

29 April 1997
5518 Revere Drive,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84117

Lt. Scott Kirk
1907 Oakshire
San Antonio, Texas, 70232

Dear Lt. Kirk:

I have completed some more time for you and would have to say that as we are getting further back in time it becomes harder to find exact proof and the circumstantial evidence sometimes can be altered by more evidence as we collect loose ends from previous searches.

The time for April and May is used up for this report since I will be going on a trip part of May to see my sister who is ill. Therefore, I put in time for what Melanie sent plus time for next month, too. You can pay the balance in May so please don't send anymore until then as you said you could only afford \$50.00 per month.

I am enclosing work sheets and family group sheets that I have typed up also. There are many more Brazil sheets but didn't take time to type up all the work sheets because I am not sure how many will turn out to be direct line at this point.

I have updated family group sheets for families of Jessie L. Brassell/Brazil Jr. and his wife Susan Billingsley for your records. Jessie L. Jr. is a brother to your George W. Brazil. His wife, Susan Billingsley is also a cousin on the Billingsley side also. There are two family group sheets on Absalom Sessions one for each of his wives because I had a lot of data on those two families. He is a son of William Jack Sessions, one of three brothers who came to Pike county, Ala. early from South Carolina. Refer to the photocopies in my previous report regarding book Alabama's Pike county with Sessions history in it. Note one of children through his first wife is named Richard.

Next family group sheet is for Isaac Sessions and wife Ann. Most of the children reported married in Pike county. Next family group sheet is for direct ancestral family Richard D. Sessions and wife Sarah. Since ages varied somewhat from census to census I have given all ages as found in the different census years.

In addition I have typed work sheets on the following: Benjamin Braswell/Bracewell of Edgecombe county compiled from data on his estate in North Carolina. This is just one of many

probates that need to be checked in that county on that name. In addition I didn't take time to type up all the other work sheets on that surname in many other Georgia and North Carolina counties.

Remember I had found in a previous search on the Kirk and Peale families that you are related to in Georgia, some of the Peale's had previously come also from Edgecombe county, N. Car.

Other work sheets

Bliny/Blainey Brazil and wife Alice

J. A. McDaniel and Susanna

Jasper Sessions -Margaret Johnson, other wives cited too.

Explanatory sheet about an early John Sessions formerly of South Carolina and variance in some records in three counties, Pike and two bordering counties.

John Session and Martha A., older dau. or young 2nd wife

William Harry Sessions - Mary Weldon

William (Jack) Sessions

Updated sheet on William B. Brazil/Brasel and wife Lucretia Tillman/Tilman(Creasy) shows latest data as well as previously located data on direct ancestral family of your Jesse L. who married Achsah Ann(Acksum) Sessions.

This shows you at a glance what is now known on the various families. Now I will report on the many references checked to compile this data and will list the references alphabetically by state, then county and then type of source like our library catalog shows references.

I spent a lot of time one day reading large portions of book Nicolas Session, and Some of His Descendants, compiled by James e. Morgan, Jr., 929.3273Se72ml. Claim in made in book that the author's ancestors originally came from Soisons in France about 65 miles north east of Paris on left bank of Aisne River(pg 1) Emigrated to England prior to Huguenot migration and pg. 2 of book shows coat of arms listed in Burke's General Armory. Pg.2/3 emigrants came to colonial Virginia. Robert and wife, Mary came prior to 1658 to old Rappahannock. Thomas Sesson came before 1691 to Charles City county and died and had a will in Surry county, Virginia. Thomas Sesson came before 1691.

Nicolas Sessions in Surry county records 9 Mar 1670 discharging from debts. He came as an indentured servant from England. After his service completed he had land patents in Surry. I read all of descendants to most recent names in book and there were no Richard D Sessions in right age grouping at all. However, descendants are listed in North Carolina counties among them Chowan and Edgecombe counties. There was an Isaac Sessions who had a son, Richard, who was a revolutionary war vet in area of North Carolina, Sampson county.

In additional checking another search perhaps more leads could be found to the North Carolinians, should we be able to get them further back into South Carolina and then try to tie them to the North Carolinians.

I next turned to Alabama records in Pike county that I hadn't had time to finish in previous searching and also in bordering counties to Pike on a map.

History of Conecuh county, Ala. by Benjamin Franklin Riley, 976.126H2r, index at back of book on Sessions. Early Settlers Along the Old Federal road in Monroe and Conecuh counties, Ala. film 982,485 item 3 by Mary E. Brantly, indexed, nothing. NO deeds listed in catalog for that county before 1866.

