

Peter Jones of Peter's Point

by Nancy Heuser

“History is the essence of innumerable biographies.”

—Thomas Carlyle, Scottish historian, 1795-1881

The history of a place can be found not only in the collective stories of its individual inhabitants but also in the stories of its families. Family biographies, or genealogies, can shed light on the founding and development of the place over the course of several generations. A good example of this can be found in the case of Petersburg and what can be considered its namesake family, the Peter Jones family.

The stories of the extended Peter Jones family show the evolution of Petersburg through the births, deaths, marriages, business transactions, and public services of real people. These are the individuals behind the wars and revolutions and elections that receive most of the attention of historians.

Unfortunately, the stories of the Peter Jones family in the early days of Petersburg—the 17th and 18th centuries—are usually lacking in details because the surviving records are sparse. So this article makes numerous references to wills, real estate deeds, and other documents that tell us today what little is known about these people. Sometimes even their first names are lacking.

Names also seem to be repeated over the generations to a confusing level. This is because people in the colonial era usually did not distinguish between individuals with the same first name as is usually done today, when “junior,” “the third,” and so forth are frequently used. In colonial society, Peter Jones was the son of Peter Jones and the grandson of Peter Jones, and so on. To compensate for this practice, historians and genealogists often add suffixes in parentheses to distinguish individuals with the same name; for example, Peter Jones (I) and Abraham Jones (II).

Abraham Wood, Father-in-Law of Peter Jones

The story of Petersburg begins in the early 17th century with a man named Abraham Wood, who became the father-in-law of the first Peter Jones. In 1645, what is now Petersburg was still a frontier zone; few families lived in the area. Despite the passage of time since the massacre of 1622, relations with the Indians remained strained and attacks still occurred. After the uprising led by Indian chief Opechancanough was thwarted in 1644, the settlers in the Virginia colony

became even more concerned about their safety. In response, the Grand Assembly, meeting in Jamestown, in 1645 approved an act that proclaimed:

Be it enacted for the defense of the inhabitants on the south side of James River and the prevention of the great releife and subsistance to the Salvages by Fishing In Bristoll alias Appomattocke River, as also for the cutting down their corne or performeing any other service upon them, That there be a Fort forthwith erected, at The Falls of the said Appomattock River, nominated Forte Henry...¹

Fort Henry was situated on land that would eventually become Petersburg. It was placed under the control of Captain Abraham Wood, who participated in its construction. After the signing of a treaty of peace with the Indians and a period of calm in the area, the governing body of the colony discovered that Fort Henry, along with various other forts established at the same time, was an immense expense. In response to the changed conditions, the Grand Assembly in 1646 passed another act that stated:

That the said fortes with the propriety of a competent quantity of land bee granted to particular undertakers, to be maintained by the severall priviledges for their encouragement herein as are hereafter mentioned. Be it therefore enacted that Capt. Abraham Wood whose service hath been employed att Fort Henery [sic], be the undertaker for the said Fort, unto whome is granted sixe hundred acres of land for him and his heires forever; with all houses and edifices belonging to the said Forte, with all boats and ammunition at present belonging to the said Forte...²

This law was enacted with the proviso that Captain Wood keep 10 men at Fort Henry at all times for a three-year period, following which the premises would become Wood's property. And so began Wood's acquisition of a large estate.

Abraham Wood's success had almost been preordained when, as a small child perhaps 10 years old, he landed in Virginia in 1620, arriving aboard the ship *Margaret and John*. He became an indentured servant of Samuel Matthews, a learned property owner in the area, and during his period of servitude learned reading and writing among other studies. When his indenture was up, presumably when he reached maturity (roughly 11 years later, or about 1631), he was ready to make his own way in life. Within six years (by 1637), he owned 200 acres of land, and within another five years he bought 500 adjacent acres. During this time, he received the recognition of his neighboring landowners, serving as burgess for Henrico County from 1644 to 1646.³

¹ Act XIII of the Grand Assembly, March 21, 1645.

² Act II of 1646, Charles City County Records.

