

Chapter 8

The Jessups: the American connection

As we saw in the previous chapter (page 160), Thomas Boileau married Leah Jessup in 1796. Her GG-grandfather was one of the early pioneers to the east coast of North America, and his descendants are the subject of an entire book [44], written by Henry Griswold Jesup (yes, that's right, only one s), which is widely available on the web (for a price of course). In its way, the Jesup book is as invaluable for the Jessup family as is the Big Book of Boileau for the Boileau de Castelnau. It's over 200 pages of original letters, wills, land transactions and legal deeds, carefully and meticulously researched, or so it appears to me. This short chapter follows this book closely, as it is the only source of information I have for the Jessup family.

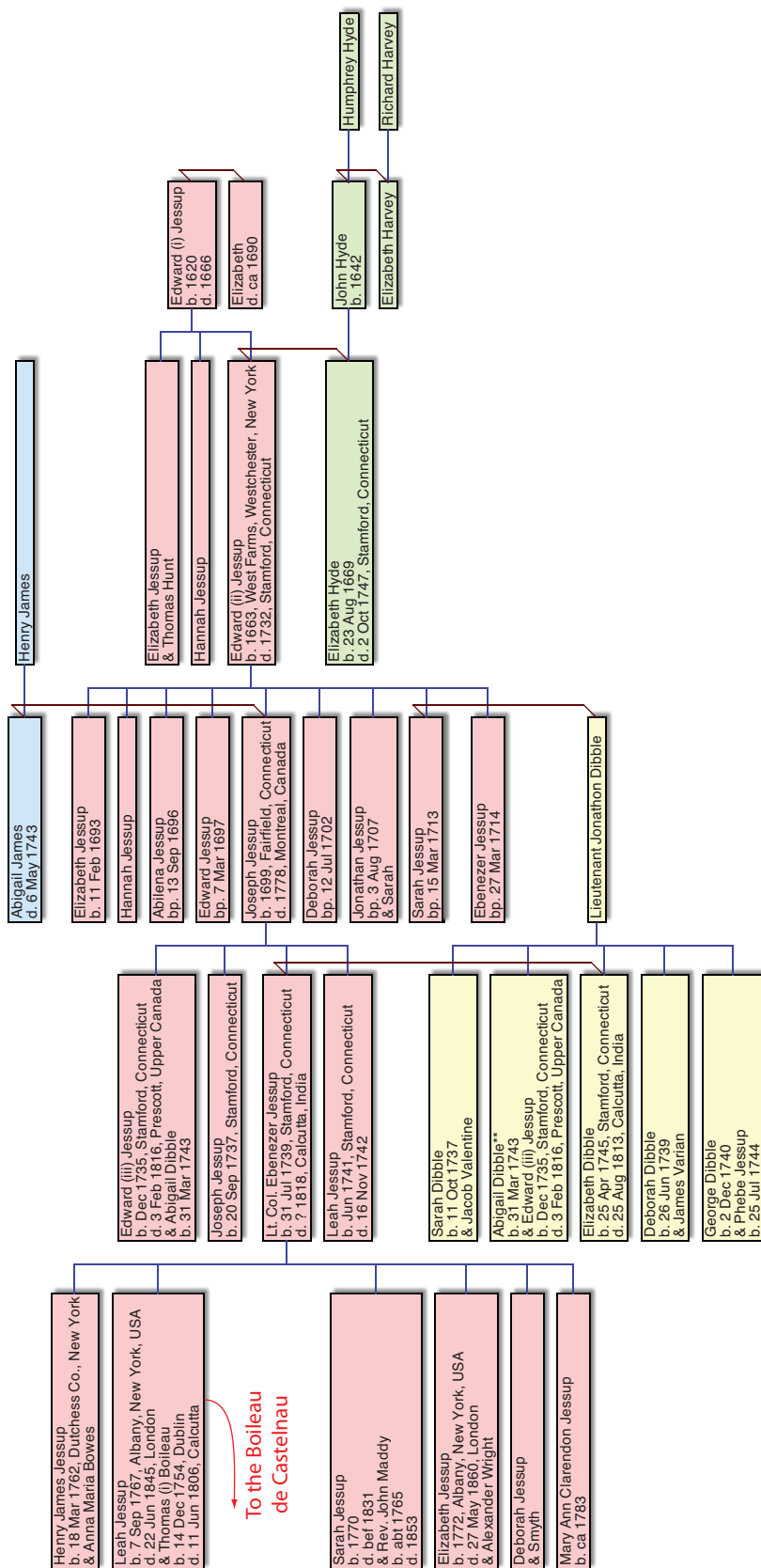
For convenience I've included a map of the area where the Jessups lived (see Map 8 on page 242).

Edward (i) Jessup the pioneer

The first of our Jessup ancestors to be known for sure is **Edward (i) Jessup**, who came to New England some time before 1649; it's known that he was already a resident of Stamford, Connecticut, at that date. Although we don't know the exact date of Edward's arrival in North America, it's highly likely that he had lived in Fairfield before then, as in 1653 he sold "one parcell of meadow at Sascoe neck, being in quantity half an acre and a quartre and eighte rods, more or less" to a Thomas Barlowe.

To put these dates in context, the Mayflower pilgrims arrived in Plymouth in 1620, while Jamestown was established in 1607. Although, obviously, these were not the first European visitors to the New England area, they were the first determined efforts at settlement. Fairfield itself was first settled in 1639, most likely only a few years before our Edward Jessup owned land there, while Stamford was settled around 1641. Interestingly we know that one of the original Stamford settlers was a John Jessop, who had previously lived close to Boston. Given that they had the same name and were in the same place, it's tempting to conclude that our Edward and this John were related, but it's not known whether this is true for sure. It seems likely to me, for what that's worth.

Despite many pages of scholarly discussion, the Jesup book essentially concludes that nothing at all is known about the English antecedents of Edward Jessup, beyond the fact that he was possibly from the North of England. Hardly convincing. Attempts to connect him to the Jessups of Broom Hall have an air of desperation; one suspects the authors would dearly love to have claimed this but didn't quite have the gall to do so. However, we do learn that "The Jessops have never been deficient in brain power, but they have in my opinion all along been lacking in nervous vigor. They seem at all times to have been weak on the emotional side, too highly strung and impulsive; and while they seem generally to have been tall, more than ordinarily handsome, with never a taint of blood, such as comes out in the more common hereditary maladies, they never seem to have been men and



The Jessup family of North America.

women big of bone and of rugged, muscular frames, without which I do not believe that any family can make a great place, or at any rate keep it for long when made". This has to be worth something.

Edward didn't stay long in Stamford; in 1652 he was one of the founding settlers of Middleborough (now called Newtown, on the western end of Long Island, and buried deep within Queens; see the map on page 242), purchasing land from the local Indians at the rate of a shilling an acre. Edward Jessup must have been one of the wealthier founders as he paid the princely sum of £4, which would have bought him a fair bit of land. Only one other person, Robert Coe, was able to afford so much. About ten years later, in 1661, Edward was also buying a house and land in Jamaica. It's clear that he wasn't your average run-of-the-mill dirt-poor pioneer, but a man of substance. Whether or not he came to the Americas with money is not clear, but if he didn't he certainly got it soon. Not surprising, given that his descendants, by and large, were sharks, as we shall see.

