

Profile of a Loyalist, Edward Jones

By,

Michael Treadwell

Westport, Connecticut

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During the revolutionary war American patriots supported a revolution which led to a permanent break with Great Britain, and the establishment of the United States. With a powerful navy, probably the finest in the world, supported with their vast armies, Great Britain attempted to crush the rebellion in their North American colonies by force. In addition to British troops there were native born Americans, referred to as Loyalists or Tories, allied with the British, for the purpose of defeating the revolutionary patriots, restoring order, and maintaining their allegiance to the mother country. In addition to the revolution, a separate and bloody civil war, the first one in North America, between the American Loyalists and the revolutionary patriots was being fought. British troops could always return home to their native country where they were born. The American Loyalists were born in Connecticut or any of the other twelve colonies. Where would they return to if they lost the war? When they made their decision to take the British side, they were jeopardizing their families, homes, properties, occupations, and their lives. The stakes were high for the Loyalists, and this gave them a powerful incentive to do all they could to win the war.

Edward Jones was a Loyalist who earned his living as a butcher. Whether or not Jones was native born in Connecticut is currently unknown. He was convicted of spying for the British and subsequently hanged in February of 1779, at a patriot military camp named Camp Reading, located in Redding, CT. The name of the camp has since been changed to Putnam Park, in honor of the patriot General Israel Putnam, who was in command of the soldiers there during the winter of 1778 – 1779.

Who was Edward Jones? In 1838, John Warner Barber claimed that Jones came from Ridgefield.<sup>1</sup> I examined the Ridgefield Land Records from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. There was an Edward Jones listed on a deed. Jones bought land from Nathan Olmsted Jr. in Ridgefield on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1774. He paid Olmsted

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<sup>1</sup> John Warner Barber, *Connecticut Historical Collections*, (New Haven, Durrie & Peck, 1838), 396.

“Forty Three Pounds, Ten Shillings and Nine pence, ... for “twenty one acres and a half”.<sup>2</sup> Barber was correct. At the time of this land transaction he was listed as “Edward Jones of Norwalk”. The fact that he lived in Norwalk prior to Ridgefield has never been revealed.

The Norwalk land records confirmed Jones lived and owned land there. During this period of time it was routine for residents to register their animals with a distinct mark on their ears, to identify who the owner was. Jones listed his animals in the Norwalk town meeting minutes. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1766, the register recorded the following: “Edward Jones’s artificial mark for Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Vizt., a swallow fork on the near Ear and a hole in the Off Ear”.<sup>3</sup>

Jones purchased three acres in Norwalk from Isaac Hays on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1765, for “ ... seventy pounds”.<sup>4</sup> He lived in Norwalk since at least 1765. In 1768, and from 1771 – 1773, he bought several acres of land, even an island. Two land transactions were of particular interest. On February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1772, Reverend William Tennent, a minister at the Norwalk Congregational Church, sold Sprights Island to Jones. The land record recorded the following information: “William Tennent of Norwalk, for the consideration of fifteen pounds, received to my full satisfaction of Edward Jones, Butcher, of Norwalk, a certain island lying in the Township of said Norwalk known by the name of Sprights Island, containing four acres of land more or less and bounded on all sides by low water mark”.<sup>5</sup> Since at least 1880, Charles Burr Todd, without evidence, described the Edward Jones who was hanged at Camp Reading, as having “ ... fled to the British army, and had been made a butcher in the camp; a few weeks before, he

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<sup>2</sup> Ridgefield Town Clerk’s Office, *Ridgefield Land Records*, v. 5, p. 202. [Hereafter Ridgefield Land Records].

<sup>3</sup> Norwalk City Hall, *Norwalk Town Proceedings*, v. 2, p. 70A.

<sup>4</sup> Norwalk Town Clerk’s Office, *Norwalk Land Records*, v. 12, p. 410. [Hereafter Norwalk Land Records].

