

[Bassett Family Newsletter, Volume XXI, Issue 12, 17 Dec 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](#)

It is never too early to start planning for the next Bassett reunion. It will take place the first weekend in May of 2025 in the Williamsburg, Virginia area. See article below and respond if you would like to attend.

Totals number of individuals loaded into the Bassett website: 210,512



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Section 2 - Featured Bassett: Bassett Family Reunion of 2025

Bassett Reunion 2025

We are planning a Bassett Reunion!

Ever wonder how DNA could help in your genealogy search? This reunion is for you!

When: We are thinking May 1st – 3rd, 2025 with travel dates on 4/30 and 5/4

Who are the planners? We are the Bassetts who came to Jamestown around 1635ish, but we had a little glitch in our plan. We climb our Bassett tree as far as we could and hit a dead end. With DNA testing, we found out why.

What are we going to do: Tours of Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg and local Plantations

We are looking for preliminary head count. If you are interested, please email us at BassettReunion2025@gmail.com.

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Section 3 - Featured Bassett: Death of Day LaMar Bassett of Washington, aged 101

Day LaMar Bassett descends from #4B William Bassett of Lynn as follows:

Roger Bassett and wife Ann Holland
William Bassett (b. 1623) and wife Sarah Burt
William Bassett (b. 1647) and wife Sarah Hood
John Bassett (b. 1682) and wife Abigail Berry
Daniel Bassett and wife Lydia Hood
John Bassett (b. 1739) and wife Ruth Newhall
Daniel Bassett (b. 1773) and wife Abigail Bean
John Bassett (b. 1812) and wife Amelia McCormick
James Franklin Bassett (b. 1852) and wife Isabella Neil
Robert Harrison Bassett (b. 1879) and wife Vera Day
Day LaMar Bassett (b. 1922)

The Moscow-Pullman Daily News, Idaho, Saturday, 9 December 2023
Day LaMar Bassett

Day LaMar Bassett, 101, of Pullman, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 4, 2023 at Bishop Place Senior Living in Pullman, surrounded by his sons.

Day LaMar Bassett was born in Layton, Utah, on June 4, 1922. An only child, Day grew up on his family's horse-powered farm, where he played with cousins and weeded endless rows of onions. In winter he strapped on barrel staves and skied down his snowy shed roof, aiming for planks to carry him to the ground. His childhood included outhouses, electricity used only for lights, crank telephones with party lines, shared bathwater heated on a coal stove, crawling under coop floors looking for chicken eggs, and listening to a crystal radio set in a freezing bedroom with a wrapped hot rock at his feet. In his Depression-era teen-age years, he found enjoyment fishing, hunting and playing ball with cousin Bob, but life became difficult as his father's health failed and family finances collapsed. When World War II started, his

future, including further education, became uncertain.

Having taken civilian pilot instruction at Weber College, Day enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He trained as a pilot and qualified as a flight instructor. After teaching many students, some of whom would later perish, he also trained to fly the B-17 and B-29. He served as a B-17 test pilot, assuring that repaired planes were functional for combat. He had been ordered to the Pacific Theatre as a B-29 Aircraft Commander when the war ended. These years changed the trajectory of Day's life in positive ways. He exchanged social reticence and an uncertain future for highly developed skills, disciplined study habits, well-earned praise from peers, enduring friends and increasing faith. He, like most who served, left those years determined to live a life worthy of the sacrifice of fallen comrades.

Day earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's in agricultural engineering at Utah State College. While there, he met his future wife Zella who served his meals at Mrs. Murray's boarding house. Enchanted by this beautiful girl who was faithful, funny, smart, athletic and a born leader, he finally gained enough courage to ask for her hand. They were married in the Logan temple in 1946. Always self-deprecating, Day enjoyed telling of their honeymoon flight to Denver during which he, the bomber pilot, got airsick.

Day took his first job designing irrigated farms in the Columbia Basin using water from Grand Coulee Dam. He and Zella spent four years in Ephrata and Othello before moving to Pullman in 1954, when Day joined the faculty at Washington State College. They raised four boys, countering youthful rowdiness with expectations of hard work, academic excellence, piano practice, Scouting and church participation. Day made life fun with hunting and fishing trips, participation in Scouting events, Christmas treasure hunts, cold water pitched into showers, and attendance at games, plays and recitals.

