

**Jacob Sessums (c1777–c1856)
& Spouse
Penelope “Penny” Fisher (c1780–c1845)**

RESEARCH NOTES

FAMILY SUMMARY

Jacob Sessums (*var.* Sessoms):

Born: c1777,¹ Duplin County, North Carolina²
Married: c1796, Sampson County, North Carolina³
Died: last on record 1850 Shelby County, Texas;⁴ allegedly d. c1856, Shelby County⁵ or Bowie County, Texas⁶
Parents: **Isaac Sessums** of Duplin and Sampson (b. c1750), and unidentified wife

Penelope “Penny” Fisher:

Born: c1780, Duplin County, North Carolina⁷
Died: 1840–50, Mississippi or Texas⁸
Parents: Revolutionary War Captain **Southey Fisher** of Duplin and Sampson (d. Winter 1801–2)
Phoebe [—?—], later wife of Thomas Wallace

*All websites cited in this paper were repeatedly accessed in the months of May and June 2021.

¹ An alleged birthdate of 25 March 1777 is widely asserted, without evidence. For example, see *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/67934229/jacob-albert-sessums>), “Jacob Albert Sessums Jr.” memorial page, no tombstone, no documentation, created by “Grave Finder.” Census data provides a range that does center upon 1777. **1800** census suggests 1775–1784; **1800**: 1776–1784; **1810**: 1776–1794; **1830–1840**: 1770–80; **1850**: 1776–77). All census records are detailed in this research paper, under their respective dates.

The allegation that Jacob carried a middle name (“Albert”) is disproved; more than fifty legal documents created by and about him in his lifetime call him by one name only: Jacob.

² Based on proved location of parental residence at time of birth.

³ Marriage date extrapolated from the fact that the 1800 Jacob Sessoms household in Sampson County shows two children aged 0–10. Marriage place based on known residence at time of marriage.

⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Shelby Co., TX, pop. sch., p. 35 (stamped), 28 Oct. 1850, dwell./fam. 485/485, “Redden Sessums” 50, farmer, \$1,000, b. N.C.; “**Jacop Sessums**,” aged 73, b. N.C. shares the household.

⁵ See notha55, “Fisher Family,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/37538537/person/19105048131/facts>).

⁶ See kmaness166, “Roberts Family Tree,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/166314513/person/212224068883/facts>).

⁷ **1820** census: aged 26–44 (b. 1775–94). **1830** census: aged 50–60 (b. 1770–80). **1840** census: aged 50–60 (b. 1780–90). The overlap at c1780 would make her seventeen or eighteen when her first known child was born in 1798. Birthplace based on proved residence of parents at the time of her birth, supported by 1880 Leake Co., MS, census data for son Thomas and daughter Mary, both citing mother’s birthplace as NC.

Penny’s *Find A Grave* memorial (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/67934439/penny-sessums>) is fraught with error. It asserts, without evidence, that she was a full-blooded Choctaw Indian (picture included!) born in 1777 in North Carolina (which was not a location for Choctaw unless they were being held in slavery), that she died in 1845 in Oklahoma, and that she was buried in Fort Towson Cemetery, Choctaw County, OK (or, alternately, in “Doaksville Cemetery, OK”). No creator of the page is identified. The totally irrelevant photo was added by “Peter Irvine.” The claim to Choctaw ancestry is based on the disallowed claims for Choctaw citizenship and land made by a number of her grandchildren; see the section “Tradition” at the end of this report.

⁸ The Jacob Sessums household in the 1833 Simpson Co. state census and the 1840 Newton Co., federal census both include a female of her age; in 1850 Jacob (but not Penny) was enumerated with their son Redding.

Residences:	c1790–c1807	Sampson County, NC
	c1807–1810	Christian County, KY
	c1811–1817	Unknown
	c1818?–1824	Lawrence County, MS
	c1825–c1833	Simpson County, MS (missing from 1831–32 tax rolls)
	c1834–c1843	Newton County, MS (with son Thomas)
	1844	apparent move to Texas with son Thomas, who returned to Mississippi
	1850–	Shelby County, TX (on census with son Redding)
	?1851	Shelby County, TX (deeds & tax rolls for son Redding)
	?1852–1855	Navarro County, TX (tax rolls & land records for son Redding)
	?1856	Ellis County, TX (settled prior to 26 August 1856; land, tax for Redding)

Children of Jacob and Penny (two of whom remain unidentified):

1. **REDDING SESSUMS**, born 2 March 1798,⁹ Sampson County, NC;¹⁰ married 5 February 1822, Lawrence Co., MS, **Mary Ann Brown**,¹¹ a native of Tennessee,¹² whose parents remain unidentified. Died 28 November 1879, Bowie, Montague County, Texas; buried in Queens Park Cemetery, Bowie County.¹³ Residences: **1828**: Simpson Co., MS, tax roll;¹⁴ **1830–33**: Copiah Co., MS, census¹⁵ and tax rolls.¹⁶ **1834–35, 1837**: Kemper County, MS, tax rolls;¹⁷ **1850**: Shelby Co., TX, census;¹⁸ **1860**: Ellis Co., TX, census;¹⁹

⁹ Gravestone image at *Find A Grave* (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62227145/john-albert_redding-sessums), "John Albert Redding Sessums" memorial page created by "flgrl"; gravestone photo by Evalee Houtz. The memorial has significant errors, including (1) the attribution of three given names to Redding when all his documents use only one, Redding; and (2) the attribution of his 1798 birth to "Copiah County, Mississippi," in spite of the facts that (a) Copiah County did not exist at the time; (b) his family did not move from Kentucky to Mississippi for another 15 or so years; and (c) all census records created by and about Redding in his life time place his birth in NC.

The gravestone reads: "Redding Sessums BORN Mar. 2, 1799 DIED Nov. 28 1879; Mary Ann His Wife BORN [broken] DIED Aug. 22, 1887."

¹⁰ Based on proved location of parental residence at the time of Redding's birth.

¹¹ Lawrence County, MS, Marriage Book 1: 112, "Reden Sessoms" to "Marian Brown."

¹² *History of Texas Supplemented with Biographical Mention of Many Families of the State: A Concise History of the State from Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Date; Together with Biographical Sketches of Many of the Families of Central Texas*, 2 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1896), Neal-Sessums bio, 336–38.

¹³ *Find A Grave* (https://findagrave.com/memorial/6227145/john-albert_redding-sessums), tombstone image.

¹⁴ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 37).

¹⁵ 1830 U.S. census, Copiah Co., MS, p. 119 (penned), line 11, Redding Sessums, 1 male 30–40, 1 female 20–30, 1 female 5–10, 2 females 0–5, 1 male 0–5; no occupation given.

¹⁶ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1823–1860 > 1831 > image 15 (Reddin Sessoms); 1832 > image 156 ("Benjamin" Sessoms); 1833 > image 180 (Reddin Sessoms).

¹⁷ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Kemper > County tax rolls > 1834 > image 3 (Redding Sessums); 1835 > image 5 (Redding Sessums); 1837 > image 10 (Redding Sessums).

¹⁸ 1850 U.S. census, Shelby Co., TX, pop. sch., p. 35 (stamped), 28 Oct. 1850, dwell./fam. 485/485, "Redden Sessums" 50, farmer, \$1,000, b. N.C. "**Jacop Sessums**," aged 73, b. N.C. shares the household.

¹⁹ 1860 U.S. census, Ellis Co., TX, pop. sch., Red Oak p.o., p. 53 (stamped), 3 Aug. 1860, dwell./fam. 678/644, "Reddin Sessums," 62, farmer, \$800/\$1750, b. N.C.

1870: not found. Five children are identified in the 1896 mug-book biography of his son-in-law:²⁰

- **Aley Ann Sessums**, b. c1825, MS; m. Ellis Co., TX, 9 October 1870, **Rev. Henry Shaw** by T. L. Poindexter, JP.²¹
- **William Buchanan Sessums**, b. c1826, MS; m. **Mary Ratliffe**, allegedly d. May 1864, Red Oak, Ellis Co.,²² TX; probate opened 22 February 1868.²³
- **Permeasa Sessums**, b. 31 March 1827, MS; died 15 January 1911, Hamilton County, Texas;²⁴ married 1858, **Allen Brooks Neal**.²⁵
- **Wilson Russell Sessums**, b. 1831–33, Copiah Co., MS; m. **Eliza Ratliffe** 28 September 1855, Johnson Co., TX;²⁶ died after 9 April 1940.²⁷
- **Elizabeth Sessums**, b. 1835–36, Kemper Co., MS; m. 18 March 1863, Ellis Co., **William Fleming**.²⁸

2. **MARY "POLLY" SESSUMS**, born c1800, NC,²⁹ was a minor at the time of her marriage to **Neil Williams**, 13 January 1820, Lawrence County, MS, with permission from her father.³⁰ By Williams, she bore nine

²⁰ *History of Texas Supplemented with Biographical Mention of Many Families of the State: A Concise History of the State from Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Date; Together with Biographical Sketches of Many of the Families of Central Texas*, 2 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1896), Neal-Sessums bio, 336–38. The *Find A Grave* memorial identifies only two children: "William Buchanan Sessums (1826–1984)" and "Pernesa Melissa Sessums Neal (1827–1911)."

²¹ "Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1837–1965," database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9168/images/9168_b940206-00002?pid=41936211) > Ellis > 1870 > image 3.

²² As asserted at *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/67928989/william-buchanan-sessums>), memorial page with no tombstone image and no documentation.

²³ "Texas, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1833–1974," database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2115/images/005788567_00788?pid=148538) > Ellis > Probate Bond Records, Vol. 1, 1852–1872 > image 109, imaging p. 175, "guardianship of minor heirs of Wm. B. Sessums, Deceased," Reding Sessums guardian.

²⁴ *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/52383238/pernesa-melissa-neal>), gravestone image.

²⁵ *History of Texas*, Neal-Sessums bio, previously cited.

²⁶ "Texas, U.S., Marriage Index, 1824–2014," database, *Ancestry* (https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?dbid=8795&h=606917&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=60901).

²⁷ 1940 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., TX, Ringling Town, ED 34-13, sheet 3-B, Wilson R. Sessums, age 79, living with daughter Willie, 48.

²⁸ "Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1837–1965," database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9168/images/9168_b940199-00010?pid=131935581) > Ellis > 1863 > image 11, marriage before Jackson Bradley, J.P.

²⁹ The **1810** census places her age at 10–15 (b. 1795–1800); see U.S. census, Christian County, Ky., p. 572, Jacob "Sessons" household. The **1820** census cites her as 16–25 (b. 1795–1804); see Lawrence County, MS, p. 64b, Jacob "Sessims" household. The **1830** census cites her age as 20–30 (b. 1800–10); see U.S. census, Simpson Co., MS, p. 186, line 124. The **1840** census cites her age as 30–40; see U. S. census, Newton Co., MS, p. 142, line 16. The **1850** census cites her age as 42 (b. 1807–08); see Attala Co., MS, pop. sch., T15 R8E, p. 328 (stamped), dwell./fam. 1110/1113 (indexed by *Ancestry* as "Noal" Williams); at 1126 is Wm. N. Williams b. 1816–17, MS, with wife Elizabeth and daughter Margaret. The **1860** census cites her age as 59 (b. 1800–1); see Madison Co., MS, pop. sch., Canton p.o., p. 74 (penned), dwell./fam. 533/531. The **1880** census cites her age as 84 (b. 1795–96); see Leake Co., MS, pop. sch., stamped p. 427-C, ED 51, p. 35, unnumbered dwellings and households, Thomas Sessums, 73, with "Mary Williams, Sister," aged 84. Mary has not been found on the census of 1870 or anywhere after 1880.

³⁰ Marie Luter Upton, *Marriage Records Lawrence County, Mississippi, 1818–1838* (N.P.: P.p., 1970), 7, 9; imaged "Marriage Records, Lawrence County, Mississippi, 1818–1838," database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/30215/images/dvm_LocHist013838-00003-0 : accessed 2 July 2021) > images 8, 10; citing Marriage Book 1: 33, 46.

children of record, of whom one child born c1823 (d. 1824) and one daughter born c.1829 (but died before 1840) are not-yet-identified. The known and proposed children are

- **Rhoda Ann?**, b. c1821; documentary and DNA evidence both suggest this daughter was the female who married Shadrack Odom in 1837, Newton Co., MS; and died shortly after the birth of their second son in early 1840.³¹ Some online trees include this daughter Margaret but provide no evidence for her.
- **Unidentified**, b. c1823; died 1824, Lawrence Co., MS.³²
- **John Williams**, b. c1825; m. **Jeanette Johnson**, Leake Co., MS, c1844. **1860**: Leake Co., p. 82, dwell./fam. 533/533, *adjacent to Jacob N.*); children Newton, James, Jordan, Ebenezer A., Dicy, Cicero, Mary. “Died of disease while serving with the Southern forces in Tennessee.”³³ **1900: Chickasaw Nation**, Jeanette Johnson, aged 72.³⁴ Dickey and several offspring made a Dawes claim asserting that John’s grandmother was a “full-blood Choctaw” Pennie Fisher.³⁵ Online trees, without evidence, cite him as John H. Williams; however, all documents created by and about him during his lifetime, and the documents created by his offspring in their Dawes Commission claims, call him *only* “John Williams.”
- **Thomas Williams**, b. c1827; represented by a tickmark in parental households of 1830 and 1840; filed petition with brother John in 1858, Madison Co., MS, calling Neil Williams “our father.”³⁶ He has not been reliably connected to any other Thomas Williams on record.
- **Unidentified female**, b. c1829; tallied in parental household in 1830; not with parents in 1840.
- **Penelope Ann “Penny” Williams**, b. 1831–32; m. apparently 1854 in Attala Co., MS, **Jeremiah Gatlin**, son of William W. Gatlin and wife Elizabeth Ryals.³⁷ **1870**: Holmes Co., MS, Jeramire (32), Penny A. (30), Harvey L.

³¹ Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Neil Williams (c1795–aft.1860) & Spouse: Mary “Polly” Sessums (c1800–aft.1880): Research Notes,” a work in progress last updated 20 July 2021; also E. S. Mills, “Shadrack Odom (ca. 1819–aft. 1861); Spouses 1. [Unknown]; 2. Elizabeth Cooksey: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 1 August 2013; both archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab. A proof argument that correlates the DNA evidence with the documentary evidence is currently being assembled.

³² “Mississippi, U.S., State and Territorial Census Collection, 1792–1866,” database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1125/images/v229_2-0374 : accessed 5 July 2021) > image 20 > “Lawrence (Births and Deaths) Date Unknown.” That state census of births and deaths, which also named living individuals over seventy years of age, was taken in 1825 and covers births and deaths occurring in 1824. For the dating of this document, see the discussion in the above-cited “Neil Williams (c1795–aft.1860) & Spouse: Mary “Polly” Sessums (c1800–aft.1880): Research Notes,” pp. 14–16.

The document does not state the name, age, or gender of the person who died within the “Neil Williams” household. Typically, when the death is attributed to the household of a male, the deceased was a wife or child. In this case, evidence proves that Neil’s wife of 1820 continued as his wife until his death c1860 and was his widow in 1880. The birth pattern of Neil and Polly’s children suggests the deceased was an infant whose death left a childspacing gap between living children.

³³ Obituary of Cicero B. H. Williams, *The Hooker Advocate* (Hooker, Oklahoma), 2 November 1933; abstracted by Pellifritz71, “My Muintir,” user-contributed trees, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/33913699/person/18553921040/facts>), attached to “John H. Williams, Facts” page as “Death of John H. Williams.” Abstract states: “Cicero Byrant [sic] Houston Williams was born May 31, 1856 in Lake (this should be Leake) county, Mississippi, and passed away at his home near Hooker on October 28, 1933, aged 77 years, 4 months, and 28 days. His father, a soldier in the Confederate army, died of disease while serving with the Southern forces in Tennessee.”

³⁴ 1900 U.S. census, Choctaw Nation, I.T., Twp 3N R1W, stamped p. 249, ED 161, sheet 35, Dicy Wren household.

³⁵ MCR MCR 5571, James A. J. Williams (16 pp.); MCR 6153, Dicie V. Wren (31 pp.); MCR 6154, John Wren, 12 pp.); MCR 5815. See images at *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/browse/h8n6j-zWt-L0vgirl>).

³⁶ Madison Co., MS, Chancery Cause 915, Neall Williams; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 005818715 > images 646 through 650.

³⁷ p143j “Peoples/Holsworth Family Tree,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/28576564/person/12986581877/facts>). Also ljmckin, “Peoples Family Tree, *Ancestry*

- (15), Mary E. (11), Sarah D. (7), Emeline (5), Annie (3).³⁸
- **Jacob N. Williams**, b. c1833–35; m. Mary Ann. **1860**: Leake Co., MS 1860 (Carthage P.O., p. 82, dwell./fam. 532/532 *adj. John Williams*. **1880**: Leake Co (Beat 2, p. 360, dwell. 198/203, *adj. Gatlins*); had daughters Savannah Q. V. E. Williams (b. 1857) and Sarah F. B. Williams (b. 1859).
 - **Solomon D. Williams**, b. c1836–37 (1860 census) or c1834–35 (1850 census); m. **Ellen Fisher**, 11 July 1859, Madison Co., MS³⁹; died in Confederate service.⁴⁰
 - **Sarah Williams**, b. 1843–44, enumerated in the parental home in 1850 and 1860.
3. ?**DAUGHTER**, born c1800–10; one of three females b. 1800–10 enumerated on 1810 census. (The last of these three should be Charity, below, b. 1809–10.)
4. ?**DAUGHTER**, born c1800–10; one of three females b. 1800–10 enumerated on 1810 census. (The last of these three should be Charity, below, b. 1809–10.)
5. **THOMAS SESSUMS**, born 1807–8 (1850, 1870 censuses) or c1806–7 (1860, 1880 censuses) allegedly in Christian County, Kentucky; married in Rankin County, Mississippi, 24 September 1829 (bond dated 22 September 1829), **Zilpha "Zilphy" Cooksey**, daughter of John Cooksey and wife Zilphy Watts. John Cooksey, the bride's brother, was bondsman; the officiant was John K. Enochs, Rankin's Justice of the Quorum. The last record found thus far for Thomas is the 1880 census of Leake County, Mississippi, at which time he was living in the Good Hope community (southwest Leake, above the Scott Co. line and across the Pearl River from Doaks Stand in Holmes Co.) with Zilphy and his widowed sister Mary Sessums.⁴¹ He and Mary were the only two of the siblings who lived out their lives in Mississippi, although evidence suggests that he spent a year or two in Texas, at the time he moved his father there. Thomas is missing from the Newton County tax rolls for 1844–46 (the latter roll referenced his

(<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/37932723/person/19405666399/facts>). The marriage is not found in "Mississippi Marriages, 1800–1911," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1680835>); Attala Co. marriages for this period are destroyed. The "L" in Harvey's name stands for LaFayette, according to p143j.

³⁸ 1870 U.S. census, Holmes Co., MS, pop. sch., Richland P.O., stamped p. 131, dwell./fam. 134/143.

³⁹ "Mississippi, U.S., Compiled Marriage Index, 1776–1935," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7842/>).

⁴⁰ "Civil War Service Records (CMSR)–Confederate," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/79420042> : accessed 6 July 2021) and eleven subsequent images.

⁴¹ **1880**: U.S. census, Leake Co., MS, pop. sch., stamped p. 427-C, ED 51, p. 35, unnumbered dwellings and households, Thomas Sessums, 73, b. KY, mother and father b. NC; his household includes "Mary Williams, Sister," aged 84, also said to be b. KY, with mother and father b. NC. Mary's age appears to be slightly overstated and the birthplace seems to be based on that of her brother. Her parents did not leave Sampson Co., NC, for KY until late 1807. For Thomas's alleged birth in *Christian County*, KY, see Kristi DuLac, "Finger," user-contributed trees, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/106122917/person/190050785502/facts>), "William Thomas Sessums" Facts page. The double given name asserted here (and many places) for Thomas is not documented and all document created by or for him in his lifetime uses only a single given name: Thomas. The tree also mistakenly uses a divorce record to "prove" his death in a wrong locale.

For Thomas's wife and her family, see the following two peer-reviewed journal articles archived online at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.HistoricPathways.com>):

- Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Testing the FAN Principle Against DNA: Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey of Georgia and Mississippi," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (June 2014): 129–52.
- E. S. Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies—Weaving a Web to Snare a Birth Family: John Watts (ca. 1749–ca. 1822)," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 104 (September 2016): 165–90.

land as "vacant," but he returned before the roll of 1847 was compiled.⁴² The 1850 census also shows a five year gap in children between 1843 and 1848. Children are said to be:

- **William Cooksey Sessums**, b. 1830; d. 1901 Good Hope, Leake Co., MS; m. **Anne French**
- **Jacob "Pappy" Sessums**, b. 1833; d. 1909, Harpersville, Scott Co., MS; m. **Ann Jane Henry**.
- **Cader Peter [Price] Sessums**, b. 1835; d. 1913 Hill Co., TX; m. **Mary Elizabeth Potts**.
- **John Sessums**, b. 1837; d. 1913, Duncan, Stephens Co., OK; m. **Letitia Jane Vance**.
- **Elizabeth "Polly" Sessum**, b. 1839.
- **William Solomon Sessums**, b. 1841; d. 1870.
- **Ellis A. Sessums**, b. 1843; d. 1876; m. **Eliza** [—?—].
- **Laura Celia Sessums**, b. 1848; m. **Daniel Richard "Ben" Young**.
- **Zilpha Ann Sessums**, b. 1849; d. 1921, Wichita Falls, TX; m. **Columbus Bradshaw Haddon**.
- **Nathan Charles Sessums**, b. 1853; d. 1923, Good Hope, Leake Co., MS; m. **Harriet Ellen Brooks**.
- **Haden Watts Sessums**, b. 1857; d. 1915, Good Hope; m. **Nancy Brooks**.⁴³

Son John Sessums moved to Oklahoma before 1900 and also filed with the Dawes Commission.⁴⁴

4. **CHARITY SESSUMS**, born c1810 (1809–10 on 1860 census; 1813–14 on 1850 census), Kentucky; one of two daughters enumerated as 0–10 on 1820 census. Married (1) **Jesse Courtney** in Simpson County shortly before the 1830 census on which they were enumerated between her parents and her married sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Neil Williams. Whether Jesse died in Mississippi or after the family's migration to Texas is not known. In 1850, as a widow, Charity lived in Panola Co., TX, with her brother Solomon Sessions and her four children, *Jacob* 12, "*Lerhoby*" (female) 10, *Reuben* 7, and *Solomon* 5.⁴⁵ About 1853 she married (2) —?— **Nail**. In 1860, her son Jacob was enumerated in Shelby County as *Jake Courtney*, aged 23 b. Miss., with "S" 22 b. Ga., "J" 2, and "J" 5/12. Four households from him was **Charity Nail**, 50, b. Ky., farmer \$600/500, with five youth who are assigned the "Nail" surname: L.C. 20 female b. Miss., R.C. 18 male b. Tex., [i.e., Lerhoby and Reuben Courtney], J.W. 6 male b. Tex., S.C [D]. 4 female b. Tex., and S.D. 2 male b. Tex.⁴⁶ She has not been found in 1870. The 1880 census of Smith Co., Tex., enumerates her and youngest son S. D., a farmer aged 22, next door to her married daughter "Lishabie," aged 42. Lishabie's family that year consisted of her husband Daniel Shed, 39?, son W. H. "Waron, 18" (father born Mo., mother born Miss.) and son J. W. Shed, aged 7.⁴⁷ The probate and deed indexes of Smith Co. offer no records for the surnames Courtney, Nail,

⁴² "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > County tax rolls 1846 > image 47, not only shows Thomas's land as vacant, but shows that his brother-in-law John Cooksey is absent from the county as well; the adjacent Cooksey land is charged to "Susan Cooksey." The 1847 roll > image 16, is a poll tax roll rather than land roll; it documents that Thomas is back in the county, charged for one poll.

⁴³ "Thomas Sessums, 1808–1898 (LCJS-LNM), profile *FamilySearch FamilyTree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LCJS-LNM>).

⁴⁴File: "Choc. MCR 184 John Sessums"; imaged in "Dawes Packets," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/5r726775>), 89 pages; citing *Applications for Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes, compiled 1898–1914*, microfilm publication M1301, 468 rolls (Washington, DC: National Archives, n.d.), roll 86.

⁴⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Panola Co., TX, population schedule, (stamped) p. 154, dwelling/family 137/137.

⁴⁶ 1860 U.S. census, Shelby Co., TX, pop. sch., Beat 8, p.o. Buenavista, p. 74, dwell./fam. 485/485 and 489/489. Living adjacent to them was W. A. Nail, 36, her alleged son-in-law.

⁴⁷ 1880 U.S. census, Smith Co., Tex., Precinct 2, ED 111, p. 12, dwells./fams. 107–108.

Shed, or Sessums. In 1900, Charity's son John Washington Nail and grandson John W. Shed were both enumerated in Rains Co., Tex.⁴⁸

5. **SARAH SESSUMS**, born 1811–12 (1850, 1870, 1880 censuses), 1813–14 (1860 census), or March 1816 (1900 census); all censuses place her birth in Mississippi. She married c1834, **Samuel Courtney**. **1850**: Simpson Co., MS, with children Nancy A. 14, Solomon 12, Robert J. 11, Reuben W. 9, Mary 10, Vincent N. 7, Samuel J. 6, Penny A., 4, George 2.⁴⁹ **1860**: Trinity Co., TX, with children Samuel 22, W. G. 18, Vinson M, 15, Samuel 14, Fanny A. 13, George W 10, Isack N. 9, Marion 8 (all b. Mississippi); also Mandy 4, possible child of Sam for whom no wife is shown.⁵⁰ **1870**: Trinity Co., TX, cites Samuel as a blacksmith.⁵¹ **1880**: Polk Co., TX., living with Amanda 22 "daughter" and Jacob 18 "son"; whoever reported the data asserted that both her parents were born in *South Carolina*.⁵² **1900**: Angelina Co., Texas, Sarah is a widow living in the household of son Francis M.; whoever reported the data asserted that she was the mother of 14 children and (wrongly) that both her parents were born in Ireland.⁵³ The death certificate of Solomon ["S.L."; b. 16 Feb. 1838; d. 22 Feb. 1928 Dawson, Navarro, TX) names his mother as "Sessions."⁵⁴ The death certificate of son Isaac Newton Courtney (b. 27 Jan. 1851; d. 4 Aug. 1934, Jasper, Jasper Co., TX, names his mother as "Sessims."⁵⁵ The death certificate of son Vincent Madison Courtney names his mother as "Sarah Sessions."⁵⁶ The death certificate of daughter Jane (b. "1830"; d. 19 Oct. 1929 Polk, Polk Co., TX) names her mother as "Sarah Courtney."⁵⁷

Sarah's identity is muddled. Many online trees call her Sarah *Riley* Sessums. The *Find A Grave* memorial for her husband "Rev. Samuel Cortney," states (without cited evidence that he married "Sarah Riley" (not Sarah Riley Sessums) in Simpson Co. MS [no date] and identifies the eldest child as b. 1831 (*Isabella Jane*). There is a gap in children until 1838 (*Solomon L.*), with four children thereafter: *Reuben William* (1843), *Vincent Madison* (1845), *Samuel Jefferson* (1847) and *Isaac Newton* 1851). It also states that Sarah died 14 August 1900.⁵⁸ The conflict over Sarah's name and the large gap in children between 1831 and 1838 suggests that Samuel or Sarah may have had a prior marriage. The 1830 census of Jacob and Penny's household shows no female in Sarah's age group (b. 1810–15), suggesting that she may have wed. The *Find A Grave* memorial for the daughter Isabella Jane states

⁴⁸ 1900 U.S. census, Rains Co., Tex., Precinct 4, ED 78, p. 313 (stamped), dwell. 199, fam. 200, John W. Shed, wife Emma D., son Daniel, daughters Pearl L. & S Keezy. Also Precinct 5, ED 87, p. 289 (stamped), sheets 7 A & B, dwell./fam. 104, Jno. W. Nail 46, wife Mary 45, Lella, 18, Mittie, 12, Etta, 3.

