Timeline of Records: Evan Jones and his wives Mary Stevenson and Bridget Mathews

This timeline of records gives information on Evan Jones, Mary Stevenson, Bridget Mathews, and the Jones children (John, Thomas, Evan, James, Edward, and Mary Jones). As I have looked at this family group many questions have arisen. As a Mathews family researcher, I have been most interested to identify the mother of Evan Jones’ children. The evidence seems to point to Mary Stevenson as the mother of all of the Jones children, but this is not certain. Family histories vary greatly in dividing out the children between the two wives. This timeline includes not only records, but also speculative events, personal thoughts, and clarifying information. Further information on the Evan Jones family is welcome. Pam Garrett, 2016.

1689; Evan Jones, born 25 1st mo 1689.

[pam garrett’s comment] Notes on Evan Jones - According to Jones family histories, Evan Jones is a younger son of Dr Edward Jones and Mary Wynne, who came from Wales to Pennsylvania in 1681. They were members of the Quaker settlement in Merion township, Montgomery county Pennsylvania - and also part of a larger family group that included several by the name Evan Jones. Very little is known about the early years of Evan Jones’ life. Few clearly identifiable records have been found before his appearance in Orange county New York in the 1740’s, when he was already age fifty. Family histories tell us that Evan Jones was a prominent doctor, probably in Philadelphia, and that Thomas Cadwallader, his nephew, studied in his office. The histories also indicate that Evan Jones removed to New York - various years are given 1710, 1718, 1728. Bios for Evan Jones’ son, Dr John Jones, indicate that John was born about 1729 at Jamaica, Long Island, New York. After much searching I have located clues to Evan Jones in that area.

1720 (after); "... Of the physicians, up to this period, it is to be regretted that little can be said beyond a mere mention of their names. Since 1720, Doctors Evan Jones, Berrien, Hugh Rogers, Thomas Sackett, and Joseph Sackett, are found officiating in the best families.

1727; - Evan Jones married first, by 7 Feb 1727, Mary Stevenson of Flushing and Burlington, New York daughter of Thomas Stevenson, and she died 19 6 month 174?, in her 70th year.

[pam garrett’s comment] Notes on Mary Stevenson - I have come across several statements related to Mary Stevenson (Stephenson) that give conflicting information related to her father, birth year, and death. Mary Stevenson is named in the 1727 Will of her father, John Stevenson of Westchester county New York - "Whereas I have given to my daughter Mary, wife of Evan
Jones, £200 in cash, and a mare and saddle of the value of £15, and my mother-in-law, Mary Perkins, late deceased, has given her considerable value. The evidence of John Stevenson’s family would suggest that Mary Stevenson was born about 1700, making her a good candidate to have married Evan Jones around the year 1725. He would have been about age thirty-five at the time of this marriage. It seems likely that Mary Stevenson was the mother of all of Evan Jones’ children. We have no certain date for the death of Mary Stevenson, but it was probably sometime between 1745 - 1750, when she would have been in her mid to late forties.

1732; Evan Jones served as witness to the Will of Rev Thomas Poyer, written 8 January 1731-32, of Jamaica, Queens county New York. Dr Evan Jones was his personal physician.

1744; Letter - Evan Jones to Cadwallader Colden
July 17th 1744 Much Esteemed Frd Colden when thee left my house I promisd if business did not hinder to come & see thee before thee set out on thy Journey, but I think it is Generally my fortune to be Impeded in those very things wch I have ye greatest mind to perform, & it is the cares of this life & Hurry of business wch hinders at this time, & hope thee’ll take my good will in lieu of the deed but as to ye other part of my promise & readily will Comply wth, & wch is fully Exprest in the Inclosed. It is my Opinion yt every Candid & upright man will (agreeable to the Sundry Stations of Life they are plac’d in) not only think it their duty, but also Endeavour to Advance & promote the Generall good of his fellow Creatures [continued, lengthy discourse on this subject of benefitting ones fellow man] . . . I have often blushd & been Confus’d at thy Sundry Solicitations, requesting me to give some acct of the Experimt I made on the bite of the rattle snake & never till now made any attempt't to gratifie thy Inclination, & tho’ I was convinc’d as if I had it by Demonst ration yt thee had no other views in it farther then a Generous principle of makeing it publick for the benefitt of mankind, & more Especially to many hundreds of poor people far Distant from any help or assistance from men in practice, therefore now I most willingly Comunicate the Tryall & Experiments I made & is sett apart in the Inclosed & thee may freely put it into what other Dress thee pleases & then Communicate ye same for the aprobation of ym Gentlemen in Philada who have formd ymselves into a societie for the propogation of useful knowledge please to make my kind regard acceptable to Doctr Thomas Bond also to our honest Frd James the Botanist & to all ye Gentlemen of yr. societie tho am personially unacquainted &c. I am wth sincerity thy lo. & respected Frd. Evan Jones.
[Indorsed] To Dr Colden at his house

1744; Letter - Cadwallader Colden to John Arnett, 28 May 1744; Notes the death of Mrs John Hill of Orange co, NY; says that Mrs Jackson and Dr Jones are the only friends of Mrs Hill and they ordered the burial.

