

26 March 1997
5518 Revere Drive,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84117

Lt. Scott Kirk
1907 Oakshire
San Antonio, Texas, 78232

Dear Lt. Kirk:

I have completed the time that your wife sent me funds for and have located some interesting documents which I hope you will find of interest for this search.

I checked the ancestral file for the surname Alford to see if anyone had done research recently and submitted to the library. Your Juliann/July Ann Alford married Jesse G. Billingsley in Ark. in 1860. Her oldest child was named John Alford Billingsley so kept that in mind in case a John might be her father or a sibling. In the ancestral file there was Julia Ann Alford born 15 Aug 1832 in Pike county, Miss. Your Julia was born in 1842 in Ark. according to census. In that computer file there was a family of Leander Alford born about 1818 and of Social Hill, Hot Springs, Ark. His wife was Nancy A. Davis and their children were born from 1844 through 1861. No child, Julia Ann.

I also checked the ancestral file for Marsh and Kirk names. There was a Stephen Kirk born 2 Sep 1736 in Buckingham twp., Lucks, Penn, parents Isaac Kirk and Elizabeth Twining. Spouse of Stephen was listed as Phebe Fell. In previous research I found mention in Wilkes county, Ga. of a Kirk family who had previously come from Penn. This could well be that family. No Stephen Kirk's right age to be your last known Stephen Kirk.

Since we had a definite place where the Brazils might have come from and the wife, Ackash Sessions listed as born in Brundidge, Ala. (Pike county) I rechecked the Ala. International genealogy index of names submissions to see what names might be listed in Pike county or adjacent counties. Jessie Lee Brazil marr. Joseph Monroe Logan 4 Dec 1892 in Brundidge, Pike county computer batch A471809 sheet 1575. No other Brazzelle, Brazil, etc. families in Pike. I next checked index to Sessions names in Ala. Jasper Sessions married Margaret Johnson 25 Apr 1854 Pike county, batch no. 7620109 sheet 31; Sarah Ann Sessions Cornelius Johnson 20 Dec 1860 Pike county same batch # sheet 33.

See enclosed county map to see where Pike county is located in Alabama. Note Macon where the Lyons and Doggetts were for a time is two counties away.

I next photocopied for you and myself the indexes to statewide census books for Alabama for 1830, 3 pages; 1840 3 pages, 1850, 4 pages; 1860 census, 4 pages. I have underlined the Brazil/Braswell, etc names and Sessions/Sissons.

In bordering county of Barbour county, Ala. on film 002843, I checked the Braswell, Brassell names in 1850 census. Pg. 148 Jephtha Braswell as 31 and born in Georgia, listed in family of James Orr 29 born Ireland, wife Jane 20 born Georgia and family. Pg. 123 Kenneth Braswell 38 born Ala., wife Nancy 35, born S. Car. and children Robert, William, Sarah, Martha and Catherine. Pg. 117 Henry Brassell 21 born Ala; pg. 111 Green Braswell 23 born Ala. Pg. 123 Letty Braswell 21 born Ala.

In 1860 census Barbour county, Ala. on film 803001, on pages 303/4 there was family of Benj. Brassell 21, wife, Mary A. 23 and children Sarah 3, and Missouri 1, born in Ala. Living with them Sarah Dubose 53 born S. Car. Pg. 346/7 Family of Jesse Braswell 28 born Ga., wife Mary 28 born Ala. and children Robert 8, Green 5, Catherine 3 and Norman, 4 months, all born Ala.

1860 census Clarke county, Ala. to the west of Pike county some four counties away was in Grove Hill twp., several Brazil/Brazzle families. film 803006. Of special note to me was page 633 with one Byrd Brazil 22 born Georgia listed with family of John Scisson (could be spelling variation of Session) 76 and wife Rhoda 67 born Georgia. ON page 697 was James Brazzle 34 listed as born in Pike county, Ala. with wife Mary A. 29 born S. Car. and children William 2, born Dale county and Amanda 9 months born Dale county, Ala. Pg. 606 Richard Brazil 22 farmer born Ga. Pg. 617 Simon Brazil 27 born S. Car., wife Susan 40 born S. Car. and children James r. 13, Martha C 7 born Barbour county, Ala. Reuben A. 6, William W. 4, Jacob 3, Margaret E, 1, all born Barbour county, Ala.

