

3 Aug 1998  
5518 Revere Drive,  
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84117

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

Dear Lt. Kirk;

I had this report all done and the computer wiped it out so here I am redoing it. That is one thing about a computer and a typewriter that I don't appreciate and that is what just happened. A typewriter never wipes out what you put on a piece of paper.

As part of my continuing searching for you I have consulted the International Genealogy Index of names submissions for states of Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina for the surnames of Sessions and Tilman. I have already done the other family surnames for you.

Alabama IGI showed that there are people with surname Sessions data for Pike county;

Jasper Sessions - Margaret Johnson 25 Apr 1854 Pike county, computer batch #7620109, sheet 31 submitted in year 1976.  
Sarah Ann Sessions - Cornelius Johnson marr 20 Dec 1860, Pike county, same computer batch # and sheet 36 of series.

IGI for Georgia

Sessions data in counties Chatham, Jackson, Jasper, Pike. On Tilman see work sheets for most interesting families, also some of same ones had their beginnings in Edgefield county, South Carolina. Interesting birth reported in Burke county 8 March 1778 James Tillman, son of William Tillman and Mary Farrow, submitted by two different patrons computer numbers 8432606 sheet 66 and 8422004 sheet 99. These names were submitted in 1984. As part of my continuing searching will look up names and see if they can be contacted and what sources they used in compiling the data. Also I noted the family of James Tilman and Faitha Ellison previously noted and their children born in Hancock county one of our target counties on yours Brazel/Tilman connection.

I then checked the early Alabama censuses I hadn't had time to check in previous searching which had included available census in target county of Pike on the Sessions/Brazil names. Earliest reference in census to your Pike county Sessions in 1840. None in Pike county listed for 1820, 1830.

Other counties near Pike in early days which I checked for this search were;

1830 census Clarke county, film 002329 item 8

pg. 224 southern division Daniel Sessions, he and wife were 50/60 or born between 1770/1780. Children - 1 male and 1 female 10/15 or born between 1815/20; one female 5/10 or born between 1820-25.

No Sessions names in index to Alabama census for 1840, 1850. In previous searching I had located in Clarke county 1860 census, 803006, pg. 633 Grove Hill John Scisson (spelling in census) 76-1860 born South Carolina, or born abt 1784 and wife Rhoda 67-1860 born in Georgia, born abt 1793. Listed with them Byrd Braziel, age 22, farm laborer, born Georgia abt. 1838. This intrigues me with a Braziel living with a Scisson (Session) and the given name being Byrd. Note my theory on the ancestry of your William B. Brazil's ancestry going back to a William Byrd Brazel.

Monroe county, Ala. early census next county I did from early statewide census indexes. Monroe county 1830 census, film 002329. pg. 42. Statewide census index showed a Wiley Sesson on that page, however, in reading the original I note only a Wiley Deason, not Sesson. Read whole county page by page. No Sessions in 1840 census index for Monroe county.

1850 census Monroe county, Ala., film 002353, item 2 pg. 57 Jonithan (their spelling) Sessions 21, farmer, born Ala., wife Elizabeth 18, born Ala. Pg. 58 J. J. Sessions, missionary baptist clergyman, 45-1850, born abt. 1805 in South Carolina, wife Sarah 44-1850, born abt. 1806, South Carolina. Children - Thadeous 22, James 16, Elizabeth I and Martha A. J. both listed as 13, Margaret 8, Sarah 5, Mary 2, all born Ala.

1830 census Wilcox county, Ala. film 002,380, item 5 Three John Sessions here. Pg. 168 John J. Sessions he and wife 20/30 and 2 sons under 5. Pg. 176 John Sessions he 40/50 and wife 30/40, children daughters - 2 10/15; 1 female 5/10 and 2 females under 5. Pg. 178 John B. Sessions. Male and female names odd ages for a single family unit? two males 20/30; 1 female 20/30; 1 female 40/50; 1 male 15/20; 1 male 10/15 and one female 5/10.

The index to 1840 census Wilcox county, Ala. was not in drawer. Statewide index for Wilcox county, Ala. showed pg. 333 V. G. W. Sessions and pg. 334 John B. Sessions. Index 1850 census Ala. showed in Wilcox county, pg. 386 John B. and W. G. W. Sessions, pg. 402 W. J. Sessions. This film was out two days I looked for it. Frustrating!