1746; To be sold; The farm late of John Haskoll’s and now in the possession of Evan Jones, at the High Lands in Ulster County, containing two thousand acres, joining to the Lands of Ellison, Alsop, and Chambers, at the distance of one mile from Hudson’s river and extends westward
two miles and a half. [lengthy description follows] Any person or persons having a mind to purchase said farm, may be further informed by Evan Jones, who live on said plantation. [source] New York Gazette or Weekly Post Boy; 3 Feb 1746.

[pam garrett's comment] The advertisement above describes the Jones’ farm known as The Hermitage. In 1746 Vincent Mathews’ farm was nearby or adjoining this property, as it was associated with the Chamber's patent. It appears that the Jones’ farm did not sell in 1746, as it is again for sale by Evan Jones’ sons in 1760, and an eventual sale is noted in 1763.

1745 - 1750; Likely marriage of Evan Jones and Bridget Mathews.

[pam garrett's comment] Dates for Mary Stevenson Jones’ death, and the remarriage of Evan Jones to Bridget Mathews are not known, but several things suggest that this occurred between 1745 - 1750. Presently in this database I have Bridget Mathews’ birth set between 1730 - 1740. If she married in the suggested time period, her birth was probably 1730 or before. This is possible, but leaves us with the situation of a young woman, about age twenty, marrying an almost sixty year old widower, who died in 1755. There is evidence that she outlived her husband by more than twenty-five years. Her name is still given as Bridget Jones in her father’s 1783 Will, suggesting that she had not remarried. The question of whether she was mother to any of Evan Jones’ children still remains.

1749, August; Letter - Fletcher Mathews to John Colden
New York 2d Aug 1749, Dear Sir, Yours of the 25th of last month Came to hand on Sunday Evening last: and have purrused the same Sundry times with the Greatest pleasure and Sattisfaction Emaginable: And Shall Always look upon You to be a Sencer friend and Shall Do Everything in my power that may be a means to Continue true friendship: Between us: I left the Highlands on Wensday last where I left all Friends Well and in Good Health and hope these fue lines may find you and all Friends at Albany in the like State. Since my last to you our Friend John Jones is Arived Safe at Hermitage But in a poor State of health being much troubled with the Tiszik; he informes me that he Does not intend to England till Next fall So that I hope we Shall have the pleasure of Seeing you before then: I hear Very little News in Town at least none worth mentioning it Being Chiefly on partiship; I must Now Conclude in haste with my best respects to Your Self and all Friend, Your Assur’d Friend and Very Hum: Servant, Fletcher Mathews

1753, 1755; Will of Evan Jones; In the name of God, Amen. I, Evan Jones, of Hermitage, in the County of Ulster, "Practitioner of Physick," this 22 of May, 1753. My executors are to sell the farm where I now dwell, containing about 200 acres, and all my personal estate, except my Library and shop instruments, and they are to pay all debts and funeral charges. All the rest of my estate I give to my wife Bridgit and my 5 sons, John, Thomas, Evan, James, and Edward, and my daughter Mary. "But inasmuch as I have paid out to my son John the sum of £432
towards his education and expences while he studied Physick abroad," he is only to have so much as with what I have paid will make him equal to the rest. I give to my son John my Library and shop instruments. If my wife should marry, she shall have only £250. I leave to my 6 children all my estate at New Windsor and all my estate not herein mentioned, but my wife is to have the use of 1/2; during widowhood. I make my wife and my sons John and Thomas executors. My executors are to sell the farm where I now dwell, called and known by the name of Hermitage.

Witnesses, Enos Ayres, Martha Ayres, Charles Clinton. Proved, May 24, 1755.


1760; To be sold at publick Vendue, on Thursday the third Day of April next, on the Premises, the Farm lately belonging to Dr Evan Jones, in Ulster County, about one Mile from New Windsor, on the Hudson's River, containing about twelve hundred acres, well watered, and timbered, with a large quantity of rich swamp easily cleared, besided about fifty acres already improved, two large orchards, a good house, kitchen, barn and together with the stock, servants, farming utensils, and likewise five unimproved lots, adjoining to the aforesaid farm, containing in the whole about 1100 acres. Any person inclining to purchase all or either of them, before the day of sale, may apply to Dr John Jones in New York, or to Thomas Jones on the premises, who will give an indisputable title to the same. Conditions to be seen on the day of Sale.

