

Century - Old Mt. Gallant Rich In History

By ELIZABETH REED

A historic house, Mt. Gallant, just outside the Rock Hill city limits went into its second century of existence this year.

Mt. Gallant is the large Georgian type dwelling standing aloof and alone just off Mt. Gallant Rd., where it joins Highway 21 by-pass. The road derived its name from the house.

Built in 1858 by Col. Cadwallader Jones of Northampton Co. in eastern North Carolina, it still stands as a tribute to its builder. The name was derived from the Jones home on the Halifax. Col. Jones came to York County in 1857 after a political defeat in North Carolina.

He then vowed he would never pay another cent of taxes in North Carolina — and he never did.

Not only did Cadwallader Jones and his wife, Annie Isabella Iredell, daughter of a North Carolina governor, come from a long line of distinguished persons, but they and their descendants left an impact on York County.

They were the first Episcopalians in this section and they helped to establish The Church of Our Saviour. It was while the artist, who made the stained glass windows of the church, was visiting with the Jones family at Mt. Gallant that he painted the small figure of a young girl in prayer on the wall of an upstairs bedroom.

Vandals cut out the head. When Mr. and Mrs. Tom W. Huey bought the home in 1942 they washed down the wall and there under the layer of wall finish the figure, except the head was clearly seen — and there it is to this day.

Most interesting of all the stories connected with the Jones family is of a young but brave and independent tar by the name of John Paul. This young sailor visited Allen and Willie Jones at their homes

on the Halifax. He was so impressed by the family that he added Jones to his name. He declared, "I will make the name John Paul Jones one to be proud of."

He named his ship the Bonne Homme Richard in honor of Benjamin Franklin and added Jones to his name in compliment to Allen and Willie Jones who had used their influence to get his first commission in the navy.

When the War Between The States came in 1860, Col. Jones raised and captained a company of soldiers. After Sharpsburg he was made a colonel. When he resigned from the army because of ill health, he left four sons on the field.

The story is told that once during the war a group of raiders came up to the fence which surrounded the house. Mrs. Jones was rocking a baby in the great hall with its stained mahogany staircase when her maid came running:

"Land, Mrs. Jones, de Yankees done come."

Mrs. Jones grabbed a gun, ran after them, shooting as she ran, and the Yankees never bothered her any more.

When Rock Hill got its first fire engine in the 1880's, there was no more suitable name for the bright new piece than "Marion Jones", named for Marion Porcher Jones, a daughter of Capt. Allen Jones.



Classic Beauty Remains At Mt. Gallant
This View Was Originally Back Of The House

She was described as "The sweetest flower that ever bloomed along the banks of the Catawba."

Col. Cadwallader Jones died in Columbia in 1889 and was buried in Trinity church yard. There rested three roses inside his casket. One was from a bush transplanted in 1880 from Mt. Gallant on the Halifax, the second dried bud he had carried with him since 1840. It had grown in the garden of his wife's father, Gov. James Iredell. The third grew from a bud

which had rested on the pulseless heart of John C. Calhoun.

He had carried in war a sword which had been carried by his father in the War of 1812 and by his grandfather in the Revolution.

Until Col. Iredell Jones sold the place to Sam Friedheim, generations of the Jones family lived in the proud home and managed the 2,000 acre farm.

Tenants lived for a while in the house. William Wilson restored the house and lived in it with his fam-

ily. The V. L. Rice family was the last to live in it. For years there has been only a nearby caretaker to look after it.

A number of Virginians and Carolinians alike claim kin, to the Jones families. These are some of the related names: Pride, Halcott, Porcher, Sitgreaves, Coles, Green, Erwin, Izard, Johnstone, and DuBose.

Cadwallader, a Welsh name, means "a battle arranger."