

Jesse Fortune and Elizabeth Lavender, notes compiled by Miles Philbeck, last updated 18 July 2020

Amherst Co., VA marriages: 15 July 1793, **Jesse Fortune**, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Fortune, to **Betsy Lavender**, by consent of her mother Milly Walton.

1795 Burke Co., NC tax list, Capt. Hawkins's Company: **J. Fortune**, 1 poll

1796 Burke Co., NC tax list, Capt. Hawkins's Company: **Jesse Fortune**, 1 poll

Burke Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions minutes: July 1799, **Jesse Fortune** appointed road overseer in the place of Stephen Hardin.

Burke Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions minutes: January 1800, **Jesse Fortune** served on a jury.

1800 Burke Co., NC census: **Jesse Fortune** 30010 - 10100

Burke Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions minutes: July 1801, **Jesse Fortune** served on a jury to mark a road from Black's old field to the North Cove.

1802 Burke Co., NC tax list, Capt. Ainsworth's Company: **Jesse Fortin**

Amherst Co., VA Will Bk. 4, p. 160: will of **Thomas Fortune**, 15 October 1804, wife Elizabeth. Sons Zachariah, John, **Jesse**, Eddy. Daughters Elizabeth Loving, Frankey Seay, Lucy Henderson.

Iredell Co., NC Deed Bk G, p. 47: 4 June 1808, Robert Simonton, sheriff of Iredell Co., to **Jesse Fortune** of the same, by virtue of an execution from the county court of Iredell against Jacob Hovatter for 234 pounds, 15 shillings, recovered by Jesse Fortune, exposed to sale 190 acres beginning at the ridge between Fourth Creek and South Yadkin River ... on 19 May 1808 and Jesse Fortune became highest bidder. Wit. Isaac Green, Thos. Watts, William Hicks.

1810 Iredell Co., NC census: **Jesse Fortune** 42101 - 11010

Iredell Co., NC wills:

In the name of God Amen I **Jesse Fortune** of the County of Iredell & State of North Carolina being of perfect mind and memory by the blessing of God and do this 10th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirteen make and publish my last will and testament in manner and forms following that is to say

First that after all my just debts are paid I do will and bequath that **Betsey my beloved wife** do keep in her possession all my property lands stock & household furniture Also negros untill **my son William** comes to the age of twenty and one and at that time I will that al of the property land negros stock and every thing be praised to there value and then I will that **my sons Jason, Thomas and William** receive there part of an equil dividend between my wife and all my children except **my daughter Metilda** each of the children to receive there part as the arrive of age I will to my daughter Metilda one negro girl caled Mary one bed and furniture and one good side saddle I will that seventy dollars be taken out of all of my property to be put **to the use of schooling my children from John my son down to the youngest** I will that if it should so happen in the course of providine that my wife Betsey should die or marry before all the children should receive there part that all the property be sold and those that have not received there part then to receive it I will to my son Jason my part of one negro boy that is in the posesion of Wm. (or Mrs.?) Watters & likewise a note that I have on **Winston Lavender** of fifteen dollars. I do hereby constitute **my wife executrix and my sons Jason Fourtune & Thomas Fortune executors** of this my last will and testament in witness my hand and seal

Test Wm. Feemster

Jesse (his mark) Fortune

Jacob Hovarter

John Feemster (jurat)

Iredell Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, November 1813: Last will and testament of **Jesse Fortune** proven by John Feemster. Letters of administration granted to **Jason Fortune & Thos. Fortune** - qualified.

Iredell Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, May 1815: James Campbell guardian to **William Fortune** gave bond £ 50 Robt. Simonton & John Feemster bail.

Iredell Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, May 1818: Deeds proved include: **Metilda Fortune** to Wm. Feemster bill sale one negro dated 5th of Jany. 1818 proved by **Wm. Fortune**.

Iredell Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, August 1819: **Thomas Fortune** appointed admr. on the estate of **Jason Fortune** gave bond in £ 500 with John Feemster and Thos. Woodward bail and qualified.

Iredell Co., NC Estate Papers: **Jason L. Fortune, dec'd**. Sale bill, 10 September 1819. Purchases by **Alfred Fortune** (1 shot gun), **Elizabeth Fortune** (1 cow & calf), **Thomas Fortune** (1 lot of wearing clothes).

