

William Stuart (Stewart) Jones

**Of the 1st Battalion
Rifle Brigade**

per "Belgravia" 1866

by Beryl Dancer 2011

William S Jones was the son of William George and Mary Ann Jones of King's County, Ireland. He was born c1818. At 34 years of age, he married Mary Jane Young, daughter of building contractor William and Mary Young of Belfast. Where they were married differs on both their death certificates. His shows King's County (Offaly) while hers shows Belfast. William was a soldier being a veteran of the Crimea (1854-1856)

6 Oct 1869 purchased Fremantle Town Lot 700 for £6.0s.0d.

2 Sep 1883 Granted North Fremantle Locations P43 and P44 of 2.2.27 acres.¹

On 25 June 1897 William was entertained at a banquet for EPF survivors, held in St George's Hall, Perth, as part of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations where he was shown as being a holder of Crimea and Turkish Crimea medals.

William Stewart Jones and his wife Mary Jane raised a family eventually consisting of five daughters and three sons. At the conclusion of William's military service, the family was involved in a Wood Merchants business on the corner of Hampton Road and South Street, and a Laundry business in South Street, with property in South Street and Attfield Street in Fremantle. The family attended St Paul's Church of England in Hampton Road, Beaconsfield, with their

¹ Batty Library BL342 – old reference from the 1980-1990's. These records now held in the SROWA.



1st Battalion Rifle Brigade

Depiction of soldiers uniform in 1815

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:UK-Nap-95th.jpg>

children's schooling at a building in Baker Street.

From the Fremantle City Library Local Studies Collection the Rate Books of 1887 show that an undeveloped lot in South Street was owned by W Jones. Whereas the Rate Books of 1888-1890 describes the property as "Cottage of 4 rooms in South Street owned by William Jones – Pensioner."

By 1897 the Rate Books show that William owned three properties, a 3 room and a 4 room cottage in Attfield Street and South Street. Those records then show that in 1898 the South Street cottage now has 7 rooms.

William Stewart Jones passed away on 1st January 1899 at his home in Attfield Street, South Fremantle, aged 80 years. He was buried in the Church of England Cemetery at Skinner Street, Fremantle on the 2nd January 1899 and these records were substantiated by the Parish Burial records of St John's Anglican Church, Fremantle.²

The John Curtin High School now stands on this site. The headstones from here were transferred to the current Fremantle

² Parish Burial records of St John's Anglican Church, Fremantle – officiating minister was D Glynn Watkins.

Cemetery on the corner of High Street and Carrington Street, Fremantle.

Mary Jane Jones passed away on the 14th May 1925, at her sons home called The Oval Cottage, aged 91years, just 6 weeks short of her 92nd birthday. Mary was buried in the Church of England Section of Fremantle Cemetery in Plot A3.495.

On a visit to the cemetery we could not locate the Skinner Street headstone in the special section set aside for them. Mary's gravesite carries a headstone, inscribed:

"Our dear father W S Jones
Crimean Veteran
Died Jan 1899, Aged 81
Also our dear mother,
Mary Jones
Died May 14, 1935, Aged 92"

The issue of William and Mary were:

Elizabeth
Sarah Ann who married
George Sharpe
Mary Jane who married
1. Samuel Goddard
2. Herbert Bolton
Emily Ellen who married
John Henry Schwennesen
Martha Catherine who married
Hasson Dicton
William Frederick
George Charles
Stewart James.

In other records there is also reported:

2 deceased
Clara died aged 10yrs in 1888
(the other possibly being Christiana registered in 1869 aged 9mths).

Editorial Note: *(Beryl Dancer has kindly shared her many years of research into her family history with us from an unpublished manuscript that she has done for her family who said that all her information will all be lost if she didn't put pen to paper. – How right is that.*

Beryl actually remembers living in the cottage inside the gates of Fremantle Oval because

her father was the caretaker. The Oval was muted by the Fremantle Football Club and the Cricket Club in 1893. They were said to want the "Barracks Field" for a public recreation area. This used to be the parade ground for the Enrolled Pensioners who were in the nearby Barracks. The grounds then became the parade grounds for Volunteer Defence Corps under the auspices of C A Manning. This idea was objected to by Sir John Forrest but by June 1894 the councillors were granted this land. The first football game was played there in May of 1894.

*(A Special Thank You to **Beryl** for sharing this with us and what wonderful information she has told us.)*