

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.; “**Jacob 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, "Redden 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

- **Alsey 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 **Neal 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 "Sessions" 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 Neal 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, Harperville, 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 Neal 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:/61903/3:1:3Q57-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 Sessums 	Sampson, North Carolina		6	
View Record	Nicholas Sessums 	Sampson, North Carolina		3	
View Record	Isaac Sessums	Sampson, North Carolina		6	
View Record	Solomon Sessums	Sampson, North Carolina		8	
1-7 of 7				Per page	50 

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.

1790 United States Federal Census for Bailey Fisher									
North Carolina > Sampson > Not Stated									
Schedule of the whole number of persons									
113									
Names of heads of Families									
Cumberland County									
Fayetteville									
Amount brought over	368	183	372	29	596				
James Hogg (of Hillsborough)					2				
Polly Campbell			2						
Margaret Jiles			1						
Norman Wood (Hill)	1	1	2						
John McPhail	1	2	1						
Georgy McPhail			3						
Hugh McCall	1								
Daniel Thompson	1								
James Necks	1								
Charles Tatham	1								
Peter McArthur	1		2						
Elizabeth Tolathan		3	4						
Hezekiah Arthur	1								
John Smith	1								
John Little	1		2						
William Russell	1		2						
Jacob Lamon	1	1	1						
William McCants	2								
John H. Braghton	1	2	3						
John Toney				5					
James Arenly	2								
Thomas Gofey	2	1	1						
William Healy	1								
Callender Dean	2								
Arch McCall	1								
The Rev. Mr. Hen	3	2	2						
	394	195	390	34	519				
Amount of Cumberland County brought forward	1397	1362	2661	19	1669				
1394 Heads of families	1791	1557	3059	83	2180				
Total	8671								
within the Division allotted to Guilford County									
Sampson County									
William Blocker	1	5	3		1				
Solomon Sessums	1	2	5						
Samuel Faircloth	1	1	3						
Isaac Sessums	2	2	2						
Benjamin Faircloth	3	4	4						
Lewis Lucas	1	3	3						
John Harwood	2	4	3						
Hardy Faircloth	1	5	1						
Smithy Foster	2	3	2						
Ephraim Emanuel			3						
James Spiller	1	1	4	1	32				
David James	3	4	5						
Barthum Bryan	1	1	2						
John Stanley Jr	2	2	7		8				
John Stanley	2	6	6						
Stephen Stanley	2	1	4						
John Stanley Jr	3	2	6						
Isa Powell	2	3	2						
Thomas Underwood	2	2	4						
John Cook	1	2	4						
James Carroll	3	1	7		1				
John Weller	2	1	3		6				
David Clark	3	1	3		2				
Joseph Kelley	6		4						
William Williford	2	3	4						
John Bracher	2		2						
Jeremiah Dean	1	1	3						
Christopher Bracher	1	1	2						
Nathan Vick Jr	1		4						
Nathan Vick Jr	1		5						
Lion Williford	1	1	2						
James Brewer	3	4	3						
Nathan Mason	1	1	6		3				
James Hollingsworth	2	4	4						
Thomas Gregory	1	2	3						
Solomon Hines	2		2						
John Crumpler	1	3	4		10				
Bailey Fisher	1	2	2		1				
Sarah Newman	1	5	2						
Isaac Emanuel			6						
Joshua Hayle	1	2	4						
Nathaniel Pungen	1	1	6		1				
George Field	1	1	5						
John Hall	3	3	3						
Thomas Bullard	1	1	3						
Isiah Hall	1	1	1						
Isaac Hall	1	2	2						
Nathaniel Herring	1	2	4		6				
Amount carried over	79	95	63	10	76				

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 Luciford Dudley.				
125					126				
A series of heads of Families.					Names of heads of Families.				
Sampson County.					Sampson County.				
Amount brought over	718	802	1394	73 804	Amount brought over	782	927	1538	75 815
Isiah Blackmon	4	1	4	9	Leke Smith	1	2	4	1
Walter Blackmon	1	2	4		Isidore Brown	1	2	4	
Nathaniel Horner	1	4	4	4	Abner Chesnut	1	2	2	
Thomas Horner	2	2	2	8	Frances Hornsby			2	
Isidore	1				Peter Houston	2		6	
Amos Wood	1	2	2		Joseph Rich	1		4	
Isiah Blackmon	1		4	3	Joshua Rich	1	1	2	
Isiah Coltrane	1	7	4	1	Christopher Bracher	1	1	2	
Isidore Smith	1		3		William Wright	1		4	
Christy Smith	1	3	4		Robert Wright	1		2	3
Francis Wood	1	4	2		John Hair	1		4	
John West Jones	1	1	6		Jeremiah Bullard	2		1	1
John Peter	2	1	2		Elliott Edge	1	2	2	
Samuel Tinsley	1	1	4		John Adam	1	1	4	
Robert Williams	1	4	4	5	Wynn Vance	1	1	2	3
Cornelius Smith	1		1		Baker Wether	1		3	
Moses Hall	1		2		Isiah Chesnut	1	4	2	
John Butler	2	3	5		William Williamson Jr.	6	1	4	
John Daniel	1	4	1		Jeremiah Pope	1	5	3	
Isiah Smith	3	1	2		Lewis Moore	1			8
Isiah Johnston	1	3	4		Ann Moore	1	1	4	17
Isiah Carter	1	2	3		Ezekiel Moore	1	1	1	5
Nicholas Sessums	1	1	2		Isiah Myhand	1		5	1
Richard Sessums	1	2	2		Isiah Pope	1		3	
James Grace	1		2		Willis Maize	1		1	
Lewis Lucas	1	3	3		Philip Maize	1	1	3	
Old Craft				2	Samuel Pope	1		4	
William Owens	1	1	2	2	Charles Chesnut	2		5	
John Wiggins	2	2	4		John Jackson Jr.	1	2	3	
Young Ryal	1	3	4	4	Simon Greich	1	4	3	1
Isiah Campbell	1	2	2		John Jackson Jr.	1		2	
Isidore McHenry	2	4	4		Richard Jackson	1	1	1	
Isiah Moore	1	1	5		Mary Shell	2	2	3	13
Nathan Jackson	1	1	4		John Shell	1			5
Elias Daniel	1		1		William Dean	1		2	
Samuel Porter	2	3	5		Edward Bird	3	2	5	9
Hardy Dees	2	1	6		Michael King Jr.	1			1
Timothy Williams	3		4		Henry Izard	1	2	1	
Isiah Gibbs	2		4		Isaac Pritchard	2	1	3	6
Nathan Williams	1		3		Isaac Goodman Jr.	1		3	
Isiah Williams	1	1	1		Isaac Goodman Jr.	1		1	
Isiah Williams	3	5	8		Edward Lee	1			
Isiah Williams	2	6	5	2	John Bryant	1	2	3	1
Isiah House	1	1	1	1	John Register Jr.	1	2	4	
Isiah Williams	1		1		Charity Lason	3		4	1
Isiah Brown	2	4	3		Amount carried over	800	963	1657	75 921
Isiah Brown	1	1	1	2					
Amount carried over	782	927	1538	75 815					

