

Jesse was born in the town of Naples, May 2, 1795, and died in the town of DeKalb, St. Lawrence county, January 7, 1865. About the year 1810, he moved with his parents from Naples and settled in Canada on the Reade river, at Merrick's Falls (*NOTE: According to current atlas, this place is likely Merrickville on the Rideau River in Grenville County, Canada. Also, according to Canadian Census records, the family was already in Merrickville in 1802.) Here two more children were born, John and Henry. Sometime during the War of 1812, James, the father, was requested to take an oath of allegiance to England. This he refused to do, and in consequence was obliged to leave his home in order to escape bearing arms against his native country. Soon after the close of the war he returned with his family, except Jesse and his brother Thomas, who had come before to New York State, and settled in the town of Gouverneur, where he lived until his death.

During the War of 1812, when the British were trying to take Ogdensburg, Jesse, although a young boy, together with his brother Thomas, older, was pressed into the British service and ordered to be present to guard that place. Not liking the idea of fighting against their own flag, they, together with their cousin, crossed the St. Lawrence river upon the ice, at a place about five miles above Prunet, and landed at Ministua. From thence they went to Ogdensburgh, and reported to the commander, who gave them a pass to go where they chose.

From Ogdensburgh, Jesse went to the town of Perrinton, Monroe county, NY. Here he became acquainted with Lovina Cook, who was of English parentage, and who was born in the town of Plainfield, Hampshire county, Mass., November 16, 1799, and died in the town of Gouverneur, St. Lawrence county, June 4, 1882. This acquaintance led to their marriage in Perrinton, October 3, 1816, where they lived about one year, when they went to Gouverneur and settled on a piece of wild land, in the northwestern part of the town, about five miles from the present village of Gouverneur.

While living there they had four children:—

Thomas, born December 27, 1818, now (1883) in Michigan.

Laura, born August 5, 1821, married John Cooper,—by whom she had three children,—died February 18, 1866.

Catharine, born December 20, 1822, married Elecum Hunt, by whom she has three children. Garrett, born August 28, 1824, died February 26, 1848.

In 1825, the family moved back to the town of Perrinton, and settled on a farm near to the spot where the father and mother were married.

There they had two daughters as follows: Hannah, born June 6, 1826, and Orrissa Jane, born August 10, 1828,—the latter of whom married Morris G. Smith.

From here they moved and located on a farm in the town of Macedon, Wayne county, where three sons were born:—

Joseph, January 3, 1832.

Levi C.

Christopher, born May 8, 1838.

In the winter of 1838, at the request of his father, Jesse returned with his family to Gouverneur to take care of his parents, who had returned from Canada shortly after the War of 1812, and had taken up a farm in the northeastern part of that town. Here Jesse had born another son,—making ten children in all,—Edwin, August 14, 1840, who died January 10, 1873.

Upon this farm and in this neighborhood the children were brought up and schooled, all of them receiving a limited common school education.