Biography of David Winston Jones

Buried in Historic African American Cemetery, East End Cemetery, in Richmond, Virginia

By Michael Flanagan and Kathleen Gruber

David Winston Jones’ gravestone provides that he was born on May 10, 1910 and died on May 28, 1978. He served as a Private in the U.S. Army during World War II. All records indicate that he lived the entirety of his life as a resident of Virginia (though he married in Washington, D.C.). David was raised in his early years by his father, David and his mother, Lenora. He was married twice, and was the father of two biological children, and a step-father to seven.

In this biography, for the sake of clarity, I will refer to David Winston Jones as David W. Jones II or David II. David Jones is a family name that was given to him by his father: David W. Jones Sr. However, David II was referred to as David W. Jones, Sr. during his life, as on the marriage certificate of his son, “Father’s Full Name” is listed as David W. Jones, Sr. David Jones II had a child David W. Jones, as well, which we will call David W. Jones III.

Early Life

David was the third of six children in the Jones family. He was born to parents Lenora (Lola) Jasper Jones (...) and David W. Jones Sr. (1881-1946). He had an older brother, John

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1 The author is a volunteer with enrichmond.com. Questions, comments, suggested clarifications, and other information about David Jones and his family are welcome. Final draft completed by Enrichmond Intern Kathleen Gruber.

Oliver Jones (1909-1965) and an older sister, Lavinia Jones (1908-1975). He had four younger siblings- Richardson Jones (1911-), Ernest Lee Jones (1912-1969), Cornelia Elizabeth Jones (1915-2006), and Edith Naomi Jones (1923-1996). His brother, Ernest Lee Jones, served along with David II in World War II.  


The earliest childhood record of David II is the 1920 US Federal Census. The Census listing details that David Jones Sr. worked as an Iron Works laborer, and that the family of seven rented a house on Thomas Street.

However, there is a record of a David Jones in the Richmond Times Dispatch on March 3rd, 1920, in the section entitled, “Happy Richmond Pupils Win Honors for School Work”. Under “Maury School”, in the “2-B2” grade, you can find 10-year-old David Jones in the First Honors category.

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3 The National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; WWII Draft Registration Cards for Virginia, 10/16/1940 – 03/31/1947; Record Group: Records of the Selective Service System, 147; Box: 401
4 Julia Lockett is not related to Mary Lockett, David II’s second wife.
5 Year: 1920; Census Place: Richmond Lee Ward, Richmond (Independent City), Virginia; Roll: T625_1910; Page: 14B; Enumeration District: 88
David Jones II and Geneva A. Smith’s Marriage

There are several sources that cite David Jones II’s marriage to Geneva Adel Smith (1912-1993) on November 14, 1928, in Washington D.C. ⁸ The District of Columbia Marriage Record lists David II’s birth date as about 1907, which is inconsistent with all other records. For all census listings described in this biography herein, 1811 Thomas Street appears to be David II’s place of residence through the end of his marriage to Geneva Smith. David II and Geneva would go on to divorce in April of 1948. The divorce decree does corroborate their marriage date and location. ⁹

Geneva was born to Arabella N. Moore and Sidney Lewis Smith in 1912. She had two sisters, Margaret Smith Coles and Annie Smith.

Interestingly, there are no records of David II and Geneva living in Washington, D.C. While married, the 1940 U.S. Federal Census states that Geneva and their son, David Jones III,

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⁹ Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia Divorce Records, 1918-2014
lived at 1811 Thomas Street in Richmond; additionally, this was also listed as her place of residence in 1935. It can be inferred that David II lived in this household as well, as the 1811 Thomas Street address is listed in his WWII Draft Card. There is some mystery over David II’s place of residence during the early 1930’s. It is of note that 1811 Thomas Street is very close to Virginia Union University, and there may have been some connection between the Jones family and the VUU community.

According to the 1940 census reports, David Jones III was born around 1929. He married Mary Johnson (1929-, a hospital worker, in Richmond on April 29, 1947, when they were both 18 years old.\textsuperscript{10} David III worked as a Janitor in his early career.