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 County.												
127						128						
Sampson County						Sampson County						
Amount brought over 850 963 1057 75 921						Amount brought forward 901 1016 1777 85 1013						
Zebulon Hollingsworth						Minfred Young						
Lewis Holmes						Joseph Williams						
Lucy Brewington						Thomas Jacobs						
Greig Williams						Conny Island						
Hannah Williams						Fanny Davis						
James Faison						William Whitley						
Eliha Faison						Jack Mainer						
Leff Gregory						Henry Hobbs						
Elijah Fisher						John Hobbs						
Dury Macdonald						Edward Bird Jr						
Isabel Schuster						Christopher Lee						
Charles Lucy						Catharine Burnett						
Daniel Williams						Ann Brewington						
James Thompson						Luka Thomas						
Thomas Lucy						John Justice						
Rugal Stewart						Mary Darden						
Patty Porter						William Darden						
Rayford Crompter						Stephen Blackman						
William King						Simon M'Clendon						
Abigail Gilmour						Thomas Sutton						
William Bird						Jacob Dixon						
Leburn Bird						Fanny Faison						
Theod Helly						John M'Gulden Jr						
Mec M'Phail						John M'Gulden Jr						
Cooper Vick						Ashur Pippen						
John Han						John Livingston						
Shadrach Jost						Lewis M'Gulden						
Josiah Ogden						George Williamson						
Mec M'Phail						Bernard Stephens						
Elle Guller						James M'Clendon						
John Fowler						Benjamin Bell						
Joseph Fowler						Frances Hill						
Jeremiah Simmons Jr						Willis West						
Jeremiah Simmons Jr						Arch? Jackson						
James Herringdine						William Darden						
John Simmons						William Coley						
John Morgan						Joseph Hodges Jr						
Frederick Morgan						Joseph Hodges Jr						
Eliaga Burnett						Thomas Hicks						
John Ambrose Young						Niles Murphy						
Henry Merrill						Richard Murphy						
David Watkins						Blackburn Pope						
Paul Martin						Jeremiah Pope						
Niles Butler						Michael Murphy						
Amount carried over 901 1016 1777 85 1013						John Wiggs						
						Menson Howard						
						Levi Emanuel						
						Jacob Daniel						
						Niles King						
						Amount carried over 957 1075 1878 111 1081						

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 County						Schedule of the whole number of persons within the Division allotted to Guilford County					
129						130					
Sampson County						Sampson County					
Amount brought over	957	1075	1878	111	1081	Amount brought over	986	1108	1949	134	1091
Jacob Hager	1	3	5			William Hair	1	1	3		
Lucy Wright			1			Thomas Hair	1	2	5		
Mary Smith		1	2			Amey Whitley		1	2		
Rachael Jones		1	2			Samuel Perkins	1	1	2		
Rebecca Harris		1	2			William Smith	1	1	1		
John Harris	2	1	2			Frederick Morgan	1		1		
Samuel Dyer	1					Polly Bell			1	2	
Sarah Roach			1			Christian Williams		2	2		
Patty Higgins				5		Thomas Owens	1	1			1
Willy Glover				3		Benjamin Bullock	2	2	2		
Sam Higgins				6		Lewis Parker	1		1		
Jack Walden				1		Thomas Clinton	1		1	4	
Ruth Coggin			1			John Eason	1	2	3		1
Martha Jones			2			Polly Ward		1	2		
Elizabaly				4		Jane Ward			1		
Samuel Fidler	1					Isiah Price	1		2		
Luby Womble		1	2			Gray Hargrove	1		1		
Jude Bayles		1	3			John Hargrove	1				
Sam Dyer	1		1			William Whitfield	1	1	1	3	
Anna Hatcher		1	1			James Clark	1	1	1	4	
Priscilla Godwin		1	1			John Williams	1	1	2		
Anna Williams			3			Nathan Clark	1	2	3		1
Becky Cobb				3		Astors Powell	1		1		4
Miles Hammonds				1		Henry Holland	1	2	3		
Gilbert Danson	1					Stephen Smith	1	1	3		
George Taylor	1					John Griggs	1	1			
John Gilbert	1					John Harris	1	1	3		
John Segars	1	1	4			John Brooks	1	2	4		
John Wickland	1	2	2			John Neal	1	2	1	3	
Robert Sullivan	2	1	3			Jacob Powell	1	1	3		
Benjamin Williams	1					Robert Cooper	1	3	1		1
John Williams	1					William Cooper	2	3	3		
Elizabeth Stanley		1	1			Martin Fitch	1	1	2		
William Duac	1					John Jenkins	1		2		
Robert Duac						Thomas Jenkins	1		2		
Sylvia Goddard		1	3			Polly Hatcher			2		
Nancy Ganthus		1	2			Lewis Nelson	1		3		
Thomas Page Jr	1		1			George Nelson	1	3	3		
Jacob Waring	1		1	2		Job Hudson	1	1	1		
Shas Elliott	1	1	3			Isitha Mote	2	4	5		
Solomon Davis	1	2	3			Joseph Hudson	1	2	1		
Richard Price	1	2	3			Lewis Hudson	1	2	5		
Richard Lefrom	1	1	1			Charite Elkins			2		
Nicholas Lefrom	1	1	3			Madham Van	1				
Henry Davis	1	1	2			Madham Tyler	1	2	3		
Leke Davis	1		2			Joseph Borbaga	1	1	2		
John Davis	1	1	2			Elisha Torridge	1		1		
Mary Owens	1	1	2			Amount carried over	1029	1155	2055	134	1115
Wm. Edge	1		2								
Jacob Allen	1		2								
Amount carried over	986	1108	1949	134	1091						

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 pattent 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.
- Eleven months after Jacob bought land from William Owens, Penny's father Southey Fisher also bought 150 acres of William Owens's land.⁷⁰
- 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.⁷¹ The Cow Branch tract was the land that Jacob, with Penny's participation, sold in 1802 to Neal Culbreath.⁷²

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 his X mark.⁷³

COMMENT:

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

⁷⁰ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 9: 330–31; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540367 > image 184.

