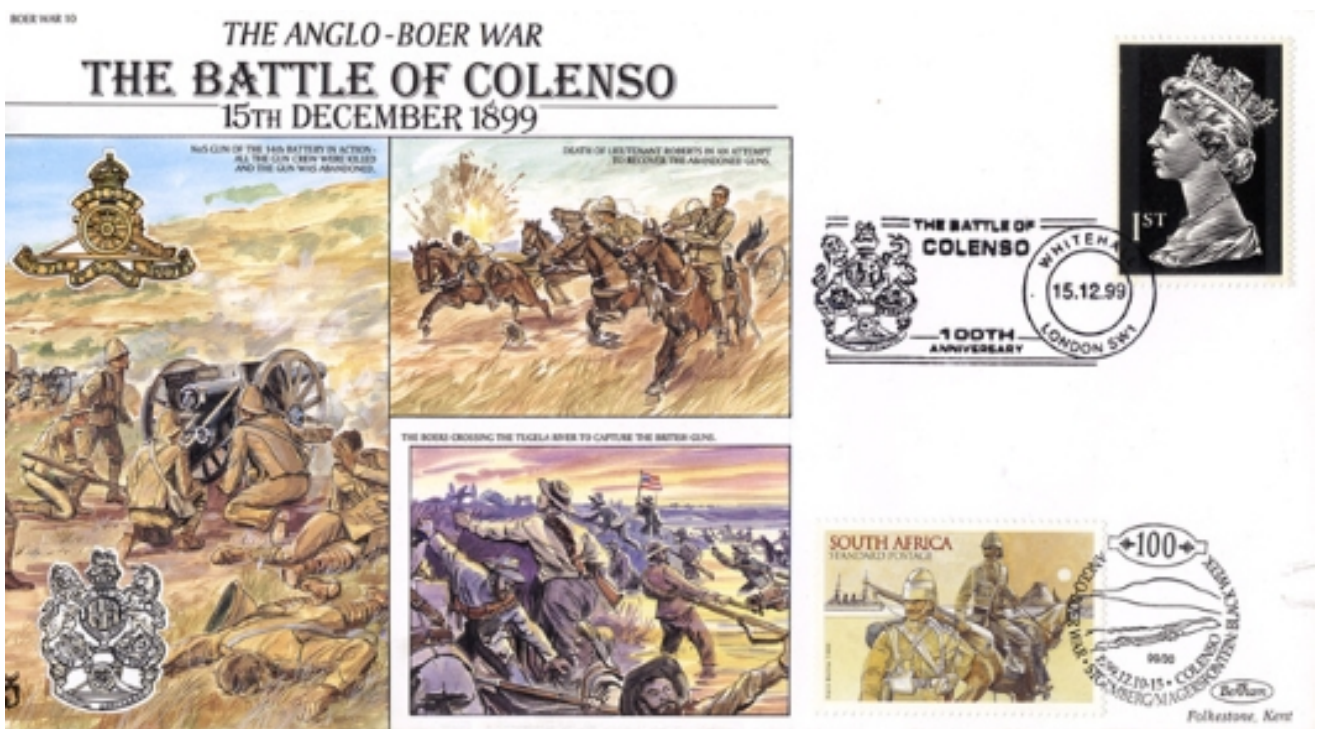


Colenso and Jones Connections:

How the Battle of Colenso was remembered!

