured Bassett: George Walter Bassett Breach of Promise Suit, Christchurch, New Zealand](#)

George Walter Bassett descends from the #34B Bassetts of County Down, Northern Ireland as follows:

John Bassett of County Down, Northern Ireland  
 John Bassett Jr. and wife Mary Casement  
 William Bassett (b. 1797) and wife Anne Jane Parkinson  
 Samuel Kennedy Bassett (b. 1840) and wife Elizabeth Robinson McClurg  
 George Walter Bassett (b. 1881)

NZ Truth, Issue 180, 20 November 1908, Page 5

LOVE'S YOUNG DREAM.

The Man, the Maid, and the Baby.

CHRISTCHURCH BREACH OF PROMISE SUIT.

A Stern Old Father and His Son.

A VERDICT OF £1000.

A breach of promise suit that occasioned considerable interest was heard before Judge Denniston at Christchurch on Tuesday, when a girl named Lorrie

Morton, the nineteen-year old daughter of Charles Roland Morton; licensee of the Commercial Hotel, Oxford, sued George Walter Bassett, son of Samuel Kennedy Bassett, a wealthy person residing at Avonside, Christchurch, to recover the sum of £3000. Barrister Alpers, who presented the case of the girl in luminous language, recited the story of the man and the maid. The facts were admitted by the other side (a statement enclosed by Mr George Harper for Mr Bassett). It would appear that George Bassett first met Lorrie as a child at Sumner, a statement denied by the young man, but the point is not a material one. When the girl was thirteen she went with her parents to reside at Oxford, where she met Bassett. About the same year George acquired a half interest (worth £3000) in Burnt Hill farm, near Oxford, and ran the estate with his brother Charlie. The quiet of the station palled upon him occasionally, and George used to come down periodically and put up at Morton's. Frequently, also, Morton would visit the Bassett station for a bit of shooting and an outing in a general way of speaking. They were on terms of great intimacy, and Morton used to call Bassett "George," while Bassett addressed Morton affectionately as "Charlie." Bassett was twenty-two when he took over the station, and, he is now twenty-seven. One feature in Morton's character was that although a publican he never permitted his daughter to go near the bar, but Bassett, unlike ordinary customers, was admitted to the family's private apartment's in the hotel, and met the girl in that way. He became Lorrie's "joy"; her first and only sweetheart. Affectionate relations developed early. As the girl was coming from school it was the practice of George to drive up in his dog-cart and pick her up on the way home. When she reached the immature age of seventeen George went in 'an honourable manner to the girl's parents and asked to permission to become engaged to her. Lorrie's mother was shocked at the idea; her daughter was only a child. George might wait for two years and if he was still of the same mind he could mention it again. The parents had no reason to doubt that George was other than a very decent young man, and placed no restriction on their daughter's association with him when he drove her out in the afternoon, although; of course, she was never permitted to go out alone with him at night. George was impatient and couldn't wait the two years stipulated, so that at the expiration of eighteen months he again approached the parents and desired to become engaged to their daughter. This time his wish was granted and the spooning pair were to be married in the winter of 1908. There was nothing alleged against the character of George at this time, except that he was somewhat extravagant in the matter of motor cars, polo ponies, and that sort of thing it was an accepted fact at Oxford that he was engaged to the girl and that the bliss of loverhood should culminate in marriage. In August, 1907 the young fellow took a trip from the district, but his love for the girl impelled him to write letters to her. They were sensible, manly letters and didn't contain the foolish lover-like expressions that usually amuse a jury in breach-of-promise cases. Unfortunately the girl loved her George too well, and one day in the private parlour of her father's premises, secure in his promise of marriage, Lorrie gave in to George. Afterwards it was repeated, but the girl fully understood that marriage would be the end of the romance. It was not until May of the same year that the girl, after looking up a medical work, discovered that there was something wrong with her. Somewhere about the same time the girl's mother made the same discovery and upbraided her daughter. Somewhere about this time Bassett left the district and the mother, fearful that he was abandoning the girl, wrote to him. She then received a reply couched in indignant terms, "I would sooner die rather than clear out and do such a thing," he wrote. Moreover, he stated that his father had been against the match and wanted to send the young fellow away on a trip, but George couldn't tell him about Lorrie's condition without the girl's consent. George proposed marriage in the letter, and suggested that they should go away for a