⁷¹ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 491–92; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540368 > image 312.

⁷² Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 12: 227–28; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 478–79.

⁷³ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 10: 81; imaged, *FamilySearch* > digital film 007540367 > image 319.

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."⁷⁴

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."⁷⁵

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.

⁷⁴ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1794–1800, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > image 10.

⁷⁵ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1794–1800, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > image 40.

The adjacent landowner James Grice was married to **Axy Sessums**, the proved sister of Solomon Sessums and apparent sister of Isaac.⁷⁶ 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 1797.⁷⁷

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 1797.⁷⁸

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.

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**:

⁷⁶ 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).

⁷⁷ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 8 (1783–1792): 449–50; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 007540366 > images 526–27.

⁷⁸ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 10: 428–29; imaged, *FamilySearch* > digital film 007540367 > image 515.

Jacob Sessums
Penelope "Penny" Fisher

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 1799.⁷⁹

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 ..." ⁸⁰








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.⁸¹

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 Record	Isaac Sessoms	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		6	
View Record	Solomon Sessoms	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		12	
View Record	Mary Sessoms	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		6	
View Record	Richard Sessions 	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina	20	31	
1-5 of 5		Per page 50 			

⁷⁹ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 193–94; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007540368 > images 140–41.

⁸⁰ Sampson Co., NC, Grant Book B: 85; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007519327 > image 315.

⁸¹ 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 Census
View Record	Bailey Fisher	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina	2	5	View Census
View Record	Spencer Fisher	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		5	View Census
View Record	Southy Fisher	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina	12	16	View Census
View Record	Thomas Fisher	Fayetteville, Sampson, North Carolina		5	View Census

1-5 of 5

Per page 50

1800 United States Federal Census for Jacob Sessoms

(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. 1797.⁸²

⁸² 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–

1800 United States Federal Census for Southy Fisher											
North Carolina > Sampson > Fayetteville											
Caleb Faircloth	3	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	519
Ruben 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	-
Imadia 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	-	-	-
Amos Colbreath	1	2	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	3
Daniel Colbreath	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
John Colbreath	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ephraim Johnston	2	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-
Laban Tatom	1	-	1	1	-	4	2	-	1	-	4
William Wright	3	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	1	-	4
Robert Wright	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Elisha Norris	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Monckton 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

Land purchase

Isaac Sessoms from Caleb Faircloth, both of Sampson, for 50£ in hand paid, purchases "Two Different tracts or parcells of Land Containing" 100 acres each, situate in the County of Sampson on the east side

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.

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 1801.⁸³

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 1802.⁸⁴

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

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 1801.⁸⁵

COMMENT:

⁸³ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 367–68; imaged *FamilySearch* > digital film 007540368 > images 241–42.

⁸⁴ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 492–92.

⁸⁵ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 11: 309–10.

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."⁸⁶

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 Lucas, Thos. Sanders, Lewis Lucas, 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."⁸⁷

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."

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."

⁸⁶ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 138–39.

⁸⁷ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 141, 143, 148.

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."⁸⁸

**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."⁸⁹

**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."⁹⁰

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."⁹¹

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 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

⁸⁸ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 150–54.

⁸⁹ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 159, 162.

⁹⁰ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 165, 168.

⁹¹ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 176.

"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."⁹²

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 1803.⁹³

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 Southey 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.⁹⁴

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

⁹² 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.

⁹³ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 12: 227–28; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 478–79.

⁹⁴ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 13: 274–75; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 146.

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 1805.⁹⁵

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."⁹⁶

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.

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 1807.⁹⁷

⁹⁵ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 13: 80–81; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 57.

⁹⁶ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 250, 252.

⁹⁷ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 359–60; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 474–75.

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 1807.⁹⁸

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.

In 1812, five years after Jacob had moved off to Kentucky, Isaac conveyed his land again—that time to Blake Sessums, son of Solomon.⁹⁹ 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."

⁹⁸ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 353–54; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 471–72.

⁹⁹ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 16: 293–95; imaged *FamilySearch* > digital film 007537437 > images 385–86.

COMMENT:

I did not see a reference to the McLemore-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 Neal 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.¹⁰⁰

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 1807.¹⁰¹

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

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.

¹⁰⁰ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 481; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 369.

¹⁰¹ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 381–82; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > images 488–89.

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 Regr."¹⁰²

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 1808.¹⁰³

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?] Deed,**" 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.

Full guarantee, etc. Signed: **Jacob Sessums** his X mark. Witnesses: M. Crumpler, **Thomas Wallis**. Proved in open court by Matthew Crumpler, November Term 1807.¹⁰⁴

COMMENT:

- No reference to Penelope.
- Numerous online trees identify Neal 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)

¹⁰² Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 481; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 369.

¹⁰³ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 404; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 501.

¹⁰⁴ Sampson Co., NC, Deed Book 14: 383; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007540369 > image 489.

“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.”¹⁰⁵

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.¹⁰⁶

COMMENT:

Jacob did not appear in response to this order and no summons was issued to him for failure to appear. Clearly, he had left the county shortly after the flurry of property actions in October 1807.

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 ¹⁰⁷

COMMENT:

Spencer Fisher was the son of Bailey Fisher of Sampson, the apparent brother of Southy.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1800–1808, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > images 327, 329.

¹⁰⁶ Sampson Co., NC, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1808–1812, no visible pagination; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008139513 > image 351.

¹⁰⁷ Christian Co., KY, 1809 tax roll; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007834413 > image 620 especially.

¹⁰⁸ 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.

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 ¹⁰⁹

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

(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

¹⁰⁹ Christian Co., KY, 1810 tax roll; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007834413 > images 734–35 especially.

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.

1811

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY

Tax roll

Fisher:	No entry		
Sessum, Josiah	1 white male, 6 horses	3 June ¹¹⁰	[not yet identified]

1812

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY

Tax roll

Fisher/Sessum: No entry¹¹¹

1818

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Fisher:	NO
Sesums, Jacob	160a, 4 th class, 3d quality, “S[ilver] creek,” held under U.S. title

¹¹⁰ Christian Co., KY, 1811 tax roll; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007834413 > image 870.

¹¹¹ Christian Co., KY, 1812 tax roll; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007834413 > image 870.

1 white poll, 0 slave, \$1.32 tax¹¹²

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, 4 th class, 2d quality, "S[ilver] creek," held under U.S. title 1 white poll, 0 slave, \$1.32 tax ¹¹³

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 tax ¹¹⁴

COMMENT:

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

7 AUGUST 1820

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MS

Census

¹¹² "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.