³ *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, "State Forgets Empire Builder," Charles Edgar Gilliam, January 31, 1943.

Having obtained ownership of Fort Henry, Abraham Wood soon opened a trading station that brought in various Indian tribes who traded furs for supplies and trinkets. By 1663, he had increased his Fort Henry patent to 2,073 acres. He also patented other tracts of land, including 1,304 acres near Indian Town Creek and 700 acres along Sizemore's Creek. By the end of his life, he owned more than 4,000 acres. He probably moved his residence to Charles City County by 1652, when he served as a burgess from that county. He served as a justice of the court held at Fort Henry in January 1656, and his militia rank grew from major (1652-1656) to colonel of the Charles City Militia (1656-1660) to major general.⁴ Clearly, he was a prominent person in the area.

The First Peter Jones

In 1657, an order was enacted that "Capt. Peter Jones have ye conduct and command of the particular company belonging to Coll. Abraham Wood and certify the same and he have power to command as it is or shall be directed by the laws of ye Country or by ye Collonell."⁵ This is the first mention of Peter Jones that has been found in the records. No information has yet been found about Peter's parentage or place of origin. Some references imply that he was from Wales, while other writers feel that he was born in America. So, for all intents and purposes, his history begins with his appointment to Fort Henry in 1657.

It is assumed that Peter Jones took up residence in Fort Henry and worked closely with Colonel Wood in operating the fort. It is stated that he "opened a trading post" with the Indians. This has been a matter of some dispute, however, since Colonel Wood supposedly had run a trading post for several years by then, and Jones's opening of another station would have put them in direct competition. Perhaps he took over Colonel Wood's trading enterprise at that time. It is clear, however, that Peter Jones and Abraham Wood had a close relationship in the operation of the fort, and the status of the trading station did not appear to harm that. This relationship also must have been a close personal one since Peter married Margaret Wood, one of Abraham's two daughters. (Abraham Wood's other daughter was named Mary. Her married name was Mary Chamberlain. The name of Abraham Wood's wife remains unknown.)

⁴ Fothergill, Augusta B., comp., *Peter Jones and Richard Jones Genealogies*. Old Dominion Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia, 1924, p. 18.

⁵ Charles City County Records, 1655-66.

Peter [referred to by historians and genealogists as Peter Jones (I)] and Margaret had four sons, Abraham, Peter (II), Richard, and William, and one daughter, Mary. The sections of this article will examine their respective families. Because of their early and active participation in the growth of the area, both Abraham Wood and Peter Jones became wealthy and prominent members of the growing community.

Peter Jones (I) developed the trading station to a greater degree and increased the flow of traffic to it along the Appomattox River. Because of his success, the location became known as “Peter’s Point.” Trade with the natives and access to the colonists’ commerce with Britain were important growth factors for the area. Trade easily developed because of the station’s site on the river. The exact location of the trading station has been a matter of conjecture for quite some time. Although it is now believed to have been on the site of what is referred to as the Stone House, which has been identified in some records as dating back to 1722, this remains a point of controversy. Not only has a date of 1809 been found carved in a brick of the Stone House,⁶ but the trading post also was said to be on “Peter’s Point” in the river, where canoes and boats could tie up, while the Stone House is farther from the shore.

Peter Jones (I) died after 21 December 1674,⁷ and Abraham Wood appears to have died not long thereafter. In his will, Abraham named his four grandsons, Abraham Jones, Richard Jones, Peter Jones (II), and William Jones (the sons of the first Peter Jones). Wood’s will⁸ bequeathed all his lands to be divided equally among his four “grandsons-in-law,” except for 100 acres to his godson Abraham Alley and his plantation, known as “Fleetes,” in Henrico County to his daughter Mary Chamberlain (Margaret Wood Jones’s sister). No mention was made of his granddaughter Mary Jones, who presumably was born after his will was written. (Mary would marry Major Joshua Wynne.) The terminology “grandsons-in-law” is thought to indicate that Peter Jones (I) was already deceased and that Abraham was the guardian of the grandchildren.