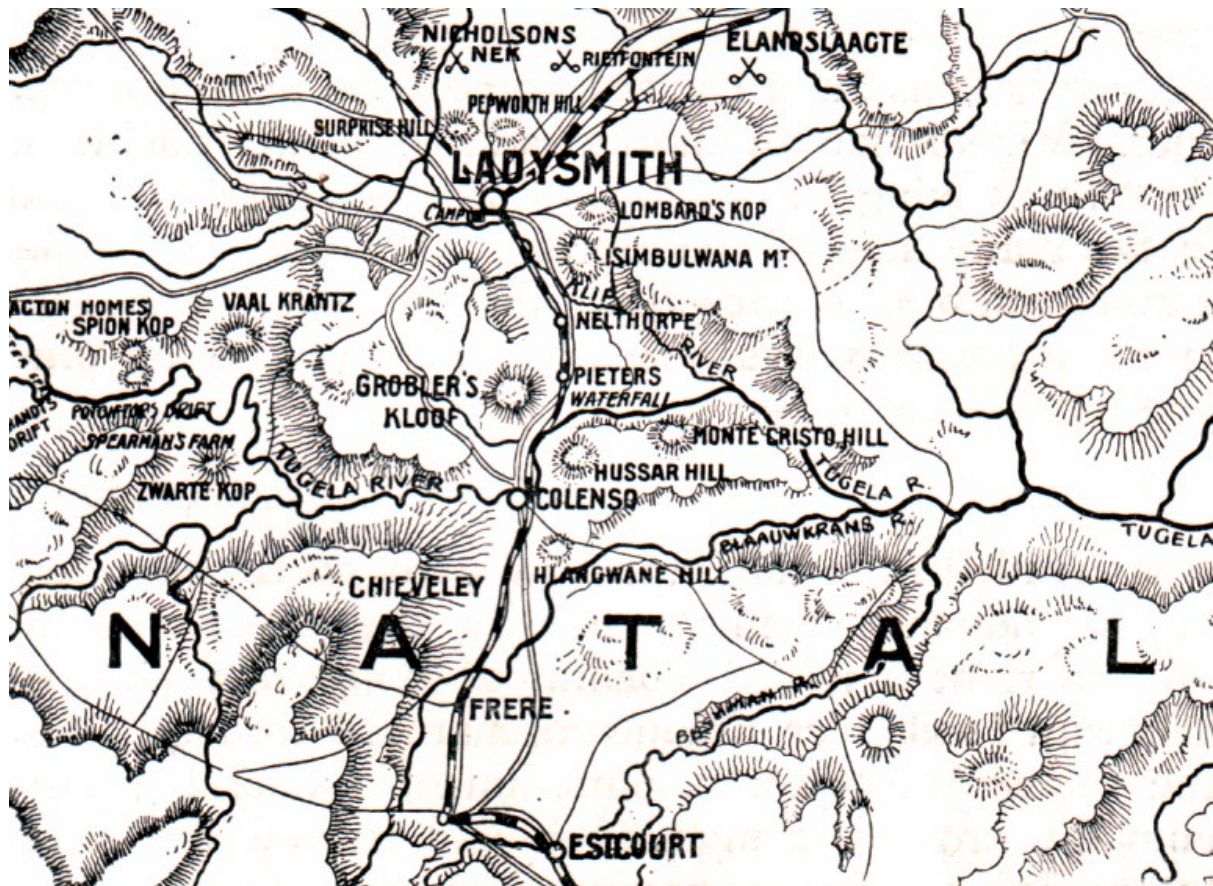


Written by Ann Collins
Revised June 12, 2016

Colenso and Jones Connections: how the Battle of Colenso was remembered!

In the course of studying Colenso family history I have come across the use of Colenso as a given name and a family using the hyphenated surname Colenso-Jones. Recently I have been enjoying an album called *Hebron* by the *Climbing Trees*, the self-styled originators of “cymrucana”, described as a “cool cymru fusion with folk-rock Americana.” One of the band members is Colenso Jones and the band is based in Pontypridd. So I thought it was time to document what I know of the Colenso/Jones connections.

The Battle of Colenso was the third and final battle fought during the middle of December 1899, the Black Week of the Boer War (1899-1902). It was fought between British and Boer forces in and around Colenso, Natal, South Africa on December 15, 1899. It was the third devastating defeat for the British army between December 10 and 17.



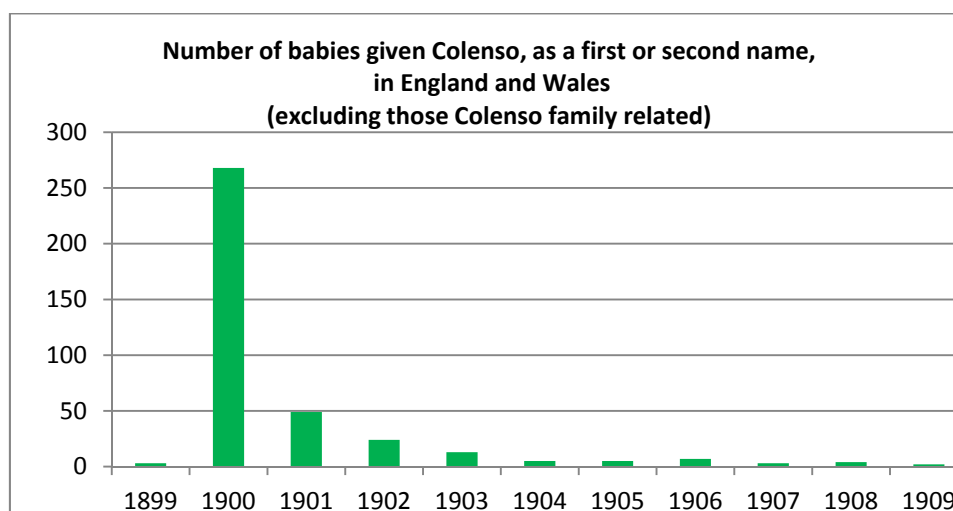
Colenso is on the Tugela River and was named after John William Colenso (1814-1883), the first Anglican Bishop of Natal. Colenso was a native of Cornwall, a mathematician, theologian, biblical scholar and social activist particularly for the Zulus. He published a book in the 1860s questioning the literal interpretation of the first five books of the Bible, which generated a controversy in the Church of England.