⁴⁹ 1850 U.S. census, Simpson Co., MS, pop. sch., (stamped) p. 318, dwell./fam. 436/436.

⁵⁰ 1860 U.S. census, Trinity Co., TX, pop. sch., p. 61, p.o. Sumpter, dwell./fam. 370/369.

⁵¹ 1870 U.S. census, Trinity Co., TX, pop. sch., Trinity p.o., p. 38, dwell./fam. 40/43.

⁵² 1880 U.S. census, Polk Co., TX, pop. sch., ED 70, page 12, dwell./fam. 112/116.

⁵³ 1900 U.S. census, Trinity Co., TX, Justice Precinct 4, ED 4, sheet 4-A, dwell./fam. 59/61.

⁵⁴ "Texas Deaths, 1890–1976," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GY1W-FWM?i=87&cc=1983324>), "S. L. Courtney."

⁵⁵ "Texas Deaths, 1890–1976," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GY14-7PWS?i=467&cc=1983324>), "Isaac Newton Courtney."

⁵⁶ "Texas Deaths, 1890–1976," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GY19-3R8L?i=499&cc=1983324>), "Vincent Madison Courtney."

⁵⁷ "Texas Deaths, 1890–1976," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9B98-Q77Y?i=214&cc=1983324>), "Jane Chandler."

⁵⁸ *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8993873/samuel-courtney>), created 26 June 2004 by "Herald"; maintained by "Sharman," a great-great-granddaughter.

she married about 1846, reinforcing the placement of her birth no later than 1830–31.⁵⁹ However, the 1814 birth year on Samuel's tombstone makes a c1830–31 marriage improbable for him.

6. **SOLOMON D. SESSUMS**, born 1819 (1840 tax roll, Newton County) or 1819–20 (according to 1850 census), Mississippi; married c1846, **Margaret** [—?—], born c1826–27, birthplace "unknown." **1850**: Panola Co., TX, with children *Sarah* aged 3, *Reubin* 2, and *Peny* 1.⁶⁰ **1867**: Panola Co. voters roll, Precinct 13 states he had been in the state for 26 years, in the county for 22 years, and in the precinct for 21 years.⁶¹ If the voter registration data are correct, then he made the move to Texas about 1841. Only one of his descendants are found among those claiming to be Choctaw—one who married a cousin from the claimant cluster.
7. **JACOB SESSUMS JR.**, born about 1823; on Panola County, TX, tax roll of 1846 with brother Solomon. On 12 May 1847, he enlisted at Shelbyville, Shelby County, TX, in the Mexican War as a 3d Corporal in Capt. Truit's Co., 1 Reg't (Hays) Texas Mounted Volunteers, for a period of twelve months. He was mustered that same day at Camp Cartwright's Mill into a unit that became Capt. Handley's Company, 1st Reg't, Texas Mounted Volunteers. A company muster roll taken "Near Vera Cruz" on 3 May cites him as present; the value of his horse was said to be \$95 and the value of his "horse equipments" was set at \$25. On 24 Nov 1847, he was "left in Genl. Hosp. at Jalapa" [Xalapa, state of Vera Cruz], where he died on 1 January 1848 at the stated age of 24.⁶²
8. **REUBEN FISHER SESSUMS**, born 28 December 1824, Hinds County, Mississippi; died 12 March 1873, Fannin County, Texas.⁶³ Married 25 November 1856, Panola County, Texas, **Nancy Amanda Flemmings**.⁶⁴ **1860**: Ellis County, Texas, Division 7, post office: Red Oak.⁶⁵ The abstracted death certificate of his son "Jno. W. Sessims" asserts (erroneously) that John's father "Rubin Sessums" was born in *Tennessee* and that his mother was "Nannie Hummings."⁶⁶ Numerous offspring filed claims.

The claims, all of which were rejected, are summarized at the end of this set of research notes.

⁵⁹ *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9003963/isabella-jane-chandler>), created by "Herald" 27 June 2004; maintained by "Skyequest."

⁶⁰ 1850 U.S. census, Panola Co., TX, pop. sch., (stamped) p. 154, dwelling/family 136/136, Solomon "Sesom."

⁶¹ "Texas, Voter Records, 1867–1918," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:4QMN-JCMM>).

⁶² Service cards, Jacob Sessum (Texas, 1st Mounted Volunteers, Mexican War), National Archives and Records Administration, *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the Mexican War in Organizations from the State of Texas*, microcopy 278, roll 4, alphabetical by soldier.

⁶³ Birth and death data cited without evidence by Denise Tipton at "Reubin Fisher Sessums K2N2-G2V," *FamilySearch Family Tree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/K2N2-G2V>).

⁶⁴ Panola Co. TX, Marriage Book A (1846–54), p. 217; imaged as "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837–1965," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L94V-B9MR-C?i=131&cc=1803985>) > 007255682 > image 132 of 638.

⁶⁵ 1860 U.S. census, Ellis Co., TX, pop. sch., 7th Division, Red Oak p.o., p. 102, dwell./fam. 697/674, R. F. Sessums.

⁶⁶ "Texas Deaths and Burials, 1903–1973," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F6TH-WX7>).

RESEARCH NOTES

1790

SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

COMMENT:

Sampson Co. was created 1784 from Duplin County. It lies several counties to the SW of Edgecombe where one Jacob Sessums died in 1792 leaving a will by which his home plantation went to his widow and young son Jacob Jr.⁶⁷

This Jacob Jr. of Edgecombe is widely claimed to be the Jacob who married Penny Fisher about 1797, some 150 miles away in Sampson. No evidence is offered other than "we have a convenient will and the name's the same." Meanwhile, no known evidence places the Jacob Sessums of Sampson in Edgecombe County; and no associations have been found between him and those who lived contemporaneously in Edgecombe. All his activities connect him to Isaac Sessums of Sampson.

"All 1790 United States Federal Census results for **Sessums**" in Sampson County, NC" (*Ancestry*):

Results 1-7 of 7					
View Record	Name	Home in 1790 (City, County, State)	Number of Slaves	Total Number of All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves	View Census
View Record	Isaac Sessums	Sampson, North Carolina		2	
View Record	Richard Sessums	Sampson, North Carolina		5	
View Record	Nicholas Sessums	Sampson, North Carolina		4	
View Record	Richard Sessoms	Sampson, North Carolina		6	
View Record	Nicholas Sessoms	Sampson, North Carolina		3	
View Record	Isaac Sessoms	Sampson, North Carolina		6	
View Record	Solomon Sessoms	Sampson, North Carolina		8	

1-7 of 7 Per page




COMMENT:

The families of Richard, Nicholas, and Isaac are double-listed this year. Deeds, grants, and court orders do not support the existence of 2 men of each name in the county at this time.⁶⁸

⁶⁷ Will of Jacob Sessums [Sr.], 2 pp.; Edgecombe County folder "Jacob Sessums 1792," Wills & Probate Records [loose papers]; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

⁶⁸ For abstracts, transcripts, and or images of all land grants, deeds, and court orders found to date for Duplin > Sampson Counties, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Sessums & Fishers of Sampson County (Formerly Duplin), NC: Preliminary Survey," report to file, 145 pp., 18 June 2021); archived at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research" tab.

"All 1790 United States Federal Census results for **Fisher**" in Sampson County, NC" (*Ancestry*):

Results 1-3 of 3					
View Record	Name	Home in 1790 (City, County, State)	Number of Slaves	Total Number of All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves	View Censu
View Record	Elijah Fisher	Sampson, North Carolina	1	9	
View Record	Southy Fisher	Sampson, North Carolina	3	10	
View Record	Bailey Fisher	Sampson, North Carolina	1	6	

1-3 of 3

Per page

1790 United States Federal Census for Bailey Fisher

North Carolina > Sampson > Not Stated

Schedule of the whole number of persons 113					within the Division allotted to Guilford County				
Number of heads of Families	Free white males 16 & upwards	Free white males under 16	Free white females	Slaves	Names of heads of Families	Free white males 16 & upwards	Free white males under 16	Free white females	Slaves
Cumberland County					Sampson County				
Fayetteville					William Blocker				
Amount brought over 368 183 372 29 496					Solomon Sessums				
James Hogg (of Hillsborough)					Samuel Faircloth				
Polly Campbell					Isaac Sessums				
Margaret Miller					Benjamin Faircloth				
Norman Wood (Sampson)					Lewis Lucas				
John McPhail					John Harwood				
Ezra McPhail					Hardy Faircloth				
Sarah McCall					Lucy Fisher				
Daniel Thompson					Ephraim Emanuel				
James Meeks					James Spiller				
Charles Tatham					David James				
Peter McArthur					Bartholomew Bryan				
Eliza both Tabathan					John Stanly Jr				
Hester McArthur					John Stanly				
John Smith					Stephen Stanly				
John Little					John Stanly Jr				
William Ruffell					John Powers				
Jacob Lamon					Thomas Underwood				
William McCants					John Cook				
John McNaughton					James Garret				
John Toney					John Wether				
James Aronby					David Clark				
Thomas Coffey					Joseph Kelley				
William Stealy					William Williford				
Callender & Dean					John Bracher				
Arch D. McCall					Seemiah Dean				
The Rev. Mr. Hays					Christopher Bracher				
304 195 390 36 573					Nathan Vick Jr				
Amount of Cumberland county					Nathan Vick Jr				
brought forward 1397 1362 2661 19 1666					Sen Williford				
1394 heads of families 1791 1557 3059 83 2186					James Barner				
Total 8,671					Mathew Mason				
					James Hollingsworth				
					Thomas Gregory				
					Solomon Hous				
					John Crumpler				
					Bailey Fisher				
					Sarah Newman				
					John Emanuel				
					Joshua Hayli				
					Mathew Puzen				
					George Field				
					John Hall				
					Thomas Ballard				
					Isiah Hall				
					Jacob Huddy				
					Nathan Herring				
					Amount carried over 79 95 63 10 74				

1790 United States Federal Census for Richard Sessums

North Carolina > Sampson > Not Stated

Schedule of the whole number of persons -				within the Division allotted to Sheriff Dudley.							
135				126							
Names of heads of Families.				Names of heads of Families.							
<i>Sampson County.</i>				<i>Sampson County.</i>							
Amount brought over	718	852	1396	73	804	Amount brought over	782	927	1538	75	865
Levi Blackmon	4	1	4		9	Luke Smith	1		2		1
Westbrook Lee	1	2	4			Leidith Dean	1	2	4		
Nathaniel Horton	1	1	4		4	Abel Chesnut	1		2		
Thomas Thornton Sr.	2		2		8	Frances Rounnels			2		
Ben Lee	1					Peter Houston	2		6		
Turnipke Wood	1	2	2			Joseph Beck	1		4		
Levi Blackmon	1		4		3	Joshua Rich	1	1	2		
Wiel Gottraeth	1	7	4		1	Christopher Bracher	1	1	2		
Geophiles Renty	1		3			William Wright	1		4		
Christo Sutton	1	3	4			Robert Wright	1		2		3
Francis Wood	1	4	2			John Hair	1		4		
John Rich Jones	1	1	6			Seremiah Bullard	2		1		1
John Porter	2	1	2			Elliott Edge	1	2	2		
Samuel Tarraloth	1	1	4			John Adam	1	1	4		
Robert Williams	1	4	4		5	Wynn Vance	1	1	2		3
Cornelius Rentry	1		1			Reker Walker	1		3		
Moses Hall	1		2			Jacob Chesnut	1	1	2		
John Butler	2	3	5			William Williamson Sr.	6	1	4		
John Daniel	1	4	1			Seremiah Pope	1	5	3		
Isaac Rentry	3	1	2			Lewis Moore	1				8
John Johnston	1	3	4			Ann Moore	1	1	4		17
Levi Carter	1	2	3			Ezekiel Moore	1	1	1		5
Nicholas Sessums	1	1	2			Titus Myhand	1		5		1
Richard Sessums	1	2	2			Jacob Pope	1		3		
James Grace	1		2			Willis Magee	1		1		
Lewis Lucas	1	3	3			Philip Magee	1	1	3		
Old Craft					2	Harris Pope	1		4		
William Owens	1	1	2		2	Charles Chesnut	2		5		
John Wiggins	2	2	4			John Jackson Sr.	1	2	3		
Young Royal	1	3	4		4	Simon Cruik	1	4	3		1
Abel Campbell	1	2	2			John Jackson Jr.	1		2		
Murdock McHinnon	2	4	4			Richard Jackson	1	1	1		
Isaac Moore	1	1	5			Mary Snett	2	2	3		13
Nathan Jacobson	1	1	4			John Snett	1				5
Elias Daniel	1		1			William Dean	1		2		
Samuel Porter	2	3	5			Edward Bird	3	2	5		9
Handy Dees	2	1	6			Richard King Jr.	1				1
Emelby Williams	3		4			Henry Izard	1	2	1		
Isaac Gibbs	2		4			Isaac Pitwint	2	1	3		6
Nathan Williams	1		3			Isaac Goodman Sr.	1		3		
Rudon Williams	1	1	1			Isaac Goodman Jr.	1		1		
Isaac Williams	3	5	8			Edward Lee	1				
Joseph Williams	2	6	5		2	John Bryant	1	2	3		1
George House	1	1	1		1	John Register Jr.	1	2	4		
Amey Williams	1		1			Charity Carson	3		4		1
Arthur Brown	2	4	3			Amount carried over	800	963	1657	75	921
David Brown	1	1	1		2						
Amount Carried Over	782	927	1538	75	865						

1790 United States Federal Census for Elijah Fisher

North Carolina > Sampson > Not Stated

Schedule of the whole number of persons within the Division allotted to Guilford District.				
Number of heads of Families				
<i>Sampson County</i>				
Amount brought over	850	963	1057	75-921
Zebulon Hollingsworth	1		3	
Lewis Holmes	1	1	2	7
Henry Brewington			4	
Creedy Williams			3	
Hannah Williams			2	
James Faison	1	4	3	5
Elijah Faison	1	1	1	1
Leff Gregory	2	3	3	3
Elijah Fisher	2	2	4	1
Prury Macclimon	1		5	
Leather Schuster	1	3	3	
Curtis Jory	1	2	3	5
Daniel Williams	1	3	3	11
James Thompson	1	3	5	5
Thomas Jory	3		4	12
Dugal Stewart	2		2	
Tully Porter	1			4
Rayford Crumpler	1			
William King	1	2	5	31
Abigail Gilmour		1	2	2
William Brin	4	4	3	
Leburn Barber	1	1	1	2
Thord Hilly	1	1	2	
Abel McPhail	1		1	2
Cooper Vick	1	3	2	
John Han	2	1	4	
Shadrack Tent	3	2	6	
Josiah Ogden	1		2	
Abel McPhail	4		2	
Elle Guller		1	2	
John Fowler	3	3	3	
Joseph Fowler	1	3	4	
Jeremiah Simmons Jr	4	1	3	
Jeremiah Simmons Sr	1	1	4	
James Herringdine	1	1	4	1
John Simmons	2	1	4	
John Morgan	1		7	
Fredrick Morgan	1		1	
Eliazar Barnett	1	1	1	
John Ambler Young	1		3	
Henry Merrill	2		3	
David Watkins	1	2		
Paul Martin	2	2	7	
Niles Hulson	1		3	
Amount Carried over	901	1016	1177	85-1013
<i>Sampson County</i>				
Amount brought forward	901	1016	1177	85-1013
Manfred Young				4
Joseph Williams				7
Thomas Jacobs				5
Conny Island		2	3	
Fanny Davis	1		1	
William Whitley				1
Jack Mainer				1
Henry Hobbs	1	1	2	
John Hobbs	1	1	1	
Edward Bird Sr	1	1	1	2
Christopher Lee	1		4	
Catharine Burnett		1	1	
Ann Brewington				3
Luke Thomas	1	1	4	1
John Justice	1	1	3	
Mary Darden	1		3	
William Darden	1	1	1	4
Stephen Blackman	1	1	3	2
Simon McBlonden	1	1	2	10
Thomas Sutton	1	4	2	1-5
Isabel Dixon	1	2	2	
Fanny Faison	3	1	2	1
John McCullen Sr	2		2	
John McCullen Jr	1	1	2	
Asbur Pippen	1	1	4	1
John Livingston	1	5	3	1
Lewis McCullen	1	1	1	
George Williamson	1		1	1
Bernard Shephard	1	1	5	7
James McBlonden	1	1	3	1
Benjamin Bell	2	1	3	1
Frances Hill	6	1	3	14
Willis West	1	2	3	1
Arch ^r Jackson	1	4	3	
William Darden	2	1	3	4
William Coley	1	5	2	
Joseph Hodges Jr	1		1	
Joseph Hodges Sr	1	2	1	
Thomas Hicks	2	1	1	16
Niles Murphy	2	2	3	2
Richard Murphy	1	3	2	
Blackburn Pope	1	1	1	
Jeremiah Pope	2	2	4	
Michael Murphy	2	3	4	
John Wiggs	3	2	4	
Minson Howard	1	1	1	1
Levi Emanuel				5
Jacob Daniel	1		2	
Noble King	2			3
Amount Carried over	957	1075	1278	111-1281

1790 United States Federal Census for Nicholas Sessions

North Carolina > Sampson > Not Stated

Schedule of the whole number of persons within the Division allotted to Guilford, Dudley					
129			130		
Sampson County			Sampson County		
Names of heads of families	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830
Amount brought over	957	1075	1878	111	1081
Jacob Hauge	1	3	5		
Isaac Wright			1		
Mary Smith		1	2		
Nathaniel Jones		1	2		
Rebecca Harris		1	2		
John Harris	2	1	2		
Samuel Dyer	1				
Sarah Beach			1		
Betty Higgins				5	
Billy Glavin				3	
Nancy Higgins				6	
Jack Walden			1		
Ruth Coggin			1		
Martina Jones			2		
Elisabeth				4	
Samuel Fuller	1				
Luby Womble		1	2		
Jude Bayles		1	3		
Sam Dyer	1		1		
Anna Hatcher		1	1		
Priscilla Godwin		1	1		
Anna Williams			3		
Becky Cobb				3	
Miles Hammonds				1	
Libert Danson	1				
George Taylor	1				
John Gilbert	1				
John Segars	1	1	4		
John Michland	1	2	2		
Robert Sullivan	2	1	3		
Benjamin Williams	1				
John Williams	1				
Elizabeth Stanley		1	1		
William Duas	1				
Robert Duas					
Soluna Goddard		1	3		
Nancy Gauthier		1	2		
Thomas Edge Jr	1		1		
Isaac Waring	1		1	2	
Shas Elliott	1	1	2		
Solomon Davis	1	1	3		
Richard Rice	1	2	3		
Richard Lefrom	1	2	3		
Nicholas Sessions	1	1	1		
Henry Davis	1	1	3		
Lebe Davis	1	1	2		
John Davis	1		2		
Mary Owens		1	2		7
Wm Edge	1	1	2		
Isaac Hiler	1		2		
Amount carried from	986	1104	1949	134	1091
Names of heads of families					
Amount brought over	986	1104	1949	134	1091
William Hair	1	1	3		
Thomas Hair	1	2	5		
Amey Whitley		1	2		
Samuel Perkins	1	1	2		
William Smith	1	1	1		
Frederick Morgan	1		1		
Betty Bell			1		2
Christian Williams		2	2		
Thomas Owens	1	1			1
Benjamin Bullcock	2	2	2		
Leves Parker	1		1		
Thomas Clinton	1		1		4
John Easton	1	2	3		1
Betty Ward		1	2		
Jane Ward			1		
Josiah Price	1		2		
Gray Hargrove	1		1		
John Hargrove	1				
William Whitfield	1	1	1		3
James Clark	1	1	1		4
John Williams	1	1	2		
Nathan Clark	1	2	9		1
Astors Powell	1		1		4
Henry Holland	1	2	3		
Stephen Small	1	1	3		
John Griggs	1	1			
John Harris	1	1	3		
John Brooks	1	2	4		
John Royal	1	2	1		3
Isaac Powell	1	1	3		
Isaac Cooper	1	3	1		1
William Cooper	2	3	3		
Marbin Futch	1	1	2		
John Jenkins	1		2		
Thomas Jenkins	1		2		
Betsy Hatcher			2		
Lewis Nelson	1		3		
George Nelson	1	3	3		
Job Hudson	1	1	1		
Letha Mote	2	4	5		
Joseph Hudson	1	2	1		
Lewis Hudson	1	2	5		
Charite Elkins			2		
Madham Van	1				
Madham Tyler	1	2	3		
Joseph Berbage	1	1	2		
Elisha Torrey	1		1		
Amount carried over	1029	1155	2065	134	1115

12 FEBRUARY 1793
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC
Land purchase

William Owens to **Jacob Sessoms**, both of Sampson Co, for 30£ old Specia money to him in hand already paid, sale of one tract of 200 acres in Sampson County on *west side* of **Little Cahary** and on *both sides* of the **Beaverdam Marsh**.

Beginning at a black jack near the corner of Nathaniel **Jones** fence and running N 34 E 200 poles to a gum in the Beaverdam Marsh, thence N 56 W 160 poles to a pine, thence S 34 W 200 poles to a pine and thence to the beginning.

"It being a pattend granted to **John Owens**" on 18 October 1787. Full guarantee, etc. Signed: William Owens. Witnesses: **Christopher Sutton**, **Isaac Sessams** his mark. Proved in open court Feb. Term 1793.⁶⁹

COMMENT:

The Jacob Sessums who later married Penny Fisher would have been about sixteen at this time.

Six factors support a conclusion that the purchaser was the minor Jacob who married Penny Fisher:

- Minors were legally entitled to *purchase* land, although they could not sell it without the consent of a parent or guardian.
- The witness, Isaac Sessums, lived next door to Jacob when the newlywed Jacob first appeared on a census, 1800.
- Eight months after Jacob's purchase, Penny's brother Elijah Fisher patented new land adjoining William Owens.⁷⁰
- Eleven months after Jacob bought land from William Owens, Penny's father Southey Fisher also bought 150 acres of William Owens's land.⁷¹
- Landowners were required to serve on road crews or supply enslaved labor. Only one Jacob did so. He did not come onto the list until he turned eighteen (1795). When he appeared, he was again coupled with Isaac in the court order.
- On 9 February 1801, Jacob exchanged lands with Isaac Sessums, giving Isaac the Owens tract on the *west* side of the Coharie and taking from Isaac two tracts of 100 acres on the *east* side of the Great Swamp and *south* side of Cow Branch, adjoining Isaac's brother Solomon Sessums.⁷² The Cow Branch tract was the land that Jacob, with Penny's participation, sold in 1802 to Neal Culbreath.⁷³

11 JULY 1793
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC
Association

Benjamin Bullock sells to **Nicholas Parker**, both of Sampson, for 10£, 100 acres on *west side* of **Little Cohara** and on the **Marsh branch** [metes & bounds]. Witnessed: **Jacob Sessums** his X mark, Lawrence Hall

⁶⁹ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 8: 63–64; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540366 > images 36–37.

⁷⁰ Sampson Co., NC, Grant Book A: 303; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007519327 > image 175.

⁷¹ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 9: 330–31; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540367 > image 184.

⁷² Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 491–92; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540368 > image 312.

⁷³ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 12: 227–28; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 478–79.

his X mark.⁷⁴

COMMENT:

Again, Jacob Sessums did not have to be twenty-one in order to serve as witness. The minimum age for that role was fourteen, at which point minors were considered to have reached the age of reason and, among other things, could marry or choose their financial guardians (if they were fatherless and had an inheritance).

11 NOVEMBER 1794
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

"Ordered that Nicholas Parker be Overseer of the river Leading from Jn^o Parkers Sen^r to Stephen Beks plantation and likewise of the Road where Thos. Frasher Was overseer of, And that **Jno Parker Senr** hands, Thos Owens, Luke Parker, Burrell Dun, **Sessums Parker**, Lewis Parker, Josiah Carter, Thos. Bullard, **Elijah Fisher**, Phillip Magee, **Jno Fisher**, William Fowler, William Owens, Lewis Candle, Owen Owens, Josiah Hall, Charles Hall, Henry Davis, Jno. Hall, Thos. Frasher, Barnabas Hall, James Davis, Jesse Davis, Willis Magee, Archibald MLeMore, **Isaac Sessums**, Jeremiah Simmons & their Hands work under him."⁷⁵

COMMENT:

The landowning Jacob Sessums obviously is not of tithable age yet; hence, he is not assigned to work this section along with Isaac. The following year, when he turned eighteen (1795), he would be added to the road crew immediately after Isaac.

Sessums Parker, periodically a county justice, was the son of John Parker Sr. and brother of Nicholas, Lewis, Luke and others above. John Parker Sr. owned land adjacent to Isaac Sessums.

One Lewis Parker was in Copiah County, Mississippi, with Jacob and Penny's son Redding in 1830. I have not yet investigated whether the Copiah man was also from Sampson.

NOVEMBER TERM 1795
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

"**Sessums Parker Esqr.** Returned into Court the Report of a Jury to lay off a new road leading from the Governor's ford on South River to Sampson Court House, which was ordered to be filed. Ordered that **Barnabas Hall** be overseer of the Road in the Room of Lazarus Hall & that the usual hands work under him."

"Ordered that Jonathan Caudle, Thos Bullard, Charles Hall, Enoch Hall, Josiah Hall, James Davis, **Isaac Sessums**, **Jacob Sessums**, **James Grice**, William Parker, Lewis Parker, Thos. Frasher, Thos. Parker & John Crumper's hands Work on the road leading form the Governors ford on South river to the Old road at or near the old road by Jno. Crumplers plantation and that **Sessums Parker** be Overseer of said Hands."⁷⁶

⁷⁴ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 10: 81; imaged, *FamilySearch* > digital film 007540367 > image 319.

⁷⁵ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1794–1800, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > image 10.

⁷⁶ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1794–1800, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > image 40.

