



**Report Number:** JR0013  
**GMP Ancestor:** n/a  
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**Date:** 23 June 2021, revised 2 June 2025  
**Related Codes:** GMP-249, GMP-250, GMP-251, GMP-252

**Purpose:** To present research on Arnold Jones as possibly being Arnold Jones (GMP-249)

**Discussion:**

Arnold Jones (GMP-249) is listed on the 1838 Jesuit Slave Census at St. Inigoes as being a 38-year-old runaway. He was the husband of Anna Mahoney (GMP-250) and the father of her two children, Arnold Henry Jones (GMP-251) and Louisa Ann Jones (GMP-252), who were sent to Louisiana and eventually enslaved on Henry Johnson's plantation in Ascension Parish, later known as Chatham. He may be the same Arnold Jones who ran away with his brother, Moses Bennett, from Thomas Smith of St. Mary's County, Maryland, in the fall of 1833; and the Arnold Jones who ran away from Washington, D.C., in July of 1836.<sup>1</sup> No evidence has been found that Arnold Jones (GMP-249) was ever sent to Louisiana. Louisiana records provide a few details about a man named Arnold Jones, somewhat older than Arnold Jones (GMP-249), but born in Maryland. This report presents those details.

The first document is a death certificate for Arnold Jones, a native of Virginia, aged 115, who died in Algiers (located across the Mississippi River from New Orleans), 5<sup>th</sup> District, on 27 September 1874.<sup>2</sup> If his age of 115 is correct, this Arnold Jones would have been born ca. 1759, some 41 years prior to Arnold Jones (GMP-249). Ages of the very elderly, however, are often exaggerated by family members or unrelated informants who provide the information for the death certificate. Nevertheless, this is a rather large age difference.

This older Arnold Jones was identified on the 1870 census of New Orleans under the name Honore Jones, aged 85, native of Maryland.<sup>3</sup> This record puts his date of birth at around 1785, or only 15 years older than Arnold Jones (GMP-249). The household consisted of the following individuals: Martin Jones, age 34, blacksmith, born Maryland; Polly Jones, age 25, keeping house, born Louisiana; Richard Jones, age 7, born Louisiana; Mary Jones, age 2/12, born Louisiana; Honore Jones, age 85, laborer on levee, born Maryland; Elizabeth Jones, age 55, housekeeper, born Maryland; Granson Jones, age 20, laborer on levee, born Louisiana; and Celeste Jones, age 14, born Louisiana.

Neither Arnold nor Martin Jones could be identified on the 1867-1870 New Orleans city directories. They were, however, found in the 1871 and 1872 directories as follows:

1871 - Arnold Jones (col'd), woodsawyer, r. Pacific, nr. Homer

1871 - Martin Jones (col'd), blacksmith, F. Durvic, r. Bouny, bet. Eliza & Alix

1872 - Arnold Jones, lab. r. Pacific, bet. Jackson & Homer, 5<sup>th</sup> dist.

1872 - Martin Jones, blacksmith, r. Pacific, bet. Market and Jackson, 5<sup>th</sup> dist.

Neither were found in the 1873 New Orleans city directory, but in 1875, the following was found:

1875 - Elizabeth Jones, wid. Arnold, r. ns. Market, bet. Atlantic av. and Verret, 5<sup>th</sup> dist.

Nothing further was found on Elizabeth Jones, widow of Arnold Jones.

According to the Freedmen's Bureau records, a disbursal of \$39.97 was made on 31 October 1874 to claimant Martin Jones apparently related to his service as a private in Co. A of the 93<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Colored Troops. Providing affidavits on his behalf were Jesse Gill and Jacob Wright.<sup>4</sup> Nothing further could be found on Martin Jones after 1874.

