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## Keeping Up With The Joneses

John Rison Jones

Keeping up with the Joneses in a genealogical sense is more like trying to find them, to identify and separate them, and to make heads or tails out of a family that had a penchant for naming their children for their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, cousins and friends. It is not uncommon to find five or six John Joneses among five or six John Joneses! I spent considerable years corresponding with the late and noted Alabama genealogist, Kathleen Paul Jones, the wife of Howard Jones, and her sister-in-law, Pauline Jones Gandrud, trying to straighten out one or two of the early Jones settlers in Madison County and the Brandon family. That it was (and remains) a nightmare is an understatement.

In addition to the similarity of names, the aftermath of the Civil War left families divided, personal records destroyed, or that greater evil, the burned court house. In the case of the Joneses, the Yankees didn't do it, but a disastrous fire in 1869 de-

stroyed all of the records of Buckingham County, Virginia, as well as the Court House which Thomas Jefferson designed. Any hope of tracing families of Buckingham County is a lost cause although adjacent counties may offer clues. This is where the similarity of names can often be of great assistance.

Then there was the general migration westward that further isolated families as young sons and married daughters were to seek land in the West. As we in the East continue to search for clues among scattered legal records, illegible court and census records, and missing family Bibles, we can only hope that from the West will come a similar search. But that hope is in jeopardy. We pay too little attention to the present condition of those critical records of our past that permit us to document our houses and the people who once lived in them. Historic preservation and genealogy must be handmaidens for the future.

There is a direct connection between my Jones family and the early building of this beloved city. My great, great grandfather, Major William Jones, and his family of a wife and seven children, came to Huntsville in 1818 from Campbell County, Virginia (the Lynchburg area) which was once the frontier in Virginia. Two of the Jones sons, William H. and LeRoy Hipkins Jones, were to marry daughters of William Brandon, who with his brother, Thomas, were the earliest and best known builders of the city before the arrival of George Steele.

The Brandons were the sons of the Rev. Josiah Brandon of Lincoln County, Tennessee, and his wife, Rachel Brown. Josiah has an elusive, if interesting background. He was the son of Thomas Brandon, who lived in Burke County, North Carolina. It is virtually impossible to trace this Thomas Brandon because of another kind of destruction of records. Josiah, the son, has the distinction of having one of the largest pension files for a Revolutionary Veteran. When he applied for his pension in 1832, several of his neighbors in Lincoln County wrote to the Secre-

tary of War to inform him that Josiah was a Tory, that he had been captured at King's Mountain where his father, a colonel of militia, had been killed. The young Josiah was born in 1765 -- was paroled to his widowed mother, and sometime after 1805, began to seek lands in Tennessee. I should add that Josiah was awarded a pension based on three years service against the Cherokees. But North Carolinians were not cordial to their Tory families after the Revolution. Virtually all traces were removed, primarily to sustain illegal land seizures.

About 1812, Josiah finally settled in the eastern portion of Lincoln County, near Lynchburg, where his church, Brandon Chapel, still stands, and Josiah's grave is nearby on a hill.

The brothers, Thomas and William, were apparently active in Davidson and Williamson Counties in Tennessee. They were to return to Williamson County to marry Sample sisters, the daughters of Robert Sample, a landowner in Franklin, Tennessee. The Brandons were among the early settlers of Madison County,

coming here in 1809, and it is believed that they learned their trade as brickmasons, or mechanics to use the contemporary term, in Franklin.

Judge Thomas Taylor credits the brothers as the first major builders of the newly organized city of Huntsville. He wrote that they came with nothing but their trowels and their great skills, and from a "straggling village they left a city of brick and stone."

We know from Anne Royall's description of Huntsville in 1817, that it was a flourishing city. Anne wrote that Huntsville:

"contained about 260 houses, principally made of brick; it has a court house [built by John Hickman in 1817] and Market House. There is a large square in the centre of the town, like the towns of Ohio, and facing this are stores, twelve in number. These buildings form a solid wall, though divided into apartments. The workmanship is the best that I have seen in all the states; and several of the houses are three stories high, and very large ... Nothing like it in our country."

Anne Royall  
LETTERS FROM ALABAMA  
1829, pages 43-44

Thus, in the early Huntsville, it was impossible not to see a Brandon building from almost any vista. It is only now that we are beginning to identify Brandon residences, since all of the original buildings around the square have been victims of progress. In a future article, I will explore those remaining examples of Huntsville before the coming of the Greek Revival and George Steele.

With LeRoy Hipkins and William H. Jones, the only sons of Major William Jones, to continue to reside in Huntsville, the Jones-Brandon alliances produced a number of children who were to inter-marry with other early pioneer families of the County. Thomas Brandon and his wife had six daughters, several were to marry locally and a number of prominent families trace their ancestry back to Josiah through Thomas. William died in 1848, Thomas died in Aberdeen, Mississippi in 1859.

*John Rison Jones is a Huntsville native who has recently retired from a career in Washington, D.C. having gained international recognition as the originator and director of Upward Bound.*

*A man for all seasons, John Rison received his Ph.D. in History from the University of North Carolina. He taught at Southern Methodist University and at Washington and Lee before assuming positions with the State Department and the Education Department. Back amidst the homes he loves, he is presently preparing a brochure for the Huntsville Pilgrimage tour of homes, April 21 - 22, 1990.*



**The daughters  
of Mary Ann  
Brandon and  
LeRoy Hipkins  
Jones**

**(back row, left to  
right) Lucy and  
Agness Walker**

**(front row, left to  
right) Mary and  
Arabella**



## Bits and Pieces About the Jones

### James Record's History of Madison County

*A Dream Come True* contains the following list of Jones in "Madison Countians of Distinction," (Vol II, 1978, pp 684-685.)

**Jones, Charles Gordon** - Director, Association of U.S. Army; Director of Boy Scouts Council; Board member, Huntsville Civic Symphony; Board member, Central City Association; Board member, UGF; Board member, Sales and Marketing Executives; Board member, Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee; Board member, Metropolitan Kiwanis Club; President, Henderson National Bank.

**Jones, Edwin** - President, Alabama Button Clover Growers Association, 1950.

**Jones, Frances** - Noted for work with children.

**Jones, Harvie Paul** - President, Music Appreciation Club, 1968-1969; President, Arts Council, 1970-1972; Huntsville Beautification Board, 1969-1971; Vice President, Central City Association, 1971; President Huntsville Art League and Museum Association, 1963; Designer of Huntsville Municipal Building.

**Jones, J. C.** - Grand Senior Councilor, United Commercial Travelers, 1910.

**Jones, Joyce Lerman** - Publicity Chairman for practically all civic drives in Madison County; President, Council of Church Women; President, Huntsville Study Circle, 1970-1971; Board of Directors, Community Chest; Board of Directors, TB Association; Board of Directors, Press Club; Freelance photographer and writer.