Following Peter Jones (I)’s death, his widow Margaret Wood Jones married Thomas Cocke, a widower; this evidently occurred by 1687, as she signed a deed with him to his son Stephen Cocke in that year.⁹ In her will (which was dated August 12, 1718 and proved on May 1719 in Henrico

⁶ Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory, Betty B. Powell, researcher, “Peter Jones Trading Station.” Digital records, Library of Virginia, 1937, p. 1.

⁷ Boddie, John B., *Southside Virginia Families*. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1966, Vol. 1, p. 220.

⁸ Will of Abraham Wood, Library of Virginia Archives.

⁹ Henrico County Records, 1677, p. 453.

County), Margaret (Wood Jones) Cocke named her granddaughter Margaret (Wynne), the wife of Edward Goodrich; her granddaughter Mary (Wynne), the wife of John Worsham; her grandson Peter Wynne; her son-in-law Major Joshua Wynne (husband of her daughter Mary Jones Wynne); her grandson Peter Jones (known as Peter Jones Jr.), son of “my son” Abraham Jones, who was deceased; her grandson Joshua Wynne (II); her grandsons Robert Wynne, William Wynne, and Francis Wynne “when they arrive to lawful age”; her godson William Randolph; and her son Peter Jones (II) and his heirs, who received all the rest of her estate, real and personal.¹⁰

Descendants of Abraham Jones, Son of Peter Jones (I)

Abraham Jones, who was referred to as Lieutenant Abraham Jones, married Martha Batte in Charles City County. (Martha was the daughter of Thomas Batte, Sr.) Abraham and Martha had one known child, Peter, who was mentioned in the will of Margaret (Wood Jones) Cocke as one of her grandsons. Lieutenant Abraham Jones died before 5 December 1689.¹¹ His widow next married the Rev. John Bannister, who died in 1692.¹² Martha then married Stephen Cocke,¹³ also a widower, on May 26, 1694 in Henrico County. Stephen had died by 1704, as an acknowledgment regarding the debt of her late husband Stephen Cocke at a local store was presented by Martha Cocke, administratrix, and recorded on August 14, 1711.¹⁴ Her Batte descent is proven by her reference on page 267 of the same record book as “I, Martha Cocke, adm’x of John Banister, dec’d, for 40 pounds paid to me by my late father, Thomas Batte....”

Lieutenant Abraham and Martha (Batte) Jones’s son, Peter, was known as Peter Jones, Jr. This use of the term “Jr.” (as was the usage in earlier times) evidently referred to his position as a younger Peter Jones in the family lineage and not as a son of a Peter Jones. He married his cousin Mary Jones, daughter of Peter Jones (II) and granddaughter of Peter (I). Peter and Mary Jones had

¹⁰ Henrico County Unrecorded Papers, Library of Virginia. Fothergill, Augusta B., *Peter Jones and Richard Jones Genealogies*. Old Dominion Press, Richmond, Virginia, 1924, pp. 16-17. Jones, Richard L., *Dinwiddie County – Carrefour of the Commonwealth*. Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors, publishers., 1952, p. 15.

¹¹ Charles City County Orders, 1683-1695, folder 9, pp. 264, 265.

¹² This marriage to John Bannister is proven by an order in Charles City County Court, 1687-1695, Folder 9, p. 164, that “John Bannister who married the adm. Of Abraham Jones confesses judgement to Wm. Shearwood, Launcelot Bathurst, admrs. Of Wm. Armingier.” Jones, Richard L., *Dinwiddie County, Carrefour of the Commonwealth*. Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, publishers, Richmond, Virginia, 1976, p. 23.

¹³ The marriage to Stephen Cocke is proven by an order in the same court in 1694 (Folder 22, p. 535) that “Stephen Cocke & wife, Martha, administrators of John Bannister, decd.”, as well as a second entry on p. 545 that “Martha, relict of Abraham Jones & John Bannister, married Stephen Cocke.”