trip after they had been spliced. As an inducement to the parents to permit the girl to marry him, George mentioned he was worth about £5000. In view of the girl's condition it was necessary to hasten the marriage and the young fellow interviewed the Rev. Garbett, of Oxford; and arranged to have the banns called. The banns were actually published twice, yet the marriage didn't take place. The banns had been proclaimed for the first time on Sunday and on the succeeding Saturday the girl met Bassett by appointment in Christchurch. They had tea at "Broadway's", after which the man sent her home on a forty-mile journey by herself! He explained that the boys in the city were organising a function on his behalf, and as the girl demurred going home by train alone, he said, "Never mind, dear, we will be going away together soon." As a matter of fact, such is the duplicity of man; Bassett had at that moment booked his passage direct to London by the Papanui, and probably had the ticket on him when he sent the girl away by train to Oxford. The mother of Bassett, it was believed by Bassett himself was in favour of the match, but Bassett senior, was opposed to it, as he had other ends in view for the boy, and mentioned that if he married the girl he would cut him off entirely and he wouldn't be permitted to cross his Pater's threshold thenceforth. Moreover, he bribed the boy by saying that if he didn't marry the girl he would have a trip to England at the father's expense. The young man left for London by the Papanui, but had the grace to write a letter that he knew wouldn't reach the girl until after he had been 24 hours on his journey to the Old Country. It stated that George was ashamed to write to Lorrie, but his pater had always wanted him to marry somebody else. Moreover, it stated that the old man was going to find a home for the girl, and George promised to fix her up in that respect later on. The girl's child was born in a nursing home in Christchurch, just after George had taken up his quarters at the Burlington Hotel, Piccadilly, London. Agents were cabled to London, and every movement of his was watched until he was served with the writ for damages. Plaintiff's counsel believed that the young man was fond of the girl and wanted to marry her, but believed he was dominated by the strong will of his father. The old man had been approached and it was suggested that the girl should take the next steamer to London and marry the boy there, but the pater was adamant and refused to entertain the idea. It is true that since the service of the writ claiming £3000 damages, the young man had offered to marry the girl. George duly arrived in London by the Papanui within three days of his arrival. He was served with the writ, which was responsible for the present proceedings. The young man took the next direct steamer to New Zealand. Meantime the girl had gone to Dunedin, and wanted to legitimise the child she was bearing to Bassett, by marriage. Young Bassett, who had returned, hadn't seen his father at this time, and when he offered marriage to the girl her friends advised her that he should make some settlement to ensure that he wouldn't clear out and leave her again, and that her child should be provided for. Judge Denniston remarked to the jury that it was not generally known that the subsequent marriage of an illegitimate child's parents legitimatised the child. Mr Alpers justified the demand of the young woman for a settlement by saying that later the young man might say he had married her with a pistol at his head, and he might leave her unprovided for. In addition to the Burnt Hill property, young Bassett owned 26 acres at Sumner, worth £1560; his interest in the Burnt Hill estate was acknowledged, through interrogatories, to be worth £1000; and it was the desire of the girl's friends, that the Sumner estate should be conveyed to trustees, and held not for the benefit of the mother, but in trust for the children when they should reach the age of twenty-one years, the parents to receive the interest meantime; and the estate to revert to the children upon the death of the parents. In this respect the illegitimate child was to share equally with any other possible children. This form of marriage settlement was considered

