

Mount Gallant Joneses led Confederate charge

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■ Cadwallader Jones II organized an army company.
His son was captain of the regiment.

Mount Gallant Road, which winds through eastern and northern Rock Hill, takes its name from a pre-Civil War plantation of the Cadwallader Jones family. The name, Mount Gallant, came from the Jones' pre-Revolutionary estate of the same name on the Roanoke River near Halifax.

The first Cadwallader Jones was a wealthy Virginian and Revolutionary War hero who purchased two York County plantations; Mount Gallant was for Cadwallader Jones II, and Strawberry Hill for his youngest son, Robin Cadwallader Jones. Mount Gallant, the larger of the two plantations, contained about 5,000 acres and many slaves.

When the Civil War broke out, the Jones family gave their all to the Confederacy. The father, Col. Cadwallader Jones II, organized Company H of the 12th South Carolina Regiment.

The story of the Joneses' participation in the Civil War is told in Douglas Summer Brown's "A City Without Cobwebs." Not in the book is the account of Capt. Cad Jones as told in a letter to his brother, Willie Jones, which appeared in the "Confederate Veteran" when Cad Jones was 83 years old. Cad Jones was elected second lieutenant of his father's company when he was 17 and was captain by the time he was 20.

At the time he wrote the letter, Cad Jones was living in Greensboro, Ala., where he had moved soon after the Civil War and Willie Jones was then in the Conveterate Home in Columbia. In his letter, Cad Jones told what happened to him after he assumed the command of Company H.

At Gettysburg, Jones' regiment was to the left of Pickett at the time of the famous charge. Because there was no protection, the men were lying down. The July sun was broiling hot. Jones was lying on a rubber sheet. Because of the heat, he rose up and, just as he did, a shell passed within one inch of his body and through the middle of the sheet he had

just been lying on. The shell plowed a furrow under the ground and wounded several of his men.

At that juncture, Jones had only eight men left of a company that once had numbered 137 men. Col. Miller called to him to bring his company forward. Jones responded that he had only eight men. Miller ordered them forward.

One, W.H. Hand, was killed before they reached a pile of rails for shelter. Jones wrote in his letter, "So, you see, we went in that fight on the first day of July with four officers and about forty men, and came out on the Fourth of July with one officer — myself — and seven men. Pretty well used up, don't you think?"

On the retreat that followed the Confederate defeat that day, Jones remarked that his regiment was the last carried over the river on the pontoon boats. That night on the Virginia side of the river they cooked their supper — the first meal they had had in three days.

The memories of events of 60 years before spilled across the pages. Cad Jones told of being part of Hampton's Legion at Manassas and of being at Wade Hampton's side when he was wounded.

Cad's brother, Iredell Jones, was wounded at the same time. Sixteen-year-old Cad carried the guns of the four men who placed his brother on a blanket and each carried a corner.

Cad was so young and slender that he had hardly the strength to carry the guns. From that episode, described as one bullet putting six men out of the fight, his company made a rule that the wounded would be carried off by an "infirmary squad." No fighting man would be allowed to drop his arms to carry off a wounded comrade.

Cad Jones was himself wounded at the Battle of Jones Farm in Virginia. He was sent to Mount Gallant and was at home when the surrender took place at Appomattox.

The last lines of Cad Jones' lengthy letter to his brother: "And that is why I had the little fight with the two Yankees in my father's yard on the 19th of April, 1865. It was the day the railroad bridge over the Catawba River was burned."

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