

## Excerpts from “The History of Madison County Ohio” which includes references to the Jones Family

**JOHN BRADLEY** (deceased). John Bradley, the subject of this sketch was born August 12, about the year 1812, in Madison County, Ohio. He was a son of Jonah and Susan Bradley, who emigrated from Virginia and settled in Madison County at an early day. He was reared to manhood on a farm, and received a rudimentary education in a district school. He married Miss Sarah A. Jones. born December 29, 1822, in Madison County. She was a daughter of Zachariah and Elizabeth Jones, who emigrated from Tennessee to Madison County at quite an early day. This union has been blessed with seven children, viz., Calvin, Elizabeth A., Arthur. Charles S., Emma, Albert and Martha A.. the latter two of whom are deceased. Mr. Bradley left to his family a large estate of about 1,100 acres of land, and departed this life in February, 1874. He was an indulgent father and a kind and affectionate husband, and respected by all who knew him. His widow survives him, and resides on her homestead in the southern portion of Monroe Township.

In November, 1814. William Jones and wife. with one child. Job K., emigrating from the State of Tennessee. and settled in London. Later there were horn to the parents Isaac. John, William and James. The father was a blacksmith by trade. and was the first to follow that occupation in London. He was subsequently engaged in various occupations. and became very wealthy. He was a very liberal mail, gave a great deal to various charitable purposes and assisted those needing financial help. He suffered severely ill the crash of 1837, by paying security debts, and removed to his farm in Union Township. but subsequently returned to London, where he lived with his son, Job K.. at whose home he -died. He was extensively known. and loved by every one. He was everybody’s friend and was familiarly known as “Dad Jones.” Of the children. Job K. remained a resident of London until his death which occurred April 4, 1877. He possessed, at one time, over 800 acres of land in Madison County (Union and Deer Creek Townships). John is now a retired merchant of London, and James a lawyer in Champaign, Ill.

One of the early students of Mr. Harrison was James S. Jones, a native of London, born July 31, 1830. He was admitted to the bar in 1853, and was Prosecuting Attorney of Madison County in 1854-55. His parents were William and Elizabeth Jones, natives of Tennessee, who settled at London in 1814. Soon after the expiration of his term as Prosecutor, he removed to Lincoln, Ill., where he engaged in teaching school and the practice of his profession, the latter not proving sufficiently remunerative to support him. He returned to London during the exciting period of the war, and thence went to Champaign City, Ill., where he was married to Eliza. daughter of Dr. Robert Houston, one of the pioneer physicians of Clark County. Ohio, who practiced at South Charleston, where Mrs. Jones was born, subsequently removing with her father to Champaign . County. Ill. Mr. Jones has since continued to follow the legal profession at that place.

. . . In 1818, they settled on the place where W. Clark Sidener now lives (for further particulars of his life and family. see sketch of William Clark Sidener). About 1815, John Plimell settled on the Glade. Isaac Jones and Zachariah Jones from Tennessee, James Chriswell. John Wiseman, Jesse Abbey and Henry Cay were all settlers at Lawrenceville the same year. Samuel Bowdry located where La Fayette now is in 1815. John Davidson settled on Deer Creek in the year 1817.

. . . We now give a few of the officers known in that day as Fence Viewers : 1812 - John Arbuckle and

Thomas Gwynne ; 1813-Thomas Gwynne ; 1819-Thomas Gwynne and Alexander Ross ; 1821-Isaac Jones ; 1822-Alexander and Joseph Adair ; 1823-Gilman Lincoln and Alexander Ross ; 1824-25 - John Clernoe and Thomas Groves ; 1826-John McDonald and Samuel Houston.

*Listers.*-For many years after the organization of the township, the name or office of Assessor was not known among the offices, but to perform a similar duty they elected "Listers," some of whom were as follows: 1812-William Pepper; 1813-John Shields and John Arbuckle; 1814-David Foster and Thomas Gwynne; 1819 - J. Ewing and Isaac Jones; 1821-22- Asa Wright; 1823-James Brown; 1824-John H. Hume; 1825-James Brown. and thus continued for several years till finally the term Lister ceased and Assessors were elected. In 1858, L. B. Wright was elected to this office, and has been re-elected every year since, a period of twenty-five consecutive years. The elections were held in Lawrenceville or more generally known as "Limerick," till the spring of 1837, since which they have been held at La Fayette, now the only village in the township. In the early days, the Treasurer was required to give bonds for \$300: now he is required to give bonds for \$7,500, thus exhibiting quite a contrast in amount of funds and responsibilities of the office.