There was considerable conflict between the Dutch, based around New Amsterdam (later New York, of course), and the British on Long Island, and Middleborough appointed Robert Coe and Edward Jessup to travel up to Boston in 1653 to try and get assistance from the Commissioners of the New England colonies. Nothing came of this, but neither did war break out between the Dutch and the British, so maybe they did something right. That Edward Jessup was chosen for this mission is revealing, as it shows him to have a man of importance in the town, consistent with his apparent wealth.

The English were not always at odds with the Dutch, as we know that in 1655 Edward Jessup was one of the men who helped defend New Amsterdam against an attack from the Indians. Their role in this was so prominent that it led the Indians to declare considerable irritation with them particularly:

Sep. 8, 1665.¹ Joseph Safford and Thomas Reed, residing at MespadsKil [Middleborough], testify that they were this day informed by Joseph Fowler [and others] that some inhabitants of Gravesend had been at Westchester, and that the sachems of the savages had been there at Lieut. Wheeler's, and that they would send to the villages on Long Island to deliver and place in their hands Thomas Nuton, Henry Nuton, and Edward Jessop, because they had assisted the Dutch in the Fort [New Amsterdam] during that night when the savages here did so much harm, while the savages had forbidden the English to bring any provisions or fuel to the Manhatans, and intended to burn their huts and houses in case the English would help the Dutch with fuel and provisions.

However, this politeness towards the Dutch didn't seem to be too common an occurrence. In 1662, soon after the accession of Charles II, in a fit of patriotism, the English inhabitants of western Long Island, although nominally under Dutch control, tried to annex themselves instead to English Connecticut. Stuyvesant, the last Dutch governor of New Amsterdam² wasn't pleased, and one of the principal troublemakers, James Christie of Middleborough, was arrested. John Coe and Edward Jessup went across to Westchester, enlisted the assistance of Captain Richard Paton, another anti-Dutch agitator, and tried to liberate Christie from the Fort Amsterdam prison. They failed, managing only to liberate (so the story goes) the brandy in the sheriff's cellar. Another inhabitant of Middleborough wrote a tell-tale letter to Stuyvesant; Jessup and his friends had been calling the Governor a "devil, and a wooden-leg rogue, and a picaroon." What naughty men they were.

In either 1662 or 1663, Edward Jessup moved across the Sound to Westchester, now subsumed into the Greater New York area, and a commuting suburb for Manhattan. He was clearly on the make. He and John Richardson bought a large piece of land, probably around a few thousand acres, that was subsequently called West Farms. This was presumably at the place still called West Farms, just south of the Bronx Zoological Gardens. The original deed still exists:

These may certify whom it may concerne, that wee Shawnerockett, Wappamoe, Tuckore, Wawapekock, Cappakas, Quanusecoe, Shequiske, Passacahem, and Harrawocke have aliened and sold unto Edward Jessup and John Richardson both of the place aforesaid, a certain Tract of land, bounded on the East by the River Aquehung or Bronckx, to

¹I suspect a misprint in Jessup's book, which says here 1665. However, the date 1665 makes no sense at all. Edward wasn't even living on Long Island at that time, having already moved to Westchester. Not to mention that by 1665 New Amsterdam had already become New York. So I'm pretty sure that 1655 is the date meant.

²In 1664 the English took over New Amsterdam by force, ejected Stuyvesant, and renamed the town New York.

the midst of the River, on the Northward by the Trees markt and by a piece of Hassock meadow, westward by a little Brooke called Sackwrahung, Southward by the sea, with a neck of land called Quinnahung, with all the Meadows, Uplands, Trees, and whatever else besides be upon ye said parcell of lands, with all other comodities belonging to the same, quietly to possesse and enjoy the same from us our heires or successors, to their heirs and successors forever, and for their cattle to range in the Wood so farre as they please, without any Molestation or Infringement, and that this is our true Intent and Meaning, Wee have sett to our hands, the day and yeare above written.

Each Indian's mark was a drawing of an animal.

According to Henry Jesup, Edward was "a man well able to maintain his ground at a time when men were judged as men . . .". Well, quite. However, despite him being a man among men, Edward didn't survive very long to enjoy his, probably ill-gotten, gains. He died in 1666, after the 6th of August and before the 14th of November. His will is one of the first recorded in English in New York City. He left his son, Edward, "two mares with two colts by their sides; one is a gray mare, and the other is a mare marked on both ears with two half-pence on each ear, to bee set out for him for his use a year and a day after my decease". I have no idea why the year and a day stipulation, but whatever the reason, the horses were not available at the required time. The son got instead "three cows which are, the two black and white feet cows and one red cow, and two oxen which are called by the names of Swan and Sweetling."

Edward married **Elizabeth**, of uncertain maiden name, at uncertain date, and they had three children; Elizabeth, who married Thomas Hunt, Hannah, who was not yet 18 when her father died, and Edward, who was born in 1663 and thus only about three when his father died. Elizabeth the elder, the widow, remarried Robert Beacham, who lived in Fairfield, Connecticut, and moved there with her two younger children. In his will he left almost everything to Elizabeth, and provided well for his step-son, Edward. Elizabeth herself, having outlived two husbands, died after 1690, and very likely in 1692. Seeing as she seems to have been tougher than her husbands, she must have been rather better than them at maintaining her ground at a time when women were judged as women.

Edward (ii) Jessup the younger

Born in 1663, either in West Farms or Newton, **Edward (ii) Jessup** was brought up in Fairfield, Connecticut (a bit further east along the north shore of Long Island Sound), where he became a freeman¹ and bought property in the parish of Green's Farms. In 1692 he married **Elizabeth Hyde** (b. 1669 and thus about 23 years old) who was the daughter of John Hyde, and the granddaughter of Humphrey Hyde, who came from England in 1640. The Hydes were an old established family in Green's Farms.

It seems that that 1692 was a busy year for our Edward; as well as getting married he also testified in one of the famous Fairfield witchcraft trials, on the 15th of September [29, 30]. Some poor woman, Mercy Desborough, was indicted for "having familiarity with Satan, and that by his instigation and help she had in a preternatural way afflicted and done harm to the bodies and estates of sundry of their Majesties subjects." Yeah, right. The crap they believed is quite extraordinary. Charges were brought against her by Katherine Branch, the maid of Sergeant Daniel Westcott, who claimed she had suffered torments from the 'shapes' of Elizabeth Clauson, Mercy Desborough and Goody Hipshod. Kate, the shrinking violet, fainted repeatedly when Mercy Desborough looked at her, although personally I think it's rather more plausible that Daniel Westcott bore an old grudge against Elizabeth Clauson, as she claimed. Not to mention that Daniel's wife didn't believe a word of what he said, and that Kate herself seemed suspiciously unconvincing to many observers. According to a couple of local clergy, Kate's afflictions seemed more like a combination of fakery and hysteria "improved by craft". They submitted a written "Opinion" which agreed "with the generallity of divines that the Endeavor of conviction of witchcraft by Swimming [was] unLawfull and Sinfull" and that Katherine Branch's testimony "carr[ied] a suspition of her Counterfeiting" and also said that spectral evidence was "very uncertain and fallable from the easy deception of her senses and [the]

¹I'm not entirely sure of the significance of this.