David Jones II and Geneva may have had another child together, Evelyn Jones, who was born in 1936. Since, in 1940, Geneva lived with her mother Arabella Smith, and is listed to have had her two children, David III and Evelyn Jones, with her. At the same time, her sister, Margaret Coles, and her two children, Gladys (1939-) and Morris Coles Jr. (1940-), lived with the mother, as well.\textsuperscript{11} This can be assumed to be in response to their father Sidney L. Smith’s possible passing.\textsuperscript{12}

David Jones II enlisted in the US army in September of 1942 per the US WWII Draft Card Young Men’s (1940-1947) seen below. According to the record, David enlisted at the age of 30. His Army service lasted 5 years, as he was honorably discharged from the Army according

\textsuperscript{10} On the marriage record David Jones III’s age is listed as 18, leading to the assumption that he was born around 1929; Ancestry.com. Virginia, Marriage Records, 1936-2014 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015

\textsuperscript{11} From the name of her child, we can assume that Margaret Coles was married to a Morris Coles; Ancestry.com. 1940 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

\textsuperscript{12} There is no record supporting this. All sources about Sidney Smith are before 1940, and none following.
to the Draft Card and the Department of Veteran Affairs BIRLS Death File. 13 As shown on the card, Geneva is listed as “Wife (Estranged)” - meaning that she, and their children, lived with her mother, Arabella, during his time at war.

![Figure 3: David II’s Honorable Discharge](image)

Four years after his divorce, David II married Mary Susan Lockett on August 2, 1952, in Richmond City, Virginia. 14 Mary was 50 when she married David II. She worked as a meat packer in Richmond, placing her birth somewhere between 1896 and 1902. Mary was born in 1895 in Amelia County, VA, to Susan Brown Lockett and Paul Lockett (1843-1952), and lived there into her mid 20’s. Her parents married in 1875, and had nine children, giving Mary seven siblings: William Edward (1877-), Richard (1878-1937), Fannie (1879-1988), John (1880-1922), Ellen V. (1882-), Wayne (1883-), Ethel (1887-), and Paul Lee (1894-1976). 15 Mary’s oldest sister Fannie married John R. Branch in 1914, and they had seven children together. Her brother John married Mary Kriable Harris in 1902. Her sister Ellen V. married

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14 Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia, Marriages, 1936-2014; Roll: 101167560

15 Fannie is also listed to go by “Fanny”, and Paul L. is also listed as “Paulie” - likely to distinguish himself from his father, Paul Lockett, from whom he was given his name.
Wescott Hill in 1902, as well, and they had three children together. Her brother Wayne married Marie Lockett, and they had a son, William, in 1910.\(^{16}\) Paul Lee would go on to fight in both World War I and II. Paul was listed as married in his WWI draft card, but divorced on his death certificate. On his WWII draft card, he listed that his older sister Mary would always know his address; a reminder of how close she was with all of her siblings, even as the very youngest child.

As it turns out, in a strange coincidence, Mary’s oldest brother William was drafted into World War II at the same time as David II in 1942, and they even had been working for the same employer - Export Leaf Tobacco Company on Lombardy Street, in Richmond, Virginia - as shown in both of their draft cards.\(^{17}\) Export Leaf was a subsidiary of Universal Leaf Tobacco Co. - the largest independent leaf tobacco dealer in the world.\(^{18}\) It is possible that William and David’s working and fighting together is what led to David and Mary’s later wedding. David Jones II worked in several professions throughout the rest of his adult life.

\(^{16}\) This fact is corroborated evidence, it may not be the same Wayne Lockett; New York State Archives; Albany, New York; State Population Census Schedules, 1925; Election District: 05; Assembly District: 02; City: Smithtown; County: Suffolk; Page: 1

\(^{17}\) The National Archives at St. Louis; St. Louis, Missouri; Record Group Title: Records of the Selective Service System; Record Group Number: 147

\(^{18}\) The National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; WWII Draft Registration Cards for Virginia, 10/16/1940 – 03/31/1947; Record Group: Records of the Selective Service System, 147; Box: 401
Mary moved to Richmond sometime before the 1930 Census, at which time she was 34.

**Charles Curtis and Mary Lockett’s Marriage**

Mary had been previously married to Charles Wilbert Curtis from 1914 to 1940, when they filed for divorce. They lived in Amelia County, Virginia for the course of their marriage. Charles was born to Benjamin (1868-1950) and Emma Curtis (1870- ) in 1890, and had one brother, Alexander (1895-1963) and two sisters, Flossie Bell (1898-) and Maud (1892-). His brother Alexander married Virginia Smith on April 5, 1916, and his sister Flossie married that same year to Ben Castle on August 23. Flossie and Ben had a son, Alexander Huck Castle (1917-1993). Ben, also called Bennie, Castle actually fought in both World War I and II. Right after marrying Virginia, his brother Alexander was drafted into World War I - joining his