**Jones, Raymond B.** - Advisory Board, Department of Conservation, 1969.

**Jones, Mrs. Thomas W.** - Only woman ever to receive a plaque from the YMCA (for 61 years of service); a founder of Huntsville's Red Cross Woman of the year 1955; Red Cross Worker for 50 years; 1957 award for longest service to Crippled Children Clinic, 26 years; UGF award Outstanding achievement.

**Jones, Thomas W.** - Board YMCA 1910-1968; President YMCA, 1943; Began Probate Judge Office, 1894; back 1904 to 1916; Probate Judge, 1917-1930 and 1935-1945; Register, 1941-1953; Charter Member 1919 Kiwanis; President Historical Society; Kiwanis Club gave a cabin at YMCA Camp Chalakee in his memory; Began work in Probate Judge Office in 1894, thence to Circuit Court Clerk's Office; 2 years private bookkeeping work and back as Clerk of the Probate office for 12 years until 1916; thence to being Circuit Court Clerk nominee; Probate Judge 1919 to 1958 except for one term, 1930-1935, during which time he was Register; Charter Member Kiwanis Club; President Crippled Children Association; Deputy, Circuit Court Clerk, 1897-1900.

**Jones, Vern** - State Parliamentarian, Alabama Refrigerations Service Engineers 1971; Served as President 1975-76. Alabama State Association Refrigerations Service Engineers; Deputy Director, Region 7.

**Jones, Dr. Walter B.** - Governor Kiwanis District 1950-1951; President, Southeastern Section American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering; President, Alabama Academy of Sciences; President, Alabama Wildlife Federation; Vice President, Southeastern Geological Association; President, Sigma XI; State Geologist, 1927-1961; Director of Museum of Natural History, Alabama, 1927-1967; Director of Conservation, Alabama 1939-49; President, American Association of State Geologists, 1948; President, Alabama Numismatic Society, 1962-1965, Secretary, Son of Confederate Branch of American Association, District Governor Kiwanis, 1949.

## G. W. JONES & SONS

In the fall of 1804, Joseph and Isaac Criner worked hard cutting logs enough to erect two log cabins near what is now the "Big Spring" in downtown Huntsville, Alabama. Their plan was to return to this cabin site in the spring of 1805 from their homes in Lincoln County, Tennessee, and establish a new settlement. Consequently, in the spring of 1805, both men and their families began the trip back to the "Big Spring"; however, they stopped short of their destination and settled near what is now New Market, Alabama, on Mountain Fork Creek.

The Criner brothers were the first white settlers in what is now called Madison County, Alabama. Shortly after establishing their homes on Mountain Fork Creek, John Hunt and a man named Bean came to the settlement inquiring about the abundance of game in the area and asking for information of the "Big Spring". A few weeks later, Bean returned on his way back to Tennessee and told the Criners that Hunt had decided to settle at the "Big Spring." John Hunt thus became the first white settler at the "Big Spring" and was soon followed down what is now known as Winchester Road by several families, some of which were named Walker, Davis, McBroom, Reese, and Jones. The settlement was named Twickenham, but in 1811 it was more appropriately named Huntsville in honor of its first settler, John Hunt, who probably constructed his first cabin with some of the logs cut by the Criner brothers in 1804.

Huntsville began to grow as more families joined those already established; and the Criners cleared land and began to grow crops, raise cattle, and establish themselves on this new frontier. From this beginning in the early 1800's until 1860, Huntsville and Madison County continued to grow. Agriculture, particularly cotton, was the mainstay; and the area progressed on a parallel with most of rural America during this period. In 1813, Andrew Jackson camped for three days in Huntsville on his return from a battle with the Creek Indians at Horseshoe Bend. President James Monroe visited the city in 1819 to prepare the way for Alabama to enter the union. Alabama's first governor, William Wyatt Bibb, was inaugurated the same year; and the first Alabama Legislature convened in Huntsville's Constitution Hall, making Huntsville the first state capital.

In 1840, the Huntsville Meridian was established and a marker erected in Maple Hill Cemetery to delineate all lands west of Huntsville as Range West and all lands east of Huntsville as Range East for all of North



Alabama. Isaac Criner's descendants eventually would use the section, township and range grid system for many years as land surveyors and engineers.

Prosperity and progress continued for the fledgling community as well as for the Criners and their descendants. In 1860, the town population was 3,634 as it began to gear up for war.

One of the Criner men, Isaac, met and married Nancy McCain; and they had a daughter, Martha Woodson Criner, born on February 6, 1836. Martha Criner married William Henderson Moore on October 2, 1865; and they had a daughter — Elvalena Moore, born on December 28, 1868, who was to later become the wife of George Walter Jones (G. W. Jones).

Like most Southerners, the descendants of Isaac Criner prepared for war. Isaac died after the Civil War at the age of 93; his world in the new frontier had flourished, and his offspring had prospered for those fifty odd years from 1804 until 1860. Little did he realize the impact his descendants would have on the area for the next 150 years following his early settlement in the county.

## **1860 — 1886**

Union forces wasted little time realizing that Alabama was important to its success in the war. Huntsville was strategically located on the Memphis and Charleston railroad and Union troops captured the city on April 18, 1862, seizing eighteen locomotives and one hundred freight cars. Later in the fall of 1862, Confederate forces regained control of Huntsville only to lose control again to the Federals in July 1863, who occupied the city until the end of the war.

Life for the Criners and other civilians during these periods of occupation was hard, to say the least. One of the primary goals of the Federal occupation forces was to search and destroy as much food and material as possible. Foodstuffs were at a premium. Butter sold for three dollars per pound; salt, eight dollars a sack; bacon, ten dollars per pound — while cotton dropped to eight cents per pound. Isaac Criner and his family sought ways to survive in these trying times. Family-owned slaves worked hand-in-hand with family members to survive. Being farmers, the Criners had foodstuffs available; however, after a few Yankee raids their storehouse of food diminished. To combat the raids, a system was worked

out to post a guard during daylight hours to watch for the Yankees. A young black boy named Johnny was to give the signal "Yankee's a 'coming'" whenever a patrol was spotted. The system worked very well, for each member of the household had a duty to perform in hiding food and other items of value. The slave cook Lily had a big hoop skirt that had small pockets sewn on the inside into which went the silverware. Johnny was to run the horses to the mountain, and Rebecca was to begin spinning yarn with a spinning wheel on a rug neatly placed over a trap door in the floor where the salt meat was stored. Stories abound surrounding these raids and the war years concerning the Criner family homestead.