necessary by the girl's friend's in case George's habitual extravagance at any time brought the family into low water. When George came back from England, he went and apologised to the parents of the girl, but they naturally suggested that suitable provision should be made for their daughter, her child, and George agreed to everything. Unfortunately, old man Bassett discovered that his son had returned to New Zealand. A hansom cab and his brother did the rest, said learned counsel. Next they found the son living with his father at Avonside, and negotiations were broken off. The old man was still opposed to the match. The marriage, which was to take place on the following Thursday, and which would legitimise the child didn't take place. It was understood that the old man approved of his son marrying the girl at the last moment, but couldn't stand the marriage settlement embracing the Sumner estate. A singular thing about the affair was that young Bassett was still writing affectionate letters to the girl who had given birth to a child, of which he was the father. Witnesses were called in support of the above story and George Harper cross-examined them, but admitted the main facts. Judge Denniston summed up distinctly against the girl, but in spite of this the jury returned a verdict awarding her £1000 damages. It is said, that the young fellow still wants to marry her.

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Section 4 - Featured Bassett: John Allen Bassett of Salem, Massachusetts

John A. Bassett is a son of #450B John Bassett of Salem, Massachusetts as follows:

John Bassett (b. 1800 in France) and wife Sarah  
John A. Bassett (b. 1837 in Salem, Massachusetts)

John A. Bassett was later a chemist and inventor. He was first featured in the November 2010 issue of the newsletter.

**S A L E M C A R D S**

**J. A. Bassett,**  
*Clairvoyant Physician, and Healing Medium, for  
Medical Examinations,*

Has two of the best Female Mesmeric Clair-  
voyants, who will examine for disease, &c.

Terms, when present, \$1; when absent, \$2.

Office hours from 9 to 12, A. M., 2 to 5, and 7  
to 9 P. M. No 14 Webb street, Salem, Mass.

dec 20                      1f

Salem Observer, Massachusetts, Saturday, January 31, 1857

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### Section 5 - Featured Bassett: William Frederick Bassett and son William Prichard Bassett

William Prichard Bassett is descended from #439B Thomas Prichard Bassett of Wales as follows:

Thomas Prichard Bassett (b. 1783) and wife Martha Lee  
William Frederick Bassett (b. 1824) and wife Maria Theresa (Shinnor)  
Sutherland  
William Prichard Bassett

William Frederick Bassett (1824-1910)  
Born: 26 Oct 1824 in London, England  
Died: 25 Mar 1910 in New South Wales, Australia

William Frederick Bassett (1824-1910), medical practitioner and educationist, was born on 26 October 1824 in London, son of Thomas Prichard Bassett and his wife Martha, nee Lee. He was brought up on the Continent, where he attended schools in Brussels and Germany. He returned to England for his professional training and studied medicine in London (M.R.C.S, 1849; L.S.A., 1850), and won the Snow medal. He is said to have studied under Michael Faraday who later corresponded with him. Bassett arrived at Sydney on 30 May 1851 as surgeon in the *Windsor*. In July he was appointed assistant surgeon at the Lunatic Asylum, Parramatta, at a salary of £150 which was increased to £216 13s. 4d. in 1853.

From 1834 to 1865 virtually no formal class 'continuation' education was available in New South Wales, although at various Schools of Arts significant numbers of adults attended 'popular science' lectures. Bassett took part in giving such lectures at Parramatta in the 1850s, his particular topic being 'The Chemical Relations of the Metals'. About 1858 he entered private practice in Parramatta. In 1860 he was joined by George Hogarth Pringle (M.D., Edinburgh, 1852), who had trained in England with Joseph Lister and was admitted by the Medical Board in Sydney in October 1859; at the end of 1860 he took over Bassett's remaining part-time government posts. In 1854 at Parramatta Bassett had married the widow Maria Theresa Sutherland, nee Shinnor, of Flower Hill, County Cork. Abbot Henry Gregory's appointment of Bassett to the board of the Catholic Orphanage at Parramatta in 1859 created difficult problems for the Archbishop John Bede Polding.