1820 census Conecuh county, Ala.(parent county of Pike) film 1533830 pg. 20 Wm. Sessions one male and two females over 21, 2 males under 21 and one female under 21. Pg. 16 Richard Brazile one male over 21 and one female over 21, 2 females under 21.

Henry county, Ala sources - Cemetery and obits 976.131V2s Tomb inscriptions and obituary records, compiler Mrs.Marvin Scott, arranged alphabetically after table of contents. No family names at all. Marriage licenses Henry county compiler Mrs. Marvin Scott, film 835,116 item 4 No male Sessions names at all. Henry county, Ala. deed indexes 1824-44-1892, film 1302317, nothing. Henry county, Ala. deed index reverse index, 1824-1892,nothing. History and Genealogy Henry county, Ala 976.131D2s.

Monroe county, Ala. Deeds volume 9(1189621 pg. 298/9 and Monroe county, Ala. volume D, 1289618, Volume D pg. 180, see work sheet on various John Sessions to data on these deeds.

Monroe and Montgomery county,Ala., film 835122, DAR series 1831-1838, No marriages of known direct line families pg. 10 Rufus Sessions Mary Cook 25 Mar. 1835. Index Monroe county, Ala, wills and deeds 1833-1908, film 1289616 items 2/3 for data on John J. Sessions estate see sheet on data on John Sessions from various counties.

Montgomery county, Ala. marriages, 1818-1850, film 1492030 For earliest marriages see analysis of John Sessions problem sheet. Also several Brassel marriages, none for known family members. Recollections of early Settlers of Montgomery county, Ala. and Their Families by W. G. Robertson, film 823821. Early settlers from Georgia, South and North Carolina and Virginia.

Montgomery county, Ala. records of estate, film 1672424, item three mentions on pg. 516 Thomas Sessions dec'd and estate

appraisal 3 Nov 1831. This would be another older man dying in the area near where your Richard D. lived in Pike county bordering. On film 1672425 read some original Montgomery county, Ala wills in volume 3, no Sessions. pgs. 263/7. Jacob Brassell will. No son, William.

Since so many early families by surname of Sessions and Brazil/Braswell were in Pike county early decided to recheck 1850 census for Pike county and go through the whole county to see if I had missed any possible clues.

In previous searching in census in Little River and Sevier counties in Arkansas I had found no mention of any Alford's in the areas to be possible parent of your Julia Ann who married Jesse G. Billingsley in 1860 in Sevier. Nothing at all in census for 1830-1850 in those two counties or bordering counties.

Therefore, read the Sevier county, Ark. tax lists that we had on film 1009429, originals on film beginning in 1858. In 1858 lists lots of Billingsley names including your direct ancestral names. However no Doggett, No Kirk, No Marsh, No Sessions and no Alford names. Years 1859, 1860 note tax lists. Year 1861 Edward and Thomas J. Lyon in two 10. A. J. Marsh twp 9. And tax lists Edmond Lyons in twp 10 range 29 listed as guardian for George W. Doggett, John B. Doggett, Neome (their spelling) Doggett and Eugenie Doggett. L. L. Kirk listed for one slave. No listings for any family names for 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865.

Tax lists Sevier county continued year 1869 Many Brooks names. Asa Doggett; Thos. J. and Edmond Lyon. A. J. Marsh had 4 horses, 1 mule, 15 cattle, and 10 sheep, 30 hogs. Joseph Marsh and Jo. Marsh listed. Also an Alexander Sessions. No other family members listed. In 1870 lists L. L. Kirk is listed with 2 horses, 8 cattle. A. J. Marsh 3 horses, 3 mules, 18 cattle, 9 sheep, 30 hogs. 1871 last list Joseph Brazil; Mrs. Nancy Brazile; John B. Doggett, A. W. Doggett, L. L. Kirk, Thos J. Lyon, Nancy Lyon, John T. Lyon, A. J. Marsh. No Alford names in any tax year.

Next turned my attention to statewide census indexes Georgia, note photocopies for 1820 census index, 5 pages; 1830 statewide census Georgia 5 pages. Also note Photos from Georgia's Roster of Revolution for Sessions/etc names. Also rechecked for new surnames and rechecked for various spellings of Brazil, also Braswell, since some of relatives had their names also spelled Braswell in early census in Ala. Many Braswell names in this book for soldiers of rev. both from Georgia service and service in North Carolina. Bird Brasel only man by that name a vet in Hancock county where your William's marriage took place.