One of the most interesting stories involved the slave boy Johnny who was the keeper of the horses. Isaac Criner had one particular stud horse that was special because of his fine qualities. During one Yankee raid, Johnny was too slow getting the horses to the mountain and was captured by the Yankees along with this fine horse and a few mares. The Yankee commander took the horse for his personal mount, with Johnny as his groomsmen. This detachment was soon headed north into Tennessee, and Johnny and the stallion saw several battles and skirmishes between the Union and Confederate forces. Johnny recalled several battles but could not recall their names; however, one that he remembered was "The Battle of Nashville." Johnny's duties consisted of caring for the commander's mount, shining boots, and other camp chores. He seemed to get along well with the Union officers and was respectful and obedient. At the Battle of Nashville, Union forces had a relatively easy victory enroute to Shiloh, and the officers all got drunk. The victory party raged on into the night until the whole Union command fell asleep. Johnny seized this opportunity, saddled the stallion, and rode off into the night toward what he hoped was Mountain Fork Creek and home. Traveling by night, asking directions, and telling his story to other southerners along the way, Johnny gradually made his way south. Directions came hard; however, after many weeks of traveling, he arrived home to a big celebration on Mountain Fork Creek. Isaac Criner described the event of the homecoming of Johnny as parallel to the coming home of the prodigal son in the Bible. They had a big feast of what they had, and all rejoiced at the return of the son who was lost for so long.

Isaac Criner's baby daughter, Martha Woodson, continued her courtship with William Henderson Moore throughout the war years. Moore was a prolific love letter writer and wrote Miss Woodson, as he called her, often. (These letters are still preserved in the G. W. Jones & Sons files and

provide good reading about portions of the war). Moore was from Lincoln County, Tennessee, and was working as a clerk in a store in Fayetteville when war broke out. He volunteered in the First Tennessee Regiment, with whom he served the entire four years. He must have lived a charmed life, for during these long years he was not once wounded. His first letter of record to Miss Woodson came from Lynchburg, Virginia, dated May 21, 1861. A portion of one of these letters is as follows, copied directly as Moore wrote to his sweetheart:

*Camp 1st Tennessee Regiment  
Between Fredericksburg & Ft. Royal, Va.  
December 19, 1862*

*Miss Woodson,*

*According to your request, I attempt to give you a few items that you may know that I am well and as the boys say about being in a battle, I have "seen the elephant." That is I have been in a fight. And thank God, I came out unhurt, though much of a bargain, as the morning that the battle opened, our Regiment was laying under the heaviest shelling. Majors Buchanan, Sawyers, Sanders and myself were lying behind a tree and a bombshell struck the tree about the ground, tearing the tree all to pieces. It wounded all but myself, though stunning me considerable and nearly covering me in dirt. By this time for two miles in front of us was black with the pomp and splendor of the Federal army and it was the grandest sight I ever beheld. And a frightful one it was, for it seemed to me they had enough to whip the whole world. They came four columns deep in front of us. We were ordered into our ditches and reserve our fire until they got within range and then we turned loose upon them, killing and wounding them almost by regiments until they could not stand it any longer. They broke and all the running they did it. The second column came and we soon put them in a fix for scadding, and such running was never heard of. Then the third column came and turned a Brigade on our left until the Yankees got in our rear. We began to think we were gone up, but the Bloody 1st never faltering held our position until those on our left received reinforcements and drove the enemy back. Then our whole line charged them about half a mile. They poured shell and grapeshot into us all the time then we fell back to our entrenchments and the way they poured the grapeshot into us wasn't slow. They came as thick as hail. I thought I would never get back to the*

*ditches for I was never as give out as I was. When I got to the ditch, I didn't take time to step into it — I just fell into it and lay there for some time until I got breath. In our company, we lost one killed and two wounded. Major, lieutenant colonel and colonel were wounded. Col. Turney was severely wounded through the head. We lost in the Regiment 49 wounded and six killed. I never saw sutch slaughter, as was on the Yankee side. They were lying in heaps and the field in which they were in caught fire from our shells and the poor wounded Yankees burned to death. Oh, I never saw such a horrible sigft in my life. I am thankful that I came out unhurt. We lay under their shelling for three days and nights. If it wasn't for the shelling, I wouldn't mind it so mutch. You must excuse writing, for I have to write on my knee. When I got to camp, the ground was covered with snow and how cold it was. I came very near freezing. We had to lie upon the cold ground and will have to the rest of the winter. Oh, but we see a hard time indeed. But I can endure it better now than I could last winter. I hope old J. Johnston will keep the Yankees out of Tennessee and we can hear from each other often. If the Yankees should come into your country and you should leave, you must write immediately. The estimate of the Yankee loss is 18,000 (I think it is that much) and ours wasn't more than 3,000.*

*W.H.M.*

The South as well as the whole nation was greatly relieved on April 9, 1865, when this terrible war finally ended. William Henderson Moore returned to Mountain Fork Creek after the war and married his sweetheart, Martha Woodson Criner on October 2, 1865. He made his home on the Isaac Criner farm and lived out his life farming and raising three girls, one of whom was Elvalena Moore.

Elvalena Moore grew up on Mountain Fork Creek and married George Walter Jones on February 12, 1890. G. W. Jones, a strapping young man of 24 when he married, was the son of Major George Washington Jones of the 4th Alabama Infantry of the Confederate Army. The Jones side of the family had also been involved in the great war. George Washington Jones was fortunate enough to be an infantry officer and live through four years of the war, only to die of a heart attack two years after the surrender at Appomattox. One year after his return from the war, a son, G. W. Jones, was born to this soldier and his wife on June 22, 1866.

G. W. Jones lived with his uncle — William Brown Jones — whom he called Uncle "Will," was educated in both private (Plevna Institute) and public schools in the area, and particularly excelled in math. G. W. Jones, who took an early interest in the survey work his uncle performed for the county and the public, would accompany his Uncle Will on survey assignments and soon became proficient in the trade. In 1886 (exact date unknown), with the help of his Uncle Will and a portion of the savings from the family farm, George Walter Jones founded G. W. Jones, Civil Engineering, at 307 Franklin Street in Huntsville, Alabama. The entrance to the firm has remained at that location for the past one hundred years. The business flourished for the young engineer and surveyor from the beginning. The firm offered services in engineering, surveying, and abstracting; and as the Gay Nineties ushered itself into American life, G. W. Jones's firm began to grow.



# G. W. JONES & SONS ABOUT 1921



**Elvalena Moore Jones or "Mama" Jones, wife of G. W. Jones at her home on Randolph Street, 1940**

*Below*  
**G. W. Jones working at his office, September 24, 1921**



G. W. Jones evidently took time out from his new business to court Elvalena Moore, for on February 12, 1890, they were married. After a brief honeymoon at the Monte Sano Hotel, they set up housekeeping on a farm in the Hurricane Creek community near Maysville. This was the farm that had passed to G. W. Jones when his Uncle Will had died. Mrs. Jones took over the management of the farm while G. W. Jones continued his engineering and surveying profession. The farm consisted of about 1,000 acres, and the efficient management of Mrs. Jones soon had the farm showing a profit.