In 1864 Bassett and his wife accompanied Robert Towns to Queensland; soon after their return they moved to Bathurst where Bassett was appointed public vaccinator on 14 June 1865. On 10 February 1870 Bassett was appointed visiting surgeon to Bathurst Gaol and on 4 October government medical officer at Bathurst. Although he did not relinquish his duties at the gaol until 1909, he retired from most other work in 1903 and was presented with an illuminated address. The local press reported that 'he spoke feelingly in reply, and thanked them for their remarks, but said that he was quite at a loss to account for their kindness as he was not aware that he had done anything but his duty'. In Bathurst Bassett continued his interest in adult education and began classes in chemistry; thus he is credited with starting the first classes in technical education in New South Wales outside the County of Cumberland; a full-time resident master was appointed teacher of chemistry in Bathurst in 1882. Bassett also was a vice-president of the

Bathurst School of Arts for many years. His lectures no doubt reflected the district's gold mining fever; he appears to have been a partner in several unsuccessful small mining companies and in 1874 applied for a mining patent. In 1886 he published a pamphlet, *Energy; or, Thoughts on Inductive Reasoning in its Bearing on Natural Religion*.

His interest in education resulted in his membership of the inaugural council of All Saints College, Bathurst, which opened in 1873; he also became a much respected medical officer at the Convents of Mercy. His civic interests included negotiations, after the gaol was moved, to use the site for the formation of Machattie Park, named after another medico; Bassett was one of the first trustees. In 1871 he was sworn in as a magistrate and sat on the local licensing bench for some years. In 1868 he helped to form a volunteer corps at Barhurst and was an honorary member at £1 a year; earlier he had been a member of the Parramatta Corps. Much respected throughout the Bathurst district for his yeoman service in humanitarian and educational spheres, he died on 25 March 1910 and was privately buried in the Anglican section of the Bathurst general cemetery.

Predeceased by his wife, a Catholic, who had died in 1891, he was survived by three sons, three daughters and a stepson. The two oldest sons were educated at Launceston Grammar School, their father obviously desiring the best education for them. The eldest, William Frederick Prichard, studied medicine at Edinburgh (M.R.C.S.; M.D., 1880). After practising in Lithgow and at Bathurst Hospital, he joined his father in practice; he took a great interest in municipal affairs and during one of his terms as mayor, his two brothers were mayors of Carcoar and Wellington.

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Wellington Times, New South Wales, Australia, Thursday, January 28, 1932  
Obituary  
William Prichard Bassett

The whole town was shocked on Wednesday morning when it was reported that Mr. William Prichard Bassett, the well-known solicitor; had died suddenly at his mother's residence in Wurne Street about 8 a.m. People were dumb-founded. Here was a young man, a perfect specimen of Australian manhood, apparently in the best of health, moving about amongst his friends the previous day and night, and yet in a moment he was cut off from all those whom he held so dear, and from his hosts of friends in the town and district. It is just another case which shows how uncertain are our lives. The weak and sickly may linger on for years, whilst the apparently strong and healthy are called away at a minute's notice. The deceased was about as usual during Tuesday, and in the evening, with Rev. Keith Norman and Mr. Maurice Pearce, paid a visit to an old fellow-in-arms, Mr. D. H. Barton, returning home before midnight in the very best of spirits. He awoke next morning as usual, and before breakfast went to the garage to get his car out, but shortly afterwards, as he had not come in to breakfast, he was found in a collapsed condition, and though Dr. Black was in attendance in the space of a few moments, he was beyond all human aid. It was a tragic ending to a young life so full of promise, and to a man who appeared to have such a long life in front of him. It was no wonder, then, that his friends could not realize that his end had come so suddenly. However, he is but another victim of the late war, for, while doing his duty as a soldier in defense of the world, he was wounded and also became a victim of malaria, which was so prevalent in Palestine during his long term at the front. The bad time which our soldiers went through had

left their mark on him, though he did not show it, and outwardly he appeared a big strong man.