¹⁴ Prince George Wills and Deeds 1710-1713, p. 66. Also see Boddie, John Bennett, *Southside Virginia Families, Vol. 1*. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1966, pp 221-222.

children: Frederick (born December 4, 1719); William (born March 25, 1725); Cadwaller (born June 19, 1728), and Peter (born March 28, 1731). Evidently there was a fifth son, Philip, because his will refers to his brothers Cadwaller and Thomas.¹⁵

Descendants of Peter Jones (II), Son of Peter Jones (I)

This Peter Jones, the son of Peter Jones (I) and Margaret Wood, was referred to as Captain Peter Jones, or Peter (II). Peter (II) was born about 1655. He married Mary Batte before October 1688.¹⁶ Mary was the daughter of Thomas Batte, Sr., and the sister of the Martha Batte who married Abraham Jones. So the brothers, Abraham and Peter (II) Jones, were married to sisters, Martha and Mary Batte. Captain Peter Jones died about January 1726 [? **See probate date below**], and Mary Batte Jones died about 1741. In his will, Peter Jones (II) named as his heirs his wife Mary Batte Jones, his sons Abraham (II), Peter (III), William, Thomas, John, and Wood, and his daughters Mary (wife of Peter Jones, Jr., her cousin), Ann, Margaret, and Martha. He also refers to his son-in-law Peter Jones [Peter Jones, Jr., the son of Abraham (I)], the husband of his daughter Mary. His will was dated January 19, 1721, and probated in Prince George County on January 10, 1726. And even though Petersburg was the growth center of the area, Dinwiddie County was important in the lives of the Jones clan, as John Jones, son of Peter Jones (II), represented it as burgess from 1753 to 1757. Not to be outdone, however, Wood Jones, John's brother, represented Amelia County as a burgess at the same time.

[The County of Prince George evidently tried its best to keep the Jones clan separate, since there are several references to tracts of land surveyed for Jones family members on page 5 of Benjamin B. Weisiger's *Prince George Co., Va. Miscellany, 1711-1814*. These are noted as "Peter Jones, son of Abraham Jones"; "Capt. Peter Jones"; "William Jones, son of Capt. Peter Jones of Prince George Co."; and "Thomas Jones, son of Capt. Richard."]

Peter Jones (III), son of Peter Jones II

¹⁵ Chamberlayne, Churchill Gibson, *The Vestry Book and Register of Bristol Parish, Virginia 1720-1789*. Printed 1898, reprinted 1994, Richmond, Virginia.

¹⁶ Henrico County Court Returns, October 1688. Fothergill, Augusta B, comp.. *Peter Jones and Richard Jones Genealogies*. Old Dominion Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia, 1924, p. 20.

Peter Jones (III), second son of Captain Peter Jones (II) and Mary Batte, was born about 1691. He married Dorothy Chamberlain about 1727.¹⁷ They had the following children as listed in the will of Peter (III), dated 1753 and probated in Amelia County on August 24, 1758: son John and his wife Dorothy; son Peter (IV); sons Thomas, Richard, and William; daughter Ridley Branch; daughter Elizabeth; daughter Margaret; and daughters Sarah, Dorothy, and Mary.

Peter Jones (III) was the Peter Jones who accompanied William Byrd II on his surveying trip to lay out coordinates for new markets or trading ports in the Tidewater area in 1733. Planters had begun filtering into the Dinwiddie County area for the rich lands that were available, but they had no ports from which to ship their products. Byrd's tour, on which he was accompanied by a Major Mayo, a Major Munford, John Banister, and Peter Jones (III), resulted in the laying out of Richmond at the Falls of the James River and Petersburg on the Appamattuck (now Appomattox) River in 1733. As the original trading station of Peter Jones (I) had flourished and drawn both traders and residents, it had become known as "Peter's Point." When Byrd's party returned, Byrd wrote in his *Journey to Eden*, "we laid the foundations of two large cities One at Shoccos to be called Richmond and the other at the Point of Appamattuck River to be named Petersburg." Perhaps Byrd thought this name would be more appropriate for a "large city."

