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Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones,  
of Bathurst, Virginia

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A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

*By* LEWIS H. JONES







BATHURST, VIRGINIA, ERECTED CIRCA 1692.  
ANCESTRAL HOME OF THOMAS AND THOSE JONES, WHO BOUGHT THE  
FARM IN 1810 FOR \$3,500 AND MOVED TO KENTUCKY.



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A Revolutionary Soldier

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BY LEWIS H. JONES

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# Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones, of Bathurst, a Revolutionary Soldier

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*Facts and circumstances from which it appears that my great-grandfather Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones, of Bathurst, Essex County, Virginia, was First Lieutenant Thomas Jones mentioned by Heitman and Saffell as enlisting in the Second Virginia regiment February 19, 1776, and as being First Lieutenant of Capt. Samuel Hawes' company, from which he resigned May 7, 1777.*

BY LEWIS H. JONES, LOUISVILLE, KY.

\* In the first place my great-grandfather Thomas Jones, later known as Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones, of Bathurst, Essex county, Virginia, lived during the period in which he enlisted and served in the Revolutionary army in Northumberland county, where he was born and reared. A careful search of all probable sources of information, such as Heitman, Saffell, the records in the U. S. War Department, the records in the U. S. Pension Office, Dr. Eckenrode's book of Revolutionary Soldiers of Virginia, the original or manuscript Journals of the Virginia Council from 1776 to 1781, the Journal of the House of Delegates for the same period, the minutes of the Virginia Committee of Safety, files of colonial newspapers for the same period found in the Virginia State Library, the library of the Virginia

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\*This matter was prepared simply as a paper to be submitted to the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, D. C., to be accompanied by the affidavit of the writer and a set of the photostats referred to in the body of the paper. It was prepared at the instance of a niece who expects to apply to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and desires to assign as one of her honor ancestors Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones, of Bathurst.

Historical Society, the Norfolk, Virginia, Library, the Library of Congress, and the library of the Maryland Historical Society, fails to reveal any Thomas Jones who belonged to the Second Virginia, other than this first lieutenant, and in as much as the particular county is given from which every other Thomas Jones mentioned as a Revolutionary soldier hailed, and none of them was from Northumberland county, it follows that this first lieutenant of the Second Virginia is the only Thomas Jones mentioned who could have been from Northumberland county, and, therefore, the only Thomas Jones mentioned who could have been my ancestor, for my ancestor certainly lived in Northumberland county when he enlisted. Furthermore, it appears that no one claims descent from First Lieutenant Thomas Jones of the Second Virginia, except the descendants of Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones of Bathurst.

The Second Virginia was a favorite regiment with the Virginians. It was authorized by the Virginia Convention, July 17, 1775, "as a force of regular troops for State defense," and "William Woodford, a veteran of the Indian wars, was chosen Colonel"—*Va. Mag. of Hist.* It was accepted by the Continental Congress as part of Virginia's quota in the new Continental army, with Col. Woodford as its colonel, on February 13, 1776, and on the 19th of February this First Lieutenant Thomas Jones, according to Heitman, enlisted in the regiment. Now Heitman gives Catesby Jones, a younger brother of my ancestor Thomas Jones, as being already a first lieutenant in the Second Virginia when First Lieutenant Thomas Jones enlisted. The brothers Thomas and Catesby lived on terms of the closest friendship and affection throughout their lives and died within a few months of each other, in 1800. Colonel Woodford, who commanded the Second Virginia, was an own cousin of the father of Thomas and Catesby Jones, and, in

addition to the fact that his brother Catesby already belonged to the regiment, having enlisted in September, 1775, the circumstance that it was commanded by his near kinsman would be a strong reason why my ancestor Thomas Jones should choose to enlist in this regiment in preference to any other, while the fact that his younger brother was a first lieutenant in the regiment would make it improbable that he would be offered an office of lower rank in the same regiment. Colonel Woodford was an officer of fine prestige and extensive experience gained in the French and Indian wars, and in the opinion of those most competent to judge had before him the promise of as brilliant a career as any officer in the service. Standard biographies have this to say of him: "He served with credit during the French and Indian war, and in the autumn of 1775, on the assembling of the Virginia troops at Williamsburg, was chosen colonel of the Second Virginia regiment. At Hampton Roads, the first battle of the Revolution in Virginia, he was engaged in preventing the destruction of the town of Hampton by Lord Dunmore, and sank five of his vessels. Col. Woodford had command of the Virginians that defended Great Bridge on Elizabeth River, and defeated the force that was sent by Lord Dunmore to take it, after a sharp battle in which the British suffered a loss of fifty-five, while not a single Virginian was killed. He called the militia of Norfolk and Princess Ann counties to arms, and on the 14th of December, 1775, occupied Norfolk. He was appointed brigadier-general on February 21, 1777, and given command of the First Virginia Brigade." With such a kinsman for a commander what reason could there have been, what circumstance could have operated, to induce my ancestor, the brother of Catesby Jones, to enlist in another regiment! The young men Thomas and Catesby Jones belonged to a wealthy, influential, and

