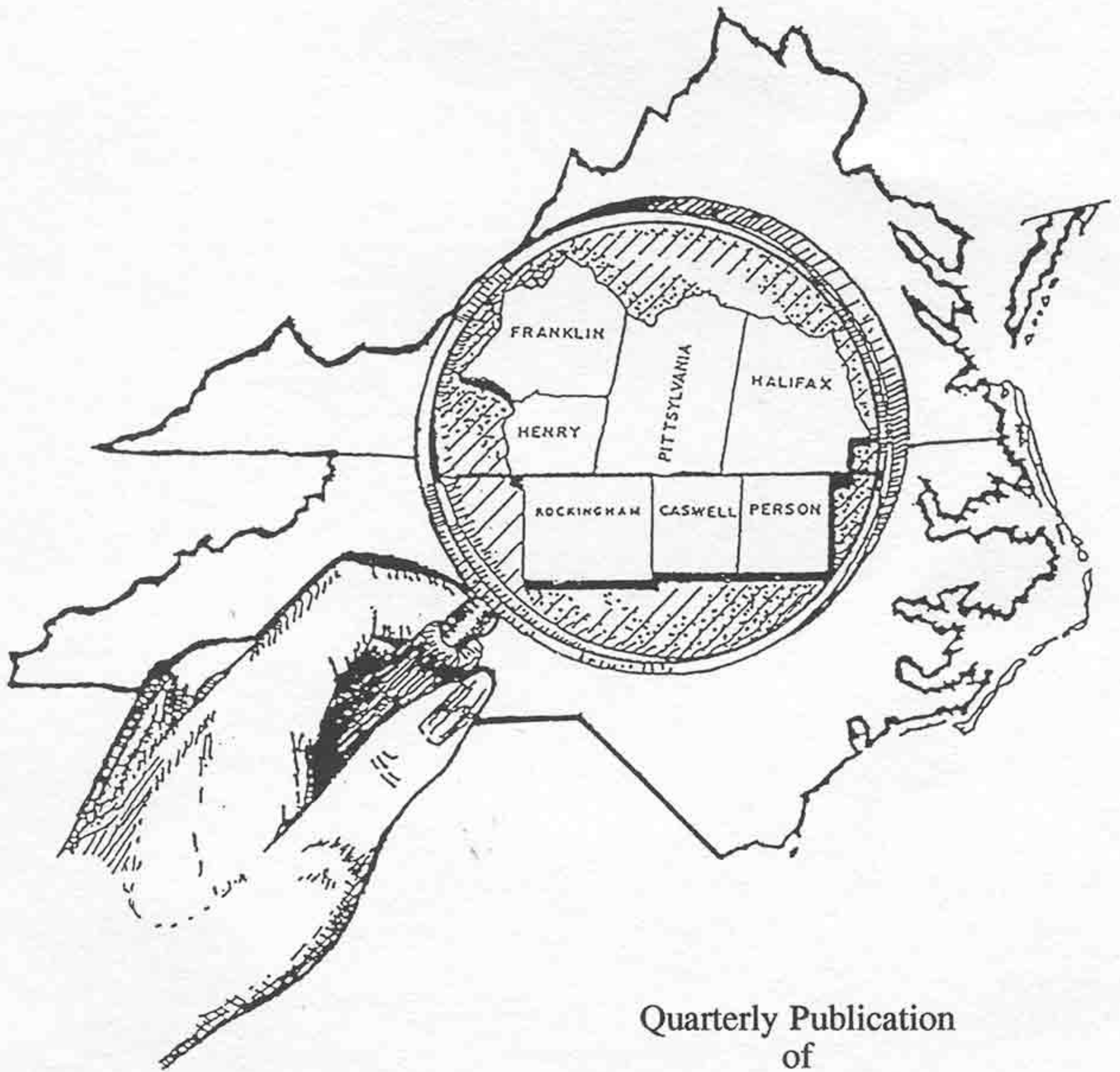


Piedmont Lineages



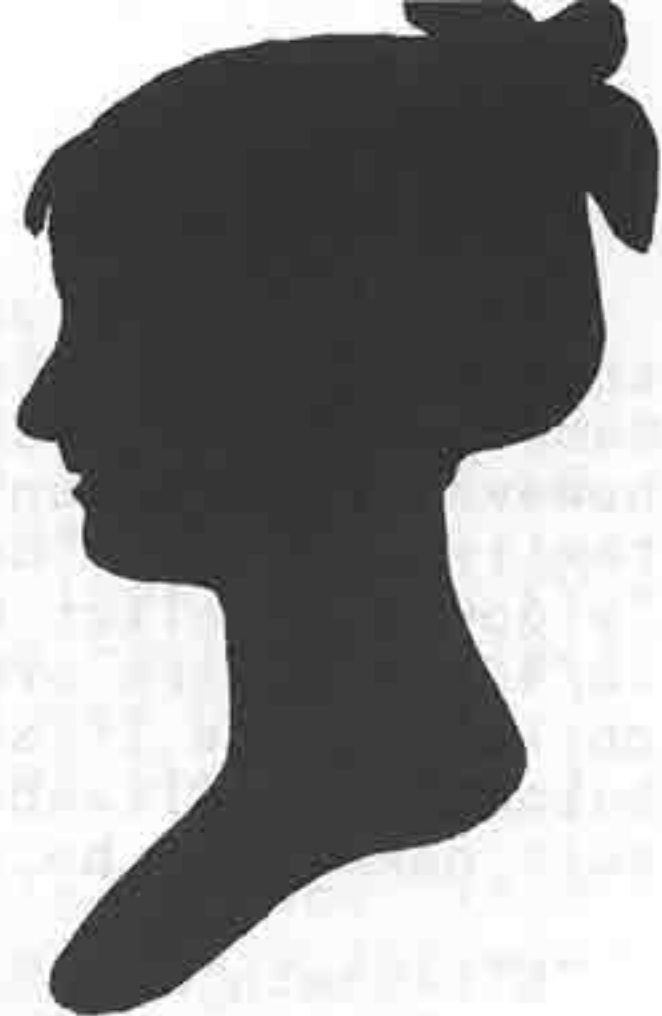
Quarterly Publication
of
VA-NC Piedmont Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 2272
Danville, VA 24541

Vol. XVI No. 2

May 1994



THE JEFFERSON COUSINS OF PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Because the name of President Thomas Jefferson inspires such awe and reverence in the state of Virginia, those who bear the name Jefferson in their lineages are very proud of even a distant

relationship--sixth cousin, once removed--to the famous president. In Pittsylvania County there are many Jefferson descendants who share such kinship; all of them can be traced to Peter Field Jefferson, the first cousin of President Thomas Jefferson. Tyler's Quarterly long ago published the Bible record of Field Jefferson and his wife, Mary Frances Robertson, which included the children of Peter Field Jefferson and his wife, Elizabeth Allen. However, it has been quite difficult to be sure which child of Peter Field and Elizabeth any given 20th-century Jefferson descendant came from. This article attempts to document all possible lines which remained in Pittsylvania County.

If I may, I will back up a bit to show the origin of the Jefferson family in our county. When Field Jefferson died in 1765 in the newly-formed Mecklenburg County, he left Peter Field the home plantation near Boydton, called "Occaneechee." Another of his sons, George, explored the largely unpopulated area which is now northwestern Pittsylvania Co. and Franklin Co. Peter Field bought some of George's land in 1774 and was in the order books as a resident by 1779. When he died in 1794, he left his widow and eleven children, ranging from 9 years to 31. Elizabeth Allen Jefferson survived her husband by 32 years, dying in 1828. The eleven Jefferson children were, from eldest to youngest: Field, William Allen, Archer, Thomas, John, Frances, Judith, Samuel Allen, Alexander, Martha, and Elizabeth. I will begin with Field.