Subtle devices of the devill.” Lastly, “as to the other Strange accidents as the dying of cattle, etc.,” they “apprehend[ed] the applying of them to these women as matters of witchcraft to be upon very slender and uncertain grounds.”

However, many others were not disposed to be reasonable. Mercy came from a poor family, and, before he died, her father had been taken to court for theft and fraud. She also had a shady past, and had appeared before the court before. It’s clear she was defenseless and an easy target. So, old grudge or not, a committee of women searched the defendants’ bodies for witch marks and found an ‘excrescence’ on Desborough’s ‘secret parts’, but only a wart on Clauson’s arm.

Edward appeared as one of the witnesses, although I have to say that he appeared to suffer rather more from an excess of alcohol than the wiles of Satan. He observed how, at Desborough’s house “the food on the table changed its appearance so unaccountably that he was at first afraid to eat of it; that when Moses Sherwood and he disputed the woman’s interpretation of a certain passage of Scripture, neither of them were able to read the passage in the open Bible, until she had manipulated the leaves; and that when going home, his horse could with such difficulty be kept in the road that he was the greater part of the night travelling the distance of only two miles.” So he couldn’t focus and couldn’t drive. Must be witchcraft yer Honour. I’m convinced.

Mercy Desborough demanded the water test, but when this was carried out, she and Elizabeth Clauson bobbed around, just like witches, even when the men tried to push them under. Not a good look, but they still refused to confess; Elizabeth’s husband even produced a petition from over eighty people, including magistrates, testifying to her good character.¹

Mercy was convicted, but the execution was never carried out. I’m not sure why not. One hopes that reason prevailed, but I doubt it.

In 1720 Edward (ii) moved from Green’s Farms to Stamford, where he lived for the rest of his life. He left his oldest son, Edward, in Fairfield but the rest of his children moved with him. He died on the 28th of December, 1732, leaving a rather dull will; land to his sons, shillings to his daughters, the usual kind of thing. Son Joseph, the land shark, was his executor. Edward’s wife, Elizabeth, lived another fifteen years. The Jesup book gives a lot of details of their children, but if you’re interested read it for yourself. I am concerned only with Joseph.

A parcel of rogues; Joseph Jessup and his sons

Joseph Jessup, the son of Edward (ii), was born in Fairfield in 1699 and married **Abigail James** in 1734.² They produced three sons in quick succession (Edward (iii), Joseph and Ebenezer) and then a daughter, Leah, who died in 1742 when only just over a year old, her mother following her to the grave soon after. It’s very likely that the deaths of Abigail and Leah were connected; certainly, they were buried together, in an old burial ground near the Noroton River.

After his wife’s death in 1743, Joseph took his three sons (aged about 4, 6 and 8) and moved to parts so foreign and strange that his mother, when she wrote her will in 1747, was clearly afraid he would never appear back alive. They went all the way to Dutchess County,³ New York, the first (and only) Jessups to move away from the comforts of New England. Very brave. He then began a series of land purchases, carried on by his sons, that made their fortune.

They started off by speculating in land around Dutchess County, but with the end of the French-Indian War in 1759, the opportunity arose to steal vast tracts of land in the headwaters of the Hudson River, around Albany and up as far as Lake George. So the family moved upriver in 1771, settled in Albany, and began a systematic land-stealing spree. They schmoozed local politicians to great effect,

¹It doesn’t seem to have crossed anybody’s mind that maybe her husband was a witch as well, or maybe Daniel Westcott was himself the Devil in disguise. The logic seems somewhat faulty to my jaundiced eye.

²She was the daughter of Henry James, whose name is among those of the vestrymen and wardens of Trinity Church, Fairfield (now removed to Southport), who in 1727 petitioned the General Court for liberty to manage their own affairs according to the canons of the Church of England. He was of Greenwich in 1757, and said to be a sea-faring man of very considerable wealth.

³Dutchess County is located in eastern New York State, between the Hudson River on its west and the New York-Connecticut border on its east, about halfway between the cities of Albany and New York. It contains two cities: Beacon and Poughkeepsie. It’s bordered by Fairfield County to the southeast, so Joseph didn’t actually move all that far.

becoming friends of Sir William Johnson, the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs in New York, and were closely associated with Governor Dunmore and General William Tryon, the last of the royal governors. The family was Church of England, and clearly threw in their lot with the British, a choice that was eventually to cost them dear.

But not yet. According to the Jesup book [44], the Jessups “were soon engaged in very extensive transactions in wild lands in that part of the State now known as the counties of Warren, Essex, and Hamilton. In cases where purchases were made directly from the Indian proprietors, or when for any reason the Indian title had not been extinguished, the purchaser was required to be at the expense of first vesting the Indian right and title in the Crown before he could obtain the patent which alone could guarantee him in possession of his purchase. The fees exacted were often very considerable.”

Well, well, and there you see the procedure. First, you paid enormous bribes to the local authorities of the Crown (very handy to know them well, for this), you persuaded them to claim enormous tracts of “wild” land, and then sell it on to you at a pittance. Some examples:

Dec. 25, 1767: 7,550 acres lying “in the county of Albany, east side of Hudson’s River, to the northward of the township of Queensbury, and between the said river and Lake George, whereon they proposed to make a settlement”, reserving mines and white-pine trees for masts.

Dec. 28, 1767: Another 4,100 acres adjoining the above piece, and called “Jessup’s Patent”.

May 8, 1771: the Earl of Dunmore, Governor of New York, granted to Edward Jessup and Ebenezer Jessup 2,000 acres of land “beginning in the south bounds of a tract of 7,550 acres of land formerly granted to Ebenezer Jessup and others”.

Aug. 25, 1774: Governor Cadwallader Colden granted to Edward Jessup, Ebenezer Jessup, Joseph Jessup Jr., and thirty-seven others, for 40,000 acres on the west side of the Hudson River, in the county of Charlotte.