¹¹³ "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)

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 > images 68 (Fisher), 83 (Sessims).

*Consecutive entries*¹¹⁵

Maly? White [Malachi?]		
Nathan Robertson		
Samuel Crowford		
D. H. Pea		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.
Henry Cotten		
Samuel Hunter		
Hosea H. Runnels		
Aaron Harges		
John Freemon		
Breuster H. Jayne?		
	}	

[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.
- 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.

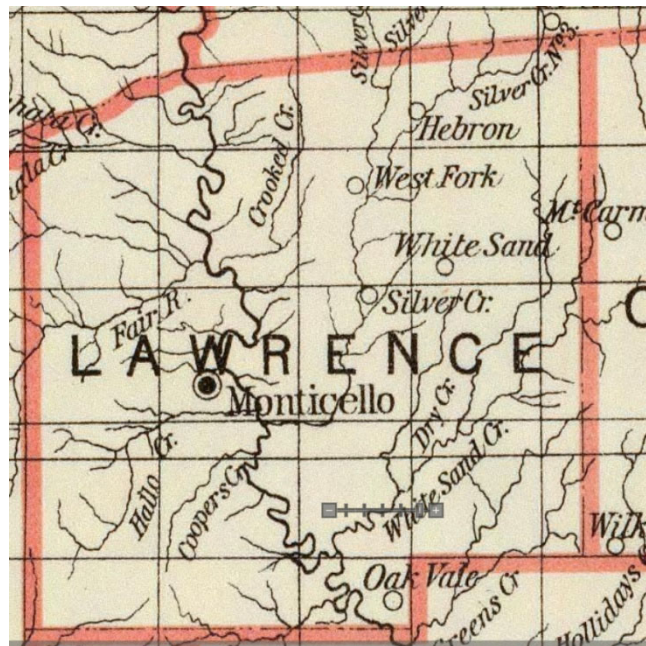
¹¹⁵ 1820 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., MS, p. 64, lines 33–34 (Fisher, Sessims).

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

Unknown > Lawrence > ALL

	38	32	22	21		123
Shadrach D. Rinnick	1	8	1			5
Joseph S. Sessums	1		1	1		3
John Jones	1	1				2
John Jones	1		1			2
Benjamin D. Sessums	1					1
Greenbury Sessums	1	4	1	3		9
William Gibson	1		1			2
John S. Sessums	1	1				2
William Sessums	1					1
John S. Sessums	1	2	1	1		5
John S. Sessums	2	5	1	3		9
John Sessums	1	1	1	1		4
David Sessums	1	2	1	1		5
John S. Sessums	1					1
John S. Sessums	1					1
John S. Sessums	1	0	1	2		5
Elizabeth Sessums	1	1	1	1		4
William Sessums	1	0	1	2		5
William Sessums	1		1			2
Isaac Walker	1	1	1	3		6
Isaac Walker	1	2	1	3		7
Thomas Sessums	1	1	1			3
Henry Sessums	1	3	1	3		8
Isaac Sessums	1	2	1	1		5
William Sessums	1	3	1			5
Allen Sessums	1					1
Archibald Sessums	1					1
David Sessums	1	2	1	0		4
John Sessums	1	2	1	1		5
Benjamin Sessums	1	3	1	3		8
William Sessums	1	2	1	3		7
William Sessums	1	2	1	2		6

Map of Lawrence County, Showing Waterways¹¹⁶



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 -21¹¹⁷

COMMENT:

Jacob's neighborhood in consecutive order:

Hardin D. Runnels
Joseph Caldwell
Gabriel Jones
Arthur Lewis
Benjamin Darlia
Greenberry Cook
William Gibson
John N. Field
William Mallett Junr.
Alexander McCullough Junr.
Jacob Sessums
[see next column]

Owen Carpenter
Isaiah Howard
Baptist McDowell
James Coyle
Peter Mang
Joshua Mullin
Elizabeth Prestridge
William Smith
William D. Hathorn
Isaac Walker
Jesse Winburn
Thomas P. Homea

¹¹⁶ 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).

¹¹⁷ "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.

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 1822¹¹⁸

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" ...¹¹⁹

COMMENT:

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.

¹¹⁸ "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.

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 > images 129 (Joshua), 130 (Jacob).

- A published work for adjacent Copiah County asserts that Redding was the first coroner in Copiah in 1823.¹²⁰ In my search for him, I have read the following tax rolls:

1822–25	Hinds	No Courtneys, Fishers, Sessoms, or Williams ¹²¹
1827	Hinds	Jas B. Satterfield ¹²² [taxed adj. to Jacob in 1821 Lawrence & 1825 Simpson]
1828, 30	Hinds	Elijah Fisher, 1 poll; 0 land in 1828, 80a in 1830 ¹²³
1823	Copiah	No Courtneys, Fishers, Sessoms ¹²⁴
1824	Copiah	None of the associated taxpayers of '23 are on the '24 list
1825	Copiah	Edward Breeland ¹²⁵
1826	Copiah	Isaac Hollingsworth, later a neighbor in Newton Co. ¹²⁶
1827–28	Copiah	No relevant entries ¹²⁷
1830	Copiah	No relevant taxpayers; ¹²⁸ Redding Sessums is on 1830 census
1828–32	Rankin	No relevant taxpayers; ¹²⁹ Thomas Cooksey m. here in 1829

¹²⁰ 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>).

¹²¹ “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.

¹²² “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).

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 > images 96–97 (Fisher); images 155–45 (Fisher). A propertyless William was also there in 1828; ditto William, John & J.P. in 1830.

¹²⁴ 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.**

¹²⁵ “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

¹²⁶ “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) .

¹²⁷ “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.

¹²⁸ “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.

¹²⁹ “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.

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 [sic] 0 land, "Situation: Bear Creek," 0 white poll, 2 slaves, \$1.50 tax

Stegler, William 42 acres, "Situation: S C" ...

"Received 29 June 1824"¹³⁰

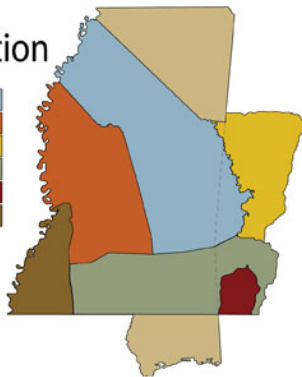
Map of Choctaw Cessions in Mississippi¹³¹



Choctaw Land Cessions in Mississippi and Alabama

Choctaw Nation

Dancing Rabbit Creek
Doak's Stand
Fort St. Stephens
Mount Dexter
Hoe Buckintooopa
Fort Adams



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

¹³⁰ "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).

