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CALVIN JONES

Physician, Soldier and Freemason
1775-1846

BEING AN ACCOUNT OF HIS CAREER IN NORTH
CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE

BY

Marshall DeLancey Haywood 32°

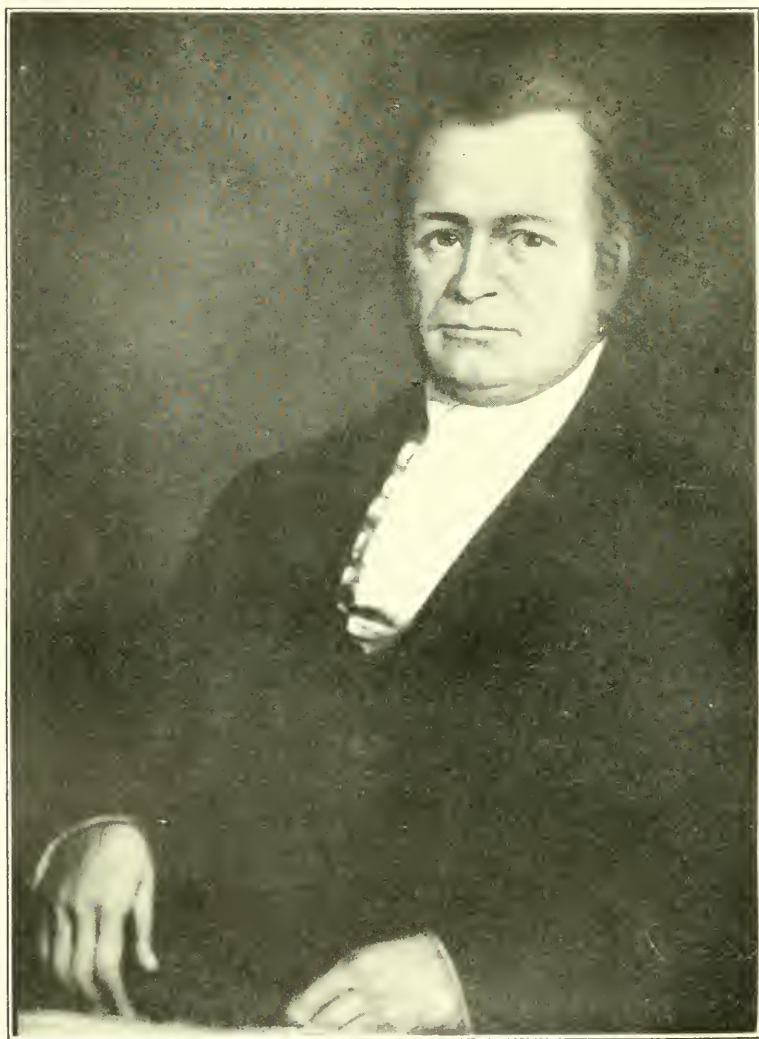
HISTORIAN OF THE GRAND LODGE
OF NORTH CAROLINA

FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE, A. D. 1919

REPRINT, ISSUED BY JAMES W. JONES
BOLIVAR, TENNESSEE







MAJOR-GENERAL CALVIN JONES
Grand Master of Masons, 1817-1820

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Gift
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Oct. 1912



CALVIN JONES,

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By MARSHALL DELANCEY HAYWOOD

MAJOR-GENERAL CALVIN JONES, an officer of North Carolina troops throughout the Second War with Great Britain, a physician and scientist of marked ability, and Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of North Carolina, was born at Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on the 2d day of April, 1775. His birthplace was in the Berkshire Hills. His father was Ebenezer Jones, a soldier in the Army of the Revolution, and the maiden name of his mother was Susannah Blackmore. The family's earliest progenitor in America was Thomas Ap Jones, a Welchman, who settled at Weymouth, Massachusetts, in 1651. From him, Ebenezer Jones was fourth in descent.

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Of the early life of Calvin Jones we know little. We get a slight glimpse of the surroundings of his infancy in a letter to him from his father's sister, Mrs. Mary Collins, who says: "I came to your father's house to stay with your mother while your father and Uncle Joseph went to fight for their dear country. You were then 16 months old." A letter from his father declares: "Your mother and I made slaves of ourselves that our children might have education." We are unable to ascertain in what institutions Calvin Jones received his education, but that he was possessed of a varied store of knowledge in state-craft, medicine, surgery, science, history, botany, and polite literature, there is ample proof. The study of medicine he began in boyhood, and he made such wonderful progress in that science that he was able to stand an examination on the subject at the early age of seventeen. A certificate, or medical license, now owned by his descendants, reads as follows:

These may certify that Calvin Jones, on ye 19th of June, 1792, offered himself as a candidate for examination in the Healing Art before the United Medical Society. He was likewise examined and approved of by the said Society as being well skilled in the Theory of the Physical Art, and by them is recommended to the Publick, as per Order of James Batten, president.

DOCT. DAVID DOTY, Secretary.

We have never been able to learn where this United Medical Society was located. Before leaving New England, Dr. Jones practiced his profession with marked success, as we learn from general letters of recommendation and introduction from physicians with whom he had been associated before removing to North Carolina.

LEGISLATIVE, MEDICAL, AND JOURNALISTIC CAREER

It was about the year 1795 that Dr. Jones settled in North Carolina, locating at Smithfield, in Johnston County. He soon gained the esteem and confidence of the general public in his new home, likewise attaining high rank among the most progressive and enlightened medical men of North Carolina.

In the course of time, Dr. Jones was called into public life by the voters of Johnston County, being twice elected a member of the North Carolina House of Commons, serving in the sessions of 1799 and 1802. He was an active, useful, and influential member of these bodies. His speech (November 20, 1802,) against the proposed appropriation to establish a penitentiary, in the nature of a mild reformatory, was an argument of great force which was reported in short-hand by Joseph Gales, editor of the *Raleigh Register*, for the use of his paper (see issue of December 14th), and it was later re-published in a small pamphlet. In this speech, Dr. Jones said:

“The plan of lessening the frequency of crimes, by reforming instead of punishing criminals, has originated in principles that I revere; but sure I am the advocates of this measure are mistaken in the effects it is calculated to produce. * * * This extravagant project, in other States, has been more to accommodate vagabond wretches whom the jails of Europe have vomited upon our shores, than native citizens, and this strongly increases my objection to the measure. In New York, I am assured from authority on which I can rely, that two-thirds of the criminals in the State prison are freed negroes and foreigners. The prudent policy of this State [North Carolina], in refusing to liberate any of its slaves, will relieve us from one species of these pests of society, but we have no security against the other except in the rigor of our laws.”

Concerning emigrants from Europe to America, Dr. Jones added: “There are many of them who were an honor to their own country, and who are now an ornament to this. I object only to these vagrant wretches who have no trade or profession but thieving and sedition; whose schools of education have been jails and armies,

and who transport themselves here to avoid a transportation to Botany Bay, or to elude the pitiless noose of the hangman."

The session of 1802 ended the services of Dr. Jones as a member of the House of Commons from Johnston County, but, after his removal to Raleigh, he was honored with a seat in the same body as a representative from the county of Wake, as will be mentioned later on.

So far as is known, Dr. Jones was the first physician in North Carolina to discard the old treatment by inoculation as a preventive of small-pox, and to substitute therefor the new process of inoculation now known as vaccination. So up-to-date was Dr. Jones that he was extensively practicing this treatment before the experiments of its discoverer (Dr. Jenner) were completed in England. In 1800, while still living in Smithfield, Dr. Jones announced through the newspapers that he would begin a general practice of vaccination—or inoculation as it was still called—in the Spring of the following year. Later he decided to postpone such action until he could get the benefit of reports of more recent experiments elsewhere; and he published in the *Raleigh Register*, of April 14, 1801, a card in the course of which he said:

"The public have been taught to expect, from my advertisements of last year, that I shall, in the ensuing month, commence inoculation for the Smallpox; but I am prevented from doing this by the consideration of what is due from me to those who would have been my patients, whose ease and safety my own inclinations and the honor of my profession bind me to consult."

