

## 6. Siblings, Nephews, Nieces, Cousins

When James Harding Jones' father died in 1907, his half-brother Means Johnston became his legal guardian. Means was 22 years old at the time and James was only 10. For a few years James attended the public schools near his home town. In 1911 Means had completed his law degree at Ole Miss and was able to send his brother James to the Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee where he obtained an excellent preparatory school education. This act of Means demonstrated the great value placed on education by the Johnston-Jones family, a trait given to them by their mother, Eula Viola West (Johnston) Jones. It would be difficult to overestimate the effect that this trait has had on all of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



This photo was taken in Greenwood, Mississippi at the home of Means Johnston and his wife Annie Welsford Johnston around 1937. Shown from left to right are: Front: William Branham Jones, James Harding Jones, Jr., Sarah Warren (Alvarez), Mary Means Warren (Karriker), Alfred Hume Jones, Annie Hughes Johnston Emmons and her son, Jimmy Emmons. Back row: Means Johnston, Myra Hume Jones, Annie Welsford Johnston, Dalton Warren, Ida McGhee Johnston Warren and Edna Eloise Jones Curtis. Not included in this photo were: Florence Johnston Warren Garrou, Means Johnston, Jr. (an Annapolis cadet), Frank Johnston, William Johnston and Ferrell Ann Curtis. Note: Jimmy Emmons later became a student at Vanderbilt University in the 1950s and enrolled in a required trigonometry course taught by his cousin, William Branham Jones, an instructor working on a Ph.D. in Mathematics. Fortunately Jimmy's work was good enough to earn a passing grade and he was able to graduate.

Means Johnston and Annie Welsford Johnston.

Following is the earliest available photo of Dad's siblings taken around 1894 or 1895.



Means Johnston, Florence Lee Jones and Ida McGhee Johnston, c. 1895. Florence Lee was Dad's sister, born on December 28, 1893. Her life ended on October 12, 1895.

Means Johnston was born on May 3, 1885 in Shell Mound, Mississippi. After receiving B.A. and Law degrees from the University of Mississippi, Means Johnston practiced law in Greenwood, MS and, for many years, he served as the District Attorney for Leflore County. He was the first to fulfill his mother's dream that all of her children would obtain a college education. Means married Annie Welsford on January 2, 1911 and they had four children: Annie Hughes, Means Jr., Frank and William.



Means Johnston

The first child of Means Johnston was Annie Hughes Johnston Emmons who married James E. Emmons. Their home was in Tullahoma, Tennessee where her husband worked for the defense industry. Annie Hughes is shown with her son Jimmy Emmons in the group photo at the beginning of this section. She was the flower girl in the wedding of James H. and Myra Hume Jones.

Means Johnston, Jr. was the first of three sons of Means and Annie Johnston. After graduating with honors at the Greenbrier Military School at Lewisburg, West Virginia in 1935, Means Jr. was admitted to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. At this time Means' uncle, James Harding Jones, was completing the year that he was on the teaching faculty of Greenbrier Mil. Acad. A letter from James H. Jones to his brother, Means, expressed

great concern that Means Jr. would not graduate from G. M. A. because of certain demerits given for misbehavior. However, a letter from Congressman Will M. Whittington from the third Mississippi district, dated May 11, 1935, states the following: "I am glad to know that you passed the substantiating examination for admission to Annapolis. I have appointed a number of young men to Annapolis but you made the best grades of any applicant so far I have appointed since I have been a Member of Congress. I suggest that you show this letter to your uncle." Means Jr. graduated from Annapolis in 1939.



Admiral Means Johnston, Jr.

As the commander of a destroyer in World War II, he played a key roll in capturing a German submarine off the coast of Morocco in 1944. Means held several sea commands after the war and commanded the naval base at Newport, R.I. After receiving a law degree from Georgetown Law Center in 1951, he served in several administrative posts for the Navy Department, including chief of legislative affairs from 1969 to 1971 and inspector general from 1971 to 1973.

In 1973 Means Jr. attained the rank of four-star admiral and from 1973 to 1975 Admiral Means Johnston, Jr. was commander of forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in southern Europe. At the end of forty years of service in the Navy, he retired from active duty. Means Jr. died of prostate cancer at Walter Reed Army Hospital on December 3, 1989. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Means Jr. was married to Hope Larkin Johnston. Their two children are: Lark Brown of Schlater, Mississippi and Means Johnston III of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The two other children of Means and Annie Johnston are Frank Johnston of Hammond, Louisiana and William Johnston of Greenwood, Mississippi.