Note in my previous searching had a circumstantial case of a family of Mansfield Brazil who had a son J. L. born in right time frame in Hancock county, Ga. Mansfield's father was Byrd Brazil, a revolutionary war vet. Your J. L. in previous research was in cemetery data born 29 Aug 1829 and died 6 Feb 1870. Bird Braswell/Brazil had gotten military bounty in Georgia for his service in North Carolina in revolutionary war. He was listed early in Wilkes county. Then his son was listed as marrying in Hancock county, Ga.

Next looked up the Benjamin Brazil in statewide census index in Ala. for 1850 in Henry county, Ala. on film 002348 and found that Benjamin Brazil was a small child, age 5 born Ala. listed with John J. Runels 38 and Nancy Runel 32, both born in S. Car.

Next check 1850 census of Lowndes county, Ala. (two counties away from Pike) on film 002350 and found on page 111 Benjamin

Brazel 45 overseer, born S. Car., listed alone. Pg. 145 Kindred Brazil 47, planter born Ga., wife Nisa 27, born Ga. and children Elsyburk 12, Thomas 9, and Sarah 5, all born Ala. Pg. 177 Henry Brasell 20 born Ala., wife Amanda 26 and Louisa 1, born Ala.

I next turn to target county of Pike county, Ala. Cemeteries were abstracted in a book 976.135V3p Pg. 37 buried in Paron Primitive Bapt church was one Blaney T. Brazil born 7 May 1850 and died 15 Dec 1901, husband of Jennie Freeman. Copied out oldest graves only since your people moved from here by 1860 census when they are in Ark. A. W. Brazil in Brundidge city cemetery, 29 Aug 1838 died 30 July 1914, husband of Clara t. Slough, with others including Bell Robin Brazil, Myrtle Fay Brazil, Mamie Brazil, Hattie Brazil and others. Also in Brundidge city cem. G. AW. Brazil 4 Jan 1834-27 Nov 1900, company F., 15th Ala. Infantry confederate sergt., with Mary Jane, Josephus Brazil; Elizabeth A. Brazil 15 Sep 1861 -12 Ocxt 1876, see G. W. Brazil. Also with G. W. Brazil John Henry Brazil 16 Sep 1868 - 24 Oct 1887, Josephus Brazil 1 Nov 1870 - 16 Feb 1926. Mary Jane Brazil 1 Mar. 1841-5 Apr 1879. The Brundidge City Cemetery is located South Main street, Brundidge, Ala.

I next checked from the statewide census index for 1830 what heads of families were listed for Pike county, Ala. Pg. 33 Tobias Brasell, he 40/50, wife 20/30 and children a female 10/15, 2 males under 5. Pg. 34 William Brasell he 30;/40, wife 40/50 and children 1 male 16/26/1 male 10/15;3 males and one female 5/10; 3 males and one female under 5. With your J. L. born 1829 he would be about one then. Also in Ark. in 1860 with your J. L. was a William Brazel 27-1860 or born 1833 so he would not have been born in 1830. Pg. 76 Benjamin Braziel he and wife 40/50 with children one ale and one female 15/20; 1 male and two females 10/15; 2 females 5/10; 1 male and 1 female under 5.

I next turned to the 1840 census for Pike county on film 002334, item 10. Pg. 360 Isaac Sessions 60/70, wife 40/50 and 2 males 10/15 and 1 male 5/10. Pg. 380 John Sessions 60/70; wife 40/50 and children 2 females 15/20/ 2 females 10/15 and 1 females 5/10. In bordering county of Montgomery in 1840 was on page 194 Richard Braswell 50/60; wife 40/50 and family including a son under 5 and others. Pg. 171 Roland Braswell 30/40, wife 20/30 and an older lady 60/70 and children including a son, under 5.

Before I had begun this Pike county searching I reviewed the Ark. Brazil data and found that Ackсах Brazil (maiden name Sessions) was next door to one Richard Sessions in Little River county, Ark. in 1870 census. This intrigued me as a possible parent and family.