In this card, Dr. Jones further said of Dr. Jenner's discovery that eminent practitioners in England, Scotland, Austria, and France were using the treatment with success, while Dr. Mitchell, of New York, and Dr. Waterhouse, of New Hampshire, were among the American physicians of note who had been engaged in the same work.

In conjunction with a number of other well known physicians of the State, Dr. Jones was one of the organizers of the North Carolina Medical Society in the year 1799. On the 16th of December, in that year, these gentlemen met in Raleigh and perfected an organization. Dr. Jones was elected Corresponding Secretary or "Secretary of Correspondence," and served in that capacity during the life of the society. This organization held

meetings in Raleigh during the month of December in the years 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, and 1804. The meeting in the year last named adjourned to reconvene at Chapel Hill, the seat of the University of North Carolina, on July 5, 1805. I can find no record of the Chapel Hill meeting, though it may have taken place; nor can I find any notice of subsequent meetings. In the issue of the *North Carolina Booklet*, of January, 1917, is a brief account which I wrote of this society. During its short-lived existence, many enlightening medical essays were read before it by its learned members, and much useful knowledge was thereby disseminated. Among other things, the society collected a botanical garden and natural history museum. Many years later, Dr. Jones, on the eve of his removal to Tennessee in 1832, turned over to the University of North Carolina a collection of this nature, which may have been the same. Alluding to this gift in his *History of the University of North Carolina*, Dr. Battle says:

“About this time a prominent Trustee, of Wake County, about to remove to Tennessee, General Calvin Jones, presented to the University his ‘Museum of artificial and natural curiosities.’ Probably some of these are somewhere among the University collections, but it is doubtful if they can be identified.”

This collection contained a great variety and wide range of objects—from small botanical specimens to mastodon teeth and the bones of other prehistoric animals.

Dr. Jones was not only an enlightened and accomplished physician, but practiced surgery with notable success, many of his operations being of the most delicate nature—on the eye, ear, and other sensitive organs, which are now usually treated by specialists. He was also the author of a medical work entitled *A Treatise on the Scarletina Anginosa, or what is Vulgarly Called the Scarlet Fever, or Canker-Rash, Replete with everything necessary to the Pathology and Practice, Deduced from Actual Experience and Observation, by Calvin Jones, Practitioner of Physic*. This work was published at Catskill, New York, by the editors of the *Catskill Packet*, Mackay Crosswell and Dr. Thomas O’Hara Crosswell, in 1794.

Being a mutual friend of the parties concerned, Dr. Jones deeply deplored the political quarrel between the

Honorable John Stanly and Ex-Governor Richard Dobbs Spaight at New Bern, in the early fall of 1802. Together with other friends of those gentlemen, he earnestly sought to arrange their differences on a basis honorable to both. These commendable efforts were vain, however, and, when the code duello was resorted to, thinking his services as a surgeon might be of some avail, Dr. Jones was one of the party (not inconsiderable in number) which was on the ground when the hostile meeting took place, on September 5th. After several shots were exchanged without effect, Stanly's fire brought down his antagonist, who was carried from the field in a dying condition and expired shortly thereafter.

It was about 1803 that Dr. Jones left Smithfield and took up his residence in Raleigh. A few years later he was elected Mayor of the capital city—or "Intendent of Police," as the municipal chief magistrate was then called. Honors, too, came to him from the county of Wake, which he was elected to represent in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1807. His seat in that body was contested on the ground that (it was alleged) he did not own a one hundred acre freehold, as was then required of Commoners by the Constitution of the State; but the committee on privileges and elections, after hearing both sides, decided unanimously that "the allegations set forth in said petition are unfounded." Dr. Jones consequently kept his seat, and was a useful member of this Legislature, serving as chairman of the committee to preserve and perpetuate the paper currency of the State, as chairman of the committee to investigate the laws relative to slaves charged with capital offenses, and was a member of the committee on militia. He may have been a member of other committees in the same General Assembly. In connection with the contested election of Dr. Jones, I may add that I do not know how much Wake County land he owned in 1807, but the court house records show that he acquired extensive tracts in this county at a later date.

For a while Dr. Jones devoted some (though not all) of his time to journalism. In the Fall of 1808 he became associated with Thomas Henderson, Jr., in publishing and editing the *Star*, under the firm name Jones & Henderson, and later Thomas Henderson & Company. The files of the *Star* show the wide range of knowledge

possessed by its editors in the various fields of science, art, history, and *belles lettres*, as well as in events (political and otherwise) then current. Henderson, like Dr. Jones, became an officer of North Carolina militia in the War of 1812-'15. On January 1, 1815, Dr. Jones disposed of his interest in the *Star* to Colonel Henderson, who thereupon conducted the business alone until January, 1822, when he sold his paper and printing outfit, and went to Tennessee.

While Dr. Jones, otherwise known as General Jones, and Colonel Henderson were associated in the ownership and editorial management of the *Star*, the latter had a narrow escape from death by drowning, being saved by the heroism of Jacob Johnson, father of President Andrew Johnson. Captain William Peace, of Raleigh, an eye-witness of this occurrence, recounted it in writing half a century later to Ex-Governor Swain, who repeats it in an address on Jacob Johnson, delivered when a headstone was placed over his grave, June 4, 1867. Captain Peace said:

"At a large fishing party at Hunter's Mill Pond on Walnut Creek, near Raleigh, upwards of fifty years ago, the late Colonel Henderson proposed for amusement a little skim in the canoe on the pond. He, a young Scotch merchant named Callum, and myself, entered the canoe. Henderson was helmsman and knew that neither Callum nor myself could swim. He soon began to rock the canoe, so as at times to dip water, and just above the pier-head of the pond, bore so heavily on the end where he was sitting as to tilt and turn it over, throwing all three into the pond. Callum caught hold of me. I begged him to let go, as I could not swim. He did so, and seized Henderson, and both sank to the bottom in ten feet of water. I struggled and kept myself above water until they came to my assistance from the shore and carried me out. A cry was then made for Henderson and Callum. Jacob Johnson was standing on the pier-head. Without a moment's hesitation he leaped into the pond, dived in the direction of where he saw them sink, caught hold of Henderson and brought him up. In an instant a dozen swimmers were in the water from the shore to assist in bringing Henderson out, and Callum with him, who was clinging to the skirt of Henderson's coat underneath, and at the moment invisible."

Commenting upon the event just described in the account by Captain Peace, Governor Swain said:

"Fortunately for the sufferers, the late General Calvin Jones, Henderson's partner, was on shore. He was an eminent and able physician and surgeon, and the most efficacious means for the relief of the apparently drowned men were promptly applied. Hen-

derson was soon able to speak, but life was, to ordinary observers, extinct in Callum, who was longer under the water. After an anxious interval of painful suspense, he exhibited signs of life, was restored, and lived to marry and rear a family. * * * Henderson suffered from the effects of the adventure during more than a year; and Johnson, though he survived for a longer period, passed away eventually, a martyr to humanity."

Like nearly all other editors of his day, Colonel Henderson operated a book and stationary business in connection with his newspaper office, and Dr. Jones also owned an interest in that establishment.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, the American Colonization Society was organized by some of the foremost men of the United States for the purpose of thinning out the free negro population of the country by deporting to Liberia such members of the race as were willing to undertake the establishment of a republic of their own. The gradual emancipation of the slaves was also an event these gentlemen had in view. On June 12, 1819, the Reverend William Meade, of Virginia, later Bishop, came to Raleigh and formed a local branch organization. General Jones was much interested in the movement, and was elected a member of the Board of Managers of the branch then formed. Among the officers were: President, Governor John Branch; and vice presidents, Colonel William Polk, Chief Justice John Louis Taylor, Judge Leonard Henderson (later Chief Justice), and Archibald Henderson. This movement, as is well known, was eventually a failure, owing to the violent hostility it encountered from the more radical abolitionists of the North.