From 1863 to 1894 there were fourteen babies named after him, possibly reflecting the religious inclinations of their parents. Then, dating from the last quarter of 1899 there was an explosion of babies called Colenso. Despite the battle being fought mid



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December three babies were registered in 1899. Nearly 270 were registered in 1900. Other names used were Redvers, Buller, Kitchener, Ladysmith, Pretoria, Tugela, Roberts, Baden Powell, Methuen. A small number of these were in Wales, particularly near Pontypridd.



A Welsh newspaper described this as a reflection of “how deeply the Transvaal War has eaten into the very heart of the nation.”¹ The journalist concluded his account of the latest fashion for naming babies with the following:

After all, it is small wonder that patriotism should show itself in this form. It is an instinct that must have an outlet somewhere. When a town sends away brave lads in all the flush and exuberance of youth – pride at the glory that awaits them, mingled with the haunting fear that, perchance, they may never return – then it is that people begin to think; then it is that humanity is stirred to its depths; then it is that the “one touch of nature” shows itself, and a father’s pride and a mother’s heart bubble up in all their fullness. They have seen an elder son or a brother sent off for the war; they have followed the papers with eager eyes; they have drunk in the glory, they have shared in the sadness, and, perchance, the bitter tear has dropped for the boy who sleeps his last cold sleep beyond the seas. Strange this mingling of the local and the national life, of the loves and affairs of the hamlets with the onward sweep of the Empire. What wonder that the outcome is seen in many a Christian name that in 50, 60, aye, 70 years to come, will remind our people of the war, of the battles lost and gained, of the glorious men who revived the ancient splendour of the race, and handed down the Flag unsullied to their successors.²

Some of these babies were born into Jones families, many living in the district surrounding the Glamorgan town of Pontypridd in South Wales.

John Colenso Jones (1873-1944)

The first of these was the second son of a policeman Evan Jones and his wife Ann Jones. The couple were both from Carmarthen, married in Swansea in 1871, and settled in Pontypridd. Evan was to become the Deputy Chief Constable in 1894 and sadly died of pneumonia in 1897 at the young age of 49. The Stipendiary’s address to the court was reported in the local newspaper.

Immediately after the magistrates had taken their seats, the Stipendiary rose, his co-magistrates and those in the well of the Court also standing up. His worship, who was visibly

affected and frequently spoke in broken accents said: "Gentlemen, I think before we proceed with the ordinary and usual business of the court, that we, ought to refer to the very extreme loss which this district and court have suffered through the death of the late deputy chief constable and our superintendent. I have been now connected with court for over 13 years, and if the proceedings here have on the main given satisfaction to the public, I feel that that is to a very great extent due to the efficiency and ability of Superintendent Jones. To my mind he had pretty nearly all the qualities which go to make up an efficient policeman. He was singularly truthful; he was remarkably just; he was unostentatious and simple in his manner, and I believe he commanded the entire confidence of the public. None who heard him give his evidence could help being impressed with his earnest desire above everything and all things to do justice, and that, to my mind is the great quality in a policeman. They don't act on behalf of the prosecution they act on behalf of her Majesty the Queen and on behalf of justice, and in performing their duties they ought to have truthfulness beyond all things in their minds. To my mind, Superintendent Jones was a model policeman."³

His children also became prominent members of the Pontypridd community.

A poignant description of the family concluded a newspaper account of the fate of the youngest son, Private Evan Gordon Jones, after he died, in June 1917, of starvation while a prisoner of the Germans.