I. Field Jefferson, b. 1 April 1763, bought land which lay just across the line into Franklin Co. in 1787 (DB2/124) and married there 7 Sept. 1789 Elizabeth Beasley. There were 3 children from this marriage: (a) William Jefferson, who m. Jane Robbins 19 Feb. 1835 in Pittsylvania Co. He died in Franklin Co. by 6 Mar. 1837, (WB 4/386), leaving wife and daughter Elizabeth B. Jefferson. (b) Dolly Jefferson, who m. William Robbins 26 Dec. 1826; and (c) Peter Field Jefferson, who apparently left the area without marrying. Field Jefferson married a second time, to Lucy Coleman Johnson 5 Sept. 1806; they had a son, Greenville Penn Jefferson. He managed the family's affairs after the death of Field in Sept. 1840 (WB 5/267). Greenville P. married Sarah Brown and fathered three daughters, two of whom married the younger sons of the widowed Catherine Craighhead James, of Pittsylvania Co. I recently assisted in the successful application of a descendant of this line to the Colonial Dames of Virginia.

II. William Allen Jefferson, b. 14 Dec. 1764; died unmarried 19 August 1814.

III. Archer Jefferson was born 4 May 1766 and married 3 Jan. 1798 in Franklin Co., Lavinia Ramsey, daughter of Thomas and Frances Ann Ramsey. Archer was frequently called Archibald in court records; however, his given name was in honor of his paternal grandmother's family, Archer. He died by 31 Oct. 1826, when Lavinia was named as "widow and relict of Archibald Jefferson" in a deed to her brother (DB 28/469). There are two documents which prove Archer and Lavinia's children; the first is a chancery order concerning two slaves who had belonged to Elizabeth Allen Jefferson. Dated July Court, 1828, the suit names the heirs of the already-deceased Jefferson children:

"Elizabeth and Nancy Murphy, children of Frances Murphy, dec'd.; Jane, Thomas, and John Jefferson, children of Thomas Jefferson, dec'd.; Frances, William, Martha, Isaiah, Peter, and Alexander, children of Archibald Jefferson, dec'd. (OB 27/167)

The second proof is a deed in which Isaiah Jefferson buys the right and interest of Archer's heirs to a tract on Pigg River: Levina, Frances, William, Peter F., Martha, and Alexander Jefferson. (DB 41/61) The land adjoined Joab Oakes and Christopher Davis.

ARCHER and LAVINIA JEFFERSON'S DESCENDANTS:

1. Frances Jefferson, b. ca. 1800; never married; died after 1880 census, where she is listed as a pauper in the poor house. There is good reason to believe that she had a son, Oglesby S. Jefferson. He was born in 1835, married first in 1853 in Franklin Co. to Lucy Ann Pearson, by whom he had Elizabeth, William A., and Frances. He married 2 Dec. 1875 Pocahontas McGhee, stating that he was a widower and that his mother was Fannie Jefferson--no father named. He and "Poka," as she was listed in 1880 (I always wondered what nickname that name inspired) also had a son, two-year-old J. W. Jefferson, visiting with her parents, James D. and Ardinna McGhee.

2. William N. Jefferson, b. ca. 1805; unmarried on 1850 census; probably named for Lavinia's older brother, William Newman Ramsey.

3. Martha "Patsy" Jefferson, b. 1804-10, acc. to the 1820 census, also never married, but had one son. Descendants submitted to me a handwritten record, "Patsy Jefferson, unmarried mother of Henry Addison Jefferson, born 19 Mar. 1826, died 2 July 1906." Henry married Sarah D. Oakes 31 Aug. 1848. She was born 9 Nov. 1823 and died 2 Apr. 1900, the oldest child of Joab and Elizabeth Hudson Kirby Oakes. The family tradition is that the father of Henry was a Davis, who left and went west. Henry became a prosperous wheelwright and fathered a large family:

a) William Thomas, m. the widow Hulda A. Mease Julius in 1872 and later lived in Rocky Mount. Ch: Tom, Jr.; unnamed twin, L.T., Pascal, and Sarah (from Oakes information)

b) James A., b. ca. 1851; never married; died 1925.