COMMENT:

As with the Sampson County deeds and census records, when Jacob Sessums first comes on the road-work list, he is coupled with Isaac. Jacob, who was born between 2 June 1776 and 1 June 1777 according to the 1850 census, has now turned eighteen.

The adjacent landowner James Grice was married to **Axy Sessums**, the proved sister of Solomon Sessums and apparent sister of Isaac.⁷⁷ Note Jacob's position between the two of them on this road-assignment list; his position immediately after Isaac is the typical position for young men when they first come of age and are added to the road crew with their father.

Grices were in Lawrence County, MS, contemporaneously with Jacob after he and Penny moved there from Kentucky. I have not yet pursued them.

15 AUGUST 1797

SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase

Jacob Sessums of Willis West, both of Sampson, purchase for 16£ current money of NC already paid, one tract of 100 acres in Sampson

Beginning at three small gums in the **Beaver dam Marsh**, thence E 140 poles to a stake on **Sessum Parker's** line, thence with his line N 150 poles to a black jack post, his corner, thence W 80 poles to a pine, thence S 15 W 40 poles to the **Gum Branch**, thence down the said branch as it meanders to the marsh of the Beaver Dam, thence up the marsh 20 poles to the beginning.

"It Being a patent granted to Thomas Frazer" 20 July 1795. Full warranty. Signed: Willis West his X mark, Thomas Ivey, Nathl. Thornton Junr. Proved in open court November Term 1797.⁷⁸

17 OCTOBER 1797

SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land sale

Nicholas Sessums to Isaac Sessums, both of Sampson County sale to **my son Isaac Sessums** a Water mill and 2 acres of land "for support to the said Mill, the land granted to the said Nicholas Sessums by Order of Court." Said land being in Sampson County on a **branch** of the **great swamp** and **South River, the Beaverdam Branch**. Full warranty, etc. Signed: Nicholas Sessums. Witnesses: **John Butler, Solomon Sessums**, Charles Butler. Proved in open court, November Term 1797.⁷⁹

COMMENT:

This document takes Jacob's ancestry back one further generation, to Isaac. The Solomon who witnessed this document was the Revolutionary War sergeant (and later pensioner) Solomon Sessums, also a son of Nicholas and brother of Mrs. James Grice who lived next door.

⁷⁷ Affidavit of Axy (Sessums) Grice, aged 78, 11 April 1845; Pension Application of Obedience (Baker) Sessums, Widow of Solomon Sessums (Pvt., Cpl., Sgt.; Capt. Southey Fisher's Company, NC Militia, Rev. War.), W19330; imaged "Revolutionary War Pensions," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/15490011> and 15490021).

⁷⁸ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 8 (1783–1792): 449–50; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 007540366 > images 526–27.

⁷⁹ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 10: 428–29; imaged, *FamilySearch* > digital film 007540367 > image 515.

30 SEPTEMBER 1799
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase

Isaac Sessums from Moses Rainwater [county of residence not stated], for 10£ Current money of NC in hand paid, sells one tract of 100 acres on *west side* of **Beaverdam Swamp**:

Beginning at a pine at the mouth of a small branch and **Jacob Sessums'** corner, thence S 176 poles to a pine at **James Grice's** line, thence with his line S 16 poles to his corner, a pine, thence S 20 E 27 poles to a pine, thence E 80 poles to a black jack, thence N 120 poles to a stake in the marsh of the Beaver dam, thence down the Beaver dam swamp to the beginning.

Full guarantee, etc. "Being a patent granted to the said Moses Rain Water" on 7 June 1799. Signed: Moses Rain Water his X Mark. Witnesses: **Nich Sessums** and **Jacob Sessums**. Proved in open court November Term 1799.⁸⁰

COMMENT:

On 4 January 1797, James Grice entered 100 acres on *east side* of **South River** "joining his own and John Parker's line." Metes and bounds cite **Moses Rainwater's line** "W 48 poles to a pine in Grice's line, thence his line S 132 poles to a stake on John Parker's line ..." ⁸¹

Nicholas Sessums, the witness to Isaac's sale of land adjacent to Jacob Sessums, was Isaac's father. Hence, he should be Jacob's grandfather. See the deed of 17 October 1797 above.⁸²

1800
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Census

"All 1800 United States Federal Census results for **Sessums**" in Sampson County, NC" (*Ancestry*):

Results 1-5 of 5					
View Record	Name	Home in 1800 (City, County, State)	Number of Slaves	Total Number of All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves	View Census
View Record	Jacob Sessoms	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		4	View Census
View Record	Isaac Sessoms	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		6	View Census
View Record	Solomon Sessoms	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		12	View Census
View Record	Mary Sessoms	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		6	View Census
View Record	Richard Sessions	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina	20	31	View Census

1-5 of 5 Per page 50

⁸⁰ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 193–94; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007540368 > images 140–41.

⁸¹ Sampson Co., NC, Grant Book B: 85; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007519327 > image 315.

⁸² Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 10: 428–29; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540367 > image 515.

**Jacob Sessums
Penelope "Penny" Fisher**

“All 1800 United States Federal Census results for **Fisher**” in Sampson County, NC” (*Ancestry*):

Results 1-5 of 5

View Record	Name	Home in 1800 (City, County, State)	Number of Slaves	Total Number of All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves	View Census
View Record	John Fisher	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		6	View
View Record	Bailey Fisher	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina	2	5	View
View Record	Spencer Fisher	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		5	View
View Record	Southy Fisher	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina	12	16	View
View Record	Thomas Fisher	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		5	View

1-5 of 5 Per page 50

1800 United States Federal Census for Jacob Sessums

North Carolina > Sampson > Fayetteville

Name	Age	Free White	Free Colored	Slaves	Free White	Free Colored	Slaves	Free White	Free Colored	Slaves	Total
John Sessums	1	1									
Yvonne Sessums	-	1	1								531
Penny Sessums	2										2
Lewis Lucas	3		1		1	1	1	1	1		3
Solomon Sessums	4	1	1		1			2	1	1	
George Blacker	1			1	1			1			
Louis Hall	4				1			1			
Asiah Carter	2	1	1		2	2		1			
Solomon Faircloth	1		1					1			
Fisella Hall	-		1						1		703
Benjamin Faircloth	1			1				2	1	1	
Hardy Faircloth	3		3		1	2					
John Johnston	1	1	1		1	2	1	2	1		
Mary Sessums	2	1	1		1						
Isaac Sessums	-		1		2	1				2	
Jacob Sessums	1		1		1			1			
James Grace	3			1	1	1					
William Parker	2	3		1	3						7
John Parker	-		1		1				1	1	2
											75
											55
											17
											24
											22
											15
											46
											19
											19
											27
											12

(p. 531; Fayetteville Dist.)

Consecutive entries

John Aughtry

Newsom Aughtry

Drury Aughtry

Lewis Lucas

Solomon Sessoms	1 white male	45+	1 white female	45+	0 slaves	12 total
	1 white male	16–25	1 white females	26–44		
	1 white male	10–15	1 white females	16–25		
	4 white males	0–9	2 white females	10–15		

George Blocker

Lewis Hall

Josiah Carter

Solomon Faircloth

Prisilla Hall

Benjamin Faircloth

Hardy Faircloth

John Johnston

Mary Sessoms	1 white male	16–25	1 white female	26–44	0 slaves	6 total
	2 white males	0–9	1 white female	0–9		

Isaac Sessoms	2 white males	45+	2 white females	45+	0 slaves	6 total
	1 white male	0–9	1 white female	0–9		

Jacob Sessums	1 white males	16–25	1 white female	16–25	0 slaves	4 total
	1 white male	0–9	1 white female	0–9		

James Grice [husband of Axy Sessums, sister of Solomon]

William Parker

John Parker

COMMENT:

- The ages and household composition for Jacob above is compatible with known facts for the Jacob who married Penny Fisher.
- Jacob’s placement on this census again suggests he is the son of the older Isaac, next door.
- The female aged 0–9 in Isaac’s household has not been identified. She is of the same age group as the oldest single female in Jacob and Penny’s 1810 Kentucky household, who is too old to be their daughter. That female positively was not a sister of Penny (whose siblings are identified in the records that settle their father’s estate. The next-likely possibility to investigate is whether the unidentified female in Jacob and Penny’s household in 1810 might be a sister of Jacob.
- Note the proximity of Solomon Faircloth. The Faircloths need to be studied as a possible family for Isaac Sessums’ unknown wife.

- Mary Sessoms was widow of Richard Sessums for whom she opened probate in Nov. 1797.⁸³

1800 United States Federal Census for Southy Fisher
North Carolina > Sampson > Fayetteville

Coates Faircloth	3	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	519
Owen Owens	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	15
Joseph Hutson	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
William Owens	1	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	1	-	-	-
Lazarus Hall	1	1	2	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
Barnabas Hall	3	2	-	1	-	4	1	-	1	1	-	-
Imedia Faircloth	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
Southy Fisher	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	12
Thomas Owens	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
John Fisher	2	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Thomas Fisher	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Kneal Colbreath	1	2	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	7
Daniel Colbreath	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
John Colbreath	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ephraim Johnston	2	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Isaac Tatom	1	-	1	1	-	4	2	-	1	-	-	4
William Wright	3	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	4
Robert Wright	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Elisha Annis	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Amchem Seabrook	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	50	20	19	19	17	45	15	16	22	19	-	108

COMMENT:

John Fisher and Thomas Fisher, listed 1 and 2 households from Southy, were his sons and heirs, along with Jacob Sessums.

25 JANUARY 1801
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

⁸³ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1794–1800, no visible pagination; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 008139513 > images 86–87. Also “North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665–1998,” database with images, Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007384316_00001) > Sampson > Probate Records 1663–1978 > image 29210 and ff. for folder “Richard Sessums, 1799, specifically image 29217. NOTE: Documents relating to a contemporary Richard Sessions, who lived considerably past 1799, and Session’s wife Esther (dated 1818–23) are also included in error in this folder. Images 29211, 29212, 29213, 29214, 29215, 29219, 29220, 29221 relate to the Richard and Esther Sessions, not to Richard and Mary Sessums.

Land purchase

Isaac Sessoms from **Caleb Faircloth**, both of Sampson, for 50£ in hand paid, purchases "Two Different tracts or parcels of Land Containing" 100 acres each, situate in the County of Sampson on the *east side* of **Great Swamp** and *south side* of **Cow Branch**:

Beginning at a red oak on **Solomon Sessams' line**, thence E 127 poles to a pine, thence S 127 poles to a black jack, thence W 127 poles to a pine, thence to the beginning.

And another tract in Sampson on *east side* of the **great Swamp**,

Beginning at his own corner a black jack, thence S 127 poles to a small pine, thence W 127 poles to a ~~maple~~ small pine, thence N 127 poles to the beginning.

Full guarantee, etc. Signed: Caleb Faircloth his X mark. Witnesses: Benjamin Faircloth his X mark; **Solomon Sessams** his X mark. Proved in open court May Term 1801.⁸⁴

COMMENT:

Two weeks later, Isaac conveyed these two tracts to "Jacob Sessums." In 1803, **Jacob Sessums and wife Penny** sold these two tracts to Neal Culbreath.

9 FEBRUARY 1801
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land sale

Isaac Sessums to **Jacob Sessums**, both of Sampson County, sale for 50£ in hand paid, "two different tracts" of land containing 100 acres each, situate in Sampson County on the *east side* of the **Great Swamp** and *south side* of **Cow Branch**:

Beginning at a red oak on **Solomon Sessums line**, thence E 127 poles to a pine, thence S 127 poles to a black jack, thence W 127 poles to a pine, thence to the beginning.

The other tract on the *east side* of the **Great Swamp**,

Beginning at his own corner a black jack thence S 127 poles to a small pine, thence W 127 poles to a small pine, thence N 12 poles to the beginning.

Signed: **Isaac Sessums** his X mark. Witnesses: Tho. Frazier, **Solomon Sessums**. Proved November Term 1801. Registered 3 January 1802.⁸⁵

9 FEBRUARY 1801
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land sale

Jacob Sessoms to **Isaac Sessoms**, both of Sampson Co., for \$100, sells one tract of land containing 200 acres in Sampson Co. on *west side* of **Little Cohara** and on *both sides* of the **Beaverdam Marsh**:

Beginning at a black jack near the corner of **Nathaniel Jones'** fence and runs N 34 E 200 poles to a gum in the Beaverdam Marsh, thence N 56 W 160 poles to a pine, thence S 34 W 200 poles to a pine, thence to the beginning ... running with the patent lines

⁸⁴ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 367–68; imaged *FamilySearch* > digital film 007540368 > images 241–42.

⁸⁵ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 492–92.

Full guarantee, etc. Signed: **Jacob Sessums his X mark**. Witnesses: Thomas Frazier and **Solomon Sessums**. Proved in open court, February Term 1801. Registered 2 April 1801.⁸⁶

COMMENT:

No reference to a wife for Jacob. This is the tract that Jacob acquired in 1793, before his marriage. Hence, his wife was not required to give her permission for its sale.

FEBRUARY TERM 1801
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

"A deed from **Jacob Sessums** to **Isaac Sessums** for 200 acres of Land was proven by **Sol^o Sessums** and ordered to be Registered."⁸⁷

MAY TERM 1801
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

"A petition Handed into Court by Lazarus Hall praying leave to open and make navigable a Stream of Water Called **Little Cohary** which Was Granted. Ordered therefore that the hands (to wit) Owen Owens, Felix Hare, Isaac Nelson, **Wm. Owens**, Barnabas Hall, Smidick Faircloth, Needham Vann, Martin Hare, Auther Hare, John Hare, Thomas Hall, Wm. Hare Junr., Eli Lackerman, Jonⁿ Pope, Federick William, Robert Butler, John Williams, Joseiah Hall, **Jacob Sessums**, Charles Lucus, Thos. Sanders, Lewis Lucus, Christophe Edmonds, John Parker, Luke Parker, Luke Butter, **Rich^d Sessions**, **John Fisher**, Thomas Owens, Joshua Tatum, Laban Tatum."

"Ordered that the following hands to wit Barnabas Hall Overseer and Willis Magee overseer and Smithwick Faircloth, Needham Vann, Jesse Nealms, William Hair, Arthur Hair, Felix Hair, Martin Hair, John Hair, John Williams, Samson Dees, Luke Butler, Robert Butler, **Southy Fisher**, **John Fisher**, Thos. Owens, Enoch Hall, James Hall, John Parker, Luke Parker, Owen Owens, Eli Lackerman, Thos. Hall, and their Hands work on the river called **Little Cohary** under the overseers named and agreeable to a petition filed."⁸⁸

COMMENT:

Isaac Sr. appears to have now reached the age at which men were not liable for road duty (unless they owned slaves, who would then be assigned to work in their stead).

AUGUST TERM 1801
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

"Ordered that John Williams, Robert Butler, Luke Butler, **Jacob Sessums**, Charles Lucas, John Hair, Martin Hair, Wm. Hair Junr., Arthur Hair, **John Fisher**, Thomas Owens, Sidick Faircloth, Thos. Hall, Charles Hall, Enoch Hall, James Hall, and Noah Hall And their Hands work on **Little Cohary River** Leading from **Fishers Bridge** to **John Parker's Bridge** under Barnabas Hall."

⁸⁶ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 309–10.

⁸⁷ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 138–39.

⁸⁸ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 141, 143, 148.

Another cluster, Parkers, Owens, etc., were ordered to "work on the River Called Little Cohary river, Leading from the Widow Robinsons Landing to Parkers Bridge, under **Sessums Parker, overseer.**"

"Ordered that **Southy Fisher** have leave to erect a publick Griss Mill and Saw Mill across a stream of Water called **little Cohary** on his Own Land. Petitioned filed."

Mr. Southy Fisher came into Court and prayed leave to keep a publick Ordinary at his Own House, which was granted ... bond, Security Thos. Owens & Sampson Dees."⁸⁹

**NOVEMBER TERM 1801
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC**

Court order

"A deed from **Isaac Sessums** to **Jacob Sessums** for 200 acres was proved by **Sol^o Sessums** and ordered to be Registered."⁹⁰

**FEBRUARY TERM 1802
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC**

Court order

8 February: "**Mrs. Phebe Fisher** and **John Fisher** came into court and prayed Adminiⁿ on the estate of **Southy Fisher** Which Was Granted. Ordered that she inter into bond in the Sum of two thousand pounds and offers for their Security **Sessums Parker**, Jacob Crumpler & Laban Tatom, who was approved of. Bond filed."

"A deed from **Southy Fisher** to **Thos. Fisher** for 150 acres of Land was proven by Danl. Coore for Registration."⁹¹

COMMENT:

Estates were to be administrated within three months of the decease of the propertied person. From this, and the appearance of Southy in the August 1801 term of court to renew his ordinary license, we may deduce that Southy Fisher likely died in the winter of 1801–2.

**MAY TERM 1802
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC**

Court order

4 May: "Ordered that **John Fisher & Jacob Sessums & Thos. Wallace** work on the road under Sampson Dees."⁹²

COMMENT:

Wallace, who wed Southy Fisher's widow, has insinuated himself into the family cluster very quickly after Southy Fisher's death. Considering that I've found no prior deeds or land grants for

⁸⁹ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 150–54.

⁹⁰ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 159, 162.

⁹¹ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 165, 168.

⁹² Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 176.

him in Sampson, I'm wondering whether he was not already working for Southy. Here, he is almost certainly assuming the responsibility for road care past the lands that Southy left.

NOVEMBER TERM 1802
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

"Ordered that **Thomas Wallace** have leave to keep a publick Ordinary **at his Own House**, he complying with the Requisites of the Law. Ordered that he enter into bond in the Sum of five Hundred pounds and offers for his Security **Jacob Sessums** who was approved of. Bond filed."⁹³

COMMENT:

It does appear that Wallace has already married the widow and has moved into her home that was already set up as an ordinary under her first husband.

20 NOVEMBER 1802
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land sale

"**Jacob Sessums** to Neal Culbreath, both of Sampson Co., NC, sale for 50£ in hand paid, one tract in Sampson County the *east side* of the **Great Swamp**:

Beginning at the *south side* of **Cow branch** at a red oak **Solomon Sessums'** line, thence E 127 poles to a pine, thence S 127 poles to a black jack, thence W 127 poles to a pine, thence to the beginning and 100 acres more:

Beginning at the aforesaid corner a black jack, thence S 127 poles to a small pine, thence W 127 poles to a small pine, thence N 127 poles to a corner of the aforesaid 120 acres, a pine, thence [with] that line E 127 poles to the beginning.

Full warranty, etc. "In witness Whereof, I the said **Jacob Sessum** and his [*sic*] wife **Penny Sessums** have hereunto set our hand & seals ... **Jacob Sessums** his x mark, and **Pennelope Sessums** her x. Witnesses Arch'd Culbreath, **Elisha Fisher**.

Proved in open court May Term 1803. Registered 5 June 1803.⁹⁴

COMMENT:

In 1801, **Isaac Sessums** bought these two tracts from Caleb Faircloth, then conveyed them to **Jacob Sessums** two weeks later.

Penny's participation was required here because the property was acquired after their marriage.

On 10 June 1805, Culbreath also bought five tracts of land from Penny's brother Reuben Fisher who had, by then, moved to Bladen Co., NC. One of Reuben's tracts was said to be "*willed to him ... by Southy Fisher Dec'd.*" Reuben excluded from the sale of the inherited land the portion on which "Phebe Wallace" (their mother) was to live for the rest of her life.⁹⁵

Despite Reuben Fisher's reference to a will left by Southy, that will has not been found among the

⁹³ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 182–83, 186–87, for references to Wallace as well as Jacob Sessums.

⁹⁴ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 12: 227–28; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 478–79.

⁹⁵ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 13: 274–75; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 146.

recorded or unrecorded wills that have survived for Sampson.

2 JANUARY 1805
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase

Jacob Sessums from John Porter Junr., both of Sampson, purchase for 42£ 10 shillings current money of NC in hand paid, "one certain Plantation tract" of 150 acres in Sampson County on *east side* of **Little Cohara** joining **John Williamson's** [Williams Senr's ?] line

Beginning at a pine on said line and runs N 70 E 90 poles to a white oak, thence N 20 W 230 poles to a hickory by a branch, thence S 70 W 227 poles down the branch to a stake, thence S 20 E 100 poles to a Stake on **John Williamson's** line, thence said line N 70 E 40 poles to Williamson's corner, thence to the beginning.

With full guarantee, etc. Signed: John Porter. Witnesses: **M. Crumpler, J. Crumpler**. Proved for registration, February Term 1805.⁹⁶

FEBRUARY TERM 1805
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

(11 February, first court day)

"Ordered that **Thomas Wallace** be Overseer of the Road in the Room of Sampson Dees and that the usual hands work under.

"A deed from John Porter to **Jacob Sessums** for 150 acres of land was proven in Court for Registration by Matthew Crumpler."⁹⁷

23 NOVEMBER 1805
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase

John Dickson of Cumberland County, NC, as attorney in fact for **Robert Charles Johnson** of the city and state of New York, on the one part, to **Jacob Sessoms** of Sampson County, NC, on the other part, by virtue of his power of attorney dated 9 April 1801: sale for 15£ 1 shilling "in hand paid or secured to be paid" one tract of land, being 114 acres in Sampson County on *east side* of **Little Cohara** and *south side* of **Haus Branch**, joining **Thomas Holland's, John Haus', Ben Howard's** and his own lines:

Beginning at a juniper in Haus Branch near Hollands corner, thence his line S 13 chains & 50 links to a stake, thence S 35 E 37 chains and 50 links to a black jack on **John Haus'** line, thence as that line N 85 E 6 chains to a red oak his corner, thence his other line N 56 E 11 chains to two small oaks, thence S 85 E 10 chains to a pine, said Haus' third corner, thence N 25 W 20 chains 50 links to a stake on **Howard's** line, thence that line W 14 chains to a pine at his corner, thence as his other line N 18 W 25 chains 75 links to a bay by Howard's corner, thence down the various courses of the branch to the beginning.

⁹⁶ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 13: 80–81; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 57.

⁹⁷ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 250, 252.

The 114 acres were “a part of the contents of a patent granted to **Roger Alden** for [blank] acres in the year 1796 and by said Alden conveyed to Robert Charles Johnston by Deed duly recorded in the register’s office of Sampson County. Full guarantee, etc.

Signed: John Dickson, Attorney for Robert C. Johnston. Witnesses: Angus Wilkinson, Thomas Holland. Deed acknowledged in court, November Term 1807. Registered 20 December 1807.⁹⁸

2 MAY 1806
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land sale

Isaac Sessums to **Young Sessums**, both of Sampson County, 30 £ in hand paid, sale of “three certain messuages or tracts of land” in Sampson County containing 275 acres, lying on *east side* of **South River** and on the *waters* of the **Beaver Dam Swamp**:

Tract 1: *west side* of Beaverdam Swamp. Beginning at a pine at the mouth of a small branch near **Jacob Sessums’** corner, thence S 176 poles to a pine on **James Grice’s** line, thence with his line S 67 E 16 poles to his corner, a pine, thence S 20 E 27 poles to a pine, thence E 80 poles to a black Jack, thence N 127 poles to a stake in the marsh of the **Beaverdam**, thence down the Beaverdam to the beginning.

Tract 2: joining **John Parker’s** lines on *both sides* [of] the Beaverdam Swamp. Beginning at John Parker’s corner, a black jack near the **school house**, thence his line S 58 E 116 poles to his corner, a black jack, thence his line S 50 W 10 poles to his corner, a black jack, thence his line S 40 W 108 poles to his corner, a small black jack, thence [with] **Frazier’s** line W 50 poles to his corner, a pine, on the said Parker’s line, thence his line 6 poles to his and **James Grice’s** corner pine, thence Grice’s line N 55 E 10 poles to his corner, a pine, thence his line N 35 W 95 poles to his corner stake in the **marsh** of the Beaverdam, thence crossing the Beaverdam to the beginning.

Tract 3: Beginning at a stake his own corner and runs N 33 E 204 poles to a pine on the Beaverdam, his other corner, thence S along his other line 204 poles to **Grice’s** line, thence W 130 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning.

Signed: **Isaac Sessums** his ₤ mark. Witnesses: **Solomon Sessums, Blake Sessums**. Proved by Solomon Sessums in open court, August Term 1807. Registered 14 October 1807.⁹⁹

COMMENT:

My reconstruction of all the Sessumses in Sampson County prior to 1830 suggests that Young Sessums was another son of Isaac for whom the father was providing as he came of age. If he were the male under 10 in 1800, and was at the upper end of that age bracket, then he is the same age that Jacob was when he bought his first land with Isaac’s assistance.

No other son has been proved for Isaac—a son who, by common custom, would be given parental land in exchange for care as the parent aged. Young does not appear again in the county records, nor has he been found elsewhere—suggesting that he died soon after assuming this role.

⁹⁸ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 359–60; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 474–75.

⁹⁹ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 353–54; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 471–72.

In 1812, five years after Jacob had moved off to Kentucky, Isaac conveyed his land again—that time to Blake Sessums, son of Solomon.¹⁰⁰ The 1820 census shows an elderly man of Isaac's age in Blake's household, with Solomon nearby.

MAY TERM 1806
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

"A Bill of sale from Drewry McClemore to **Thos. Wallace** and **Phebee Wallace** for a mare bridle and Saddle, also one Bed and furniture was proven in Open Court and Ordered to be Registered."

COMMENT:

I did not see a reference to the McClemore-Wallace document in the deed index where other bills of sale were found for Wallace and the Fishers. It is uncommon that a bill of sale includes the purchaser's wife as a participant.

27 JUNE 1807
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Slave sale

Jacob Sessoms and **Penny Sessoms** of Sampson County, for \$400, sell to Neil Culbreth "a certain Negro woman called Venice and child called Daniel." Witnesses: Daniel Coor; Love Colbreth. Signed: Jacob Sessums his X mark; Penelope Sessums her X mark. Proved November term 1807 by Love Colbreth.¹⁰¹

16 [OCTOBER?] 1807
SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Quitclaim deed

"This indenture made this 16th Day of Dec^r [*sic*] 1807" from **Phoebe Wallis** to **Neill Colbreth**, for \$125 "do hereby assign all my right and title of a certain tract or parcel of land lying on the *upper side of the road* leading to Fayetteville and **Little Coharie**, by estimation 150 acres, it being in part of my right of Dower lying within the lines of **Reubin Fisher, my son**, which tract or parcel of land I warrant and defend, etc. Signed: Phebe Wallace her X mark. Witnesses: Gabriel Holmes, Jess Parker. Proved in court November Term 1807 [*sic*]. Registered 20 December 1807.¹⁰²

COMMENT:

Clearly, the deed was not proved in court in November 1807 before it was executed by the parties in "December" 1807. In the clerk's recorded copy, all three dates are very clearly written. "The November Term 1807" should not be in error; there was no December term of court for the deed to be presented. More likely, the deed was executed in **Oct^r** rather than **Dec^r** 1807, along with the other documents below that relate to the settlement of Southey Fisher's estate between his widow and children.

