Jesse Shasteen is one of the earliest documented Shasteens in America. This page was researched and written by Joy Gallagher. You may reach Joy at gallagherj@cafes.net.

Biography of Jesse Shasteen, Sr.
of Amherst County, Virginia, Wayne County, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Gallatin County, Illinois

Revolutionary War Service

Jesse Shasteen, or Shatteen as it appears in several records, served as an infantry soldier in the Virginia Line during the Revolutionary War. He was listed in the 1792 auditor's office register of abstracts of all the certificates issued at the auditor's office to officers and soldiers of the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment for the balance of their full pay agreeable to an Act of Assembly passed November Session 1781. Jesse's pay, drawn May 25, 1784, by John Bryan, was 52 pounds, 18 shillings, 2 pence.

Jesse is believed to be the brother of James Shasteen, whose name also appears in Virginia records as Shatteen. Like Jesse, James also married in Amherst County, Virginia, and served in the Virginia Line during the Revolutionary War. James and his wife, Nancy Kennedy, moved to Madison County, Kentucky, in October 1791. The area where they lived later became Rockcastle County. There he, and later his widow, drew a pension for his Revolutionary service. It is believed Jesse never applied for a pension for his service in the Revolutionary War because his service time was too short to qualify him for a pension.

Jesse Shasteen Family in Kentucky

Jesse's 1785 marriage license stated he was a bachelor and Ellenor was a widow. By 1792, Jesse, his wife Ellenor Coffey nee Wade, their first two children, William and Samuel, and Ellenor's daughter from her first marriage, Jane Coffey, were also living in Madison County, Kentucky. Jesse and Ellenor had sold their land in Amherst County, Virginia, on April 20, 1789.

Ellenor's sons from her first marriage, James M. and John W. Coffey, were listed in the 1799 Cumberland County, Kentucky, tax list. In 1801, the area where they lived became part of the newly formed Wayne County. That year Jesse Shasteen received a land warrant in the new county for 200 acres (later listed as 193 acres) south of Green River on Otter Creek. The warrant was signed by Micah Taul, Commissioner of Wayne County. The survey of this land listed the chain carriers as William Shasteen, Jesse and Ellenor's son, and John W. Coffey, Ellenor's son from her first marriage.

Taul was admitted to the bar in Kentucky in 1802 and in 1826 moved to Winchester in Franklin County, Tennessee, where his first wife Dorothy died December 18, 1827, and was buried in the Winchester City Cemetery. Dorothy Taul's family, the Gholsons of Wayne County, had land transactions in Franklin County, Tennessee, as early as 1813, for on January 29 that year Samuel Gholson of Wayne County, Kentucky, sold two acres on Elk River in Franklin County, Tennessee, to Francis Gholson.

Of Ellenor's first husband's brothers, six also migrated to Kentucky, the earliest in 1779. They were Reuben, Ambrose, Eli, Joel, Lewis, and James Coffey, Jr. Ambrose, Eli, and James, Jr. stayed in Kentucky only briefly. Reuben, Joel, and Lewis settled in Wayne County. Ellenor's brother-in-law Rice Coffey migrated to Bedford County, Tennessee.

Jesse and Ellenor Shasteen's son William, born about 1786, married Elizabeth Reed on January 16, 1804 in Wayne County. Jesse and Ellenor's son Samuel, born June 17, 1788, left Kentucky and went to Jefferson County, Indiana, where he married Margaret Johnson on September 28, 1815. Jesse and Ellenor's daughter Elizabeth married Uriah Rains on January 21, 1809 in Wayne County. Jesse and Ellenor's daughter Margaret married Stephen Rains, Uriah's brother, on March 16, 1812 in Wayne County. Jesse and Ellenor's son Thomas married Nancy Jones, daughter of Reverend Elliott Jones, on September 10, 1813 in Wayne County. Jesse and Ellenor's son...
Jesse Shasteen, Jr., born about 1800, married Polly Kinnett on March 21, 1818 in Wayne County.

