

Augustus Jones  
The End of Petersburg



Augustus Jones was born in the Northwestern Territory (now Illinois) on February 17, 1796. A veteran of War of 1812 and the Mexican War, Jones lived in Missouri before arriving in Texas and settling in Columbus, Colorado County, Texas in 1851.

Jones's involvement in Petersburg began in 1853 when he purchased six lots in the town on September 5 from Asa L.D. Jones. Augustus was involved in several land transactions in Petersburg during 1853 and 1854 including the sale of Lots 3 & 4 in Block 17 to Mrs. Experience B. Elson, his future mother-in-law. Augustus married Hannah Elizabeth Elson on June 13, 1854, in Lavaca County.

Jones' name will forever be tied to the end of Petersburg even though he never actually lived there. As a result of his various land transactions in Petersburg, Jones owned the old courthouse and the fire acre lot associated with it. He also owned numerous lots in Petersburg and acreage in the immediate area.

In 1854, Augustus Jones lost two judgments in the District Court of Lavaca County: one in favor of Baldrige Sparks & Co. and the second to Ernest L. Jourdan (Jordan). In both judgments the Lavaca County sheriff was ordered by the Court to place a levy on Jones' property to pay the judgment.

To satisfy the judgment won by Sparks & Co. the old court house at Petersburg plus five acres was sold to W.R.B. Wills on October 3, 1854.

To satisfy the judgment won by Jourdan, the sheriff sold all the land sold by Arthur Sherrill to Augustus Jones, including the Petersburg Town Tract that contained between 1,500 and 2,000 acres, all the houses and lots belonging to Jones and any liens and mortgages Jones might have on any houses and lots in the town of Petersburg.

Originally, Jones was the high bidder at a September 4, 1855, sheriff's sale but failed to comply with the conditions of the purchase. The land was then resold to William Martin.

Augustus Jones died on February 14, 1887 and is buried in the Columbus City Cemetery in Columbus, Texas.