

## WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT MYERS FISHER JONES?

Myers Fisher Jones was born in the Northwest Territory probably between 1798 and 1800, one of four sons born to Judge John Rice Jones and Mary Barger Jones. His older brothers, John Rice II, Augustus and George Wallace served in the War of 1812 under Captain Henry Dodge. Myers and Augustus came to Texas in 1838. Their brother, John Rice II, had already come to Texas in 1831 and was granted a labor of land in Brazoria County. Myers probably stayed on that land when he first arrived in Texas.

John Rice Jones II, it is remembered, was the first Postmaster General of the Republic of Texas. Also, his was the hand that penned the initial declaration against Mexican unfairness at San Felipe on July 14, 1835. He was also a Fayette Countian in that he was granted a league of land on Cummins Creek on April 16, 1831. There he established "Fairyland Farm" and died in 1845.

John Rice Jones, Sr., the father of John Rice II and Myers, came to America from Wales in 1784. Living in Philadelphia, he studied law and medicine and graduated from Oxford. He was appointed Attorney General of Indiana by William Henry Harrison in 1801 and was a member of the Territorial Council in 1805. He moved to Kaskaskia, Illinois, and was the first English speaking lawyer to practice in Illinois. He then moved to Missouri where he was a member of the first Constitutional Convention of that state in 1820.

John Rice II, Myers Fisher and Stephen F. Austin were boys together in Missouri while their fathers, John Rice Jones, Sr. and Moses Austin, were business partners running several lead mines near Potosi. The Jones-Austin partnership continued at that place for several years when Jones sold out to Austin and resumed the practice of law in St. Louis. Moses Austin, soon thereafter, sold his mining interest and began his arduous trip to Texas. Stephen F. Austin and the Joneses remained friends and when it fell upon Stephen to continue the work inaugurated by his father, he, no doubt, was in contact with his boyhood friends. Thus, it is understood how and why John Rice Jones II was present and instrumental at the first meetings of the Provisional Government of the later to become Republic of Texas.

Myers F. Jones was a private in a campaign against the Comanche Indians from Sept. 20, 1840, to Nov. 9, 1840, serving under Col. John H. Moore. Thomas J. Rabb was his captain. On June 21, 1841, Jones participated in the Santa Fe Expedition

commanding Company D which was organized in Fayette County. On March 5, 1842, Jones reached San Antonio in a company commanded by Thomas J. Rabb to help defend against a raid by General Vasquez. The Mexican forces retreated back to Mexico and the volunteers disbanded.

Later, Myers F. Jones was a private under the command of Colonel Edward Burleson, after the retreat of General Woll from Texas, where on Sept. 25, 1842, Col. Burleson addressed a crowd of about 1200 in front of the Alamo. Col. Burleson recapitulated the repeated outrages of the Mexicans within the last year or two and outlined a plan for a retaliatory expedition into Mexico. He advised those present to return home, recruit their horses, procure suitable clothing, supplies, arms and ammunition and rendezvous at San Antonio a month later. This plan resulted in what became known as the Somervell Expedition, and, finally, the Battle of Mier on Christmas Day, 1842. No proof was ever found, however, that Myers Fisher Jones served in the ill-fated Somervell Expedition.

Records beyond dispute show that Myers Fisher Jones was Captain of Company "D" in the Snively Expedition of 1843. He had with him on this occasion his nephew, John Rice Jones III. To Myers the credit is due that Fayette County was ever present and heard from in each military operation in Texas from Velasco in 1832 to the time of annexation, Dec. 29, 1845. It is not out of place here to quote from the *Daily Missouri Republican*, St. Louis, dated Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1843, because at that time some newspapers and prejudiced individuals referred to the Snively party as brigands and highwaymen. Captain Myers F. Jones and John Rice Jones III were among those sent home by way of St. Louis under orders of Captain Philip Cooke and this gave friends in the Jones former home state an opportunity to defend the action of all the Texans in Colonel Snively's party. The statement reads in part:

"We have long and familiarly known Myers Fisher Jones, the captain of Company D, in Col. Snively's party. He has repeatedly represented the county of Washington in the legislature of this state, is a man not only above reproach, but above suspicion so far as integrity and truth is concerned, and this character of his will be sustained by the thousands who know him in the vicinity of his former residence. Several years ago he removed to Texas to make it his permanent residence, and while his feelings may be directly enlisted for his adopted country, we know there is no man who entertains a higher or more devoted wish for the reputation and spotless character of his native land."