Huntsville and Madison County grew, as did the G.W. Jones family. Howard Criner Jones was born on December 11, 1890, followed by Raymond William on October 8, 1892; Walter Bryan on February 25, 1895; Edwin Whiting on December 7, 1896; Pauline, May 9, 1904; and Carl Tannahill on December 12, 1908. A bigger house was required with the expanding family; so the father of this growing family would survey all day and build on the new house at night with "Mama Jones," as Elvalena was now called, holding the lantern. The couple continued their lifestyle of engineering, farming, and raising a family until 1911 when they moved to town and built a house at the corner of Randolph and White Streets (which is now part of the Annie C. Merts Center).

Huntsville's population grew from 7,611 in 1910 to 11,554 in 1930. The sons were becoming of working age, so about the time the family moved to town the name of the firm was changed to G. W. Jones & Sons. The boys all worked in the firm and attended the University of Alabama and became civil engineers except Walter. He studied geology at the University of Alabama and Johns Hopkins University, receiving his Ph.D. in 1920. Howard, Raymond, Walter, and Edwin were football players and in college played for the Crimson Tide of Alabama. Howard, who was nicknamed "Sheep," was probably one of the better players. While playing at guard, he once made the headlines of the *Atlanta Constitution* by knocking out five Georgia Tech linemen — the caption read, "Sheep Wrecks Right Side of Tech Line."

**Howard** became an outstanding farmer, a master surveyor, married Kathleen Paul, and made his home at New Market, Alabama. He served in World War I with Company C, 304 Ammunition Train in France and Germany and had four children: Howard C. Jr., Harvie P., Edith Jones

Ledbetter, and Emily Jones Good. Howard was active in the firm from 1916 until his death in 1962.

**Raymond** was quite a leader and business man in the community, helping organize the National Guard in Huntsville. The armory on South Parkway is named Fort Raymond W. Jones in his honor. He developed the total service concept of G. W. Jones & Sons, offering property appraisals, engineering, abstracts, insurance real estate and farm loans, with the first farm loan made in 1922 at an interest rate of 3½ percent. Raymond was quite an outdoorsman, polo player, hunter and fisherman. He married Irene O'Neill, and they had one daughter, Peggy Jones Miller.

**Walter** also was quite an outdoorsman, hunter and fisherman and was well-known statewide. He served in World War I and World War II, the latter as a lieutenant colonel in the South Pacific. He served as the first director of conservation for the State of Alabama, and being generally recognized as one of the nation's finest geologists, he was state geologist of Alabama for over thirty years, and served as curator of Mound State Park in Moundville, Alabama. The University of Alabama named its Oil and Gas Board Building in his honor following his retirement. After retirement, he was associated with G. W. Jones & Sons regularly concerning geologic and foundation problems. Walter married Hazel Phelps, and they had three sons: Nelson, Douglas, and Warren.

**Edwin** received his B.S. degree from the University of Alabama in 1918. He was heavily involved with the National guard and served in World War II in Alaska, attaining the rank of brigadier general. Edwin served as a civil engineer and partner in the firm from 1918 until his death in 1956. He was one of the county's best cattlemen and was also instrumental in bringing the pasture grass KY-31-Fescue to Alabama. Edwin married Katherine Simmerman; and they had two daughters, Nancy Jones Walker, and Barbara Jones Schmieder. Katherine's mother, Mrs. Anna B. Simmerman, also made her home in Huntsville and made many contributions to the community as well as the firm.

**Pauline**, the only girl in the family, graduated from Peabody Conservatory of Music. She was a fine pianist and a nationally recognized genealogist. Pauline married Bennie William Grandrud; and they had one son, William.

**Carl**, the youngest in the family, graduated from the University of Alabama in 1929 with a B.S. degree in civil engineering. He served during



World War II in Alaska and Europe, attaining the rank of full colonel. Carl was the dynamic leader in bringing much industry into Huntsville during the 1950's and 1960's and was responsible for some intricate engineering design projects, one of which was the Huntsville-Madison County Airport, which was named the Carl T. Jones Field in his honor. The University of Alabama inducted Carl into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame posthumously in 1983. He served as a partner in the firm from 1939 until his death in 1967. Carl married Elizabeth Bryant; and they had three children: Raymond Bryant, Elizabeth Jones Lowe (known as "Betsy"), and Carolyn Jones Blue.



**EDWIN  
JONES**

**HOWARD  
JONES**

**RAYMOND  
JONES**

**WALTER  
JONES**

**CARL  
JONES**

G. W. Jones & Sons progressed in the first four decades of the 1900's at a slow to moderate pace. With America entering World War I, Howard, Walter, Edwin and Raymond went into the service. The war was followed by the Depression of the thirties and all the problems related to running a business with little revenue. G. W. Jones and his sons kept the business viable; and during all of the turmoil and financial strains from the war, the Depression, and educating the children, with courage and faith G. W. Jones held the firm and his family together. Surveying and abstract work were the primary sources of income; however, occasionally a paving project or a unique engineering problem would arise and demand the services of the firm.

Raymond passed away at an early age in 1931 of pneumonia, just two years before sulphur drugs were discovered which probably would have saved his life. The family really mourned his death, for he was an outstanding leader and an exceptional engineer.

As World War II approached, all the surviving sons were married and had begun to establish themselves as community and business leaders of extraordinary abilities, in spite of the depression and other hardships. Walter, Edwin and Carl were to be heavily involved in World War II, as were grandsons Howard Jr. and Nelson. G. W. Jones was to remain in charge of the firm as the war began, having already been in business about 55 years by the time the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

### **1939 — 1957**

In 1939, G. W. Jones & Sons was struggling with not a great deal of business. Raymond had been gone for eight years, and Huntsville had experienced only moderate growth. Walter was busy serving as state geologist and G. W. Jones, Edwin and Howard remained in the firm doing property line work, abstracts, and the like, while Carl had gone to work for the Forest Service in Knoxville, Tennessee, following graduation. Carl and Edwin decided in 1939 it was time to exert new ideas and leadership in an attempt to get things going for the firm. In that year Carl returned to Huntsville to assist in the firm's known activities, but also to join Edwin in purchasing a farm south of Huntsville, hoping the farm would produce revenue should the engineering firm falter. The 2,500 acre farm was run-down and had been on the market for four years. A big house built in 1823 by slave labor was considered the main dwelling. The plan was for Carl and

his wife, Betty, and family to move into the house and be the on-site manager. Edwin and Carl would spend most of their time in the engineering business and farm on the side.