Day continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve, sang bass in the Washington Idaho Symphony Chorale for 28 years, and served extensively in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served as Bishop during the construction of the LDS chapel on Orchard Drive in the early 1960s, leading efforts in site acquisition, design and construction using mostly member labor. He extended his formal education with a Ph.D. from the University of Idaho. As much as Day and Zella loved Pullman, they also loved their family members in Utah, and drove to Utah so frequently that they bought a second home there. Day and Zella were great hosts, rewarding all comers with home-cooked meals at beautifully appointed tables.

During his teaching and research career, Day went on several WSU-sponsored trips to share irrigation knowledge. He and Zella spent a summer in Portugal, a year in Jordan, and two years in Pakistan. After he retired, he and Zella traveled extensively, gardened, and visited children and grandchildren. They also served two Church missions specializing in employment and water use. Day wrote his autobiography as well as biographies of Zella, his mother Vera, and father Robert (now available at the Salt Lake FamilySearch Digital Library). Following Zella's tragic death seven years ago, Day continued to welcome visitors, send birthday cards, attend athletic events, savor Ferdinand's chocolate malts and enjoy drives around the Palouse. His last years were blessed by his physician Dennis Simpson, MD, and his caregiver, MiKell Wells, to whom the family is eternally grateful.

Day Bassett is survived by his sons Mark, Kent (Joellen), Greg (Shirley) and Doug (Marilee), 16 grandchildren and 49 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Zella and his daughter-in-law Elaine Bassett.

Funeral Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1055 NE Orchard Drive, Pullman. A viewing and visitation will begin prior to the service at 11:30 a.m. Burial will occur at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the Kaysville, Utah City Cemetery.

Corbeill Funeral Home of Pullman is in charge of the arrangements. For a livestream link to the funeral service please go to corbeillfuneralhomes.com.

Section 4 - Featured Bassett: Photo of Slim Bassett and wife Mabel

Grover Cleveland Bassett descends from #63B Hansford Bassett as follows:

Hansford Bassett (b. 1809) and wife Mary Elizabeth Underwood
William Howell Bassett (b. 1834) and wife Mary Ann Phelps
Floyd McCormick Bassett (b. 1855) and wife Mary Elizabeth Davidson
Grover Cleveland "Slim" Bassett (b. 1892) and wife Mabel Fuller

As follow up to last months article, grandson Greg Bassett has provided a picture of Slim and Mabel.



Slim Bassett and wife Mable on their ranch in Wyoming

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[Section 5 - Featured Bassett: Death of Alexander Barker Bassett, Mining Engineer of Wales](#)

Alexander Barker Bassett descends from #292B Elias Bassett of Wales as follows:

Sir Elias Bassett (b. 1320) and wife Margaret
John Bassett (b. 1350) and wife Joan
Thomas Bassett (b. 1380) and wife Alice Marcross
John Bassett (b. 1410) and wife Gwenllian
Jenkin Bassett (b. 1445) and wife Jennet Philip
Harry Bassett 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 with Joan Thomas
Charles Bassett (b. 1734) and wife Cecil Morgan
Alexander Bassett and wife Hannah Bellamy
Alexander Bassett (b. 1824) and wife Emma Mary Long
Alexander Barker Bassett (b. 1856)

WESTERN MAIL & SOUTH WALES NEWS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1933.

MINING ENGINEER

Death of Mr. A. B. Bassett, Llandaff

Mr. Alexander B. Bassett, of Cheverell, Llandaff, the well-known mining engineer and partner in the firm of Bassett, Walker, and Herdman, Charles-street, Cardiff, died on Thursday, aged 77.



Late Mr. A. B. Bassett.

A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Bassett, of Baynton House, Llandaff, he was educated at Marlborough and entered his father's office, the firm then being Bassett and Lee and afterwards Bassett and Walker.

The firm have been for many years mineral agents for the

Tredegar and Bute Estates, and for The Mackintosh of Mackintosh and others.