1820 Iredell Co., NC census: **Elizabeth Fortune** 020300 - 11001

[Based on this census and the 1800 and 1810 censuses above, it appears that Jesse Fortune may have had three sons born before 1800 (Jason, Thomas, William), four sons born between 1800 and 1810 (John, Richard E., Alfred, Hiram), one daughter born before 1800 (Metilda) and one daughter (unidentified) born between 1800 and 1810. The 1820 census of Jesse's widow Elizabeth indicates another daughter born after 1810 (Harriet). Of course it is not certain that those in Jesse and Elizabeth's household were their children.]

Iredell Co., NC Deed Bk. M, p. 974: 27 July 1827, **William Fortune** to James Guy, 282 acres, beginning at ridge between Fourth Creek and South Yadkin River.

Buncombe Co., NC Deed Bk. 15, p. 195: 12 September 1828, **Alfred Fortune** of Buncombe Co., NC, to James M. Smith of Asheville, for 310 dollars, all my interest in right of **my wife Jane** under the will of **her father the late Col. Daniel Smith** consisting of one fifth of the following slaves with their increase ... Wit. L. B. Burnett, J. M. Baird, J. C. Baird.

1830 Buncombe Co., NC census: **William Fortune** 100021 - 0002011 *[These are likely members of the Jesse and Elizabeth Lavender Fortune family.]*

The Harbinger, Chapel Hill, NC, 30 January 1834, p. 3: Died, In Buncombe county on the 8th ult. **Richard E. Fortune**, Esq. Attorney at Law, aged **about 30**. *[8th ult. indicates a death date of 8 December 1833, hence probably born about 1803]*

Buncombe Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions minutes, 11 January 1834 (p. 97): Ordered by court that William D. Smith be appointed administrator to the estate of **Richard E. Fortune dec.** & entered into bond of \$ 1000 as the court required. *[William D. Smith is listed six households before William Fortune on the 1830 Buncombe Co., NC census.]*

Buncombe Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions minutes, 21 April 1834 (p. 106): Ordered by court that Saml. King, James Hamlin & John Clayton Esqrs. be a committe to setle with William D. Smith so far as he has proceeded on the estate of **Richard E. Fortune** deceased and that the said William D. Smith surrender his letters of administration to next and that letters of administration issue to **William Fortune** from this court who entered into bond with John Clayton (Col.) & John McKay security in the sum of \$ 800.

Buncombe Co., NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions minutes, 12 July 1834 (p. 135):

June 29th 1834 Sale of property of **R. E. Fortune decd.** Purchasers: David Rees, H. G. Woodfin, **William Fortune** (1 decanter, 1 pr. buffed shoes, 1 trunk).

July 9th 1834 A list of notes and accts. in my hands of **R. E. Fortune decd.** Notes on Johnathan Senard, C. M. Jenkins, Wm. McCloud, James Stuart, S. Tennison, Lewis Ransom, Joseph Merrel (?), N. H. Murren(?), Thomas Justice, Saml. N. Woodfin, Wm. Noland. Judgt. on Thomas Rackley. Account on Col. Jno. Clayton. The list of notes above are unknown chiefly in name to me & I return them as verry uncertain papers or demands.

One note on **Bird Fortune** for 1 coat \$ 7.00. One note on **Hiram Fortune** for clothing \$ 39.50. One note on **Wm. Paxton** for clothing \$ 40.50. I have recd. from J. W. Patten --?-- according to contract between Paten & R. E. Fortune as stated by Mr. Patton \$ 21.40.

Returned by **Wm. Fortune admr.**

1835 Contested Congressional Election, List of Voters, Buncombe Co., NC: **Winston Lavender**

De Kalb Co., Alabama marriages: **William Fortune** and **Mary M. Brock**, 28 November 1839.

1840 De Kalb Co., Alabama census: **W. W. Fortune** 0010001 - 100000001 *[Five later is H. Brock.] [Mary's age must be overstated or she is just not enumerated.]*

1840 Henderson Co., North Carolina census: **Alfred Fortune** 01001 - 212001

1850 De Kalb Co., Alabama census: **William Fortune**, 52, NC; **Mary M.**, 29; **Harriet E.**, 7, AL; Rufus W., 5; Mary H., 3; Sarah L., 1.

1850 Anderson Co., South Carolina census: **Alfred Fortune**, 47 NC; Jane D. S., 45, NC; **Harriet**, 18 SC; George N., 16 SC; Sarah M., 14 SC; Jane F., 12 SC; **Cintha K.**, 10 SC; Simon B., 8 SC. [*Alfred's wife is said to be Jane Davidson Smith.*]

1850 Henderson Co., North Carolina census: **William Paxton**, 36 NC; **Harriet**, 34 NC; Rufus, 12; Gunias, 10; Thomas, 6; Joseph, 4; Mary J., 1.

