

**1. James Harding Jones**  
**(January 12, 1897 -- January 11, 1988)**

James Harding Jones was born in Sunny Side, Mississippi as were his brother Yerger and sister Eloise. His older half-brother Means Johnston and half-sister Ida McGehee Johnston were born in nearby Shell Mound. I think all of the children of Eula Viola Jones must have lived in the same home together.



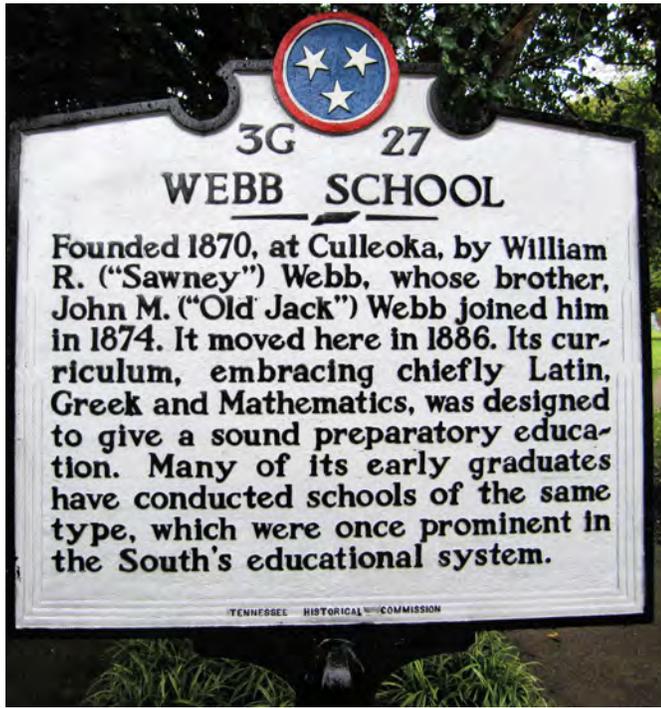
l. to r.: Means Johnston, Florence Lee Jones and Ida McGhee Johnston.

When Jimmy was less than ten years old, his father presented him with a pony and a shotgun. One day as Jimmy was learning to ride, the pony started chasing a horse. While the pony stopped abruptly in front of a barbed wire fence, Jimmy continued on over the fence but was unharmed except for losing his hat. Fortunately there were no accidents with the gun.



James Harding Jones, c. age 4

1903 - 1917. Jimmy Jones' education began in a one-teacher elementary school at Sunny Side where his family lived at least until his father's death. At some point after 1907 his mother moved to nearby Schlater where she resided until her death in 1929. Jimmy attended school for two years in Schlater. In 1911 at age 14 he was enrolled as a student at the private academy, Webb School, located in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. Records at Webb School contain his signature for the four school years from 1911-12 through 1914-15. For each year he listed his half-brother, Means Johnston, as his guardian. In 1911 his half-brother Means was 26 years old, had graduated from the University of Mississippi with a law degree and was able to help his younger half-brother receive an excellent education. Jimmy held Webb School and its founder Sawney Webb in very high esteem. During the summers, 1912-1915, he worked in a store in Schlater. Upon graduation he attended the University of Mississippi until the spring of 1917.



Historical marker on the campus of Webb School at Bell Buckle, Tennessee.

1917 - 1919. The war in Europe (World War I) began in 1914 and the United States entered the conflict in 1916. On April 12, 1917 James H. Jones at age 20 enlisted in the United States Army at Greenwood, Mississippi. He was initially assigned to Battery C of the 140th Field Artillery and later transferred to the 117th Ammunition Train of the Mississippi Rainbow Division under the command of Colonel Douglas MacArthur. He once told me that while in training his group used broomsticks for marching since rifles were not available in sufficient numbers. According to his enlistment records, his division took part in the following offensive engagements:

July 18, 1918 to August 1, 1918 -- Aisne Marne;  
August 3, 1918 to August 30, 1918 -- St. Mihiel;  
September 30, 1918 to November 11, 1918 --  
Meuse - Argonne. Jimmy received an honorable discharge from the army at Camp Shelby, Mississippi on April 28, 1919. His discharge paper states that at the time of his enlistment he had blue eyes, dark hair, fair complexion and he was 5 feet 11 inches tall. He served with the rank of private. Following the war he was sent to a TB camp in Louisiana to recover from the effects of being exposed to poison gas and later to a hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.



James Harding Jones, United States Army, Mississippi Rainbow Division, 1917-1919.



Private James Harding Jones, U.S. Army

1922 - 1924. He returned to the University of Mississippi in 1922, completing a B.A. degree in 1924 with a major in classical languages, Latin and Greek. At Ole Miss he was the president of the Greek Club. (I think the term "Greek" used here did not refer to fraternities but rather to the Greek language.) Following are some excerpts of material written by James H. Jones regarding the years 1923 to 1936.

