



# ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS

Certified Genealogist<sup>SM</sup> Certified Genealogical Lecturer<sup>SM</sup>  
Fellow & Past President, American Society of Genealogists  
Past President, Board for Certification of Genealogists

141 Settlers Way, Hendersonville, TN 37075 • [eshown@comcast.net](mailto:eshown@comcast.net)

DATE: 23 September 2022

SUBJECT: Parentage of **Solomon D. Sessums** (c1819–aft.1870), Son of Jacob Sessums (c1777–c1856) & Penny Fisher (c1780–c1845): A Proof Summary

No known document provides direct evidence (an explicit statement of fact) regarding Solomon Sessums's parentage. That connection is proved beyond reasonable doubt by a body of indirect evidence placing Solomon in the middle of one Sessums family cluster in both Mississippi and Texas—specifically, the family of Jacob Sessums and wife Penny Fisher. The most-relevant points are these:

- 1840 U.S. census, Newton County, MS: Jacob “Sessions” household consisted of<sup>1</sup>
  - 1 white male 60–69 [Jacob]
  - 1 white female 50–59 [Penny]
  - 1 white male 20–29 [**Solomon’s** age]
  - 1 white male 15–19 [Jacob Jr.’s age]
  - 1 white male 10–14 [the age of Reuben Fisher Sessums, for whom direct evidence identifies him as son of Jacob Sessums and Penny Fisher]<sup>2</sup>
- 1840 tax roll, Newton Co., MS., assessed the unmarried Solomon “Sessoms” a poll, **consecutive with Thomas “Sessoms”** [his older, landowning brother.]<sup>3</sup> Direct evidence exists to identify Thomas as the son of Jacob Sessums and Penny Fisher.<sup>4</sup>
- 1847 Panola Co., TX, tax roll, Solomon Sessoms is taxed one poll **consecutive with Jacob Sessums.**<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Newton Co., MS, p. 137, line 35, Jacob “Sessions” household. For abstracts, transcriptions and/or images of all documents found to-date for Jacob and Penny Sessums in North Carolina, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Texas, see E. S. Mills, “Jacob Sessums (c1777–aft.1850) & Spouse Penelope “Penny” Fisher (c1780–aft.1840): Research Notes,” 86 pp., a work in progress last updated 17 January 2022; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/JacobSessumsPennyFisherResearchNotes.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> Affidavit of John Washington Sessums, 21 January 1902, in Choc. MCR 184; imaged, “Dawes Packets,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54726856> and [54726953](https://www.fold3.com/image/54726953) : accessed 17 July 2020). John W. identifies his father as Reuben Fisher Sessums and grandparents as Penny Fisher and Jacob Sessums. Also see Sessums family chart, children of Reuben Fisher Sessums, *ibid.* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54727057>).

<sup>3</sup> 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 > image 11.

<sup>4</sup> Testimony of John Sessums, 21 January 1902, in Choc. MCR 184; imaged, “Dawes Packets,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54726801> and [54726833](https://www.fold3.com/image/54726833) : accessed 17 July 2020). John’s father is identified as Thomas Sessums, his grandparents as Penny Fisher and Jacob Sessums. Also see Sessums family chart, children of Thomas Sessums, *ibid.* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54727044>).

<sup>5</sup> “Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1847 > image 15. This roll does not state whether the Jacob being taxed was Sr. or Jr. However, Jacob Sr. had passed the maximum age for poll tax (55). See *Early Laws of Texas: General Laws from 1836 to 1879*, 2d ed., 3 vols. (St. Louis, Mo., Gilbert Book Co., 1888), 2: 150, ch. 21, art. 1877 §2.

- 1849 Panola Co., Tex., tax roll, Solomon was taxed for a poll and cattle, **consecutive with the landowning “R. F. Sessom.”**<sup>6</sup> Reuben Fisher Sessums, as son of Jacob and Penny (Fisher) Sessums, is proved with direct evidence.<sup>7</sup>
- 1850 U.S. census, Panola Co., Tex., Solomon “Sesom,” 33, b. Mississippi, **living adjacent to Reuben “Sessoms,”** 25, who **made his home with their widowed sister Charity “Cortney.”**<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> “Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575>) > Browse > Panola > 1848 > image 17.

<sup>7</sup> Testimony of John Washington Sessums, 21 January 1902, in Choc. MCR 184; imaged, “Dawes Packets,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54726856> and [54726953](https://www.fold3.com/image/54726953)). John W. identifies his father as Reuben Fisher Sessums and grandparents as Penny Fisher and Jacob Sessums. See also Reuben Fisher family chart at *ibid* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/54727057>).

<sup>8</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Panola Co., TX, pop. sch., p. 154, dwellings/families 136 (Solomon Sessums), 137 (Reuben, the widowed Charity Courtney, and her children).