The original deed for this last land grant still exists:

... Know ye that we, Hendrick, alias Tayahansara, Lawrance, alias Agquerajies, Hans, alias Canadgawre, and Hans Krine, alias Anajoadhoje, native Indians, send Greeting: Whereas Ebenezer and Edward Jessup, in behalf of themselves and others of his Majesty’s subjects, their associates, did lately petition the Rt. Hon^{ble} John, Earl of Dunmore, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the province of New York ... reciting that whereas great frauds and abuses had been committed in purchasing lands of the Indians, to the great prejudice of his Majesty’s interests¹ and to the great dissatisfaction of the said Indians, his said Majesty, by and with the advice of his privy Council, did thereby enjoin and required that no private person do presume to purchase of the native Indians, proprietors, any lands not ceded to or purchased by his Majesty within these parts of his Majesty’s Colonies where he has thought proper to allow of settlements; but that if at any time any of the said Indians should be inclined to dispose of the said lands, the same should be purchased by his Majesty’s Governor ...; [there follows a description of the 40,000 acres]

Now, therefore, Know ye that we, the said Indians, for and in behalf of ourselves and our nation – at a publick meeting or assembly with his Excellency, William Tryon, Esquire, His Majesty’s Captain General and Commander-in-Chief ... do now declare our intentions and inclinations to dispose of the said tract of land above described ...; and accordingly, by these presents, at the said publick meeting and assembly held for the purpose, with the assistance of John Butler, Esquire, Interpreter, to us well known, do for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and eighty-six pounds, lawful money of New York, to us in hand paid by the said petitioners, and the further sum of five shillings like lawful money to us in hand paid by his said Excellency ... [and thus their land is stolen].

¹i.e., no bribes

Not bad – £186 for 40,000 acres. And don't forget the five shillings from the King of England. Theft on a grand scale.

In an even more rascally deal, in 1771, the Jessups 'purchased' 800,000 acres from the same Indian chiefs, for the sum of £1,135 – and the five shillings from the King. This enormous deal was done through intermediaries, two gentlemen named Joseph Totton and Stephen Crossfield; since the Jessups had already got their fingers into so many deals it was thought safer to do this deal, which basically was to purchase practically an entire county, somewhat anonymously. It's unlikely anyone was fooled, but at least this way they could pretend they were.

You might well ask what was the magnitude of the bribes required to set this all up. Well, for the so-called Totten-Crossfield purchase, i.e., the 800,000 acre deal described above, the Jessups paid almost £9,000 pounds to have the land patented by the Crown, more than seven times what they paid the Indians for the land itself.

The Jessup brothers, having clearly decided to do everything together, married sisters; Ebenezer married Elizabeth Dibble, while Edward married her sister, Abigail Dibble. They were the daughters of Jonathan Dibble, who had married Sarah Jessup, the aunt of Ebenezer and Edward. So the Dibble ladies were the Jessups' cousins. If you think this is complicated, George Dibble, the son of Jonathan Dibble, married yet another Jessup, Phebe this time, who was the daughter of Jonathan Jessup, and thus George's cousin. Talk about cousins marrying cousins. I surprised they didn't all have eleven fingers and webbed feet.

Until about 1760 Jonathan Dibble owned land in New York City, which is possibly where his children were born (although he was also a resident of Stamford, and his children may have been born there). It was situated near the 'tea-water pump', as it was called, on the west side of Chatham Square. For many years he also ran a tavern on the Bowery, between Bayard and Pump St. (now Canal St.), known as the *Bull's Head Tavern*. The tavern was a favourite meeting place for cattlemen and butchers, and there were stockyards and an abattoir in the rear. Later, when residents got tired of the noise and the smell, the Bowery Theatre was built on the site, but this burned down in 1929. I don't know what is there now. There is still a place called the Bull's Head Tavern in New York, but it's at a different place, way up on 23rd St., and has no relation to the older establishment. The *Bull's Head Tavern* is noted for George Washington having stopped there in 1783 for a pee before riding down to the waterfront to witness the departure of British troops, but this was well after Jonathan Dibble had left.

Both the tea-water pump and the *Bull's Head Tavern* are marked on a 1782 map of New York City (page 176).

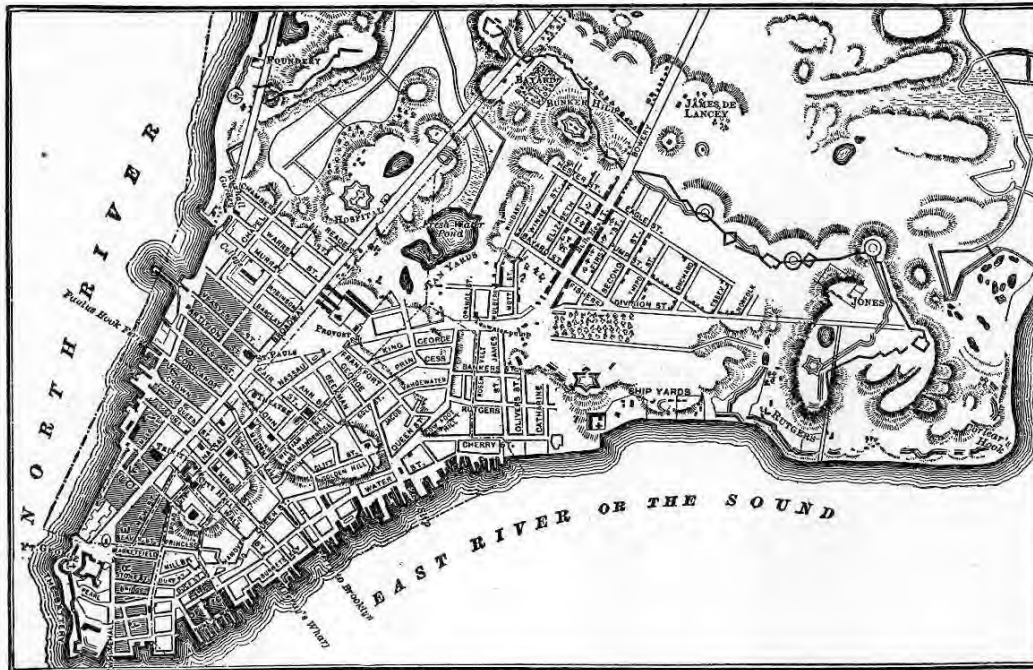
Having bought their land, the Jessups retired up the Hudson River and established themselves at Jessup's Landing¹, where they built sawmills and a grist mill, becoming the first lumbermen in the region. However, one suspects that they were not your typical lumberjacks. If I may quote Jessup [44]:

The wives of Ebenezer and Edward were cultivated women, sisters, and first cousins of their husbands. They were born in New York City, though their father, Jonathan Dibble, closed his life on his farm in the town of Stamford, Conn. The removal of the entire family of Joseph Jessup to Albany, and their association with men of social position and education among the Colonial officials, led them naturally to use the means they were acquiring in a somewhat similar style of living.

Another local antiquarian, Dr. A. W. Holden² wrote, in *A History of the Town of Queensbury*:

¹About 10 miles up the Hudson River from Glens Falls, Jessup's Landing is right in the foothills of the Adirondacks, close to the modern town of Corinth.