c) George H., b. 3 June 1854; d. of flux Aug. 1857

d) Samuel David, b. 1856, d. 1936 (tombstone dates); married Martha Jane Thompson 17 Dec. 1874, d/o Gabriel T. & Mary J. Westbrooks

Thompson. Ch: a) Rosa B., who m. ? Thornton of Chatham and had two ch.; b) Sarah J., who m. Bruce Davis of Piney Ford and had 4 ch.; c) Thomas, m. Victoria Metts, but had no issue; e) given name unknown, m. R. L. Shelton of Chatham and had 5 children; f) Ida Wade, who m. Johnnie Coleman Jefferson, son of John Ball Jefferson (see section IV - Thomas Jefferson); g) David P., of Toshes, who had ten children. (All these sketches were compiled in the 1920's by an unsigned Oakes researcher; details are available in the search room of the Society.)

4. Isaiah Jefferson was born about 1812 and married 18 Nov. 1833 Frances Ann Ramsey, daughter of Hailey S. Ramsey. They had a large family, as well:

- a) America D., b. 1835, m. James F. Minter (alive in 1874 deed)
- b) William Tazwell, b. 1836, m. 17 Jan. 1859 Permelia Frances Witcher d/o Daniel C. Witcher. They had ten children:
 - 1) James Thomas, b. 1860, m. Mattie Sue Newbill; 4 ch.
 - 2) Wm. Taz. Jr., b. 1862, m. Laura Rorer; 6 ch.
 - 3) Vincent Witcher, b. 1868, m. Mary Alice Parker; 6 ch.
 - 4) Kelly Bennett Jefferson, b. 1873, m. Adele ? from Minn.; 2 ch.
 - 5) Charlie F., b. 1871, m. Lula Linthicum; 2 ch.
 - 6) Leslie A., m. Nannie Perdue; 8 ch.
 - 7) Crispin D., b. 1877 m. Mary Della Woody 1899; 4 ch.
 - 8) Oswald Garrett, b. 1880, m. Martha Sutherland; 7 ch.
 - 9) Daniel Cabel, m. (1) Anna Edwards; 2 ch.; (2) Maggie English; one ch.
 - 10) Mollie A., b. 1866, m. Frank P. Graves 1887, both b. Bedford Co. one ch. (NOTE: the family of Wm. Taz Jefferson is detailed in the family file of the Witcher family in the society search room.)
- c) Hester A., b. 1838, m. 28 Oct 1856 Daniel S. Minter, s/o Obadiah and Frances A. Minter (widowed by 1874 deed)
- d) Hailey Ramsey Jefferson, b. 1841, m. Matilda by 1874
- e) Isaiah T., b. 1843, m. 16 Dec. 1869 Sarah E. Mease, d/o Joseph and Anna Mease
- f) George W., b. 1846, m. (1) 19 Dec. 1867 Mary Frances "Dolly" Edwards and (2) 21 Sept. 1873 Eliza J. Shelton
- g) Elizabeth Eglentine, b. 1845, m. 5 Dec. 1867 George W. Davidson, s/o Moses and Polly Davidson of Franklin Co.
- h) Henry A., b. 1848, m. 6 Nov. 1873 Sarah E. Bennett, d/o John K. and E. C. Bennett

NOTE: DB 67/502 18 Aug. 1874 Wm. Taz & Permelia Jefferson, Isaiah T. & Sarah E. Jefferson, Geo. W. & Eliza Jefferson, Hester Minter, George W. Davidson & Betty (all heirs of Isaiah) sell to Henry A. Jefferson, Jr. 92 acres. DB 68/34 14 Aug. 1874 James F. Minter & America D., W. Taz Jefferson & Permelia, Ester A. Minter, Isaiah T. Jefferson & Betty, Geo. W. & Eliza J. Jefferson, Geo. W. Davidson & Betty, Hailey R. Jefferson & Matilda sell to Henry A. Jefferson, Jr. 92 acres.