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, v. 14, p. 64.

had been sent into Westchester County to buy beeves for the army ... “. <sup>6</sup> Todd did not cite his source. He confusedly claimed that Jones “had been made a butcher in the camp; a few weeks before”. Tennent proved with his deed that Jones earned his living as a butcher in 1772, before the war even started.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1772, Tennent identified Jones a second time as a butcher when he sold nine acres to him: “William Tennent of Norwalk, for the consideration of one hundred and six pounds, seven shillings, and seven pence, received to my satisfaction of Edward Jones, of said Norwalk, Butcher”. <sup>7</sup> If Jones was hired to buy meat for the British army, as claimed by Todd, his pre-war experience working as a butcher, qualified him for the job.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1773, Jones bought his final piece of land in Norwalk, from Isaac Sherwood. <sup>8</sup> Approximately five weeks later Jones and another person, started to sell their land in Norwalk, to a Peter Smith. The other person was his wife, Rhoda Jones. Rhoda Jones has never been identified by previous historians. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1773, the following land record entry was recorded: “We Edward Jones and Rhoda Jones his wife, of Norwalk, for the consideration of forty two pounds, eight shillings, received to our full satisfaction of Peter Smith, of Norwalk, do give grant bargain and confirm unto said Peter Smith, ... a certain piece of land lying in Norwalk ... in quantity sixteen acres”. <sup>9</sup>

On the same day, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1773, Edward and Rhoda, as well as three other individuals, all with the same last name of Hays, sold land to a James Resco. “We Edward Jones, and Rhoda Jones his wife, and John Hays, all of Norwalk, and James Hays, and Nathaniel Hays of Salem, in the province of New York,

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<sup>6</sup> Charles Burr Todd, *The History of Redding Connecticut*, (New York, Grafton Press, 1880), 35.

<sup>7</sup> Norwalk Land Records, v. 14, p. 49.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, v. 14, p. 126.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, v. 14, p. 98.

for the consideration of twenty three pounds, five shillings, received to our full satisfaction of James Resco of Norwalk ... in quantity four acres and an half".<sup>10</sup>

Jones sold more land in April of 1774, a little less than one year later. Rhoda was not listed on this deed. For some reason she never appeared again on any records. The Hays family also permanently disappeared. The relationship between Jones, Rhoda, and the Hays family cannot be explained. Perhaps the Hays family was involved in some kind of partnership with Jones and Rhoda, however there is no evidence to support it.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1774, Jones sold four separate pieces of land to four different people on the same day.<sup>11</sup> In one of the transactions, Jones sold Sprights Island to a Samuel Gruman, the same island he had bought from William Tennent on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1772. Jones paid Tennent fifteen pounds, and sold it to Gruman for twelve pounds. Eleven days later he sold his final piece of land in Norwalk to Stephen St. John, 2<sup>nd</sup>, on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1774.<sup>12</sup> According to all deeds Jones still lived in Norwalk.

One month before, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1774, he bought land in Ridgefield from the previously mentioned Nathan Olmsted, Jun.<sup>13</sup> Also on the same day, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1774, he bought a house, barn, and shop from Nathan Olmsted, Jun.<sup>14</sup> Jones bought just one more piece of land in Ridgefield from a John Northrup, less than one year later on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1775.<sup>15</sup> According to the Ridgefield land records I examined,

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid, v. 14, p. 148.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, v. 15, p. 21, v. 14, p. 302; v. 14, p. 303; v. 14, p. 358.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, v. 14, p. 206.

<sup>13</sup> Ridgefield Land Records, v. 5, p. 202.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, v. 5, p. 263.

Jones did not sell any land in Ridgefield, as he had previously done in Norwalk. Why did he leave Norwalk and relocate to Ridgefield?

The next time Jones appeared in the Ridgefield land records, he was not buying or selling any land. Instead, he was being sued by four people. One of the plaintiffs was William Tennent, the former minister from the Norwalk Congregational Church. In 1772, Tennent resigned from his position in Norwalk after selling his land to Jones, and had “ ... accepted a call [for a new position], issued by the Independent (Congregational) Church of Charleston, South Carolina. He arrived in Charleston on March 18, 1772,” approximately one month after selling his land to Jones.<sup>16</sup>

Tennent filed a writ dated June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1776, “ ... demanding One Hundred Fifty, pounds” from Jones. The court did not record the reason as to why Tennent initiated his suit. Jones defaulted for failure to appear, therefore the court issued the following order: Whereupon it is considered by this court that the plaintiff, [Tennent], shall recover of the defendant, [Jones], the sum of sixty seven pounds, two shillings, 67:2.”<sup>17</sup>

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1777, the court ordered 67 pounds, two shillings, and zero pence to be paid by Jones to Tennent. Where was Jones? The court ordered the sheriff to arrest Jones if: “... found within your precincts, ... and commit him unto the keeper of the gaol in Fairfield, ... until he pay William Tennet the full sums above mentioned”.<sup>18</sup> Jones had disappeared for good reason, because if he did not have the money, which was possible, he would end up in jail. The court seized his house, and part of his land in

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<sup>16</sup> “William Tennent III”, <http://www.singletonfamily.org/getperson.php?personID=I58102&tree=1>.