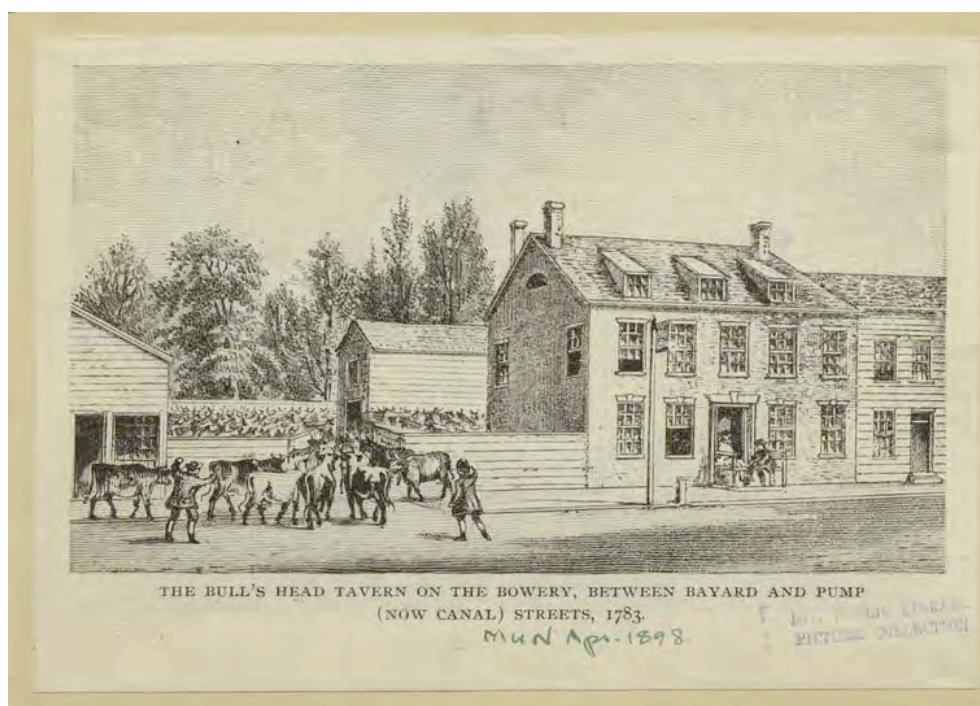
²Austin Wells Holden (1819-1891) wrote extensively on the history of the Glens Falls region and is best known as author of the book *A History of the Town of Queensbury*, published in 1874. Austin Holden was born in White Creek, Washington County, New York. His family moved to Potsdam when he was young, but in 1836 they settled in Glens Falls. In 1848 he graduated from Albany Medical College and opened his medical practice in Warrensburg. In 1851 he married Elizabeth Buell. Holden became a homeopathic physician, and for several years starting in the late 1870's he served as Chief of Staff and Director of the Homeopathic Hospital on Ward's Island in New York City. It's amazing what information you can find on the web, isn't it?



HILLS'S MAP, 1782



Above: A map of New York City, from 1782. Below: A detail of this map showing the Bowery. If you look carefully you can see labelled the *Bull's Head Tavern* (on the Bowery) and the tea-water pump, just southeast of the Freshwater Pond and the Tan Yards



The *Bull's Head Tavern*, which was run by my 6G grandfather, Jonathan Dibble.

... somewhere about the year 1770 Ebenezer Jessup removed to this then wilderness region and built him a spacious log dwelling on the farm now occupied by Thurlow Leavins, and on the brook near by erected a saw and grist mill. There, until after the commencement of the Revolutionary war, he maintained a state and style of living which bespoke opulence, taste, culture, and familiarity with the elegance and customs of the best provincial society. If tradition is to be credited, his commodious and comfortable dwelling, however rude may have been its exterior, was the frequent theatre of hospitable entertainments, its rooms garnished with elegant furniture, its walls embellished with costly paintings and choice engravings, its capacious tables arrayed in spotless linen and imported covers, and loaded with massive silver plate. All of this, with the many costly fittings and adjuncts of such a house, was at a later date plundered and carried away.

The War of Independence

In 1775 the American War of Independence broke out, and everything suddenly went bad for the Jessups. Well, not suddenly, but it was the beginning of the end, as their side ended up losing.

Jessup's Landing was a focus of loyalism in the years just before the revolution, and when Sir Guy Carleton succeeded in driving the American forces out of the province of Quebec in the summer of 1776 the Jessups led a party of some 80 loyalists to join him at Crown Point, New York.

The Jessup party was first attached to Sir John Johnson's King's Royal Regiment of New York, but in June, 1777, the King's Loyal Americans corps was tentatively established with Ebenezer as lieutenant-colonel and Edward as captain. Although the corps was not fully formed, the Jessup brothers took part in John Burgoyne's campaign, with Edward as commander of the bateaux service on the Hudson. Both Edward and Ebenezer were taken prisoner in the Saratoga campaign¹ but were paroled and allowed to make their way to Quebec.

¹The Saratoga campaign was an attempt by Great Britain to gain military control of the strategically important Hudson River valley in 1777 during the American Revolutionary War. The primary thrust of the campaign was made by an army

Since many members of the King's Loyal Americans were dispersed during this campaign, the unit never attained its established strength and remained for the next four years a semi-independent appendage of Johnson's regiment, engaged mainly in building, repairing, and garrisoning fortifications around Montreal, Sorel and lower Lake Champlain, although it also took part in several raids into New York. Edward went on such raids in October 1780 and again the following fall. It was probably these services, as well as his administrative capacities, that led Governor Haldimand to choose Edward over Ebenezer as major commandant of the new corps of Loyal Rangers, created in November, 1781, from a number of smaller military formations including the Loyal Americans. The new corps soon became known as Jessup's Rangers.

But since the British lost, the Jessups were attainted and lost everything. Both Ebenezer and Edward were specifically named in a 1779 bill in the New York Legislature, in which

... each of them are hereby severally declared to be, *Ipsa Facto*, convicted and attainted of the offence aforesaid [adhering to the enemies of the State]; and that all and singular the estate both real and personal held or claimed by them the said persons severally and respectively whether in possession, reversion or remainder, within this State on the day of the passing of this Act shall be and hereby is declared to be forfeited to and invested in the people of the State.

Sec. II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, – That the said several persons herein before particularly named shall be and hereby are declared to be forever banished from this State; and each and every of them who shall at any time hereafter be found in any part of this State shall be and are hereby adjudged and declared guilty of felony and shall suffer death as in cases of felony, without benefit of clergy.

Pretty unambiguous; New York didn't like the Jessups any more. Although some loyalists eventually regained part of their estates, the Jessups didn't. Many years later, on the 8th of July, 1838, Leah Jessup, the daughter of Ebenezer and the wife of Thomas Boileau, wrote for her son, Simeon Boileau:

In answer to your enquiries about my father, Lieut.-Colonel Ebenezer Jessup's property, I can state to you that it was in the Province of New York in America, and a part of it was in and near Albany; but the whole was lost by his taking part in favor of the British Government.