5. Peter Field Jefferson, b. ca. 1815; unmarried; living with nephew Henry A. Jefferson in 1860; a pauper on the poor farm in 1870, along with his sister Fannie.

6. Alexander Jefferson. This youngest son of Archer must be distinguished from his uncle Alexander. Fortunately, the age gap usually keeps them distinct. This Alexander II was b. ca. 1811-15. His date of death, in county records, is given as 6 October 1880, at age 69. He married Susan Mariah Kendrick, d/o John Hawkins Kendrick and Elizabeth Reynolds, 16 July 1838. His wife was b. ca. 1817 and died 28 Jan 1880, age 63. Alexander evidently had signs of Alzheimer's disease in his last days, because he was labelled "insane" on the census. Their children were:

1. Lucy A., b. 1838, m. Franklin Collins
2. Elizabeth Lavinia, b. 1840 unmarried; tombstone on St. Rd. 626 says b. 1837-d. 12 Feb. 1913. Elizabeth and Rebecca bought 65 ac. of land from Lucy and husband and Henry A. Jefferson 25 July 1882 (DB 84/492)
3. Rebecca, b. 1842, unmarried; tombstone says b. 1839-d. 8 Aug. 1915
4. William, b. 1844; died by 1860 census
5. George, b. 1846; alive on 1860 census
6. Samuel Garland, b. 1849, m. Almira J. Palmer 5 Mar. 1876; died 23 April 1921. Almira died 28 April 1929. Their 7 children were:
 - a)Walter C., b. 1877, m. Cora A. Walker Pelham, NC
 - b)William Hundley, b. 1881, m. Alice W. Gunn of Caswell Co. 1919
 - c)Minnie Lou, b. 1885, m. Robert H. Hundley 1908 Danville
 - d)Sally Celeste, b. 1888; m. John W. Mc Cain 1907 Danville
 - e)Lilly Maud , b. 1890; m. Edgar R. McDaniel 1915 Danville
 - f)Anna May, b. 1892; m. John A. Mannooch 1924 Danville
 - g)Samuel Clyde, b. 1898; unmarried, d. 1942 Washington DC
7. Frances, b. 1851, possibly the one who married Samuel Adams 20 Nov. 1879
8. Alexander, b. 1852, m. 26 Oct. 1876 Victoria T. Palmer, the sister of Almira above.
9. Henry A., b. 1853; no marriage recorded
10. Thomas O., b. 1 Aug. 1856 (birth record); died by 1860 census
11. Edward Keen, b. 1859; d. 1929 (tombstone on Rt. 969) married Victoria Ellen Collins 22 Dec. 1881
12. Johnson Davis, birth record says Jeff. Davis, b. 21 Sept. 1861

IV. Thomas Jefferson, fourth son of Peter Field and Elizabeth, was born 21 March 1768 and died 14 Feb. 1814. He married 17 Feb. 1806 Elizabeth Ball, d/o John and Mary Patton Ball. Thomas and Elizabeth's family Bible gives his birthplace as Mecklenburg Co., Va. and says that Elizabeth Ball was born in PENNSYLVANIA January 1, 1768. Their children were: Jane, b. Nov. 22, 1806; Thomas, b. Nov. 2, 1808; and John Ball, b. August 24, 1810. Elizabeth Ball Jefferson never married again, bringing up her three small children alone. Her death record in the county states that she died 27 Dec. 1856.

