

Family Included First Chowan Grad:

Colonel Jones: Neglected Figure In 18th Century Hertford Story

One of the neglected figures of early Hertford County history, Col. James Jones, sired a long and illustrious line which has been written about at length. The tales always centered on the "other" side of the family, however, rather than the Jones side. The Colonel was, in fact, the great-great-grandfather of J. Raynor Moore of Powellsville, and it is on the Colonel's land that the Moores live today.

Perhaps unfortunately, J. Raynor Moore's paternal great-grandfather was also distinguished, and much closer to memory in the span of time.

The history of the Moore family, back to the illustrious Dr. Godwin C. Moore, patriarch of the Chowan Baptist Association, has become a legend. Yet the history of the Jones family, from which J. Raynor Moore is also descended, sheds a light on a forgotten page of this county's earliest years.

Col. James Jones was one of the most important men in the province of North Carolina, at the turn of the 18th century. The grant of land from the King of England to Jones is part of the collection of Moore family papers and mementos. Col. Jones is listed as one of the major landowners in what was first Bertie precinct, then Hertford County.

His holdings totaled almost a thousand acres near Pitch Landing on Chinkapin Creek, stretching back from Pitch Landing almost to the present town of Powellsville.

On King's Council
Col. Jones was one of the representatives of the province on the King's Council, a judiciary body appointed by the King of England at the recommendation of the provincial Governor. At the time of Jones's service, during the 1754-64 decade, Arthur Dobbs was provincial Governor. Members of the King's Council were required to own at least one hundred acres of land, and had supervision over the Assembly of elected freeholders which governed the province.

Pitch Landing served, in the early 1700's, as the post office for

the entire southern area of what came to be Hertford County.

Although not listed as one of the "King's Landings" where stores were unloaded, it was a major center of trade and transportation. The Colonel's fine home was not actually at the Landing, but was situated on the banks of what is variously termed Stony Creek, Bear Swamp, or "Jones Hole," as it was called in his day. This site is about five miles from Bethlehem Baptist

Church, off the main paved road running to Powellsville.

It was at this home that James Jones, Jr., was born in 1765, the heir to an immense fortune in land and slaves. James, Jr. succeeded his father in the service of Hertford County, serving in the House for twelve years. Winborne's history of Hertford County records that he "inherited a large estate from his father," and married Anne Walton.

His sons were Dr. William Jones, James Jones, III, and

Howell Jones. After his death at the early age of 51 in 1816, his widow married Col. Matthias Brickle, Jr., son of the first minister in Bertie precinct, the Episcopalian Matthias Brickle.

James Sidney Jones, the son of James Jones, III, did not choose to remain a plantation owner on the Jones estate, but moved to Georgia. He disposed of the Colonel's broad acres by selling them to his brother-in-law, James Ward, of Bertie County.

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Jones Family Pictures:

Old Oil Portraits of Pioneers

COFIELD — These early oil portraits, done in colors now faded on thin canvas, have been preserved in the attic of the home of William S. and John T. Bazemore, between Cofield and Harrellsville. The Bazemores and their brother Elbert, whose home is farther up the "Bazemore road," own six sections of the original eight which belonged to Howell Jones, brother of James Jones, III. All of the land between Pitch Landing on Chinkapin Creek and Bear Swamp near Powellsville was part of the original land grant to the first Col. James Jones in pre-Revolutionary War days.

The portraits, painted in the first quarter of the 19th century, were part of the few items saved from the old Howell Jones home, when it burned in 1930. A brick found in the chimney after the fire was dated "1825," indicating the home was built then.

Howell Morgan Jones, a son of James Howell Jones, who first lived in the home, married Mary Thomas, daughter of Abraham Thomas of Bethlehem. Howell M. Jones was wounded in the Civil War and later died from complications, leaving his wife and seven small children. One of their daughters, Aurelia Jones, married John T. Bazemore. It is their sons who now own the property.

Left Portrait
The portrait at left is of Elizabeth Jones Ward Delk, daughter of James Jones III, sister of William Jones and James Sidney Jones. Her first husband was her first cousin, James Howell Jones, a fact which has kept the Jones family history confused. The names James, Howell, and Sidney recur in all branches of the family. By her marriage with James Howell Jones, Elizabeth Jones became the mother of several children, including Howell Morgan Jones.