The late Mr. Bassett was the only son of Mrs. and the late Mr. John Thomas Prichard Bassett and was a native of Bathurst. He attended the Wellington Public School from there going to the Sydney Church of England Grammar School. After leaving school he decided to take up law, thus following in the footsteps of his father, whose office he entered, and he was also for several years in the office of the well-known firm of solicitors, Messrs Beckett and Holdshin, of Sydney.

When the Mother Country called for assistance he was amongst the first to offer his services, and though he was turned down on 18 occasions, owing to his eyesight, he was eventually passed, and went away with the fifth Light Horse and saw a great deal of fighting in Palestine. He was wounded on a couple of occasions, and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the battlefield, although he was very modest in regard to his work on the other side.

When he came back he again took up his studies and when he passed his final examination he was, in 1923, admitted, as a solicitor, and entered into partnership with his late father under the name of J. T. P. Bassett and Son, and after the death of his father, he continued the practice under the same name.

In his early days he was keen on swimming, and was a prominent member of the first Wellington Swimming Club formed in this town. He was also a fine Rugby Union player, and in the days of the old Wellington team, his great weight and ability as a scrummager was a feature of the game. He was also a keen tennis enthusiast, and also was, at the time of his death, President of the Wellington Public Tennis Club. He was a keen follower of racing, and was a member of the Wellington Picnic and Turf Clubs. He took a keen interest in the welfare of the town in which he was born, and was for some years a prominent member of the School of Arts.

He was a dutiful son, and deeply attached to his mother, who, we are sorry to state, is not in good health, and his death will be a great blow to her, as well as to his two surviving sisters, Mrs. H. M. Lowe, of "Yooroga" Obley, and Mrs. Norman Rutherford, of Bathampton, Bathurst.

The body was encased in a polished silky oak casket, and, after a short service at the home, which was conducted by the Rev. Keith Norman, the funeral cortege left shortly after 9 a.m. this morning for the cemetery, where the remains were laid to rest in the family enclosure in the Church of England portion, the funeral service again being conducted by Rev. Keith Norman. There was a big attendance of returned men, and the "Last Post" was sounded by Mr. J. Whitehouse. The funeral was a very large and representative one, which was a token of the esteem in which the deceased was held by all classes of the community.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs Murray Bros.

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#### [Section 6 - Featured Bassett: Danny Bassett record from Philadelphia](#)

I have not yet been able to identify this Danny Bassett. If you have any idea of which family he might belong to, please let me know.





Danny Bassett record for sale on ebay.

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[Section 7 - Featured Bassett: Genealogy work by Rev. Christopher Bassett](#)

Rev. Christopher Bassett descends from Elias Basset of Wales as follows:

Sir Elias Basset (b. 1320) and wife Margaret  
John Basset (b. 1350) and wife Joan  
Thomas Basset (b. 1380) and wife Alice Marcross  
John Basset (b. 1410) and wife Gwennillian  
Jenkin Basset (b. 1445) and wife Jennet Philip  
Harry Bassett (b. 1480) and wife Catherine Matthew  
Richard Bassett (b. 1515)  
William Bassett (b. 1545)  
John Bassett (b. 1575)  
Richard Bassett (b. 1600)  
Elias Bassett (b. 1627) and wife Margaret Richards  
Charles Bassett (b. 1660) and wife Margaret Williams  
Richard Bassett (b. 1696) and wife Joan Thomas  
Charles Bassett (b. 1734) and wife Cecil Morgan  
Christopher Bassett (b. 1779) and wife Mary Hooper  
Rev. Christopher Bassett