Peter (III), like his forebears, was a strong businessman and developer. In 1745, he owned the remainder of Fort Henry after the Cedar Grove and Pride's Field tracts were deducted for other bequests, along with 2,000-plus acres on Deep Creek in Amelia County. In the same year, he was one of those presenting a petition that Petersburg and Blandford be established as towns. Like the other members of the Jones family, Peter (III) served the community as vestryman of Bristol Parish until he moved to Amelia County in 1747.

Peter Jones (IV) and Peter Jones (V), Son and Grandson of Peter Jones (III)

After Peter (III) died suddenly in 1756 in Amelia County, the Fort Henry lands were left to his son Peter Jones (IV). Peter Jones (V) was born before 1728 and died around 1779. He was the founder of New Town, which later became part of Petersburg. He also built Folly Castle around 1760. As was the custom in that time, any large house was referred to as a "castle." Because Peter (V) was unmarried and had no children, the large house became known as his "Folly," or "Folly

¹⁷ Fothergill, Augusta B., *Peter Jones and Richard Jones Genealogies*. Old Dominion Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia, 1924, p. 35.

Castle.” Ultimately, he left his property, including Folly Castle, to his two orphaned nieces, Sarah Newsome and Martha (Newsome) Verell. Sarah Newsome later married Captain Erasmus Gill, a local hero of the Revolutionary War, and they resided in Folly Castle. The Gill family laid off some of their property into what was known as Gillfield (the name by which the same area is known today). Erasmus and Sarah Gill had one daughter, Martha, who married William Hinton, a local attorney for whom Hinton Street was named.

Although Grove Avenue had been laid off in 1732, Petersburg did not become a town until 1748, when Abraham Jones (II) and his brother Peter Jones (III) petitioned for a town charter. Thus, the grandsons of Peter Jones (I), who had been among the first settlers of what was to become Petersburg, led the way in incorporating the new town.

Peter Jones (IV) laid off 28 lots on High Street in 1762. These lots were purchased from Peter Jones Jr. by Thomas Ravenscroft in 1722 and became part of what became known as Ravenscroft. Eventually, Ravenscroft, along with Blandford, New Town, and Pocahontas, became part of Petersburg (“Old Town”) in 1784.

Thomas Jones, Son of Peter Jones (III)

Thomas Jones, one of the many children of Peter Jones (III) and his wife Dorothy (Chamberlain) Jones and brother of Peter Jones (IV), married Susanna (last name unknown). He resided in Amelia County and, in order to avoid confusion, was designated as “Thomas Jones W.C.” (from West Creek). Thomas wrote a will dated July 23, 1790, that named his sons Peter and Frederick; his daughter Susanna Edmonds Wyatt; his wife Susanna; his sons Thomas, Richard, and Ridley; and his two youngest sons Cadwallader and Short. The will was probated on January 27, 1791. Susanna’s will was probated on February 25, 1795.¹⁸

Abraham Jones (II), Son of Peter Jones (II)

Abraham Jones (II), son of Peter Jones (II) (Captain Peter Jones) and Mary Batte Jones and brother of Peter Jones (III), was born about 1690. He married Sarah Batte, daughter of Henry Batte of Prince George County. This marriage was indicated by the inheritance of real estate through the will of Henry Batte, deceased; the real estate, in Prince George County, was left to

¹⁸ Fothergill, Augusta B., *Peter Jones and Richard Jones Genealogies*. Old Dominion Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia, 1924, p. 214.

“Abraham Joanes” (sic) and his wife Sarah.¹⁹ In addition to the lands he inherited, Abraham purchased numerous tracts in Prince George and Amelia Counties. In 1749, he deeded 421 acres of land to his son Abraham Jones Jr., part of a tract of land he had patented in 1733 (Deed Book 3, p. 156, Amelia County). It was about this time that Abraham and his wife Sarah moved to Amelia County from the Petersburg (then Prince George County) area. His son, Abraham Jr., moved to Edgecombe County, North Carolina in that approximate timeframe, as in 1751 he conveyed to Abraham Sr. (Abraham II) the same 421 acres of land in Amelia County (Amelia County Deed Book 4, p.74).