To show the rapidity with which the township was populated. and the progress in the establishment of School Districts in a few years, as well as to give a knowledge of the families that then lived in the township, we will give a list of the families in each School District at quite an early day. School District - No. 1. in 1826- Amos Howard, Sidney Addison. Amos J. Howard. John Cory. William Scott, Anry Brown, James Brown. Joel Burnsides, Asa Bates, Benjamin Landon. John Negley. Richard Baldwin, John Summers. William Kirkly, Ansel Bates. Elijah Bates, Asa Owens. John Canaber, David Reece, Thomas Gillespie. Samuel Dickison, David Culver and Abner Williard. Total, twenty-three families. District -No. 3. in 1827-Thomas Orperd, George Prugh, John Osborn, John Groves, Joseph C. Geer, Henry Groves. John Arbuckle. Erastus Hathaway, Charles Atchison, John Kennedy. John Shields. David Ross. John Ross, Fanny Shields. Blackwell Parish. Benjamin Bowdry. Uriah Hancock. John Hamond. Henry Prugh, Noah Morris. and Thomas Taylor. Total. twenty-one families. District 3. in 1830-John W. Simpson. Eli W. Gwynne. Elizabeth Owens. William R. Lawrence. John C. Wagoner. Franklin Clark. Zachariah Jones, Jemima Jones. William Blaine. Alexander McMurray. Mathias Furrow, William Minter, Hiram Edwards, William McCoy and William T. Davidson. Total, fifteen families. District No. 4. in 1827-Benjamin Pike, Joshua Littler. John Calhoun. Asa Wright, John Clernoe. Samuel Ewing. John Ewing. Charles Ewing' Daniel Wright. John McDonald. Sr., Thomas McDonald. John McDonald. Jr., Elizabeth, Jacob Sidener, John Plimell. Sr.. John Plimell. Jr., John McNutt and John Adair. Total, nineteen families. District -No. 5, in 1827-Alfred Garrett. Robert M. Adair. Jessie Stout. Elizabeth Adair. Edward K. Adair, John Davidson and William T. Davidson. Total, seven families. District -No. 6, in 1827-Timothy Beach. Robert Scott. John Scott. Gabriel Markle. George Vance. William Soward. Charles Soward. Barnet Warren. Valentine Wilson, Samuel Wilson, Eli Williams. Robert Taylor. Jonathan Markle, Sutton Potee, John Roberts, Benjamin Hull. Solomon Porter and Levi Humble. Total eighteen families. These school districts have since the above dates been changed, and the present districts are not numbered as then; and the township at that time embraced more territory than now as other townships have since been organized. and Deer Creek township made smaller. The above enumeration shows that. from the very few families that resided in the above mentioned territory in 1807. in the short space of twenty years. they had increased to 103 families, established into six school districts.

The first schools were often held in private houses . . .

One of the first schools we gain an account of was held in a small log building twelve feet square, situated in Lawrenceville, opposite the house of Isaac Jones; this was about 1816. The first teacher was a Yankee by the name of Turtlott. There were but few scholars, and the teacher was paid with money raised by subscription, which amounted to about \$8 per month, and the teacher boarded around." He was very rigid in his discipline, as were most of the schoolmasters " in that day: and he extended his authority over the children at their homes, or on the road as well as in the schoolroom, and if any trouble arose among them that came to his knowledge he chastised them severely, and it was considered all right; in fact, rigid discipline was as much expected as that they learn from their books, which were of the most primitive kind. These subscription schools were the only schools to he had for many years as in that day there was no school tax or public money from any source for the support of schools; hence, in every neighborhood, wherever the settlers became numerous, and able to support a teacher at those very low wages, a school would be held in some private house. if there was no schoolhouse.

William Jones and wife, with one son Job K., came to the village from Tennessee. in 1814, and became the first blacksmith of London; this pursuit he followed a number of years, after which he was variously employed and became quite wealthy. but lost heavily by the crash of 1837.