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19 Cook Photograph Collection. 1125/PHC0047. The Valentine, Richmond, Virginia
21 Alexander Huck is also listed as Aleck Hugh in different sources; Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia, Births, 1864-2016
brother-in-law Ben. Virginia and Alexander later had a son, Hodges Wise Curtis, who followed in his father’s footsteps by fighting in World War II from 1943 to 1945.22 He is listed to have even been incarcerated by the Nazi army in France in November 1944.23

Figure 5: Hodges’ Draft Card

Together, Mary and Charles had nine children. Their children were: Leon (1918-1991), Ester Waine (1920-2013), Charles W. (1921-), Carl L. (1922-), Arethe (1925-), and Mary Oliver (1929-1998). On most census records, Charles was either listed as a gardener or a farm worker, and Mary as an in-home laundress.25 They occasionally hosted boarders, such as Julia Johnson, a waitress at a hospital, around 1930. Her son Leon Curtis, born Feb. 7, 1917, was drafted into World War II at the age of 24, at which time he lived in Washington, DC. Also at that time, his mother, Mary S. Curtis at the time, lived at 2007 Bath Street in Richmond, VA. 26

23 Arolsen Archives, Digital Archive; Bad Arolsen, Germany; Lists of Persecutees 2.1.3.1
24 The National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; WWII Draft Registration Cards for Virginia, 10/16/1940-03/31/1947; Record Group: Records of the Selective Service System, 147; Box: 181
25 1920 Federal Census and 1930 Federal Census

**David Jones II and Mary Lockett’s Marriage**

Upon their marriage in 1952, David II became a step-father for all of Mary’s children in her previous marriage, in addition to his two, David III and Evelyn, from his own first marriage. David II and Mary remained married through the end of David’s life. They lived at 129 N. Virginia Ave.

According to his Certificate of Marriage to Mary Lockett, David II worked as a box maker in 1952.\textsuperscript{28} In David II’s Certificate of Death in 1978, his last occupation is listed as a laborer in the railroad industry.\textsuperscript{29} Almost all of David II’s occupations were listed as a laborer of various industries, though his service in the US Army is clearly a point of pride, as it is displayed on his tombstone at his place of final resting.

David Jones II died on May 28, 1978, in Richmond City, Virginia, at the age of 66 from Acute Coronary Insufficiency.\textsuperscript{30} He was buried in the East End Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. Mary later died on July 17, 1996, at the age of 101.\textsuperscript{31}

\textsuperscript{27} Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia Deaths, 1912-2014
\textsuperscript{29} Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia Deaths, 1912-2014
Jones Family Tree

David Winston Jones Sr. (1861–1948)

Lanora Jasper Jones (1865–1932)

Charles Winston Curtis (Born 1902)

Mary S. Lockett Curtis Jones (1885–1966)

David Winston Jones (1913–1979)

Geneva Smith (1913–1983)

Richardson Jones (Born 1911)

Ernest Lee Jones (1913–1969)

Comelia Elizabeth Jones (1913–2002)

Edith Naomi Jones (1923–1996)

Charles B. Robinson (1923–2001)

Aretha Curtis Jackson (Born 1922)

Robert Jackson (1929–1979)

Mary Oliver Curtis (1928–1989)

Eugene Brailley (1929–1989)

David Winston Jones III (Born 1930)

Evelyn Jones (Born 1936)

Lavina Jones (1938–1973)

David Putum Epps (1938–1949)


John Oliver Jones (1963–1985)

Leon Curtis (1917–1981)

Esther W. Curtis Bailey (1923–2013)

Harry Bailey (1915–1985)

Carl L. Curtis (Born 1922)
Bibliography


Arolsen Archives, Digital Archive; Bad Arolsen, Germany; Lists of Persecutees 2.1.3.1

Cook Photograph Collection. 1125/PHC0047. The Valentine, Richmond, Virginia


New York State Archives; Albany, New York; State Population Census Schedules, 1925; Election District: 05; Assembly District: 02; City: Smithtown; County: Suffolk; Page: 1

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Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia, Births, 1864-2016
Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia Deaths, 1912-2014


Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia, Marriages, 1936-2014; Roll: 101167560

Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia Deaths, 1912-2014

Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia Divorce Records, 1918-2014.

Year: 1920; Census Place: Richmond Lee Ward, Richmond (Independent City), Virginia; Roll: T625_1910; Page: 14B; Enumeration District: 88.