Many of the record books in Sampson carry notations from the mid-1800s saying that these volumes had to be recopied due to the deterioration of the originals.

25 OCTOBER 1807

¹⁰⁰ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 16: 293–95; imaged *FamilySearch* > digital film 007537437 > images 385–86.

¹⁰¹ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 481; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 369.

¹⁰² Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 381–82; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 488–89.

SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land sale

Index entry: "John Fisher & others to Tho. Wallace"

"We, **Thomas Fisher, John Fisher, Reuben Fisher, Elijah Fisher** and **Jacob Sessums** have bargained, sold and delivered unto **Thomas Wallace** one Negro Man Called Jim for the consideration of one hundred pounds lawful money of this State and we the said Fishers and Sessoms do by these presents forever warrant and defend said Negro Jim unto him the said **Thomas Wallace** and his heirs forever. In witness whereunto we have set our hands and Seals this 26th day of Oct^r 1807."

[Signed] John Fisher his mark, Thomas Fisher, Reuben Fisher, Elijah Fisher, **Jacob Sessums** his mark.
Witness: Tho^s Owens.

November Term 1807. Then was the within Bill of Sale proven in open Court by Thomas Owens for registration. H. Holmes, CC. Registered Dec 20th 1807, Owen Holmes Repr."¹⁰³

27 OCTOBER 1807

SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Bill of sale

Thomas Wallis to **John Fisher, Elijah Fisher, and Jacob Sessoms**, for 200£, conveys "one Negro woman called Bash, one Negro Girl called Rachel, one Negro boy called Jo. and one Negro Girl called Lucy and all their increase forever after the death of **my Wife Phebe**." Signed: Thos. Wallis. Witness: Thos. Owens. Acknowledged in open court, May Term 1808.¹⁰⁴

29 OCTOBER 1807

SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Land sale

Jacob Sessums to John Hair, both residents of Sampson, for \$130 in hand paid, sale of two tracts of land in Sampson County

First: 150 acres on *east side* of **Little Cohara** [adjoining?] **John Williams Sen [Williamson?] Decd,**" beginning at a pine on said line and N 70 E 90 poles to a white oak, thence N 70 W 230 poles to a hickory by a branch, thence S 70 W 127 poles down the branch to a stake, thence S 20 E 100 poles to a stake on **John Williams** line, thence said line N 70 E 40 poles to Williams corner, thence to the beginning

Second: 114 acres of land on the *east side* of **Little Cohara** and *south* of **Hare's branch**, joining **Thomas Holland, John Hare, Ben Howard, and his own lines**. Beginning at a Juniper in Hare's Branch near Holland's corner, thence his line S 13 chains and 50 links to a stake, thence S 35 E 37 chains 50 links to a black Jack in John Hare's line, thence as that line N 85 E 6 chains to a red oak his corner, thence his other line N 56 E 11 chains to two small oaks, thence N 85 E 10 chains to a pine said Hare's third corner, thence N 25 W 20 chains 60 links to a stake on Howard's line, thence that line west 14 chains to a pine, his corner, thence as his other line N 18 W 25 chains 75 links to a bay by Howard's corner, thence down the various courses of the branch to the beginning.

¹⁰³ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 481; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 369.

¹⁰⁴ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 404; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 501.

Full guarantee, etc. Signed: **Jacob Sessums** his X mark. Witnesses: M. Crumpler, **Thomas Wallis**. Proved in open court by Matthew Crumpler, November Term 1807.¹⁰⁵

COMMENT:

- No reference to Penelope.
- Numerous online trees identify Neil Williams (the man who married Jacob and Penny's eldest daughter Mary in 1820, Lawrence Co., MS) as the son of "John **Holland** Williams" of Sampson. I have not yet pursued this.

NOVEMBER TERM 1807

SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

(9 November, first court day)

"Ordered that **John Fisher** be Overseer of the Road in the Room of **Neil Galbreath** [Culbreath] and that the usual hands work under him."

"A Deed from **Jacob Sessums** to John Hare for 264 acres of land was proven in Court by Matthew Crumpler for Registration. A Deed from **Pheby Wallace** to Neill Culbreath for 150 acres of land was proven in Court by G. Holmes Esq^r for Registration."

"A Bill of sale from **Jacob** and **Penelope Sessums** to Neill Culreath [*sic*] for a Negro Woman Called Venice and her child named Daniel was proven by Love Culbreath for Registration."

"A Bill of Sale from **John Fisher** and others to **Thomas Wallace** for a negro man call'd Gim was proven by Thomas Owens for Registration."¹⁰⁶

COMMENT:

Note that Jacob did not personally come into court to acknowledge his sale to Culbreath and Hare so that those documents could be admitted for recording. Almost certainly, after selling his lands in October, and swapping enslaved people with other heirs of the Southy Fisher estate, he and Penny left for Kentucky. Thus, the birth of Thomas, c1807–8 in Kentucky, as later censuses aver.

AUGUST TERM 1808

SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

Court order

(8 August, first court day)

Jacob Sessoms appears on the list of men ordered to attend court at its next term to do jury duty.¹⁰⁷

COMMENT:

Jacob would not appear in response to this order. Nor is a subsequent summons issued to him for failure to appear. Clearly, he had left the county shortly after the flurry of property actions in October 1807.

¹⁰⁵ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 383; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 489.

¹⁰⁶ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 327, 329.

¹⁰⁷ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1808–1812, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > image 351.

Jacob’s whereabouts in Kentucky prior to 1810 have not been determined. We would not expect to find him on an 1808 tax roll, given that the 1808 roll would have been drafted in early 1808 and most men did not report themselves as taxables until they had been in the county for several months or a year.

1809

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY

Tax roll

6 September	Fisher, Spencer	1 white male, 2 horses
30 June	Fisher, Elijah	1 white male, 0 blacks 16+, 1 black total, 2 horses
	Sessums	No entry ¹⁰⁸

COMMENT:

Spencer Fisher was the son of Bailey Fisher of Sampson, the apparent brother of Southy.¹⁰⁹ It seems likely that this Elijah was also. The Elijah Fisher who was Penny’s brother was an older man than this Elijah who appears as 16–25 on the 1810 census.

1810

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY

Tax roll

16 June	Fisher, Spencer	1 white male, 1 stud horse
30 June	Fisher, Elijah	No entry
	Sessums	No entry ¹¹⁰

1810

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY

Census

(p. 567, numbered at top left; Hopkinsville Dist.)

Consecutive entries:

- Charles Kennedy
- Elizabeth Michels
- Benjamin Michaels
- David D. Michals
- John Brown
- Simon Tedford
- Isac Gray
- John Gearty
- Hilry Carter
- John Dyer

Elijah Fisher	1 white male	16–25	1 white female	16–25	1 slave
	1 white male	0–9	2 white females	0–9	

John Brown

¹⁰⁸ Christian Co., KY, 1809 tax roll; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007834413 > image 620 especially.

¹⁰⁹ E.S.Mills, “Sessums & Fishers of Sampson County (Formerly Duplin), NC: Preliminary Survey,” report to file, 18 June 2021); archived at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

¹¹⁰ Christian Co., KY, 1810 tax roll; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007834413 > images 734–35 especially.

COMMENT:

One Elijah or Elisha Fisher's will was probated 1839 in Hinds County.¹¹¹

(p. 573, numbered at top left; Hopkinsville Dist.)

Consecutive entries

Cado Harrel
Charles Linn
Ruben Linn
George Carter
William **Dees**
Josiah Vaughn
Gabral Tilford

Jacob Sessons	1 white male	26–44	[Jacob]	1 slave
	1 white female	26–44	[Penny]	10 total
	1 white female	16–25		
	1 white male	10–15	[Redding]	
	1 white female	10–15	[Mary]	
	1 white male	0–9	[Thomas, b. 1807–8]	
	3 white females	0–9	[–?–, –?–, and Charity b. c1810]	

Calip Linsy
Thomas Morras
Abriham Boyd
Nathan Lannton

COMMENT:

- *Ancestry's* index shows no other Sessums, Sessions, etc., in the county.
- The female 16–25 should be too old to be a child of Jacob and Penny (unless they married when Jacob, as a sixteen-year-old, acquired his first land in 1793). The heirs to Southy Fisher's estate did not include a female who might be Penny's sister. The next likelihood to investigate is the possibility that this unidentified female was a sister of Jacob.
- A study of the larger neighborhood shows only one family with a surname that overlaps Jacob's associates in Sampson: **Dees**. This William Dees should be pursued to determine whether he, too, came from Sampson; if so, then he might offer clues to the birth family of Jacob's mother.
- As tax rolls show, Jacob was not taxed in Christian County during 1809–12. The Allen Brooks Neal account of Jacob's son Redding (transcribed under "Tradition" at the end of this set of notes) states that the family also lived in Tennessee during Redding's childhood.
- Christian County, KY, lay on the Tennessee line. The adjacent counties in Tennessee were Montgomery and Stewart, both "burned counties."
 - Montgomery was destroyed by fire in 1878 and 1900; subsequent records lost or damaged in an F3 tornado in 1999. Tax lists do not appear to exist for the years that Jacob is missing.
 - Stewart County has lost marriage records 1804–37, probate records 1812, 1817–24; and chancery records before 1865. Relevant tax lists (1807–1812) are transcribed online. No relevant entries found therein.

¹¹¹ Betty Couch Wiltshire, *Mississippi Index of Wills, 1800–1900* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989).

1811

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY

Tax roll

Fisher: No entry
Sessum, Josiah 1 white male, 6 horses 3 June¹¹² [not yet identified]

1812

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY

Tax roll

Fisher/Sessum: No entry¹¹³

1818

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Fisher: NO
Sesums, Jacob 160a, 4th class, 3d quality, "**S[ilver] creek,**" held under U.S. title
1 white poll, 0 slave, \$1.32 tax¹¹⁴

COMMENT:

I have read U.S. Tract Book 22, Washington Land District, Mississippi (the district that included Lawrence Co.) in search of Jacob's entry for this tract and did not find it. The purchase would have been made under the credit system that ended June 1820. At that time, he had the option to pay it off by 1827, exchange his entry for lesser acreage covered by whatever amount he had already paid, or relinquish the title. Apparently, he relinquished it, given that he no longer paid tax on Lawrence Co. land after 1820. Even so, the entry should still be in the register.

Silver Creek ran up almost to the boundary Lawrence County then shared with the Choctaw Nation. After the Choctaw ceded that land in 1821 and Simpson was created in 1824, Jacob followed Silver Creek up into Simpson and made a federal land entry in the first township across the line, about seven miles NW of Silver Creek.

1819

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Fisher, Elisha 0 land, 1 white poll, 1 slave, \$2 tax
Sessims, Jacob 160a, 4th class, 2d quality, "**S[ilver] creek,**" held under U.S. title
1 white poll, 0 slave, \$1.32 tax¹¹⁵

¹¹² Christian Co., KY, 1811 tax roll; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007834413 > image 870.

¹¹³ Christian Co., KY, 1812 tax roll; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007834413 > image 870.

¹¹⁴ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Lawrence > County tax rolls 1818–1830 > image 21 (Sesums). Neil Williams was not yet on the list.

¹¹⁵ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Lawrence > County tax rolls 1818–1830 > images 38 (Fisher), 56 (Sessims)

1820

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Fisher, Elijah 0 land, 1 white poll, 1 slave, \$1.50 tax

(Consecutive entries)

Sessims, Redin 0 land, 1 white poll, 0 slaves, \$.75 tax

Satterfield, James B. [Jacob's adjacent taxpayer in 1821 Lawrence & 1825 Simpson]

Sessims, Jacob 0 land, no location, 1 white poll, 1 slave, \$1.50 tax¹¹⁶

COMMENT:

- Johnson: William only, "Bogue Chitto."
- Williams: James, but no Neil.

7 AUGUST 1820

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Census

Consecutive entries¹¹⁷

Maly? White [Malachi?] |

Nathan Robertson |

Samuel Crowford |

D. H. Pea |

Henry Cotten |

Samuel Hunter |

Hosea H. Runnels |

Aaron Harges |

John Freemon |

Breuster H. Jayne? }

All these are said to be in the town of Monticello. Immediately after Jayne, the two entries for Fisher and Sessims are credited to Township 8, then the rest of the names on the page are again credited to Monticello.

[Township 8]

Elijah Fisher	1 white male 26–44	1 white female 26–44	1 slave
	1 white male 10–15	1 white female 10–15	10 total
	3 white males 0–19	2 white females 0–10	

Jacob Sessims	1 white male 26–44		2 slaves
	1 white female 26–44		13 total
	1 white male 16–25	[Neal Williams? or Redding]	
	3 white female 16–25	[Polly, –?–, –?–, born 1795–1804]	
	1 white male 10–15	[Thomas]	
	1 white female 10–15	[Charity]	
	1 white male 0–10	[Solomon]	
	2 white females 0–10	[Sarah & –?–]	

COMMENT:

- Jacob and Penny's daughter Mary wed six months before this census.

¹¹⁶ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Lawrence > County tax rolls 1818–1830 > images 68 (Fisher), 83 (Sessims).

¹¹⁷ 1820 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., MS, p. 64, lines 33–34 (Fisher, Sessims).

Jacob Sessums
Penelope "Penny" Fisher

- The older female in the 1810 household *possibly* could be one of the three females 16–25 above, if her tickmark was placed in the wrong column in 1810.

Mississippi, U.S., State and Territorial Census Collection, 1792-1866

Unknown > Lawrence > ALL

	08	12	20	21		120
Sharon D. ...	1	0	1			5
Joseph ...	1		1	1		5
John Jones	1	1				2
John Jones	1		1			2
Benjamin ...	1					1
Greenberg ...	1	1	1	3		9
William ...	1		1			2
John ...	1	1				2
William ...	1					1
John ...	1	2	1	1		5
John ...	2	3	1	3		9
John ...	1	1	1	1		4
John ...	1	2	1	1		5
John ...	1					1
James ...	1					1
John ...	1					1
John ...	1	0	1	2		5
Elizabeth ...	1	1	1	1		4
William ...	1	0	1	2		5
William ...	1		1			2
John ...	1	1	1	3		6
John ...	1	1	1	3		6
John ...	1	3	1	3		8
John ...	1	2	1	1		5
William ...	1	1	1			3
John ...	1					1
John ...	1					1
John ...	1	2	1	0		4
John ...	1	2	1	1		5
Benjamin ...	1	3	1	3		8
John ...	1	2	1	3		7
William ...	1	2	1	2		6

1820–1821

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

State census

(image 11) **Sessums, Jacob** 2 wh males 21+ 1 wh female 21+ 9 total
3 wh males -21 3 wh females -21¹¹⁸

COMMENT:

Jacob’s neighborhood in consecutive order:

Hardin D. Runnels	Owen Carpenter
Joseph Caldwell	Isaiah Howard
Gabriel Jones	Baptist McDowell
Arthur Lewis	James Coyle
Benjamin Darlia	Peter Mang
Greenberry Cook	Joshua Mullin
William Gibson	Elizabeth Prestridge
John N. Field	William Smith
William Mallett Junr.	William D. Hathorn
Alexander McCullough Junr.	Isaac Walker
Jacob Sessums	Jesse Winburn
[see next column]	Thomas P. Homea

This roll is not dated and carries no headers. My own analysis of the data for “neighbors” and others in the county on whom I have worked suggests that this was taken about 1820 or soon thereafter.

1821

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Sessums, Redding: Not found

[consecutive entries]

Sessums, Jacob 0 land, no location, 1 white poll, 2 slaves, \$2.25 tax

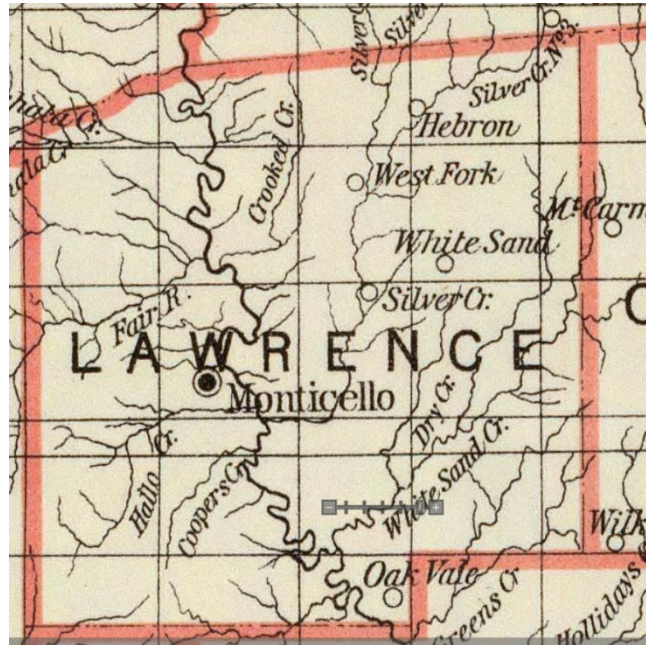
Saterfield, James 0 land, no location, 1 white poll, \$.75

Certified 25 March 1822¹¹⁹

¹¹⁸ “U.S., State and Territorial Census Collection, 1792–1866,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/47674:1125>) > image 9, line 11; and image 10, line 27 for Elijah Fisher.

¹¹⁹ “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Lawrence > County tax rolls 1818–1830 > image 103. Fisher would not be found in Lawrence County on any roll thereafter.

Map of Lawrence County, Showing Waterways¹²⁰



1822
LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

[consecutive entries, image 129]

Summers, Owen 320 acres ... "Situation: F R" ... [Fair River]
Sessom, Joshua [sic] 0 land, "Situation: B H," 0 white poll, 2 slaves, \$1.50 + \$.25 tax "paid:
Smith, Henry 0 land, "Situation: B H" ...

[consecutive entries, image 130]

Saunders, Joseph 0 land, "Situation: S C" ...
Sessom, Jacob 0 land, "Situation: S C," 1 white poll, 2 slaves, \$2.25 + \$.37½ tax
Smith, Wilmot 0 land, "Situation: S C" ...¹²¹

COMMENT:

¹²⁰ Snipped from U.S. General Land Office, *State of Mississippi* (New York: Julius Bien, 1878); imaged, *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~2224~210026:Department-Of-The-Interior-General-> : accessed 9 July 2021).

¹²¹ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Lawrence > County tax rolls 1818–1830 > images 129 (Joshua), 130 (Jacob).

The identity of “Joshua Sessom” on this 1822 tax roll of Lawrence County is unknown at this point. He would have been born before 1801 to be paying a poll tax. The only son that Jacob had during that time frame was Redding.

In this year, Jacob’s son Redding married there in Lawrence to Mary Ann Brown, parents unproved. However, Redding has not been found on the tax rolls of Lawrence or other counties during much of the 1820s. As clues to his whereabouts:

- The Allen Brooks Neal account of Redding Sessums, extracted under “Tradition” in the last section of this report, stated that Redding built the first house in Jackson, Mississippi—seat of Hinds County, which was created 12 February 1821 from the Choctaw Cession.
- A published work for adjacent Copiah County asserts that Redding was the first coroner in Copiah in 1823.¹²² In my search for him, I have read the following tax rolls:

1822–25	Hinds	No Courtneys, Fishers, Sessoms, or Williams ¹²³
1827	Hinds	Jas B. Satterfield ¹²⁴ [taxed adj. to Jacob in 1821 Lawrence & 1825 Simpson]
1828, 30	Hinds	Elijah Fisher, 1 poll; 0 land in 1828, 80a in 1830 ¹²⁵
1823	Copiah	No Courtneys, Fishers, Sessoms ¹²⁶
1824	Copiah	None of the associated taxpayers of ’23 are on the ’24 list
1825	Copiah	Edward Breeland ¹²⁷

¹²² Marie Luter Upton, *Marriage Records: Copiah County, Mississippi, 1823–1843* (Madison, MS: Privately printed, 1958), Foreword; downloadable copy at *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/428233-redirection>).

¹²³ “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Hinds > County tax rolls 1822–1849 > image 62 (Saterfield). In Hinds, on 14 August 1825, one Miss **Penelope Fisher** “of this county” married Martin Stricklin before Land Lindsey, Esq.; marriage announcement, *Southern Luminary* (Jackson, MS), 16 August 1825.

¹²⁴ “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PGL-93GB>) > Hinds > image 62 (Saterfield).

¹²⁵ “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Hinds > County tax rolls 1822–1849 > images 96–97 (Fisher); images 155–45 (Fisher). A propertyless William was also there in 1828; ditto William, John & J.P. in 1830.

¹²⁶ Copiah’s 1823 roll, finalized on 11 October, did have **Neil Williams (“Neel Williams”)** and **Timothy Brown** as consecutive entries. Also residing there was “B. James Satterfield, an associate justice of the county court, who might be the same man listed adjacent to Jacob Sessums on the 1821 tax roll of Lawrence and the 1825 roll of Simpson County. “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1823–1860, Box 3781 > images 4 (Neel Williams, 1 poll only), 5 (Duke Hornsby, Satterfield). In 1829, **Duke Hornsby’s aunt Zilphy (Watts) Cooksey became the mother-in-law of Jacob Sessum’s son Thomas Sessums.**

¹²⁷ “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1823–1860, Box 3781 > image 47. **Breeland** was first cousin of William Odom (father of Shadrack) who moved to Neshoba > Newton County with them c1834. Three of William Odom’s children married siblings of Zilphy Cooksey, the wife of Jacob and Penny’s son Thomas Sessums; a fourth married Breeland’s son, Rev. Oliver Franklin Breeland

1826	Copiah	Isaac Hollingsworth, later a neighbor in Newton Co. ¹²⁸
1827–28	Copiah	No relevant entries ¹²⁹
1830	Copiah	No relevant taxpayers; ¹³⁰ Redding Sessums <i>is</i> on 1830 census
1828–32	Rankin	No relevant taxpayers; ¹³¹ Thomas Cooksey m. here in 1829

1823

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Sessums: No

1824

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

[*Consecutive entries, image 157*]

Slater, Thomas B.	160a, "Situation: W S [White Sand Creek]" ...
Sessoms, Jacob	0 land, "Situation: S C [Silver Creek]," 1 white poll, 3 slaves, \$3.00
Sutton, Shadrack	160a, "Situation: S C" ...

[*Consecutive entries, image 158*]

Stringer, Simon	160 acres, "Situation: W S" ...
Sissom, Joshua [<i>sic</i>]	0 land, "Situation: Bear Creek," 0 white poll, 2 slaves, \$1.50 tax
Stegler, William	42 acres, "Situation: S C" ...

"Received 29 June 1824"¹³²

1824

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Context

Simpson County was created 23 January 1824 from the Choctaw Cession of 1821 (Treaty of Doak's Stand). Courthouse records were destroyed in 1840 and 1872. Land, probate, and court records begin in 1872.

Adjacent counties:

- Copiah (on west)
- Covington (on southeast) [site of Cookseys & Wattses who were Thomas Sessums' in-laws]
- Jefferson Davis (on south)
- Lawrence County (on southwest)
- Rankin County (on north)
- Smith County (on east)

¹²⁸ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1826, Box 3767 > image 3 (Hollingsworth).

¹²⁹ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1827, Box 3767.

¹³⁰ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1828–1871, Box 3916.

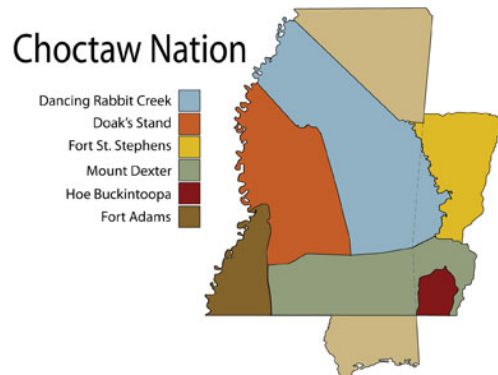
¹³¹ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Rankin > County tax rolls 1828, Box 3753.

¹³² "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Lawrence > County tax rolls 1818–1830 > images 157 (Jacob) and 158 (Joshua).

Map of Choctaw Cessions in Mississippi¹³³



Choctaw Land Cessions in Mississippi and Alabama



This map shows the original homeland of the [Choctaws](#) in what are now Mississippi and southwestern Alabama as well as the land cessions over time through various treaties lost their traditional homeland. Alabama treaty cessions are Hoe Buckintooopa (1803), Mount Dexter (1805), Fort St. Stephens (1816), and [Dancing Rabbit Creek](#) (1830).

Courtesy of Rob Ferguson

1825

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

[*Consecutive listings*]

Jeremiah Fletcher

James Nealy

John Hughbanks

Sessoms, Jacob 1 white poll, \$.75 tax

James Ford

Marmaduke Hornsby [formerly in Copiah; his first cousin Zilphy Cooksey m. Jacob's son Thomas]

James B. Saturfield [formerly in Copiah]

Certified 29 September 1824¹³⁴

COMMENT:

Note that one James Saterfield was listed consecutively with Jacob Sessums, on same creek, in Lawrence Co., 1821.

¹³³ Rob Ferguson, map, "Choctaw Land Cessions in Mississippi," map, *Encyclopedia of Alabama* (encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-8005).

¹³⁴ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 14 (Sessums and Saturfield).

1826
SIMPSON COUNTY, MS
Tax roll

COMMENT:
No tax roll is imaged for this year.

1826-50

A search of the federal patents database covering newly opening counties in Mississippi, turns up only one entry for Jacob Sessums, under any spelling:¹³⁵ (See the patent and transcription, both on next page.)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
General Land Office Records

Search Documents | Reference Center | Support | Shopping Cart

Search Documents | Results List

Printer Friendly

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	MS0110_341	SESSOMS, JACOB	5/10/1826	1884	MS	Choctaw	001N - 002E	E½SE¼	35	Simpson

Jacob's sons also took out land in 1841 (Newton & Kemper) and 1846 (Neshoba):

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
General Land Office Records

Search Documents | Reference Center | Support | Shopping Cart

Search Documents | Results List

Printer Friendly

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	MS1210_500	SESSUMS, REDDING	2/27/1841	19619	MS	Choctaw	010N - 015E	SE¼	10	Kemper
	MS1180_262	SESSUMS, THOMAS, HARRIS, ROBERT E	8/10/1846	17773	MS	Choctaw	009N - 011E	W½SW¼	22	Neshoba
	MS1210_230	SESSUMS, THOMAS	2/27/1841	19333	MS	Choctaw	008N - 011E	NW¼NE¼	5	Newton

USA.GOV | No Fear Act | DOI | Disclaimer | About BLM | Notices | Get Adobe Reader®

Jacob and Penney's son-in-law Neil Williams did not take out land until 1859 in Madison County, MS.

¹³⁵ U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, database with images (<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>).