All through the census years of 1860-1880, the three children lived together, never marrying. However, Jane Jefferson died 5 April 1885 (death record). Possibly Thomas had died since the 1880 census, for on 8 April 1886, John Ball Jefferson, at the age of SEVENTY-FIVE married Henrietta Owen, who was TWENTY-TWO years old. (d/o Coleman Bird and Elizabeth Wright Owen) They had two sons: John Coleman Jefferson,

b. 2 April 1887, and Thomas Jefferson, about whom nothing more is known. John Ball Jefferson died 14 March 1892 at age 82, presumably a happy man. He is buried on St. Rd. 728, on the land where he had lived so long. John Coleman Jefferson married 22 Jan. 1908 Ida Wade Jefferson, d/o Samuel David and Martha Jane Jefferson. Because of the late marriage of John's father, John Coleman Jefferson was the second cousin of Ida Wade's grandfather, Henry Addison Jefferson, even though he and his bride were virtually the same age. John and Ida Wade had at least eleven children, four of whom died very young; the others were : David Coleman, Kenneth, O. C., Gladys, Odella, Janet, and Octavia. David Coleman Jefferson's daughter, Marie Jefferson Lewis, provided the Bible records and much information on this line of the family.

V. John Jefferson, fifth son of Peter Field and Elizabeth, has caused the most confusion among "beginner" Jefferson researchers. This has been prompted by two reasons: there is a dearth of information on this John and too much confusing data about other John Jeffersons. The article in Tyler's Quarterly, referred to earlier, mentions John Robertson Jefferson, son of Field and brother to Peter Field, who resided in Cumberland Co. and married 28 Mar. 1763 Elizabeth Broome. They had a son, John Pinkard Jefferson, who married Sarah Brown and who did not become involved at all in Pittsylvania County. However, Elizabeth Broome Jefferson, his sister, married her first cousin Samuel Allen Jefferson of Pittsylvania County; they named a son John Garland Jefferson. Fortunately, he married Margaret A. Townes in 1850 and left for Georgia, so we can account for him.

Now, having eliminated some incorrect Johns, we see only one who can be Peter Field's son: John Jefferson, b. 23 Feb. 1770, married 12 Oct. 1800 Anna Ramsey, sister of Lavinia Ramsey, Archer's wife. Here we come to the dearth of information. Although an analysis of the census records of 1820-40 reveal six children in 1820, we can establish only three of them: Nancy, John Jr., and Noton. Nancy A. Jefferson married Asa Branson 8 Nov. 1821, with John Jefferson her surety. The census of 1820 reflects a daughter 16-26 who is not present in 1830. This is excellent circumstantial evidence. Then there is the John Jefferson who marries at age 40 in 1856 to Susan Brown, giving his parents as John and Ann Jefferson. This is excellent proof. However, we never hear of him again. There is a Susan Jefferson, age 55, in the poor house along with Peter and Fannie Jefferson in the 1870 census. She is possibly John Jr.'s widow. At any rate, we can discover no descendants from any child of John and Anna Ramsey Jefferson except those of their son Noton.

Noton has driven genealogists crazy simply because we do not know how to pronounce his name. It was not Norton; he was named for his uncle Noton Ramsey. But if we say NOTUN, we sound like the worst of Southern caricatures. He was born about 1803, marrying 15 Mar. 1830 Elizabeth Carter, d/o Nathan and Elizabeth Adkins Carter. Noton was very co-operative genealogically; he died leaving a will and a death record naming John Jefferson as his father. As an added bonus, there was a chancery suit filed which confirmed even the children by his two unmarried daughters. Noton and Elizabeth's children were:

1. William F., b. ca. 1833, m. Adaline A. Grubb, d/o Jesse and Mary Grubb. They had at least eleven children: a) Oliver T., m. Mattie E. Motley; b) Rebecca; c) Adolphus b. 31 May 1855; d) Elvira C., b. 5 June 1857, m. O. S. Boaz; e) William N., b. Aug. 1859 m. Georgia Ida Thomas; f) Isaac, b. 1861; g) Onie, b. 16 May 1865, m. John Ingram; h) Henry G., b. Aug. 1866; i) John, b. 1869; j) Ardena, b. 1871, m. D. G. Whitfield 1886; and k) Lou-Ella, b. 1873, m. Cornelius J. George 1891.