A touch of irony about the whole business is that the dead man's brother, Mr J. Colenso Jones, has been so assiduous in sending out on behalf of the townspeople regularly parcels to the prisoners of war, and the numerous postcards received show how the war prisoners appreciate the generosity of the Pontypridd people. Private Jones was within a few months of completing his law student career, and was articled to a third brother, Mr [David] Stanley Jones, solicitor, Pontypridd. The greatest sympathy is felt for them and Miss Mabel Jones, his sister, a head school-mistress, with whom Private Jones resided. He was an excellent tennis player and a young man who was much respected by a large circle of friends at Pontypridd.⁴

The eldest brother, (Daniel) Milton Jones, was director of education for the Urban Council of Pontypridd and (John) Colenso Jones was a solicitor and the town clerk. Another sister Florrie, was also a school teacher. John Colenso Jones married Mary Howard in 1902 and had four children. His three sons were all given the second name of Colenso – Herbert Colenso Jones, Winston Colenso Jones and Kingsley Colenso Jones. The first two died as children. Kingsley served as a Captain in the Royal Army Service Corps during WW2, spending some time in Kenya. He married Margaret Mary Richards in 1940. She was the daughter of David Richards, landlord of the Llanover Arms. This public house is now owned by their son John Colenso Jones. His son is Daniel Colenso Jones is co-director and is probably *Colenso Jones* of the Climbing Trees.

John Colenso Jones's wife Mary died in 1940 and he followed her in 1944, their executor was Kingsley Colenso Jones, an officer in HM Army.



Llanover Arms, Pontypridd
with current landlord
John Colenso Jones



Harry Morgan Colenso Jones (1893-1978)

On October 7, 1893 the eldest son of Benjamin Powell Jones and his wife Sarah Smith was born in Peterstone, Monmouthshire. He was named Harry Morgan Colenso Jones. Benjamin was from Breconshire and a schoolmaster. He spoke both Welsh and English, and except for Harry his children were given names of Welsh origin – Tydvil, Ceinwen, Caradog, Olwen, Aneuryn.

In the 1911 Harry was boarding in Cardiff working as a fitting engineer or boilermaker.

During WW1 he served in the Royal Field Artillery. His medal card, indicating he served overseas, gives his rank as gunner. The roll however indicates he was a Lance Bombardier when the rolls were submitted but seems to have reverted to gunner due to misconduct.

Harry married Gladys Bowden in Cardiff in 1922. In 1939 Harry and Gladys were living in Cardiff with Harry working as a maintenance engine fitter on the Dock railway. They were both air-raid wardens.

Harry died in Bridgend in 1978.

Colenso Glynne Jones (1899-1918)

In the December quarter of 1899 the second son of Thomas William Jones and Sarah Martin was born in Abercynon and registered as Colenso Glynne Jones.

Thomas William was a grocer and later an accountant and auctioneer, as well as a councillor. Thomas William had been born in Cardigan and Sarah was from Cardiff.

Colenso Glynne Jones served as a wireless operator in the South Wales Borderers. For 3 weeks in March 1918 he was an officer cadet for the Royal Air Force, but returned to his original regiment.

He died on the October 14, 1918 of pneumonia. He had just rejoined his unit in France after 10 days leave. When he contracted pneumonia he was brought back to a military hospital at Blundellsands, near Liverpool. He was buried in St Cynon's churchyard.



Colenso and Jones Connections: how the Battle of Colenso was remembered!

Colenso Jones (1900–1964)

In the March quarter of 1900 the youngest son Amos Jones and Martha Arrowsmith was registered in the Newcastle upon Lyme district in Staffordshire. Amos and Martha had been married since 1887 and had five children. They were both natives of Madeley and Amos was a hewer in the local colliery.

Colenso married Frances Jones in 1918. They were both living in Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1939 with Colenso working as a colliery hewer. He died at Madeley in 1964.

Colenso Jones (1900–1967)

Also in the March quarter of 1900 the third son of John Jones and Margaret Davies was born in Ferndale, registered in Pontypridd, Glamorgan. John was a coal hewer, originally from White Hills, Carmarthen. He married Margaret Davies, from Pontlottyn, in 1891. In the 1901 census they and their children were recorded as speaking both Welsh and English. In the 1911 census none of the children were recorded as speaking Welsh.

Colenso married Annie Hughes in 1927. He died in Cardiff in 1967.