This picture was taken at the home of James and Myra Hume Jones in Jackson, MS at the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1973. In front are Frank Johnston, Annie Welsford Johnston, William Johnston and Alfred Hume Jones. In the far back are Annie Hughes Johnston Emmons and William Branham Jones.



Steve Alvarez, William Johnston, Jr. and son Al Johnston

Ida McGhee Johnston Warren and Dalton Franklin Warren

Ida McGhee Johnston Warren was the older half-sister of James Harding Jones, born in Shell Mound, LeFlore County, Mississippi on December 28, 1887. She and Dalton Franklin Warren were married on June 5, 1918. They made their home in Sparta, North Carolina where they raised three daughters: Florence Johnston Warren (Garrou), Mary Means Johnston (Karriker) and Sarah Bryan Warren (Alvarez). In keeping with her mother's dream of an educated family, Ida devoted much of her life to teaching at Sparta High School in NC. As a testament of the esteem that Sparta students had for her, they chose to dedicate their 1950 school yearbook, *Mid-Century*, to Ida J. Warren.



This picture of Ida McGhee Johnston Warren appeared in the 1950 Sparta High School yearbook with the following dedication:

"We, the seniors, deem it a high privilege to honor one whose fairness, loyalty, grace and

wit, as well as her phenomenal gift for remembering students, have endeared her to one and all. In recognition of her outstanding service to the students of Sparta High School, we dedicate with love and admiration the *Mid-Century* of 1950 to Mrs. Ida J. Warren."

Florence Johnston Warren was the first daughter of Ida and Dalton Warren. Florence married Phillip Garrou of Valdese, North Carolina which became their permanent home. The Garrou family owned and operated a large textile industry in Valdese. Garrou ancestors were part of a Waldensian colony that came to Valdese, Burke County, North Carolina in 1893 seeking refuge from religious persecution and poor economic conditions in the crowded valleys of the Cottian Alps between France and Italy. I am pretty sure that the name, Valdese, was derived from the European pronunciation of Waldese where the W sounds like V in English.



This picture of Florence Johnston Warren Garrou was framed and hung in my father's study. Florence and Phillip Garrou made several visits to my father and mother in Jackson before

Florence succumbed after a long battle with cancer. In 1971 on a family trip to North Carolina, Martha and I and our five children tried to visit my Aunt Ida who was a widow but still living in Sparta. Due to a serious illness Aunt Ida asked Florence to host us in Valdese. Thus we did not get to see my aunt but we were warmly welcomed and entertained by Florence. Aunt Ida died the next year January 31, 1972 at Blowing Rock, NC.

Mary Means Johnston Karriker was the second daughter of Ida and Dalton Warren. She was married to Kenneth Karriker. After Kenny's death Mary Means continues to reside in their family home in Arlington, VA. I wrote to Mary Means in 1999 asking her to give me some information about the family of Aunt Ida and Uncle Dalton. She wrote that she never kept up with family history. "Sarah knew it all and now that is lost, sad to say." She wrote that "I am the last of the family and of Kenny's and of course I have two nephews Steve and David which I am grateful for." Mary Means helped me identify the family members in the 1937 group picture at the beginning of this section.



Mary Means Warren Karriker

This photo of Mary Means Warren Karriker was taken at the memorial service for her sister Sarah Bryan Warren Alvarez.



Sarah Warren Alvarez

Sarah Bryan Warren Alvarez, the third daughter of Ida and Dalton Warren, was married to Arturo Alvarez. They made their home in Coral Gables, Florida where two sons were born, Steven and David. At the memorial service for Sarah on March 12, 1997 her friend Ellen Schroyer read the following elegy:

"Her presence illuminated a room. Humor and laughter, her constant companions. She shared gifts freely with all. Musical, melodic, magical moments. Played the piano with lilting devotion. Created "Christmas at Tara" her own composition embracing the Tango, Waltz, Irish Jig and Highland Fling at an imaginary ball.

