Griffith-Jones Old Home Place

The Griffith-Jones Old Home Place is located at the intersection of Concord Church and Williams roads, southwest of Lewisville. In 1807, William Griffith Sr. and his wife, Susannah Waggoner, purchased 138 acres of land on Double Creek, in what was then Stokes County. They bought 90 acres from Adam Waggoner at a cost of $200 and 48 acres from Jacob Black for $125. Born in 1765, William Sr. operated a saw mill on the creek at the time of his death in 1845.

William Reid Griffith Jr., born to William Sr. and Susannah in 1806, inherited his father’s land. He added acreage to his holdings, bringing the size of the farm to 245 acres by the time of his death in 1878. William Jr. farmed and in 1869 was listed as a Justice of the Peace in Forsyth County. He, his wife Susanna Burge Moore, and their son William E. Griffith are buried in a private graveyard on their farm. Their graves are located on the eastern side of Concord Church Road, approximately 1/5 mile southeast of the Griffith-Jones Old Home Place, near a small pond.

In 1837, Mary Mildred Margaret Ann Griffith was born to William Jr. and Susanna. At the time of Mary’s marriage to William Asbury Jones in 1859, her father provided 40 acres of land on which to build a house. The 1 1/2 story, hall-and-parlor plan log house has a side gable roof and is one room deep. A brick chimney at the north end of the house provided heat. At one time, the house was finished on the exterior with wooden weatherboards, but they were removed in the last quarter of the 20th century. A log addition, which may be an earlier farm outbuilding, was added to the rear of the house during the same period.

Mary and Asbury Jones, who served as a magistrate in Lewisville Township, had seven children between 1859 and 1874. Mary and Asbury had one daughter, Mary Susan “Susie”. Their six sons were Leon Reid, Albert William, John “Elery”, Joel “Alvis”, Enoch “Wesley”, and Bertley “Bert” Monroe Asbury. Asbury died in 1876, at age 46, from a wound he sustained fighting in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Mary died in 1883, at age 45. The youngest four Jones children were minors at the time of her death. In settling Mary’s estate, the Griffith-Jones land was divided into six equal shares, one for each brother.

By 1900, the only daughter of Mary and Asbury, 34-year-old Susie, had been married to David Binkley, a farmer and deputy sheriff, for fifteen years. She had given birth to four children, though only three survived. The family owned a farm in Lewisville. Albert’s first wife, Victoria, had died in 1893. He and his second wife, Lizzie, lived with their son, Raleigh; Lizzie’s sister; and an African-American servant on a farm they owned in Lewisville. Newlywed Elery was listed as a farm laborer in the Census and, with his wife Mamie, rented a house next door to Albert and Lizzie. Alvis; his wife, Emma; and their son, Crouse lived at 116 Spruce Street in Winston, where Alvis worked as a salesman. Wesley, the only sibling to permanently leave Forsyth County, lived in Farmington Township, Davie County, on a rented farm with his second wife, Mamie; their daughter, and a son from his first marriage to Vestep.
By 1910, Susie Binkley was a widow, but she continued to farm her land with the help of her son, Arlington. Elery’s wife had also died, and he lived with Susie, working as a house carpenter. Leon and his wife, Nora, lived on a farm they owned on Clemmons and Pfafftown Road with five of their children. Alvis, partner in the Jones & Gentry Shoe Store, still lived at 116 Spruce Street. His first wife, Emma, had died, but he had married again. Bert lived alone on a farm he owned on Williams Road. Wesley, now a Wesleyan minister, had moved to Union Township in Randolph County and was newly married to Mollie, who was step-mother to his three children. Albert worked for I.C. Shore and Company in Petersburg, Virginia during this period.

Susie and her son, Arlington, still to lived together on their farm in 1920. That year, Leon and Nora had only two of their children and two grandchildren at home on the farm. Albert, Lizzie, and their four children had returned to their Lewisville farm, where he served intermittently as a Justice of the Peace and magistrate. Elery had married and lost a second wife. He lived on a farm in Lewisville with his two children and Bert. Alvis had also been widowed a second time with the death of Josephine, but he remained in Winston-Salem. The seven children of Mary and Asbury hosted a family reunion at the log house in 1926 with over 100 people in attendance.

Susie, Albert, Bert, and Elery – and many the of Jones’ spouses – are buried at Concord United Methodist Church in Lewisville, just over a mile from where they were raised. Though a life-long member at Concord, Leon is buried at Sharon Methodist Church. Alvis, who converted to the Moravian faith, is buried at God’s Acre in Salem. Wesley is buried at Shady Grove Wesleyan Church Cemetery in Colfax, Guilford County.

Bert never married and had no direct-line heirs. In his 1947 will, he left the Old Home Place to his nephew, Casper N. Jones. Casper was Albert’s son, with whom Bert lived for a time prior to his death. Casper and his wife, Esterline “Ollie”, sold the land to Lanier and Rebecca Williams in 1985.