<sup>17</sup> *Fairfield County Court Records, 1773 – 1779*, v. 12, p. 342, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, CT. [Hereafter *Fairfield County Court Records*].

<sup>18</sup> *Ridgefield Land Records*, v. 6, p. 15.

Ridgefield, and ordered it turned over to Tennent's attorney on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1777.<sup>19</sup> Tennent had demanded money from Jones, but was forced to settle for his house and some of his land instead.

Tennent could not appear in court to receive the seized property. He died eleven days earlier on "August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1777, in the High Hills of Santee, Sumter County, South Carolina", and was buried there.<sup>20</sup> Tennent did not even live long enough to see the house and land seized by the court.

The other three plaintiffs from Norwalk, Hezekiah Raymond, Thomas Benedict, and Donald McAuley, followed the same legal procedure as Tennent. They demanded various sums of money from Jones who defaulted to avoid imprisonment. The court awarded sections of his land to all three.<sup>21</sup> The court did not record the reason as to why they initiated their suits either. The Fairfield County Court records matched the Ridgefield Land Records and listed the four plaintiffs as Tennent, Raymond, Benedict, and McAuley.<sup>22</sup>

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1778, the court confiscated his " ... real estate, lying in said Ridgefield which belongs to Edward Jones of said Ridgefield who has put and continues to hold and screen himself under the protection of the ministerial army."<sup>23</sup> The "ministerial army" was the British army. This confirmed that Jones, like many other Loyalists, had his estate confiscated by the revolutionary authorities in Connecticut. Barber had correctly identified Jones as a Loyalist in 1838.<sup>24</sup> By January of 1778, the court proved that Jones had already left Ridgefield, and was being protected by the British army.

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> "William Tennent, III", <http://www.singletonfamily.org/getperson.php?personID=I58102&tree=1>.

<sup>21</sup> Ridgefield Land Records, v. 6, p. 17; v. 6, p. 21.

<sup>22</sup> Fairfield County Court Records, v. 12, pp. 342, 350, 332, 368.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, p. 418.

<sup>24</sup> Barber, *Connecticut Historical Collections*, 396.

Several years later in 1789, the Danbury Probate Court listed Jones as deceased. The court appointed as appraisers two individuals to appraise his estate, or what was left of it. The appraisers reported the following to the court: “We the subscribers being appointed appraisers by the honorable Court of Probate for the District of Danbury, to appraise the estate of Edward Jones late of Ridgefield deceased represented insolvent agreeable to said appointment and being under oath, have appraised said estate in the following manner, viz., One acre of land lying in Ridgefield bounded east by the heirs of William Tennent deceased ...”. David Olmstead and Nathan Smith signed the report and it was dated at Ridgefield, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1789.<sup>25</sup> Tennent had sued Jones in 1777 as recorded in the Ridgefield Land Records, and received part of his land as compensation. Therefore, the Edward Jones mentioned in the probate court on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1789, was the same Jones whom Tennent sued in 1777. The probate court proved Jones was deceased on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1789, however the court was silent on the date of his death, and the manner in which he died. This could have been because the local residents were well aware of what had happened to Jones. The probate court was also silent about his wife Rhoda Jones, the logical heir to his estate. Rhoda was identified as his wife when they sold land to Peter Smith on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1773, as recorded and proved in the Norwalk Land Records.<sup>26</sup> What happened to Rhoda? Was she alive in 1789 and still living somewhere in Connecticut? Unfortunately this question cannot be answered with any degree of certainty, until further evidence is discovered.

There was no mention of Jones in the Ridgefield or Redding Town Meeting minutes. The Redding town minutes did not even mention Camp Reading?<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> *Danbury Probate Court Records*, at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), v. 5, pp. 476 – 477. [Hereafter Danbury Probate Court Records].

<sup>26</sup> *Norwalk Land Records*, v. 14, p. 98.

<sup>27</sup> *Town Minutes at Ridgefield and Redding Town Halls*.