1850 census Pike county, Ala. pg. 261 on film 442864. See enclosed filmed photocopies from original census. Note your J. L. Brazil is single and working away from home and he is on same page as Richard Sessions family showing a daughter, Acksum, which has to be your Achsah, right time, right place, right surname and her future husband on same page as she and her family. R. D. Sessions(old fashioned ways of writing double s)

This establishes our connection to the Sessions families of this area. Also in same census on page 167 was one Absalum Sessions 26 born S. Car., wife Mary 22, born Ala. and children Frances 7, William 6, Sarah 4, Monroe 2 and Richard age 7 months, all born Ala. Several Braswell/Brasel families. Pg. 238 Wm. B. Brasel 44; Lucretia 48 and children King 21, William 17(same age as William in Ark. with your J. L.), George 15, Elisabeth 14, Alsy 11, Mary 9, Martha 8 and Frances 6, all born in Georgian but last child born in Ala. Pg. 235 In family of J. C. McDaniel 24, born Ala. wife Susanna M. McDaniel 33 born South Carolina was one Sarah Sessions 72 born N. Carolina. This Sarah would be old enough to be a possible parent or aunt of Richard D. Sessions.

In 1850 census several other Brasel families see target family with this report following for parents of your J. L. and his Siblings. Also in this report note composite for family of Richard D. Sessions and his wife and siblings. Pg. 267 Bleny Braswell 60, farmer born N. Car., wife, Alice 55 born S. Car. and family. Pg. 209 another William Brasel 56, born N. Car, wife Sarah 54 born N. Car. and children Mary 19, Frances 17 both born in Ga.

I next did the 1860 census for Pike county, Ala. on film 803021. On page 46 one Maretha Sessions 64, born S. Car., listed alone. Pg. 59 Blaney Braswell 69 born N. Car., wife Alice 65 born S. Car. and children Burrells, Harriet, Elbert and next door William Braswell 29 born G.a and wife Margaret C. and children. Pg. 71 listed alone Nancy Sessions 66, midwife, born N. Car. Other Sessions families younger but no Richard D. Sessions family. On page 232 in Brundidge, eastern division one George W. Brazil(has to be civil war vet cited previously in cemetery records in Brundidge) 26, carpenter born Ga. in household of George w. Dees 37 born N. Car., Mary A. Dees 16 born Ga. Read all family names of Brazil and Sessions and copied out for future reference if needed.

I next checked a book called Alabama's Pike county compiler by Mrs. Frank Ross Stewart(976.135H2s) Note photocopied account of Sessions history. 9 pages. Note the references to Sessions families in South Carolina. I will continue the research for another time in what few references we have for those areas of South Carolina. on page 44 same source Richard D. Sessions was a justice of the peace in 1844 and on page 43 was a commissioner for county with others. Slave holders on page 32 for Conecuh

county in 1820, one of parent counties of Pike showed Richard Brazile and William Sessions.

I next checked the index to Pike county, Ala. Deeds on film 1637866 items 1 through 3. I was excited to see J. R. Brazil and others - Jordan Galloway on 19 Oct 1858 vol 12 page 634. John A. Sessions and wife - James May 27 March 1847 bk E. pg. 159; R. D. Sessions selling to Guilford Burney 7 May 1850 bk E pg. 823 and R. D. Sessions and wife, selling to Eli Henderson 13 Nov 1852 bk G. pg. 501. Wrote out all early Brazil/Sessions deeds from index. In reverse index reference J. L. Brazil and others - Jordan Galloway bk K pg. 634; George W. Brazil - W. W. Amos 24 Apr 1858, bk K pg. 456.

Next looked up book K, Pike county, Ala. original deeds on film 13022237, Pg. 456 W.W. Amos sells to George W. Brazil land in Covington. Section 11, twp 6, range 16, 120 acres, 30 Nov 1857. Note exciting document on pages 634-635 Your J. L. Brazil listed with his siblings and mother (Lucretia) as selling land of his deceased father (two filmed pages. They are selling to Jordan Galloway. 14 Nov 1857. By carefully copying out all the names I find that the Family of William B. Brazil fits perfectly, plus some of older sons are nearby in census including your J. L. Finally I have some definite proof to tie your J. L. to his parents.

In checking original marriage index for Pike county, Ala. on film 1637978 I noted Achol Ann Session - J.L. Brazil 22 Oct 1856, pg. 320. I copied out all early Brazil and Sessions marriages from index for future reference. I then went to original marriages on film and photocopied the original marriage for your records see enclosed filmed copy of original. film 1033193 item 2) Also on same film were some probate records for settlements and guardian records which I read and copied our some Braswell data and Sessions data. Pg. 375 Martha A. Sessions, admx. estate of John Sessions dec'd. Final settlement of her guardianship 25 Mar 1866. Frances Sessions minor heir of Absalom Sessions dec'd.