After successfully devoting himself to the medical profession for many years, and attaining a high reputation therein (as already shown), Dr. Jones finally abandoned active practice in order to devote himself to the management of his agricultural interests.

MILITARY CAREER

Interest in military matters was a life-long characteristic of Dr. Jones. Almost immediately after his arrival in North Carolina, and before he removed to Raleigh, he was an officer of a regiment in Johnston County. Among the papers left by him is an autograph letter from President John Adams, dated Philadelphia, July 5, 1798, addressed to "The Officers of the Johnston Regiment of

Militia in the State of North Carolina," and thanking them for their regiment's patriotic tender of services in the event of a war with France, then imminent, but which was happily averted. In the course of this letter the President bitterly declared: "Our commerce is plundered, our citizens treated with the vilest indignities, our Nation itself insulted in the persons of its ambassadors and supreme magistrates, and all this because we are believed to be a divided people."

In 1807 began the mutterings which a few years later culminated in the second War with Great Britain. On June 22d, the British man-of-war *Leopard*, in enforcing the alleged right of search through American ships for real or supposed deserters from the Royal Navy, met with resistance from the American frigate *Chesapeake*, which it attacked and captured, killing and wounding many of the crew, at a time when the two countries were supposed to be at peace. In consequence of this outrage, all America was aflame, and mass meetings were held in the more important North Carolina towns to protest against this insult to the Nation. As early as 1806, Congress had passed an act authorizing the President, in cases of emergency, to call out the State militia to the number of 100,000. Acting on this authority, President Jefferson ordered the militia of all the States to "take effectual measures to organize, arm, and equip, according to law, and hold itself ready to march at a moment's warning." The quota required of North Carolina was 7,003, including artillery, cavalry, and infantry. The city of Raleigh and its vicinity were not backward at this juncture. Among the volunteer companies which offered their services was the Wake Troop of Cavalry, organized and commanded by Captain Calvin Jones. It held a meeting on July 4th and passed a patriotic and spirited set of resolutions, saying in part: "The spirit of the patriots who eternalized the day we are now assembled to celebrate, our principals, our feelings, and the conviction of duty, require that we offer to the President of the United States our services to protect the rights and avenge the wrongs of the Nation." This day in 1807, like all recurring anniversaries of American Independence, was celebrated with great pomp and ceremony by our ancestors assembled on the capitol grounds in Raleigh, "Captain Jones's Troop of Cavalry" and "Cap-

tain Peace's Company of Infantry" constituting the military feature. The Governor, State officers, the Judiciary, members of the bar, and a large concourse of citizens in general were in attendance. Among the toasts offered were the following:

"The memory of Washington: may the services which he rendered to his country be forever engraven on the hearts of Americans."

"The Government of the Union: may it always prove our sheet-anchor against domestic treason and foreign aggression."

"The State Governments: free, sovereign, and independent."

"The memory of the Seamen who lately fell a sacrifice to British outrage: may the atrocity of this act produce the adoption of such measures as shall secure us from future violence, and establish our maritime rights on a firm foundation."

"Good Neighborhood: may no religious or political difference of opinion interrupt the harmony of society; however men may vary in sentiment, may they all agree to be kindly disposed to each other as Brethren of the same great family."

Artillery was not lacking on this occasion, and a salute "in honor of the Union"—one round for each State—was fired, after which the company "partook of a plentiful and elegant dinner," a part of this being the above mentioned toasts. The old *Raleigh Register*, which gives us an account of these ceremonies, concludes the program by saying: "In the evening a ball was given to the ladies, which was kept up with equal spirit and decorum till near twelve, when *Propriety*, the best guardian of public amusements, moved an adjournment, which was immediately adopted."

War with Great Britain being averted in 1807, the services of the cavalry company commanded by Captain Jones were not needed then, but he continued his labors in training this troop and brought it up to so high a state of discipline that his talents were recognized by his being promoted to succeed Adjutant-General Edward Pasteur, when that gentleman resigned on June 7, 1808. That his capability was fully recognized is evidenced by the fact that he was re-elected by succeeding General Assemblies as long as he would hold the commission, serving under Governors Benjamin Williams, David Stone, Benjamin Smith, and William Hawkins. It was during the administration of the last named that that War of 1812-'15 came on. Soon after the begin-

ning of that conflict, Adjutant-General Jones, seeking more active service, sent in his resignation on January 23, 1813, and accepted a commission (dated December 14, 1812) as Major-General in command of the Seventh North Carolina Division of Militia, his jurisdiction extending over the forces of eight counties. Under him were Brigadier-General Jeremiah Slade, commanding the Fifth Brigade, being the forces of Martin, Edgecombe, Halifax, and Northampton counties; and Brigadier-General John H. Hawkins, commanding the Seventeenth Brigade, being the forces of Wake, Franklin, Warren, and Nash counties. In the Summer of 1813 the British forces made an extensive naval and military demonstration against the South Atlantic States, and it was thought that Virginia would be the first place attacked. Thereupon the Macedonian cry, *Come over and help us*, was sounded across the border by the *Richmond Enquirer*, which said: "If our brethren of North Carolina be exempted by the nature of their coast from maritime aggressions, will they not share with us the danger?" General Jones was not slow to heed this call, and began raising a corps of mounted volunteers with which to march to the assistance of our sister State. Announcing this purpose, the *Raleigh Register*, of July 9th, said editorially:

"We have pleasure in mentioning that General Calvin Jones, of this city, is about to raise a Corps of Mounted Volunteers, instantly to march to the assistance of the Virginians against the attacks of the British. * * * The citizens of the several counties are requested to meet at their Court Houses on Monday, the 19th instant, and such as are disposed to join this Patriotic Corps are to sign a writing to the effect. By the 25th it is expected the corps will be ready to march. The members are to equip themselves. A part are to be armed with rifles—the rest with muskets, the latter to be furnished by His Excellency the Governor."

In the *Star*, a Raleigh paper published on the same date, appears a stirring and patriotic address issued by General Jones, setting forth the details of his proposed expedition. In part he said:

"I propose to raise a corps of Mounted Volunteers for a three months' service, to march immediately to the shores of the Chesapeake. The design has the favor and approbation of the Commander-in-Chief. All who burn with the ardor of patriotism, or feel a passion for military fame, are now invited to rally around the standard of their country. * * *

"It is required that each volunteer be strong, healthy, and capable of enduring fatigue; that he be respectable for his character and manners—one whose sense of honor and love of fame will supply the absence or defect of rigid discipline; that he be temperate in the use of strong liquors, and able to incur the expenses of equipments, travelling and other contingencies. Each must be well mounted on a strong, active horse, of about five feet or upwards in height.

"The uniforms will be round jackets (double-breasted) and pantaloons of cotton homespun, dark blue and white, mixed; round black hats, with blue cockades; suwarrow boots* and spurs. Each will be armed with a broad-sword or sabre, or, for want thereof, a cut-and-thrust sword, slung over the shoulder by a white belt three inches wide, and a pair of pistols. As many as have rifles and are expert in their use, will be armed with them. The others will be furnished with muskets by the public.

"Each volunteer will be provided with a valise, blanket, overcoat or cloak, with such body garments to be worn under his uniform as he shall choose. Care will be taken that all the equipments are in good condition. Where it is proposed to take servants, there will be such an arrangement made among the volunteers of each county so that the corps will be incumbered with as few as possible.

"The officers will be selected by the Commander-in-Chief after the corps shall have been mustered at its rendezvous. The commandant will have the right of dismissing from the service any man who shall drink intoxicating liquors to excess, or be guilty of any other ungentlemanly conduct.