1860 census Wilcox county, Ala., film 803,026, eastern division names as follows;

Pg. 1047 W. G. Sessions 52, farmer born South Carolina

Wife Mary A. 58 born Georgia; children birthplaces all blank on census - John J. 15, Martha 13, Sarah E. 11, John B., 9, Janet E. 7, M. M. 6 and Ella M. 2 months.

pg. 1059 W. J. Sessions, 46, born South Carolina, wife Permelia 45, born S. Car. No children listed.

pg. 1086 L. A. Sessions, 40, female born Ala.; children- Amandy 13, Wash't 11, Henry 9 and James 7, all born Ala.

pg. 1107 W. Y. Sessions, male, 50, miller, born S. Car. Wife, Sarah 43, born Georgia; children Jas. 12, B.(male) 8, Sarah 10, Wm. 6, A.(female) 4, Jno. 1, all born Ala.

The 1860 census tells us who the W. G. W. Sessions of 1850 would be and who the W. J. Sessions might be of 1850 census indexing. No John B. Sessions in 1860 for Wilcox, whether L. A. Sessions is John B's widow I won't know until I can examine the original 1850 census which was out both days I checked for it for you.

I noted for some reason I didn't get the complete Billingsley names checked in the statewide census index for Ark. 1242078 film, soundex code B452 so decided to read all the families. I noted particularly those in Little River county. Please note the enclosed Billingsley sheets for additions from this source on your related families. Several widows were noted by me in this index. Many Billingsley names in Nevada county so noted them in case anyone would write to you for information on that county since two counties away from our target counties of Little River and Sevier on a map. In Little River twp, Little River, ED 74 sheet 6 line 14, son of your Jesse and Julia Ann, J. A. Billingsley and his family, see family sheets for data. They had a daughters Julia A. named after his mom. Your Jesse is listed as J. G. in census in Caney twp, Little River, ED 74, sheet 1 one 23. One of his last wives, Jane is living with him and it gives dates on her that we didn't have before. Jerome Pinkney Billingsley's widow, Rebecca and the children are listed in Jackson twp, Little River county ED 75, sheet 10, line 24. This is one of Jesse G's brother's families. See updated family group sheet. Thomas Jerome(T. J.) Billingsley, Jesse's brother is listed with his last wife, Dora in Caney twp, Little River county, ED 74, sheet 1. Read whole film.

I then did the index to 1910 census for Ark. which I hadn't done previously for the direct and collateral Billingsley families, on film 1369149.

Little River county 036-0032-0170

Charles C. Billingsley 24 born Ark., wife, Nina W. 24, born Mo. Children Charles W. 5, and Veri B. age 1, born Ark.

Little river 036-0032-0244

Grover Billingsley 20; wife, Edna 23, born Ark.

Little river 036-0035-0200

Jesse K. Billingsley, father in law to James A. McClinton.

Jesse is listed with his daughter, Jessie and her family in this census. No wife listed so his last wife would have died between 1900 and 1910 censuses.

Little River county 036-0038-0052 Family of Guy Nat, Josie Billingsley 18 a daughter in law and children of hers, George 3, Mary age not reported, a granddaughter.

I then reviewed again the filmed original marriage index for females and males for Little River county, Ark. Females 1007911 and looked for all family names and then checked against what I had already given you. I have a complete listing written by hand of all the Billingsley female names, Brazel/Brazzell, Kirk, Marsh and Sessions names. On the Kirk I note a Lawyse(might be misspelling for Louise?) Kirk Fay James 1924, book Q, pg. 610. Georgia Kirk - Bud Moore 1923, bk. Q. pg. 540; Myrtle Kirk - J. E. Miller 1937, bk. W pg. 117. Pearl Marsh - A. J. Wheat 1903, bk F. 405. Since I hadn't copied out the Sessions originally because the new family surname wasn't known when I made the original search I decided to look those up for you. From the years of marriages they would have to be through a son of Richard D. Sessions and not his children. Your Axie/Achsah was married in Pike county, Ala. before she came to Ark.(J. L. Brazil) and her parents came to Ark with her. Richard had sons, John and Joseph so the marriages of the Sessions in Little River county could be children of one of these two sons.