**JOHN C. JONES.** P. O. London, a prominent and well-known retired farmer and stock-raiser, of this township, was born in East Tennessee June 11, 1817. His grandfather. Solomon Jones. was a native of England, and came to the United States at an early day. One child, Zacheus Jones, the father of our subject, was born and reared in Tennessee. He came to Ohio in 1821, locating in Somerford Township. of this county, in the " Arbuckle neighborhood," on Deer Creek. He owned a farm of 110 acres, where he resided till his death in 1823 or 1824. He was buried in the old "Baptist Churchyard," now the present site of the " Link Mill." on the " Wilson land." His wife was Elizabeth Key, also a native of Tennessee, who bore him four children, of whom two are now living-Sarah Ann (widow of John Bradley, now residing on Spring Fork, in Darby Township), and our subject. Mrs. Jones subsequently married Charles Atchison, who died five years later. She departed this life August 24, 1853. " Squire Jones," as he is familiarly known, grew to manhood on the home farm, receiving only a common school education. Having been reared to an agricultural life. he resolved to devote his further time in life to that useful occupation. On October 30, 1829, he married Sarah A., daughter of Thomas and Isabella Hume. a native of Ross County. Ohio. near Chillicothe. Mr. Jones resided in Deer Creek Township until ten or twelve years after marriage, when he removed to his present farm. He has been an active laborer through life, and has accumulated some property. He is the owner of 390 acres of fine land in this and Union Townships, and 600 acres in Southern Missouri. He was an earnest Whig until the formation of the Republican party, when he united with the latter organization. He served two terms as Infirmary Director of Madison County. and one term each at Township Trustee and Justice of the Peace. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the parents of nine children. seven of whom are living-Mary E. (wife of David Watson, a member of the Board of County Commissioners and a very prominent man in agricultural and stock circles). William (married Sallie Minter, and resides on a farm near La Fayette. in Deer Creek Township), I. Dewitt (an attorney of Columbus. Ohio. who married Laura Harringer), Marion (at home), George (an attorney at law, of Columbus, Ohio, married Eva Lattimer). Ada, Flora and Fannie. John and Thomas are deceased. Mrs. Jones is a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of London. Squire Jones and wife are well known throughout the county, and equally respected for their admirable traits of character.

John C. Jones, though not an early settler of Paint Township, having settled here in 1844 yet he was born in East Tennessee in 1817, came to Ohio in 1821, grew to manhood, and has been prominently identified with

the growth and progress of the county from a very early day. He has served as Director of the County Infirmary, as a Justice of the Peace, as Township Trustee and other minor offices. He is now quite advanced in years. having spent a long and useful life, devoted to the interests of his county and the community in which he has lived.

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### **DEER CREEK TOWNSHIP.**

Thomas, John and Eli Gwynne located on Deer Creek ; the former in 1816 laid out the town of Lawrenceville, became very wealthy and died leaving a large estate. They were very active business men, and for some years carried on quite a mercantile trade in Urbana and Columbus. A large family of the Ross name located here on Deer Creek - Angus, John, Daniel and Alexander Ross, the former kept tavern at Lawrenceville. James Brown also located here on the opposite side of the creek from Mr. Ross. Curtis Ballard and David Foster were two settlers of this period of time. Charles Atchison was one of the prominent settlers of this time : was Township Treasurer in 1812, probably the first to hold that office in the township. James Wright and Daniel Wright were two settlers on the Glade in 1808. The latter lived a long and useful life. He served in many of the offices of the township ; was a Trustee for many years. Samuel Duncan and William Noteman settled on the west of Deer Creek, nearly opposite William Blaine, who was on the east side. Noteman was born on the ocean, and was principally raised in Madison County and was married September 28, 1817, and finally he settled on the place now owned by John Lohr. He died January 14, 1827. Aaron Delano, William Lawrence, Gilman Lincoln, and a Mr. Fudgy, all located in this neighborhood about this period of time. Benjamin Garrett with his family located on Coniac Run in 1808, where he built a block-house to protect them from the Indians. Soon after, he located on the Garrett farm where he died. He was a native of Virginia; emigrated to Kentucky in 1805, came to Chillicothe in 1807, and there to Madison County. About 1812 came Jarvis Pike, Doris Pike, Benjamin Pike, and settled on the Glade north of the National road. Jacob Sidener, a native of Kentucky. with his father Philip Sidener, a native of Virginia, came to Jefferson Township, where he died. About 1811, Jacob, with his sister settled on the old Ewing farm now owned by George G. McDonald. In 1818, they settled on the place where W. Clark Sidener now lives (for further particulars of his life and family. see sketch of William Clark Sidener). About 1815, John Plimell settled on the Glade. Isaac Jones and Zachariah Jones from Tennessee, James Chriswell. John Wiseman, Jesse Abbey and Henry Cay were all settlers at Lawrenceville the same year. Samuel Bowdry located where La Fayette now is in 1815. John Davidson settled on Deer Creek in the year 1817.

