Maben Jones Papers

Correspondence re descendants of
Charles Lee Jones, with
Ben H. Jones, etc.

1933
Magazine Aug.
June 28, 1938

Dear Mr. Jones:

I did not know Mr. Joseph Jones but I have heard my father talk of him a great deal. I have made inquiries and find that Mr. Jones is dead, but his sons live at Green Forest, Ark.

Their names are Ben, John, and Joe.

Sincerely yours,
Eaton W. Bennion.
Joseph Morton Jones

Maben Jones
22 The Keller St.  Columbia, S. C.
Mr. Ben Jones,
Green Forest, Arkansas.

Dear Cousin:

I have recently learned that you and your two brothers are living at Green Forest, and I understand that you are sons of Joseph Morton Jones, whose father was Michael Jones.

I am interested in securing all the information possible on the descendants of Charles Lee Jones who married Elizabeth Leake Spencer of Virginia and who had 14 children. Dr. Moses Spencer Jones, who was then living at Santa Ana, California, wrote a letter to my father thirty-five years ago and gave the names of those 14 children with names of those who they married and the names of their children. I wish, if possible, to secure information regarding all the descendants of Charles Lee Jones so as to compile a record of the Jones family.

You can help me by sending me what information you can regarding your own family. I wish to know where your father was born, where he lived and where he died. I wish to know what occupation he followed. I wish also information regarding his brothers and sisters, as well as his children.

If you can place me in touch with any of your cousins who may be able to give me family records I shall greatly appreciate it. I have quite a lot of information on the Dibrell and Lee families and shall be glad to send you copies if you are interested.

I am a son of the late Louis Dibrell Jones and a grandson of William Dibrell Jones who was a brother to Charles Lee Jones.

May I have the pleasure of hearing from you soon?

Sincerely yours,

Maben Jones.
Mr. Jeben Jones,
1307 Taylor St.,
Columbia, S.C.

Dear Cousin:

I was indeed surprised at receiving a letter from you, as Father had no record of any of his people except our immediate family, all we know of our ancestors is traditional history.

My father was a son of Michael Jones and a grandson of Charles Lee Jones. He had two half brothers, who when last heard of lived in California, their names are John and Henry.

For your information I am inclosing an Obituary which gives a fairly good record of Father's past life, and I ask that you please return same after you have gotten the information you seek.

I am much interested in securing all the information possible concerning my ancestors and will be truly obliged if you will send me copies of the Dibrell and Lee families.

My family consist of a wife and four children, three girls and a boy, the oldest of which is a girl age 15.

Trusting that I may hear from you soon and assuring you that I will be pleased to furnish you with further information concerning the late J.H. Jones, immediate family, I beg to remain

Yours Very Respectfully

[Signature]
COPY OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPING SENT BY

BEN H. JONES

Coin, Arkansas

Joseph M. Jones, highly respected and widely known citizen of this community, died Thursday night of last week at his home south of Green Forest where he had lived for the past 30 years. He was 84 years old and had been sick for several weeks. Died April 20, 1932.

Mr. Jones was born near Carlyle, Illinois, February 7, 1848. In 1870 he came alone to Arkansas and settled in Logan county, at which place he was united in marriage to Miss Louisiana Ellington. To this union were born ten children, four of whom preceded him in death. Mr. and Mrs. Jones would have been married 62 years May 6.

For the past 50 years he had been a resident of Carroll county, a portion of which he was engaged in the lumber industry in the southern part of the county, then he settled on a farm south of Green Forest where he resided until death. In his early days he taught school for a number of years and served this county as surveyor for two terms.

Mr. Jones was a man of many friends, and was known among them as "Uncle Joe." He always took an active part in the affairs of his community and county and was greatly loved by his fellowmen. He was a member of the Methodist church and declared on his death bed that he was prepared and willing to meet his Savior.

✓ Besides his wife he leaves to mourn his passing four sons, John T. Jones, Twin Falls, Idaho; Joseph M. Jones, Jr., Toppena, Washington; Robert L. Jones and Ben H. Jones of Green Forest; two daughters, Mrs. Lula Kinney and Mrs. Lily Steidley, both of Green Forest; 32 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and many other relatives.

Funeral services were held at the Green Forest Methodist church Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, conducted by the pastor, Rev. W. A. Downum. Burial was in Glenwood cemetery with the Linch Undertaking Company in charge. Pall bearers were six of his grandsons, Raymond, Joe and Earl Jones and Ted, Gordon and Alvie Steidley.
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February 12, 1933.

Mr. Ben H. Jones,
Jones Canning Company,
Coiu, Arkansas.