Rechecked Hancock county Ga. deeds 222008 for Alford, Braswell/Brazeal, etc. names and Lyons. Had already done Kirk names. Many for John and James Alfords in this index. Not time to look up but in deed book L, pg. 141, Heirs of Thomas Lyons were selling to Wm. Terrell, 1814. Some Tilman deeds also to possibly give clues as to possible parent of Lucretia Tilman.

Lucretia was born in 1802 in Georgia and married in 1824 in Hancock county, Ga. Hancock deed bk F pg. 355, film 222012 Henry Bankston sells to James Tilman 20 Feb 1802 232 acres on Dry creek.

Next went to Index to court of Ordinary wills and estate, Hancock county, Ga. on film 222086 1793-1900, Bird W. Brazill book Q and Bk R several pages to look up for another time. John Tillman listed in books L, M. and N. on various pages to look up another time.

since there was an early Richard Sessions in statewide census indexes in Ga. in Morgan county I decided to check Morgan county, Ga. court of Ordinary marriages and wills book A 1808-1818 several Session marriages but no Richard D. Sessions marriage. Film 158906, marr 1821-1834, Morgan county, no Sessions marriages.

I next read the 1790 census for South Carolina 975.7X2hb and read all Sessions and spelling variants and copied out all by county or districts. In Georgetown distr. were most familiar sounding given names. Pg. 50 all Saints parish Soloman, Absolum and John Sessions families, p.g. 56 in Georgetown distr. Prince George's parish John, Joseph, George, Frederick Sessions. In Pike county there were John, Soloman's and Absalom's.

Note index to statewide censuses for South Carolina photo copies for 1800 which includes returns. first columns for male and females under 10; 10-15-(male column only males 16/18); 16-26; 26/45; 45 up. 3 pages Index 1810 3 pages. Index 1820, title page missing 2 pages. Index 1830 3 pages.

As part of continuing search I will complete the 1810 censuses in South Carolina in original censuses. The 1800 index and 1820 indexes gave the returns so don't need to look up those original returns. I also checked the statewide early wills index by Martha Lou Houston which I have in my home again for new family names of Tilman and Sessions. There were no Sessions of any spelling. Tilmans in Abbeville county, Horry county, Kershaw county.

With the new clues on the Marsh families as being in 1850 census in Madison county, Tenn. I continued some references there to see if Elijah Marsh's marriage, death, cemetery, church, deed or probate records might be found. Also rechecked IGI for new

names and didn't find anything new there. Previously I had located Elijah in the 1830, 1840 and 1850 censuses in Madison county, Tenn. He wasn't listed in the index to 1820 census for Tenn. Elijah was born in 1793 in Georgia. A Joseph Marsh in same 1850 census older and born in North Carolina with a wife born in Virginia, could be possible other relative. Joseph born abt 1784.

Checked deed indexes for Madison county, Tenn on films 389625, 389626, Grantor(seller) and Grantee(buyer) indexes. Many Marsh references. Deed book one film 389935, earliest Marsh deed for a Henry Marsh from John Terrell of Weakley county, selling land on waters Clover Creek section 6 range 6, 102 acres, 8 Oct 1825.

Looked up many deeds in book 15 pages 13-18, see enclosed photocopies, was a distribution by court decree, heirs of Henry Marsh dividing up- his land. Note one of Heirs if William E Marsh. Whether this may be your Elijah is not clear, but certainly a possibility, that is why I took time to photocopy it all, 6 pages. film 389642

In Madison county deed book 19 pg 389644 I enclose a copy of a deed for your A. J. Marsh where he grants someone power to atty. since he is living at that time in Clarke county, Ark. to sell his property in Tenn. 4 pages including actual sale of land.

For part of continuing search I will get into the Clark county, Ark records of various types and see if his parents went there with him, or if he married there?

Next did a series of Madison county, Tenn probate records compiled by the WPA, 1822-1835 on film 024760, indexed. No Marsh probates in that compiled series. Checked original will book one on film 390194 and will book 2 on same film, indexed nothing.

This concludes my extensive searching for this month and next. Hope that you will enjoy reading the documents from Tenn. and the valuable clues they have given.

We have new surnames in the Sessions and Tilman lines to continue along with the others. It is my pleasure working with you on your family lines.

Sincerely yours,

Lola Sorensen

Mrs. Lola Sorensen/AG

encl/6 family group sheets
8 work sheets

Encl continued

Georgia statewide census indexes 1820,1830, 10 pages

Rev. war data Sessoms, 2 pages, Ga. vets

Statewide census indexes S. Car. 1800,1810,1820,1830 11
pages

Deeds filmed copies Madison county, Tenn., 10 pages

lls/AG