William Colenso Jones (1900-1973)

William Colenso Jones was born on March 6, 1900 in Pontypridd. He was the second son of William Frederick Jones, a stone mason, and Catherine Gronow. His father was a native of Pemereg, Carmarthen and his mother from Pontypridd. The family were all recorded in the 1911 census as speaking both Welsh and English, with his father now working as an underground colliery mason.



On the November 27, 1917 William joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He was then seventeen years and eight months old and had been a police constable. He was nearly 5 foot 10 inches tall, with black hair, dark complexion and blue-brown eyes. He was demobilised in February 1919.

In Pennsylvania, on the March 21, 1923 William married Rachel Williams, a native of Pennsylvania. The couple were passengers on the Majestic, sailing from Southampton to New York in August 1923. On his naturalisation petition William recorded that he had originally immigrated to the USA on May 23, 1921 on the SS Aquitania. He was working as a coal miner, later he became the section foreman.

Colenso and Jones Connections: how the Battle of Colenso was remembered!

The family settled in Carbondale, Lackawanna, Pennsylvania, with their only child, also William Colenso Jones, being born in 1928, and graduating from Lehigh University in 1950, with a Business degree.

William Colenso Jones senior retired on May 11, 1956 and died November 14, 1973.

Gilmore Leonard Colenso Jones (1900 -1990)

Gilmore Leonard Colenso Jones was born on April 4, 1900 in Llandyfogwg, Glamorgan. He was the eldest child of Henry Jones and Catherine Thomas. Henry was a native of Llanfihangel, Carmarthen and Catherine was born in Treherbert, Glamorgan. In 1891 Henry was working as a coal miner and by 1911 was an underground colliery fireman. The couple married in 1897 in Bridgend.

In 1926 Gilmore was registered as a doctor, having studied in Cardiff, St Bart's and Bonn. He was serving as a medical officer in Kirkuk, Iraq, when he married Kathleen Edwina Macartney on January 15, 1929 in the Cathedral Church of St George in Jerusalem, then Palestine. Her father, John Boyce Macartney was a cleric with the Church of Ireland, and she had been born in Armagh. Gilmore's father was described as a colliery engineer on the marriage certificate.

Their son (Gilmore) Mervyn (Boyce) Colenso Jones was born in London in 1930. Kathleen died in Haifa in 1939, aged only 37.

In 1933 Gilmore changed his name by deed poll to Colenso-Jones.

Gilmore became the Chief Medical Officer of Iraq Petroleum Company as well as serving as a Medical Officer for the Red Cross and the Volunteer Force in Palestine between 1940 and 1945. He married a second time to Blanche Lena Gandor, a British nursing sister, who had been working in Egypt from the early thirties. Her father Yussef Gandor, born in Alexandria, married Jessie Kate Jones in Kensington in 1902. Jessie had been born in Builth Wells, Breconshire.

Soon after Gilmore went to Iraq he was initiated into the Iraq Lodge in Baghdad. This was the beginning of a long and active membership in Freemasonry. He was a founding member in Lodges in Kirkuk, Haifa and London. He held many leadership positions until 1979. Gilmore died on the March 30, 1990 in Westminster. Blanche died a month later.

Mervyn Colenso-Jones was educated at Rugby School and joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1950, serving in Britain and abroad. He attended the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer in 1968-69 and then was an exchange officer with the US Continental Army Command in Virginia 1969-1970. He married Rosamond Anne Bowen in 1968. He retired in 1972 with the rank of Major.

From 1982 to 2000 he was a member of HM Body Guard and the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-arms. From 1997 to 2000 he was the *harbinger*, which appears to be an organiser of royal tours.

In 1981 he was admitted as a commander to the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, serving as the Priory Secretary for Wales between 1981 and 1984. His father has been previously admitted as a Knight.

This is a royal order of chivalry found throughout the Commonwealth, Hong Kong, Ireland and the USA with the mission "to prevent and relieve sickness and injury, and to act to enhance the health and well-being of people anywhere in the world." There are approximately 25,000 members

accepted into the order. Except via appointment to certain government or ecclesiastical offices in some realms, membership is by invitation only and individuals may not petition for admission.

Harold Colenso Jones (1900-1980)

Harold Colenso Jones, the second son of Charles Frederick Jones and Rachel Thornaloe was born on April 23, 1900 in Peckham, Surrey, now a suburb of London. Charles was an accountant's clerk, born in Bermondsey. Rachel was a native of Coventry. They married in Coventry in 1890. Their first child Flora was born in Merthyr Tydvil, Wales in 1892. Their other three children were born around London. Charles died in 1904. Rachel was living with her four children in Brockley in 1911.

