



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

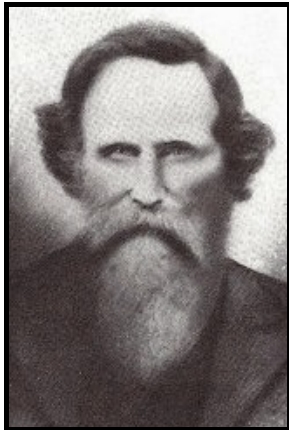
Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008-2012. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Robert Franklin Jones

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright 2008-2012. All rights reserved.



Robert Franklin Jones was a Confederate veteran who was prominent in the Grapevine area for the last several years of his life. He was born July 1, 1843 in Tennessee, a son of David L. Jones and Annie Bryant both of Virginia. He lies buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake.

An article by Mattie Jones Robinson, with photographs, entitled “Robert F. Jones” appeared in the Grapevine Area History, printed in 1979. It says, in part, “Robert F. Jones served in the Civil War, then left his home in North Carolina to take as his bride Harriett Jane Miller, who lived in Greenhill, Tennessee. On Harriett’s twentieth birthday, May 29, 1869, a daughter was born. She was named Sallie. After the birth of their second child, they started their journey to Texas about 1871.

“Samuel and Caroline Miller and their family, the parents of Harriett Jones, traveled with their daughter and her family in covered wagons, enduring many hardships. Upon arriving in this area, they bought adjoining land, which is now the south shore of Grapevine Lake, approximately three miles northwest and north of the city of Grapevine. Samuel Miller donated land for Miller School, which was named for him. Years later the school was consolidated with Grapevine school.

Robert and Harriett built their house of logs, cleared timber, and farmed the land. Eight more children were born, four of which survived to become adults. The ten children of Robert and Harriett Jones were: Sallie, who married Anderson Cate, and settled in the Lonesome Dove Community; Sam, who married Mollie Allen, and raised his family in this area: Everett T., who married Rindy Cate, and lived in the Lonesome Dove community; Mattie, who married John Boyd of Frisco, and settled there; Laura, Lear, Joseph, and Edgar, who died in childhood; Leatha who married George Day, and moved to Fort Worth; and the youngest, Quince, who married Lura Emery,

originally from McEwen, Tennessee... [the balance of the article deals with the Lura and Quince Jones family]"

Rowena Deaigh Spence also contributed an article to the Grapevine Area History entitled "Robert Franklin Jones," in which she added some more details: "In 1819, David Jones, of English ancestry, was born in Virginia. He migrated to Tennessee and there married Matilda, a weaver of beautiful woolen fabric which she made and sold to help support her family. In July 1843 Robert Franklin Jones, their first of their five children, was born.

"Robert Franklin Jones married Harriett Jane Miller on July 5, 1868, and the newly wedded couple settled northwest of Grapevine in timbered land now under water in Grapevine Lake. Harriet's parents, Samuel and Sarah (Hayes) Miller, followed soon after and settled nearby. The Millers subsequently donated the first school in that area which was known as the "Old Miller School House." Ten children were born to Robert and Harriet Jones, including my mother, Letha Roena, who was born September 27, 1880. She was named for two friends who assisted at her birth. She married my father, George Franklin Deaigh, in 1899."

A longer article entitled "Jones-Miller" was contributed to the Grapevine Area History by Archil F. Jones: "Born the son of David and Matilda Jones, who had migrated from Virginia to Greenhill, Tennessee around 1840, Robert F. Jones served with the Confederacy during the War Between the States. Among his war memories was the shortage of supplies, and near the end there was not even shoes for the bedraggled soldiers.

"Returning to Tennessee after the Civil War, Robert F. Jones married Harriett Jane Miller (1849-1929) the daughter of Samuel P. and Sarah Miller, whose ancestral origin was Germany and Holland respectively.

"Robert F. and Harriett Jones' first child Sally Ann was born in 1869 and was followed by Samuel Peter in 1870.

"Tennessee, after having experienced the ravages of the Union Armies, was not the ideal locale to begin a new life, so Robert and Harriett Jones, with their two children, along with Harriett's parents, the Samuel P. Miller's made their first move to the State of Georgia where they were to find less than they had hoped for. Georgia seemed more battle scarred than Tennessee and was less conducive for anew beginning.

