

## JONES – GAGE – WESTBROOK: My Loyalist History

By Rev. Charlotte Moore

The origin of the **Jones** family of Orange County has been searched for at some length by various persons over a period of years. **Cornelius Jones**, the first of that name, was of Stamford Connecticut, in 1657. The name of his first wife, mother of his children, has not been ascertained. He owned land in the Shippan section of Stamford.

Son **Ebenezer Jones**, b. Aug. 20, 1646, in Stamford, Conn., removed to Westchester about 1674 (Westchester Deeds A67). The indications are that Ebenezer had sons, **Ebenezer Jr.**, Cornelius, Joseph, William, Benjamin, and Nathaniel. This family, I believe, remained in Westchester County.<sup>1</sup>

Ebenezer Jones Jr. (born 1720) married Sarah Lockwood. His daughter, **Mary (1739-1839), married John Gage.**<sup>2</sup> Actually, records differ as to whether Mary's husband was **John** – or **James**.

- Wikipedia, the on-line encyclopedia, notes Mary's brother, Augustus, fleeing from New York State as a loyalist during the American Revolution and coming ahead of the rest of the family, obtaining 300 acres in Saltfleet Township, followed soon after by his father, Ebenezer, his brother Stephen and family, and his sisters, "**Mary Jones Gage widow of James Gage**", and Susannah Gage, wife of William Gage. Wikipedia also notes Augustus as born in the Hudson River Valley, and Ebenezer being a Welsh immigrant.

Meanwhile, Stoney Creek's Battlefield Museum offers the following summary:

- "The year was 1790 when Mary Jones Gage, along with her two children James Jr. and Elizabeth immigrated to Upper Canada from New York State. **Mrs. Gage's husband, Mr. James Gage Sr. died in the American Revolutionary War while defending Fort Clinton against the British** so the family packed up their belongings and made the journey to Stoney Creek. They **accepted the land grant of 200 acres in Saltfleet Township in exchange for their sworn allegiance to the British Monarchy.**"<sup>3</sup> A copy of this document is on file at Battlefield House.

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<sup>1</sup> Origin and Descendants of Cornelius Jones of Orange County, New York...contributed by Mrs. J.A. Weller, Jr., Jockey Hollow Farm, New Hampton, New York.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Local haunting, Stoney Creek's Battlefield Museum, December 16, 2002.

However, another document outlining the history of Battlefield House makes this statement:

- “The deed (crown deed signed by Governor Simcoe) was made to **Mary Gage...(who) married John Gage, a captain in the Irish regiment stationed in the Colony, and who was killed at the Massacre of Wyoming.** The young widow with her two children, was left to face the fate of many of the Loyalists who remained true to the flag of their fathers...”<sup>4</sup>

Finally, Battlefield House Museum publishes this record:

- **Mary Jones** was at the time of her coming to Canada **the widow of a loyalist officer, John Gage who had been killed during the fighting.** Even at this early day she had relatives in Canada and her brother, Augustus Jones, was a well known surveyor who had taken a bride among the Six Nations. Their son Peter was afterwards the well known missionary chief.

The young widow resolved to come to the Dominion with her two children, James born in 1774 and Elizabeth, born in 1776. Placing them and a few belongings in a canoe she made her way along the old time water route to Canada; traveling up the Mohawk, past Fort Stanwix, (now Rome, N.Y.) across the short portage to Wood Creek, down Oneida Lake and the Oswego River and thence along the Southern shore of Lake Ontario to Niagara and the head of the lake at Stoney Creek.

She settled in Saltfleet Township and cleared the land and tilled the soil until her son James was old enough to shoulder the responsibilities of the farm. This heroic woman died about 1839 in Hamilton at the home of her son, when she was nearly a hundred years old. **The marriage of her daughter to Major Westbrook took place in 1796.** They had a family of sixteen children, their numerous descendants constituting many prominent and well know families in the city and the county.

Mary's difficulties with the Americans was not over, for in the War of 1812, they invaded Stoney Creek and commandered her house. She and her two children were locked in the basement until the Loyalist Forces freed her.<sup>5</sup>

**Mary's daughter, Elizabeth,** was married in 1796, at the age of nineteen to **Major John Westbrook.** Elizabeth's obituary tells us that John Westbrook “had been brought into (Upper) Canada by the Indians and was adopted by the tribe. He received a grant of land from the late Indian chief, Captain Brant, and was one of the first white settlers in the township of Brantford.”<sup>6</sup>

Westbrook Loyalist genealogy has already been traced through John's father, Anthony.

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<sup>4</sup> C.J. Jones, Asst. Gov Gens Sec'y, Battlefield House Museum, Hamilton (Stoney Creek), Ontario

<sup>5</sup> Link to the Battlefield House Museum in Hamilton, Ontario

<sup>6</sup> Original hand-drawn notes for Elizabeth Gage's Obituary. Lloyd Westbrook Papers, Battlefield House, Hamilton (Stoney Creek), Ontario.