Certificate
No. 1884

The United States of America.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, *Jacob Sessoms of Simpson county, Mississippi,*
has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a certificate of the Register of the Land Office at *Jackson, Mississippi,*
whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Jacob Sessoms,*
according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for
the East half of the South East quarter of Section thirty-five, in Township one, of Range two, East, in the
district of Choctaw and State of Mississippi, containing eighty acres,

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Jacob Sessoms.*

NOW KNOW YE, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, have Given and Granted, and, by these presents do give and grant, unto the said *Jacob Sessoms* and to his heirs the said tract above described: To Have and to Hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature thereto belonging, unto the said *Jacob Sessoms,* and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I, *John Quincy Adams*
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

L.S.
104168

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States the fiftieth.

By the President,

J. Q. A.

G. G. Commissioner of the General Land Office.

10 MAY 1826
SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Land patent

"Certificate No. 1884

"Whereas **Jacob Sessoms** of Simpson county, Mississippi, has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Jackson, Mississippi, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Jacob Sessoms according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April 1820, entitled 'An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands,' for the **East half of the South East quarter of Section thirty five, in Township one, of Range two, East, in the district of Choctaw** and State of Mississippi, containing eighty acres, according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said Jacob Sessoms.

"Now know Ye, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premised, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in each case made and provided, have Given and Granted, and, by these presents do give and grant, unto the said Jacob Sessoms and to his heirs the said tract above described. To Have and to Hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature thereto belonging, unto the said Jacob Sessoms, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

"In testimony whereof, I, John Quincy Adams, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

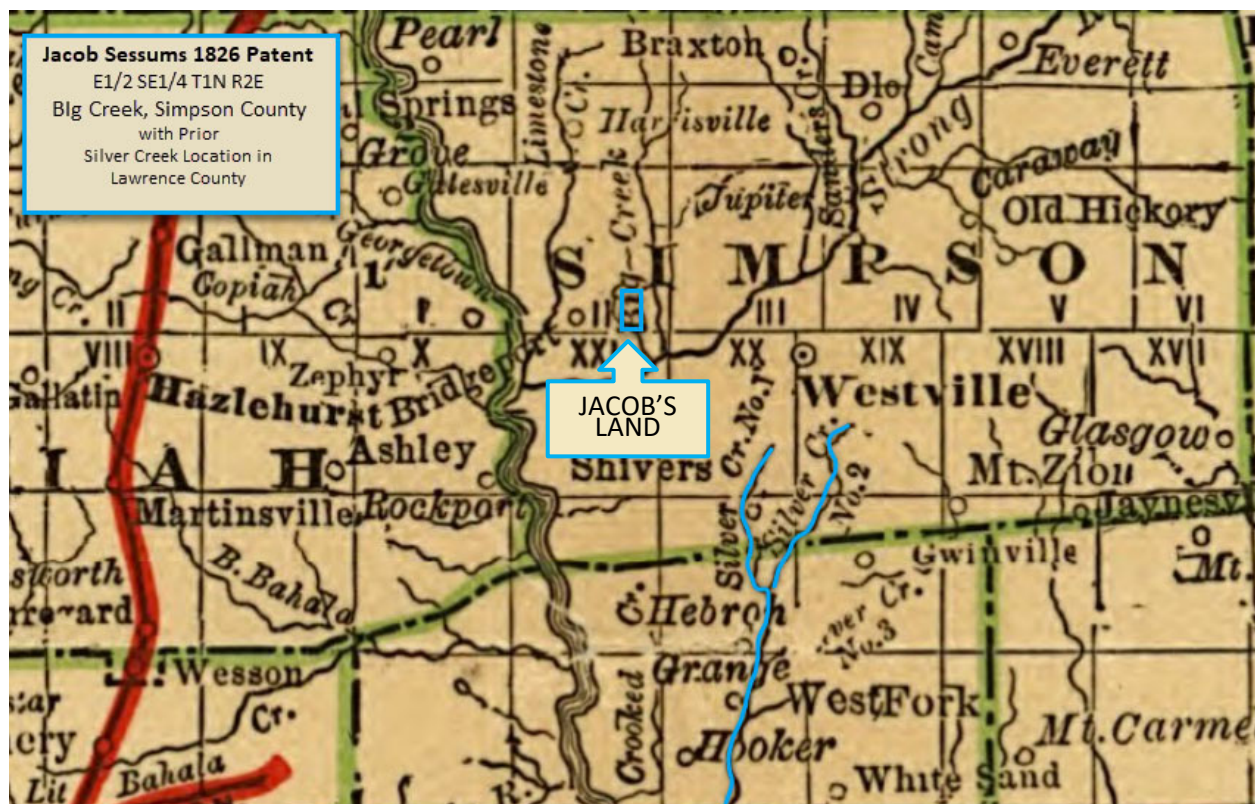
"Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-Six, and of the Independence of the United States the fiftieth.

By the President, J.Q.A. G.G., Commissioner of the General Land Office."¹³⁶

COMMENT:

Each time Jacob's surname is written in this patent, it appears to have been first written as "Sessions" and then corrected to read "Sessoms."

The fact that Jacob purchased land in the "Choctaw District" might have triggered their grandson Wilson R. Sessum's confused assertion that Jacob and Penny lived in the Choctaw Nation. The Choctaw Nation forfeited that land to the U.S. in 1821, at which time Jacob and Penny lived in Lawrence Co.



1827

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname.

Fisher, George: 1 white poll, \$.50 tax

¹³⁶ U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, database with images (<https://glore.cords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>).

Sessoms, Jacob NO¹³⁷

COMMENT:

Jacob turned 50 this year, making him no longer eligible for poll tax. Although he now held title to land, under Mississippi law he would not be taxed on that new land from the “public domain” for the first five years of ownership. He would come back on the tax rolls in 1831, at the end of that five-year grace period.

1827

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

[“Copy” 1]

Fisher, Southy	0 land, 1 white male, 7 horses/mules/cattle worth \$100
Fisher, Elisha	Not found
Sessoms, Jacob	Not found
Sessoms, Joshua	Not found

[“Copy” 2]

Fisher, Southy	480 acres, 4 th class, 2d quality @ \$3.60, Silver Creek , 1 white male, \$4.10 tax
Fisher, Elisha	Not found
Sessoms, Jacob	Not found
Sisson, Joshua	160 acres, 4 th class, 2d quality @ \$1.20, Bear Creek, 0 white male, \$1.20 tax

Certified 23 October 1827¹³⁸

COMMENT:

Jacob Sessums’ land had also been on “S C”—i.e., Silver Creek—as Southy Fisher’s land now is.

This Southy Fisher was not a son of Southy and Phoebe Fisher of Sampson; no son “Southy Jr.” participated in the documents that settled Southy’s estate there. Given the extreme uncommonness of the name, it is more likely that this younger Southy is either (a) one of the otherwise unidentified sons of Bailey Fisher of Sampson, brother to the Southy who married Phoebe and fathered Penny; or (b) a grandson of Southy by his son Elijah or his son Thomas.

This Southy Fisher would also be taxed in Lawrence in 1828 (on just 240 acres).¹³⁹ In 1834, he patented land that is now in Lauderdale County, where he appears on the 1840 and 1850 censuses and died in 1858.

1828

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

¹³⁷ “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 21 (Fisher).

¹³⁸ “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Lawrence > County tax rolls 1818–1830 > images 192 (Fisher), 213 (Fisher), 226 (Joshua Sisson).

¹³⁹ “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Lawrence > County tax rolls 1818–1830 > images 192 (Fisher), 213 (Fisher), 226 (Joshua Sisson).

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname.

Courtney, William 1 white poll, \$.50 tax
Fisher, George: 1 white poll, \$.50 tax
Sessoms, Jacob **No tax due**
Sessoms, Reding 1 white poll, \$.50 tax
Williams, Niel 1 white poll, \$.50 tax
"Transmitted" 5 June 1828¹⁴⁰

1828

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Petition

Redding supposedly signed a Simpson County petition. *Ancestry's* database provides no further details.¹⁴¹
It is likely that *Ancestry's* source scraped Redding's name from the 1828 tax roll.

1829

RANKIN COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Cooksey, John 1 white poll, \$.50 tax [his sister m Thomas Sessums in Rankin later this year]
Courtney: No
Fisher: No
Sessoms: No
Williams: No

No date of certification or submission¹⁴²

COMMENT:

John Cooksey's mother Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey, with whom he had previously lived in Covington County (adjacent to Simpson on the SW), was widowed in late 1828 or early 1829. The family then moved to Rankin where several members of her sprawling family appear on this year's tax roll, including John N. Easterling and John Gates.

1829

HINDS COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Fisher, Elijah [sic] 0 land, 1 white poll, 1 slave, \$1.12 ½ tax
Fisher, William 0 land, 1 white poll, 0 slaves, \$.50
Fisher, John 0 land, 1 white poll, 0 slaves, \$.50

¹⁴⁰ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 34 (Courtney), 35 (Fisher), 37 (Sessom), 38 (Williams).

¹⁴¹ "Mississippi, U.S., Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1805–1890," database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3556/>), search term: "Redding Sessums"; citing Ron V. Jackson, *Mississippi Census, 1805–1890* (N.p.: Accelerated Indexing System, n.d.).

¹⁴² "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Rankin > County tax rolls 1829, Box 3753 > image 3 (Cooksey).

Fisher, James 0 land, 1 white poll, 0 slaves, \$.50
Odum, William 0 land, 1 white poll, 0 slaves, \$.50 [formerly of Lawrence Co.; father of Shadrack]
Sessoms: NO
No date of certification or submission¹⁴³

COMMENT:

William Odom would also move to Newton County where three of his children married siblings of Zilphy Cooksey, the wife of Jacob and Penny's son Thomas Sessums.

These four Fisher men are candidates for father of the previously mentioned Penelope Fisher who married in Hinds in 1825.

1829

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname.

Cortney, Jesse 1 white poll, \$.50 tax
Fisher, George: 1 white poll, \$.50 tax
Sessoms **No tax due**
Saturfield NO
Williams, Neil NO
Certified 8 August 1830¹⁴⁴

1830

COPIAH COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

No date for certification, entering, or otherwise.¹⁴⁵

COMMENT:

Even though no Sessums appear on this "combined" tax roll for Copiah in 1830, Redding Sessums *does* appear in this county on the 1830 federal census.

1830

COPIAH COUNTY, MS

Census

(*Consecutive entries*)¹⁴⁶

Jeremiah Fortenberry

William Haynes

¹⁴³ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Hinds > County tax rolls 1822–1849 > images 96–97 (Fisher), 130 (Odum)

¹⁴⁴ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 44 (Cortney, Fisher).

¹⁴⁵ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1828–1871, Box 3916.

¹⁴⁶ 1830 U.S. census, Copiah Co., MS, p. 119 (penned), beginning line 7; line 11 for Redding.

Jacob Sessums
Penelope “Penny” Fisher

Henry Guoynes
Neill Smiley

Redding Sessums	1 wh male 30–39 [Redding] 1 white male 0–4 [William B]	1 wh female 20–29 [Mary Ann] 1 white female 5–9 [Ailsey] 2 white females 0–4 [Permeasa & –?–]
------------------------	---	---

Josiah Ashley
Lott Smith
Isaac Parker
Davis Barron [Brown?]
Hiram J. Randall

COMMENT:

Redding’s household has an extra female who is not included in online family accounts.

These five are named in the “mug sketch” of Permeasa’s husband, Allen Brooks Neal.¹⁴⁷ Presumably the third female tallied in 1830 was not included in his identification of Permeasa’s living siblings because she had died.

NOTE: the unidentified daughter born 1825–30 should be too young to be the girl who married Shadrack Odom c1837, and bore Samuel Odom in January 1838, and died in 1840.

1830
SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Census
(*Consecutive entries*)¹⁴⁸

Jonathan Bass [Bass was also a prominent name in Sampson County]
Levi Bass
Ephraim Bridges
Samuel Bridges
Richard Mullican
Hezekiah Mitchell
Thomas Mitchell

Jacob Sessons	1 white male 50–59 [Jacob] 1 white female 50–59 [Penny] 2 white males 10–14 [Solomon & Jacob Jr.] 1 white female 10–14 [Sarah] 1 white male 5–9 [Reuben Fisher]	0 slaves 6 total
----------------------	---	---------------------

COMMENT:

Sarah Sessums, born 1812–15, does not appear to have married until shortly before the 1833 state census, at which time there were no children in the Samuel Courtney household.

Charity Sessums had already married Jesse Courtney and was living next door in this year 1830, between her parents and her sister Mary (Mrs. Neil) Williams, below.

Jesse Courtney	1 white male 20–29	1 white female 15–19 [Charity]	2 total
-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------------------	---------

¹⁴⁷ *History of Texas Supplemented with Biographical Mention of Many Families of the State: A Concise History of the State from Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Date; Together with Biographical Sketches of Many of the Families of Central Texas*, 2 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1896), Neal-Sessums bio, 336–38.

¹⁴⁸ 1830 U.S. census, Simpson Co., MS, p. 186, beginning with line 13; line 22 for Jacob.

Neal Williams	1 white male	30–39	[Neil]	6 total
	1 white female	20–29	[Mary "Polly"]	
	1 white female	5–9	[Margaret]	
	2 white males	0–4	[John & Thomas]	
	1 white female	0–4	[–?–]	

Charles Toney
Dan Kellum

COMMENT:

I have found no record for Neil and Mary Williams that specifically names the daughter born 1820–25. Some online trees attribute to them a daughter Margaret, with no guesstimation of age.

The eldest daughter in the household above, born within a year of the January 1820 parental marriage (given the ages and childspacing of Neil and Mary's proved children), is the only female offspring of Jacob and Penny Sessums (daughter or granddaughter) who is of appropriate age to be Shadrack Odom's short-lived wife of 1837–1840—i.e., the woman who passed the Sessums DNA to the offspring of that marriage. This daughter is missing from the 1840 Williams household.

1831

COPIAH COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

[Semialphabetized by first letter of surname.]

Sessoms, Reddin 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax
No date for certification, entering, or otherwise.¹⁴⁹

1831

RANKIN COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Cooksey, John 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax
Cessoms, Thomas 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax
Courtney: No
Fisher: No
Sessoms: No
Williams: No

No date of certification or submission¹⁵⁰

COMMENT:

Thomas Sessoms, son of Jacob and Penny married Zilphy Cooksey in Rankin in 1829. However, this is his first appearance on the Rankin Co. tax roll.

1831

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

¹⁴⁹ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1831 > image 15 (Sessoms).

¹⁵⁰ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Rankin > County tax rolls 1831, Box 3753 > image 3.

(Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname)

Cortney, Jesse 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax
Sessam, Jacob 80 acres, 4th class, 2d quality, \$160 tax value, 1 white poll, 10 slaves aged 5 or over, tax \$.40
Williams, Niel NO¹⁵¹

COMMENT:

Jacob has now held his 1826 patent for five years and is now liable for taxes on his land. The poll should not be Jacob, who is now past the age of fifty.

1832

COPIAH COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

(Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname)

Smith, Dredsil
Sandifer, Johnson
Sessoms, Benjamin 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Shaunberger, Elijah
Shaunberger, John
Shaunberger, Peter
Sumeral, Allen
Smith, James
Certified 25 August.¹⁵²

COMMENT:

Redding is not found anywhere else this yea. The above "Benjamin" has not been found anywhere in any other year. *It seems likely that when the tax commissioner compiled his master roll from the individual lists turned in by taxpayers, that he misread "Redg." (abbreviation for Redding) as "Benj." (abbreviation for Benjamin), and then wrote out the name as Benjamin.* Note that Redding is taxed here in Copiah during the years before and after this.

1832

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

(Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname)

Courtney, Jesse 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax
Sessums: NO
Williams, Neal 1 white poll \$.37½ tax |
Williams, Simeon 1 white poll \$.37½ tax | *Consecutive entries*¹⁵³

¹⁵¹ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 53 (Cortney), 58 (Sessums).

¹⁵² "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1823–1860, Box 3781 > image 156 (Sessoms).

¹⁵³ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www>

1833

COPIAH COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

(Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname)

Smith, David & Charles J.

Spencer, Evan

Shaddock, Asa

Straam? Asa

Sessoms, Reddin 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax

Spinks, John

Sandifer, William, John & Joseph

Simpson, James

Scott, Joseph & Zachariah

Certified ___ August 1833.¹⁵⁴

COMMENT:

- This year 1833 is Redding's last appearance on the Copiah County tax roll.
- In 1834 he is taxed in **Kemper Co.**

1833

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

(Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname)

Courtney, Jesse 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax

Sessums: NO

Williams, Neil NO

Williams, Simeon 1 white poll \$.37½ tax¹⁵⁵

COMMENT:

- Even though Jacob Sessums is not taxed this year, **he appears on this year's state census.** See below.
- Samuel, James, and William Courtney, who appear on this year's state census of Simpson, are not on the tax roll. Apparently they have been in the county for less than a year.
- The 1820 census shows a compatible James Courtney in Amite and a William Courtney in Covington, one of whom might be the parent of Samuel and Jesse. An older James Courtney does appear on this year's state census of Simpson County

.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 65 (Courtney), 73 (Williams).

¹⁵⁴ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Copiah > County tax rolls 1823–1860, Box 3781 > image 180.

¹⁵⁵ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 79 (Courtney), 89 (Williams).

The lack of a second female in Jacob's household in 1833 negates the hypothesis that Jacob's youngest daughter married Shadrack Odom c1837. The 1840 census shows Jacob with a female of age to be his wife, suggesting that his wife was not dead at the time of this 1833 census.

I can similarly rule out the possibility that Shadrack Odom married a daughter of Redding and Mary Ann (Brown) Sessums.

My many autosomal DNA matches to descendants of Jacob Sessums (not counting the ones who descend from Cookseys whom I am *not* using for DNA matches because of multiple intermarriages between Cookseys and Odoms) leave no other option for kinship **unless Shadrack's wife was a daughter of Mary "Polly" Sessums and husband Neil Williams.** My atDNA matches include descendants of Neil and Mary.

1833 [NO DATE]
SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

State census

(Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname)

Courtney, Jesse	2 males, 2 females, 4 total
Courtney, William	4 males, 3 females, 7 total
Courtney, James	5 males, 6 females, 11 total
Courtney, Samuel	1 male, 1 female, 2 total [note: no child; Isabella apparently b. 1833 or later]
Sessum, Jacob	4 males, 1 female, 5 total
Williams, Neil	NO
Williams, Simeon	NO ¹⁵⁶

COMMENT:

- The one female in Jacob's household should be his wife. A female of comparable age is enumerated in his household in 1840.
- Jacob and Penny have three sons still at home: Solomon (b. 1819), Jacob Jr. (b. about 1820–23), and Reuben (b. December 1824).
- Sons Redding and Thomas are already married.
- This is the last appearance of Jacob on any record until the 1840 census of Newton County.

1834
SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

(Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname)

Courtney, Jesse	NO
Courtney, William	1 white poll, \$.37½ tax

¹⁵⁶ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845, Box 3764 > image 92–93 (Courtney), 95 (Sessums).

"Examined & Corrected," 28 July 1834¹⁵⁷

COMMENT:

No other family members are taxed in Simpson Co. this year.

3 FEBRUARY 1834

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Land sale

Southy Fisher to Michael Dickson, both of Lawrence County, sale for \$800 of three tracts:

- two lots Fisher purchased from Christopher Dyess, assignee of Henry Tolar, totaling 160 acres, being the SW ¼ S36 T9 R20W, and another eighth of S36 in T9 R20W being S ½ of NW ¼ of same, both lying on N side of S fork of Silver Creek, East of Pear River.
- One lot on the same side of the same creek, 40 acres, being SE ¼ of S2 in T8 R20W.

Witnesses: William Gates Sr., Jesse Winbourne. 5 February 1834 South acknowledged the deed and wife **Elizabeth Fisher** relinquished her rights before Francis N? Martin, J.P., Lawrence County. Witness Jesse Winborne also appeared and attested that he witnessed the deed.¹⁵⁸

1834—36

NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Land patents¹⁵⁹

Fisher, Southey	NW¼ NE¼ S5 T5N R10E	38.24@1.25=\$47.80	6 Dec 1834	#1162	Pat. [no data]
	SE¼ E½ SW1/4 S29 T6N R11	239.20@1.25=299.00	22 Apr 1836	#3659	Pat. [no data]
Fisher, William T.	SW¼ SE¼ S31 T5N R10E	80.28@1.25=\$100.35	30 July 1835	#1843	Pat. [no data]
Sessums, Thomas	NW¼ NE¼ S5 T8N R11E	46.25@1.25=\$57.81	29 Oct 1835	#19333	Pat. 27 Feb 1841 [The 1846 tax roll of Newton states that this tract of land was "Vacant."] ¹⁶⁰
Cooksey, John	SE¼ NE¼ S5 T8N R11E	46.75@1.25=\$58.44	25 Jun 1835	#15881	Pat. 27 Feb 1841
	W½ SW¼ S4 T8N R11E	93.52@1.25=\$116.90	25 Jun 1835	#26775	Pat. 27 Feb 1841 [The first tract in 1846 was taxed to Susan Cooksey; the second tract to James Walton.] ¹⁶¹
Odom, William	E½ NE¼ S19 T8 R12E	79.93@1.25=\$99.91	1 Aug 1835	#16830	Pat. 27 Feb 1841

**Cooksey, Odom, Sessums, and Williams Settlements
Newton County, MS, 1834–41**

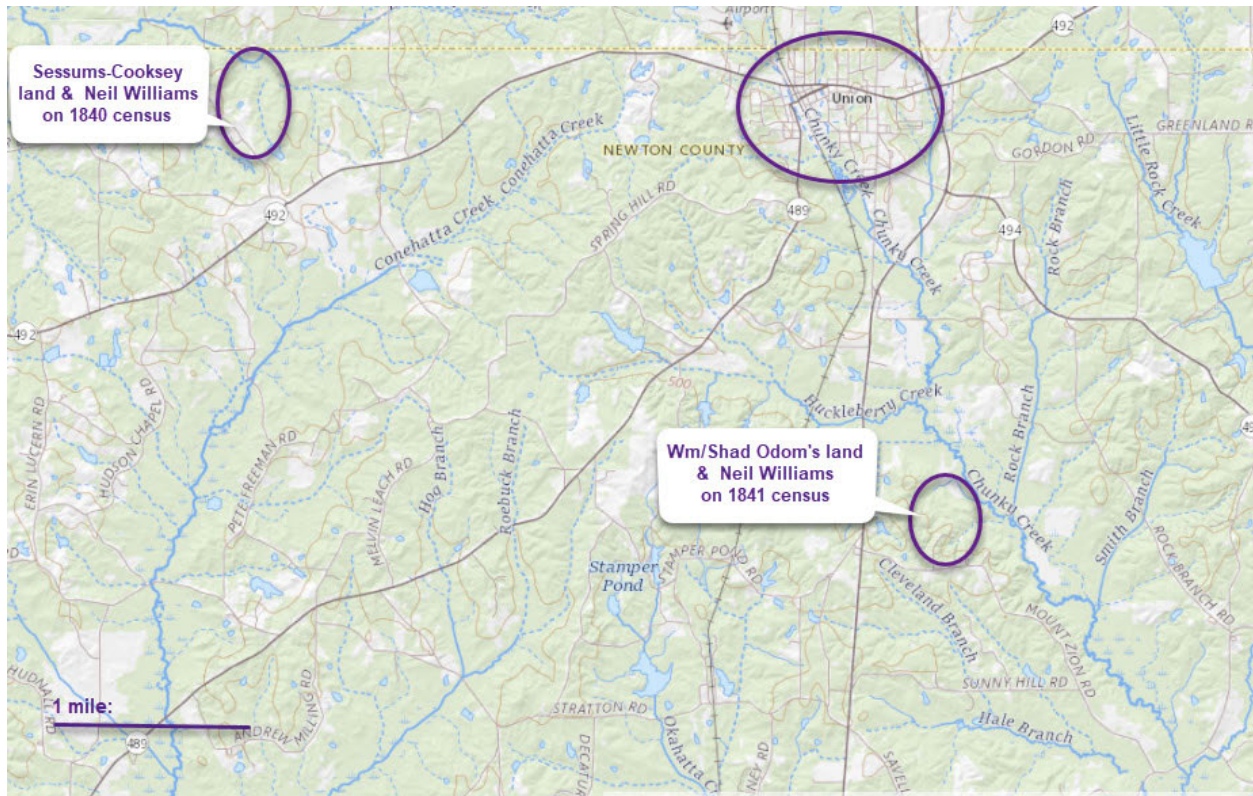
¹⁵⁷ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 102 (Cortney), 111 (Williams).

¹⁵⁸ Lawrence Co., Deed Record B, 1826–1830: 388–89; FHL microfilm 8134328 > images 457–58.

¹⁵⁹ Myrtis S. Craft, George Mason, and Melvin Tingle, *Book of Original Entries: Land Records of Newton County, Mississippi* (N.P.: n.p., 1998), 1, 40, 84 (Fishers), 117–18 (Odom), 101, 107–8 (Cooksey), 56, 101, 106, 172, 234 (Sessums). Also 33–35 (Pace, Smith), 161–62 (Johnson), 106 (Dunn), and 182 (Thomas).

¹⁶⁰ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > 1846 Box 3450 > image 47.

¹⁶¹ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > 1846 Box 3450 > image 47.



COMMENT:

- This Southey Fisher who took out land in Newton in 1834–36 did not remain there. He subsequently bought land in adjacent Lauderdale County and is enumerated there in 1840 and 1850, with a will in 1858 that I have not yet accessed. The tracts entered by Southey and William lay in the SW corner of Newton, along the lines of Scott and Jasper.
- The land taken out in 1835 by Thomas Sessums and John Cooksey, brothers-in-law, lay along the present Newton-Neshoba county line.
- William Odom, father-in-law of John Cooksey (and father of Shadrack Odom) settled one township ESE of the Sessums-Cooksey cluster.
- William Odom's land lay between the forks of Chunky Creek/River, just N of I-20 and just E of State Hwy 15 that runs up to the town of Union about 2–3 miles to the N.
- Sessums & Cooksey are on Little Sipsy Creek, just N of State Hwy 492 which runs into the town of Union about 3 miles to the east.

(In short: Odoms and Cookseys settled about 6–7 miles apart, with the town of Union as a halfway point between them.

3 JULY 1834
NESHOBA COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

[Consecutive entries]

Watts, Edward 0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax [moved to Attala; son of George & Barbara]

**Jacob Sessums
Penelope "Penny" Fisher**

		of Fairfield, SC; first cousin of Zilphy]
Smith, Peter		
Hollingsworth, Isaac	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax	[Copiah Co., 1826]
Crabtree, Littl[e]ton		
Herbert, William		
Sessums, Thos.	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax	
Raburn, James	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax	[Raburn & Thos. Sessums married sisters of John & Samuel Cooksey; David Gill did also]
Cooksey, John	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax	
Cooksey, Saml.	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax	
Gill, David	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax	[m. Cooksey]
[skip 16]		
Miller, Michael	0 land, 0 poll, 2 slaves, \$1.25 tax	[his daughter m. James William Cooksey, brother to the above cluster.]
Breland, Edward	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax	[first cousin of William Odom; his son m. William's daughter]
Odom, William	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax ¹⁶²	[Father of Shadrack, bro-in-law of Thos. S.]