"It was in 1871 that the Jones and Miller families decided that "The West was the way to go." The journey was undertaken and completed with ox-wagons. One memory recalled by Harriett Jones was the crossing of the Mississippi River, when two year old Sally Ann, fascinated by all that was going on, attempted to leap from the ferry into the swirling waters and was restrained only by the quick action of her mother's seizure of her clothing. (Sally Ann Jones married Anderson Cate and became the mother of Hattie Parker, Florence Barnes, James Cate, Harvie Cate, Maud Marshall, and Mary Turner). The Jones and Miller families arrived in the metropolis of Grapevine (two stores) in 1871 where they purchased land some three miles north and west of the village...

“Harriett Jones recalled seeing one Indian residing in a [tepee] near Denton Creek, north of Grapevine, and there were the panthers that screamed on occasion and would cause one’s hair to stand on end.

“Robert F. and Harriett Jones became the owners of an 84 acre spread, where they were to clear the land and rear their family. Late in the last century he became Justice of the Peace and served for a number of years. Being held in high esteem by most who knew him, Robert F. “Bob” Jones was to become the legal advisor to his many friends and neighbors...

“In 1872 Robert and Harriett Jones’ third child Everett T. was born. He was to become known to his many friends as Ev Jones and would marry Rinda Cate. They became the parents of sons Bennie C. and Clifton H., and daughters who were to become Maud Cook, Tilda Day and Minnie Blevins.

“Samuel P. Jones, oldest son of Robert and Harriett Jones married Mollie Allen and became the parents of sons Allen Gould, Marian Austin and Ralph Alva Clinton and daughter who were to become Lillian Davis, Kathleen Collins and Mildred, who died during the World War I flu epidemic.

“In 1878 Mattie Virginia Lou was born to Robert and Harriett Jones and would marry John Boyd of the Frisco, Texas community and become the mother of son Claud and daughters who became Ethel Warren, Laura Sheppard and Vera Holland.

“Letha Roena Elizabeth was born in 1881, and would be the last of the daughters of Robert and Harriett Jones that would survive to adulthood, and would become the wife of George F. Deaigh. To the Deaigh and Jones union there was one son, William Clyde and daughters who became Anna Maud Summeral, Edna Marcus, Virgie Hale, Rowena Spence, Eva Lee Douglas, Geneva Rathke and Jeanette Carl. Quincey F. was the last child of Robert and Harriett Jones.”

Robert F. Jones served the Confederacy in Co. G, 7th Tennessee Infantry. His official records in the National Archives show he enlisted at Nashville, Tennessee on May 21, 1861 for a term of one year. He was sick at Winchester, Virginia on January 11, 1862, and was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital No. 3 in Richmond, Virginia on April 11, 1862, but was returned to duty two days later. He is shown absent sick at Richmond on July 18, 1862. Later, he was shown absent sick at Winchester, Virginia since October 2, 1862. In May 1863 he received an issue of clothing at First Division General Hospital for Camp Winder at Richmond, Virginia. One notation shows that he “Deserted in Pennsylvania June 18, 1863, but this seems unlikely since his name appears on a roll of prisoners of war forwarded from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to Philadelphia on July 7, 1863. Another record showed that he took the oath of allegiance to the U. S. government on that date. No further mention of him is found in the official records.

Jones’s home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County, near Grapevine, not far inside the county line, about where the east end of Kimball Road, Lakeridge Drive, and Park Road 15 all intersect, at the place where Jones Branch is backed up as it enters Lake Grapevine.

In late 1908 R. F. Jones applied to the State of Texas for a Confederate pension. He said he had lived at Grapevine, Texas for about thirty-seven years, which agrees with descendants' statements that he arrived in 1871. He claimed to be debilitated by age and suffering from deafness caused by "cannonading during War." He had no real estate, and his personal property consisted of two mules worth one hundred dollars. His brother, F. M. Jones of Crawford, McLennan County, Texas, made an affidavit for him in support of his pension application. His application was disallowed because of the "desertion" statement in the records in Washington.

When the census taker visited the Jones home in Grapevine in 1910, Mrs. Jones told him she had given birth to ten children, six of whom were still alive. Mr. Jones died at Grapevine on November 10, 1914. Mrs. R. F. Jones was the informant. He died of a rupture of an abscess of the right lung and cancer of the nose. He was buried at Lonesome Dove by Lucas and Son on November 11, 1914. Mrs. Jones's headstone at Lonesome Dove says she was born May 29, 1849 and died January 1, 1929. Her death certificate says she was born in North Carolina, and that her mother's maiden name was Caroline Hayes. She died of bronchial pneumonia and influenza. She was buried by J. E. Foust on January 2.