2. Nancy, b. 1834, m. 27 Dec. 1856 Thomas Kendrick, s/o Hawkins and Elizabeth Reynolds Kendrick. The 1870 census showed their children as: Nathan, James, Bettie, Sonny, and Thomas.

3. Frances C., b. 1836, m. 27 Apr. 1854 (1) James A. Gibson. She is shown as a widow on the 1870 census with children Tazewell, Levinia, and Sarah. The chancery suit in 1884 refers to her as Frances Darnley.

4. Delaware, b. 1838; never married. When she died in 1881, her heirs received their distribution from her estate. They were: a) Cornelia Jefferson, b. 23 Sept. 1861, m. 16 Dec. 1875 John Rigney, s/o Nathan Rigney, residing in Franklin Co.; b) John P. Jefferson, b. 1868, m. 18 Aug. 1894 Martha Rigney, d/o Nathan & Mary Rigney; says on license that his parents were John and Delaware Jefferson; c) Mollie E. Jefferson, b. 1870, m. 25 Feb. 1886 J. Thomas Grant.

5. Samuel A., b. 1842, m. Jan 1862 Arabella Grubb, sister of Adaline, wife of William F. Jefferson. Samuel died before 1870, possibly in the war, and there were no children by the marriage.

6. Susan Jane, b. ca. 1842, died (according to the chancery suit) "unmarried, intestate, and without issue."

7. Bartholemew, b. ca. 1844, died the same.

8. Nathan Carter, b. 18 Jan. 1846, d. 12 June 1930; married 18 Jan. 1866 Susie Rigney. They had a large family, including: William H., who married Lillie Towler 1893; Joseph D.; Lewis (?) S., who m. Valeria A. Jefferson 1897; Charles Henry, who m. Mary Ellen Hodges 1897 and had a family of 13 children (family info in society files); John W.; and two others whose name I could not read from the microfilm.

9. James T., b. ca. 1849; m. 27 Nov 1879 Sallie Yeatts

10. Almira M., b. ca. 1852; died unmarried 1881. Her estate account listed her only heir as (John) Noton Jefferson, whose birth is recorded as 6 Feb. 1875. The chancery suit confirmed him as heir. There is a marriage listed for him 29 Oct. 1895 to Blanche Hoyle, age 22; her parents not listed.

VI. Frances Jefferson, b. 11 Jan. 1772, married George Murphey 27 Mar. 1794. Frances was deceased by the chancery suit of 1828, with two daughters, Elizabeth and Nancy, surviving. They apparently did not stay in Pittsylvania County.

VII. Judith Jefferson, b. 7 Jan. 1774. Judith never married and made her home in Franklin County, where she died by 1 Dec. 1834. Her will (WB 4/197) left bequests to her sister Martha Brewer and her brother-in-law, William Brewer; personal items went to Edward, Elizabeth B., Judith, and Frances Jefferson, the children of her younger brother, Samuel Allen Jefferson, of Pittsylvania County.

VIII. Samuel Allen Jefferson, b. 24 Mar. 1776, d. 23 Mar. 1855. He married his first cousin, Elizabeth Broome Jefferson, of Cumberland Co., 20 June 1803. (Winston Dalton's register says that Capt. Samuel's wife died 8 May 1843.) The couple had ten children:

1. Elizabeth B., b. 1804, m. 16 Dec. 1837 Samuel Thomas Mahan in Pittsylvania Co. and then moved to Cole Co., Missouri. (Mahan information from Linda Shorb's files in society office.)

2. Edward W., b. ca. 1805, was married by 1830 census; his wife was named Melinda on the only deed from him (DB 34/184). They obviously left the area.

3. George Robertson, b. ca. 1808; he stood as security for two of his sisters' marriages, but never married himself.

4. Judith Archer, b. ca. 1812, never married; died after 1860 census in Pittsylvania Co.

5. Frances Robertson, b. 10 Feb. 1813; m. 16 Dec. 1837 George Mahan (a double wedding with her sister Elizabeth). They also went to Cole Co. Missouri.