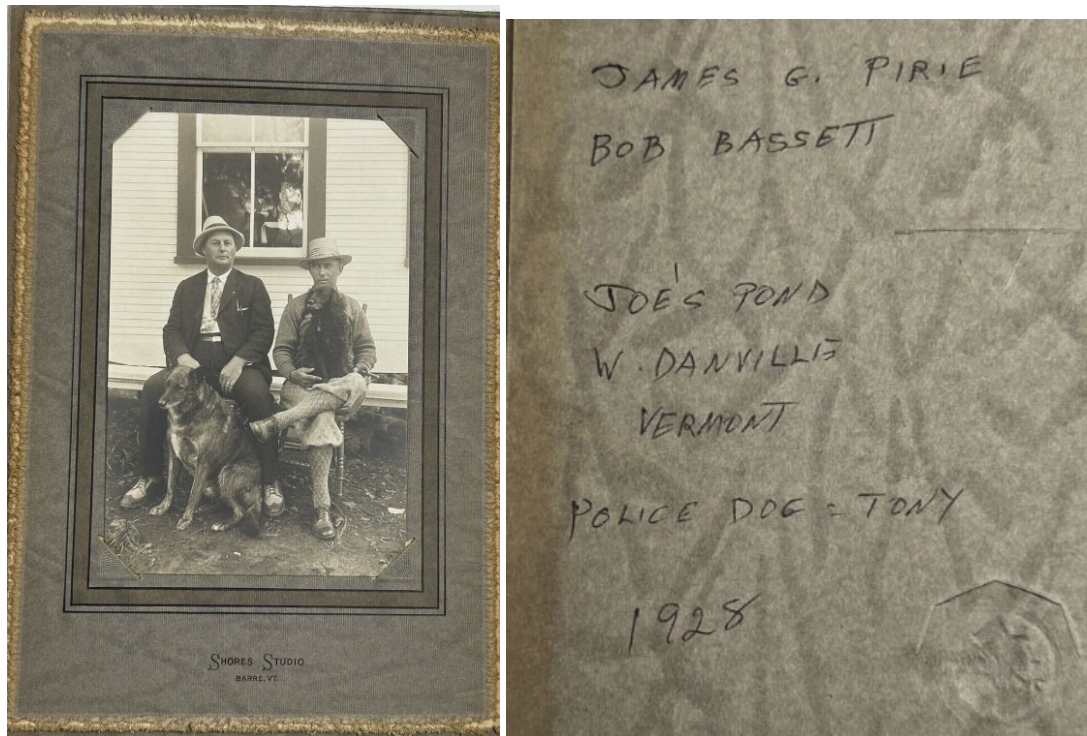
Mr. Bassett was a member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, and took an active interest in diocesan matters. He was a sidesman at Llandaff Cathedral for many years and at one time the treasurer of the diocesan conference.

He was also a member of the Cardiff County Club and of the Conservative Association. He is survived by his widow, formerly Miss Marion R. MacDonald, a daughter of the late Mr. Alexander MacKenzie MacDonald, of Roath, Cardiff, two sons and two daughters.

Section 6 - Featured Bassett: Photograph of Robert Calvin Bassett of Vermont

Robert Calvin Bassett descends from William Bassett of Plymouth as follows:

William Bassett and wife Elizabeth
Joseph Bassett (b. 1635) and wife Mary Lapham
William Bassett (b. 1667) and wife Mary Bumpus
Seth Bassett (b. 1715) and wife Mary Hayward
Seth Bassett (b. 1734) and wife Mary
William Bassett (b. 1782) and wife Lucy Russell
Merrill Bassett (b. 1817) and wife Mary Keene
Calvin Bassett (b. 1845) and wife Mary J. Prescott
Clinton Merrill Bassett (b. 1869) and wife Inez Drown
Robert Calvin Bassett (b. 1893)



Robert Calvin Bassett and his brother-in-law James G. Pirie
Recently for sale on eBay

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Section 7 - Featured Bassett: 1937 Letter from John David Bassett of Bassett, Virginia

John David Bassett descends from #2B Thomas Bassett of Virginia as follows:

Thomas Bassett (b. 1617) and wife Mary
William Bassett (b. 1643)
Thomas Bassett (b. 1668) and wife Elinor
Thomas Bassett (b. 1696) and wife Lydia Howle
Nathaniel Bassett (b. 1721) and wife Mary
Burwell Bassett (b. 1767) and wife Mary Hunter
Alexander Hunter Bassett (b. 1795) and wife Mary Koger

John Henry Bassett (b. 1827) and wife Nancy Jane Spencer
John David Bassett (b. 1866)

W. H. BASSETT, PRESIDENT J. D. BASSETT, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD AND TREAS. J. D. BASSETT, JR., VICE-PRESIDENT N. G. BRAMMER, SECRETARY

J. E. Bassett, Pres. Bassett Furn. Co.

Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc.