Dear Cousin Ben:

It was good of you to write me so promptly and I assure you I was delighted to hear from another Jones kinsman, and especially pleased to know that you, too, are interested in securing all possible information regarding our family and that you will send me further information. I have made a copy of the clipping regarding your father's death and am returning the clipping herewith.

I enclose a copy of the letter from Dr. Moses Spencer Jones to my father to which I referred in my last letter. This letter was written, as you can see, 35 years ago. It was through this letter that I got in touch with John W. Jones at Berkeley, California, and with his wife (who was his first cousin) Essie Lee Jones who is now in Florida. I am extremely anxious to get in touch, if possible, with descendants of each child of Charles Lee Jones. This is a big job. A long time has elapsed since some of them were born, but it is a duty we owe to the future generations to compile a record of the Jones family. This work has been neglected. I am going to call on each member of the Jones family to help.

Michael Jones (the father of Charles Lee Jones) was born about 1750 and he married Leeanna Dibrell who was a descendant of the famous Lee family of Virginia. They had eleven children, as follows:

1. Eliza Lee Jones, 1778, married Rev. Henry Brown
2. Anthony Dibrell Jones, 1780, married Martha Ann Woodson
3. William Dibrell Jones, 1782, married Judith Baker LeGrand
4. Polly Jones, 1784, married William Flood
5. Michael Jones, 1786, Never married
6. Judith Jones, 1789, married Obey Woodson
7. Charles Lee Jones, 1792, married Eliza Leek Spencer
8. Sallie Fearn Jones, 1794, married David W. Glover
9. Martha W. Jones, 1796, married Dr. James Jones
10. Margaret D. Jones, 1797, Never married
I have never know who was the father of the original Michael Jones and am now making an effort to find out who his ancestors were and when they came to America. He was a soldier of the Revolution and is supposed to be buried at "Travelers Rest" in Buckingham county, Virginia, where he lived and raised his large family.

Anthony Dibrell Jones went to Kentucky in 1818 and had five or six children. I do not have the names of all of them, but there was Albert Lee Jones, Eliza Walker Jones, Thomas Anthony Jones and Joseph Michaux Jones.

Polly Jones who married William Flood also moved to Shelby county, Kentucky and they were said to have had seven children.

Judith Jones who married Obey Woodson went to Christian county, Ky. and they were said to have had five children.

Charles Lee Jones was born in Buckingham county, Virginia, February 24, 1792 and went to Kentucky. (See Dr. Moses Jones' letter)

My grandfather, William Dibrell Jones, had six children:
1. Mary Leanna Jones 1819, married her cousin, Richard Dibrell.
2. Eliza Baker Jones, 1820, married John W. Haskins.
3. Monroe Walker Jones, 1820, married Sarah B. Jones
4. Harriett Newell Jones, 1828, married Dr. Frederick W. Roddey.
6. Louis Dibrell Jones, Jan. 21, 1837, died June 22, 1911, married Louisa Thomas Flippen (daughter of Thomas Daniel Flippen and Mary Page Hobson) and there were 15 children, 12 living to maturity.

I am next to the youngest in the family, being born April 9, 1861, and am the only unmarried member of the family. Six of us are now living, two sisters in Virginia and three brothers there.

I can give you more of this information later when I get it in better shape, and can also give you the Dibrell-Lee data when I have time to make more copies. The Dibrell information is most interesting.

Please send me all the data you can on the Jones family, and please make it complete as to dates and places and occupations. It takes times but it is interesting work.

Best wishes to your family and many thanks to you for your letter.

Cordially yours,
Naben Jones
February 13, 1933

Mrs. Lula Kinney,
Green Forest, Arkansas.

Dear Cousin:

I am making an effort to locate all the descendants of Charles Lee Jones who was my great uncle.

According to records, he had 14 children, and no doubt it is going to be difficult to trace all the descendants, but we can compile a list of a great many of them through the cooperation of each member of the family.

Charles Lee Jones had a brother, Anthony Dibrell Jones, who also went from Virginia to Kentucky in the early days. I have not yet located any of the descendants of Anthony. I have heard from several of the descendants of Charles Lee Jones.

Will you do me this favor: Send me a list of the names and addresses of all the Children of Joseph H. Jones, who died last April, together with the names of all grandchildren. I want as many dates as possible. In return for your kindness, I shall be glad to send you interesting information about the family way back to pre-Revolutionary times. I can give you the Dibrell-Lee data which is most interesting and can show your relationship to General Robert H. Lee. Please ask your sister to send me the information on her family.

I hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you soon.

Cordially yours,

Maben Jones.