Harold joined the army on May 23, 1918, after training he was assigned to the Bedford regiment. He served within England and was demobilised on March 13, 1919. He had been a clerk when he enlisted. He was 5 foot 8 inches, with light brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion.

Harold married Lilian Theresa Marshall in 1928 in Lewisham. They were living in St Marylebone in 1939 and Harold was a licensed victualler.

Harold died in Surrey in 1980.

Lilian Colenso Jones (1900-1987)

Lilian Colenso Jones was born on June 7, 1900 in Tredegar, Monmouthshire. She was the third daughter of Theophilus John Jones and Harriet Jane Harris. They were married in Bedwellty in 1895. Theophilus was a coal hewer in 1901 and a colliery examiner in 1911.

Lilian married Frederick John Whitcombe in 1926. The couple were living in Tredegar in 1939 with three children, Elizabeth, Neville and Diana. Frederick was an ARP instructor and ambulance driver.

Lilian died in 1987 in Gwent.

John Colenso Jones (1900-1921)

John Henry Jones and Frances Williams named their first son John Colenso Jones. He was born in the around June 1900 in Treherbert, Glamorgan. John Henry was a colliery timberman and had been born in Anglesey. Frances was born in Treherbert. The couple had married in 1900 in Pontypridd. Their second son, born in 1902, was called Richard Methuen, another Boer War inspired name.

John Colenso Jones died in 1921 at Cemaes Bay, near Anglesey.

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Elizabeth Colenso and Thomas Jones, RN

On March 14, 1815 Thomas Jones, seaman of HMS Milford married Elizabeth Colenso, spinster of the parish of Stoke Damerel in Devon. She was probably the daughter of Thomas Colenso and Elizabeth Grose and was born in Penzance around 1790.

Thomas had joined the Royal Navy in 1797 and his ship assignments are described on his application for his daughter to attend the Greenwich Hospital School.

In 1797 he was a member of the crew of HMS Uranie (38) which had been the French *Le Tartu*, captured off Ireland on January 5, 1797.⁵ In 1800 he was a *boy* on HMS Malta (84) which had been the French *Le Guillaume Tell*, captured in the Mediterranean March 30, 1800. This ship remained in the ordinary through the peace of Amiens which had been signed in March 25, 1802. He rejoined the



Admiral Sir Robert Calder's action off Cape Finisterre, 23 July 1805, by William Anderson. The captured Spanish prizes *Firme* and the *San Raphael*, are under tow on the right and the damaged HMS *Windsor Castle*, on the left.

ship when it was readied for sea and joined the fleet in Cawsand Bay in April 1803. Here they were on Channel duty blockading France. They participated in the Battle of Cape Finisterre on the July 22, 1805 when Calder's squadron encountered the combined fleet of France and Spain. Malta lost five killed and 40 wounded. They were the attached to Lord Collingwood watching Cadiz. In 1807 they went with this squadron to the Mediterranean.

In 1809 he was assigned to HMS *Ville de Paris* (10) which was in the Hamoaze for re-fitting between 1809 and 1811. After this he was on the crew of HMS *Rodney* (74) which was stationed in the Mediterranean. On January 15, 1812 the *Rodney* chased a strange ship standing off Cape Sicie, near Toulon. *Rodney* claimed the prize ship and sent aboard a party to sail it to Minorca. At the close of 1812 the crew of the *Rodney* was paid off as a result of the damage she received in a violent storm in the Gulf of Lyons. His next ship was HMS *Milford* (74) which was stationed in the Mediterranean. On May 24, 1813, *Milford*, off Ragusa, saw a convoy sailing between Stagus to Cattaro inside the islands. *Weazle* and *Haughty* were sent in pursuit and all six ships were taken or destroyed.

HMS *Milford* was the ship recorded on his marriage certificate in 1815, but he was assigned in 1814 to HMS *Prince Frederick* (64) in the Hamoaze, followed in 1815 by HMS *Salvador del Mundo* (112) a harbour ship in Plymouth. He had another cruise outside Plymouth on HMS *Eridanus* (36) which detained and brought into Plymouth the French ship *L'aimable Eterne* which had been bound for Dunkirk with wine and brandy. Prior to his demobilisation he was attached to HMS *Pheasant* (18) in Plymouth.