¹³¹ Rob Ferguson, map, "Choctaw Land Cessions in Mississippi," map, *Encyclopedia of Alabama* (encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-8005).

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)

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 1824¹³²

COMMENT:

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

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:¹³³ (See the patent and transcription, both on next page.)

¹³² "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).


¹³³ *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, database with images (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>).

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PRIVATE CLAIMS

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Patents

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):

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Patents

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

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

10 MAY 1826 SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

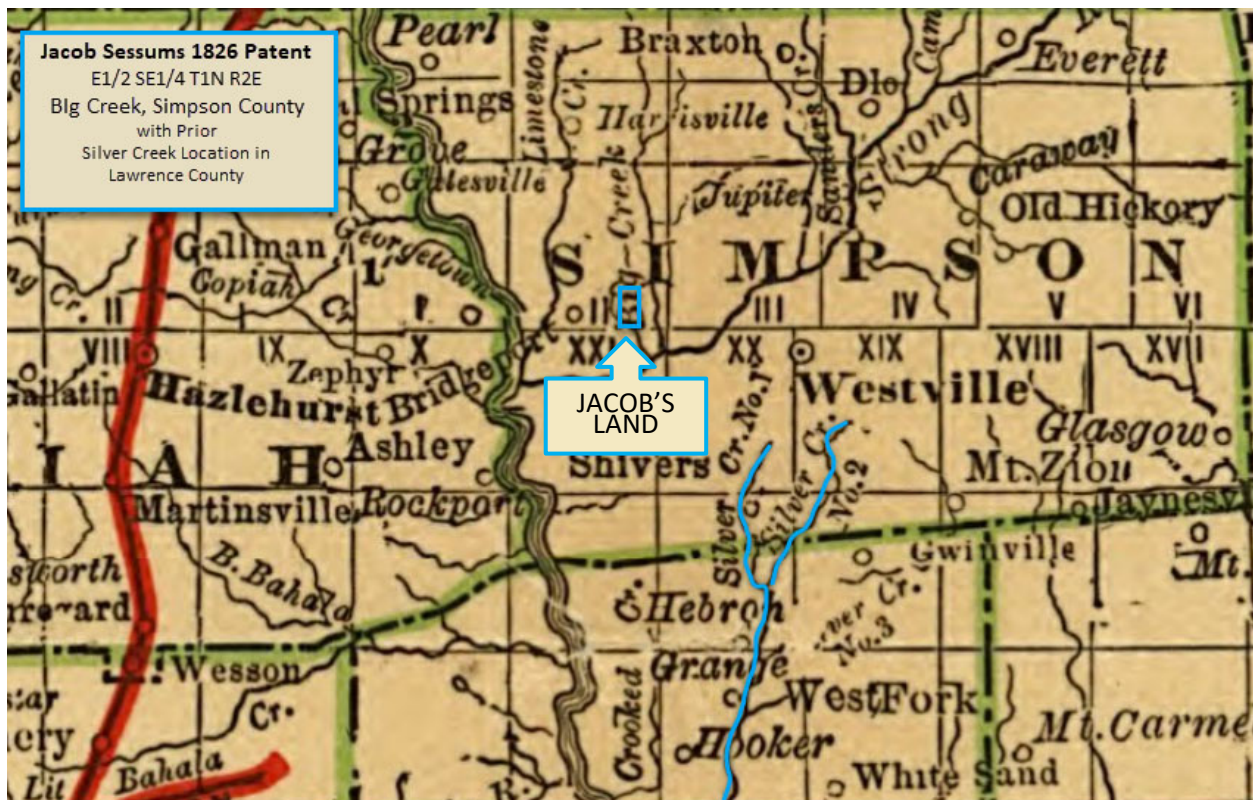
Land patent

"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.**



1827

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname.

Fisher, George:	1 white poll, \$.50 tax
Sessoms, Jacob	NO ¹³⁵

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

¹³⁵ "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).

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 1827¹³⁶

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).¹³⁷ 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

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 1828¹³⁸

1828

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Petition

¹³⁶ “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).

¹³⁷ “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).

¹³⁸ “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).

Redding supposedly signed a Simpson County petition. *Ancestry's* database provides no further details.¹³⁹ 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 submission¹⁴⁰

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
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 submission¹⁴¹

COMMENT:

William Odum 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

¹³⁹ "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.).

¹⁴⁰ "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).

¹⁴¹ "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)

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, Neal	NO

Certified 8 August 1830¹⁴²

1830

COPIAH COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

No date for certification, entering, or otherwise.¹⁴³

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*)¹⁴⁴

Jeremiah Fortenberry

William Haynes

Henry Guoyne

Neill Smiley

Redding Sessums	1 wh male 30–39 [Redding]	1 wh female 20–29 [Mary Ann]
	1 white male 0–4 [William B]	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.

¹⁴² "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).

¹⁴³ "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.

¹⁴⁴ 1830 U.S. census, Copiah Co., MS, p. 119 (penned), beginning line 7; line 11 for Redding.

These five are named in the "mug sketch" of Permeasa's husband, Allen Brooks Neal.¹⁴⁵ 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*)¹⁴⁶

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

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. Neal) Williams, below.

Jesse Courtney	1 white male	20–29	1 white female	15–19	[Charity]	2 total
Neal Williams	1 white male	30–39	[Neal]			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 Neal 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.

¹⁴⁵ *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.

¹⁴⁶ 1830 U.S. census, Simpson Co., MS, p. 186, beginning with line 13; line 22 for Jacob.

The eldest daughter in the household above, born within a year of the January 1820 parental marriage (given the ages and childspacing of Neal 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.¹⁴⁷

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 submission¹⁴⁸

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

(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 NO¹⁴⁹

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.

¹⁴⁷ "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).

¹⁴⁸ "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.

¹⁴⁹ "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).

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.¹⁵⁰

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*¹⁵¹

1833

COPIAH COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

(Semi-alphabetized by fist letter of surname)

Smith, David & Charles J.

Spencer, Evan

Shadock, Asa

Straam? Asa

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

Spinks, John

¹⁵⁰ "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).

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 65 (Cortney), 73 (Williams).

Sandifer, William, John & Joseph
Simpson, James
Scott, Joseph & Zachariah
Certified ____ August 1833.¹⁵²

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, Neal	NO
Williams, Simeon	1 white poll \$.37½ tax ¹⁵³

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
- 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 Neal Williams.** My atDNA matches include descendants of Neal and Mary.