6. Samuel Allen, b. ca. 1814; stayed in this county. Was a prosperous tobacconist; unmarried.

7. John Garland, b. ca. 1815; m. 8 Oct. 1850 Margaret A. Townes; they went to Georgia.

8. Thomas Broome, b. ca. 1818; unmarried; d. 7 Jan. 1893 (date from Mrs. Casey's info in Tyler's Quarterly article.)

9. James Hopkins, b. 30 Oct. 1820; m. 27 Nov. 1858 Katherine Jefferson, d/o John Pinckard Jefferson and Sarah Brown

10. Martha Jane, b. ca. 1821-24; died unmarried bet. 1840-50.

IX. Alexander Jefferson, b. 31 July 1779. Alexander married twice, the first time to Elizabeth Smith, 20 Feb. 1808. They had five children, several of whose names would have remained unknown had it not been for a chancery suit filed when Alexander died intestate sometime before 1870.

1. Booker Smith, b. ca. 1809; left for Missouri, probably in the 1830's. The register of Winston Dalton records the dates of many of his neighbors as they started west, often to Missouri, and possibly to

the same county where the Mahans settled.

2. Alexander, b. ca. 1812; also left for Missouri before 1850 and was still there in the 1870's.

3. Cynthia Anzolet Merriman; married John Alexander Mahan 25 Apr. 1837. They probably joined the caravan of Samuel Allen Jefferson's daughters who married Mahans and went to Missouri. Linda Shorb's info says J. A. Mahan died Lexington Co., MO 1887.

4. Sarah, married David Collins and was not living in Virginia at the time of the suit.

5. Dyonisia, (also spelled other outlandish ways) married Isaac Bates 17 Dec. 1838 in this county. Surety was Jabez Smith, a clue to Elizabeth Smith's family, I am sure.

(Elizabeth Smith Jefferson died about 1828. Alexander married 20 Apr. 1829 Mary "Polly" Mahan and had five more children. Polly made her home with William Thomas until her death on 9 Aug. 1880).

6. Elizabeth F., married Hugh M. George 22 Dec. 1852. By 1870 the only children of Alexander left living in Virginia were Elizabeth George and William Thomas Jefferson.

7. Abner H., according to the suit, died sometime during the war, leaving a widow and some children, their whereabouts unknown.

8. George W., was living in Fairmount, GA in the 1870's.

9. William Thomas, b. ca. 1835, m. 31 Dec. 1857 Matilda Jane Ramsey, d/o Henry and Mary Ramsey. Their children were:

- a) Mary Roxana, b. 1858; d. 1 Oct. 1864 of diptheria
- b) John, b. 1859; also died of diptheria while his father was away in the Confederate army.
- c) William Thomas, Jr., b. 1862; m. 15 Feb. 1880 Wilmouth Ann Parker, d/o Geo. W. and Mary B. Parker
- d) Nannie L., b. 1863; m. 13 Feb. 1887 John E. Watson, s/o W. H. and Paulina Watson
- e) Mary Alice, b. 1866; m. 4 Oct. 1883 John C. Adkins, s/o Jane Adkins
- f) Henrietta, b. 1866; m. 29 Oct. 1885 Robert L. Bailey, s/o William and Celia Bailey
- g) David Alexander, b. 1869; owner of Chatham Furniture & Undertaking Co.; d. in Sarasota, Fla. 17 Feb. 1947; unmarried?
- h) Valeria A., b. 1870; m. 10 Feb. 1897 L. S. Jefferson, s/o Nathan and Susan Jefferson
- i) Walter Ennis, b. 1872; m. Esther Law
- j) Claudia M., b. 1877; m. 22 Nov. 1899 James W. Reynolds, s/o Ward and Rebecca Reynolds

X. Martha Jefferson, b. 7 Apr. 1781, m. 30 Oct. William Brewer; lived and presumably died after 1834 in Franklin Co., Va.

XI. Elizabeth Jefferson, b. 2 Sept. 1785; d. 19 Oct. 1814