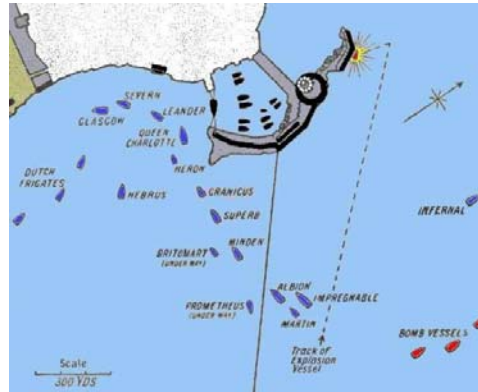
In 1815, following the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo Thomas was invalided out of the Navy, made a Greenwich pensioner and attached to the Plymouth ordinary as a ship keeper. But his service was not over as an Anglo-Dutch fleet was mobilised to force the Bey of Algiers to stop his slavery practices. HMS *Minden* (74) went out of Plymouth harbour, as part of a fleet of 19 vessels, sailed to Gibraltar to prepare for the fleet being sent to the Bay of Algiers. They were joined by the Dutch squadron. On August 27, 1816 the fleet, under the command of Lord Exmouth, bombarded Algiers in

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order to free Christian slaves and stop the practice of enslaving Europeans. A treaty was signed in September but the practice continued for many more decades.



Bombardment of Algiers, 1823, by [Martinus Schouman](#).



Sketch showing the positions of the fleet during the bombardment

Thomas and Elizabeth settled in Devonport and had six children:

1. Elizabeth Callenso Jones, christened on December 6, 1818.
2. Thomas Calensa Jones, born on October 27, 1820 in Stoke Damerel and christened on November 20.
3. William Callenso Jones, christened May 20, 1823 and buried May 19, 1824.
4. Caroline Colenso Jones, born March 18, 1825. She was christened much later on July 3, 1834.
5. William Jones, born in 1830.
6. Sarah Jones, born in 1832.

In 1830 Thomas applied for his son Thomas Calensa Jones to be admitted to the Greenwich Hospital School in London. He was rejected as he had suffered a scalding, when a child, that was thought to make him unfit for naval sea service. Four years later it was Caroline's turn and she was accepted.

The Royal Hospital School, Greenwich, provided education for boys intending to enter the Navy. It also provided training for girls, between 1805 and 1841, to prepare them for domestic service. The school was established in 1694, with funds provided for "the maintenance and education for the children of seaman happening to be slain or disabled in the Service of the Royal Navy."⁶

Sadly, I have not found further records for mention of this family.

Jane Colenso and Thomas Jones, RN

On March 28 1821 Thomas and Elizabeth Jones were witnesses at the marriage of her sister Jane Callenso to Thomas Jones of HMS Pyramus. The wedding was celebrated in the parish of Plymouth, St Andrew. Jane was born in Penzance in 1797.

HMS Pyramus was a fifth rate 36-gun frigate. In November 1821 it was based in the West Indies. In 1822 some members of the crew died of yellow fever.

I have found no further information about this couple.

Jones men at the Battle of Colenso

On June 4, 1900 under the headline of “Welshmen in the War – What they have done for the Empire” the *Western Mail* devoted two columns to describing just that.

What has Wales done to bring about the downfall of the Boer oligarchy? Not a single Welshman would blush, except with pride, in giving the answer to that question. We have had only three battalions in the fighting line in South Africa, and numerically they form but a small proportion of the British hosts that have swept everything before them from Modder River across the Vaal. But the men in those three battalions have fought and died with a heroism that has not been surpassed by any other regiment in the service. Those who have survived the conflict and the carnage will not be ashamed to meet their countrymen when they return to the land they love best, for they will bring with them the happy consciousness of having done their duty and of having sustained those traditions which cluster round the familiar names of Alma, Inkerman, Sebastopol and Rorke’s Drift.⁷