forceful family. They were the eldest sons of Colonel Thomas Jones, clerk of Northumberland county, under the old appointive system, from the time of his appointment in 1740, when in his twenty-third year, to the time of his death. He was always addressed and referred to, at least in his maturer years, as Colonel Thomas Jones. In the Virginia Magazine of April, 1918, he is said to have been a colonel of militia. He was elected State senator from the counties of Lancaster, Richmond, and Northumberland in 1780, to succeed Francis Lightfoot Lee who resigned, but was disqualified by the fact that he held another civil office at the time. He owned a commodious home and a large tract of adjoining land in Northumberland county, called Mountzion, or Cherry Point, where all of his children were born and reared and where he continued to reside until he moved to Spring Garden in Hanover county in 1782. Thomas and Catesby were his two elder sons, Catesby was later commissioned a major of State troops, and was the father of Thomas ap Catesby Jones, U. S. Navy, who as a young lieutenant commanded the flotilla of gunboats that fought the British fleet on Lake Borgne in defense of New Orleans, and of Major-General Roger Jones, U. S. Army, and others. Of the younger sons, Meriwether Jones was a member of the governor's Council, was a distinguished political writer, founded the Richmond Examiner, newspaper, which he edited with distinguished ability until he was killed in a duel in 1806. Long obituary notices and eulogies of him appeared in two contemporary newspapers of Richmond. Skelton Jones was a lawyer of Richmond and a distinguished writer. He succeeded his brother Meriwether as editor of the Examiner and continued to edit the paper until he was killed in a duel. In a foot note to the 1812 edition of *Hening's Statutes at Large* there appears this reference to Skelton Jones: "They [the Byrd MSS]

are now in the possession of Skelton Jones, Esq., who has undertaken to complete the *History of Virginia*, left unfinished by his predecessor. From the well known talents of this gentleman, and his celebrity as a writer, the public, it is believed, will have no cause to regret the change of historians, notwithstanding the deservedly high reputation of Mr. Burke as an author. Bathurst Jones was a member of the Virginia Assembly from Hanover county. Jekyll Jones, of Richmond, was a political writer of note. They were a family particularly noted for their intelligence, personal courage, and force of character. Of the girls, Elizabeth married Gawin Corbin, Mary Bathurst married Lancelot Lee, Sally married Capt. Nat Anderson, and Jane married Judge John Monroe, a kinsman of the President. In the Virginia Gazette of May 10, 1776, there is a notice of Mrs. Corbin's marriage, viz.: "Marriages—Gawin Corbin, Esq., of Caroline, to Miss Betsey Jones, eldest daughter of Colonel Thomas Jones, of Northumberland." The eldest son Thomas, my great-grandfather, married, for his first wife, Elizabeth Beckwith, daughter of Sir Jonathan Beckwith, baronet, of Richmond county, Virginia, who died in 1777, a few weeks or months after her marriage, and he married in 1781-2 Fanny Carter, daughter of Councillor Robert Carter of Nomini Hall, who was the mother of all his children. After his second marriage he owned and occupied, until his death in 1800, a home called Bathurst in Essex county. He was nearly always addressed and referred to during this later period, as Major Thomas Jones, or Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones which was his real name. Among the Jones Papers in the Library of Congress is a deed from his father-in-law Councillor Carter, dated 1785, conveying 500 acres of land to his daughter Fanny, in which she is referred to as at the time "wife unto Major Thomas Jones, Jun'r son of Col. Thomas Jones of Hanover county," etc. Thus we find

that he was described even by his father-in-law in the execution of a most formal legal document as Major Thomas Jones, which would scarcely have been the case if he had not been legally entitled to be so designated.