Little River county, Ark. index marriages Male, film 1007910 read all Billingsleys. Noted in bk B, pg. 323 G. W. Brazel V. L. Billingsley which I have noted as looking up. Noted also Jessie L. Brazzell to Susan A. Billingsley bk B pg. 327; C. M. Brazell - M. J. Gill, bk. C, pg. 113; J. A. Billingsley - Annie Moore, bk. E, pg. 243; Joe Billingsley - Josie Green bk H. pg. 222; G. w. Brazel - Bettie Brinkley 1923, bk. Q, pg. 265. Pleas Sessions - Nottie Turner, 1893, bk. C. pg. 115, V. L. Sessions - Gerie Pullen 1913, bk. L. pg. 291.

I next turned to the marriages for Little River, themselves on film 1007912, pg. 506 J. L. Brazil, 22, marr Lou Billingsley, age 20, 31 Jan 1892 by Justice of peace. Pg. 327 Jessie L. Brazzell, age 20, married Susan H. Billingsley 18, 25 May 1892.

Little River county, Ark. original marr. film 1007913, book B. continued pg. 32 J. F. Brazel age 20, marr. Lula Billingsley 16, marr. 2 Jan 1888. Pg. 29 Jerome P. Billingley marr Rebecca Willingham, 23 Feb 1881. Pg. 251 shows a bond for J. A. Billingsley with(pg.251) G.W. Brazil to marry Mary S. Buchanan 4 Aug 1883. However, the marriage was not finalized. Pg. 598 Charley Billingsley married Alice Dukett 30 Jan 1887. Pg. 230 W. B. Hawkins married Lizzie Billingsley, age 16. He was 24 years of age. Married 28 April 1883, and recorded 2 May 1883. Pg. 2 Louis Duffun married Miss Lessea Sesson 26 Feb 1881.

item 2 same film, pg. 167 James A. McClinton age 21, married Miss Jessie Billingsley, age 22, 27 Jan 1894.(this is couple where your direct ancestor Jessie G. Billingsley is living in 1910 census)

Little River county, Ark. marriages, film 1004914  
Pg. 35 Abe english 26, married Maude Billingsley, age 17, 22 Aug 1896, pg. 250 Jno. C. Herndon, age 28, married Carrie sessions, age 20, 19 Jan 1898. Item 3 book E Pg. 2 J. P. Cooper, age 63 marr. Mrs. M. J. Brazel 2 March 1899. Pg. 82 Ed Billingsley, age 19, married Birdie Brown age 17, 27 Aug 1899, pg. 243 J. A. Billingsley, age 38, married Annie Moore 18 April 1900.

I noticed in Little River county, Ark. marriages a marriage for an Edward Woolridge in 1899 which intrigued me since a Julia A. Alford(name of your direct ancestor who married Jesse G. Billingsley) was listed in a Woolridge family in 1850 census in Bradley county, Ark. Edward Woolridge was 25 and pride Livinia Johnson, age 17, marr 24 Dec 1899. That concludes my 2nd review of the marriages in Little River county, Ark. having rechecked for all family names including Sessions.

On the Sevier county, Ark. marr., film 1007941 I am sending a copy from item 3, book 3, pg. 137 of Capt. Asa E. Doggett's marriage. He served in civil war and married age 28 to Miss Sarah F. Clements age 22, both of county, 23 Jan 1867. Minister had his credentials listed in Hempstead county and was a baptist minister. Marriage dated 24 Dec 1866 and recorded by minister, 23 Jan 1867. Note filmed original copy.

As I told you in my last report I would try looking up references from the Master Index to the Georgia Genealogical Magazine series, 975.8B2gg. In the past I had looked up many references for your family names to look up as time permitted. Vol 1-2 in index show an Edy Marsh on page 10 and John Marsh on page 11. However, those volumes were not on the shelves.

Volumes 7-10 also not on shelves. In this index pg 448 reference to Dixon and John Lyon. Your one child of Mary Lyon Doggett had a son with middle name Dixon so this intrigued me but alas, not on shelves. I wonder if someone else was either using those volumes same days I wanted them or if they might be filming them or rebinding the books to have so many off the shelves. I will check with the record attendant and find out when I return to the library again. On page 513 Richard, William, Wiley Brazeal. Also on same series pg. 506 Aaron Tillman, pg. 581 Gideon Tillman and pg. 583 William Tillman.