Grandison Jones was named a Special Deputy Marshal for the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward of New Orleans in 1870.<sup>5</sup> He was also found on the 1874 and 1880 New Orleans city directories, but not in 1876-1879. The entries are as follows:

1874 - Grandison Jones, lab. r. s.s. Pacific avenue, near Jackson, 5<sup>th</sup> dist.

1880 - Granison Jones, lab. r. ns Jackson, bet. Pacific and Atlantic ave., 5<sup>th</sup> dist.

In 1880, the Granson Jones, age 30, born Louisiana, both parents born Maryland, and wife Mary Jones, age 25, were found living in Algiers, Louisiana.<sup>6</sup>

In 1900, Grandson Jones, born Mar. 1855 in Louisiana, both parents born in Virginia, with wife Mollie Jones, were living in New Orleans. Grandson and Mollie had been married 23 years and Mollie had given birth to no children.<sup>7</sup>

In 1910, Grandison Jones, age 51, widower, born Louisiana, both parents born Maryland, occupation truck farmer, was found in Charity Hospital in Orleans<sup>8</sup> (Orleans, Ward 3, E.D. 35, p. 174A, family #39):

Grandison Jones died 16 Nov. 1918 at age 62 years. His death certificate indicated he was a native of Louisiana, married, a laborer, and the son of Arnold Jones, a native of Virginia.<sup>9</sup>

In 2023, a group of photographs discovered by homeowners in a sealed attic of a house at 819 Elmira Avenue in Algiers, Louisiana, was donated to the Historic New Orleans Collection. The staff of the HNOC researched the property and found that Grandison and Mary Jones had purchased it in 1883. The photographs are believed to be members of this family.<sup>10</sup>

## Conclusion:

The age of 115 (born ca. 1759) for Arnold Jones is likely over stated. His age of 85 per the 1870 census (born ca. 1785) puts him closer in age to Arnold Jones (GMP-249), born ca. 1800, but still somewhat older. Martin Jones, possible son of Arnold Jones, was born in Maryland ca. 1836, about four years after the birth of Louisa Ann Jones, the younger of Arnold Jones (GMP-249) and Anna Mahoney's two children. As Arnold may already have been a runaway in 1833, he could have fathered Martin Jones with another woman in 1836. Grandison Jones, the confirmed son of Arnold, was born ca. 1851-55 in Louisiana. No record of Arnold or Martin Jones arriving in Louisiana could be found. Other than records indicating he was from Maryland or Virginia, no direct evidence could be found identifying him as Arnold Jones (GMP-249). No living descendants could be identified for DNA testing.

## Endnotes:

1. *American and Commercial Daily Advertiser*, Baltimore, Md., 5 Aug. 1836.
2. Orleans Deaths, 1874, vol. 62, p. 10, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
3. 1870 U.S. census, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, pop. sched., New Orleans, 5<sup>th</sup> District, p. 762A (stamped), family #446, citing National Archives microfilm publication M593.
4. Register of Claimants, Volume 105, Oct. 1872-May 1878, p. 59, Records of the Field Offices of the Freedmen's Branch, Office of the Adjutant General, 1872-1875, Roll 47, National Archives microfilm publication M2029.
5. *New Orleans Republican*, 6 Nov. 1870.
6. 1880 U.S. census, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, pop. sched., Algiers, Ward 15, p. 411A (stamped), family #267, citing National Archives microfilm publication T9.
7. 1900 U.S. census, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, pop. sched., Ward 15, Enumeration District 138, p. 93B (stamped), family #424, citing National Archives microfilm publication T623.
8. 1910 U.S. census, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, pop. sched., Ward 3, Enumeration District 35, p. 174A (stamped), family #39, citing National Archives microfilm publication T624.
9. Orleans Deaths, 1918, vol. 174, p. 604, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
10. Mallory Taylor and Jari C. Honora, "The 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Family Found in an Attic," First Draft Blog, May 28, 2025, The Historic New Orleans Collection (<https://hnoc.org/publishing/first-draft/19th-century-family-found-in-an-attic>).