In Professor Chalkley's Abstracts of Augusta County Records there is reference to a suit filed in 1779 by Alexander Walker and wife Penelope against Jennings Beckwith, in which it is stated that Penelope was a daughter of Sir Jonathan Beckwith and that the other daughter Elizabeth Beckwith married Thomas Jones and died in 1777. Heitman says that Lieutenant Thomas Jones resigned May 7, 1777, and a letter from Adjutant General McCain of the War Department, in 1915, says: "The records of this office show that one Thomas Jones served in the Revolutionary War as a lieutenant in Captain Samuel Hawes' Company, 2d Virginia Regiment, commanded by Alexander Spottswood, esq." Col. Woodford had been made a brigadier-general in the meantime. "His name appears on a pay roll of this organization for May, 1777, which roll bears the following remark relative to him: '8 dollars due from April 28 to May 9, at which time he resigned.'" My idea is that Lieutenant Thomas Jones of the Second Virginia was my ancestor Thomas Jones who married Elizabeth Beckwith and that he resigned when Heitman says he did with a view to a spring wedding. It is certain that my ancestor married Elizabeth Beckwith and that she died shortly after her marriage, in 1777, which left him free and perhaps all the more disposed to return to the army. In the Council Journal for 1777-8, pages 185-186, we find under date of January 27, 1778, the following entry:

"The General Assembly having by their Resolution of the 23d of the present month, directed among other things, that an adjutant general be appointed by the Governor and Council of



some active, studious and intelligent citizen of this State, who is to follow the Inspector General of Artillery, &c. appointed by another Resolution of the same date, and to rank as Lieutenant Colonel and the said Inspector General having strongly recommended Thomas Jones, jun. esquire for that office, a Gentleman who has served a considerable time in the Second Virginia Regiment and who appears to possess the qualifications required by the Resolution—the Board do, therefore, advise his Excellency to Commissionate that Gentleman, accordingly a commission was issued dated this day.” The language of this entry makes it plain that the “Thomas Jones, jun. esquire” who was appointed adjutant general of artillery, the “Gentleman who” had “served a considerable time in the Second Virginia Regiment,” was none other than the First Lieutenant of the Second Virginia who resigned in May, 1777. The lieutenant of the Second Virginia was therefore a “Thomas Jones, jun’r,” and under all the circumstances, there seems to be no room to doubt that he was the “Thomas Jones, jun’r, son of Col. Thomas Jones” mentioned in the preamble to Councillor Carter’s deed. Among the Jones Papers in the Library of Congress there are twenty-four pages of closely written matter in the hand-writing of my ancestor Thomas Jones, jun’r, on the course, and distance attainable by a cannon ball when fired from a cannon at certain angles, and also on how to make gunpowder, its component parts and relative explosive power, matters which, presumably, would not have engaged the serious attention of one not immediately interested in problems of this character, but which might naturally engage the attention of an “active, studious and intelligent citizen” who was, or had been, in some manner, associated with the artillery branch of the service. Photostats of the twenty-four pages of this matter accompany this paper, and, if permitted, will be

filed with the archives of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Memorial Continental Hall, Washington, D. C. The photostats, which were obtained by the writer from the Library of Congress in 1918, are in triplicate sets, each page has been mounted and each set separately bound by a photographer.

In the report presented by Richard Henry Lee from the House of Delegates it is recommended that in selecting a suitable appointee for the office of adjutant general "regard should be had to the prospect of his succeeding to" the office of inspector general, "if circumstances should make it necessary." The order appointing the Frenchman, M. Loycaute, inspector general of artillery, is entered at page 186 of the Council Journal for 1777-8, under date of January 27, 1778, as follows: "In conformity to a Resolve of the General Assembly appointing St. Francis arnvil Mishel diere donnee Loycaute Esquire Inspector General of Artillery, etc., the Governor gave him a Commission of this date." His duties are defined in the report of the committee, as follows: "Resolved, That Monsieur Loycaute ought to be engaged as Inspector General of Artillery, fortification and military stores; and that it be his duty to search for a proper place where a general school may be established, to be approved and appointed by the Governor and Council on his report; after which he is to proceed to collect materials, and construct the necessary works for executing his plan, and making such place a general school of instruction in the art of artillery, and fortification, and an arsenal for stores. He is also to examine accurately all parts of the State capable of being attacked, and susceptible of defense, and recommend to the Governor and Council such posts as may be most proper for batteries and other works, and for establishing small magazines for the more immediate supply of any place attacked. He is to superintend the artillery and fortifications, and return