Todd appeared to be the first historian to identify Jones' background. He described Jones as "... a Welshman by birth ...".<sup>28</sup> This was valuable information that could have helped future historians find out details about his earlier life. Yet, Todd did not cite his source. Therefore it was impossible to verify his research. I could not find any evidence in my research that Jones was connected to Wales. He mentioned a collection of documents known as the "Samuel Richards Collection," which he claimed to have examined, sometime around 1880. Todd claimed the original documents were "... in the possession of Hon. D. B. Booth, of Danbury".<sup>29</sup> David Belden Booth was an attorney and politician who married Julia Richards of Farmington, CT., where Samuel Richards was from. Julia might have been a descendent of Samuel Richards. Booth died in 1889.<sup>30</sup> If Booth owned the collection in 1880 where is it now?

Samuel Richards was a captain in the Connecticut Line of the patriot revolutionary army. Richards was mentioned in a book compiled by Harriette Merrifield Forbes, who claimed he wrote a diary. Forbes wrote: "Diary: April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775 to September 8, 1781. A narrative of Revolutionary incidents written for his, [Samuel Richards'] son, in the form of a diary, recording scenes of which he [Samuel Richards] was an eyewitness. He served throughout the war. With some letters of Burgoyne".<sup>31</sup> Richards died at Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania on December 31, 1841. Forbes mentioned that a Dr. George Woodward of Philadelphia, PA, owned the diary and had it published in 1909, 111 years ago.<sup>32</sup> Where is the diary now?

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<sup>28</sup> Todd, *History of Redding*, 35.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> James Montgomery Bailey, *History of Danbury, Connecticut, 1684 – 1896*, (New York, Burr Printing House, 1896), 358 – 359.

<sup>31</sup> *New England Diaries 1602-1800, A Descriptive Catalogue of Diaries, Orderly Books and Sea Journals*, Harriette Merrifield Forbes, compiler (New York, Russell and Russell, 1923), 246.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

Dr George Woodward was involved in construction, real estate, and philanthropy.<sup>33</sup> Was the “Richards Collection” that Todd examined included in the Samuel Richards diary identified by Forbes, and owned by Woodward? The diary would answer the question, if it can be located.

The circumstances of Jones’ capture have conflicting accounts. Was he near the Camp Reading site when captured? Todd claimed that “ ... scouts from General Israel Putnam’s outposts in Westchester County captured a man lurking within their lines ...”<sup>34</sup> In 2011, Daniel Cruson claimed Jones “ ... had been apprehended after mistakenly crossing over the line into Connecticut”.<sup>35</sup> Todd seemed to believe he was captured somewhere in Westchester County, whereas Cruson claimed he was captured in Connecticut. The confusion cannot be cleared up without additional evidence.

Todd claimed that Jones was escorted “ ... into the presence of [Putnam] the commander-in-chief”.<sup>36</sup> Did Putnam interrogate Jones? How can that be proved when Todd did not cite his source? Were there any witnesses to the interrogation? Did Putnam submit a report about his interrogation of Jones to General Washington? Were any incriminating documents or evidence found on Jones such as maps or letters, to prove he was spying for the British? The only facts we have is that Jones earned his living as a butcher prior to the war and that he was a Loyalist. It cannot be proved the British hired Jones to buy meat for their army based on Putnam’s interrogation of Jones, if the interrogation took place.

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<sup>33</sup> “George Woodward, Co.”, <http://www.georgewoodwardco.com/about.php>.

<sup>34</sup> Todd, *History of Redding*, 35.

<sup>35</sup> Daniel Cruson, *Putnam’s Revolutionary War Winter Encampment, the History and Archaeology of Putnam Memorial State Park*, (Charleston, S.C., History Press) 75.

<sup>36</sup> Todd, *History of Redding*, 35.

Why arrest Jones? What had he done? Two pro-Putnam biographers have claimed that he supposedly deserted from the revolutionary patriot army with the intention of becoming a British spy.<sup>37</sup> Livingston claimed: “... several soldiers deserted, in order to become spies for the enemy. Such men were summarily dealt with, when they were caught. Edward Jones and John Smith were put to death on the same day”.<sup>38</sup> In 2017, Hubbard claimed, “... Edward Jones and John Smith had deserted to the British and allegedly became spies”.<sup>39</sup> Hubbard appeared to be repeating the story originally written by Livingston back in 1901. However, Livingston did not cite where he obtained his information, and did not explain whether or not he thought Jones was one of the “several soldiers” who deserted. If Jones had deserted from the patriot army, which regiment did he desert from, and when? It cannot be proved that Jones deserted from the patriot army, or was ever in the patriot army to begin with. It is far from clear whether he was even in a British or Loyalist regiment. Like many other Loyalists, he could have been a civilian, who was under the protection of the British army.