"North Carolinians! an appeal is now made to your patriotism, your bravery, and your love of honorable fame. The character of your State depends on the success of this appeal. Arise, gallant spirits, and do justice to yourselves, and to the expectations of your country."

Editorially commenting upon this address by General Jones, the *Star* said: "From the spirit manifested in this place when the intention was first announced, we feel confident that, with proper exertions, a corps may be readily raised that will do credit to the State. Some of our first characters have already offered themselves." Upon being advised by General Jones of the enterprise he had in view, Governor Barbour, of Virginia, was not slow in conveying the thanks of his State, and wrote (July 5, 1813) saying:

"I should do great injustice to our feelings were I to withhold an expression of our grateful acknowledgments of your affectionate and magnanimous conduct. Nor do the emotions it inspires flow altogether from selfish considerations. We see, in the part you are acting, that spirit which bound us together as a band of

*A military boot taking its name from Field Marshal Suwarrow, of Russia. M. DeL. H.

brothers during the Revolution and carried us in triumph through that glorious conflict, and which, can it be kept alive, will give, under Providence, immortality to our confederated republic—the last hope of man.”

Before General Jones could finish mustering in his corps of volunteers to aid Virginia, there was need of his services nearer home, for the enemy unexpectedly landed on the coast of North Carolina at Ocracoke Inlet and the small hamlet of Portsmouth, at the inlet’s mouth, also threatening the more important towns of Beaufort and New Bern. The *Star*, of Friday, July 23d, made announcement of this startling fact as follows:

“The news of the invasion reached this city on Saturday about eleven o’clock. On Sunday, General Calvin Jones, with his aides-de-camp, Junius Sneed and George Badger, and with Captain Clark’s company of Raleigh Guards, consisting of fifty men, took the road for Newbern. On Monday morning, His Excellency Governor Hawkins, with Colonel Beverly Daniel, one of his aides, General Robert Williams and Major Thomas Henderson, with Captain Hunter’s troop of Cavalry, moved off towards the same point. On Wednesday the requisition infantry from this county, amounting to one hundred men, accompanied by Colonel A. Rogers and Major Daniel L. Barringer, followed on. The Governor has ordered the greater part of the detachment of militia to the several sea-ports of this State; and, being almost destitute of munitions of war of every kind, he has ordered some of the United States arms now lying at Wilmington, to be sent to Newbern, and has caused to be purchased and sent thither all the powder and lead that could be procured in Raleigh, Fayetteville, Hillsborough and other places. He has for the present given the command of Newbern and on the sea-coast to Major-General Calvin Jones, but intends to conduct the general operations of the forces of this State in person, and to front the enemy in battle. We learn that great activity prevails among the militia in the lower parts of the State; they are flocking in from all quarters to the standard of their beloved country.

“Upon this occasion the ladies of Raleigh distinguished themselves for that love of valor and zeal of patriotism which characterizes their sex. They not only surrendered their husbands and sons to the dubious fate of war and encouraged the glorious enterprise by incentive persuasion, but were actively employed in fitting their brethren for an hasty march. In a few hours they made one hundred knapsacks.”

While the more active citizen soldiery were hurrying to the sea-coast, a company of older men was organized in Raleigh for home defense. Colonel William Polk, who had valorously fought seven years for American independence in the Revolution, and had declined a Brigadier General’s commission tendered him by President Madison on March 25, 1812, now took command of this “City Corps” as Captain; and three other leading citizens,

Judge Henry Seawell, William Boylan, and William Peace were Lieutenants.

General Jones arrived in New Bern on July 20th; and, acting upon the authority conferred on him by Governor Hawkins, assumed the command of all the State troops mobilized in that vicinity. The Governor himself reached New Bern the next day. Fears being felt for the safety of Beaufort, a large detachment was ordered to that town to garrison its fortifications, consisting of Fort Hampton, Fort Lawrence, Fort Gaston, and Fort Pigott.

The British force landed at Ocracoke and Portsmouth on July 11th. It was a most formidable one, and was commanded by no less a personage than Admiral Cockburn, who a year later was to play so conspicuous a part in the capture and destruction of our national capital. The fleet consisted of a seventy-four gun man-of-war, six frigates, two privateers, two schooners, and a considerable number of smaller vessels, including sixty or seventy barges and tenders. The entire force was estimated to be from one to three thousand seamen, marines, and infantry. This force captured the American barge *Anaconda*, of New York, the letter-of-marque schooner *Atlas*, of Philadelphia, and some smaller craft at Ocracoke, and pitched their tents on the beach. As soon as the fleet had been sighted, the collector of customs at Portsmouth, Thomas S. Singleton, packed his more important official records on board the revenue cutter *Mercury*, commanded by Captain David Wallace, and sent that vessel to give the alarm in New Bern, which (as was later learned) the British had intended to surprise and capture. Despite the superiority of their numbers, the enemy did not gain possession of Ocracoke and Portsmouth without resistance. Writing of the affair to Governor Hawkins in a letter dated July 24th, Collector Singleton said:

“The *Anaconda* and *Atlas* commenced firing very spiritedly, though it was of short duration, for the former had but fifteen men on board and the latter but thirty. They were therefore compelled to submit to overwhelming numbers, as there could not have been less than three thousand men at that time inside the bar and crossing it together. The men abandoned the brig [the *Anaconda*] and schooner [the *Atlas*] and betook themselves to their boats, most of whom escaped. The Captain of the *Atlas* remained in her and continued to fire at the enemy after all his men had forsaken him. Several of the barges proceeded in pursuit of the cutter [the *Mercury*,] thinking (as they afterwards said) if they could have taken the cutter, they would have precluded the possibility

of information reaching Newbern until they arrived there themselves. The cutter very narrowly escaped by crowding upon her every inch of canvas she had, and by cutting away her long boat. The Admiral did not hesitate to declare that it was his intention to have reached that place [New Bern] previous to the receiving any intelligence of his approach. After pursuing the cutter eight or ten miles through the sound, they gave out the chase and returned. Several hundred men were landed at Portsmouth and I presume as many on Ocracoke. Among those landed at Portsmouth there were about three hundred regulars of the 102d regiment under the command of Colonel Napier, and about four hundred marines and sailors. They had several small field pieces in their launches, but did not land them, finding no necessity for them."

Later on in the letter, just quoted, Mr. Singleton gives an account of numerous depredations and robberies committed by the invaders while on the North Carolina coast. They remained five days, and set sail on July 16th, without attempting to penetrate inland. Whether their departure was due to fear of the devious channels, which were so difficult to navigate, or whether they learned from the current North Carolina newspapers—of which they are known to have obtained a supply—what formidable measures were in preparation for their reception, will probably never be known. The fleet sailed southward, and it was consequently surmised that the Cape Fear section might be the next point of attack. Large numbers of troops were therefore hurried to that locality, but the British never landed again in North Carolina at that time. They did, however, send a flag of truce back to Ocracoke, announcing that they had formally proclaimed a blockade of the coast of the State.

Though not destined to have the opportunity of displaying their prowess in battle, no country ever had a more ready, vigilant and courageous class of citizen soldiery than those who hurried to the defense of North Carolina during the Summer of 1813. Many county detachments, more than a hundred miles from the prospective seat of war, marched down to the coast as soon as they could be gotten under arms, while the county seats and "muster-grounds" of more westerly sections of the State were soon teeming with patriotic volunteers, ready and eager to aid in repelling the invaders of their country.