Issues 11-14, 1964 series was on shelves so looked up many references referring to Braswell, Brazeal, Sessions, Lyon. Pg. 943 Lowndes county grand jurors May 1833 Jeremiah Tilman and anthers from files newspaper Southern Recorder. This too late of

a time frame to help on your Tilman problem and not in right county. Volume 16 same series pg. 939 Washington county, Joseph Sessions, executor of will of Benj. Tarver, dec'd, Feb 1832, 160 acres land on Lamar's creek.

Same series volumes 23/26 not on shelf. From index pg. 1598 and 1599 names Bird Brazeal and Samuel Braswell. John, Joseph, Isaac and John Lyons/Lyon references. Alexander and Henrietta Marsh, pg. 1621, Joseph Sessions pgs. 1570, 1768. William J. Tillman pg. 1558. No James or Frederick Tilman references.

Same series volumes 27-30, family names in areas of concern or even in any area.

Georgia Gen. Mag. series continued issues 31-34 pg. 2252 Warren county court abstracts deeds, marriages, original page #527 Williams, Elijah and William Mays of Warren county, deed dated 7 Jan 1800, 200 acres Brier creek, part of 1794 grant to Byrd Braswell. Pg. 2360, and 2362 refers to a sheriff named Henry Brazeal who is sheriff of Montgomery and then Washington county in 1794. Pg. 2360 also refers to Robert Braswell selling land to Cader Price to Hard Hargraves and Jacob Hargraves in 1790 through 1793, land on Great Ohoopee watercourse.

Compare these references to the given names in the index to Chatham county, N. Car. deeds which I enclose and you will note some similarities. Chatham is where Byrd Brazel/Braswell is reported to have been when beginning his service during revolutionary war. (filmed original index to deeds enclosed)

Gen. Gen. Mag. series continued issues 35-38, pg. 39 Land lottery oaths, Fayette county, Ga., William Miles, executor of Aaron Tilman's estate, deceased. Aaron had drawn lots in Cherokee county. Court stated his name was recorded incorrectly 21 June 1843. Pg. 244 Jefferson county will, bk. A abstract, Will or Richard Peel dated 9 Feb 1792, proved 6 Jan 1806, wife Mary, sons, William, John and Jonathon. Brother, John Peel and son, William executors. Tilman's mentioned in various court abstracts in counties of Bulloch, Henry and Putnam in Georgia but none of known family names from Hancock bunch. Pg. 377/378 Pickens county, S. Car. real estate sales, Samuel P Brazeal and wife, Sarah Ann mentioned 1858, too late to help with our needs.

Georgia Gen Mag. 1971 series Pg. 81 Edgefield advertiser, newspaper abstracts, South Carolina cited 19 July 1831 at Glenn Springs, Jonathan Tillman, resident of Edgefield, affectionate father and husband died. (Edgefield county, S. Car. is close to Georgia on a map)

Ga. 11 Sep 1824 Benjm. Braswell, Joseph, John, Frances, Catharine Kirk. Pg. 286/7 Jones county, Ga. deed bk. A. (one of our target counties in Georgia) 21 March 1808 John Culpeper of Baldwin county gives to his children Sampson, Aggy, Polly or

Washington county. Wit: Abs. Sessions(probably abbreviation for Absalom). Pg. 445 Joseph Sessions surveyed land in Washington county, Ga. in books D-E, he surveyed 6 Aug and Feb 1792 and surveyed 54 plots.

That completed except for 3 volumes the main references that I had wanted to check and I must say that I was disappointed that the references didn't net us some more documentation for some of your direct ancestral families. There were some threads like the one piece of land originally granted Byrd Braswell/Brazel. Also of interest was the Joseph Sessions an early surveyor. There was an early Joseph Sessions in Miss. Territory by 1807 who served in militia there according to some previous data from a history in Pike county, Ala. Whether these are same Joseph's is certainly not implied or proven at this point. Old Joseph in 1790 census in Georgetown distr. in 1790 census.

I next rechecked the book Index Early Georgia tax lists, bk#975.8R4g for Sessions and Tilman and other names. Pg. 41 Hancock county 1812 tax lists for Capt. Smith Byrd Brazil, watercourse Dry Creek. pg. 42 Capt Smith'[s list 1812 Frederick Tilman, pg. 72 Hancock county 1812 list Capt Turners Distr. two entries for John Tilman, 400 acres, 325 acres Hancock county.