"On June 5, 1923, I married Miss Myra Hume, daughter of Dr. Alfred Hume, Chancellor of the University. (ed. note: Dr. Hume was Vice-Chancellor in 1923 and became Chancellor in 1924.) My senior year Dr. A. L. Bondurant permitted me to teach a beginners class in Latin, and from that class came Federal Judge Omar Smith. In the summer Dr. A. W. Milden allowed me to teach a Greek class."



Myra Hume married James H. Jones on June 5, 1923 at the home on the Ole Miss campus of her parents Dr. Alfred Hume and Mary Hill Ritchey Hume.

1924 - 1932. "My first experience at teaching was at the famous Webb School of Bell Buckle, Tenn. 37020. At this school I taught Latin, English, French and mathematics. We rented a small cottage in the back yard of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Webb, Sr. who invited us to Thanksgiving dinner and to Christmas dinner. They took us for an automobile ride and treated us as if we were their children. Mr. Webb used to say that our baby, James H. Jones, Jr. would go to sleep to keep from hearing me sing."



James Harding Jones, c. 1923



William Webb Hall on campus of Webb School

“After teaching one year at Webb School we went to Branham and Hughes Military Academy in Spring Hill, Tennessee where I taught Latin and French for seven years, 1924 to 1932. During this period I attended classes at Vanderbilt University in Nashville from 1930 to 1931 and lacked only one subject from being awarded the Master of Arts degree.”



Historical marker on the site of Branham and Hughes Military Academy.

1932 - 1934. In 1932 America was in the midst of the Great Depression. Banks had collapsed, unemployment had reached 25% and Branham and Hughes Academy was forced to close. With the advice and financial support of his father-in-law, Dr. Alfred Hume, Jimmy took Myra and their three boys to France so that he could complete a doctorate program in the French language. On Monday June 27, 1932 Jimmie, Myra, James, Alfred Hume and William Branham left Spring Hill at 10:00 A.M. driving their 1929 Dodge car beginning their journey to France. On Thursday June 30 they stayed with Jimmie's sister Mrs. Dalton (Ida Johnston) Warren in Sparta, North Carolina. On Wednesday July 6 they continued their journey driving to New York. After a few weeks in Paris learning French conversation at the Sorbonne, the family continued its journey in the Dodge car to Montpellier.



The family's car: 1929 Dodge

During the next two years Jimmie worked on his degree at the University of Montpellier while Myra took care of the three children with the aid of a French cook named Felicie who not only prepared meals but also did the shopping for groceries.



By 1933 Jimmy and Myra Hume Jones had three children: Alfred Hume Jones 6, William Branham Jones 2 and James, Jr. 9. Adults are Felicie (cook), Mlle Suzanne Bennet and Myra.

During the European years the family traveled to many parts of France, through the Alps mountains, to Rome, Italy and in much of Spain. Always in the 1929 Dodge.



Here we are feeding the birds in front of the Palace of the Doges (1933) in Montpellier. From left to right: Myra Hume Jones, Mlle Chegaray, William Branham Jones, Alfred Hume Jones, James H. Jones, Jr and Mlle Buller.

In 1934 Dr. James H. Jones was awarded the degree Docteur Mention-Lettres de L'Universite de

Montpellier, France. He was also awarded the Certificat d'etudes pratique de prononciation française from the University of Paris. And the family began its journey back to America with a greatly increased vision of the rest of the world and its variety of cultures and languages. And many European friends for life.

Returning from Europe, Dr. Jones taught French for one year (1934-35) at the Greenbrier Military School at Lewisburg, West Virginia. It was a beautiful setting in the Appalachian mountains. But now with a doctorate in a modern language, Dr. Jones was able to join a college faculty.



Lewisburg, WV 1934-35. l. to r.: James, Jr., William Branham, Myra in back, Captain Jones and Alfred Hume.

### 1936-1946. The Great Depression and World War II.

In January 1936 he accepted a position of Professor of French and Head of the Foreign Language Department at Jacksonville State Teachers College at Jacksonville, Alabama (now Jacksonville State University). In the midst of the Great Depression the President of JSTC, Dr. C. W. Dauge, was able to hire some very competent faculty with doctorates from universities such as Harvard, the University of North Carolina and University of Montpellier to come to this small college located in the northeastern Alabama foothills of the Appalachian mountains.

The Great Depression lasted throughout the 1930's and even until the end of World War II. Thus to help pay the bills Myra went back to school at Ole Miss to obtain enough courses in education to be able to teach. Her first job was thirteen miles north of Jacksonville at Piedmont High School where she taught French and algebra. She commuted to Piedmont with a group of three other faculty wives. My brother Al (Alfred Hume) attended Piedmont High for a year or two with her.



