

JOHN N. JONES LETTER GIVING FAMILY HISTORY

Cone, Texas
September 14, 1921

Well, according to request, I will write what I know of the early history of the Jones Family. I came to Texas in the Fall of 1853 and stayed till the Summer of 1857, in Bastrop County, I got acquainted with an old man by the name of McDay that was the rise of 80 years old that claimed to be raised by my Grand-father. He said he was bound to him when he was 8 years old and stayed with him till he was 21. He told me more than I ever heard about the Jones family, and when I got back to Arkansas Grandmother was alive and she said he had given me a true history of the family.

He said my Great-grandfather was a Welshman and militray man under the English Government and was put over a portion of the Irish that was about to rebel and was so lenient with them there were charges preferred against him, and he deserted and came to America sometime before the Revolutionary War.

When the War came up my Great-grand-father (John Jones, 1st) was living in Charleston, S.C. where my Grandfather (Andrew Jones) was born. Fearing that he would fall in to the hands of the English, Great-grandfather went into the mountains of North Carolina and died there. And when Daniel Boone moved his family to Kentucky my Grandfather came with him, and my father (Robert Jones) was born there (somewhere in Kentucky).

Grandfather was in several Indian fights with Boone. He lived there a few years (till 1811), then moved to Alabama and settled where the town of Tuscalloosa is now, and cleared out a farm there. There were eight families of them. It was forty miles to the nearest white settlement. He fought the Indians all up and down the Black Warrior River and was Captain of the Militia. He then moved to West Tennessee, then to Mississippi 1831, and died there before the Chickasa Indians left there (1837).

Grandfather had 12 children, 6 boys and 6 girls, The boys were Elijah, John (A), Robert (my father), Willis, Abraham and Jolly. Uncle John once represented Tippah County. (Mississippi) in the Legistature. He died on the Saline River in Arkansas (near Benton, on a return trip from Mississippi to his home near Alping, Ark). Uncle Willis represented Pike, Polk and Montgomery counties in the Arkansas State Senate (This seems to be an error as the Report of the Arkansas Secretary of State show Willis Jones as a Representative from Pike County, not as Senator--J.GC.) He died at Little Rock, Arkansas while a Major in the 4th U.S. Cavalary Regiment.

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I dont think my father (Robert Jones) ever held any office. He had very little education. He had ten children, 5 boys and 5 girls. The boys were Alfred, Willis C, John N, Joseph and Robert.

My Grandmother on my fathers side was a Box (Rebecca) and several years before he was married and that Grandmother was of a very aristocratic and wealthy family and the family was opposed to Grandfather.

My mother was a Ewing. They were English (probably Scotch-Irish). They stttled first in Virginia, then went to Middle Tennessee. Her father was a first cousin of Finis Ewing, the founder of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mother had (four) half brothers, John, Reuben, James and William Ewing, and one own brother, Alfred Ewing. They fought through the War of 1812. Reuben once ran for Governor of Illinois, but was beaten. James, I guess died at the Alamo, in Texas, with David Crockett. Uncle William Ewing died in Arkansas (near Curtis). Alfred Ewing died near Elm Arkansas. My mother lived to be very old. She only lacked from the 5th of March to the 10th of May of being 96 years old. (Born May 10, 1806). Died March 5, 1902. She was buried at Dallas, Polk County, Arkansas.

I will here state that brother Alfred was one of the most moral boys I ever saw in my life. His great aim was to do right and learn all he could. He got every book on history he could and idled no time away. A many a load of pine-knots have I helped to carry up for him to study by while the rest of us were romping around fooling off our time. I have often wished I was as good a man as he and had the same control over my temper and had that forgiving spirit.

I will give a brief sketch of my ups and downs--and down a heap of time than up. I ran from home, came to Texas in 1851, when I was only 16 years old, stayed one year, then went home (Point Cedar, Ark) then came back to Texas, stayed three years. Went into the Ranger Service. Went on to the frontier and was in company with the wildest men of the Nation. When mustered out I traveled with Gen Sam Houston when he ran for Governor of Texas in 1857. While in the United States Senate he had voted against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. He said this was the best vote he ever cast in his life, for the repeal of it made war inevitable between the states at no distant day, and he would go on and tell us what would be the final issue of the war. The south would be subjugated and the negroes would be free. I heard him make several speeches, and as I regarded him as to be the smartest man I had ever seen, when Secession came up I did everything I could against it. I tell this to show why I opposed the War.

I have been married three times. I first married Miss Jane Box. We had two children. One died in infancy. we had four boys living, all born in Texas. Two are farmers, one in cattle business in Arizona. Two are unmarried.

I next married Mrs. Mary Dedwilley. No children by her. She only lived seven months--got a fall from a horse that caused her death. She was buried in St. John's Cemetery in Little Rock, Arkansas.

I next married Miss Ann Campbell in Pike County, Arkansas. We had seven children living to be grown. The oldest is Joseph Wilson Jones, born in Pike County, Arkansas, December 23, 1866. The next a girl was born in Pike County Arkansas January 15, 1868. Malinda was born October 30, 1870, in Texas, Jolly was born in July, 1874. Josie was born in Texas September 9, 1876. Angeline was born in Texas, August 19, 1879, Wilson never married. He lived near Goliad, Texas. Owned a good farm. Elida Ledufsa married R.M. Parrish. They had nine children, six boys and three girls all grown, but one. Oldest boy, 30 years old, is a farmer, owns a good farm. Next girl, married a man by the name of Garrett. They own a farm. A girl named Atoka lives in Florida. Chester and Omer are farmers, own good farms. Otto, Joe and Creed are school boys. The youngest is a girl named Berlin, 12 years old. All were born in Texas.

Malinda married J.C. Garrett. They have five children, two boys and three girls. James, 30, and Walter, 28, are farmers in New Mexico. Annie, 33 married a man named Stephens. Mamie married a man named Martin, a farmer. Lila is teaching school, owns land in New Mexico. Jolly has three girls and a boy, Henry Jones. He lives in Calahon County, owns a farm. The three girls live here (at Cone, Texas). Angeline had two boys and one girl. James Alonzo Campbell, 25, served with the Military two years, 12 months in France. He now owns a farm near Carlsbad, New Mexico. He married Mittie Smith last June. Samuel Augustus Campbell is a bookkeeper in Duncan, Oklahoma. Madean is attending the Christian University at Enid, Oklahoma.

This leaves me in Tolerable health. I am expecting to go to Goliad in October. So with my best regards, I will close.

(Signed) J.N. Jones

P.S. At the proper place I forgot to tell about my Grandfather (Andrew Jones) brothers. He had two brothers. John and Jolly, John never married. (This is probably the John Jones who died near Smithland, Ky. in 1811.---

J.G.D) Jolly went with Grandfather to Alabama and stayed there. He represented his county in the Legislature. He held some office all his life. for my brothers and sisters, they are known to you people there better than to me. I wrote a sketch of my life and my War records, but have never had it published.

With my best compliments to all. I will close, J.N. Jones

Continued from John N. Jones Letter....4

Comment.....It had been supposed that the original John Jones died in Kentucky, in 1811. From this letter it would appear this was the son of the first John Jones, who came with Daniel Boone's family to Kentucky. Came in 1775 and again in 1780 Jones probably came on the first trip.

J.G.C.....