exact states of the stores from time to time, and direct the management of the school and arsenal." In view of the present war, I am tempted to reproduce here this further abstract from the report: "Resolved, That in consideration of the great merit of these foreign officers, in coming so far from home to assist in the cause of liberty, and of their extraordinary skill and trouble in the introduction of this useful art amongst us, they ought to receive the following gratuity each," etc. An entry in the same Journal at page 217, under date of March 13, 1778, reads: "A warrant was issued by the Governor, with the advice of the Council, for three hundred pounds payable to Colonel Thomas Jones for the use of Monsieur Loycaute upon account as Inspector General of Artillery &c." Whether this was the father Colonel Thomas Jones or the son Thomas Jones, jun'r, with his new rank of lieutenant colonel of artillery does not appear. To what extent the work advanced or materialized under Monsieur Loycaute's supervision does not appear. It appears that on May 18, 1778, the House of Delegates voted that, by his appointment as inspector general, "it was not intended he should have military command;" whereupon, it appears, he resigned his office, and on page 256 of the Journal, under date of May 20, 1778, we find the following: "M. Loycaute—Inspector General having thought proper to resign his commission, being dissatisfied with the vote of the House of Delegates declaring that he was not entitled, under his appointment to any military command, the same was received. And having delivered into the Board a state of his account of money expended by him in the execution of his office it was passed on his certificate of its being just and true, and the money in the said M. Loycaute's hands, together with the pay he had received, amounting to 395 pounds 14 shillings being returned it also was received and it is ordered that the

clerk do carry it to the Treasurer and take his receipt for same, M. Loycaute refusing to accept any pay or allowance for his expenses during the time of his holding said command." In as much as Thomas Jones' position was that of adjutant general—that is, assistant general to the inspector general, and, according to the order appointing him, was "to follow the Inspector General," I suppose his office, *ipso facto*, terminated with the resignation of the inspector general, since there was no longer anything for him to be adjutant to. I am confident, however, that he afterwards received a commission as major in the army, and that it was as Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones that, according to my uncle's statement, he continued to render important service by preparing and forwarding recruits to the army in the field. He did not marry his second wife earlier than late in December, 1781, or the following year, when the result of the battle of York Town, October, 1781, was understood to have practically ended the War of Independence.

Respectfully submitted,

I, Lewis Hampton Jones, of Louisville, Kentucky, make and subscribe the following Affidavit, to-wit:

I am a son of Fauntleroy Jones, late of Clark county, Kentucky, who was a son of 'Squire Thomas ap Thomas Jones who died at his home in Clark county, Ky., in 1843, and who moved to Kentucky from Bathurst, his encesstral home, in Essex county, Virginia, in 1810 being an only son of Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones, of Bathurst, and I am the editor or compiler of a history of my family entitled "Jones of Virginia". or "Capt. Roger Jones of London and Virginia," etc. While engaged in collecting material for the family history I had several conversations with my father and with my uncles Roger Jones and Joseph F. Jones both of whom lived and died in Clark county, my Uncle Roger's home was scarcely three miles from my father's home, and my Uncle Joseph's residence not more than a quarter of a mile, his farm adjoining my father's farm, both farms being composed in part of land received from their father and which had been part of the land belonging to the farm on which my grandfather built his home where he lived until he died in 1843, and where his widow, my grandmother, and her younger son, my Uncle Joseph, continued to reside until her death in 1865. My father told me that his father told him that his father, Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones, of Bathurst, was a soldier in the Revolutionary army, and that an old flintlock musket which my grandfather brought from Virginia when he moved to Kentucky and which fell to my father in the final division of his father's property, came into the possession of my great-grandfather Major Jones while he belonged to the army. I have often seen the old gun in my father's home and handled it. Uncle Joseph told me that his grandfather had delicate health and did not see as much service in the field as he would otherwise have seen, but that he continued to render important service by recruiting, or preparing and forwarding recruits, etc., to the army in the field. My father was a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) college and an extensively read man, while both of my uncles were intelligent, successful, money-making business men. This









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