Next I checked on film 1033210 Pike county wills, item 2 Volume A to 1853 pg. 90 James W. Braswell will, wife Elisabeth M., brother Blaney will dated 6 June 1853 and proved in Dec 1853. minor son, James E. D. Braswell, item 3 Will bk B 1850-1876, nothing indexed. Pike county, Ala. Final Settlements, volume one on film 1637975, indexed nothing. Pike county, Ala. guardian records, volume one on film 1637880, too late to help.

I next checked the statewide census index for Ark. and found Richard Sessions listed for page 150 Little river twp, Savier county. Looked up original census on film 803051. See filmed original census, which took parts of two pages for all of family.

Family William B. Brazil 44-1850 born Ga.
wife Lucretia F. 48-1850 born Ga.

children

J. L. Brazil 22-1850 born 29 Aug 1829 and died 6 Feb 1870, buried Campground cem., Little River county, Ark. Married Achsah/Aksum Sessions 22 Oct 1856 Pike county, Ala. (license 14 Oct.)

R. D. Brazil 19-1850 born Ga.

Wm. B. Brazil 17-1850; 27-1860 Born Ga. wife Sarah

George W. Brazil born 4 Jan 1834 died 27 Nov 1900; wife Mary Jane, carpenter and civil war vet.

Elizabeth 14-1850

Alsy W. Brazil born 29 Aug 1838 died 30 July 1914, wife Clara T. Slough

Mary Thomas Brazil 9-1850 born Ga.; marr. A. McBeth

Martha E. Brasil/Brazil 8-1850 born Ga.

Frances Brazil/Brasil 6-1850 born Pike county, Ala.

Sources 1850 census Pike county, Ala. film 442,864, pg. 238, pg. 217, pg. 161p Pike county Ala. deed bk K on film 1302237, pgs. 634/5 Heirs of Brazil dec'd selling their fathers' land to Jordan Galloway 14 Nov 1857; Pike county, Ala. Cem. records 976.135V2p #15 Brundidge city cemetery; 1860 census Sevier county, Ark. Little River twp. (976.747X2p) pgs. 82,85; 1870 census Little river, Little river, Ark. P O Rocky comfort film 545,557 pg. 345 Achsah Brazil and children and her parents next door; Little River county, Ark. cemetery records 976.755V2L volume one campground cemetery pg. 56

Family of Richard D. Sessions 48-1850; 58-1860 B. S.
Car. Wife Sarah 37-1850 47-1860 born North Carolina.

Children Richard and Sarah -

Susannah Sessions 17-1850; 25-1860 born Ala.

Mary 15-1850 born Ala.

Acksum/Achsah Ann Sessions born 15 July 1840 Brundidge, Pike county, Ala. marr. 22 Oct 1856 J. L. Brazil, Pike Co., Ala. Died Little River county, Ark. Buried Campground Cem.

Joseph Sessions 8-1850; 18-1860 born Ala.

Margaret Sessions 6-1850; 15-1860; 24-1870 born Ala.

John Sessions 3-1850; 13-1860-22-1870

Henry Sessions 2-1850, not listed in 1860 with family.

Family of Richard D. Sessions and Sarah cont'd
Henrietta Sessions 9-1860, 18-1870 born Ala.
Elizabeth Sessions 23-1860 born Ala.
Emeline Sessions 7-1860; 16-1870 born Ala.
Huldah Sessions 5-1860; not listed with family in 1870
Helon 2-1860; Ellen 12-1870

Sources for family of Richard D. Sessions and Sarah-
1850 census Pike county, Ala. film 442864, pg. 261 R. D.
Sessions family, plus same page L. Braswell; Alabama's Pike
county, bk: 976.135H2s, volume 2 page 43 Richard D. Sessions
court commissioner, pg. 44 Richard D. Sessions, justice of the
peace, 1844; Pike county, Ala. deeds index 1302243 Grantor R. D.
Sessions to Guilford Burney 7 May 1850, Bk. E. pg. 823; R. D.
Sessions and wife - to Eli Henderson, 13 Nov 1852, Bk. G. pg.
501; John A. Sessions and wife to James May 27 Mar. 1847, bk. E
pg. 259; 1860 census Sevier county, Ark., film 8903051, pgs.
150/151 Little river twp, Richard Sessions family; 1870 census
Little River, Little River county, Ark. film 545557, pg. 345
Richard Session family, Acksah Brazil and children; Little river
county, Ark. cemetery records, 976.75V2L volume one, pg. 56
Campground cemetery.