My father raised a regiment at his own expense, and went with it to Canada, and commanded it during the whole of the American war. He was in the campaign with General Burgoyne, and was taken prisoner with his army, after which he returned to Canada with his regiment, and upon the Americas breaking their treaty, he served again actively during the remainder of the war. On his first quitting Albany to go to Canada, my father buried all the deeds and papers which regarded his estates, to secure them against the plunder of the Americans, hoping to return in time to save them from being spoiled; but the war having taken an adverse turn, he was so long absent that upon their being opened they were illegible, and from this circumstance he wanted proof of much of his claims against the Government for his lost property. The American Congress were so exasperated against him for the part he took in favor of the British Government, that they outlawed his person and confiscated his property, which they valued at £150,000 when they put it up for sale. My father received a very trifling compensation for all this great property (I think only about £2,000), nor did the Government pay him for the expense of raising the regiment, which I have heard him say cost him about £2,000.

At the conclusion of the war my father's regiment (The King's Loyal Americans) were put on half-pay, and as a compensation for services had lands allotted them in Upper

under the command of John Burgoyne from Quebec that moved up Lake Champlain and down the Hudson to Saratoga, New York, where the bulk of the army was forced to surrender after the Battles of Saratoga in September and October. In other words, it was a complete disaster for the loyalists. Burgoyne's personal baggage train consisted of thirty carts filled with tents, tables, dinnerware and dinner service, clothes, liquor, special food, and servants. A very comfortable way to lose a campaign and look like an idiot.

Canada. My father's portion as Lieut.-Colonel Commandant was a thousand acres, and was located somewhere near Yorktown (now Toronto); but from my father not choosing to settle there with his family, and from neglecting to cultivate it, this property was not secured to him. All this I state from memory only. His property in Canada was lost by his own neglect to cultivate it as required of all the settlers. His claims for losses in the war were sent in to the Government in 1783 when the war closed, and for these, as I have said, he received only a nominal compensation.

My brother Henry James Jessup's only surviving and eldest son, John, went to New York to endeavor to recover some part of his father's estate, which not being able to do he thoughtlessly sold his right for a mere trifle, – I think I heard it was only £15, – and he died there not long after.

My brother had three sons, all of whom died unmarried; and two daughters, – the eldest, Mrs. George Macilvain, died childless; and the youngest, Mrs. Davidson, is now alive, but has no issue.

My sister, Mrs. Alexander Wright, and her husband went to Upper Canada about 20 years ago, and if I remember rightly they made over their share and interest in the property to my cousin Edward Jessup's widow, or some of his family.

At the end of the war, Ebenezer Jessup, considerably poorer, moved to England in 1783, and his family joined him in 1787. But, but finding life difficult there on only a Lieutenant-Colonel's half pay, in 1790 he received an official appointment in Calcutta, to where he moved, and spent the final 28 years of his life. His wife, Elizabeth, and at least three of his daughters, went with him.

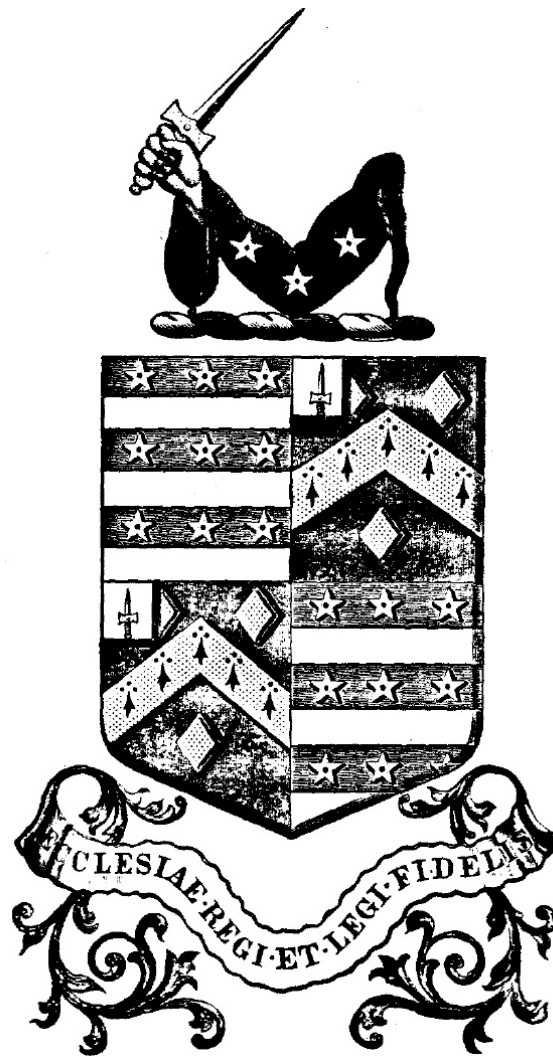
It is fascinating to those of us interested in Heraldry that Ebenezer Jessup was granted an official coat-of-arms, as shown on page 180. Apart from the fact that it's a nice picture¹ it's interesting to see that the Garter Principal King of Arms implicitly admitted a connection to the Jessops of Broom Hall, as well as to the Hydes that were the Earls of Clarendon. However, the King of Arms also pointed out that Ebenezer was unable to prove these connections; one suspects that a bit more cynicism might have been in order, and, if one was nasty like me, one might just suspect that a little money changed hands to encourage the King of Arms to accept these rather dubious claims. As usual, though, I know nothing; I merely suspect and speculate.

Ebenezer and Elizabeth had six children.

Henry James, (1762–1806), was born in Dutchess County, New York, and appears to have been the only son to survive into adulthood. He was a barrister and solicitor in Quebec, and went with his father to London in 1783. There he married into the upper circles of the aristocracy, in the person of Lady Anna Maria Bowes, daughter of John Lyon Bowes, the ninth earl of Strathmore. They eloped when she was only 18. Naughty, naughty. Anna's mother was Mary Eleanor Bowes, "The Unhappy Countess", reputed to be the richest heiress in Europe, with a fortune over a million pounds, and with a taste in men so self-destructive that you can only read her biography with wonder and astonishment. She first married an earl, who left debts of over £100,000 when he died, and secondly married a man who beat her, raped her, kidnapped her, and abused her. Not to mention doing all that to her maids as well. She finally escaped (with the help of one of her maids) and managed to get a divorce, after an extremely high-profile legal battle, and her second husband ended up in prison. What a story. After she managed to escape her husband (from about 1792 on), she lived in a relatively quiet retirement, in the company of two of her daughters, one of whom was Lady Jessup.

Jesup [44] didn't know very much more about Henry's family or descendants. In 1798 Henry was appointed "Searcher of Customs" at Cape Town in South Africa, so he obviously moved out there at some stage. He would have left there before 1802, when Cape Colony was restored to Holland, and he died in Connecticut at the house of his uncle, George Dibble, in 1806. He was only 43. Anna died in 1832. Clearly, she didn't accompany her husband in his travels

¹Well, I think so.



The coat-of-arms of Ebenezer Jessup. *Quarterly, First and Fourth, Barry of Six Azure and Argent, nine Mulletts pierced Or, three, three and three for Jessup; Second and Third, Gules a Chevron Erminois between three Lozenges Or, on a Canton Argent a sword erect proper for Hyde, and for the Crest of Jessup on a Wreath of the colours, in a Maunch Sable charged with three mullets pierced Or, a dexter arm, the hand grasping a sword proper, pommel and hilt gold.*

around the world as she was living with her mother instead, so my guess is that she came to regret her elopement. She probably had the same self-destructive impulses that her mother did.