On April 28, 1829, Jesse and Ellenor Shasteen sold their land on Otter Creek in Wayne County to Benjamin Rains. According to a Kentucky Delinquent Tax List. Then Jesse is believed to have moved from Kentucky to Tennessee according to the 1830 Wayne County, Kentucky Delinquent Tax List. On April 28, 1829, when and when the 1830 census was taken in Gallatin County. Jesse, Jr.’s next door neighbor there in the 1830 census was Willis McEnelly, born between 1800 and 1810. The Jesse Shasteen listed in the 1840 Gallatin County, Illinois, census was Jesse, Jr.’s age; therefore, it is believed Jesse, Sr. died between 1830 and 1840.

According to the Bethel's Creek Baptist Church minutes, Jesse Shasteen, Jr.’s first wife Polly transferred her membership from the Otter Creek Baptist Church in Wayne County, Kentucky, to the Bethel's Creek Church in Gallatin County, Illinois, in May 1826. The Bethel's Creek minutes state Polly died in Gallatin County in February 1841. That part of Gallatin County later became Saline County. Shortly after Polly died, Jesse, Jr. was married to Frances Moore. The vows were administered by Archelaus Coffey, Minister of the Gospel, and son of James M. Coffey. They were married only a few months when Jesse, Jr. died in October 1841.

Archelaus Coffey also performed the marriage of Sarah Shasteen and William S. Knight in 1837. She was the oldest child of Jesse Shasteen, Jr. and his first wife Polly Kinnett. Sarah and William Knight were living next door to Jesse Shasteen, Jr. in the 1840 Gallatin County census, and William Knight purchased several items at Jesse, Jr.’s estate sale. Archelaus Coffey had been appointed administrator of the estate. An account against Jesse, Jr.’s estate dated June 1836 for $4.50 for doctor’s visits and pills could have been for his elderly father, Jesse, Sr. at his death.

Jesse, Sr. left no will naming his heirs. His stepchildren, the Coffeys, have been well documented by official records. His own children by Ellenor Coffey nee Wade have been gleaned from Kentucky and Tennessee tax lists; Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Indiana, and Illinois census records; Kentucky and Tennessee land records; Kentucky marriage records; and the Pierre Chastain Family Association family files and publications.

The Families of Jesse Shasteen, Sr.

Jesse Shasteen, Sr. was born about 1765 in Virginia. Jesse Shasteen, Sr. died before 1840 in Gallatin County, Illinois. He married Ellenor Coffey nee Wade on November 21, 1785 in Amherst County, Virginia. She was born about 1760 in Virginia. She was the daughter of John Wade and Elizabeth ?. Ellenor Coffey Shasteen nee Wade died before 1830 while moving from Wayne County, Kentucky to Gallatin County, Illinois.

Sarah Shasteen and William S. Knight in 1837. She was the oldest child of Jesse Shasteen, Sr. and his wife Ellenor Coffey. Sarah Shasteen was born about 1796 in North Carolina. She married William S. Knight, born between 1796 and 1800, on November 21, 1785 in Amherst County, Virginia. She was born about 1760 in Virginia. She was the daughter of John Wade and Elizabeth ?. Sarah Shasteen and William S. Knight were living next door to Jesse Shasteen, Jr. in the 1840 Gallatin County census, and William Knight purchased several items at Jesse, Jr.’s estate sale. Archelaus Coffey had been appointed administrator of the estate. An account against Jesse, Jr.’s estate dated June 1836 for $4.50 for doctor’s visits and pills could have been for his elderly father, Jesse, Sr. at his death.

Jesse Shasteen and Ellenor Coffey Had Six Children:

William Shasteen, Sr. was born about 1786/1787 in Virginia. He married Elizabeth Reed on January 16, 1804 in Wayne County, Kentucky. She was the daughter of John Reed and Elizabeth ?. Elizabeth Reed Shasteen died before 1831. William Shasteen, Sr. also married (2) Lavina Bowling nee Chastain about 1831. She was born August 31, 1803 in South Carolina. She was the daughter of John Chastain and Mary Robertson nee ?. Lavina Chastain also married (1) Mr. Bowling about 1820. Mr. Bowling died between 1826 and 1831. Lavina Bowling Shasteen nee Chastain also married (3) Samuel Weeks, Sr. on November 21, 1843 in Franklin County, Tennessee. He was the son of William Weeks. Samuel Weeks, Sr. died April 1845 in Franklin County, Tennessee. Lavina Bowling Shasteen Weeks nee Chastain died about 1846 in Franklin County, Tennessee. William Shasteen, Sr. died August 18, 1841 in Franklin County, Tennessee and was buried in Kitchens Cemetery, Franklin County, Tennessee.