Myra Hume Jones at Piedmont High School, 13 miles from Jacksonville, Alabama

Myra attended classes at Ole Miss during the summers and taught during the rest of the year. In August 1949 she completed the requirements for a Master of Arts degree in the School of Education at the University of Mississippi. Mom doubted that the education courses were of much help to her other than giving her the required credentials for teaching. However, I'm sure she enjoyed the opportunity to return to Ole Miss and live in the home of her parents. I remember summers being very hot and humid, when Mom had her three sons with her in Oxford and Dad was taking small groups touring France. Another thing that added enjoyment to her graduate work was the masters thesis:

*Tenets and Attitudes of an Old-Time Teacher (Alfred Hume)*, by Myra Hume Jones, A Thesis submitted to the faculty of the University of Mississippi in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in the School of Education, August, 1949.

It consisted of a carefully chosen set of articles that had been written by her father mainly having to do with his methods and philosophy of education. For her research she was given access to his full collected works. I am sure that this was a work of love on her part. And it was greatly appreciated by the faculty of Ole Miss because it brought together in one document, 133 pages, the work of Chancellor Alfred Hume who devoted almost 60 years of his life to the university. Several decades later another graduate student in the School of Education at Ole Miss wrote a doctoral thesis along the same lines as Myra's thesis.

In 1940 James H. Jones published a book written in French with a friend from Montpellier, Mlle A. Buhler, describing travels throughout France. The book contains a large number of pictures, a list of notes at the end and a vocabulary of French to English so that it can be used in a first year course in French for English speaking students. The reference is: UN BEAU VOYAGE by J. H. Jones and A. Buhler; Allyn and Bacon, New York 9(1940), 350 pages.

At the beginning of World War II (1941) my brother James reached the age of eighteen, graduated from Jacksonville High School and joined the United States Marine Corps. After basic training in the U.S. he was shipped overseas to a small (5 miles by 2 miles) island, Emirau, in the Pacific Ocean where he stayed on duty throughout the duration of the war. Emirau is part of the St. Mathias islands and is located just north of Papua New Guinea. He served with the 61<sup>st</sup> Marine Air Group whose mission was to bomb New Ireland and New Briton daily using B25s, thus preventing Japanese airplanes from taking off. After the war James attended the University of Mississippi and attained a B.A. degree in chemistry.

At home Mom was able to obtain a teaching position in the Jacksonville School System which was operated by the college as a teaching laboratory. In addition the Jones' land consisting of about three acres was converted into a small farm: one milk cow, four milk goats, one billy goat and about 500 laying chickens. Fort McClelland about six miles from our home took all of the eggs our hens could produce. In addition Mom had a

victory garden that produced large numbers of vegetables eaten mostly by the Jones family. Dad took on night-time summer work in the post office at the army base. If that was not enough, Myra and Jimmy remodeled their home so that they could rent three apartments to service families and anyone else in need of living space. Our cousin John Kelton (the son of Mom's sister, Mary) came to visit us during one summer when the remodeling was going on.



The Jones goats and cow in homemade barn at the back part of our three-acre lot. James at center of photo.

#### Children of James. H. and Myra Hume Jones



Three Jones boys: James, Jr., William Branham and Alfred Hume, 1933 in Montpellier, France



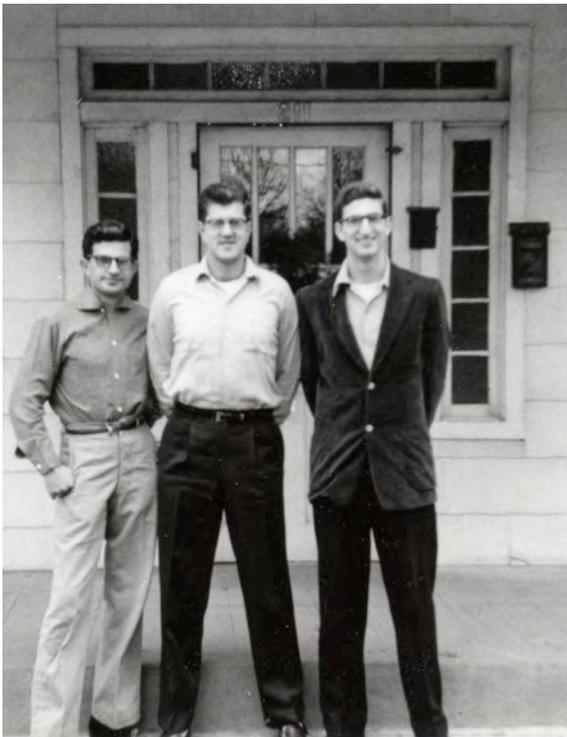
Alfred, William Branham & James



Jones family 1953. Front: James Jr., Myra Hume and James H.; back: Alfred Hume and William Branham



In search of a Christmas tree at Oxford, MS: Alfred Hume Jones, William (Bill) Branham Jones and James Harding Jones, Jr.



Three Jones boys c. 1956 at 211 West Mountain Ave. in Jacksonville, AL. James, Jr., Alfred Hume and William Branham. This was the Jones family home from 1936 until it was sold to John B. Nisbet, Jr. in about 1966.



Three Jones boys in Jacksonville, AL: Alfred Hume, James, Jr. and William Branham. We returned to Jacksonville for an International House Program reunion in October 2004.