Recheck book Index to Georgia wills, #975.8S2m by Jeannette H. McCall for Sessions and Tillman names. Pg. 403 Andrew Session and Benjamin Session wills in Washington county; William W. Sessions in Ware county, along with an Alexander Sessions. Pg. 456 John Tillman, Meriwether county 1831-1859. Aaron Tilghman, Fayette county 1828-1897. Peel references in Jefferson county. However, as stated in a previous report I am inclined to think your Peel who married the Levi Kirk was married previously to John Peel Jr. and daughter of a Gray according to documents in Georgia court records and also in Edgecombe county, North Carolina.

Many references to Richard Sessions who married Esther Boone in North Carolina IGI and had children in 1780's and 1790's. More than one patron submitted the family, some for birthplaces in New Hanover county and another patron for children born in Sampson county. These counties border one another on a map and are coastal counties. Dates of birth are all approximate in both series of the same. Richard and Esther had children David, Bathsheba, Betsy Winifred, Boone, Jesse, John, Joseph, Mary, Phillip J, Sarah, Uriah and William.

I was intrigued with children names of Joseph and Philip because in previous checking in Alabama's Pike county book and pages on Sessions families there was a note that in 1st regiment militia in Mississippi Territorial records in 1807 was listed Major Joseph Sessions and Lt. Philip Sessions. I wondered if these men might be brothers and members of above mentioned

family. If they are then that would put two more early men by surname of Sessions in area that later became state of Ala.

Also in the book of Alabama's Pike county oldest brother was stated to have been born in North Carolina and then rest of brothers born in South Carolina. I reviewed the South Carolina IGI on Sessions and Tilman names. Someone had submitted a family of Soloman Sessions and wife, Sarah Esther Flint(marr. 21 Jan 1805 Georgetown) Married after your Richard D. was born in 1802 in South Carolina according to census. No Richard's for right time frame. See work sheets for my older families and those who resided early in Pike county. Of the early Pike county males living at any time in Pike county only John and Sarah were old enough to have fathered your Richard and we don't have a complete family on them. However, Sarah(claimed to be widow of a John) Sessions was living with her daughter, Susannah and her husband in 1850 census. The interesting thing is that the family of Richard D. Sessions has children John, Sarah, and Susannah and the daughter's family shows a son, Richard.

On the Tillman in the IGI I note some families who were in Edgefield, South Carolina who had a child there and also a child in Georgia. Note the sheet on the Tillman with son, James, and sibling born in Edgefield. I wonder if this is the James of Hancock county later? Also note the family of Frederick and Annsybil of Edgefield county. I feel I am on to something here and will go into books and original references for Edgefield as part of my continuing search for you on the Tillman.

I rechecked the general reference book South Carolina Wills indexes compiled by Martha Lou Houston. Only early Tillmans in Kershaw county. I will, look those up as part of Tillman searching for next report.

In the IGI I had noted previously the family of Hugh Wooldridge from Bradley county, Ark. where Julia A. Alford was listed in 1850 census had been submitted by patron to library. This information was submitted in 1970 by Haskell Lee Wilson, 8817 Dirk Court, El Paso, Texas, 79925. He listed no set relationships to the people on the census sheet and he also submitted some Woolridges in Randolph county, Ark. no relationships. Since it has been so many years I don't know if the party would still be alive, still be living there. If you wish me to write, please advise me. Or you could try to locate on the Internet if you wish?

Virginia taxpayers by Fothergill and Naugle, 1782-1787, pg. 126 only lists Tilman names in two counties -John and Lucy in Brunswick county and Tobias in Botetourt county.

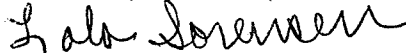


With the updated sheets numbering over 40 on the PAF and backup disc this completes my report for this time. This takes the time for the three checks that Melanie sent and completes the marriages rechecked for all family surnames in Little River county. I had already done the Sevier county marriages for all names. I also enclose the Capt Asa Doggett's marriage from Sevier in case I didn't send that to you previously. When one sends so much I hope I don't duplicate a lot. I tried to avoid that and hope I did so for the most part.

It is always a pleasure to work with you on your family lines. Give my regards to your lovely wife.

I regret that my recovery from the surgery took so much longer that I even imagined beforehand that it would.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Lola Sorensen/AG

encl/filmed deed index; filmed marriage, Capt Doggett  
nearly 40 and computer disc.