The farm organization was made up basically of share-croppers who lived on the place, and who farmed various acreages with teams of mules. At one time, there were 26 families and 26 teams of mules working about 800 acres on what is now the Jones Valley farm. Much work was required on the main house, and a lot of the early effort was spent trying to make it livable. "Mama" Jones thought it was terrible that Carl would ask his pretty wife to live in such a dump. She was so insistent that she told Betty to simply say "no" to the moving. In time, Carl prevailed; and the family moved into the big house in the spring of 1939.

Five months after occupying the farmhouse, the National Guard in Huntsville was mobilized in anticipation of the war which was still about a year away. Both Ed and Carl were activated and the trauma to the firm and family was great. Not only did this disrupt the ongoing engineering and abstracting business, but now Betty (a city girl) was left in charge of the farm. Little did any of the family realize that this predicament would last for five long years.

The sons and grandsons of G. W. Jones, five of them, served the nation and paid a dear price for some of the freedoms we enjoy today. **Brigadier General Edwin W. Jones** served as commander of a segment of the army in Nome, Alaska, for the duration of the war. **Colonel Carl T. Jones** also served in Alaska and made two amphibious landings at Attu and Kiska. Later he was recalled by name to the European theater and was on Patton's left flank through St. Lo and on to Berlin. **Lt. Colonel Walter B. Jones** served in the South Pacific with an Army Air Corps Group, particularly in Australia. Later in the war he was reassigned to perform engineering and geologic work in New Guinea for which he was better suited. **PFC Howard C. Jones, Jr.** served with the 20th Armored Division in France and Germany and was in Europe when the war ended. **PFC Nelson B. Jones** was in combat with the 95th Infantry Division approximately 210 days after his enlistment. He was senior class president at Huntsville High School and an outstanding man in every respect. On April 2, 1945, he paid the supreme sacrifice for his country while trying to destroy a German tank in Oerling Hausen, Germany. He was buried at Margraten Cemetery in Holland. The site of this cemetery was selected by Colonel Carl T. Jones as one of his engineering assignments while in Europe.

"Mama" Jones, at one time, had five gold stars hanging in the window of her house on Randolph Street, signifying, like so many other mothers during the war, the sacrifice her family was making toward the war effort. G. W. Jones stayed up for days listening to the radio, reading the war news, and literally grieving himself to death over his sons and grandsons and their plight in the war.

G. W. Jones and Howard worked long and hard during the war years to keep the firm going. Huntsville, like every other city, was hit hard by the war. Rationing was required, with civilians working harder than many in the military for the war effort and grieving on the side. Gold stars in one's window were highly respected because they signified a family's sacrifice to the war. Large wire enclosures around the city square were filled weekly by those at home with aluminum pots and pans which were used to make airplanes. No one went fishing or had much recreation of any sort because of rationing and the fact that it wasn't considered the thing to do with the men on the front lines.

Carl and Ed both had their army pay go directly back to the families to reduce the mortgage on the farm. Betty would write to ask them how, when and where to plant certain crops, only to get an answer (mostly censored) after the crops had been harvested. Betty became an excellent farm manager and did what she could with what knowledge she could glean from other farmers. Logs were snaked out of the bottom land with oxen and sold at a good price, with the help of the black families. She raised sorghum, from which molasses was processed, hogs, cattle, cotton, corn, and hay crops. Foodstuffs were at a premium during the war, so with the revenue from the farm and Ed and Carl's paychecks, the mortgage remained current.

Being the only white woman in the valley presented several problems for Betty and her family. Betty's mother, Lula May Bryant, moved to the farm during the war as "protection," all 97 pounds of her. Additionally, a brown puppy was given to Ray by one of the tenants. He grew into a big dog named Brownie and truly became a watchdog for the duration of the war. Brownie would keep vigilance on the house, barn and surroundings—daring anyone to come near at night, and then play with little Betsy during the day. Betty would also occasionally shoot her pistol in the air. Rumor had it that she was an excellent shot; the truth of the matter, however, was that she couldn't hit the side of the barn. In any event, Betty, Lula May and family persevered throughout those five years on the farm. Years later,

Carl and Ed were to say that had it not been for her hard work in keeping the farm going, they would not have been able to have held on to the farm during those war years when they were away.

Opportunities were rare for the family to see those serving in the armed services. Occasionally a furlough or a trip to an army base to see one of them was possible. There are many rich incidences that occurred during the war that should be recorded. One humorous one occurred when Carl came home for two days enroute to Washington from Alaska. He brought a combat "C" ration home to show the men on the farm what a soldier had to eat while in combat. After opening the "C" ration and displaying its dried meat, chocolate, dried fruit, cigarettes, toilet paper, etc., they were all amazed at the meager essentials that the army offered its men in combat. One old gentleman pushed his hat back on his head and remarked, "Mr. Carl, I knows you're a smart man, and I knows the government got some smart mens, but if'n all they gonna put in this little package for a man to eat is this little piece of meat, dried fruit and chocolate, den they sho didn't need to put no toilet paper in dar."

On September 2, 1945, the terrible war was over; and G. W. Jones' sons and one grandson returned home to the family, farm, and firm. The "office," as the business was now called, was still intact; however, little ongoing work was being performed. The burden of time weighed heavily upon G. W. Jones, who was 79 years old when the war ended. Grieving for the boys during the war and the loss of his grandson, Nelson, had rendered him an extremely old man and on January 16, 1946, G. W. Jones passed away. His life included serving as an Alabama state senator, engineer, farmer, businessman, mason, prohibitionist, patriarch of his family, and founder of G. W. Jones & Sons with his motto of "A fair measure at a fair price."