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 180.

¹⁵³ "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 (Cortney), 89 (Williams).

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, Neal	NO
Williams, Simeon	NO ¹⁵⁴

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

"Examined & Corrected," 28 July 1834¹⁵⁵

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.

¹⁵⁴ "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).

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 102 (Cortney), 111 (Williams).

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.¹⁵⁶

1834—36

NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Land patents¹⁵⁷

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."] ¹⁵⁸				
Cooksey, John	SE¼ NE¼ S5 T8N R11E	46.75@1.25=\$58.44	25 Jun 1835	#15881	Pat. 27 Feb 1841
	W¼ 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.] ¹⁵⁹				
Odom, William	E½ NE¼ S19 T8 R12E	79.93@1.25=\$99.91	1 Aug 1835	#16830	Pat. 27 Feb 1841

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 Sipsey 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.

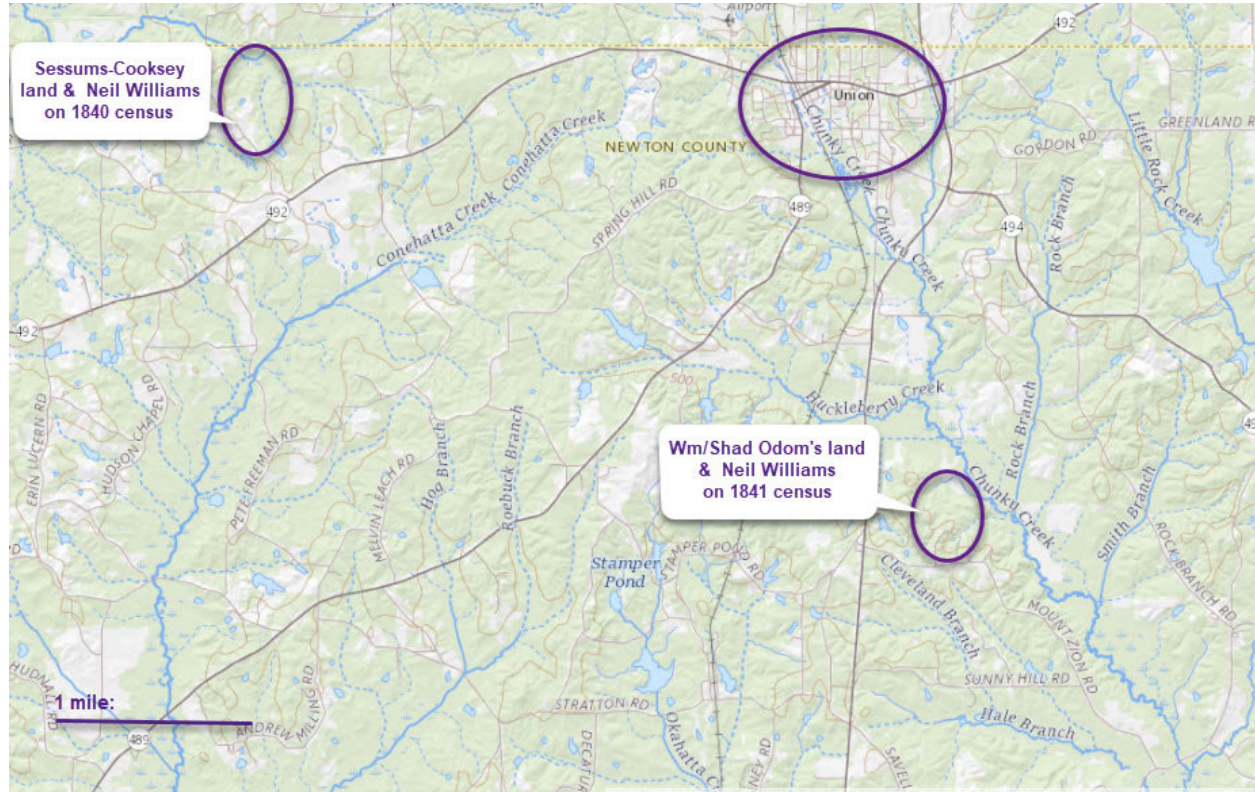
¹⁵⁶ Lawrence Co., Deed Record B, 1826–1830: 388–89; FHL microfilm 8134328 > images 457–58.

¹⁵⁷ 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).

¹⁵⁸ "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.

¹⁵⁹ "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.

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



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 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 ¹⁶⁰	[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 1834¹⁶¹

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

Tax roll

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

Certified 7 September 1835¹⁶²

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.

¹⁶⁰ "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.

¹⁶¹ "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).

¹⁶² "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).

1835

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname.

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

"Examined & Corrected," 17 August 1835¹⁶³

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 1836¹⁶⁴

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
- 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.*¹⁶⁵

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

¹⁶³ "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).

¹⁶⁴ "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).

¹⁶⁵ Lawrence Co., Deed Record C, 18306–1840: 25–27; FHL microfilm 8134328 > image 552.

Sessums Redding: NO¹⁶⁶

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.¹⁶⁷ **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."¹⁶⁸

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 ¹⁶⁹

COMMENT:

Morgan D. Brown received a patent, 27 Feb 1841, to W½ NW¼ S6 in the same township & range 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."¹⁷⁰

COMMENT:

¹⁶⁶ "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).

¹⁶⁷ *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.

¹⁶⁸ 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.

¹⁶⁹ "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 (Sessions).

¹⁷⁰ *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, database with images (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>).

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 1858.¹⁷¹

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?¹⁷²

COMMENT:

No Sessums or Williams were enumerated.

1838

KEMPER COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

[*Consecutive "B" entries*]

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

Sessums Redding: NO¹⁷³

COMMENT:

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

¹⁷¹ Betty Couch Wiltshire, *Mississippi Index of Wills, 1800–1900* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989), 65; citing Book 1, page 4.

¹⁷² "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).

¹⁷³ "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).

1838

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

"Examined & Corrected," 5 January 1839¹⁷⁴

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]
Sessems, Thos.	1 white poll, \$.37½ tax	
Williams:	NO ¹⁷⁵	

1839

NEWTON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname

Breeland, 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:	NO ¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁴ "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.

¹⁷⁵ "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, Sessems).

¹⁷⁶ "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 (Raburn, Sessems).

1839

SIMPSON COUNTY, MS

Tax roll

"Examined & Corrected," 5 January 1839¹⁷⁷

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

Breeland, 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]

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 tax¹⁷⁸

Williams, Neal: 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 0–4 ¹⁷⁹		

¹⁷⁷ "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.