MANUFACTURERS OF

Bed Room and Dining Room Furniture

Bassett, Virginia
Sept. 10, 1937.

DIVISIONS

- BASSETT FURNITURE COMPANY
BASSETT, VIRGINIA
- J. D. BASSETT MANUFACTURING CO.
BASSETT, VIRGINIA
- W. M. BASSETT FURNITURE CORP.
MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA
- BASSETT SUPERIOR LINES, INC.
BASSETT, VIRGINIA
- BASSETT CHAIR COMPANY
BASSETT, VIRGINIA

PERMANENT EXHIBITS

- AMERICAN FURNITURE MART
666 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO
- NEW YORK FURN. EXCHANGE
206 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK

Mr. J. Colby Bassett,
30 Federal St.,
Boston, Mass.

My dear friend, Bassett:

Your letter addressed to our Postmaster has just been handed to me, and I just want to say that your name sounds very good to me. There are very few of them, I guess.

I note that you would like to know where our town got its name, and I am very proud to say that I am the man who named the town, and of course I wanted to give myself a lift and that was the only way I could do much climbing.

We have quite a little history. I was the first person to build a house in Bassett and had the first grocery store. This town has grown from that to a population of around 4,500. My father was a farmer near Bassett, and when I went into business, the N. & W. Ry. Co. was building what is known as the "Pumpkin Vine" - or Winston-Salem branch of their line. Then I went into the lumber business and from that to the furniture business and to-day we are the largest furniture manufacturers of case goods in the world. When our factories are running solid time we can manufacture and sell \$12,000,000.00 per year.

I am rather an old man - in years, but not in notions - will soon be 71 years old, but I have some boys who can carry on this work, and that makes me very happy.

I am very proud of our name, as our family was the first - or among the first - to come over to this country. You know we have a Bassett House at Williamsburg, Va., that has recently been restored by J. D. Rockefeller, Jr., as have all the buildings there, as this was originally settled by the English people.

I am very glad you wrote me, as I seldom have an opportunity to write to a Bassett outside of my own confines. Let me hear from you again.

Very truly yours,
J. D. Bassett, Jr.

JDB/W.

History of Virginia, Volume VI (1924)
The American Historical Society, Chicago & New York

John David Bassett is a loyal Virginian who has not found it necessary or expedient to wander from his "native heath" in finding opportunity for large and constructive achievement along industrial lines. In evidence of this stand the great manufacturing concerns which he has developed at Bassett, Henry County, a vital industrial town of model order and one that has its site on the old homestead farm which was the place of his birth. Here this man of initiative and administrative talent was born July 14, 1866, a son of John H. and Nancy J. (Spencer) Bassett, the former of whom was born near Preston, Henry County, and the latter in Patrick County, both families having early been founded in Virginia. John H. Bassett passed his entire life in this native county, save for the period of his loyal service as a soldier of the Confederacy in the Civil war, and he was long numbered among the representative tobacco farmers of Henry County, the while he stood forth as a substantial and liberal citizen well worthy of the unqualified popular esteem that was his. He died in 1917, at the venerable age of eighty-three years, his wife having passed away in 1907, aged sixty-eight years, and having been his effective help meet, with exceptional ability as a business woman. Three of their sons and a son-in-law were the principals in the organization of the Bassett Furniture Company, John D., of this review, having had major leadership in the forming and developing of this now large and important manufacturing corporation, and his associates in its organization having been his brothers, Charles C. and S.H., and his brother-in-law, Reed L. Stone, who is vice president of the company and who is individually mentioned on other pages of this work.

There is a distinct element of romance in the career of John D. Bassett, who has proved a master of expedients and worked his way forward to the goal of large success. From a special edition of the Henry Bulletin, of Martinsville, issued December 15, 1922, are taken, with minor changes, the following interesting data:

"John D. Bassett, of Bassett, Virginia, for whom the town was named, spent his boyhood days on the farm with his father, and he acquired a common school education, the financial resources of his father having been limited, so that college training for the son was necessarily denied. He began early to assist in the work of the tobacco fields of the home farm, and learned how to grade as well as cultivate tobacco. His first work away from the home farm was that of pinhooking tobacco at Martinsville, the county seat. In 1890, at the time of railroad construction work in the locality, he opened a little general store at Bassett, his store building being the first structure erected in the new town, for which he obtained a post office, which was given his name, the post office being established in this store and his surname having been at that time adopted as the name of the town and post office. Making a success of the mercantile business, he branched out into the lumber business, and the exceptional success which attended his activities in this connection had much to do with his gaining the foresight to see the natural advantages Henry County afforded for the manufacture of furniture. In 1902 he erected a furniture factory at Bassett, and thus founded the splendid business now conducted by the Bassett Furniture Company. His progressiveness was further shown in his establishing a bank, the same being now the First National Bank of Bassett. In 1921 Mr. Bassett organized the J.D. Bassett Manufacturing Company, which now has one of the largest individual furniture factories in the United States. Aside from being president of both of these corporations Mr. Bassett organized the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company of Galax, Grayson County, and the United Furniture Company of Lexington, North Carolina, besides which he is a large stockholder in the American Furniture Company of Martinsville, these connections marking him as the largest furniture manufacturer in the South, if

note the largest in the United States. Mr. Bassett is not only a large furniture manufacturer, but is also interested in many commercial enterprises in the South.

"Mr. Bassett is a public spirited man, and ever stands ready to support any movement for the betterment of his town and community. He is, in fact, a self made, successful man of the best type. Stalwart in mind and body, broad of vision, he is a practical business man to whom the growth, under his directing hand, of large and pecuniarily profitable manufacturing enterprises is an absorbing interest and stimulating achievement, yet this does not restrict the breadth of his sympathies and his kindly and helpful interest in the work and lives of those around him, whether their attainments be large or small, or their part in the community life be prominent or obscure. To the native strength of his personality the doing of large things in business has added poise, while a modesty of bearing and quiet, kindly humor marks his intercourse with his fellow men in the course of the day's work or in the relaxation of a social hour. To those who have been given an opportunity of closer personal touch with the man and insight into his nature, it is plain that he finds far more satisfaction in the development of his community, in bringing out the latent better qualities of the young men around him, in building men as well as factories, and in community service, than in the continued accumulation of money, which to him is mainly the symbol of achievement."

The foregoing local estimate has deep significance as defining the personality and the work of this man of large achievement, and it is not necessary in this brief sketch to outline the great part he has played in the development of some of the largest industrial enterprises in the South and also the upbuilding of a modern industrial town that is gradually gaining metropolitan status and the name of which perpetuates most effectively the honors which he has worthily won. Bassett is an industrial community of model homes, and better commendation than this cannot be given. The Bassett manufacturing plants, of which this subject of this review is the executive head, are of the best type and most modern mechanical equipment and facilities. The present capital and surplus of the Bassett Furniture Company are \$1,150,000; the annual output of the factory aggregates a valuation in excess of \$1,000,000, and the annual payroll foots up approximately \$2000,000. In the two treat manufacturing plants of the Bassett Furniture Company and the J.D. Bassett Manufacturing Company a total force of fully 500 employees is retained. Mr. Bassett is president of each of these corporations and also the First National Bank of Bassett. He is a republican in politics and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In 1893 Mr. Bassett wedded Miss Pocahontas Hundley, daughter of Capt. H.B. Hundley, she having been a successful and popular teacher in the rural schools prior to her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Bassett have been born four children: William McKinley Bassett, the eldest of the children, was graduated from the Bassett High School and Blackstone Academy, and thereafter continued his studies in Richmond College and Randolph-Macon College, besides completing a course in the National Business College at Roanoke. When the nation entered the World war he enlisted for service in the United States army, and he was stationed in turn at Fort Thomas, Kentucky; Washington, D.C.; and Camp Lee, Virginia, where he won commission as lieutenant. He was not called overseas, but continued in service until the close of the war. He is now vice president of the J.D. Bassett Manufacturing Company. He has received in the Masonic fraternity the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, besides being a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. Blanche Estelle, the elder daughter, received the advantages of Blackstone Institute and Hollins College, and she is now the wife of T.G. Vaughan, secretary and treasurer of the Vaughan- Bassett Furniture Company at Galax. Anne Pocahontas attended the same educational institutions as did her sister, and she is now the wife of T.B. Stanley, a vice president of

the Bassett Manufacturing Company. John D., Jr., attended Blackstone Academy, Washington and Lee University and the National Business College at Roanoke, and he is associated with the family manufacturing interests at Bassett. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity.

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

No family lines added or combined since the last newsletter.

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Section 9 - DNA project update.

No new results to report on the Bassett DNA project.

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

<http://www.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:

A current spreadsheet of results can be found at:

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

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

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

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