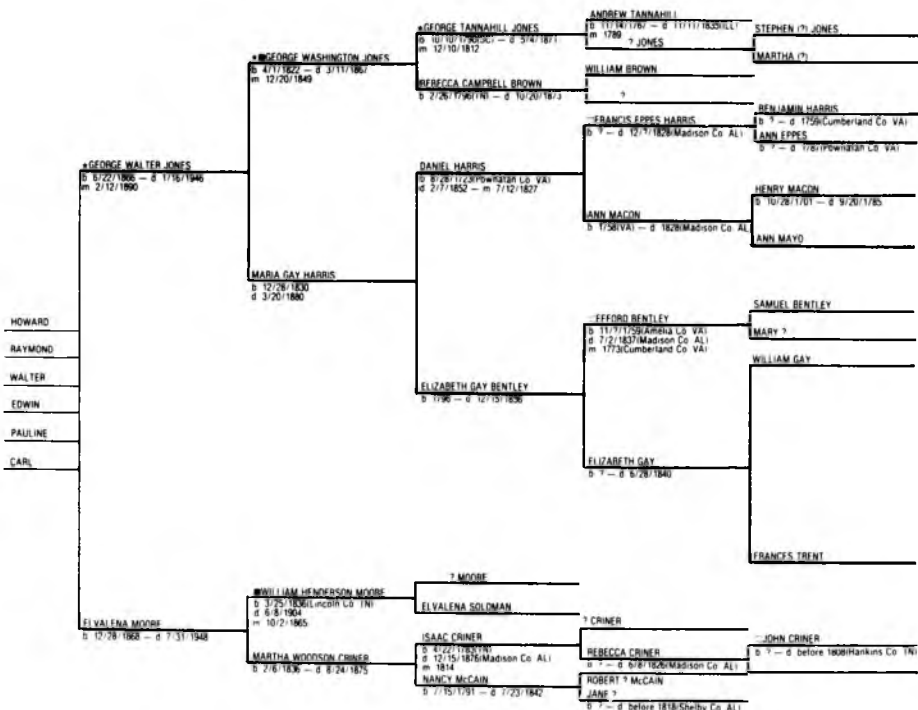
Carl and Ed rapidly began rebuilding the "office" after the war years. Returning also from the war were many key employees who would play important roles in rebuilding G. W. Jones & Sons and the city of Huntsville. Carl and Ed threw themselves immediately into improving the farm, the "office," and the community. In 1946, they were instrumental in helping expand the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee. Also in 1946, Ed made a trip to Pembroke, Kentucky, that would eventually lead to the introduction of the pasture grass KY-31-Fescue to the state of Alabama. The brothers used their political influence to try and find a use for Huntsville Arsenal which had been declared surplus and was for sale. Slowly but surely, engineering, insurance, real estate and farm sales began to increase; and the firm was once again moving ahead.

In 1950, the population of Huntsville was 16,437. Almost unknowingly, the city was on the verge of receiving its greatest single economic impact. At Christmas, 1949, the army made the decision to move Dr. Wernher Von Braun and his team of rocket scientists to the Huntsville Arsenal. Huntsville and Madison County would never be the same. When the Germans first came, they were shunned by the local population who still remembered the great war and its atrocities, and would not shop or even walk in a store near these new inhabitants. Gradually, these feelings faded, and this group of Germans became some of the city's finest citizens.

Work in the early 1950's for G. W. Jones & Sons was stimulated by the advent of this rocket team. Subdivisions, utility expansion, roads and other projects began to demand the firm's services. The office grew and from 1945 to 1955, added some of its finest employees.

The farm also grew; cattle and Certified Ky-31 Fescue seed were fast replacing cotton and corn. In 1950 a new seed cleaning and drying plant was erected, made entirely of oak lumber with all the modern conveniences. By 1955, the plant was processing over 500,000 pounds of seed annually, many of which were being produced from leased agricultural lands on Redstone Arsenal (the new name of the old Huntsville Arsenal). Edwin had worked out a lease of approximately 1,800 acres on the Arsenal. With the 1,200 acres on the homeplace, adequate acreages were available for the cattle and seed operation. Edwin also purchased 400 head of heifers from the Four-Six Ranch in Texas which was to provide a breeding base for the future. During this time, the brothers also ventured into the sheep business; however, this adventuresome excursion ended abruptly after a year or so with the statement from them that simply said, "Life's too short to raise sheep."

# GENEALOGY OF G. W. & ELVALENA JONES

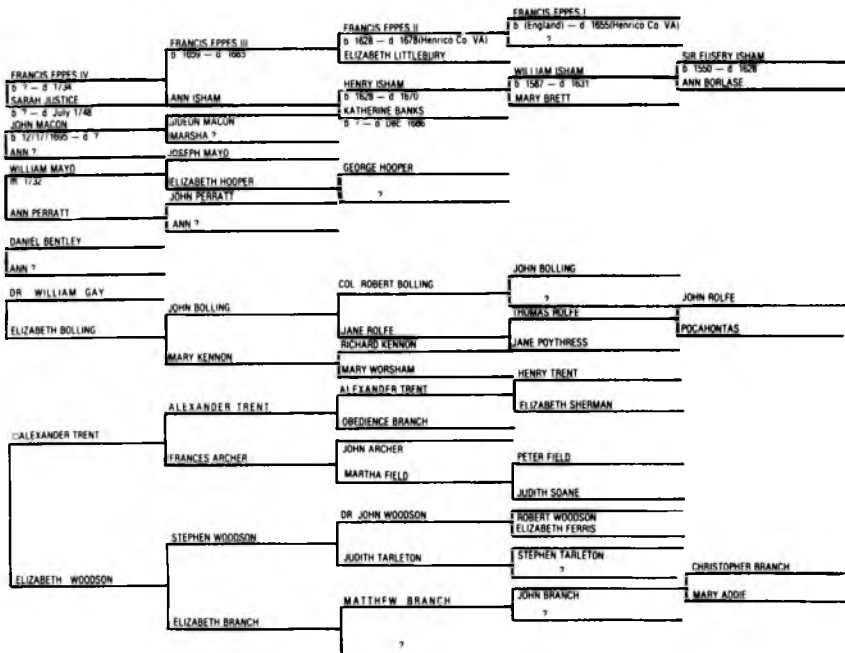


NOTE: DIRECT DECENDENTS OF  
 POCAHONTAS  
 ALFRED THE GREAT  
 CHARLEMAGNE  
 WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR  
 LADY GODIVA

ROYAL DESCENT THROUGH SIR EUSEBY ISHAMI

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS  
 ALABAMA STATE LEGISLATORS  
 CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS

(COMPILED FROM THE WORKS OF KATHLEEN P. JONES & PAULINE J. GANDRUD)



MAY CRIMER JONES  
ELIZABETH JONES YOKLEY  
1986



In 1948, the only post-war grandchild of G. W. Jones was born to Carl and Betty, and she was named Carolyn Tannahill Jones. Carl's family continued living on the farm with Ray entering Auburn in 1953 to study Animal Husbandry. Much effort had gone into the farm, and both Carl and Ed felt it was a good idea to have one of the family studying agriculture for its future. Both farm and office seemed to be doing fine and growing each year with both Ed and Carl dedicated to the business, working together, in control and in good health.

Almost without warning Ed became ill, and on June 7, 1956, he passed away. The entire load of the farm and office and its many decisions suddenly fell on Carl. Ed's expertise in the cattle, engineering, and abstracting businesses was to be missed as the firm, family and community mourned his passing. Carl was faced with the immediate decision of whether to proceed with purchasing a large farm in Jackson County on which Ed was working, the settlement of Ed's estate, and many other matters that would surface in the coming months. Additionally, the engineering, insurance, abstracting and the real estate end of the business were beginning to grow, which further complicated the difficult days following Ed's death. Carl was to later say that those few years following the loss of Ed had to be his most difficult time in the business.