He and Anna Bowes had five children, of whom I know very little, except that one of their sons was John Henry Bowes and is said to have been a midshipman on board the *Victory* with Lord Nelson. He died young, in Brooklyn, New York. Two of his sisters married, but neither had any children, and so his descendants appear to have become extinct.

Leah, b. 1767, is the one who married into the Boileau family and is my 4G-grandmother, so I'll talk more about her below.

Sarah was born in Albany, New York, and went with her family to England, where she married the Rev. John Maddy. She died before 1831, and John Maddy remarried. Sarah and John Maddy had three girls; Mary, Susan and Sara, two of whom reproduced. Details are given in [44].

Elizabeth was also born in Albany. She married Alexander Wright, a member of the English Bengal Civil Service, Collector of the Revenues at Agra. They lived in India for almost thirty years before returning to England, having sent their four sons there some years previously, to live with her sister Sarah, Mrs. Maddy. I don't know very much more about their sons. It's not clear they left any descendants.

Deborah. All that is known about her is that she married someone called Smythe, and they were living in Calcutta in 1813, when her mother died. She had previously returned to England in 1807, on account of her health, but came back to India.

Mary Ann Clarendon. Nothing is known about her except that she was nearly six years old on the 30th of August, 1789.

Leah Jessup

One of Ebenezer's daughters who went with him to India was Leah Jessup, who there met and married Thomas Boileau, as already told on page 160, and thus the connection with the rest of my family tree. Just to recap a little, Leah went out to India with her father in about 1790, and married Thomas Boileau in 1796. He only lasted another ten years, dying in 1806, whereupon Leah, with her seven children (the last born posthumously), returned to England in 1807, and raised her children at Bury St. Edmunds. Most of them later returned to India.

We are lucky enough to have copies of some of the letters written by Leah Jessup and her sister Sarah Maddy. They give a lovely picture of the family life in England, as well as some details of the death of Leah's mother. Since letters like this are rare they are worth quoting in full.

Letter from Leah Jessup to her cousin, Sarah Dibble¹, in Stamford. 1 November, 1786. Quebec. In 1786, Leah would have been about 19, and would have been living in Canada for a few years. Her father had already been in England for three years or so.

Dear Cousin:— I have just heard of an opportunity of writing to you, which I gladly avail myself of to ask you how you and all our dear friends are, and to tell you that we are all in very good health. I heard a few days since from my Uncle Joseph; he lives in the same place my Aunt Abby does [Abigail, the wife of Edward Jessup]. He tells me my cousin Abby Walker has three children now; the two eldest are boys. I sent to visit them the winter before last; they are really very fine children. We had a letter from Aunt Sarah [Sarah Dibble] from St. John, New Brunswick. She was very well the first of last month; but I suppose you hear from her much oftener than we possibly can. She tells us she often hears from you all, that you were all in very good health lately, which intelligence gave the greatest pleasure, I assure you, for we had not heard from you in so

¹The daughter of George Dibble, the brother of Leah's mother. Sarah later married James Waring, of Stamford.

long that we were afraid something was the matter with some of the family. But I hope your silence was owing to want of opportunity, and not to sickness or any accident.

We have heard frequently from my father this summer. He has settled the business for which he went on to England, and he has sent for us to go to him, which we mean to do early the next summer. We wished much to have gone this fall; but the season is too far advanced now, and we are waiting for my uncle Edward to arrive here before we go. He sailed from London the 24th of August. We are afraid he will not arrive this year, as the Capt. of the ship was never here, and this is a dangerous river for people that are unacquainted with it to come up so late in the year as this. Many people think they will be obliged to put into Halifax to winter, but I hope that will not be the case. I am sure my aunt will be very uneasy if she does not see my uncle this fall, and I really begin to fear she will not. He has been in England two years, and my father has been there three, and it will be near a year longer before we can possibly see him. My brother is with him, and it is very probable he will settle in London. I don't know what part of England my father means to settle his family in; but for two years hence, I dare say we will live in London. Tho' I wish very much to be with my father, as it is very disagreeable keeping up two families as we have done for several years past, yet I shall feel a very sincere regret at leaving this place. We came strangers to Canada, and we have found many valuable friends and agreeable acquaintances, from whom we have received the greatest politeness and hospitality. I am very grateful for the many favors and civilities our friends have shown us, tho' our situation has been such as not to allow us to return their civilities; yet I hope some future day will enable us in some measure to repay them. We have a pleasing prospect before us just now; my father has received some compensation from government for his lost estate, but what it is I have not heard; but his half-pay as Lieut.-Colonel, with a small additional income, will make us very comfortable. My mother and sisters join me in best love to my dear grandmother, uncle, and aunt, not forgetting yourself, and all your sisters and brothers. I hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you very soon. I seldom have opportunities, or I would write oftener.

Leah Jessup

Letter from Leah Jessup to her cousin, Sarah Dibble, in Stamford. 30 August, 1789. Woolwich, Kent. Leah would have been about 22, and, as you see from the letter itself, had been living in England for two years.

My Dear Cousin:— I have deferred writing to you for some time in hopes of having it in my power to answer your letter by Edward Jessup¹; but though he says he put it up very carefully with his clothes, he has not been able to find it again. Tho' I am disappointed of the pleasure of reading your letter, I assure you I am very sincerely obliged to you for writing to me. It made us very happy to hear from my uncle that you were all in good health. We were particularly happy to find that no bad consequences have arisen from my dear grandmother's² having broken her arm some time ago, — a circumstance that gave great uneasiness to my mother and the rest of our family. I hope she will continue to enjoy health and happiness, as well as your father, mother, and the rest of your family, to each of whom my father, mother, and sisters join me in best love and good wishes.

We were sorry to hear my uncle has been so much troubled by the Americans. It is difficult to say who fared the worst, — those who remained with their estates or those who left them; but certain it is, the Loyalists in general have great reason to lament there ever having been an American war.³

¹The son of Edward (iii), and the cousin of Leah. He would have been 23.

²Sarah Jessup, the mother of Elizabeth Dibble. Sarah Jessup died in 1792, in Stamford, Conn., at the ripe old age of 82. Leah's other grandmother, Abigail James, had died many years earlier, in 1743 (page 173).

³Right. They lost.

We have been in England two years. I have travelled over a great part of it, and think it a most beautiful country. We lived in London the first year, since when we have been within nine miles of that great city. The house we now occupy is most pleasantly situated. It stands on a hill, and commands a view of the Thames, which is one of the largest rivers in England, and is constantly full of ships sailing to and from London. We can see St. Paul's Church (which is the largest in England), Westminster Abbey (in which most of the Kings of England are buried), and many other buildings in London. We have good gardens and a large field belonging to this house, which we have taken a long lease of; but with all these advantages we find it very expensive living in England, for almost everything we eat, drink, or wear is taxed.