## Notices.

**Now Ready, in Demy 8vo.,**

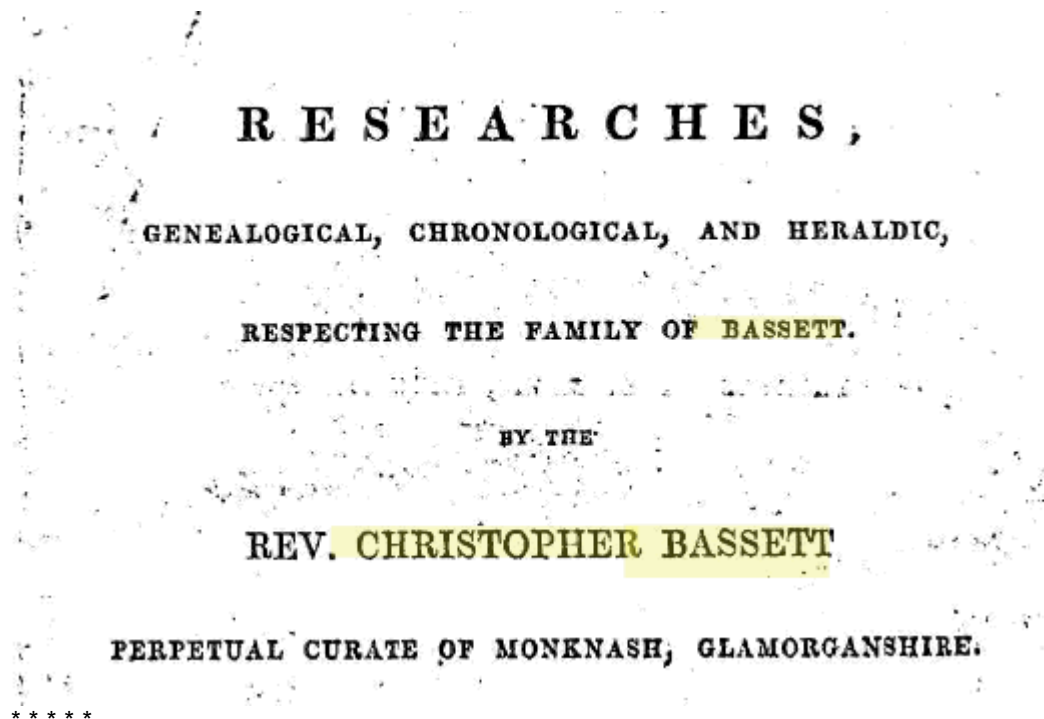
**PART 1ST, PRICE 1s.,**

**A**NTIQUARIAN RESEARCHES, GENEALOGICAL, CHRONOLOGICAL, and HERALDIC, respecting the principal Families of Glamorgan. By the Rev. CHRISTOPHER BASSETT.

Printed and Published by David Davis, Cowbridge.  
London : James Gilbert, 49, Paternoster Row.

Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, Glamorgan, Monmouth and Brecon Gazette, December 27, 1845

The above notice is an ad from 1845 for the purchase of the comprehensive work that Rev. Christopher Bassett did on the Bassett family of Glamorgan. The cover of the book can be seen below.



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

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

497B. [John B. Bassett of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts](#)

498B. Jacob Bassett of Washington, D.C.

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[Section 9 - DNA project update.](#)

No new results to report this month. I am still looking for male Bassetts from any line that can trace back directly to France to take part in the study and I have funds available to pay for these tests if you are willing to take part.

Donations of any amount can be made to the Bassett DNA project by clicking on the link below. Any funds donated will be used to fund select Bassett DNA tests that will further our project as a whole and benefit all Bassetts worldwide.

<http://www.familyreedna.com/group-general-fund-contribution.aspx?g=Bassett>

This is just a reminder that the DNA portion of the Bassett Family Association can be found at:

<http://www.bassettbranches.org/dna/>

A current spreadsheet of results can be found at:

<http://www.bassettbranches.org/dna/BassettDNA.xls>

If you don't have Excel and can't open the spreadsheet above, you can now see the DNA test results at the following website.

<http://www.familyreedna.com/public/Bassett/>

Jeffrey Bassett  
520 Salceda Drive  
Mundelein, IL 60060 USA  
bassettgenealogy@gmail.com