### **1957 — 1967**

A new era for G. W. Jones & Sons was ushered in in 1957. Huntsville was in the thick of a race to help America see which nation would have the first satellite orbiting the earth. The city was rapidly expanding, and the demand for engineering work increased. The firm served Huntsville as its city engineer for 31 years until the city grew to such size that a full time engineer was required. The office was able to associate itself with an out-of-town firm to have a part in the design of the city's water and sewage treatment plants in the late 1950's. It was during these projects that Carl made a lifelong friendship and association with a fine engineer from Birmingham, Kenneth D. Byrd, who was to work with the firm from time to time for the next 25 years. Subdivision design and layout were much in demand, as were the other services the "office" had to offer.

Ray graduated from Auburn with a B.S. degree in Animal Husbandry in the spring of 1957. In the fall of that same year he attended "The Engineer School" at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. At the time, Ray was a first lieutenant in the National Guard with the 1169th Engineer Group (c). Carl brought Ray into the partnership of the farm and "office" upon Ed's death, and he was given the primary responsibility of the farms. The Jackson County farm presented the most immediate need in that it was primarily established in row crops and needed to be reestablished in pasture. Cattle prices were good, so the decision was made to expand the herd as quickly as practical. Consequently, Ray made a number of trips to Texas to buy cows and bulls from several ranches. Roads, fences, corrals, barns and pasture were built and established over a five-year period, beginning in 1957. Soon the Jackson County farm was becoming similar in appearance to the homeplace and the Arsenal leased property.

In 1960, another large farm was added to the farming operation at Guntersville Dam in Marshall County. Almost identical work was started on this tract as was performed on the Jackson County tract following its purchase. Fortunately for the farming operation, work was virtually completed on the Guntersville Dam farm by 1965 because in 1966 the Arsenal lease was terminated, a lease that had been held for 18 years. Cattle were shifted to the new tracts and the operation continued at a similar pace.

Ray's time was spent on the farms from spring to fall and on engineering projects in the winter, mostly surveying land lines. It was during the early 1960's that Ray got to spend a lot of time with his Uncle Howard Jones in these winter months surveying boundary lines. Many hours were spent with this master surveyor, and Ray learned much about the business of land surveying. Fortunately for Ray, circumstances allowed these two to spend this valuable time together, for on December 19, 1962, Howard died of a heart attack after having been associated with G. W. Jones & Sons for 46 years.

On September 4, 1960, Ray married Elizabeth Anne Mercer, an English teacher in the Huntsville City School System from Borden Springs, Alabama. Ray and Libby moved into a home on the farm and began their married life. On April 1, 1961, Betsy married Peter L. Lowe from Birmingham, whom she met at the University of Alabama. Peter had received his B.S. degree in Commerce and Business Administration and went to work for the "office" in the appraisal department following their move to Huntsville.

Carl was extremely busy during the early 1960's establishing a substantial base of operations for G. W. Jones & Sons. His excellent leadership and foresight projected the firm to heights never imagined by its early founder. By 1960, Huntsville's population had increased over the last decade by almost five-fold, to 72,365. Huntsville was booming, and Carl was the man of the hour. Twice he had served as president of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee. The community had awarded him "The Distinguished Citizen Award" in 1965. The county and city leaders had such confidence in Carl that they would often send him to make a pitch to prospective industries on the community's behalf. To encourage industry to locate in Huntsville, Carl was authorized to obligate the community for certain expenditures, each side always considering what he did to be fair and in the best interest of all.

In 1962 a large government space contract was let that required the successful bidder to be at work within 60 days. Huntsville, at that time, did not have a single office building that would house the 4,000 jobs necessary to complete the contract. Carl overnight mobilized a group of Huntsville businessmen who owned the old Lincoln cotton mill buildings and with their own money, renovated these buildings into office space and had the people working in 45 days, thus saving these jobs for Huntsville. These were the early days of a group called the Huntsville Industrial Associates, or HIA, which was to have an influence on Huntsville's business climate for the next 25 years, including the building and operation of the Huntsville Hilton Hotel. Many of the members of G. W. Jones's family were shareholders of HIA.

Carl was particularly effective for the community and the business as a speech maker. He was very articulate, had a booming voice, was always positive, and left a real impact on his listeners. Community leaders, politicians, business associates, and most everyone who knew "Mr. Carl," as he was affectionately called, wanted to have his opinion on things. The fast pace and the "explosion" of Huntsville's economy caused Carl's path to cross and affect many lives. One of the most significant professional feats Carl was called on to perform that would touch thousands of people was the job of designing the Huntsville-Madison County Airport. Through Carl's guidance and under the direction of the Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority, G. W. Jones & Sons took 3,000 acres of raw land west of Huntsville and designed an airport complex that has become known throughout the world. Boasting parallel, 8,000-foot runways one mile

apart with accompanying taxiways, a hotel, and golf course, the industrial complex has grown from its opening in 1967 to a passenger usage of over three-quarter million people by 1985. The airport complex designed by Carl and the "office" force received the National Achievement Award from the American Consulting Engineers Council in 1968. There are many other projects of all types that should be mentioned that were completed during the sixties; however, space will not allow their recording. Suffice it to say that at this point in its history the decade from 1957 to 1967 was G. W. Jones & Sons "finest hour."

On October 6, 1967, Carl, Ray and Walter went dove hunting in Limestone County. Carl was just back from a trip he and Betty had taken to Europe, so the three really enjoyed the hunt and being together. Carl seemed in excellent spirits and was glad to be home. The next day Carl passed away in Birmingham during the Alabama — Ole Miss football game. At age 58 he was at the pinnacle of his career, and his family as well as the community mourned the loss of this outstanding leader. Sympathy was extended the G. W. Jones & Sons family from all over the nation. Friends, family, employees, business associates and community leaders for weeks mourned the loss of its spokesman. The Huntsville Times had an editorial several weeks following Carl's death that stated, "The death of Carl Jones seems to still hang heavy over the business community." The community honored him by renaming the Huntsville-Madison County Airport the "Carl T. Jones Field" shortly after his death. The end of an era had come to a close for G. W. Jones & Sons as well as for the community, family, and those who knew Carl. During his life, he had served as a father, soldier, engineer, businessman, banker, leader of the G. W. Jones & Sons family, and, during his time, one of Huntsville's most beloved citizens.

On Monday, October 9, 1967, Ray assumed the position held by Carl both at the "office" and at the farms. In the days and weeks following Carl's death, G. W. Jones & Sons was to struggle with a number of problems and tragedies. Within the next 15 months, nine members of the G. W. Jones & Sons family passed away; some were blood family members and some employees of both "office" and farm. The organization was faced with a time of not only grief but also of many pressing problems. Among them were the settlement of Carl's estate, realignment of a "pecking order" in the chain of command, and, since Ray was no longer full time on the farm, the placement of more responsibility upon the farm managers. Ray had received his land surveyor's license by this time and was familiar with most of the "office" operations, which was fortunate.