COMMENT:

This first tax roll of Neshoba has only 35 tax payers. Those in the above cluster ended up in Newton County when it was cut out of Neshoba on 25 February 1836.

The highlighted names are those who are known to be interrelated, through the Cooksey-Watts family.

**15 NOVEMBER 1834
KEMPER COUNTY, MS**

Tax roll

Jacob H. Brown	1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Jacob K. Brown	1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Sessums Redding	1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax

Certified 15 Nov 1834¹⁶³

COMMENT:

- In 1841 a patent would be issued to Redding for Kemper County land. Receipt of the patent usually followed the land entry by one to two years. This seven-year gap is unusual.
- Jacob K. and Jacob H., adjacent entries, are the only Browns taxed in the county. No other taxpayers carry the name or surname of known relatives.

**7 SEPTEMBER 1835
KEMPER COUNTY, MS**

¹⁶² "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Neshoba > County tax rolls 1834, Box 3711 > image 3.

¹⁶³ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PGL-9Z1N>) > Browse > Kemper > county tax rolls 1834, Box 3675 > images 3 (Brown), 5 (Sessums).

Tax roll

Brown, Jacob K. 1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Sessums Redding 1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Certified 7 September 1835¹⁶⁴

COMMENT:

This is labelled a "Combined" roll by the State Archives, however, no lands are taxed. Because the county was newly created from the 1830 Choctaw Cession, the land titles have not progressed to be point of complete ownership and (five years later) taxation.

1835

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname.

Courtney, Samuel 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax
"Examined & Corrected," 17 August 1835¹⁶⁵

COMMENT:

Samuel Courtney, husband of Charity Sessums, is the only Courtney and the only family member or in-law in Simpson this year. William Courtney of prior years has been dropped.

1836

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname.

Courtney, Samuel 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax |
Cortney, Jesse 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax | *Consecutive entries*
"Examined & Corrected," 30 August 1836¹⁶⁶

COMMENT:

This is the last record found thus far for Charity Sessums' husband, Jesse Courtney/Cortney.

13 JANUARY 1836

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Land sale

Southy Fisher and **Elizabeth** his wife of Neshoba County [soon to be Newton], to David Brinson of Lawrence Co., sale for \$300 of the following Lawrence Co. lands:

- W½ of NE¼ S1 T8 R1W [18? 19?] 80 acres

¹⁶⁴ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PGL-984K>) > Browse > Kemper > county tax rolls 1835, Box 3675 > images 3 (Brown), 5 (Sessums).

¹⁶⁵ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 118 (Courtney), 130 (Williams).

¹⁶⁶ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845 > image 139 (Cortney, Courtney), 150 (Williams).

- E½ of SE¼ S36 T9 R20 W, 80 acres

Witnesses John W. Hendrick, Sarah E. Henrick. Acknowledgment same day by Southy and relinquishment by Elizabeth before Johh W. Hendrick, Probate Judge, *Jasper Co.*¹⁶⁷

1836

KEMPER COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Brown, Morgan	\$331 money at interest, 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.82 ¾ tax
Brown, Jacob K.	1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Sessums Redding:	NO ¹⁶⁸

COMMENT:

- Land is still not a taxable item in this new county.
- Redding's absence coincides with the family tradition (as reported by Allen Brooks Neal) that Redding first went to Texas in 1835, to St. Augustine, then moved to Shelby.¹⁶⁹ **But note:** Redding does reappear on the 1837 tax roll of Kemper County, suggesting that he returned to Mississippi for a year between his St. Augustine and Shelby settlements. In 1838 he was permanently dropped. On 10 December 1839, he appeared before the Shelby Co. land board to request land, "he being an Emigrant of February 1839."¹⁷⁰

1837

KEMPER COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

[Consecutive "B" entries]

Brown, Robert	1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Brown, Jacob K.	1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax
[skip 3 Brantleys]	
Brown, William L (S?)	1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Brown, Morgan P.	1 poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Sessums Redding:	1 poll, \$.37 ½ ¹⁷¹

COMMENT:

Morgan D. Brown received a patent, 27 Feb 1841, to W½ NW¼ S6 in the same township & range

¹⁶⁷ Lawrence Co., Deed Record C, 18306–1840: 25–27; FHL microfilm 8134328 > image 552.

¹⁶⁸ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PGL-984K>) > Browse > Kemper > county tax rolls 1836, Box 3675 > images 3 (Brown), 8 (Sessions).

¹⁶⁹ *History of Texas Supplemented with Biographical Mention of Many Families of the State: A Concise History of the State from Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Date; Together with Biographical Sketches of Many of the Families of Central Texas*, 2 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1896), Neal-Sessums bio, 336–38.

¹⁷⁰ Texas General Land Office Land Grant Search," database, *The Texas General Land Office* (s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants) > Search term "Sessums, Redding," Result: "County: Shelby; Abst. 657; District Class: Shelby 3rd; File Number: 000108; Grantee: Sessums, Redding: > hotlink 000108 > page 4 of 10.

¹⁷¹ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PGL-988P>) > Browse > Kemper > county tax rolls 1837, Box 3675 > images 4 (Brown), 10 (Sessums).

as Redding. His land lay about 4 miles NNW of Redding's land in S10 T10N R15E.

1837

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Land entry

Fisher, Southy Choctaw Meridian, Simpson County, MS. SE¼ SE¼ S2 T8N R20W. Patent issued 2 February 1837, Accession Number "MS0050____.176."¹⁷²

COMMENT:

Southy Fisher's land lay in the extreme NE corner of Lawrence County, about three-fourths mile below the Simpson County boundary (on its north) and along the Jefferson Davis County boundary (on its east). By the time this patent was issued, Southy had left Lawrence County to move eastward into newly opened Choctaw land.

This should be the Southy Fisher of the 1840 and 1850 censuses, whose will was probated in Lauderdale County, MS (adjacent to Newton) in 1858.¹⁷³

1837

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

COMMENT:

No tax roll is imaged for this year.

1837

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

State census

[*Consecutive entries*]

Ainsworth, Leven

Courtney, Jesse	1 wh male 21–45	1 wh female 16+
	1 wh male –18	2 wh females –16

Ainsworth, Samuel

Graham, Archabald

Holland, James S.

Easterling, William H?¹⁷⁴

COMMENT:

No Sessums or Williams were enumerated.

1838

¹⁷² U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, database with images (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>).

¹⁷³ Betty Couch Wiltshire, *Mississippi Index of Wills, 1800–1900* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989), 65; citing Book 1, page 4.

¹⁷⁴ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GPHZ-GTD>) > Browse > Simpson > State census returns 1837, Box 10449 > image 4 (Courtney).

KEMPER COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

[Consecutive "B" entries]

Brown: Frederick, Robert, J. K., William, Wm S.

Sessums Redding: NO¹⁷⁵

COMMENT:

At this point, Redding is permanently dropped from the Kemper rolls, suggesting that he sold his land and removed to Texas at this time. Deed records of Kemper County for this time frame have been destroyed.

1838

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

"Examined & Corrected," 5 January 1839¹⁷⁶

COMMENT:

- No family members or known in-laws were taxed in the county this year.
- Samuel Courtney is in Newton County; Jesse apparently has died.

1838

NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname

Breeland, Edward 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax [1825 Copiah Tax Roll; 1834 Neshoba tax roll]

Cooksey, John 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax

Cooksey, Saml. 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax

Coatney, Saml. 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax

Gill, David: NO

Odom, William 0 white polls, 0 slaves, \$200 money at loan, \$.50 tax

Raburn, Levi 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax

Raburn, James 1 white poll, 1 slaves, \$.37½ tax [brother-in-law of Thomas Sessums]

Sessem, Thos. 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax

Williams: NO¹⁷⁷

1839

NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

¹⁷⁵ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GPGL-96JY>) > Browse > Kemper > county tax rolls 1838, Box 3675 > images 4 (Brown), 9–10 (Oden, Odum).

¹⁷⁶ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845.

¹⁷⁷ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > County tax rolls 1838, Box 3711 > images 3 (Breeland, Cooksey), 9 (Odum), 11 (Raburn, Sessem).

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname

Breland, Edward 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Cooksey, John 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Cooksey, Saml. 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Courtney, Samuel **1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax**
Gill: NO
Odom: **NO**
Raiburn, James 1 white poll, 4 slaves, \$.37½ tax
Sessums, Thos. 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax
Williams: NO¹⁷⁸

1839

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

"Examined & Corrected," 5 January 1839¹⁷⁹

COMMENT:

No family members or known in-laws are taxed this year in Simpson.

6 MARCH 1840

NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname

Breland, Edward 40a 2d class \$80, 1 white poll, \$.57 ½ tax

[Consecutive "C" entries]

Cooksey, John 0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.37½ tax [m. c1838, Eveline Odom, daughter of William]
Cooksey, Saml. 0 land, 1 wh poll, 1 slave, \$1 [m. c1838, Cynthia Ann Odom, daughter of William]
Coartney, Samuel **0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax** [m. c1833, Sarah Sessums, daughter of Jacob]
Chandler, Elias 0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax [Saml Courtney's eldest dtr m. a Chandler c1847]
Clearman, Wm. L.
Cross, Francis
Cook, Matthew Jr. 0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37½ tax [half-brother or half-nephew of William Odom]
Coats, Johnson W.
Casper, Hamilton
Cook, John

[10 other "C" entries]

Gill: NO
Odom, Shadrick 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax [William's eldest son]
Odom, William: NO [He is past poll age and had not yet held title to his land for five years.]
Rayburn: NO
Sessums, Jacob: NO [He was a householder enumerated in June; but he is past the age of 50]

¹⁷⁸ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > County tax rolls 1839, Box 3711 > > images 2 (Breland), 3 (Courtney, Cooksey), 6 (Raiburn, Sessums).

¹⁷⁹ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Simpson > County tax rolls 1824–1845.

**Jacob Sessums
Penelope "Penny" Fisher**

Sessoms, Thos. 0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax [Has not yet held title to gov land for five years]
Sessums, Solomon 0 land, 1 white male poll, \$.37 ½ tax¹⁸⁰
 Williams, Neil: NO

COMMENT:

Even though Samuel Courtney appears on the March 1840 tax roll of Newton, he is not on the June 1840 census. Rather, the census places him back in Simpson County:

Saml. Courtney	1 white male 20–29	1 white female 20–29	1 in mfg. & trade	6 total
	2 white males 0–4	1 white female 5–9		
		1 white female 0–4 ¹⁸¹		

Samuel's census neighbors in Simpson were: Jere. Mulican, Pleasant Malhone?, Lorinda Halford, John T. Mahaffy, Saml. Miles Jr., John Gill, Missouri Enis, N. G. Barlow, G. W. Barlow, Moses Bag____, Thos. Ennis, James Hall, Geo. Guines, Jas. Helton, John M. Taylor, Jas. M. Taylor, J. G. Spell, W. A. Wotley, J. M. Taylor Jr., Mary McCaskill, Benj. Richardson, Tinsley Johnson, Jas. McFarr____, **Saml. Courtney**, Wm Helton Sr., John Hetson, Thos. Hetton, Moses Keen, John Shorter, L. Ainsworth, Thos. **Hornsby**.

Jesse Cortney does not appear in Simpson County or any other Mississippi county, according to *Ancestry's* search engine. The only other Courtney in Simpson County was James, a pensioner aged 76 (p. 222 *verso*).

**1 JUNE 1840
NEWTON COUNTY, MS**
Census
(p. 137; begin line 21)

COMMENT:

Below, I have extracted names of Jacob's 1840 census neighbors. I've annotated the list with land locations from the U.S. tract books, for individuals whose land purchases could be identified.

Levi Rabourn	[aged 20–30]						
W. McDaniel							
John Thompson							
William Evins							
Catharine Evins							
Robert Jones							
Peter Robeson	SE¼ SE¼	S24 T6N R13E	38.53@1.25=\$48.16	14 Nov 1835	#2557	Pat. [not shown]	
Willis <u>W</u> Warren	SE¼ SE¼	S12 T8N R13E	37.95@1.25=\$47.44	26 Aug 1836	#29246	Pat. [not shown]	
	NE ¼ NE ¼	S24 T8N R13E	37.95@1.25=\$47.44	26 Aug 1836	#29247	Pat. 27 Feb 1841	
[W]right Hix	[no entry]						
William Johnston Sr.	SE¼ NE¼	S24 T7N R12W	35.77@1.25=\$44.65	1 Jun 1836	#4170	Pat. [not shown]	
	NW¼ SW¼	S26 T7N R12E	40.02@1.25=\$50.02	1 Oct. 1836	#5152	Pat. [not shown]	
Joseph Spradley	[no land entry]						

¹⁸⁰ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > County tax rolls 1840, Box 3711 > images 4 (Breland, Cooksey, Courtney, Chandler), 10 (Odum) 11 (Sessems).

¹⁸¹ 1840 U.S. census, Simpson Co., MS, p. 219 *verso* (stamped), line 24; indexed by Ancestry as "Saml Caitay."

Jacob Sessums
Penelope "Penny" Fisher

James Dunn	SW 1/4	S15 T8N R11E	161.35@1.25=201.69	29 Dec 1836	#30156	Pat.27 Feb 1841
Henry Thomas	NE¼ SW¼	S31 T8N R12E	39.99@1.25=\$49.99	22 Oct 1835	#19134	Pat.17 Feb 1840
George F. Smith	[no entry]					

Jacob Sessions ¹⁸²	1 white male	60–69				0 slaves
	1 white female	50–59				5 total
	1 white male	20–29 [Solomon]				4 in ag
	1 white male	15–19 [Jacob Jr.]				
	1 white male	10–14 [Reuben F.]				

[end of page]

(p. 137b, begin line 1)

John Pullen	[no entry]					
George Stuart	[no entry]					
W. R? Stuart	[no entry]					
James Jones						
Jesse M. Pace	[no entry]					
Dempsey Pace	E½ SW¼	S10 T7N R10E	79.22@1.25=\$99.02	23 May 1836	#4089	Pat.[not shown]
	W½ SW¼	S10 T7N R10E	79.22@1.25=\$99.02	18 Aug 1835	#1918	Pat.[not shown]
Dempsey Smith	E½ SE¼	S10 T7N R10E	79.22@1.25=\$99.02	16 Oct 1834	#1022	[Preempt'n Act '34]
	SE ¼ NE ¼	S10 T7N R10E	39.61@1.25=\$49.51	13 Mar 1835	#1492	Pat.[not shown]
	W ½ SE ¼	S10 T7n R10E	79.22@1.25=\$99.02	9 May 1836	#3925	Pat.[not shown]

COMMENT:

- Jacob Sessums is on the 1840 census of Newton, but not the 1840 tax rolls; he owns no land and is too old to pay a poll.
- Solomon Sessums is not a head-of-household but paid a poll on this year's tax roll of Newton.
- Samuel Courtney, Jacob's son-in-law, is on Newton's 1840 tax roll, but not the 1840 census.
- I have not been able to discern a pattern or path the census taker would have taken between these households in this order. By extension, I have not yet been above to determine where Jacob Sessums was living at the time of the 1840 census.

(p. 141, begin line 1)

Joseph Johnston

John Parks [& wife Nancy Cooksey, bro-in-law of John & Sam'l Cooksey and Thos Sessums]

John Cooksey	1 white male	30–40	1 white female	15–20	3 total	1 in ag
			1 white female	0–5		

G. A. Johnson
John Woodward
W. W. Johnson
Benjamin Berter
Edmon Johnson
Anderson Pinson

Wm. Odum	1 white male	50–59	1 white female	40–49
	2 white males	10–14	1 white female	20–29
	1 white male	0–4	1 white female	15–19

¹⁸² *Ancestry's* database mis-transcribes his surname as "Syson."

		1 white female	10–14	
Shadrack Odum	1 white male	15–19	1 white female	20–29
	2 white males	0–4		
Isaac Hollinsworth	[taxed 1826 in Copiah; 1834 in Neshoba]			
Elias Chandler	1 white male	40–49	1 white female	20–29
	1 white male	10–14	1 white female	10–14
	1 white male	5–9	1 white female	0–4
	2 white males	0–4		

COMMENT:

Evidence is ambiguous as to whether the female in Shadrack's household is his first or second wife. Factors to consider include these:

Timing:

- Shadrack's second child by his first wife was born 2 February 1840.¹⁸³
- Shadrack's first child by his second wife, a daughter Rhoda, was born in June 1841 (according to the 1900 census).¹⁸⁴ Therefore, she was conceived about September 1840.
- The official census date for 1840 was 1 June. Rural households were visited across the next several months, but data was supposed to be collected as of 1 June.
- If the first wife were still alive on 1 June and the second wife conceived in September, then Shadrack's "period of mourning" was three months or less. If his first wife died amid her February childbirth, then he might have waited seven months before remarriage. In either case, a quick remarriage is not surprising, considering that his wife's death left him with two infants under age three.

Location:

- The 1840 federal census, above, enumerates Shadrack adjacent to his parents. The early 1841 state census, below, enumerates his parents adjacent to Neil and Mary Williams, the parents proposed for Shadrack's first wife—while placing Shadrack adjacent to his second wife's brother, Samuel Cooksey. The suggestion is that, between the two censuses, he moved to be near his new wife's family.

Age of wife on census:

- A death certificate exists for the second wife, which cites her death on 27 May 1917 at the age of 96 years, 11 months, and 19 days—dating her birth to 8 June 1820. She would have turned 20 on 8 June 1840.
- The official census date for 1840 was 1 June, but rural households were visited across several months thereafter. If Shadrack's wife's age were cited as of the day the enumerator arrived and inquired, then she would have been correctly entered into the 20–29 age bracket. If her

¹⁸³ 1900 U.S. Census, Oktibbeha Co., Miss., pop. sch., Beat 4, ED 93, sheet 13, dwell./fam. 245, John Odom. Also "Mississippi Confederate Pension Applications, 1900–1974," database, *FamilySearch* (www.FamilySearch.org : 1 August 2013), "Oakes–Ormond," images 101–4, E. J. Odom, Widow (John Odom, Pvt., Co. E, 4th Cav., Featherstone's Brigade), affidavit 30 August 1913 and 10 August 1916.

¹⁸⁴ 1900 U.S. Census, Leake Co., Miss., pop. sch., South Half of Beat 3, ED 34, sheet 14, dwell./fam. 229, George W. and Rhody Moore

age was cited to 1 June 1840, as instructions dictated, then her tick mark should appear in the 10–19 bracket, along with Shadrack.

Re the neighbor Elias Chandler:

- The male 10–15 in this family is a candidate for the Chandler male who married Isabella Jane Courtney (Riley?) c1846.

Michael Thomas
Daniel Johnston
James Johnston

N.B. Smith
Wm. Boyd
John **Boyd**

[His son James in 1841 m. a daughter of John Parks above; their daughter Elizabeth Boyd in 1855 m. Sam Odom, who was born c1838 to Shadrack Odom and his first wife, the carrier of Sessums DNA]

Franklin Boyd
Benjamin McCulloch
John A. Thompson
Haden Watts

[son of John, above]
[brother-in-law of John Boyd, above]

[cousin of Zilphy (Watts) Cooksey, mother of John & Samuel Cooksey, Zilphy (Cooksey) **Sessums**, and Elizabeth (Cooksey) Odom, the second wife of Shadrack Odom. His first known record is 1827 U.S. land entry in Rankin Co.]

[father-in-law of James William Cooksey, who was brother-in-law of Thomas Sessums]

Michael Miller
Benjamin Rollins
J. D. Phelps
Jas. Walton
E. S. Phelps
Thomas Jones
Enoch Philips
Wm. Evins

(p. 142, begin line 1)

S? Y? Lewis
Wm J? Pace
L. D. Grayham

Isaac Parker

[1830 Copiah, 3 households from Redding Sessums]

James Grayham
Anthony Grayham
Edward Grayham
Richman Pace
Samuel B. Windham
A. J. Windham
Levi McDaniel
James Vance

Samuel Cooksey	1 white male	20–30	1 white female	20–30 [Cemantha Odom, dtr of Wm.]
	1 white male	0–5	2 white females	0–5
Zilpha Cooksey	1 white male	20–30	1 white female	50–60 [m-in-law of Thos. Sessums]
Thos. Sessoms	1 white male	30–40	1 white female	20–30

	1 white male	10–15	
	2 white males	5–10	
	1 white male	0–5	
Neil Williams	1 white male	40–50	
	1 white female	30–40	[Mary Sessums, dtr of Jacob, wife of "Neil"]
	[1 white female	15–20	in household in 1830; missing here in 1840]
	1 white female	15–20	[—?—, b. 1825–30, according to 1830 census]
	2 white males	10–15	[John b. 1825–26; and —?—]
	2 white females	5–10	[Penny A. b. 1831–32; and —?—]
	2 white males	0–5	[Jacob b. 1833–34; Sol. born 1835–36]

Jacob Hollinsworth

COMMENT:

- Neil Williams, Jacob's son-in-law, is on Newton's 1840 census, but not the tax roll.
- **The Neil Williams household has lost one daughter since 1830.**
- John Williams, Neil and Mary's oldest son (b. 1825–26 according to 1860 census, Attala Co.) married c. 1845 (first son Newton A. R. born 1845–46, according to 1860 census); he seems to be still at home at the time of the 1840 census.

1840

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

COMMENT:

- No tax roll has been imaged for 1840.
- I have not read Simpson County tax rolls past this point. The 1840 census shows no Sessums left in the county.

1840

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Land patent

Jesse Courtney. Choctaw Meridian, Simpson County, MS. SW¼ SW¼ S4 T1N R2E. Patent issued 10 December 1840, Accession Number MS2090_.348.¹⁸⁵

COMMENT:

The issuance of this patent in 1840 does not mean that Jesse was still alive or present in Simpson County. It was quite common for men who "entered" land with the government and paid for it at the time of entry, to sell it before the patent was actually issued. Simpson's deed records of this era have been destroyed.

1841

NEWTON COUNTY, MS

¹⁸⁵ U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, database with images (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx> : accessed 5 May 2020).

Jacob Sessums
Penelope "Penny" Fisher

State census¹⁸⁶

(image 1) →

John Smith	8 males	2 females
Levi McDaniel	2 males	2 females
Windham S ^l B	2 males	3 females
Vance, Jas.	3 males	1 female
Cooksey, Samuel	3 males	4 females
Odum, Shadrack	3 males	1 female
Gill, David	3 males	3 females
Coosey, John	1 male	2 females
Johnston, Wm.	1 male	
Wallon, Ja ^s	4 males	4 females
Sessoms, Tho^s	5 males	1 female
Red, Elisha	3 males	1 female
Willis, W ^m	1 male	1 female
Willis, Daniel	4 males	5 females
Jackson, John F.	1 male	1 female
Campbell, Samul	3 males	2? females

(image 3, col. 1)

Boyd, James Sr.	1 male	2 females
Coats, John W.	1 male	2 females
Hollinsworth, Isaac Jr	5 males	5 females
Williams, Neil	5 males	4 females
Odum, William	4 males	4 females
Johnston, Joseph	5 males	1 female
Johnston, Mary	2 males	3 females
Davidson, Wm.	2 males	2 females
Parks, John	6 males	3 females [wife Cooksey]
Stuart, H. H.	1 male	1 female
Stuart, James	1 male	
Ellis, Jas.	6 males	6 females
Heard, Samuel	1 male	
Waterman, Ralph	1 male	
McDaniel, Siras	1 male	2? females
Walker, Silas	2 males	4 females

1841

NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname

¹⁸⁶ "Mississippi, U.S., State and Territorial Census Collection, 1792-1866," database with images, Ancestry (Ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1125/images/v229_2-0626) > images 1 and 3.

Cooksey, John	120a \$600, 1 wh poll, \$2.25 tax
Cooksey, Saml.	0 land, 1 wh poll, 1 slave, \$1.25
Cooksey, James	0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.50 tax
Coartney, Samuel	NO
Gill, David	0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.50 tax
Odom, Shadrick	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.37 ½ tax
Odom, William	80a \$600, 25 cattle, 0 polls, 0 slave, \$1.75 tax
Rayburn:	Joel W. but not James or Levi
Sessums, Jacob:	NO
Sessums, Thos.	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.50 tax
Watts, Haden	0 land, 1 white male poll, \$.50 tax
Williams, Neal	0 land, 1 white male poll, \$.50 tax ¹⁸⁷

1 JULY 1842
NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname

Cooksey, John	0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.50 tax	
Cooksey, Saml.	0 land, 5 cattle, 1 wh poll, 0 slave, \$1.27 1/2	
Cooksey, James	0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.50 tax	
Gill, David	0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.50 tax	[Wife Catherine Cooksey]
Odom, Shadric	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.50 tax	[2d wife, Elizabeth Cooksey]
Odom, William:	0 land, 15 cattle, 0 polls, 0 slave, \$.15 tax	
Rayburn:	Joel W. but not James or Levi	
Sessums, Jacob:	NO	
Sessums, Thos.	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.50 tax	[Wife, Zilphy Cooksey Jr.]
Sessums, Solomon	NO	
Watts, Haden	75a [no value stated], 1 white male poll, \$.50 tax	
Williams, Neal	75a [no value stated], 1 white male poll, \$.50 tax ¹⁸⁸	

1843
NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname

(*Consecutive "C" entries*)

Cooksey, Saml.	1 wh poll, \$.50 tax	[wife Cynthia Odom, dtr of Wm]
Cooksey, James	1 wh poll, \$.50 tax	[brother of Samuel]
[<i>skip 13</i>]		
Cooksy, John	1 wh poll, \$.50 tax	[wife Susan E Odom, dtr of Wm]

¹⁸⁷ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > County tax rolls 1840–1859, Box 3711 > images 3–4 (Cooksey), 5 (Gill), 9 (Odum), 10 (Sessems), 12 (Watts, Williams).

¹⁸⁸ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > County tax rolls 1840–1859, Box 3711 > images 3 (Cooksey), 5 (Gill), 9 (Odum), 11 (Sessems), 12 (Watts, Williams).

**Jacob Sessums
Penelope “Penny” Fisher**

Gill, David	0 land, 1 clock \$25, 45 cattle, 10 sl, \$8.57½ tax	[wife Catherine Cooksey]
Odom, Shadric	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.50 tax	[2d wife Elizabeth Cooksey]
Odom, William:	0 land, 15 cattle, 0 polls, 0 slave, \$.15 tax	[father of Shadric Odom]
Sessoms, Thos.	0 land, 1 white poll, \$.50 tax	[wife Zilphy Cooksey]
Watts, Haden	NO	
Williams, Neil	NO ¹⁸⁹	

COMMENT:

By 1850, Neil Williams and Haden Watts had moved into two different directions:

- Neil Williams (56 b. NC), wife Mary 42 (b. NC), and children Penny N. (18), Jacob (16), Solomon D. (14), and Sarah (6) were enumerated in Attalla County, Mississippi, T15 R8E.¹⁹⁰
- “Hayden” Watts (born about 1810, Ga.), his mother Celie, his wife Catherine, and their children were farming in Houston County, Texas. One son, born 1833, is named *Redin W. Watts*.¹⁹¹ (N.B.: Thomas Sessums and his wife named children *Haden Watts Sessums* and *Celie Sessums*.)