PS I am a son of the late Louis Dibrell Jones of Virginia. There were twelve of us—six now dead. I am next to the youngest. All the others live in Virginia.
JONES CANNING COMPANY
PACKERS OF
THE RED CHIEF BRAND TOMATOES

COIN, ARKANSAS

February 26th, 1933

Mr. Maben Jones,
1007 Taylor St.,
Columbia, S.C.

Dear Cousin Maben;

I take great pleasure in acknowledging receipt of your letter of recent date and assure you that the information contained therein is considered of much value. I also note that you will mail me other information on the decedents of the Dibrell family.

My sister Lula Kinney, and I are making a complete record of the decedence of our father's family the late Joseph M. Jones and will mail you a copy as soon as completed.

I am the youngest of ten children. Was born April 8th 1858 so you see there's not a great difference in our age. I was married Sept. 18th 1915 to Viva O. Grim of Green Forest, Ark. To this union were born four children as follows:

Blossom B. Jones b. Mar. 21st, 1918
Violet M. Jones b. Nov. 7th, 1922
June L. Jones b. June 5th 1928
Bennie Ray Jones b. June 2nd 1931.

Trusting that you will bear with us until we can get a complete record to you, I beg to remain

Yours sincerely

Ben H. Jones
March 2, 1935.

Mr. Ben H. Jones,
Coin, Arkansas.

Dear Cousin Ben:

I am delighted to learn from your letter of February 28th that you and your sister Lula are preparing a complete record of the family of your father.

Since I've become interested in compiling family records I have learned that with a little care these records can be made alive, vital and interesting, by putting in some little biographical sketch of each member, together with full names. A mere list of names and dates means nothing to those who are at a distance and who are not at all acquainted with the subjects, but if it is stated that a member was born at a certain place, went to school at a named institution, followed the business of merchant, planter, or what not, there is something then on which to form some idea of the character of that person.

It is well known among genealogists that it is far more difficult to secure information about the living members than about the dead. We all know the details of the lives of our own families so well that we postpone writing them down—it is difficult to decide what to record and what not. I know this is my own experience.

Therefore, let me urge you and your sister to give the essential details about EACH member of your family. Where and when born, where lived and educated, what occupations followed; where and when married, to whom married, (tell who were parents of one married) when died and where buried.

In giving names please be sure to give middle names as this often gives clue to the family connections. The DIBRELLS have used the name LEE continuously down to the present generation, and many have used the name Anthony. My father's oldest sister was named Mary Leamana but we, in this branch of the Jones family, have not used Lee since then. However, many of the children bear the name of Dibrell.

I'll be looking forward to your records with great interest. Give Bible records whenever possible.

Cordially your cousin
Green Forest, Arkansas.
March 14, 1933.

Maben Jones,
1207 Taylor Street,
Columbia S. C.

Dear Cousin:

I presume you have given up hopes of hearing from me. Although I have been doing my best to get all the information I could, I have not yet heard from my brother, Joe M. Jones, Jr. He wrote a few days ago and said he would send me the information as soon as he heard from his children. It will probably be a while yet before I hear, as his children are well scattered.

I sure will be glad to know something of my father's family, as he had lost all trace of them.

Wishing you success in your undertaking

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. W. J. Kinney

P. S. As soon as I hear from my brother, I will send it to you.
JOSEPH MORTON JONES was born in Carlyle, Ill., Feb. 7, 1848. He went to Logan County, Ark., about 1870, where he was married a year later. He taught school in Logan County until moving to Green Forest, Ark., where he went into the lumber business, and farming. He died April 28, 1932.

LOUISIANA EMELINE ELLINGTON was born April 9, 1848, Logan County, Ark. Joseph M. Jones Married Louisiana Ellington, May 6, 1871, and of this union there were born:

1. Mary Ida Jones Mar. 23, 1872, died in infancy.
9. Benjamin Harrison Jones, April 8, 1888, married Viva Opal Grinn.

I will now take each living child of Joseph Morton Jones and arrange them in order of his, or her age, also telling in full the date of important occurrence, such as date of marriage of their children, and birth of their grandchildren. I am also giving the date of birth, occupation, and P.O. address of their husbands or wives as far as I know.

John Thomas Jones, b. Feb. 3, 1876, Logan County, Arkansas. His occupation is farming, P.O. address, Twin Falls, Idaho.

Armenta Deweese, b. 1874, died Aug. 8, 1920

John T. Jones married Armenta De-eese Nov. 14, 1897, and of this union there were born:

1. Chloe Marie Jones, b. in Green Forest, Ark., April 10, 1900
   P.O. address: Green Forest, Ark.
   Chloe M. Jones was married to Waitman F. Anderson Dec. 3, 1918, and
   of this union were born:
   (1) Pauline Anderson b. 1920, died in infancy.
   (2) Coy Eugene Anderson, b. in Green Forest Ark., June 25, 1921
   (3) Raymond Claud Anderson, b. Dec. 29, 1922, Green Forest, Ark.