Samuel Shasteen was born June 17, 1788 in Virginia. He married Margaret "Marg" Johnson on September 28, 1815 in Jefferson County, Indiana. She was born 1796 in North Carolina. She was the daughter of Charles Johnson. Samuel Shasteen died December 21, 1836, at the age of 48, in Jefferson County, Indiana, and was buried in Wirt Baptist Church Cemetery, Jefferson County, Indiana. Margaret Johnson Shasteen was still alive in the 1860 Jefferson County, Indiana census. Samuel's descendants spelled their name Chastain.

Elizabeth Shasteen was born about 1789 in Kentucky. She married Uriah Rains on January 21, 1809 in Wayne County, Kentucky. He was the son of Newman Rains. Uriah Rains was born about 1782 in Virginia. Elizabeth died before 1850. Uriah was living in Fentress County, Tennessee in 1850 and 1860.

Margaret Shasteen was born about 1792 in Kentucky. She married Stephen Rains on March 16, 1812 in Wayne County,
Thomas Shasteen was born about 1795 in Kentucky. He married Nancy Jones on September 10, 1813 in Wayne County, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Reverend Elliott Jones and Elizabeth Wade. Thomas and Nancy were living in Lawrence County, Alabama in 1820.

Jesse Shasteen, Jr. was born about 1800 in Kentucky. He married Polly Kinnett on March 21, 1818 in Wayne County, Kentucky. She was born about 1802. Polly Kinnett Shasteen died February 1841 in Gallatin County, Illinois. Jesse Shasteen, Jr. married (2) Frances Moore on July 15, 1841 in Gallatin County, Illinois. Jesse Shasteen, Jr. died October 1841 in Gallatin County, Illinois.

Jesse Shasteen, Sr. Had Three Stepchildren:

James M. Coffey was born July 20, 1776 in Amherst County, Virginia. He was the biological son of Archelaus Coffey and Ellenor Wade. He married Frances Lane on January 16, 1804 in Wayne County, Kentucky. She was born June 22, 1785 in North Carolina. She was the daughter of Thomas Lane and Nancy Dabney. Frances Lane Coffey died October 24, 1859 in Saline County, Illinois, at the age of 74, and was buried in Bethel's Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Saline County, Illinois. James M. Coffey died January 7, 1849 in Hamilton County, Illinois, at the age of 72, and was buried in Bethel's Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Saline County, Illinois.

Ellenor Wade was born about 1775 in Amherst County, Virginia. He was the biological daughter of Archelaus Coffey and Ellenor Wade. He married Mary "Polly" Harbord on December 29, 1801 in Wayne County, Kentucky. She was born October 30, 1781. She was the daughter of John Harbord and Mary ?. Mary "Polly" Harbord Coffey died April 19, 1853 in Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, at the age of 71. John Wade Coffey died about 1834 in Washington County, Indiana.

Janae Coffey was born June 22, 1782 in Wilkes County, North Carolina. She was the biological daughter of Archelaus Coffey and Ellenor Wade. She married William Harbord on January 28, 1802 in Wayne County Kentucky. Her stepfather Jesse Shasteen, Sr. signed the marriage bond and stated she was his stepdaughter. William Harbord was born December 24, 1777 in Virginia. He was the son of John Harbord and Mary ?. William Harbord died September 17, 1845 in McLean County, Illinois, at the age of 67. Jane Coffey Harbord died October 2, 1862 in McLean County, Illinois, at the age of 80.

Ellenor Wade also married (1) Archelaus Coffey about 1775 in Amherst County, Virginia. He was born about 1755 in Albemarle County, Virginia. He was the son of James Coffey and Elizabeth Cleveland. Archelaus Coffey died before 1840 in Wayne County, Kentucky.

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