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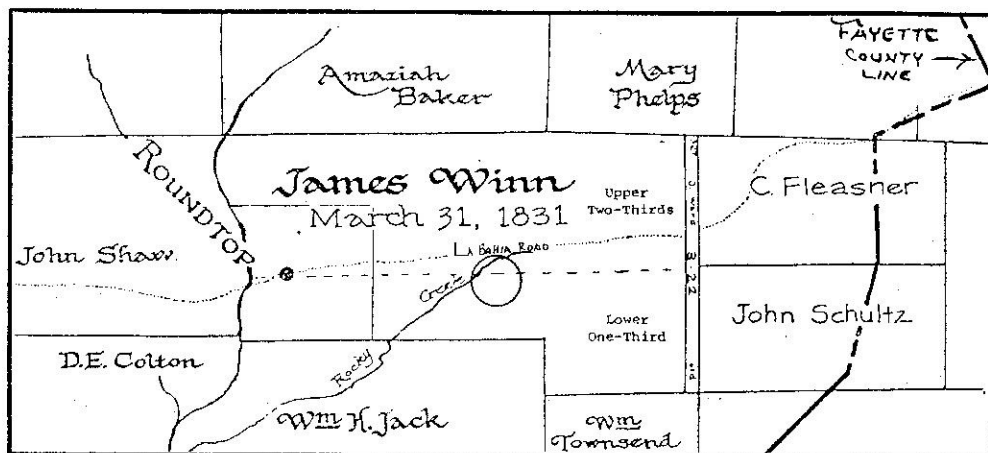
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It is not known exactly when Myers Fisher Jones came to live on the James Winn League in Fayette County, but it is recorded in the records of the postal system of the Republic of Texas that he was appointed postmaster in a place called Jones Post Office on Jan. 15, 1840, on Route #20. It has never been established with any certainty exactly where Jones' Post Office was situated, but an educated guess would place it in Myers home or the stage stop near Rocky Creek. This stage stop later became known as Round Top Place because the top of the building had an octagonal shape. The stage drivers would yell out upon their approach....."round top!".....thus giving birth to the name of the area first known as Old Round Top Place. The first land deed making mention of "the round top place" (not capitalized) is recorded in the Fayette County Deed Records in Volume H, Page 87 and dated March 4, 1851.



## **The James Winn League**

The broken line indicates the league division.  
The circle indicates the general area of old Round Top Place

Postal records further indicate that the Jones' Post Office collected revenue of \$87.87 in 1840. Although Myers F. Jones maintained a post office in the area and lived on the land, it wasn't until May 18, 1846, that he was finally successful in purchasing the Upper Two-Thirds of the James Winn League. See illustration above and also refer to *Facts & Artifacts*, Vol. 1, No. 3, Fall of 1994, for the explanation of this purchase.

Myers F. Jones was married twice. His first wife gave birth to a daughter on Oct. 30, 1821, in Missouri and they named her Mary Jane. Mary Jane married John Rufus Alexander in Fayette County on Nov. 30, 1843, and they made their home on the James Winn League near the Round Top of today. Myers second wife was Patsy Peery.

For a detailed description of the men of Fayette County fighting in this period of time, Fall of 1841 to Summer of 1843, the editor refers the reader to *An Early History of Fayette County*, by Leonie Rummel Weyand and Houston Wade, Eakin Press, Burnet, Texas, pages 139 to 205.

Other references for the compilation of this article are:

*The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XXXV, No. 2, editor, Eugene C. Barker, dated Oct, 1931, pages 146 through 150.  
*Facts and Artifacts*, Vol. 4, No. 1, by Herbert L. Diers, editor.