Lillie Jones, b. Mar. 27, 1882, Green Forest, Ark.

P.O. address: Green Forest, Ark.

Edward Gordon Steidley was born in Barton County, Mo., July 12, 1869.
Occupation: stone mason.

Lillie Jones was married to Edward G. Steidley oct. 10 1900, and of this union were born:

1. Fredie Steidley, b. Aug. 9, 1902, Green Forest, Ark.
   Died Aug. 25, 1905.

2. Tedie Roosevelt Steidley, b. April 14, 1905, Green Forest, Ark.
   Occupation: Truck driving, P.O. address: Green Forest, Ark.
   Bessie Rea Orrell, b. April 3, 1899, Green Forest, Ark.
   Tedie Steidley was married to Bessie Rea Orrell May 25, 1932.

   Occupation: truck driving, P.O. Address: Green Forest, Ark.
   Reba Altie Hubbs, b. July 6, 1907, Green Forest, Ark.
   J. Gordon Steidley was married to Reba Altie Hubbs Dec. 1926. issue:
5. Eddie Daniel Steidley, b. April 28, 1913, Green Forest, Ark.

Lula Jones was born in Green Forest, Ark., Mar. 27, 1882.
P. O. address: Green Forest, Ark.
Occupation: farming.
Lula Jones was married to Wilber James Kinney Oct. 5, 1902, and of this union were born:

P. O. address: Green Forest, Ark.
   Herman E. McMorris, b. Mar. 30, 1904, Green Forest, Ark.
   Clarie Marie Kinney was married to Herman E. McMorris Dec. 23, 1923. Issue:
   (1) Ina Fay McMorris, b. Nov. 27, 1924, Green Forest, Ark.
   (2) Hellen Jean McMorris, b. Oct. 18, 1926, Green Forest, Ark.

2. Ruby Drue Kinney, b. May 9, 1910, Green Forest, Ark.
P. O. address: Green Forest, Ark.
   Wyatt Griffin, b. May 14, 1907, Green Forest, Ark.
   Occupation: farming.
   Ruby Kinney was married to Wyatt Griffin Jan. 22, 1928. Issue:
   (1) Kinney Ugene Griffin, b. April 6, 1929, Green Forest, Ark.


Occupation is farming, P. O. address: Green Forest, Ark.
Robert L. Jones was married to Belva L. Kinney Mar. 25, 1906, and of this union were born:

3. Raymond Andrew Jones, b. April 11, 1912, Green Forest, Ark.

Benjamin Harrison Jones, b. April 8, 1888, Green Forest, Ark.
Occupation: farming, and canning business.
P. O. address: Green Forest, Ark.
Viva Opal Grim, b. Sept. 26, 1898, Green Forest, Ark.
Ben H. Jones was married to Viva O. Grim Sept. 18, 1915, and of this union there were born:

2. Violet Marguerite Jones, b. Nov. 7, 1922, Green Forest, ark.

44 Bennie Ray Jones, b. June 2, 1931, Coin, Ark.
April 22, 1933.

Mrs. W. J. Kinney,
Green Forest, Arkansas,

Dear Cousin:

I do not think I have ever thanked you for the splendid lot of information you sent me. It is beautifully arranged and very complete. Since writing you I have received several letters from the Jones kin and have quite a lot of data, but there is still lots to be gathered. It takes time, but I see now that we are soon going to have an almost complete list of the Jones descendants.

Perhaps you can help me further with information regarding information about your grandfather, Michael Lee Jones, who was born in 1833 in Christian county, Kentucky. One record that I have says he was married three times. If you have any data at all on his family I shall be glad to have it.

Mr. Joe M. Jones, Jr., of Topeka, Kansas, wrote me about a month ago that he would send in his family records. I have not received them yet, but presume he still has it on his mind.

I am now making some investigations concerning Anthony Dibsell Jones (who was a brother to Charles Lee Jones) and two of his sisters who went to Kentucky in the early days. I think I shall soon have some data on them.

With best of wishes, I am

Cordially your cousin,

Naben Jones.
Green Forest
Ark
May 16, 1933

Mr. Thaddeus Jones
Columbia, S. C.

Dear Cousin - I read your letter some time ago but have neglected writing. In regard to Grandfather, Mother says that if he was ever married more than twice that she never knew it. We know but very little about Grandfather and his life. We haven’t any data at all. It may be that my Uncle John W. Jones in Calif. could help you on that. I am sorry that I couldn’t give you more information with best regards, Mrs. W. J. K.