Livingston and Hubbard mentioned a John Smith, and his case is completely separate from Jones. Historians have consistently connected Smith with Jones. They were supposedly executed on the same day, however it cannot be proved they knew each other. According to Todd, “General Putnam having two prisoners under sentence of death determined to execute them both at once, or as he [Putnam] expressed it, “make a double job of it”.<sup>40</sup> It appeared that circumstances beyond their control placed them together on that ghastly day.

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<sup>37</sup> William Livingston, *Israel Putnam, Pioneer, Ranger, and Major-General, 1718 – 1790*, (New York, G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1901); Robert E. Hubbard, *Major General Israel Putnam, Hero of the American Revolution*, Jefferson, N.C., McFarland & Company Inc., 2017).

<sup>38</sup> Livingston, *Israel Putnam*, 385.

<sup>39</sup> Hubbard, *Major General Israel Putnam*, 163.

<sup>40</sup> Todd, *History of Redding*, 36.

Due to the lack of documents, what occurred at Jones' trial, with the exception of the verdict, has been unknown for 241 years. A brief description was mentioned in the *Life and Letters of Samuel Holden Parsons*, by Charles S. Hall. According to Cruson, Parsons was in command of "the 1<sup>st</sup> brigade, which consisted of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Connecticut regiments", at Camp Reading.<sup>41</sup> Hall wrote: "Courts-Martial were held at Headquarters by order of General Putnam on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of February, the minutes of which may be of interest as showing the manner of conducting these courts and executing their sentences during the Revolution".<sup>42</sup> Hall then quotes the minutes of the court martial:

"Headquarters, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1779. – At a General Court Martial of which Lt. Col. Reed is President, were tried ... Edward Jones, for going to and serving the enemy as a guide and coming out as a spy. Found guilty of each and every charge exhibited against him and sentenced by the Court to suffer death according to the laws and usage of nations".<sup>43</sup> It is interesting that according to the minutes of the court martial Jones was identified "as a guide" for the British. Todd claimed Jones was hired as a butcher to buy meat for the British army.<sup>44</sup> Which claim is accurate?

The minutes of the trial referred to by Hall would be a valuable piece of evidence. Did Hall actually examine the original document containing the minutes of the trial? What facility did Hall find the minutes in? The verdict was mentioned, but nothing else. Who besides Reed served on the court martial tribunal? Who testified at the trial? How long did the trial last? What specific evidence was introduced to convict Jones as a spy and send him to the gallows? Was the verdict unanimous? Parsons might have misspelled the last name of the president Lt. Col. Reed. There was an officer named Lt. Col. George Reid from Londonderry, New Hampshire. According to Cruson, Reid was in command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New

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<sup>41</sup> Cruson, *Putnam's Revolutionary War Winter Encampment*, 19.

<sup>42</sup> Charles S. Hall. *Life and Letters of Samuel Holden Parsons, Major General in the Continental Army and Chief Judge of the Northwestern Territory, 1737 – 1789*, (Binghamton, N.Y., Otsenigo Publishing Co., 1905), 213.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Todd, *History of Redding*, 35.

Hampshire regiment stationed at Camp Reading. However, Cruson claimed that Reid “ ... was unaccountably missing from the muster rolls for Camp Redding”. Cruson did not provide Reid’s first name.<sup>45</sup> Samuel Carroll Derby claimed that Reid became colonel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Hampshire regiment in 1778.<sup>46</sup> It cannot be proved that Lt. Col. George Reid was the same Reed as spelled by Parsons. There were no further documents or details about the trial, or who served on the tribunal.

After Jones was captured he denied he was a spy from the beginning and never wavered. John Warner Barber published a summary in 1838, where Jones apparently said on the scaffold: “I am innocent of the crime laid to my charge”.<sup>47</sup> Even the two pro-Putnam biographers wrote that Jones said on the scaffold: “God knows I’m not guilty”.<sup>48</sup>

Reverend William Tennent identified Jones’ occupation as a butcher, on two land record deeds in 1772.<sup>49</sup> Todd appeared to be the first historian, to identify Jones as being a butcher hired by the British to buy meat for their army.<sup>50</sup> Tennent proved Jones earned his living as a butcher prior to the war. Twelve years after his death in 1789, Tennent through the Danbury Probate Court records, proved that Jones was officially deceased when Tennent’s heirs were identified as owning land next to what was left of Jones’ estate.<sup>51</sup> This was about as close as one could find for an official death certificate. Tennent could not have possibly known how valuable his contribution would be.