Abraham (II)’s will is found in Amelia County and dated September 29, 1758. It was probated on February 22, 1759. In it, he names his wife Sarah; sons Thomas, Henry, William, Peter, and Abraham Jr. and daughters Margaret Jones, Ann Osborne, and Martha Jones. His inventory was returned on March 22, 1759. Henry and William moved from Amelia County to Georgia around 1770. After their brother Abraham Jr. died, his family also moved to Georgia from their home in Florida in 1773.²⁰

Thomas Jones, Son of Abraham Jones (II)

The eldest son of Abraham Jones (II) and Sarah Batte Jones, Thomas, married Lucy Watson of Henrico County, the daughter of Joseph Watson. Thomas and Lucy’s children were Joseph, Lucy, Mary, Sarah, and Elizabeth. Thomas died in 1773, at which time his son Joseph followed him as vestryman in Bristol Parish.

Joseph Jones, Son of Thomas Jones

Joseph Jones, the eldest son of Thomas and Lucy Watson Jones, became a man of prominence in his own right. Born on August 23, 1749²¹ (according to the family Bible), Joseph married Nanny Call on November 13, 1777. She was the daughter of Colonel William and Elizabeth Call. The marriage was a short one, however, as Nanny died on December 26, 1778. Their daughter,

¹⁹ Prince George County Records 1714-23, p. 1042. Fothergill, supra, p. 25.

²⁰ Fothergill, supra, footnote p. 61.

²¹ Per family Bible record, as referenced by Fothergill as being in possession of the family of a great-grandson, William Atkinson Jones of Richmond County, Virginia. Fothergill, Augusta B., comp., *Peter Jones and Richard Jones Genealogies*. Old Dominion Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia, 1924, p. 35.

Ann Call Jones, had been born December 18, 1778. Joseph then married Jane Atkinson, the daughter of Roger and Ann Atkinson. She was born on February 18, 1764. Their son Thomas was born on August 18, 1781. A daughter, Lucy Ann, was born on March 27, 1783, but died the following September. A second son, Roger Atkinson, was born on February 15, 1785, followed by Joseph on February 20, 1787; Robert Pleasants on December 11, 1788 (died on December 16, 1788); John Atkinson on October 30, 1790; Jane Atkinson on November 8, 1792; Lucy Ann Pleasant on March 26, 1794; and Abraham on June 18, 1799 (died on June 21, 1799).²²

As was the case with the Jones family generally, Joseph also served his community. Following Thomas's death, Joseph replaced his father as vestryman in Bristol Parish as of July 22, 1773.²³ During the Revolutionary War, Joseph rose through the ranks, serving as captain, colonel of militia, brigadier general, and finally as major general following the war in 1782. He was elected to the House of Delegates from Dinwiddie County in 1787 and appointed county lieutenant in 1789 to 1790.

Joseph Jones resided at Cedar Grove, which was bounded on the north by Brickhouse Run, on the east by General Jones' Road (now Jones Street), on the west by Indian Corn Field Branch (west of what were the American Tobacco sheds to the old Fair Grounds on West Washington Street), and on the south by what would become Shore Street.

Descendants of Mary Jones, Daughter of Peter Jones (I)

Mary Jones was the daughter of Peter Jones (I) and Margaret Wood Jones (Cocke) and married Major Joshua Wynne.²⁴ She presumably predeceased her mother, as she was not mentioned in Margaret Wood Jones Cocke's will in 1718-1719, although Margaret named her Wynne grandchildren and Major Joshua Wynne. The Wynne children were Margaret (who married Captain Edward Goodrich), Mary (who married John Worsham), Peter, Joshua (II), Robert, William, and Francis.

²² Fothergill, Augusta B., *Peter Jones and Richard Jones Genealogies*. Old Dominion Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia, 1924, p. 35.

²³ Chamberlayne, Churchill G., transcrib., *Vestry Book and Register of Bristol Parish, Virginia, 1720-1789*. Privately published, Richmond, Virginia, 1898, p. 239.