In this campaign of 1813, Governor Hawkins remained on the sea-coast about a month, making personal inspection of the defenses from Ocracoke Inlet to New

Inlet, and returned to Raleigh on the 16th of August. General Jones also returned when it appeared that there was no immediate likelihood of further trouble with the British in North Carolina. The *Raleigh Register*, of September 3d, said that a rumor had gained currency to the effect that a dispute had taken place between the Governor and General Jones, but the editor says: "We are authorized to state that the report is utterly destitute of any foundation in truth." That no coolness existed between these gentlemen is evidenced by the fact that, a few months later, when the General Assembly of North Carolina sent a complaint to the National Government of the neglect of the coast defenses of the State, Governor Hawkins designated General Jones for the duty of calling in person on President Madison and bringing this matter to his attention. The following item on that subject is from the *Raleigh Register* of December 3, 1813:

"General Calvin Jones has been appointed by His Excellency the Governor to present the Address of the General Assembly, lately agreed to, to the President of the United States, and yesterday set out on his journey."

So far as I am able to learn the British never sent a formidable force against North Carolina after the year 1813, though small marauding parties came by sea on more than one occasion. So free, indeed, was the State from local dangers that large numbers of her troops could be spared for service further northward, on the Canadian frontier; also nearer home, in Virginia, and against the hostile Creek Indians.

Norfolk and its vicinity, in Virginia, being again threatened by the British, President Madison, on September 6, 1814, made a requisition on Governor Hawkins for a large force to be detached from the militia of North Carolina and temporarily mustered into the service of the General Government. When it became known that this action would be taken, General Jones wrote the Governor, on July 31, 1814, asking for the command of that part of the militia which should be ordered to active service. This tender was not accepted. A little later, however, on September 26, 1814, the Governor commissioned him Quartermaster General of the Detached Militia of North Carolina. In the letter accompanying this commission, General Jones was informed that fifteen companies (containing in the aggregate fifteen hundred

men) had been ordered to rendezvous at Gates Court House, under the command of Brigadier-General Jeremiah Slade, and to march thence to Norfolk. This commission was accepted by General Jones, who at once repaired to the encampment at Gates Court House, arriving there on the 30th of September. On October 1st, he wrote from the camp to Governor Hawkins, saying: "About one-third of the troops are under the shelter of houses, piazzas, &c., in the village, the remainder being encamped in the woods and fields adjacent. Today a regular camp will be marked out, and brush defences against dews and slight rains will be raised." Later on he says, in the same letter: "Though the privations and exposures of the men, suddenly translated from ease and plenty to the face of a hastily formed camp, are considerable and must be felt, yet they have assumed so much of the soldier as to scorn complaint. The men are cheerful and generally healthy." He also said the troops would be marched in small detachments and by different routes, on account of the scarcity of water, and to ensure the accommodation of barracks.

These troops were not armed until their arrival in Norfolk, where they were mustered into the service of the General Government. Writing from that city to Governor Hawkins, on October 8th, General Jones said:

"I have the honor to inform you that four companies of our Detached Militia arrived yesterday and encamped at Mooring's Rope Walk, the best encampment for health and convenience, I think, about Norfolk. A bridge, which had been broken down, is rebuilding and unites the peninsular, on which the Rope Walk is, immediately with the town. * * *

"The appearance of our Militia, on their entrance into Norfolk, was such as I think did them considerable credit. It was generally commended by the citizens and military here. My gratification would have been heightened could they have presented themselves armed.

"I accompanied Generals Porter and Taylor today to Forts Norfolk and Nelson, and to Craney Island, and rode round the lines of defense on the land side. The strength of this place is very formidable, and is daily increasing.

"I am at the point of setting out on my return home, and expect to arrive at Gates Court House tomorrow."

The early return of General Jones was due to the fact that his services as Quartermaster General were not needed after the North Carolina troops were mustered into the service of the General Government.

The North Carolina troops remained in and around Norfolk for many weeks, and were not entirely disbanded until after the return of peace. The treaty of peace was signed at Ghent on Christmas Eve, 1814, but news of that event did not reach Raleigh until February 18, 1815. It caused great rejoicing and was celebrated by religious services as well as public demonstrations. As is well known, the bloody battle of New Orleans was fought more than a fortnight after the treaty of peace was signed at Ghent, but long before news of it was received. The day on which the news of victory at New Orleans reached Raleigh was February 12, 1815.

So efficient had been the efforts of General Jones at the time of the British invasion of North Carolina in 1813, that a strong effort was made by his friends to secure for him a commission as Colonel in the regular army. Senator Stone claimed that he had received a promise of it from the Secretary of War; and, in a letter to Jones, complained bitterly of the Secretary's failure to keep his word.

His service with the North Carolina troops at Norfolk in the Fall of 1814 was the last active participation by General Jones in military affairs. Peace coming soon thereafter, he could now devote his talents to the more pleasing pursuits of a tranquil life.

SERVICES TO MASONRY

Possessed, as he was, of high educational attainments and fine sensibilities, Calvin Jones was not slow to appreciate the beautiful symbolical teachings of morality and charity embodied in the principles of Freemasonry, and he became an ardent devotee of that ancient fraternity.

The first Masonic organization which existed in Raleigh was Democratic Lodge, No. 21. A large portion of the membership of that Lodge having imbibed some of the evil principles of the French Revolution, then in progress, it gradually fell into disfavor and finally passed out of existence. The city of Raleigh, however, did not long remain without a Lodge. On December 15, 1800, Grand Master William Polk issued a charter to Hiram Lodge, No. 40, theretofore operating under a dispensation from Grand Master William R. Davie. Calvin Jones became a member of Hiram Lodge shortly after its estab-

lishment, and was elected Worshipful Master on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, December 27, 1805. He served in that capacity for one year. On December 11, 1809, he was elected Junior Grand Warden of The Grand Lodge of North Carolina—or “The Grand Lodge of North Carolina and Tennessee,” as it was called until 1813, when Tennessee became a separate Grand Lodge. General Jones had served as Junior Grand Warden only one year, when he was advanced to the station of Senior Grand Warden, holding the latter position from December 1, 1810, until December 8, 1817. On the latter date he became Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, succeeding the Honorable John Louis Taylor, who soon thereafter was to become first Chief Justice of the newly created Supreme Court. General Jones was three times elected Grand Master, his services as such ending on December 16, 1820. Few finer tributes to Masonry can be found than the one contained in the official address of Grand Master Jones to the Grand Lodge in 1819. In part he said :

“The human family have enjoyed partial relief from the benign influence of our principles, without knowing the source of their blessings. The torch of science dissipates the darkness of one portion of the globe; in another, the fetters of slavery are broken; in one place, the infidel is converted; in another, the Christian is taught to feel the spirit of his religion; everywhere men begin to regard each other as members of the same family, and to place in the rank of duties the virtues of universal benevolence. Be it so. Under whatever denomination these happy effects are produced, it is our duty to rejoice that some seeds, scattered by our Order, have fallen on good ground. Were the principles of Masonry unveiled to those worthy men who direct their efforts to a single object, which they pursue with inadequate means, they would find how comprehensively beneficent are the principles of the Craft. To point out to man the duty of loving his brother, of assisting him in difficulty, of comforting him in afflictions, and to do all that these duties enjoin without regard to difference of nation, religion or politics; and further, to concentrate the lessons of experience as to the most effectual mode of performing these duties, and by the aid of an universal language to make our designs equally intelligible to the inhabitants of every clime—to do these things is to go beyond the powers of any society, however intelligent and estimable, whether Peace, Anti-privateering, or Colonization.

“Let us then, Brethren, pursue the noiseless tenor of our way, assisting every one engaged in the same cause, under whatever name or denomination known, according to the measure of his wants and our own ability, and be like the gentle but constant stream whose waters are concealed from the eye by the luxuriant

plants upon its margin but whose effects are visible in the fertility it imparts to the various soils through which it meanders.

"Let us improve in our minds a lively impression of the true principles of our association, remembering that religion and politics are never to be subjects of discussion; that the religion of a Mason is love, veneration, and gratitude to the Supreme Architect of the Universe; that the doing good to all His creatures, especially to those of the 'household of faith,' is the most acceptable service and the first of duties; that the rights of conscience are inviolable, and that the Mussulman and the Christian, who love their brother and practice charity, are alike the friends of Masonry and of man."