### **EARLY ELECTIONS AND TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS.**

From the township records. the first election we find was held in the spring of 1812. and from that (late to the present year (1882) we find regular elections held and recorded. with few omissions, and from these records we find the officers duly elected as follows:

*Trustees.*-For the years .John Arbuckle. John Wilson and John Shields: 1814-John Barrett. Joint Wilson and Shedrick Preston; 1819-G. Markly, Samuel Culberson and Charles Atchison: 1821-Andrew Shields, David Colver and Erastus Hathaway: 1822-Richard Baldwin. John Davidson and Erastus Hathaway; 1823-Charles Atchison. Erastus Hathaway and John Davidson: 1824-John Arbuckle. Angus Ross and Benjamin Pike;

1826-John Arbuckle. Benjamin Pike and Valentine Wilson; 1821-John Arbuckle, Benjamin Pike and John Roberts; 1828-John Arbuckle, John Cory and Benjamin Pike; 1829-John Arbuckle, John Cory and John Davidson; 1830-John Davidson, George Prugh and Abner S. Williard; 1834-John Davidson. George Prugh and John Thomas; 1836-.John Davidson. John Roberts and William Hull; 1837-William Hull. John Davidson and Joseph C. Gear: 1838-William Hull, John Ewing and Joseph C. Gear: 1839-Daniel Wright. John Ewing and Reason Lotspeich: 1840-Daniel Wright. J. W. Davidson and H. G. Sothoron: 1841-William Minter, John Davidson and Thomas Croshaw: 1844-Abraham Simpson. Thomas Croshaw and George G. McDonald: 1846-Stanly Watson, Daniel Wright and William Snodgrass: 1847-Daniel Wright, William Snodgrass and James W. Tallman; 1848-Daniel Wright. G. G. McDonald and James W. Tallman; 1850-Daniel Wright. G. G. McDonald and John McDonald. Junior: 1851-Daniel Wright, James Wright and John Plimell: 1852-Daniel Wright. G. G. McDonald and C. W. Martin; 1853-Daniel Wright, Adam Saunders and C. W. Martin; 1855-Daniel Wright. W. B. Rafferty and C. W. Martin; 1856- Daniel Wright, George Lohr and C. W. Martin; 1857-Daniel Wright. John Lohr and G. H. Busick: 1860-Daniel Wright, Jesse Smith and C. W. Martin; 1861-Daniel Wright, W. T. Davidson and D. W. Williamson; 1862-Daniel Wright, G. G. McDonald and William Curtain; 1863-James Dun. Jessie Smith and William Curtain; 1864-John A. Amos. W. H. C. McCoy and J. B. McDonald; 1866-C. W. Martin. W. H. C. McCoy and J. B. McDonald; 1867-James Dun, James Plimell and W. R. Fox; 1868-James Dun, James Plimell and George Kaufman; 1869-William Curtain, James Plimell and George Kaufman; 1870-William Curtain, James Plimell and A. B. McMurray, 1871-T. B. Wilson, James Plimell and William Jones; 1872-Edwin Dun, James Plimell and William Curtain; 1874-William Beals, James Plimell and T. B. Wilson; 1875-William Beals, James Plimell and Allen W. Thurman; William Beals, James Plimell and T. B. Wilson; 1877-William Beals, James Plimell and William Curtain; 1878-W. H. Jones, James Plimell and William Curtain; 1879-W. H. Jones, William Bierbaugh and George Kaufman: 1830 -George Kaufman, Alexander Husk and William Bierbaugh; 1881-W. H. Jones, Alexander Husk and William Bierbaugh; 1882-T. B. Wilson, L. Headley and George Kaufman.

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## **SCHOOLS.**

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## **TOWNS.**

This township possesses but one village and one post office-La Fayette. At the time of the organization of Deer Creek Township, there was no town or village within its limits, and there were but few roads of which the principal one was the old stage route. from Columbus to Springfield. a horrible mud road, in which stage coaches and wagons often mired hub deep, and had to be pried out with rails or some kind of levers. which often delayed them on their journey, and the good nature of the passengers was severely tried. This mud road and stage route passed through the center of the township and through the Gwynne farm. In 1816, Thomas Gwynne commenced laying out lots for a town on the east side of Deer Creek, one and a half miles northwest of where La Fayette is now situated. This town was named Lawrenceville. but was always better known as "Limerick." In about two or three years, the following families had settled there : Isaac Jones, who came from Tennessee; James Chriswell, who was the first blacksmith, a very peculiar and eccentric character; he was succeeded by John Wiseman; Zacariah Jones. a brother of Isaac Jones. and also from Tennessee; Gilman Lincoln; Angus Ross. who, about 1816, erected a frame house and kept the first and only tavern ever in the town; and Jesse Abbey and Henry Cay were early settlers; these were the principal settlers who composed the town. In one room of Isaac Jones' house. Mr. Gwynne placed a small stock of groceries and such other necessary articles as the wants of the people of that day demanded. But the progress of the country was ever onward. and improvements were rapid, and in 1836-37 the National road or turnpike was completed through this township, and the stage route and all travel from Columbus to Springfield and the West was transferred from the old mud road to the new National road. In consequence of this new and beautiful road, there was a great increase of travel, and in 1837 William Minter, who owned a large tract of land upon which the town of La Fayette is situated, commenced to lay off lots for the town,

which was named La Fayette, in honor of Gen. La Fayette.