¹⁷⁸ "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).

¹⁷⁹ 1840 U.S. census, Simpson Co., MS, p. 219 verso (stamped), line 24; indexed by Ancestry as "Saml Caitay."

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]						
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 ¹⁸⁰	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]

¹⁸⁰ *Ancestry's* database mis-transcribes his surname as "Syson."

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 able 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
			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 1840.¹⁸¹
- Shadrack's first child by his second wife, a daughter Rhoda, was born in June 1841 (according to the 1900 census).¹⁸² 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 Neal 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 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]

¹⁸¹ 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.

¹⁸² 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

Jacob Sessums
Penelope "Penny" Fisher

Franklin Boyd	[son of John, above]		
Benjamin McCulloch	[brother-in-law of John Boyd, above]		
John A. Thompson			
Haden Watts	[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.]		
Michael Miller	[father-in-law of James William Cooksey, who was brother-in-law of Thomas Sessums]		
Benjamin Rollins			
J. D. Phelps			
Jas. Walton			
E. S. Phelps			
Thomas Jones			
Enoch Philps			
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:

- Neal Williams, Jacob's son-in-law, is on Newton's 1840 census, but not the tax roll.
- **The Neil Williams household, above, has lost one daughter since 1830.**

- John Williams, Neal 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

No imaged roll for 1840. I have not read Simpson Co. 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_.348.¹⁸³

COMMENT:

The issuance of this patent in 1840 does not mean that Jesse was alive or present in Simpson. It was common for men who "entered" federal land 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

State census¹⁸⁴

(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

Name	Males	Females
John Smith	8	2
Levi A. Daniel	2	2
Windham S ^l B	2	3
Vance, Jas	3	1
Cooksey Samuel	3	4
Odum Shadrack	3	1
Gill David	3	3
Coosey John	1	2
Johnston Wm	1	
Wallon Jas	4	4
Sessoms Tho ^s	5	1
Red Elisha	3	1
Willis Wm	1	1
Willis Daniel	4	5
Jackson John F	1	1
Campbell Samul	3	2?

¹⁸³ U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, database with images (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx> : accessed 5 May 2020).

¹⁸⁴ "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.

(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, Niel	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

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 ¹⁸⁵

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

Name	Males	Females
Boyd James Sr.	1	2
Coats John W.	1	2
Hollinsworth Isaac Jr.	5	5
Williams Niel	5	4
Odum William	4	4
Johnston Joseph	5	1
Johnston Mary	2	3
Davidson Wm.	2	2
Parks John	6	3
Stuart H. H.	1	1
Stuart James	1	
Ellis Jas.	6	6
Heard Samuel	1	
Waterman Ralph	1	
McDaniel Siras	1	
Walker Silas	2	4
Total	44	37

¹⁸⁵ "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).

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 ¹⁸⁶	

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]
[skip 13]		
Cooksy, John	1 wh poll, \$.50 tax	[wife Susan E Odom, dtr of Wm]
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, Neal	NO ¹⁸⁷	

COMMENT:

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

- Neal 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.¹⁸⁸
- "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*.¹⁸⁹ (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.

¹⁸⁶ "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).

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 3711n > images 4 (Cooksey), 6 (Gill), 12 (Odom), 14 (Sessems), 12 (Watts, Williams).

¹⁸⁸ 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.

¹⁸⁹ 1850 U.S. census, Houston Co., TX, pop. sch., 28 Nov. 1850, p. 183 (stamped) *verso*., dwell./fam. 597/597.

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
Sessoms, Thos.:	NO ¹⁹⁰

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.:	NO ¹⁹¹

COMMENT:

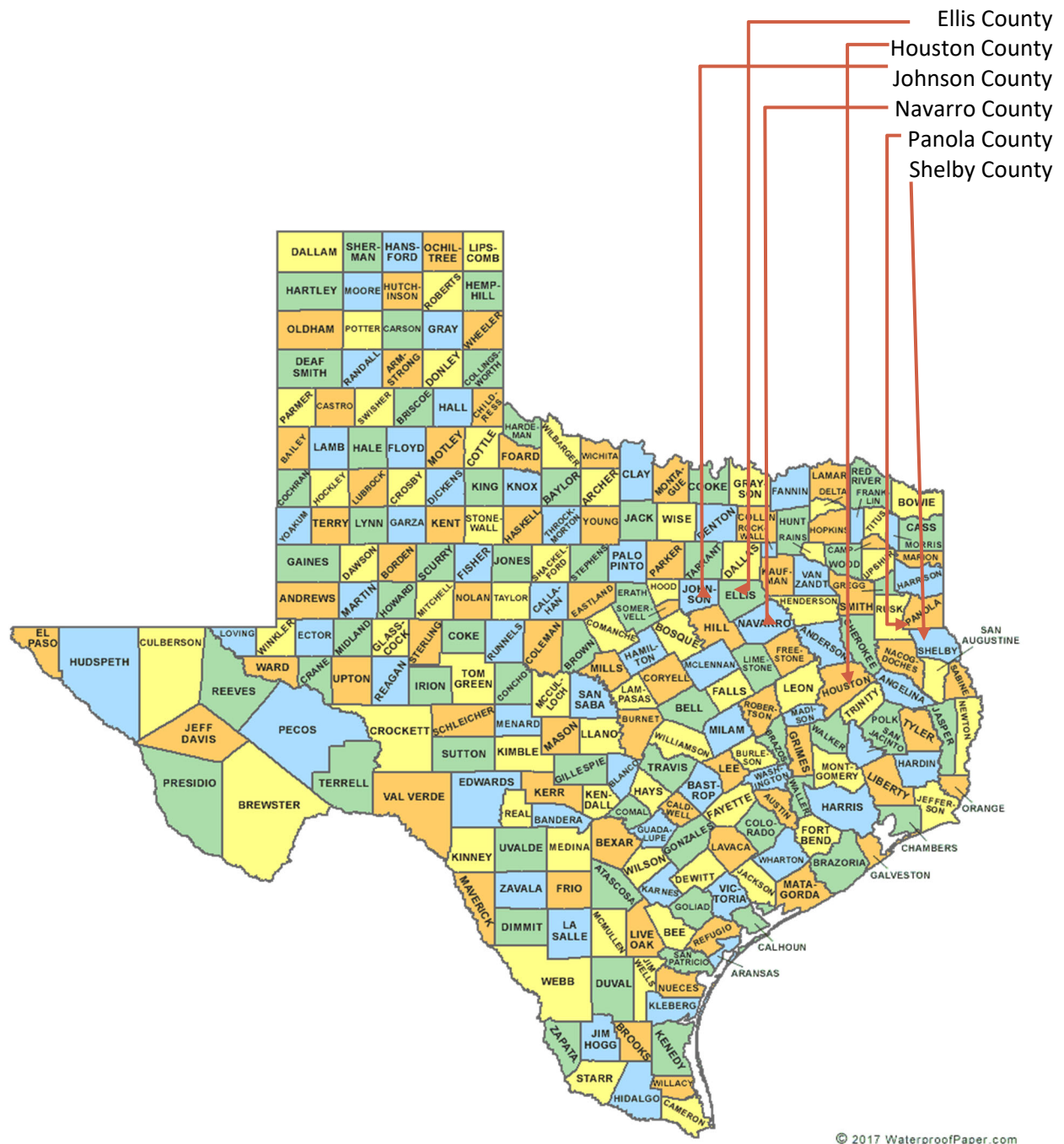
I am not continuing Newton's rolls past this point. In 1846, Jacob Jr., Reuben and Solomon Sessums are all taxed in Panola County, TX. Thomas would return to Newton before the 1847 tax roll and the 1850 census enumerates him four houses from brother-in-law Shadrock "Odham."¹⁹²