In addition to the Masonic services in the official capacities heretofore enumerated, General Jones was a useful committee worker in the sessions of the Grand Lodge. Together with John A. Cameron, Moses Mordecai, William Boylan, and Alexander Lucas, he was appointed on a Grand Lodge committee which was authorized to co-operate with a similar committee from Hiram Lodge, No. 40, in erecting a Masonic Hall for the joint use of the two bodies on a lot which had been presented by a member of Hiram Lodge, Theophilus Hunter, the younger, and which lot stood on the northeast corner of Morgan and Dawson Streets. Half of the cost of building was paid by the Grand Lodge and half by Hiram Lodge. The corner stone was laid by Grand Master Robert Williams on the Feast of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 1813. This building served its purpose until some years after the War Between the States, and venerable Masons are still living in Raleigh who received their degrees within its walls. The corner stone itself was exhumed by order of Hiram Lodge in March, 1880, and is now preserved in the ante-room of the Grand Lodge Hall in the Masonic Temple at Raleigh. Unfortunately it is a solid block, having had no compartment for the records which are usually contained in a corner stone. The old inscription on it reads:

The Grand Lodge of No. Carolina and
Tennessee

Hiram Lodge, No. 40, City of Raleigh

June 24, A. L. 5813, A. D. 1813. R. Williams, G. M.

Grand Master Williams, who laid this corner stone, was at that time Adjutant-General of North Carolina, succeeding General Jones, as already mentioned. He came to Raleigh from Surry County, and should not be

confused with Dr. Robert Williams, of Pitt County, also a zealous Mason, who had formerly been a Surgeon in the Army of the Revolution.

HOME AT WAKE FOREST AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Owning a large number of slaves who could not be profitably employed within the limits of a town, General Jones determined to remove from Raleigh and take up his abode in a rural neighborhood. North northwest of Raleigh, about sixteen miles, on the old stage road and mail route running northward via Oxford and Warrenton, North Carolina, and Petersburg, Virginia, was a country neighborhood, of healthy altitude and fertile soil, known as the Wake Forest section. In that pleasant locality, about the year 1820, General Jones took up his abode on a plantation of 615 acres, which he had purchased from Davis Battle. There, for about a decade, he kept open house to friends from far and near, in his "hospitable mansion," as Governor Swain describes it in his Tucker Hall address, referring to an occasion during his young manhood, in 1822, when he was nursed back to health within its walls, after a long and almost fatal attack of illness. Though not occupying its former location on the campus, the old home of General Jones is still standing and in a good state of preservation, being a substantial structure built at a time when massive timbers, well seasoned, were in use. After having served as a residence for several members of the faculty in bygone years, it is now the home of a club of students.

In the cause of public education, few more indefatigable workers than General Jones could be found in North Carolina. For thirty years, from 1802 until his removal to Tennessee in 1832, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina. That he was no figure-head the old records of that institution fully attest. In the Raleigh Academy he also took a deep interest, and was a trustee of that school for some years. Dr. Battle, in his *History of the University of North Carolina*, gives an amusing extract from a letter written by General Jones in 1811, expressing great dissatisfaction at an effort then being made to have some students, who had been expelled from the University, admitted into the Raleigh Academy. General Jones said he was greatly astonished that Governor Stone, one of



HOME OF GENERAL CALVIN JONES
Wake Forest, North Carolina

the trustees of the academy, should wish them admitted, but he was not at all surprised that the Governor should have been seconded in his efforts by another trustee, Mr. Sherwood Haywood, a "good, polite, clever, worthy man, who never contradicted anyone in his life." As Mr. Haywood was my grandfather, and as "to err is human," I am glad to know that the substance of his sinning was the fault ascribed to Sir Lucius O'Trigger—"too civil, by half."

For some years before Wake Forest College (first called Wake Forest Academy and later Wake Forest Institute) was established, there were several useful schools in the section of Wake County where the college now stands. One of these was Forest Hill Academy, incorporated by Chapter 107 of the Laws of 1818; but, so far as we know, General Jones did not become connected with the governing body of that institution after his removal to the neighborhood where it was located. In January, 1823, Samuel Alston and Calvin Jones, members of the Board of Trustees, signed the announcement of the beginning of a session, on February 1st, of Wake Forest Academy, situated "fifteen miles north of Raleigh and within two miles of the Wake Forest Post Office, in one of the most pleasant, healthy, and reputable districts of our country." The teacher in charge of this school was James Pheelan. When General Jones first advertised his Wake Forest plantation for sale in 1827, he incidentally mentioned that there were three excellent schools (one classical) in the neighborhood. In the year following he gave notice of the opening of Wake Forest School, for both sexes, near his own residence. On June 26, 1831, he also announced through the papers that the Wake Forest Female School would be opened on the third Monday of the ensuing month of July, with Mrs. Phillips as principal and two "competent young ladies" as assistants. Mrs. Phillips was a Northern lady, strongly recommended by Bishop Griswold, of Connecticut, and other well-known men. This academy for girls was operated in General Jones's residence, where both teachers and pupils were housed. In concluding the last mentioned announcement, General Jones said: "The pure air and water, healthfulness, and good society of this place are too well known to require mention. That the location of this

Seminary is in every respect proper may be inferred from the fact that Wake Forest has, for a number of years past, supported excellent and prosperous schools." In a sketch of General Jones in the "Benefactor's Number" of the *Wake Forest Student*, January, 1911 (this being a re-print of an earlier sketch), the late President Charles E. Taylor, of Wake Forest College, referring to this school for young ladies, says that an aged lady, who had been educated there, had stated to him that it was the custom of the Bishop of the Episcopal Church to make annual visitations there for the purpose of confirmation.

Several years before and for some time after General Jones sold his plantation at Wake Forest and removed therefrom, there was also located in that vicinity a school known as the Wake Forest Pleasant Grove Academy. Whether he ever had any connection with that institution does not appear.

Having made large investments in land on the vast domain in West Tennessee which the Government had acquired from its Indian owners, and which was known as the "Chickasaw Purchase," General Jones decided to remove with his wife and family to that locality in order to protect his interests there. As he had no intention of returning to North Carolina, he decided to dispose of his Wake Forest plantation. As money in that day had a larger purchasing power than now, and land was not costly, the price for which he held the plantation—with its great house, cabins, and other out-houses—was only \$2,500. About this time the North Carolina Baptist State Convention instructed a committee of its members to purchase a site for an institution of learning which that denomination had determined to build, and this committee opened up negotiations with General Jones with a view to acquiring his plantation and equipment. Describing the transaction which followed, in an address at the semi-centennial of Wake Forest College, February 4, 1884, the Reverend James S. Purefoy said:

"Elder John Purefoy was one of the above committee, and a near neighbor of Dr. Calvin Jones, who owned the farm where the college now stands. Dr. Jones held his farm of 615 acres at \$2,500; but, for the cause of education, he proposed to Elder Purefoy to give the Convention (through the committee) \$500, and sell the farm for \$2,000. Elder Purefoy recommended the farm to the committee, and it was purchased by the Convention for \$2,000."

The committee which received the deed of transfer, August 28, 1832, from General Jones, for the use of the Baptist State Convention, consisted of John Purefoy (or Purify, as it was then written), William R. Hinton, Simon G. Jeffreys, Jr., and James J. Hall.