For a map of the Texas counties in which this family and in-laws settled, see the next page.

1844–1846

Migration

COMMENT:

Thomas Sessums and John Cooksey left Mississippi after the creation of the 1843 tax roll. John reappears on the 1845 roll but was then dropped again, after which his land was taxed to his wife Susan. Both men reappear on the roll of 1847 (after which there are no rolls until 1852).

This marks the period in which Thomas would have taken his aging parents—or father—to Texas. One affidavit by offspring among the Choctaw claims puts Penny Fisher’s death at “about 1845” in Mississippi; but the grandchild who made that affidavit was uncertain.

29 AUGUST 1844

NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname

Cooksey, Saml:	1 wh poll, 5 cattle, \$.55 tax
Cooksey, John:	NO
Cooksey, James:	NO
Gill:	NO
Odom, Shadric:	NO
Odem, William:	0 land, 15 cattle, 0 polls, 0 slave, \$.15 tax

¹⁸⁹ “Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > County tax rolls 1840–1859, Box 3711n > images 4 (Cooksey), 6 (Gill), 12 (Odom), 14 (Sessems), 12 (Watts, Williams).

¹⁹⁰ 1850 U.S. census, Attala Co., MS, pop. sch., p. 328 (stamped), dwell./fam. 1110/1113. *Ancestry* has indexed the household head’s name as “Noal” Williams.

¹⁹¹ 1850 U.S. census, Houston Co., TX, pop. sch., 28 Nov. 1850, p. 183 (stamped) *verso*., dwell./fam. 597/597.

Sessoms, Thos.: NO¹⁹²

**15 OCTOBER 1845
NEWTON COUNTY, MS**

Tax roll

(Consecutive "C" entries)

Cooksey, Saml: 0 land, 1 wh poll, 8 cattle, \$.58 tax
Cooksey, John: 0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.50 tax
Cooksey, James: 0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.50 tax
Gill, David 0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.50 tax
Odom, Shadric: 0 land, 1 wh poll, \$.50 tax
Odem, William: 0 land, 15 cattle, 0 polls, 0 slave, \$.15 tax

Sessoms, Thos.: NO¹⁹³

COMMENT:

I am not continuing Newton's rolls past this point. In 1846, Jacob Jr., Reuben and Solomon Sessums are all taxed in Panola County, TX. Thomas would return to Newton before the 1847 tax roll and the 1850 census enumerates him four houses from his brother-in-law Shadrock "Odham."¹⁹⁴

Meanwhile in Texas ...

**1839–42
SHELBY COUNTY, TX**

Tax rolls

No Sessums or Courtneys appear on the surviving fragments of the 1839-42 rolls.¹⁹⁵

**1841–45
PANOLA COUNTY, TX**

No Sessums or Courtneys appear on the 1841 Tax Roll of Panola County. The next available roll for Panola is 1846. From that point on, the Panola rolls are annual.

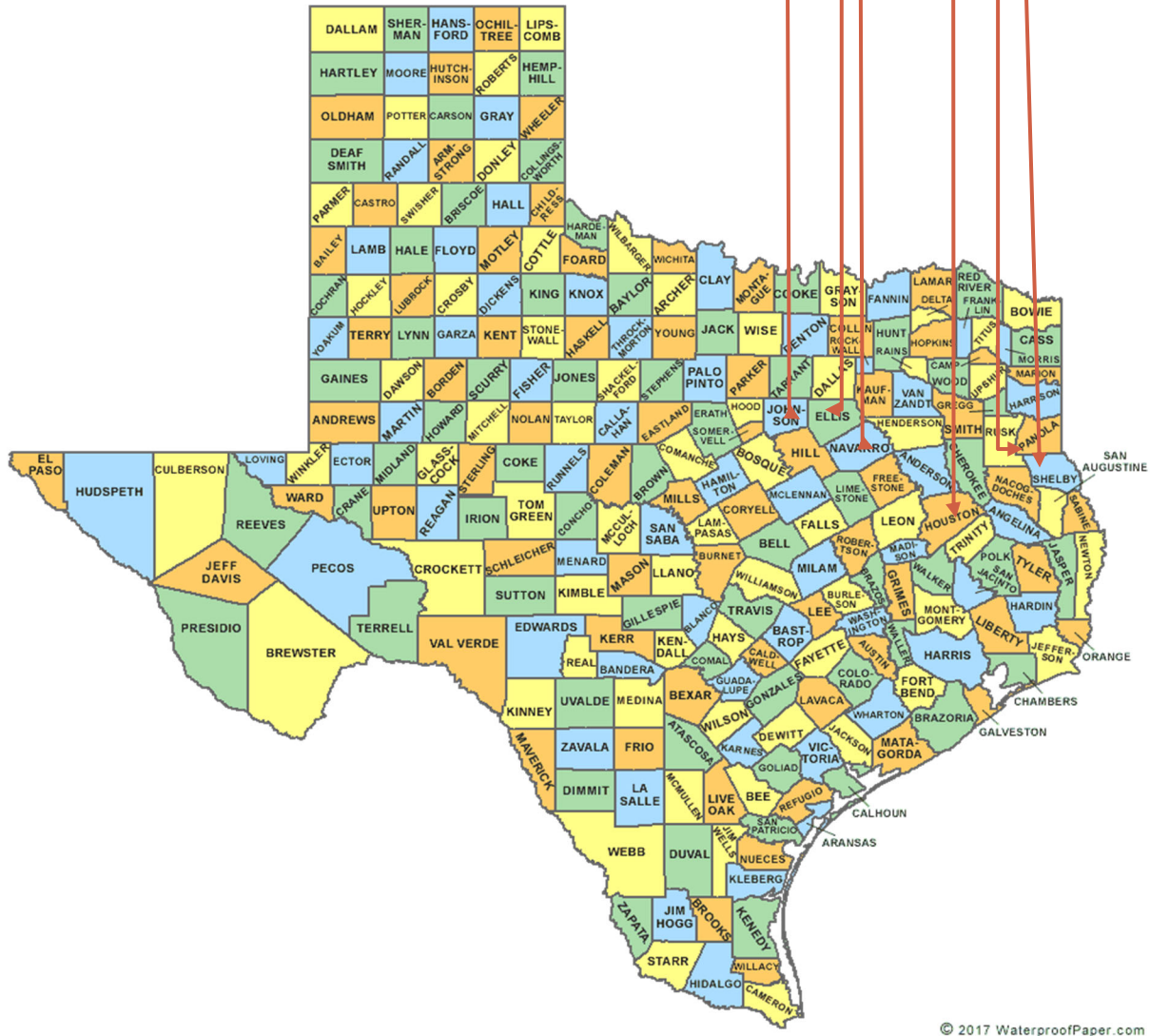
¹⁹² "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > County tax rolls 1840–1859, Box 3711 > images 4 (Cooksey), 13 (Odom).

¹⁹³ "Mississippi, State Archives, Various Records, 1820–1951," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1919687>) > Browse > Newton > County tax rolls 1840–1859, Box 3711 > images 4 (Cooksey), 6 (Gill), 12 (Odom),

¹⁹⁴ 1850 U.S. census., Newton Co., MS, pop. sch., 13 Septe. 1850, p. 184 (stamped) *verso*, dwell./fam. 431: Thomas Sessums 43 farmer b. KY, Zilphy 37 b. GA, Kader 15 b. MS, John 13 b. MS, Elizabeth 11 b. MS, Solomon 9 b. MS, Ellis, b. MS, Celia 2 b. MS.

¹⁹⁵ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Shelby county.

- Ellis County
- Houston County
- Johnson County
- Navarro County
- Panola County
- Shelby County



© 2017 WaterproofPaper.com

26 NOVEMBER 1841
 SHELBY COUNTY, TX

Land certificate

“The Republic of Texas, County of Shelby:

This is to certify that the claim of **Redding Sessums** for Six hundred and forty Acres of Land No. 297 dated Dec. 10th 1839 was Examined by the investigating board of Acting Commissiones and was favourably

Reported. Witness my hand & seal of office Shelbyville. Nov 26th 1841. C.N.? Scott, clk, C.C.S.C. & Ex off. Clk B. L. Cond."¹⁹⁶

1846

PANOLA COUNTY, TX

Tax roll

(Consecutive entries)

Sessums, Reuben 1 poll [added with three similar entries at start of list]

[skip 10]

Sessum, Sollomon 7 cattle \$25, 1 poll, total value of property \$25

[skip 3]

Sesum, Jacob 1 horse \$30, 1 poll, total value of property \$30¹⁹⁷

Certified 10 July 1847

COMMENT:

- The "Jacob Sesum" who paid a poll would not be Jacob Sr. The widowed Jacob was past the age for which polls were assessed in Texas.
- Panola County was created in 1846 from Shelby and Harrison Counties. County seat: Carthage. No major record destruction.
- Shelby County was created in 1836 from "Old Mexican Municipality." County seat: Center. The courthouse burned 31 May 1882, allegedly destroying all records except the tax rolls that had been sent to Austin.
- The 1841 Panola County tax roll—the only one that exists before 1846—does not include any known family members.¹⁹⁸

1847

PANOLA COUNTY, TX

Tax roll

(Consecutive entries)

Sessum, Solomon 1 poll, 0 property, \$.50 tax

Sessum, Jacob 1 poll, 0 property, \$.50 tax

Sessum, Reuben: No

Certified 15 August 1847¹⁹⁹

COMMENT:

Although the roll was "certified" as complete and correct in August, compilation of the roll would have begun in the spring before Jacob Jr. enlisted and left for war.

¹⁹⁶ Texas General Land Office Land Grant Search," database, *The Texas General Land Office* (s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants) > Search term "Sessums, Redding," Result: "County: Shelby; Abst. 657; District Class: Shelby 3rd; File No.: 000108; Grantee: Sessums, Redding: > hotlink 000108 > p. 2 of 10.

¹⁹⁷ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1846.

¹⁹⁸ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1841 > images 12–13.

¹⁹⁹ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1847 > images 12 (Nale), 15 (Sessum).

12 MAY 1847–1 JANUARY 1848

SHELBY COUNTY, TX

Military service

12 May 1847 **Jacob Sessum** enlisted at Shelbyville, Shelby County, Texas, in the Mexican War as a 3d Corporal in Capt. Truit's Co., 1 Reg't (Hays) Texas Mounted Volunteers, for a period of 12 months. He was mustered in that same day at Camp Cartwright's Mill. "This organization subsequently became Capt. Handley's Company, 1st Reg't (Hays') Texas Mounted volunteers.

12 May–Oct '47 Jacob is carried on the company muster roll, said to be "Near Vera Cruz" on 3 May. The value of his horse was \$95 and the value of his "horse equipments" was set at \$25.

24 Nov 1847 "Left in Genl. Hosp. at Jalapa"

1 January 1848 "Died Jalapa [Xalapa]. Two six shooters lost \$30 each & accoutrements." Age 24. "Last paid to Oct. 31, 1847."²⁰⁰

1848

PANOLA COUNTY, TX

Tax roll

(*Consecutive entries*)

Sessum, Solomon 1 poll, 0 property, \$.50 tax

Sessum, Jacob 1 poll, 0 property, \$.50 tax

Sessum, Reuben: No

Certified 11 July 1848²⁰¹

COMMENT:

Three possible explanations exist for the presence of the name "Jacob Sessums" on this roll in 1848—considering that Jacob Sr. in 1850 resided in Shelby with his son Redding, rather than here in Panola, with son Solomon.

1. The roll mistakenly carries Jacob Jr. Creation of the roll would have begun in early 1848, before news of his death reached Panola. If Jacob Sr. was already in Shelby with his son Redding, rather than here in Panola, then the young Solomon may not have reported his brother's death to the tax assessor until after the roll was completed and posted for public viewing and correction.

2. Jacob Sr. has not yet moved to Shelby to live with his son Redding, in which case the male for whom the poll tax was assessed would seem to be the unmarried son Reuben Fisher, who is not assessed this year but does appear the next year.

3. Jacob may indeed be gone and Reuben may have turned himself in as a taxable this year, but the assessor mistakenly identified him by the name Jacob that was already on the roll.

²⁰⁰ "U.S., Compiled Military Service Records for American Volunteer Soldiers, Mexican War, 1845–1848," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2058/>) > Texas > First Texas Mounted Volunteers > Jacob Sessums > images 4068–4074.

²⁰¹ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1848 > image 13 (Nale), 15 (Sessum).

1849

PANOLA COUNTY, TX

Tax roll

(Consecutive entries)

Sessum, Solomon no land, 2 horses \$150, 12 cattle \$44, mis \$65, total 4259, 1 poll
Sessom, R. F. 320a \$320, 2 horses \$150, 12 cattle \$44, miscellaneous \$20, total \$190, 1 poll
Sessum, Jacob NO²⁰²

1850

PANOLA COUNTY, TX

Tax roll

Sessums: None²⁰³

28 OCTOBER 1850

SHELBY COUNTY, TX

Census

(p. 35, stamped)

484/484	Wm B. Sessums	24, male, farmer, \$200 real estate, b. Miss.
	Mary "	15, female, b. Louis., can't read or write
	James Gale	25, male, farmer, b. Louis.
485/485	Redden Sessums	50, male, farmer, \$1000, b. NC
	Mary A. "	48, female, b. Geo.
	Eliely "	26, female, b. Miss.
	Permeia "	22, female, b. Miss.
	Wilson E. "	17, male, b. Miss.
	Jacop "	73, male, b. NC
	Robt. Stapler	25, male, school teacher, b. Ala.
	David "	23, male, student, b. Ala.

COMMENT:

No neighbors for ten or so households in either direction had similar origin.

1850–1855

NAVARRO COUNTY, TX

Court minutes

COMMENT:

According to the account by Redding's son-in-law Allen Brooks Neal, Redding (and, ostensibly, the father Jacob who lived with him in 1850) were in Navarro County from some point in 1852 until some point in 1855.

Most Navarro County records that have been filmed are restricted to online use at a Family History Center. However, court minutes for 1855–59 are online. I read, page by page, minutes for 1855

²⁰² "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1848 > image 15 (Nail), 17 (Sessum).

²⁰³ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1848 > image 16 (Naile).

and early 1856 without finding any relevant record or mention of jury service, the proving of deeds, or probate filings, etc.²⁰⁴

20 OCTOBER 1854
SHELBY COUNTY, TX

Land patent

Grantee: **Redding Sessums**
Certificate: 225
Patentee: Matthew Brimson
Patent Date: 25 Oct 1854
Acres: 428
District: Shelby
County: Shelby
File: 108
Patent #: 577
Patent Volume: 10
Class: Shelby 3rd²⁰⁵

13 FEBRUARY 1854
JOHNSON COUNTY, TX

Historical context

Johnson County was created 13 February 1854 from Ellis, Hill, McLennan, and Navarro Counties. County seats: Wardville (1855–56), Buchanan (1856–67), and Cleburne (1867–present; originally known as Camp Henderson).

COMMENT:

Most online accounts of Jacob assert that he died in 1856 in either Shelby or Ellis County. None identify a source. I have found no records created by or about him since the 1850 census of Shelby County.

I have continued to follow Redding, the son with whom he lived, until the period of Redding's death, on the possibility that some record created by Redding might shed light on his father's death.²⁰⁶

The records found for Redding are continued below through 1862, after which he created no more records in Ellis or Shelby. The mobility of his life during the 1850s casts doubt upon any claimed place of death for the father who lived with him.

22 SEPTEMBER 1860
ELLIS COUNTY, TX

Land sale

²⁰⁴ Navarro Co., Texas, "Minutes Dist. Court A," 1855–56; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7196238, item 4.

²⁰⁵ "Texas, U.S., Land Title Abstracts, 1700–2008," database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5112/>), search term "Redding Sessums"; citing "Texas General Land Office, *Abstracts of all original Texas Land Titles comprising Grants and Locations*. Austin, TX, USA."

²⁰⁶ See E. S. Mills, "Redding Sessums (1798–1879) & Spouse Mary Ann Brown: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 5 May 2021; archived at *HistoricPathways* under the "Research" tab.

Redding Sessums (s) and **Mary Ann Sessums** (x), husband and wife of Ellis County, for \$800 paid by **John O. Wheeler** also of Ellis, have sold a tract of land in Ellis County "about 10½ Miles N 64° W from the Town of Waxahachie" described by field notes as follows:

Beginning at a stake the NE Corner of **Allen B. Neals** survey and 950 vs [*varas*; a Spanish land measure] N 60° E from the NE Corner of **A Hudson's** Survey

- Thence N 60° E 950 vs a Stake in Prairie
- Thence S 30° E 950 vs a Stake in Prairie
- Thence S 60° E 950 vs a stake in Prairie
- Thence N 30° W 950 vs to the place of Beginning

160 acres more or less with all rights, etc. Witnesses: Benj. F Hawkins and Wm. C. Sweatt. Acknowledged 22 September 1860 before Benjamin F. Hawkins, Clerk of Court. Recorded 2 October 1860.²⁰⁷

7 MARCH 1861

JOHNSON & ELLIS COUNTIES, TX

Land purchase

John Barnes (s) of Johnson Co. sells for \$775 to **William B. Sessums** of Ellis Co., 228 acres on the North Fork of Chambers Creek lying in both Johnson and Ellis counties, being a part of the Thomas Harvey Forrester Survey. [Metes and bounds not extracted here.] Witnesses: None. Acknowledged by Barnes before Jonathan Burk, an acting Notary Public in Johnson Co., 12 March 1861. Filed 24 June 1861, recorded 27 June 1861.²⁰⁸

24 NOVEMBER 1862

ELLIS COUNTY, TX

Land sale

William B. Sessums of Ellis Co. for \$375 paid in hand by **Reding Sessums** of same, sale of 91 acres on North fork of Chambers Creek in the counties of Johnson and Ellis, being a part of the Thomas Harvey Forester Survey and a part of the land deeded to William by John Barnes. [Metes & bounds not extracted here.] No witnesses. No wife's involvement. Acknowledged by William B. Sessums before Benj. F. Hawkins, Clerk, on 24 November 1862. Filed 24 November. Recorded 29 November.²⁰⁹

24 NOVEMBER 1862

ELLIS COUNTY, TX

Land sale

William B. Sessums of Ellis Co. for \$300 paid by **Wilson B. [R?] Sessums** of same, sale of 65 acres on North fork of Chambers Creek in the counties of Johnson and Ellis being a part of the Thomas Harvey Foresters survey and a part of the land deeded to William by John Barnes. [Metes & bounds not extracted here.] No witnesses. No wife's involvement. Acknowledged by William B. Sessums before Benj. F. Hawkins, Clerk, on 24 November 1862. Filed 24 November. Recorded 29 November.²¹⁰

²⁰⁷ Ellis Co., TX, Deed Book E: 278–79; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008502315, images 363–64.

²⁰⁸ Ellis Co., TX, Deed Book E: 484–75 (penciled number); imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008502315, image 468.

²⁰⁹ Ellis Co., TX, Deed Book F: 92–93; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008502315, image 596.

²¹⁰ Ellis Co., TX, Deed Book F: 93–94; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008502315, images 596–97.

TRADITION

TRADITION

Birth of son

"ALLEN BROOKS NEAL

"Allen B. Neal was born in Alabama, November 17, 1833, and accompanied his parents on their various removals until they had settled in Navarro county, Texas. ... Mr. Neal was married June 20, 1855, in Navarro county, to Permeasa, daughter of **Redding** and **Mary Ann (Brown) Sessions**. Her father died in Montague county, Texas, in 1882, at the age of eighty-seven.

"He [**Redding Sessions**] was **born on the Cumberland River in Kentucky**, removed from there to **Middle Tennessee** and subsequently to **Georgetown, Mississippi**.

COMMENT:

Georgetown was the county seat of Covich County, which was not created until 1823. By then, Redding's father Jacob had been taxed for five years in Lawrence County, MS, where Redding would marry in 1822.

"He built the first house in **Jackson**, the present capital of that state and continued his residence in Mississippi until **1835**, when in the month of March he started for Texas, driving across the country to what is now **San Augustine County**.²¹¹ He was accompanied by his wife and their children—Ailsey Ann, William, Mrs Neal, Wilson Russell and Elizabeth.

COMMENT:

St. Augustine was one of the original Texas counties, created in 1836 after Texas won its independence. Records begin 1837. One St. Augustine tax roll exists for this period, 1837; it does not include any *Sessums* or variant spellings thereof.

"At the first location the father planted a crop, but in the fall of **1835** removed to Shelby County and entered a section of land near the town of Shelbyville, upon which he made his home until **1852**.

COMMENT:

As shown by the records abstracted and transcribed into this report, Redding Sessums appeared before the Land Office at Shelbyville in December 1839 to request his headright land, saying he had "emigrated" in February 1839.

In 1836, Redding is missing from the Kemper County, MS, tax rolls on which he appears in 1835 and again, for the last time, in 1837. That suggests he may have made an exploratory trip in 1836, seeking a location in which to settle his family. If he left in March, as this biographical sketch asserts, then he left at *planting* time and his family would not have made a crop in 1836 on his Kemper County land. Put another way, they would have had no means of supporting themselves in that year 1836.

²¹¹ See "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>).

In such circumstances, whether a husband left to locate a new site for settlement or went off to war, a wife and children were typically left with family members until the husband returned. Redding's parents by that time had settled in Newton County.

Through the three succeeding years [Redding] resided in **Navarro County**, and in **1855** went to **Johnson County**, where he took up land, living there until **1860**. From that time until **1877** he lived in **Ellis County**, then removed to **Montague County**, where he spent his remaining days near Bowie.

"In politics he was a Democrat and acceptably served as justice of the peace. He belonged to the Primitive Baptist Church and served as its elder, also took a most active part in its work, materially advancing its interests. His wife died in 1889, at the age of seventy-seven years. She was a native of Tennessee.

"Mrs. Neal was born in Copiah county, Mississippi, March 31, 1829, and by her marriage became the mother of three children ... [children and grandchildren are named, with birth and marriage dates].²¹²

Alleged Native American Ancestry

Between 1896 and 1914, about eighty-six descendants of Jacob and Penny, residing in Oklahoma, filed claims to be recognized as Choctaw—most with the Dawes Commission. All claimed to be descendants of the "full-blood Choctaw Penny Fisher, who married the white man Jacob Sessums." **All claimed "family tradition." None had any evidence of any type to support their claims.** As background:

"The Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes was appointed by President Grover Cleveland in 1893 to negotiate land with the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole tribes. It is called the Dawes Commission, after its chairman, Henry L. Dawes, [and those who were approved appear on] the "Final Rolls of the Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory".

Tribe members were entitled to an allotment of land, in return for abolishing their tribal governments and recognizing Federal laws. In order to receive the land, individual tribal members first had to apply and be deemed eligible by the Commission.

The first application process for enrollment began in 1896, but was declared invalid. So the Dawes Commission started all over again in 1898. People had to re-apply in order to be considered, even if they had already applied in 1896. The Commission accepted applications from 1898 until 1907, with a few additional people accepted by an Act of Congress in 1914.

The resulting lists of those who were accepted as eligible became known as the Dawes Rolls."²¹³

The descendants of Jacob and Penny who applied for Choctaw citizenship (and free land) descended through four of their children:

1. **Redding Sessums**, who moved to Texas in the 1840s and died 1879 in Bowie County. The principal claimant in this line was his son

²¹² *History of Texas Supplemented with Biographical Mention of Many Families of the State: A Concise History of the State from Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Date; Together with Biographical Sketches of Many of the Families of Central Texas*, 2 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1896), Neal-Sessums bio, 336–38.

²¹³ "Native American Heritage: Dawes rolls," *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/dawes/tutorial/intro.html>).

- **Wilson Russell Sessums** (Claim No. 452)²¹⁴ who first applied in 1896 under the Congressional Act of 10 June 1896 (29 Stat.L., 321); but he and his offspring were rejected. They appealed their case to the U.S. Dist. Court for Indian Territory, and on 20 January 1898, the court overturned the tribal decision and admitted them. That admission was overruled in 1906 for lack of any evidence that Penny Fisher was a Choctaw.²¹⁵ A more-detailed synopsis of the case *W. R. Sessums vs. Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations*, was published amid Senate Documents in 1913.²¹⁶

The initial success of Wilson Russell Sessums in 1898 prompted his cousins to apply.²¹⁷

2. **Reuben Fisher Sessums**, who also moved to Texas in the 1840s and allegedly died 1873 in Fannin County, Texas. The principal claimants for this line were his sons:
 - **William Thomas Sessums** (Dawes Packet MCR 119, 14 pp.)
 - **Reuben P. Sessums** (Dawes Packet MCR 473, 25 pp.)
 - **John Washington Sessums** (Dawes Packet MCR 641, 18 pp.)
3. **Mary (Sessums) Williams**, who remained in Mississippi. Her son John Williams died in the Civil War; his widow (née Jeanette Johnson) and several children moved to Texas about 1870 and then to Oklahoma before 1900, first to the Chickasaw Nation and then the Choctaw. Two lines of his descendants joined the Sessums cousins who were already filing claims:
 - **James A. J. Williams** (Dawes Packet MCR 5571; also see MCR 184)
 - **Dacey (Williams) Wren** (Dawes Packet MCR 5808; also see 5812, 5813 5814, 5815, 6153)²¹⁸
4. **Thomas Sessums**, who remained in Mississippi. One line of his descendants joined the cousins in filing claims. The principal representative was Thomas’s son and grandson:
 - **William John Sessums** (Dawes Packet MCR 183, 17 pp.)
 - **John Sessums** (Dawes Packet MCR 184, 89pp.; also see MCR 119, 132, 183, 186, 473, 474, 475, 641, 5571, 5529)

The following offers a sampling of the depositions taken and “evidence” provided. Many of the claims were consolidated into the John Sessums case and affidavits by the other claimants appear therein.

²¹⁴ *Senate Documents, 62d Congress : 3d Session, December 2, 1912–March 4, 1913*, vol. 15 (Washington: Government Printing Office: 1913).

²¹⁵ As summarized in Choctaw MCR 5081 Lillie R. Sessums, ruling dated 18 February 1907; imaged, “Dawes Packets,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54525771> and next five images).

²¹⁶ *Senate Documents, 62d Congress : 3d Session, December 2, 1912–March 4, 1913*, vol. 15 (Washington: Government Printing Office: 1913).

²¹⁷ To quote from the affidavit of John Washington Sessums, son of Reuben Fisher Sessums: “Q: Why do you believe that you are entitled to be identified by this Commission as a Mississippi Choctaw? A Why, I have people that is on the roll enrolled up there by the United States Court in 1896 ... Q Is that the only basis of your claim ... the fact that you have had relatives that have been admitted to citizenship by the United States Court of the Indian Territory? A Yes sir.” See “Choctaw MCR 641,” John Washington Sessums; imaged in “Dawes Packets,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54819077>).