The portrait of James Howell Jones is at right. The jagged tears in his picture were caused, according to family tradition, by a stick of stovewood which a cook threw through the picture because she disliked the way "The eyes followed her."

After the death of her first husband, Elizabeth Jones married James Ward of Bertie County, who died in 1843. Only one child, a daughter Ann, was born to them, and she was, of course, the half-sister of Howell M. Jones.

For a third (and final) hus-

band, Elizabeth Jones Ward married the eminent Baptist preacher, the Rev. James A. Delk, and moved to Murfreesboro.

The children's portraits are older than those of the man and wife. J. T. Bazemore said that the boy is probably James Sidney Jones, the son of James Jones III. The portrait was pre-

sumably painted in the late 1790's or early 1800's. This date is determined by the fact that the girl is supposedly Helen Jones, who died in childhood after a fall.

Both children were the offspring of James Jones III, and their sister was Elizabeth, who is pictured only as an adult. James Sidney Jones as a young

man practiced law in this county. In the decade between 1830-40, he moved to Georgia after selling his land and home to his brother-in-law, James Ward. That home near Powellsville is now occupied by J. Raynor Moore, whose grandmother was Anne Jones Ward, daughter of Elizabeth and James Ward.



UNUSUAL ANTIQUES—Every corner of the J. Raynor Moore parlor, in the ante-bellum home near Powellsville, is filled with interesting details from the past. James Elliot Moore, grandson of the J. R. Moores, stands before an immense Klabe piano which his great-great-grandfather, Maj. John W. Moore, purchased from the Chicago World Exposition of 1896. On the piano is a large glass candle cover, used well over 150 years ago. On the wall hangs a portrait of Julia Wheeler Moore, the wife of Dr. Godwin C. Moore of Baptist fame. The large framed painting is a fanciful scene of Sir Walter Raleigh spreading his cloak for Queen Elizabeth. According to family legend, Ann Ward Moore, first graduate of Chowan College and J. R. Moore's grandmother, posed for the figure of Queen Elizabeth. (Staff photo)



FIRST ALUMNA—Charming, attractive and intelligent—these are the adjectives used to describe Ann Jones Ward, the first graduate of Chowan Baptist Female Institute. The heiress to the large fortune and lands of her mother, Elizabeth Jones Ward Delk, the educated young woman married into an equally distinguished family when she became the bride of John Wheeler Moore, son of Dr. Godwin Cotton Moore, Maj. and Mrs. John W. Moore returned to the Jones homestead after the Civil War, and were active in the affairs of Bethlehem Baptist Church. This portrait hangs in the home of J. Raynor Moore, Ann's grandson. (Staff photo)



BAPTIST PATRIARCH—Dr. Godwin C. Moore, moderator of the old Chowan Baptist Association and a distinguished scholar, looks down from the mantel of the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Raynor Moore near Powellsville. Dr. Moore was the great-grandfather of Mr. Moore. The portrait is one of a pair in the home painted in the early 1800's, sometimes credited to the noted painter, Tom Sully. (Staff photo)



CIVIL WAR HERO—Major John Wheeler Moore, who served valiantly in the Civil War, was the author of two important works, a roster of North Carolina troops and a history of public schools in North Carolina. This portrait of him, now in the home of his grandson, J. Raynor Moore, near Powellsville, was painted when Major Moore was about 26 years old. (Staff photo)



RARE PIANO—This extremely rare "harp" piano, believed to be one of only two in existence, was one of the first experimental models in upright pianos. The exposed strings soon lost their tone because of weather variances, however, and the plan was abandoned. This model stands in the parlor of the J. Raynor Moore home near Powellsville, in front of a portrait of "Aunt Martha" Worrell of Virginia, who was the sister of Dr. Godwin C. Moore. (Staff photo)

The 200th Anniversary of Hertford County is most certainly an event that should be marked by celebration. The accomplishments of the citizens of Hertford County during the past 200 years along social and economic lines have been outstanding and progressive. We are proud to work and live in this forward-looking area.

We Look Forward...

In our profession we try to constantly look into the future... your future and your family's future. History tells us that economic planning for the future means security for any family... and we believe, insurance is just such planning. An insured family is a forward-looking family. Let us help you with your future plans.

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Phone 3340