Since the marriages in Hancock are in 1810's and 1820's
I think it likely that my circumstantial case for William and
Mansfield being brothers and sons, of Byrd Braswell/Brassell, etc
are good. Hancock county Ga. tax lists abstracts from Some
Early Ga. Tax lists book(975.8R4g) pg. 41 shows in Capt Smith's
company of 1812 Byrd Brazel. This shows Byrd was there in county
before marriages took place. Further the family of William B.
Brazil and wife Lucretia F. had a son, Alsy which is rather
unusual and there is another party by that same given name and
surnane marrying in Hancock county, Ga. Also. Circumstantially
this would seem to tie the families in the two states together.
Further the census abstracts which I have cited in Ala. indicated
in Clarke county to the west of Pike county in 1860 a young Byrd
Brazil 22 born Ga. living with a John Scisson 76 and wife Rhoda
67 born Ga. Also in same county one James Brazzle is 34 and
states he was born in Pike county, Ala. The 1850 census shows a
James about right age to be this man in Pike county with a
wife, Mary.

The William Brazil that I had found previously in 1860
census in Sevier county in area that by 1870 was in Little River
county, Little River township is indeed your J. L.'s brother as
the Pike county, Ala. 1850 census shows.

In the Georgia International Genealogy index of names
submissions I searched for Sessions and found some early names in
the counties of Savannah, Chatham county; Jasper and Franklin
counties. No marriage of a Richard D. Sessions or D. Sessions.

Also checked international genealogy index names submissions for the surname of Tillman and there were many references for Hancock county, Ga. However, no births for a Lucretia or Creasy Tillman, or marriage. Probates and deeds for Hancock could be completed another time for Brazil; Sessions and Tillman.

I redid the index to 1820 census for Georgia in Hancock county Bryd Brazel, Mansfield Brazel; in Jones country Briton, William, Bang., James Brazil. see photocopies, 4 pages including Brazil, Lyon, Marsh names. I will get back to those other names another time.

There was a series of Jasper county Bible records, Family Genealogies, called the Lancaster collection for Georgia on films 365,217 and 365,220 which I checked for all known family names in Georgia. Richard Braswell married Polly Gentry 15 July 1810. Then checked 365213 Jasper county Cemeteries and didn't find any early Kirk, Brazell, Peale, etc. names.

My three general references probate index books here at my home Abstracts of North Carolina will by Fred Olds 1760-1800 checked for session, most in Edgecombe county. Alfords in Robeson and Warren counties. Index to South Carolina county wills, except Charleston wills checked for Session. Pg. 93 Frederick Sisson 1785k-1818 in Edgefield county. Early Samuel Marsh also in Edgefield county. In Kershaw and Newberry counties also Marsh names. Virginia wills and Administrations also checked for Sessions. Sisson names in Brunswick, Orange, richmond, Surry and Westmoreland counties. Alfords in Bedford, Frederick, Middlesex and Northampton counties, copied out for future reference as we get further back from Georgia into Carolinas and Virginia.

I took time as part of this report to look up the Madison county, Tenn. references to look up for Elijah Marsh and relatives for next search.

It is always my pleasure working with you on your family lines.

Sincerely yours,

Lola Sorensen
Mrs. Lola Sorensen/AG

Encl/cited in body of report.

Hancock county, Ga. where I had previously found Mansfield Brazil/Braswell with a son, J. L. also had a marriage for one William Brazil to Creasy(nickname for Lucretia) Tillman 24 Nov 1824. This marriage within approximate date I had figured for the marriage from ages of oldest children. Also in same marriages in addition to previously found Mansfield Brazell's marriage there was a marriage for Alsey Brazil to Elizabeth Welch 2 Mar 1829. Note above family has a child with same unusual name. In the IGI someone had submitted a William as a sibling to Mansfield Brazil with approximate date of 1792. I think this above William is the brother to Mansfield and son of Byrd Brazil.