General Jones always showed a kindly interest in the welfare, both moral and physical, of his slaves. They were comfortably clad, well fed, and housed in such good quarters that their cabins were used as temporary dormitories for the students when Wake Forest Institute, the fore-runner of Wake Forest College, began operations. The first principal of Wake Forest Institute—also first president of Wake Forest College—was the Reverend Samuel Wait, who wrote the following interesting account of the early days spent on the plantation which had been purchased from General Jones:

"The former owner of the premises we now occupied had encountered much expense to provide for the comfort of his servants. I found seven good, substantial log cabins, made mostly of white oak, with hewn logs; good doors, floors, roofs, and, with one exception, windows. These were washed out cleanly and white-washed. Good, new furniture was provided for each house. And, although it was known that the cabins were built originally for servants, and occupied at first by them, I never heard of the least objection to them from any student. * * *

"The only place I could convene the students for morning and evening prayers, or lectures, was the building erected by Dr. Jones for a carriage house, 16 feet by 24 feet."

From this small beginning of Wake Forest Institute (at first a manual training as well as classical school) has grown Wake Forest College, with its modern equipment, scholarly faculty, and fine student body—one of the most notable educational achievements of the Baptist Church in America.

LIFE IN TENNESSEE, DOMESTIC AND RELIGIOUS RELATIONS, AND CONCLUSION

It was about the year 1832 that General Jones removed with his family to Tennessee, though he had paid visits to that locality before. He owned about 30,000 acres of land in that State. His home plantation in Hardeman County, near the town of Bolivar, contained 2,500 acres. On the northern part of this tract he built a house, of moderate dimensions. To this he gave the name of Wake Park, in memory of the happy years he had spent in Wake County, North Carolina. A little

later, wishing to have more commodious quarters for his household, he removed two miles further south, on the same estate, to a point where he had erected a spacious mansion, which he called Pontine, this name probably being derived from the Pontine Marshes, adjacent to the city of Rome. At Pontine the closing years of his life were spent, "retired from public employment, and enjoying, with ample wealth around him, the *otium cum dignitate* of the typical Southern planter," to quote the language of his ardent admirer Judge Sneed. The site of Pontine is now owned by the State of Tennessee, being occupied by the Western Hospital of the Insane. It was purchased by the State from Colonel Paul Tudor Jones, younger son of the General. It is a remarkable circumstance, commented upon by President Taylor, of Wake Forest, in the sketch already quoted, that each of the two country estates occupied by General Jones in North Carolina and Tennessee is now occupied by a vast institution—one for the education of youth at Wake Forest; and the other, near Bolivar, as a home and hospital for the mentally afflicted.

While a practicing physician in Raleigh, Dr. Jones had become engaged to be married to Ruina J. Williams, a young woman of rare loveliness, who was the daughter of Major William Williams, of "The Forks," in Franklin County, not far from the county of Warren. Before the union could be consummated, however, she fell a victim to consumption, passing away on the 20th of September, 1809, in the twenty-first year of her age. The beautiful faith and fortitude displayed in her last illness formed the subject of a small brochure entitled *The Power and Excellence of Religion*, written by the Reverend Joel Rivers, and published by the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Nearly ten years later, on April 15, 1819, when forty-four years of age, Dr. Jones married the widowed sister of Miss Williams. This was Mrs. Temperance Boddie Jones, *née* Williams, widow of Dr. Thomas C. Jones, of Warrenton. This lady, by her first marriage, was the mother of Thomas C. Jones, who was born in 1811 and died in Corinth, Mississippi, in 1893. The children of her marriage to General Calvin Jones were (in addition to several who died young) three in number, as follows:

I. Montezuma Jones, born in 1822, at Wake Forest,

who married Elizabeth Wood, and died near Bolivar in 1914, leaving issue.

II. Octavia Rowena Jones, born in 1826, at Wake Forest, who married Edwin Polk, of Bolivar, and died in 1917, leaving issue.

III. Paul Tudor Jones, born in 1828, at Wake Forest, who married (first) Jane M. Wood, and (second) Mary Kirkman; and died in Corinth, Mississippi, in 1904, leaving issue by both marriages.

General Calvin Jones had a younger brother, Atlas Jones, who was a graduate of the University of North Carolina in the class of 1804, was afterwards tutor of Ancient Languages at the same institution, and a Trustee from 1809 until 1825. He became a lawyer and practiced at Carthage, in Moore County, North Carolina, where he married Rebecca Street. He also lived for a while in Raleigh. He removed to Tennessee about the year 1825, and settled at Jackson, in that State. After his will was recorded in Tennessee, it was sent to Raleigh and again recorded, as he owned real estate in the latter city. In this will, his brother, Calvin Jones, and nephew, Montezuma Jones, are named as executors. In his excellent *History of the University of North Carolina*, Dr. Battle is in error when he states that Atlas Jones was a son of Edmund Jones, one of the early benefactors of the University. General Calvin Jones also had a sister, Mrs. Higbee, who lived in Raleigh for a while, and kept house for him there before his marriage.

One distinguished Tennessean, Judge Calvin Jones, of Somerville (a graduate of the University of North Carolina in the class of 1832), though he bore the same name as General Calvin Jones, was not related to him. He was, however, his namesake—both families removing to Tennessee from North Carolina, where they had been friends.

Though never an office-seeker, either in North Carolina or Tennessee, General Jones took a commendable interest in politics. In his younger days he was a Federalist. After that party passed out of existence, and the Whigs and Democrats became contestants for the mastery of the Government, he alligned himself with the Whigs. He was one of the vice-presidents of the Na-

tional Whig Convention at Baltimore in 1844, which nominated Henry Clay for President.

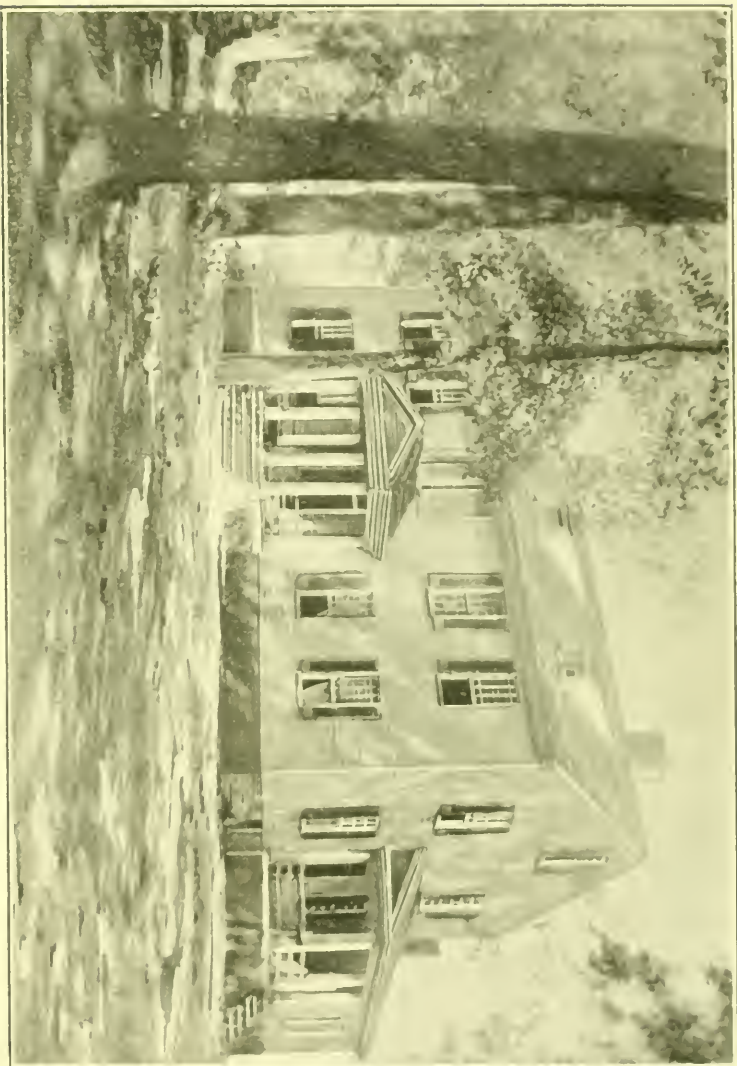
After the adjournment of the convention last mentioned, General Jones made an extensive tour of Europe, being accompanied by his daughter. At that time he was nearing his three score years and ten, but still active and in good health.