²¹⁸ “Choctaw MCR 5571, James A. J. Williams (See MCR 184)”; imaged in “Dawes Packets,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/56063519>), 16 pages; citing *Applications for Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes, compiled 1898–1914*, microfilm publication M1301, 468 rolls (Washington, DC: National Archives, n.d.), roll 147.

Choc. MCR 184, John Sessums

12 June 1900

Examination of claimant. Age: 64 years. Post Office: Cumberland, I.T. [Indian Territory], have lived there for 6 months. Before that, lived at Ryan, I.T. for 10 years. Before that, lived in Texas but can't say how long. Came to Texas from Missouri [sic]. **Father was Thomas Sessums, "part Choctaw.** I don't know what [proportion of Choctaw blood] he claimed to have [but] **I claim to be ¼."**

He is married to Luticia. **"Q** Is she a white woman? **A** No, she is a full blood Irish lady. She never was in Ireland I don't suppose." They married in Mississippi "a long time ago," but he doesn't recall when. He has no record of the marriage. The claims of his children, who live with him, have the "same foundation." They are *Maggie L* (18), *Lilly M.* (16).

"And then I have seven grandchildren that I am keeping under my control as guardian; their father and mother is dead and I have to take charge of them." They live with him. Two are Sessums, the children of his son. The "other bunch of five" are children of his daughter, *Eliza Maderis*. When asked who was Joseph V. Sessums, he answered that this was his dead son. *Joseph Virgil Sessums* (10) and *Sarah Ellis Sessums* (8) were his children. The children of his daughter [which he is said to have read "from a meme"] are *John O. Maderis* (10), *Thomas E. Maderis* (8), *Clarence Maderis* (6), *Mary L. Maderis* (4), and *Lilly B. Maderis* (1).

When pressed, John said that he does not claim under any specific treaty and does not know of any ancestor who were beneficiaries under the provisions of Art. 14 of the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek.

Undated list of claimants in this set of consolidated cases

("pages" 6–11 in the imaged file)

"All of the applicants herein testify orally that they reside in the Indian Territory.

"The proof ... consists of a transcript of the court proceedings in citizenship case No. 10 [i.e., that of Wilson Russell Sessums] ... and the affidavits of W. R. Sessums and J. R. Sessums. These affidavits show the blood relationship of the applicant, John Sessums, to the affiants who are parties plaintiffs in said citizenship case No. 10; by reference to the affidavits of A. B. Sessums and **S. B. Perry** as shown by the transcript, **a conflict is found as to the residence of Pennie Sessums, nee Fisher, the common ancestor.** In the affidavit of A. B. Sessums it is averred by him that he is a descendant of Pennie Fisher a full blood Choctaw Indian woman who died in Mississippi in about 1845. S. B. Perry in his affidavit makes averment as follows: 'knew Pennie Fisher who was a full blood Choctaw woman. She married a white man named Jacob Sessums. Didn't know the names of their children as they were small last time I saw them. I knew Pennie Fisher below Doaksville she died down there somewhere.'"

"Doaksville is located in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. ... This is the only evidence disclosed by the transcript in this case as to the residence of the common ancestor. ...

"No proof, either oral or documentary, is offered to show any act of compliance on the part of the ancestors of these applicants with any of the provisions of article fourteen of the treaty between the United States government and the Choctaw tribe of Indians, concluded September 27th, 1830.²¹⁹

²¹⁹ "Choc. MCR 184, John Sessums (See MCR 1323, 119, 183, 186, 473, 641, 5571, 5529, 475, 474)"; imaged in "Dawes Packets," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54726775>), 89 pages; citing *Applications for Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes, compiled 1898–1914*, microfilm publication M1301, 468 rolls (Washington, DC: National Archives, n.d.), roll 86.

COMMENT:

While “Doaksville” was in Oklahoma, many Oklahoma sites carry names of earlier sites in MS. “Doaks” was also the name of a “stand” on the Pearl River in Mississippi where the Choctaw Treaty of 1821 was signed. It is now in southeast Madison Co., MS, near the boundary line that Madison shares with Leake County—just across the Pearl River from the Good Hope community in which Jacob and Penny’s son Thomas Sessums and their widowed daughter Mary “Polly” Williams lived in 1880.²²⁰ The land that Jacob Sessums obtained from the U.S. government in the newly created county of Simpson was land ceded by the Choctaw at the Treaty of Doaks Stand in 1821.

Good Hope, Mississippi, where Thomas Sessums and his sister Mary (Sessums) Williams were living at the time of the 1880 Leake County census, is just across Pearl River from Doaks Stand.

21 January 1902

Muscogee

(File pages 15–21)

Examination of claimant **John W. Sessums** [son of Reuben Fisher Sessums]. Age 44, Post Office: Ryan, Indian Territory. He has lived “in Ryan and near Ryan for about thirteen years. He is the “identical **John Washington Sessums** who appeared before this Commission at Muskogee, Indian Territory, August 30, 1900, and made application for the identification of [him]self and minor children as Mississippi Choctaws.”

John W. claims “**my grandmother was supposed to be or said to be a full blood ... Pennie Fisher.**” His grandfather was a white man, Jacob Sessums. He claims through his father, **Reuben Fisher Sessums, who was one-half Choctaw.**

He does not remember whether, in 1900, he claimed under the fourteenth article of the 1830 treaty. “I told them I knew nothing about the article, and I couldn’t say whether I complied with that article or not. ... No sir ... I don’t understand anything about the provisions of the fourteenth article [or] the treaty of 1830.” [Details of both were explained at length to him at this point.]

“I don’t know whether my foreparents have complied with it or not; I have never heard they [*sic*] say, and [was] never taught whether they did or not. I notice in some of the affidavits of W. R. Sessums [Wilson Russell Sessums, son of Redding], my cousin, in the courts, where **they claimed that Pennie Fisher and Jacob Sessums came to the Choctaw nation with the tribe, but they ... never**—my father died when I was small, that is, comparatively small, and he never did tell me anything about it whether they came to the territory or not. ... I suppose she [Pennie Fisher] died in Mississippi, but I don’t know where.” (pages 15–18)

“Applicant offers the joint affidavit of Wilson R. Sessums and Margaret Bailey averring that John W. Sessums et al., are ‘legal heirs and representatives’ of Reuben F. Sessums.”

Names of children: *Jacob Sessums; Mattie Pearl Sessums, William Edward, John Henry, Roy Lee.* Yes, his brothers and sisters made application also; their names are *William, Reuben P., Elizabeth* (who married J. F. Sessums, “a son of W. R. Sessums Sr., he and his wife ... are ... second cousins”), *Amanda Pettigrew, Penny Dry, and Martin Van Sessums.* Reuben P.’s wife is *Blanche.* Both Amanda and Penny have families. Penny has appeared before the commission; he doesn’t know whether “Manda J.” has.

²²⁰ “Doaks Stand (historical),” *Anyplace America.com* (<https://www.anyplaceamerica.com/directory/ms/madison-county-28089/locales/doaks-stand-historical--683236/>).

When asked whether he knows "A. B. Sessums," he replied: "I don't know whether I know him by his initials or not." He knows the children of "William Sessums deceased" and could name his children "probably by studying a little bit. I haven't been with them so long I have forgot the names of some of them—*Elizabeth Sessums* ... her husband's name was *A. Harrison*. And there was *Janie Sessums*, she married a *Stephens*. ... Yes sir, *J. R. Sessums* is a son of William Sessums deceased. ... Yes sir, *Buchanan Sessums* ... and there was one they called *Alex* but I don't remember his initials. He was just a lad like when I saw him last. ... *Mattie Sessums* who married *Fleming* was [also a daughter who is] party to this suit." [William Buchanan Sessums was brother of Reuben Fisher Sessums, both sons of Redding.]

"Q Do you know any of the children of *Thomas Sessums, deceased*? A No sir, I don't." [Thomas, the older brother of the claimant's father Reuben, had remained in Mississippi.]

"Q Do you know *John Sessums*? A I know a John Sessums ... he's somewhere about sixty probably; upwards of sixty. ... [His children are] *William John* ... *Eva Goodwin*, *Thomas R. Sessums*, and there [is] a single girl at home—*Lillie Sessums*, and *Maggie*. ... They made application before the Commission."

When pressed, the claimant said he knew nothing about whether his ancestors complied with provisions of the treaty, etc.

*Interrogator's note: "The applicant has light brown hair mixed with gray, grayish blue eyes, fair complexion, and doesn't speak or understand the Choctaw language."*²²¹

21 January 1902

Muscogee

(File pages 21–24)

Examination of claimant **William Thomas Sessums**. Age 42, post office: Colgate. Same man as the "William Sessums, forty-one years of age, post office Coalgate, Indian Territory, heard at Atoka, Indian Territory, on June 6, 1900." When told that he made his earlier claim under the fourteenth article of the 1830 treaty, he responded: "Don't know nothing about that fourteenth article." When asked whether he heard the examination of "your brother who just preceded you" [John Washington Sessums], he said yes.

The long explanation of the fourteenth article was read to him, after which he said "I don't know sir, whether they did or not." Yes, **he claimed through Pennie Fisher, who was his grandmother**. No, he didn't know whether she got any land as a Choctaw. Yes, he made application at Atoka in June 1900 for his children also. Those children are *Laura Estelle*, *Julia Evaline*, *Viola May*, *William Wesley*, *Hardy Clifton*, *Joy*, *Bert*, *Elmore*, and *Edna*. Yes, the last two are twins. Yes, he wants the evidence submitted in his brother's claim to be considered in his and for their cases to be considered together.

Did he make a claim to the Choctaw Tribal council? Answer "Nothing only through McPherrin ... my attorney." No, he doesn't know whether McPherrin made application with the tribe on his behalf. No, he was not "a party ... in the case of *W. R. Sessums et al. vs. Choctaw Nation*." **No, he does not know where Pennie Fisher died or whether she was living and a head of family in 1830, or where she lived in 1830.** "I was small when my father died." No he does not know whether Pennie Fisher made any compliance

²²¹ "Choc. MCR 184, John Sessums (See MCR 1323, 119, 183, 186, 473, 641, 5571, 5529, 475, 474)"; imaged in "Dawes Packets," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/5r726775>), 89 pages; citing *Applications for Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes, compiled 1898–1914*, microfilm publication M1301, 468 rolls (Washington, DC: National Archives, n.d.), roll 86.

with article 14. No, he has no other proof aside from the transcript of the proceedings in the case of W. R. Sessums et al. vs. Choctaw Nation.²²²

21 January 1902

Muscogee

(File pages 24–29)

Examination of claimant **Reuben P. Sessums**. Age 36 “this coming April.” Post office: “Wayne, now. It was McGee.” Have lived in Indian Territory since ’87, that is, permanently; nowhere else since ’87 and have been in and out ever since ’83.” He is the same Reuben P. Sessums who appeared before the Commission on 21 June 1900 at Colbert, Indian Territory, applying for identification as Mississippi Choctaws for “self and [his] minor children and [his] brother Martin Van Sessums.” Also applied for “intermarriage rights” of his wife. He made no application before this to any other Commission of the Five Civilized Tribes. “We sent once to meet you at Caddo, the year before. And by McPherrren putting us off—[saying] that he would present the papers—but still he didn’t put it before you. [He was] Charles E. McPherrren ... a Lawyer,” not connected with the Commission, just acting as “our attorney.” “That was in August ’99; I guess.”

On what did he base his claim? **“Well ... I had always been taught, that my father was a Mississippi Choctaw and that if he ever derived any land or anything of the kind why that was more than I know anything about.”**

Was his father “a member of the old Choctaw tribe of Indians living in Mississippi? A Well he ought to be according to our knowledge. He was raised right there in Mississippi.” Q “What right did that give your ancestor and give you as Mississippi Choctaws? A Well he was Mississippi Choctaw—Choctaw raised there.”

After the explanation of the fourteenth article was read to him, he was asked if that’s what he claimed under and he responded “Yes sir.” **He was claiming under Pennie Fisher.** Didn’t know whether she got lands under the treaty. As for whether she “was married and the head of a family at that time,” he responded “Why, I guess she was.”

Yes, he’s a brother of William Sessums and John Washington Session who also appeared that day. The children for whom he made application at Colbert in June 1900 were *Levinia Burnice*; *Allen Sessums*, *Lettie Evaline* (yes, she’s the same as “Leta” from the 1900 claim). Yes, he’s a cousin to the W. R. Sessums “who was ordered admitted to citizenship by order of the United States Court.” Yes, W. R. Sessums Sr. is the father of W. R. Sessums Jr. No, no other member of his family was party to that suit. Yes, Mary E. Harrison and Martha Fleming who were admitted in that suit are his cousins.

Any other evidence to present? “Well, I would like to state about W. R. Sessums there [Wilson Russell Sessums]—**the old man W. R. Sessums**—I went to get him to come up here and he said he thought it was of no use as they had his testimony. He is old and in very poor health. ... He said that as he was in such feeble health ...” [cut off at this point by another question]. Yes, Penney A. Dry and Manda Jane Pettigrew are his sisters.

²²² “Choc. MCR 184, John Sessums (See MCR 1323, 119, 183, 186, 473, 641, 5571, 5529, 475, 474)”; imaged in “Dawes Packets,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54726775> and 88 additional images); citing *Applications for Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes, compiled 1898–1914*, microfilm publication M1301, 468 rolls (Washington, DC: National Archives, n.d.), roll 86.

Note by interrogator: "This applicant has light brown hair, bluish gray eyes, fair complexion, features and appearance of a person of white parentage and doesn't speak or understand the Choctaw language."²²³

INDIAN TERRITORY
15 MAY 1902

Choctaw MCR 5571, James A. J. Williams:

Examination of claimant. Age: "Will be fifty-five in June," receives his mail at Morvin, Oklahoma, where he will have resided for "ten years in June." Before that, he lived in the Chickasaw Nation for four years and before that in Texas.²²⁴ He was "born and raised in Mississippi" and left when he was 23. His father, John Williams, "died in the Civil War." His mother is Jeannette Williams. He claims Choctaw blood through his father, saying "my grandmother was a half breed."

James stated: "I claim that **my grandmother was a daughter of Penny Fisher**; it was a name that was kept up in the Fisher family." His grandmother was Polly Sessums who married Neal Williams. When pressed, James stated that

- He does not speak the Choctaw language.
- He knows of no family member who was enrolled in the Choctaw tribe by tribal authority; but (when asked if any of his ancestors complied with the 1830 Choctaw treaty), his answer was "Any of my aunt's sisters." He did not name that aunt.
- He did not know the name of any "Choctaw ancestor who lived in Mississippi or Alabama in the old Choctaw nation in 1830 and was the head of a family there then."
- He did not know any who went to the "Choctaw Nation West of the Mississippi River with the other Indians between 1833 and 1838."
- He did not know of any ancestors who held land under the Choctaw Treaty or received scrip for land in "Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, or Arkansas as a result of treaty-claims adjudications of the 1840s."
- He has no proof of the marriage of his father and mother, does not know when they married, but they married in "Keller County" Mississippi (Atalla County).
- His wife Henrietta is a white woman. They were married in "Keller County" by a minister, under license.
- Their unmarried, minor children are *Walter* (15), *Dovie* (12), *Calvin* (10), *Mertie* (7). Their adult and married children are *Millie Boggus*, living "up in the Pott Country of Oklahoma, p.o. Morvin, who is not a claimant; *Ida Henderson*, "Tom Henderson's wife" (who has filed a claim of her own) and other "sons and daughters that are married."

²²³ "Choc. MCR 184, John Sessums (See MCR 1323, 119, 183, 186, 473, 641, 5571, 5529, 475, 474)"; imaged in "Dawes Packets," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54726775>), 89 pages; citing *Applications for Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes, compiled 1898-1914*, microfilm publication M1301, 468 rolls (Washington, DC: National Archives, n.d.), roll 86.

²²⁴ James A. J. Williams did not say where he lived in Texas. However, his daughter Ida (Williams) Henderson applied; in her affidavit of 9 May 1902 she stated that she was thirty-five and had lived for "fifteen or sixteen years" in Oklahoma, but was born in **Johnson County, Texas**. If correct, that places the family's migration just after the Civil War, at which time they migrated to the county in which their father's first-cousin Redding Sessums resided. For Ida, see MCR 5529; imaged in "Dawes Packets," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/56062798>).

- He knows the two claimants "John Sessums. One is "a nephew of **Russ Sessums**" [Wilson Russell Sessums] and the other a son of Reuben Sessums. "One of them [one of the Johns] is a second cousin to me and the other one is a third cousin. The father of the third cousin was William Sessums.

The interrogator, G. Rosenwinkel, wrote: "*This applicant has the appearance and physical characteristics of being descended from white parentage. He has dark hair, somewhat gray and gray whiskers and mustache, the applicant says his whiskers were formerly black; he has brown eyes.*"

21 June 1902

Indian Territory, Southern District

Affidavit of **W. R. Sessums** and **J. F. Sessums** attests "This man **James Williams** claiming a right is a second cousin to me W. R. Sessums. And a third cousin to J. F. Sessums. And is a son of John Williams and John Williams is the son of Polly Williams and Polly Williams was the daughter of Penny Fisher and **Penny Fisher was a Choctaw woman** who married a white man by the name of Jacob Sessums.

6 June 1902

Muskogee, Indian Territory

(Sent by registered mail)

Letter to James A. J. Williams from "Tams Bixby, Acting chairman," notifies the claimant that a decision has been made in the "consolidated case of

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------|
| • John Sessums et al. | M.C.R. | 184 |
| • Eva Goodwin et al. | M.C.R. | 132 |
| • William Sessums et al. | M.C.R. | 119 |
| • Wm. J. Sessums, et al. | M.C.R. | 183 |
| • Thomas R. Sessums et al. | M.C.R. | 186 |
| • Reuben P. Sessums et al. | M.C.R. | 473 |
| • John Washington Sessums et al. | M.C.R. | 641 |
| • Many Jane <i>Pettigrew</i> et al. | M.C.R. | 474 |
| • Penny A. <i>Dry</i> et al. | M.C.R. | 475 |
| • James A. J. Williams et al. | M.C.R. | 5571 |
| • Ida <i>Henderson</i> et al. | M.C.R. | 5529 |

Also: "under the provision of law above quoted, no person is entitled to identification as a Mississippi Choctaw by marriage, and [thus] the application made by Reuben P. Sessums for the identification of his wife Blanche Sessums, as an intermarried Mississippi Choctaw, should, therefore, be refused, and it is so ordered."

The claimants, who applied "under the provision of the act of Congress of June 28, 1898 (w) Stats. 495" **have not produced the required evidence to support their claims and are therefore denied.** The letter provides a long list of all claimants who participated in these eleven cases.²²⁵

²²⁵ "Choctaw MCR 5571, James A. J. Williams (See MCR 184)"; imaged in "Dawes Packets," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/56063519>), 16 pages; citing *Applications for Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes, compiled 1898–1914*, microfilm publication M1301, 468 rolls (Washington, DC: National Archives, n.d.), roll 147.

COMMENT:

The tradition of Indian ancestry through Penny Fisher may point to her ancestry, even though she clearly was not Choctaw and was not born in Mississippi. At the time of her birth in Duplin > Sampson County, NC, the region had numerous families with Indian roots.

OTHER RESOURCES CONSULTED

Kentucky

- Cliff, G. Glenn. *The "Cornstalk" Militia of Kentucky, 1792–1811.* 1957. Reprinted Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1982.
- Cliff, G. Glenn. *"Second Census" of Kentucky, 1800: A Privately Compiled and Published Enumeration of Tax Payers ...* 1954; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993.
- Green, Karen Mauer. *The Kentucky Gazette, 1787–1800: Genealogical and Historical Abstracts.* Galveston, TX: Frontier Press, 1983.
- Green, Karen Mauer. *The Kentucky Gazette, 1800–1820: Genealogical and Historical Abstracts.* Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1985.
- Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Index to Kentucky Wills to 1851: The Testators.* Bountiful UT: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1977.
- Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky: Soldiers of the War of 1812.* Frankfort: Capital Office of E. Polk Johnson, 1891.
- Sutherland, James F. *Early Kentucky Householders, 1787–1811.* 1986; reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield, 1997. Tax records of Lincoln Co., KY, from which 46 of Kentucky's 1811 counties was cut.

Mississippi

- Boyd, Gregory A. *Family Maps of Lawrence County, Mississippi; With Homesteads, Roads, Waterways, Towns, Cemeteries, Railroads, and More.* Deluxe ed. Norman, OK: Arphax Publishing, 2005.
- Boyd, Gregory A. *Family Maps of Neshoba County, Mississippi; With Homesteads, Roads, Waterways, Towns, Cemeteries, Railroads, and More.* Deluxe ed. Norman, OK: Arphax Publishing, 2005.
- Boyd, Gregory A. *Family Maps of Newton County, Mississippi: Discovering Frontier Neighborhoods by Mapping Federal Land Patents.* 1st edition. Moore, OK: Arphax Publishing, 2004.
- Boyd, Gregory A. *Family Maps of Rankin County, Mississippi; With Homesteads, Roads, Waterways, Towns, Cemeteries, Railroads, and More.* Deluxe edition. Norman, OK: Arphax Publishing, 2006. Pages 147–55 show:
- James D. Sessum patented E½ SE¼ & W½ SE¼ S19 T6N R3E, 10 Dec. 1840 | contiguous sections
 - John Williams patented NW¼ SW¼ S17 T6N R3E, 25 May 1841 | about 1½ miles apart
- That location lies near center of county in NW quadrant of the county. It is not near Simpson Co.
- Carter, Clarence Edwin, comp. and ed. *The Territorial Papers of the United States.* Vol. 5. *The Territory of Mississippi, 1798–1817.* Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1937.
- Fisher, Elias, 114, 161.
- Johnson, William 164, 169, 287
- Johnston, James, 85
- Sessions: Joseph, Philip, Richard

Sessums: None

- Craft, Myrtis S., George Mason and Melvin Tingle. *Book of Original Entries: Land Records of Newton County, Mississippi*. No place: No publisher, c1998.
- Craft, Myrtis S., and Melvin Tingle. *Old Account Book Entries, 1837–1841: Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi*. Carrollton, MS: Pioneer Publishing, 2001.
- Lowrie, Walter, ed. *Early Settlers of Mississippi as Taken from Land Claims in the Mississippi Territory*. Vol. 1 of *American State Papers: Public Lands* [Duff Green edition.] 1834. Reprint: Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1986. [Sessions: Joseph, Phili, and Richard]
- Green, Linda L. *Mississippi 1860 Agricultural Census*. Vol. 1. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2005. Franklin "Sessom," S.D. Sessums, and "Vinsor Sessom."
- Marion County, Mississippi. Reading these volumes is essential because Marion County was the parent county of Lawrence:
- Court Dockets, 1814–1874. FamilyHistory Library microfilm 2026070, item 3. **Not imaged online and not yet read.**
 - Orphans Court Records, 1812–1827. *FamilySearch* digital film 005818592, item 1. Read through 1820.
 - "Record of Marks and Brands Book B, 1812–1823." Imaged, *FamilySearch*. Digital Film 008632845, item 3. Note: The Imaged cover of the book states "Book - A." A note taped to it states "This is Book B of the old letteing. Book A lost of destroyed covering years 1812-1818. Brands in this book copied from the Road Books—thus the early dates! (This was copied from the old cover of this Book -May, 1966)."
- McBee, May Wilson. *Mississippi County Court Records*. 1958. Reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 1994.
- Potter, Dorothy Williams. *Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770–1823*. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1982.
- Ragland, Mary Lois S. *Spreading the Word: Mississippi Newspaper Abstracts of Genealogical Interest, 1825–1935*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1991.
- Rowland, Dunbar, Mrs. *Mississippi Territory in the War of 1812*.
- Smith, Bonnie Addy, Jackson Eliot Smith, and Robert Ervin Smith. *Newton County, Mississippi: A Cemetery Census, 1782–1995*. EBRs Publishing Co., 1997.
- Wiltshire, Betty Couch. *Marriages and Deaths from Mississippi Newspapers*, vol. 1, 1837–1863. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1983.
- . *Marriages and Deaths from Mississippi Newspapers*, vol. 2, 1801–1850. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989.
- . *Marriages and Deaths from Mississippi Newspapers*, vol. 3, 1824–1850. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989.
- . *Mississippi Index of Wills, 1800–1900*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989.
- . *Mississippi Soldiers: Revolutionary, 1812, Indian and Mexican Wars*. Carrollton, MS: Pioneer Publishing, 1998. [No index. Need to read.]

Tennessee

- Burger, Goldene Fillers. *North Carolina Land Grants in Tennessee, 1778–1791*. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981.
- Eddlemon, Sherida K. *Genealogical Abstracts from Tennessee Newspapers, 1791–1808*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1988.

- Eddlemon, Sherida K. *Genealogical Abstracts from Tennessee Newspapers, 1803–1812*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989.
- Griffey, Irene M. *Earliest Tennessee Land Records & Earliest Tennessee Land History*. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2000. [Abel Sessums, Davidson Co., 1796].
- Lucas, Silas Emmett, Jr. *Obituaries from Early Tennessee Newspapers, 1794–1951*. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1978.
- Sistler, Byron & Barbara. *Index to Early Tennessee Tax Lists*. 1977. Reprinted Nashville: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1977.
- . *Index to Tennessee Wills & Administrations, 1779–1861*. Nashville: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1990.

Texas

- Blue, Ruth Holland. *Pioneers of the Extreme Northwest Corner of Navarro County, Texas*. N.P.: Privately printed, 1996. Available as print book at FHL. Ellis County bounds Navarro on NW. I should find and study this.
- Clark, Mabel B. *Navarro County, Texas: Abstracts of Wills, 1848–1900*. Typescript filmed by Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. Family History Library microfilm 850134, item 7. Imaged, *FamilySearch*, digital film 7644654.
- A Memorial and Biographical History of Navarro, Henderson, Anderson, Limestone, Freestone, and Leon Counties, Texas*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1893. (Index covers only the individuals for whom biographies are created. No Sessums/Sessions. See Tally-Frost.)
- Tally-Frost, Stephenie H. *Reprint of Biographies from The Lone Star State Published by The Lewis Publishing Company, 1893 : Containing Biographies of Early Settlers of Navarro, Henderson, Anderson, Limestone, Freestone, and Leon Counties, Texas*. No place: no publisher, 1966. (Index includes Sessions, but not Sessums.)

SHARING POLICY

I am happy to share this file, as a PDF, with anyone who can use it. If you wish to extract a portion of it into your own notes or correspondence, please place quotation marks around any material you extract and credit it as follows:

Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Jacob Sessums (c1777—c1856) & Spouse Penelope “Penny” Fisher (c1780—c1845): Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 18 September 2022, [specific page number]; archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com> : access date)].

If I have made an error in any abstract or transcription—or if my analyses prove invalid—you would not want to be blamed for my errors. And I, as I continue to circulate this work, would be mortified if others thought I had committed plagiarism because my words appear elsewhere without attribution.