[source] New York Mercury (New York City); 11 February 1760.

1763; from notes on the Haskell Patent - Evan Jones, surgeon, was among the early settlers on the patent, having purchased and occupied lot No. 3. His farm of two hundred and ninety-two acres was sold by Bridget Jones, John Jones, and Thomas Jones, his executors (Dec. 2?, 1763), to Samuel Brewster .

[source] History of the town of New Windsor, Orange County, NY; EM Ruttenbur; Historical Society of Newburgh, 1913.

[pam garrett's comment] Notes on John, Thomas and James Jones (sons of Evan Jones) - "John Jones, surgeon, born in Jamaica, New York, in 1729; died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 23 June 1791. He was a son of Dr. Evan Jones, a Welsh physician, who came to this country in 1728. He was educated professionally at the medical schools and hospitals of London, Paris, Leyden, and Edinburgh, where he became acquainted with the most eminent contemporary professors” . . . John Jones went on to a most distinguished career in New York City and Philadelphia. Thomas Jones was also a doctor in New York. There is evidence that he continued to live in Orange county New York after his father's death. He married Margaret Livingston, daughter of Philip Livingston and Christina Ten Broeck. Some questions remain on the identity of James Jones. He is possibly the "Federalist" James Jones who lost his life in the 1798 duel with Brockholst Livingston.
1770; Abijah Yelverton Bond or Obligation to Bridgett Jones; 20 July 1770; Bridgett Jones gives one hundred and twenty pound mortgage to Abijah Yelverton, secured by Cromline Tract Lot three. Abijah Yelverton satisfied this obligation in 1776. "Bridgett Jones widow of Evan Jones late of Ulster county".

[source] From the archive of The Chester Historical Society; 47 Main Street, Chester, NY10918; scanned copy online through website of the Hudson River Valley Heritage; http://www.hrvh.org/

1774; "Richard Harrison, esq married 3 May by Rev Mr Sayre to Miss Jones, eldest sister of Dr Jones of New York City, ceremony was performed at 'Matthewsfield', seat of Vincent Matthews, esq of Orange co, NY."; newspaper dated 16 May 1774.


1776; Marriage by the Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston of New York, and recorded by him. Thomas Jones, Doctor of Medicine, and Miss Margaret Livingston, both of the State of Niew [New] York. Date of Banns not given; 30 July 1776.

[source] Baptismal and Marriage Registers of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston, Ulster County, New York.

1778; List of Persons Banished by the Commissioners for detecting and defeating Conspiracies, &c, within this State, in pursuance of an Act, etc., entitled: An Act more effectually to prevent the mischiefs arising from the Influence and Example of persons of Equivocal and suspected Characters within this State: [includes] Richard Harrison, Esq late of the City of New York.

[pam garrett's comment] Notes on Richard Harrison - Richard Harrison was born about 1750, and has been noted as "a prominent lawyer", and "most eminent barrister of New York". David Colden, son of Cadwallader Colden studied law in his office. Richard Harrison counted himself among the Loyalists during the revolutionary years, but went on to serve in the New York Assembly in 1788-89 and again from 1798 - 1801. Richard Harrison was first married to Mary Jones, daughter of Dr Evan Jones in 1774. He was married secondly to Frances Ludlow in 1783. She was the daughter of George Duncan Ludlow, the Loyalist, afterwards chief justice of New Brunswick. The town of Harrisburgh New York is named in honor of Richard Harrison. He died there on the 6th of December 1829, aged eighty-one years.

1783, 1784; Will of Vincent Mathews; written 12 March 1783; proved 21 June 1784; names children Fletcher Mathews, James Mathews, David Mathews (deceased), Bridget Mathews Jones, Elizabeth Mathews Beekman.

1791; To Alexander Hamilton from Thomas Jones, Brockholst Livingston, and John H. Livingston; New York, March 15, 1791. "Mr. Philip Henry Livingston of this City together with his Father in law Walter Livingston having assumed certain debts due from us as administrators on the estate of the late Philip Livingston deceased . ."
Baptismal Records of Kingston New York
1789 Sep 14; Conrad E. Elmendorp, Catharine Jones; Edward Jones; Edward Jones, Peter van Gasbek, **Brigitta Jones**, Susanna Christina Doll.
1791 Jan 06; Conrad Edmundus Elmendorph, Catty Jones; Evan James; Jacobus C. Elmerndorp, **Bridget Jones**.
1791, Jul 01; Edward Jones, Margaret Culliatt; Evan Philemon Dikenson; Conrad E. Elmendorp, **Brigitte Jones**.

[Died] in this village, on Sunday evening, Mrs Bridget Jones.

Do you want to know more?
[Link to Bridget Mathews in database]
[Link to Evan Jones in database]