In the final degree of Ancient Craft Masonry, the newly made Brother is exhorted so to live that in old age he "may enjoy the happy reflections consequent on a well-spent life, and die in the hope of a glorious immortality." The life of Past Grand Master Jones was a triumphant fulfilment of this precept. With the serene faith and humble hope of a Christian, amid the beautiful surroundings of his estate at Pontine, near Bolivar, he peacefully came to the end of his earthly pilgrimage on the 20th day of September, 1846. A notice of him, published in the *Somerville Herald*, and later copied in the *Raleigh Register*, of October 16th, was as follows:

"DIED.—At his residence near Bolivar, in Hardeman County, on the 20th instant, General Calvin Jones, in the 73rd year of his age. General Jones was a native of Connecticut, where he was educated. He removed in early life to Raleigh, North Carolina, where he established a high reputation for honor and probity, and was successful in winning the approbation of his fellow men in the pursuits of life. He emigrated to Hardeman County fourteen years since. In the region of the country in which he spent his ripe old age, he was regarded by all as a pious Christian, a gentleman in his deportment, full of the 'milk of human kindness' and a most valuable citizen. He sustained all the relations of life in the most unexceptionable manner; and, though he had reached to that period of life of man when its end must hourly be anticipated, such were the consecrated ties of friendship and love which bound him to the hearts of his family and the circle of his acquaintances that none were prepared to surrender so rich a gem to the remorseless grave—they mourn for him as for the loss of their hearts' chief jewel; and in their sorrow the whole community sympathize."

Though General Jones may have been educated in Connecticut, as stated in the notice just quoted, he was not a native of that State. As heretofore noted, he was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. His birthplace, however, is not many miles from the Connecticut boundary.

Many years after the death of General Jones, the State of Tennessee (as already mentioned) acquired by purchase his former plantation near Bolivar, and erected thereon the Western Hospital for the Insane.



P O N T I N E

The Home of General Calvin Jones near Bolivar, Tennessee

This institution was formally opened in July, 1890, when several addresses were delivered—one by the Honorable John Louis Taylor Sneed, formerly a Judge of the Tennessee Supreme Court.* Judge Sneed was a native North Carolinian, born in Raleigh. He was a son of Major Junius Sneed, who (as we have already seen) was one of the aides-de-camp of General Jones when the British landed in North Carolina in 1813. Judge Sneed was also maternally a grandson, as well as a namesake, of Chief Justice John Louis Taylor, of the North Carolina Supreme Court, who was the immediate predecessor of General Jones as Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of North Carolina. In the course of his remarks, Judge Sneed said:

“In conclusion, fellow-citizens of Hardeman, allow me to indulge in a reminiscence of the long ago, which you, at least, will appreciate. * * * Yonder stood a cottage which was the abiding place of hospitality, charity, and all the golden virtues which decorate the higher Christian life. It was the home of filial affection and parental tenderness, the common resort of the most elegant and cultured society, a place from which no poor man was ever turned comfortless away—the happy homestead of a happy household. The grand old master of that household has long since passed over the river, and his gentle and loving wife now sleeps by his side. In life both were loved and honored for all the graces that adorn human character and win human respect and admiration. In death, both are remembered by the rich and poor as examples of all that was noble, philosophic, gentle, and humane.
* * *

“I was for a long period of my student life an inmate of that cottage and treated as one of the children of the family. A thousand years of life’s changes and revolutions could never efface the impressions I then received of the moral and intellectual character of the grand old man. He had been a deep student of science, history and philosophy. His mind was a treasure house of knowledge, gathered from books, from foreign travel, and from his close fellowship with the great men and statesmen of the country. And yet, with a splendid capacity for the higher achievements of statecraft, he cared nothing for the tinsel of rank or the prestige of office, but preferred in his late years to tarry beneath his own happy roof-tree and to watch the development of his children; to educate them in virtuous principles; to do his duty well as a neighbor, a friend, a philanthropist, and to enjoy through the lengthening shadows of a useful life the sweet companionship of his loving wife. * * *

“He was my Gamaliel, my oracle, from whom any docile youth could learn ‘the wisdom of the wise, the strength that nerves the strong, and the grace that gathers around the noble.’ In broad

*For sketch and portrait of Judge Sneed, see Green Bag magazine (Boston) May, 1893, page 233.

philanthropy and charity, in learning and culture, I thought him the greatest man I ever saw; and, in Roman virtue, severity of morals, and dignity of character, the most august and admirable.

"I particularly remember his tender sympathies for that unfortunate class whose reasons were overthrown, and his theories upon the treatment of mental diseases. And now, as I look upon the splendid pile which has taken the place of that happy homestead and reflect upon the noble and Christly purposes to which it is today dedicated, I can but think if that grand old man, with all his tender solicitude for a better and holier treatment of the mind diseased, could revisit the ground on which his happy homestead stood and see the changes for himself, he would rejoice that things are just as they are. All honor to the memory of General Calvin Jones!"

The beautiful address by Judge Sneed, just quoted, first appeared in the *Evening Democrat*, of Memphis. For a copy I am indebted to the sketch in the *Wake Forest Student*, by President Taylor, to which allusion has already been made.

General Jones was a deeply religious man and a communicant in the Episcopal Church. During the time he resided in Raleigh, there was no house of worship owned by his Church, the parish of Christ Church not being organized until August 21, 1821. He was similarly situated at Wake Forest. On April 17, 1834, not long after his arrival in Tennessee, he was one of the founders of the parish of St. James, in Bolivar, an organization having for its first rector the Reverend Daniel Stephens, and formed during the Episcopate of Bishop Otey, a disciple of the great Bishop Ravenscroft, of North Carolina. Two of the clerical friends of General Jones, Bishops Otey and Green (the latter elevated to the Episcopate after the General's death), had both been students and later tutors at the University of North Carolina when Jones was a trustee. General Jones enjoyed the companionship of thoughtful clergymen of all creeds. In addition to association with such leaders of his own Church as Bishops Ravenscroft, Otey, Polk, and Green, he had been one of the many Episcopalians, in the early days of Raleigh, forming a part of the congregation of the scholarly "pastor of the city," the Reverend William McPheeters, of the Presbyterian Church. A strong friendship also sprang up between himself and Elder John Purify, a forceful leader of the Baptists of North Carolina. As heretofore mentioned, General Jones and Elder Purify were residents of the same country neighborhood in the north-

eastern section of Wake County, where Wake Forest College was later established.

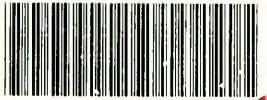
General Jones was a man of striking appearance. He was 5 feet 10½ inches in height, deep-chested, and weighed about 240 pounds. His eyes bore a kindly expression and were hazel in color, his hair was brown, his forehead high, his nose slightly Grecian, and his mouth clearly portrayed the firmness and decision which marked his character through life. Viewed from any standpoint, he was a strong man—strong morally, mentally, and physically. Three portraits of him are now in Wake County: one in the Grand Lodge Hall, and one in the office of the Adjutant General, at Raleigh; and one at Wake Forest—the last mentioned having been presented to the college by Wake Forest Lodge, now No. 282 but originally No. 97.

I have now told what I have been able to learn of the upright life and honorable career of Calvin Jones. His memory, it is true, does not stand broadly emblazoned on history's page as :

"One of the few, the immortal names,
That were not born to die"—

but we do no violence to truth in portraying him as a consistent Christian, a vigilant patriot, an accomplished physician, a versatile scholar, a loyal Mason, and a hospitable gentleman, well worthy to be classed "among those choicest spirits who, holding their consciences un-mixed with blame, have been in all conjunctures true to themselves, their country, and their God."

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