



Major Francis Lionel JONES VD

[1866 – 1953]



Major Jones was a Founding Member of the Club in 1892.

Major Jones was elected to Life Membership of the Club – possibly after 1910 and before 1928

Francis Lionel (Frank) Jones was born in Brisbane on 8 June 1866. His father was Canon the Reverend Thomas Jones [1836 – 1918]¹ and his mother was Frances Sophia Jones [1842 – 1932]. He is reported to have had eight siblings – three brothers and five sisters.

He entered Brisbane Grammar School, at the age of 13 years and 8 months, in the first quarter of 1882 (after previously attending Hutchins School in Hobart) and left in June 1882. He was described as “Manly and steady, but not quick”. He became a quantity surveyor and is later described as an “architect”. He variously lived at Geebung, Lindum, Toowong.

¹ At the time of Frank’s birth, Rev. Jones was the curate at All Saints, Church, Wickham Terrace.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. .The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.

He was a Lieutenant in the Queensland Field and Garrison Artillery from 1890 and was promoted captain in 1897.

In May 1900 he enlisted as a Captain in the 4th Queensland Imperial Bushmen². He embarked on *Manchester Port* in Brisbane on 18 May 1900 and landed at Beira on 14 June.



Jones (seated, right) pre-embarkation for South Africa, 1900

He served in the Boer War in South Africa until June 1901, and was Mentioned in Despatches (29 July 1902). He was awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps, and the British War Medal.

He embarked in South Africa on *Britannic* on 5 July 1901 and disembarked in Brisbane on 5 August. His service ended on 10 August 1901.

His military records states he was married to a Rose May Jones when he applied for a commission in 1915

He was placed on the Unallotted List in January 1903, on the Reserve of Officers in December 1904. He was awarded the Volunteer Decoration.

He served as a captain in the AIF in the Great War in the Sea Transport Service, from 16 November 1915 to 4 March 1916. His one voyage was to Suez on HMAT A23 *Suffolk* (27 November 1915 to 3 January 1916); returning to Melbourne on HM Transport *Commonwealth* (21 January to 24 February 1916).

He was placed on to the Retired List with the Honorary rank of Major in June 1926.

² Australians served mostly in mounted units formed in each colony before despatch or formed in South Africa itself. The Australian contribution took the form of five 'waves':

- First were the contingents raised by the Australian colonies in response to the outbreak of war in 1899, which drew on the men in the militia of the colonial forces;
- Second were the 'Bushmen' contingents, which were recruited from more diverse sources and paid for by public subscription or the military philanthropy of wealthy individuals;
- Third were the 'Imperial Bushmen' contingents, which were raised in ways similar to the preceding contingents but paid for by the imperial government in London.
- Fourth were then the 'Draft Contingents', which were raised by the state governments after Federation on behalf of the new Commonwealth government, which was as yet unable to do so; and
- Fifth, after Federation, and close to the end of the war, the 'Australian Commonwealth Horse' contingents raised by the new Federal government.

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He was active in the African War Veterans Association Queensland and served as President 1933-1934. The rare and exquisitely crafted gold and enamel Past President's Badge, was presented to Major Frank Lionel Jones and is now held by Brisbane Grammar School as one of its 'Treasures'.



South African War Veterans Association. Committee, 1926-7

Major F.L. Jones [Front Row, Fifth from left]

The Club's history book confirms that Major F.L. Jones was a foundation member and a Life Member of the United Service Club (p 12):

*In view of the fact that the Club did not come into being until very nearly the end of the year [1892] it seems reasonable to regard all 1892 entrants as foundation members and, on that basis, life members shown to be of that vintage would have to be included. They were: Lieutenant Colonel J H Adams, Colonel E Deshon, **Major F L Jones**, Captain C deF Pennefather, Lieutenant Colonel J W Boggie, Major General R S Browne, Colonel C D W Rankin, Lieutenant J W Wassell, Lieutenant H M Chester and Lieutenant Colonel T Pye. The ranks, of course, belong to a period long after 1892.*

...Major Francis Lionel Jones died in 1954, after 62 years membership, and had been the last of the foundation members.

There are further references to his active participation in Club affairs over the years, for example:

Major F L Jones, another foundation member, added to this description by stating: 'The building stood immediately behind the chancel of St John's Church. I think it must originally have been built for a private residence as it had a large bow window onto William Street'.

Early in 1937 foundation member, Major F L Jones, produced a 500-word history of the Club which differed in a few respects from Major Maddock's earlier work; one being the name which Jones said was United Service Institute...

The three surviving foundation members [in 1940], Major General R S Browne, Major F L Jones and Lieutenant Colonel V Larsen each, in turn, responded to the toast and it is unfortunate that their words do not survive for inclusion in this record.

[When debating the purchase of Montpelier in Wickham Terrace and moving from George Street Club House]: *he didn't like the idea of having to get a tram. This particular member, Major F L Jones, had a personal point. He had been admitted to membership in 1892 as a foundation member. At his advanced years, his objections were understandable. He wanted the committee to consider another building.*

Major Jones died on 14 November 1953 at the age of 87.

He had been a member of the Club for 62 years and was the last of the Club's foundation members.

Sources included:

- Brisbane Grammar School records:
 - Register of enrolment BGS – held in Brisbane Grammar Archives (*vol1 p38*)
 - Records of The Brisbane Grammar School 1860-1890 (R P Francis) held in Archives
 - Brisbane Grammar School Magazine – first published 1898, up to 1920 on-line
 - Annals of the Brisbane Grammar School 1869-1922 (S Stephenson) held in Archives (p 144)
 - Golden Book (tribute/record of OB's who served in WWI)
- Various websites
 - <http://www.brisbanegrammar.com/sites/bgs150/Pages/Display-Treasure-Item.aspx?listid=157>
 - https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people?people_preferred_name=francis+lionel+jones&people_service_number=&people_unit=sea+transport+service&roll=First+World+War+Nominal+Roll
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- Boer War Association Newsletter Vol 12, No 1 - Mar 2019
- Research by Mrs Christine Purvis