¹⁹⁰ "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).

¹⁹¹ "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),

¹⁹² 1850 U.S. census., Newton Co., MS, pop. sch., 13 Septe. 1850, p. 184 (stamped) *verso*, dwell./fam. 431: Thomas

Meanwhile in Texas ...



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.

1839–42

SHELBY COUNTY, TX

Tax rolls

No Sessums or Courtneys appear on the surviving fragments of the 1839-42 rolls.¹⁹³

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.

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 Commissioners 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."¹⁹⁴

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 \$30¹⁹⁵

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.

¹⁹³ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Shelby county.

¹⁹⁴ 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.

¹⁹⁵ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1846.

- The 1841 Panola County tax roll—the only one that exists before 1846—does not include any known family members.¹⁹⁶

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 1847¹⁹⁷

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.

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."¹⁹⁸

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

¹⁹⁶ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1841 > images 12–13.

¹⁹⁷ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1847 > images 12 (Nale), 15 (Sessum).

¹⁹⁸ "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.

Certified 11 July 1848¹⁹⁹

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.

1849

PANOLA COUNTY, TX

Tax roll

(Consecutive entries)

Sessum, Solomon	no land, 2 horses \$150, 12 cattle \$44, misc \$65, total 4259, 1 poll
Sessom, R. F.	320a \$320, 2 horses \$150, 12 cattle \$44, miscellaneous \$20, total \$190, 1 poll
Sessum, Jacob	NO ²⁰⁰

1850

PANOLA COUNTY, TX

Tax roll

Sessums: None²⁰¹

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.

¹⁹⁹ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1848 > image 13 (Nale), 15 (Sessum).

²⁰⁰ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1848 > image 15 (Nail), 17 (Sessum).

²⁰¹ "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1848 > image 16 (Naile).

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 and early 1856 without finding any relevant record or mention of jury service, the proving of deeds, or probate filings, etc.²⁰²

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 3 rd 203

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

²⁰² Navarro Co., Texas, "Minutes Dist. Court A," 1855–56; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7196238, item 4.

²⁰³ "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."

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.²⁰⁴

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

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. Acknow-ledged 22 September 1860 before Benjamin F. Hawkins, Clerk of Court. Recorded 2 October 1860.²⁰⁵

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 1861.²⁰⁶

24 NOVEMBER 1862

ELLIS COUNTY, TX

²⁰⁴ 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.

²⁰⁵ Ellis Co., TX, Deed Book E: 278–79; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008502315, images 363–64.

²⁰⁶ Ellis Co., TX, Deed Book E: 484–75 (penciled number); imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008502315, image 468.

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.²⁰⁷

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.²⁰⁸

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 Copiah 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**.²⁰⁹ He was accompanied by his wife and their children—Ailsey Ann, William, Mrs Neal, Wilson Russell and Elizabeth.

²⁰⁷ Ellis Co., TX, Deed Book F: 92–93; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008502315, image 596.

²⁰⁸ Ellis Co., TX, Deed Book F: 93–94; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008502315, images 596–97.

²⁰⁹ See "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>).

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.

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].²¹⁰

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

²¹⁰ *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.

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."²¹¹

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
 - **Wilson Russell Sessums** (Claim No. 452)²¹² 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.²¹³ A more-detailed synopsis of the case *W. R. Sessums vs. Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations*, was published amid Senate Documents in 1913.²¹⁴

The initial success of Wilson Russell Sessums in 1898 prompted his cousins to apply.²¹⁵

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.)

²¹¹ "Native American Heritage: Dawes rolls," *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/dawes/tutorial/intro.html>).

²¹² *Senate Documents, 62d Congress : 3d Session, December 2, 1912–March 4, 1913*, vol. 15 (Washington: Government Printing Office: 1913).

²¹³ 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).

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

²¹⁵ 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>).

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)
 - **Dicey (Williams) Wren** (Dawes Packet MCR 5808; also see 5812, 5813 5814, 5815, 6153)²¹⁶
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.

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.

²¹⁶ "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.

"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, 1830.²¹⁷

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 1880.²¹⁸ 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.**

²¹⁷ "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.

²¹⁸ "Doaks Stand (historical)," *Anyplace America.com* (<https://www.anyplaceamerica.com/directory/ms/madison-county-28089/locales/doaks-stand-historical--683236/>).

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.

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."*²¹⁹

21 January 1902

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/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.

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 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.²²⁰

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 McPherrin putting us off—[saying] that he would present the papers—but still he didn't put it before you. [He was] Charles E. McPherrin ... 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 been according to our knowledge. He was raised right there in Mississippi." Q "What right did that give

²²⁰ "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.

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.

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.”*²²¹

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.²²² 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.

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/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.

²²² 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 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."
- 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 *Pettigrew* et al. M.C.R. 474
- Penny A. *Dry* et al. M.C.R. 475
- James A. J. Williams et al. M.C.R. 5571
- Ida *Henderson* 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.²²³

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.

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Mississippi

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²²³ “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.

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 - John Williams patented NW¼ SW¼ S17 T6N R3E, 25 May 1841 | about 1½ miles apart
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- Court Dockets, 1814–1874. FamilyHistory Library microfilm 2026070, item 3. **Not imaged online and not yet read.**
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