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<sup>45</sup> Cruson, *Putnam’s Revolutionary War Winter Encampment*, 90.

<sup>46</sup> Samuel Carroll Derby. *Early Dublin, A List of the Revolutionary Soldiers of Dublin, N.H.*, (Columbus, OH. Press of Spahr & Glenn, 1901), 23.

<sup>47</sup> Barber, *Connecticut Historical Collections*, 396.

<sup>48</sup> James Olmstead to *Danbury News*, n.d., quoted in Livingston, *Israel Putnam*, 386; Hubbard, *Major General Israel Putnam*, 163.

<sup>49</sup> Norwalk Land Records, v. 14, p. 64; v. 14, p. 49.

<sup>50</sup> Todd, *History of Redding*, 35.

<sup>51</sup> Danbury Probate Court Records, v. 5, pp. 476 – 477.

How did Jones meet Tennent in Norwalk? Was it a coincidence Jones bought his land? What had Jones done to Tennent which motivated him to start a lawsuit against him in the first place? Lawsuits are aggravating even for the side who wins. Court costs and attorneys fees add to the distress. Why did Tennent continue his suit even from the distance of South Carolina? He could have been under some kind of pressure to sue, possibly from his former employer, the Norwalk Congregational Church. Or he may have continued his suit due to an intense antipathy toward Jones. Whatever the reason, it must remain unanswered for the time being. What would Tennent have done with the property seized from Jones when he was 800 miles away in South Carolina? Because of his sudden death, the answer will never be known.

Tennent was a descendent of an elite family of ministers, through his grandfather and father. He graduated from the College of New Jersey, now known as Princeton University, in 1758. In addition to his ministerial duties in South Carolina, he became involved in politics and was elected as a representative from the parishes of Saint Philip and Saint Michael. His papers have been preserved and are in the South Carolina Historical Society, and the South Caroliniana Library of the University of South Carolina.<sup>52</sup> There is an article published on Tennent in a magazine.<sup>53</sup> The Tennent family papers are located in the Princeton University Library, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.<sup>54</sup> Any of those collections might have further details about Tennent's suit against Jones. The odds are probably not that great, but one will never know until an attempt has been made. Anything, which could help explain or provide a clue would be valuable.

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<sup>52</sup> See the essay by Marion C. Chandler, Jr. in the *American National Biography*, XXI, 444 – 446.

<sup>53</sup> Newton Jones, ed., "Writings of the Reverend William Tennent, 1740 – 1777," *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, v. 61, (July 1960): 129 – 145, 189 – 209.

<sup>54</sup> "Tennent Family Papers," <https://rbsc.princeton.edu/collections/tennent-family-papers>

Facts have been obtained in this paper to explain at least part of Jones' life prior to his tragic death. What happened after he was supposedly captured by Putnam's soldiers is extremely unclear. New evidence is needed before any further conclusions can be drawn with any degree of certainty. Additional evidence could exist somewhere about his court martial and trial. If the officer named Reed who Parsons mentioned in his journal as president of the court martial<sup>55</sup> was the same Lt. Col. George Reid from Londonderry, New Hampshire, there is a possibility, however remote, that Reid recorded something about the trial in a letter or memo. If he did it would probably be located in New Hampshire where he died in 1815.<sup>56</sup>

Additional evidence is needed. Any conclusion reached without evidence is not credible, because it cannot be proved. Eyewitness accounts of events might be exaggerated, especially after many years have passed. For 241 years Edward Jones was "the spy hanged at Camp Reading", yet it cannot be proved that Edward Jones was hired by the British as a butcher or a spy. Ignoring the Loyalist Edward Jones is comparable to failing to recognize the American Loyalists because they were on the losing side of the war. It is one-sided history. Additional evidence about the life of Edward Jones prior to being captured, and after, is necessary before further credible conclusions can be drawn.

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<sup>55</sup> Hall, *Life and Letters of Samuel Holden Parsons*, 213.

<sup>56</sup> Derby, *Early Dublin, A List of the Revolutionary Soldiers*, 23.