²⁴ Boddie, John B., *Southside Virginia Families*, Vol. 1. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1966, p. 221.

Margaret Wynne Goodrich (born about 1696) married Edward Goodrich (born about 1693) about 1710.²⁵ In 1712-1714, 1715, and 1718, Edward represented Prince George County in the House of Burgesses. He evidently died about 1720 since a new burgess was elected to take his place because of his death. In his will, he named his wife, his daughters Mary and Elizabeth, his sons Benjamin and Edward, his father, and his sisters. Margaret died in 1723, which was when her brother Peter, as administrator, inventoried her estate.²⁶

Mary Wynne, indicated as “daughter of Major Joshua Wynne and his wife Mary Jones, daughter of Major Peter Jones and Margaret Wood, daughter of Major Gen. Abraham Wood,”²⁷ married John Worsham of Henrico County. Worsham served as a justice in Henrico County in 1685. He also was sheriff there later. His²⁸ and Mary’s children (as listed in Vol. 33, *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, pp. 185-86) were John, William, Daniel, Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Anne, and Elizabeth, with one other unidentified.²⁹

Descendents of William Jones, Son of Peter Jones (I)

Nothing can be proven regarding William Jones, the son of Peter (I), because of the lack of early records in Charles City and Prince George Counties. There are numerous references to a William Jones in the abstract records and other references given in the footnotes of this article, but none can be proven to be William Jones, the son of Peter (I). However, the name William is carried on in later Jones lines.

Descendants of Richard Jones, Son of Peter Jones (I)

The same difficulty with identification occurs with William Jones’s brother Richard. Augusta B. Fothergill, in her very detailed book, *Peter Jones and Richard Jones Genealogies*, refers to a Captain Richard Jones of Charles City, Prince George, and Brunswick Counties and mentions numerous records that appear to connect him with the descendants of Peter Jones. Other records in Prince George County include a deed by Richard Jones of Prince George County of half a corn

²⁵ Boddie, John Bennett, *Southside Virginia Families*, Vol. I. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1966, p. 219.

²⁶ Boddie, supra, pp. 219-220.

²⁷ Weisiger, Benjamin B., III supra.

²⁸ As listed in Vol. 33, *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, pp. 185-86.

²⁹ Also see Boddie, John Bennett, *Southside Virginia Families*, Vol. II. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1966, p. 383.

mill called Indian Town Mill in Bristol Parish in 1713;³⁰ a deed from Peter Jones, Sr., and Mary of Prince George County, witnessed by Richard Jones,³¹ and a guardian's bond for Martha Cocke, with Richard Jones and John Woodlief as security, regarding the estate of the orphans of John Banister, deceased.³² Fothergill notes that Richard Jones, son of Peter (I), married Rachel Ragsdale in Henrico County. This marriage is indeed verified in the records of St. John's Church, Henrico Parish, but the parentage of this Richard Jones has not been proven.³³ Fothergill also notes that the names of the parents of this Richard are not positively known. So, despite the circumstantial evidence of the records about some close relationship between this Richard Jones and Peter Jones (I), this relationship is not proven. Perhaps a descendant of these two lines will appear in the future with family records that will answer this question.

Thus, beginning with a small trading station along the banks of the Appomattox River, the descendants of Peter Jones (I) have carried on his tradition of being leaders in the community. They have served in the military, as government leaders beginning with the colonial House of Burgesses, and as lawyers and judges. Through the history of this extended family and their service as community leaders, the history of Petersburg can be seen unfolding. Numerous descendants of the Jones family still live in the area and still serve their communities.

³⁰ Weisiger, Benjamin B III., *Prince George County Wills and Deeds 1710-1713*. Iberian Publishing Co., Athens, Georgia, 1992, p. 34.

³¹ Op cit., p. 38.

³² Op. cit., p. 40.

³³ Moore, J. Staunton, ed. and comp., *The Annals and History of Henrico Parish, Diocese of Virginia and St. John's P.E. Church*. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, 1979, p. 226.

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Petersburg in Ye Olden Times, Author not noted, presumably printed c. 1920s. Copy at Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.