My brother has been married a year and a half; his lady was brought to bed of a son a few days ago.¹ I have four sisters; the youngest is nearly six years old, so that in all probability my mother will not increase her family. She is still a very handsome woman², although her hair is as white as snow. She enjoys good health, as does my father, at present. They again desire to be most affectionately remembered to my grandmother and all the family. I hope soon to hear from you, my dear cousin. You will please direct to me at Woolwich, in the County of Kent. Give my love to all your family, and believe me,

Your affectionate cousin,

Leah Jessup

Letter from Sarah Maddy (the sister of Leah Jessup) to her uncle, George Dibble, in Stamford. 14 August, 1814. Piccadilly, London. Leah would have been about 47, had already gone to India, got married, had children, had her husband die, and toddled off back home.

My Dear Uncle:— I now write to inform you of the melancholy event which has taken place in our family, of the death of my dear mother, your sister Elizabeth, who died the 25th of August, 1813. I had a letter lately from my sister Deb. (who is married to Mr. Smyth), giving me an account of it. She was with my dear mother and nursed her with filial affection, I am sure, during her illness, which lasted only five days. She was taken from the dinner-table senseless, and remained so all the time she lived; a stroke of the palsy is said to be the case. My sister wrote to me that she and my father had procured the best advice Calcutta affords, and that they spared no expense in providing her every necessary comfort, which is certainly to me a great consolation under this heavy affliction. There was never a better Christian or parent. My father is tolerably well, but has not been out of his house for four years, which is more from habit than from any cause. The hot climate of India does not disagree with him; he has had time to try it, having been there 23 years, which is a pretty good proof.

My eldest sister, Leah Boileau, a widow with five boys and two daughters, lives at Bury St. Edmunds, a handsome town in Suffolk, and 8 miles from where my husband has a small living. We see her and her family often. She is well situated, and much respected for her good care and management of her family; for having had a good education she teaches them a great deal at home. I am at present at Margate, a seaport town, for the purpose of bathing my large family; for tho' I have but three daughters living, I have the care of four of my sister Elizabeth's sons, who with her husband, Mr. Wright³, is in India. The youngest boy and one of my girls require sea air and bathing, for which purpose I am here with my young ones to pass their holidays, five weeks. I hope they may benefit by it, for the expense is great.

¹Leah's brother, Henry James Jessup, married Anna Maria Bowes on the 20th of January, 1788. They eloped when she was only 18.

²And would have been about 44.

³Alexander Wright, the collector of revenues at Agra, India.

I have a very small house, for three guineas per week, and every article of food full as dear as in London. We already experience the happy effects of a peace with the Continent; vessels are coming in continually with provisions from foreign markets, which I hope will reduce the price here. I have to-day bought a quarter of lamb at one shilling a pound, beef and mutton ten and a half pence, – somewhat dearer than it was when I saw you last at Albany in 1777, which I can just remember. I mentioned our having a small living in Suffolk, which is beautifully situated and has a good neighborhood, where I pass most of my time, seven months in the year, because my children are not healthy if I live four months together in London.

We have in the country every convenience and comfort of life. We only occupy fourteen acres of land, so that we farm it in a very small way; but it amuses my husband a little when he can get to Somerton, in the way he likes, and is conducive to his health, which is not very good owing to his having had too much to do in his professional line, and his being obliged to be a great deal of his time in London, for there the greatest part of his income arises.

Pray give my love to all your family and believe me ever your affectionate niece,

S. Maddy.

[Her husband, in typical husband fashion, adds three lines to the end, sending his love.]

Letter from Sarah Maddy (the sister of Leah Jessup) to her cousin, Sarah Waring (i.e., Sarah Dibble, who later married James Waring), in Stamford. 12 May, 1816. 16 Argyle Street.

My Dear Cousin:— When I received your kind letter, dated almost a year ago, we were extremely busy in moving from Piccadilly to No. 16 Argyle St., a most comfortable house indeed, and immediately after to our cottage in Suffolk, where we pass every summer. I left your letter in London and did not know your address, or should have acknowledged the receipt of it sooner. I was sorry to hear of the death of my dear uncle¹. He was the only one of your family I ever saw. I remember him perfectly well, tho' so long ago as 1777, when I was seven years old. I also remember my grandmother, but I was younger the time she was in Albany.

I shall be obliged to you if you will take the trouble to enquire what my grandmother's grandfather Hyde's Christian name was, and what part of the Clarendon family he belonged to.² I should be glad likewise to know something respecting my ancestors the Jessups and Dibbles, as I know very little about my family, and it certainly would be a gratification to me to know more, if I can obtain information without its being too great an inconvenience to you.

We have had a very unhealthy winter; a vast number of people have died, and many suddenly. My sister Boileau has lost a son, a very clever, industrious boy of 13 years old³, who was always at the head of his class and shewed a most excellent example to his brothers and sisters. She has now six children and is a widow. She is going in midsummer next to France, in order to educate her daughter Ann⁴, and as it will be an advantage to our girls to go also, Dr. Maddy purposes sending Mary and Susan for one year, as they will acquire a pure French accent which cannot be obtained in England. It is quite the fashion now to go to France for education, but I do not think it is to be acquired better there than in England, only it is not so expensive, I am told. The French are a bad example as to their moral conduct, but I shall base no fear on that head, as Mrs. Boileau is an excellent example to young people.

¹George Dibble, who died on the 19th of April, 1813.

²It was John, but I am not at all convinced by the claimed connection to the Clarendons. There is no evidence now, and there wasn't then either, it seems.

³John Peter Boileau. See page 161.

⁴Leah Ann Boileau. See page 161.

I have one boy in my family who is unwell. Our physician recommends our going to the sea with him, and it is likely I shall accompany my sister to the opposite shore for six weeks during the midsummer holidays. On my return I shall have the pleasure of addressing you again. I have just returned from a jaunt to Herefordshire, my husband's native place, a beautiful country on the border of Wales, where the mountains are cultivated almost to their summits¹ and the valleys are rich pasture. I was delighted with my excursion and regretted leaving the country to pass another six weeks in London at this season of the year, just when the fruit trees are going to blossom. It is a cyder country, and of course there are large orchards.

If you should send your son to England Dr. M. and myself will be happy to show him any civility in our power. You will find it expensive, but I suppose you have informed yourself on that subject; if not I will most willingly inform you the first opportunity.

I have heard from the last vessels from India that my sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, are going to take America in their route to England, as my sister has a desire to see her native country before she finally settles here. I have the care of her four boys; it is the oldest who is so unwell as to require the sea air and bathing, which I hope will be of service to him. Dr. M. and our three girls unite with me in love to yourself and family, also to all your sisters and brothers; and believe me always your affectionate cousin,

S. Maddy.

I forgot to mention that I know nothing of our relations in Canada. We have not had any intercourse by letters for years past. I wrote a few years ago, but had no answer to my letter. I mean to make another trial soon; I may have better success.

Leah Boileau died in 1845, in London, at the age of about 78, her sister, Sarah Maddy, having died some years previously, in 1831. The story of her children is continued in the Boileau chapter, on page 161.

¹Must be pretty pathetic mountains, then.