Most employees worked hard and diligently to continue G. W. Jones & Sons, and all grieved for the loss of their leader during these most difficult days.

## 1967 — 1986

Conversely, however, during the period following Carl's death many good things happened to the G. W. Jones & Sons family. Even though modest, the "office" operations began to strengthen. The family grew together as it worked toward solutions to problems created by these circumstances. Some of the fifth generation of Isaac Criner were being born during this period.

Fifth generation Criners still involved in G. W. Jones & Sons are as follows:

**Ray and Libby Jones** — Mary Elizabeth born July 27, 1962; May Criner born September 5, 1964; and Raymond Bryant, Jr. born November 5, 1969.

**Peter and Betsy Lowe** — Peter Loftis, Jr. born January 29, 1962; Carl Tannahill Jones born November 1, 1963; and Sara Len born July 8, 1967.

**John and Carolyn Blue** were married August 16, 1969. Sarah Katherine born January 18, 1972; and John Wallace born August 29, 1973.

Carolyn had married her high school sweetheart and after completing college at the University of Alabama, John Blue began work at G. W. Jones & Sons in 1970 for the appraisal department. John has continued to work with the appraisal end of the business, attaining his RM designation in 1976, as well as expanding into real estate sales and management.

Betty and Lula May continued to live in the big house on the farm after the loss of Carl and after Carolyn's marriage. Lula May would continue living in the big house until May 10, 1984, when she passed away nine days before her 98th birthday. For over 40 years she lived very close to the family and was a great influence on Betty's children and grandchildren. Lula May Bryant was a Godly woman and one that had a wonderful influence on all with whom she had contact. It was no surprise when hundreds attended the funeral of this great lady.

In the 1970's, progress was being made also on the farm in both the seed business and in the cattle business. The time for building was over, and

the farm management could concentrate on making production operations more efficient. A big hereford bull was purchased from Montana in 1970 by the name of C Advance 601. This bull weighed 2,350 pounds; and within the next five to seven years, his breeding influence was felt throughout the entire herd. At this particular time the farm had about 1200 brood cows, mostly fall-dropped calves. The fall-dropped calves were weaned the following July at eight months of age, shipped to the homeplace, and kept until the following June. They were then sold weighing approximately 850 pounds direct to a feedlot usually up North in the corn belt.

In concert with the improvement to the cattle business, the seed operation was also undergoing drastic changes. During the mid-sixties, the harvested seed was handled in bushel-sized bags, 25,000 of them annually. The harvest involved about 35 laborers to get the 600,000 to 800,000 pounds of seed harvested each year. The advent of minimum wage caused an earnest search to find a cheaper method of harvest. A system was worked out to "bulk harvest" the crop, thus eliminating all these bags and their handling. A gin suction system was installed that unloaded the seed by air and deposited them in a big pile on the floor of the seed house. Pipes could then be reversed and the seed pulled back to the cleaner by air, which eliminated about 20 men altogether during harvest. The system worked well and is still in use today. With these two products, cattle and seed, pastures were in use throughout the year with nine months devoted to grazing and three months to seed production. This system provided stability for the farming operation not only for management but also for its employees. The early and mid-seventies was a period for operational improvements and the solidification of a farming operation which Ed and Carl began in 1939.

The population of Huntsville had grown to 139,282 by 1970, and the "office" operations of G. W. Jones & Sons expanded rapidly. Peter Lowe had received his MAI (Member Appraisal Institute) designation and was brought into ownership of the firm on January 1, 1971. On this date the "office" operations became a corporation after existing for 85 years as a partnership. Initial corporate officers and directors were as follows:

Raymond B. Jones, President and Director  
Peter L. Lowe, Executive Vice President and Director  
T. Martin Phillips, Vice President and Director  
George T. Johnson, Secretary and Director

Phoebe White, Treasurer and Director  
John D. Blue, Director  
Lewis C. Pattillo, Director  
Elizabeth B. Jones, Director

Peter assumed the responsibility of expanding the appraisal department, real estate development and acquisitions, as well as management of existing properties. Peter met his challenges in an exemplary manner, being very successful in putting together, in the next few years, several restaurant deals by which the "office" would build restaurant structures and lease them back to a reputable restaurant operator and developing other real estate concepts. Several significant purchases of land as well as office buildings followed during the 1970's that began to establish a different dimension to the "office" operations. The Carl Jones family became involved in a number of very profitable real estate ventures, including Governors House Apartments, the Central Bank Building, and The North Alabama Mineral Development Company, to name a few. As a result of Peter's leadership, the appraisal department continued to grow, with many large reports being produced monthly. Dollar volumes by the end of the 1970's had increased many times in the appraisal and real estate end of the business.

The engineering portion of the "office" was also undergoing some changes during the 1970's. Several key employees were added to the engineering department during this period; and as salaries and expenses increased, more efficient ways were sought to better utilize personnel. The computer age, much of which was developed in the town named for John Hunt, was a great asset in a more efficient engineering operation. DMD (Double Meridian Distance) closures of boundaries resulting from land surveys could now be completed in five or ten minutes; whereas, prior to the computer age, hours were required to perform the same operation. Because they were no longer efficient, many charts and series of procedures were discarded that had been conceived by Ed and Carl years before. Methods of gathering survey information were rechannelled into one that would be congruent with the computers. In addition, changes in requirements from the various regulatory agencies that affect engineering design also caused many alterations in conducting the engineering operations.

In the latter part of the decade of the 1970's, management of the engineering department made the decision to seek more municipal-type work. Consequently, in the late seventies and early eighties the "office" was performing engineering design on multi-million dollar road projects, as well as sanitary sewer plants and their appurtenances, airports, and for many industrial customers with a variety of engineering challenges.

Subdivisions, land surveys, and a host of other related work that had brought the "office" to the 1980's were also being continued.

Throughout all these years and even in more recent years when a younger generation was assuming managerial roles, certain older employees and family members served as a steadying influence. One of these was Walter B. Jones, affectionately known as "Dr. Walter." The last living son of G. W. Jones had continued to consult with the engineering department on geologic matters. Walter was a great influence and a source of stability and strength to the "office" during the 1970's. He was a physically strong individual, an extremely hard worker and as a geologist, second to none. On May 3, 1977, after having cut a load of firewood with an ax and putting the finishing touches on a geology report, Walter passed away. His death was mourned by the family, the community and his many, many friends far and near. The last of G. W. Jones's sons was now gone, and each son had made his own unique and invaluable contribution to what they all called the "office."



**G. W. JONES & SONS  
PRESENT OFFICE**



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