"Lovely, effervescent lady with a bright and shiny intelligence. Constantly curious, fascinated with history. Intrigued by life's twists and turns. Anticipating her birthday with the joy of a child. Now she has gone, like the flash of a meteor. Brilliant, mystical, the light in

her life. Pervasive and still present for those who knew her. Scintillating Sarah, now a star in our Universe.”



At home of Ida J. Warren in the 1950s. Front: Phillip Garrou and Steve Alvarez.. Back: Sarah Warren Alvarez, James Harding Jones, Florence Warren Garrou, Myra Hume Jones, Ida Johnston Warren and Arturo Alvarez.



Steve Alvarez, son of Sarah and Arturo Alvarez



David Alvarez, Arturo Alvarez and Kenny Karriker at memorial service for Sarah Warren Alvarez



David Alvarez and Sarah Warren Alvarez late 1960s

Edna Eloise Jones Curtis and Harrison Curtis



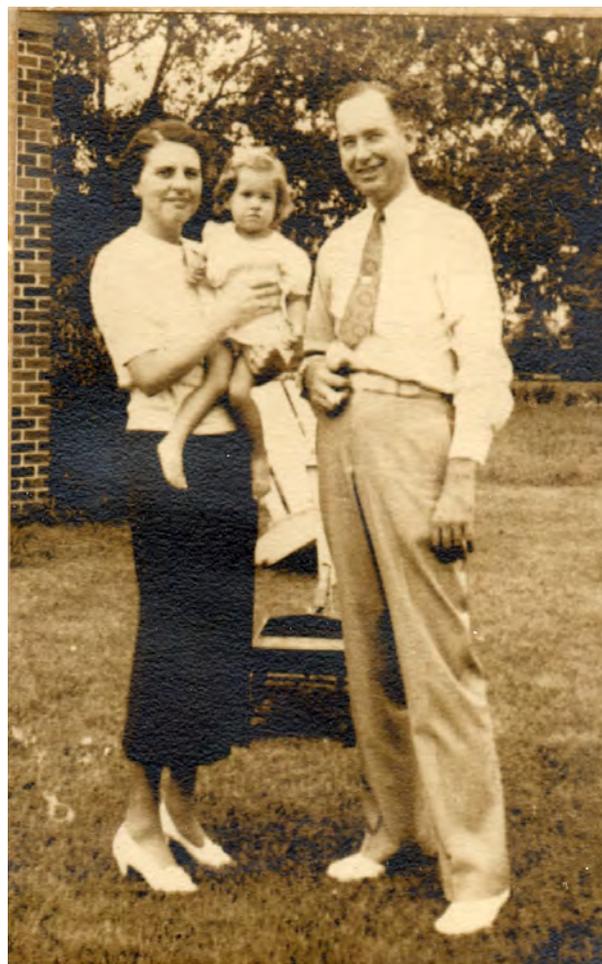
Edna Eloise Curtis Harrison

Edna Eloise Curtis was Dad's younger sister (almost eight years younger), born December 7, 1904 at Sunny Side, LeFlore County, Mississippi. She was only three years old when she lost her father, James Armstrong Jones. Aunt Eloise married B. Harrison Curtis in 1930 and they made their home in Greenwood, MS where Harrison became the president and general manager of the Coca-Cola Bottling Works of Greenwood. Their daughter, Ferrell Ann Curtis was born in Greenwood in 1935. So she was only two years old when the group family photo at the beginning of this section was made and probably explains why she was not in it.

Following are copies of a few pictures saved by my father. Some of these were framed and hung in their home. Others were stored in picture folders.



B. Harrison Curtis



Eloise, Ferrell Ann and Harrison Curtis



Ferrell Ann Curtis



This photo was taken in Greenwood, Mississippi around 1947 by my father. Left to right: Bill (William Branham Jones), Means Johnston, Annie Welsford Johnston, Ferrell Ann Curtis; in back are Eloise and Harrison Curtis.



Edna Eloise Jones Curtis



Ferrell Ann Curtis



Ferrell Ann Curtis Harper and her husband, Dr. James Robinson (Bud) Harper. Their home is in Durham, North Carolina where Bud has practiced medicine and where they raised their family of four children: James Robinson, Harrison Curtis, William Henry (Bill) and Elizabeth Sloan (Beth) Harper.



Another photo taken in 1947 in Greenwood:  
William Branham Jones, Annie Johnston, Means Johnston and Edna Eloise Jones Curtis