1850 Pontotoc Co., Mississippi census: **Thomas Fortune**, 50, NC (Teacher); Jane, 49 NC; Romulus, 21 NC; **Harriet**, 18 GA; Cinderella, 16 TN; George, 12 TN; **Cynthia**, 10 TN. [*Jane is stated in an old published Potts family history as being a daughter of Robert and Jane Witherspoon Potts (Iredell/Mecklenburg Co.) who also had a daughter Cynthia Potts. This Thomas Fortune's daughter Cynthia **Matilda** Fortune married 1 December 1859 at Pontotoc Co., Mississippi to Jackson Lovens / Loving / Lovins and later lived in Haywood Co. Tennessee and Dyer Co., Tennessee. Various family trees posted on the internet state without sources that Thomas was born 26 September 1795, died 9 February 1860 in Pontotoc Co. and married Jane Potts on 8 February 1821 in Iredell Co., North Carolina. Other trees have him hopelessly confused with Thomas Fortune of Rutherford Co., NC who married Jane Depriest in 1832 and have his deathdate as 14 May 1857, the same deathdate as that of Jesse Fortune's brother Thomas Fortune of Nelson Co., Virginia whose first wife is said to have been Cynthia Loving and second wife Jane McAlexander. Three Thomas Fortune's with wives named Jane.*]

1860 De Kalb Co., Alabama census: **William Fortune**, 63, NC; Mary E., 43; Rufus W., 15; Mary H. V., 14; Sarah L., 12; Almira M., 9; Pleasant D., 4; Dovey J., 2.

1860 De Kalb Co., Alabama census: **Hiram Fortune**, 46, NC. [*His age is probably understated.*]

1860 Anderson Co., South Carolina census: **Jane Fortune**, 60 SC; George, 25, NC (C. S. Teacher); Floretta, 21 SC; Simon, 18 SC.

1860 Henderson Co., NC census: **W. H. Paxton**, 45; **Harriet**, 44; Rufus, 21; Junius, 20; Thomas, 16; Joseph, 14; Mary, 12; Martha, 10; Sarah, 7; Harriet, 2.

1866 De Kalb Co., Alabama voter lists: both in precinct 18: **Rufus W. Fortune** and **Hiram Fortune**.

1870 Transylvania Co., NC census: **Wm. A. Paxton**, 55; **Harriet**, 55; Junius, 30; Mary, 20; Mattie, 15; Mira, 14.

1880 Transylvania Co., NC census: **William A. Paxton**, 63; **Harriet L.**, 68; Taylor Norton, 32 (s-law); Martha A. Norton, 26 (dau.); Ellen M., 3 (grdau.); William F., 2 (grson); Hattie S., 9/12 (Sept., granddau.); Sarah M. Paxton, 24 (dau.).

Anderson Co., South Carolina Death Certificate of Junas A. Paxton: born 28 October 1839, son of Will Paxton and **Harrett Fortune**; died 1 April 1923; burial place: Piedmont [*Rose Hill cemetery, Greenville Co., South Carolina*].

Jackson Co., North Carolina Death Certificate of Martha Paxton Norton: born 14 November 1852, daughter of William Paxton and ---- **Fortune**; died 11 February 1938; burial place: Zachary cemetery [*Lower Zachary cemetery, Jackson Co., North Carolina*].

Greenville Co., South Carolina Death Certificate of Mary J. Southern: born 6 June 1849, daughter of William Paxton and **Harriet Fortune**; died 20 March 1941; burial place: Devington [*Daventon Baptist cemetery, Greenville Co., South Carolina*].

Greenwood cemetery, Transylvania Co., North Carolina:

William A. Paxton, 10 November 1814 - 17 June 1891

Harriet L. Paxton, 30 September 1811 - 12 June 1891

Family of Jesse Fortune and Elizabeth Lavender suggested by records:

Jason L. Fortune, unmarried, d. 1819

Thomas Fortune, m. Jane Potts

William Fortune, m. Mary Brock

Metilda Fortune

John Fortune, b. est. 1800-1801, oldest of the last six children

Richard E. Fortune, b. est. 1802-1803, unmarried, d. 8 December 1833.

Alfred Fortune, b. est. 1803-1804, m. Jane Davidson Smith.

dau. Fortune, b. est. 1806

Hiram Fortune, b. est. 1808, unmarried

Harriet L. Fortune, b. 1811, d. 1891, m. William A. Paxton