Three Welsh battalions – the South Wales Borderers, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and the 1st Welsh Regiment – were serving in South Africa. Gallant little Wales also contributed two companies of mounted infantry, Glamorgan and Pembroke companies of the Imperial Yeomanry, the 3rd Battalion (Militia) of the South Wales Borderers, a service company and a Welsh Field Hospital.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers have, probably, seen more fighting than any regiment in South Africa for it has been hotly engaged for the start of the war, first in Natal, and then on the western side. It was the lot of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers to be one of the battalions with General Buller on the banks of the Tugela, and with General Joubert and his commandos between them and Ladysmith until the relief of that town was effected. Joubert on the eve of the war made one pathetic remark, which is even more significant now than it was then, and that is why we quote it. He said: “I leave it now to God; it may be His will that the Transvaal shall perish; I can only do my best.” The Welsh Fusiliers had aided materially in bringing home the justification for the late Boer general’s evident apprehensiveness, for they acquitted themselves like men whenever they were called upon to do or die.... In their series of engagements before and after crossing the Tugela the Welsh Fusiliers lost three officers killed and four wounded, and nine men killed and 62 wounded, and sixteen missing. They were in the first great battle at Colenso, and took the town at the point of bayonet, but, of course, had to return when the guns were lost and the battle was abruptly broken off. But they had done their full of work afterwards, for they were in the fighting line all the way to Ladysmith.⁸

One of these wounded was Private D Jones. Private C Jones of the 66th Battery of the Royal Field Artillery was also wounded, and his comrade Private J E Jones went missing. Second Lieutenant Edward Vincent Jones of the Connaught Rangers was captured by the Boers and taken to Pretoria. He was not a native of Glamorgan, having been born in India, son of Captain Thomas Vincent Jones of the King’s Liverpool Regiment.



Loss of the Guns at Colenso – W Hayman, Feb 1900

Captain Edward P Jones, RN, was in command of the Naval Brigade with their 4.7-in and 12-pounder guns. These guns were equipped with telescopes, were long-range and with powerful shells. They suffered no losses and continued to fire until the close of the action. The central Naval battery had during the day fired 160 rounds of 4.7-in. and 600 rounds of 12-pounder ammunition.



Royal Navy 4.7 inch gun in action at the Battle of Colenso

Edward Pitcairn Jones was an Australian, born in 1850 and educated in Tasmania. After leaving school he joined the Royal Navy, where he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1874 and Captain in 1895, following active service in the Sudan and Egypt for which he was awarded both the Khedive Star and Egyptian Medal. As Captain of HMS Forte at the outbreak of the Boer War in 1899, Jones commanded the naval brigade which played a vital part in breaking the Siege of Ladysmith, his actions in this and the subsequent relief effort gaining him the order of Commander of the Bath.

Soon after, he travelled to the west coast of Africa to suppress the Ashanti Rebellion and was later promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

Conclusion

The connection between the Colenso and Jones families, particularly in South Wales, is not evident. There is nothing to connect the two navy sailors called Thomas Jones and their Colenso wives to South Wales.

The naming of (John) Colenso Jones, son of Evan Jones, in 1873, is possibly connected to the Colenso Controversy that began in the 1860s. His prominence in the Pontypridd community as a solicitor and town clerk, together with the patriotic spirit raised during the Boer War and national mourning for the losses at Colenso were responsible for the naming of *Colenso Jones* babies.

Researching these connections has been particularly interesting as my maternal great grandfather was Thomas James, born in Cwmparc, outside Treorky, within the Pontypridd registration district. His ancestors had migrated from Carmarthenshire in the 1870s. He served in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers militia and was embodied during the Boer War to perform garrison duty in Devon. He served with a pioneer battalion of the RWF on the Western Front during WW1, was gassed at Loos in 1916 and transferred to the RFC, later RAF, in 1917 after suffering from sciatica. One of his daughters and later several granddaughters were given the second name of Loosilia. The family immigrated to Australia in the 1920s and his granddaughter, my mother, married a Colenso early in his thirty year career in the RAAF.

I will finish with a paragraph, expressing very out-dated sentiments, from the *Bristol Mercury* of February 16, 1900 that had the headline "What's in a Name?"

If we live another twenty or thirty years we shall probably read in the papers of the marriage of Mr Colesburg Brown to Miss Tugela Smith. And a little later we shall find that one of our most prominent citizens is Mr Colenso Jones, and Miss Pretoria Robinson will be writing novels or giving lectures. It is true that this war will not make any very pretty additions to our nomenclature, but patriotism will be above prettiness in the parents' choice, and the babies, unless supernaturally precocious, will not have any choice in the matter. There are, however, so many ways of pronouncing Tugela that perhaps the girl who bears the name will be able to make it sound more or less euphonic. At any rate her lover will, when she comes to have one. But in the misfortune of her not getting a lover before thirty she will hate her name as heartily as does many a spinster hate Alma, which at once give the owner's age. Pretoria, however, will not mind her name at all. From the font she will be doomed to spectacted, strong-minded, spinsterhood.⁹

Notes

¹ "War Names for the Babies." *Western Mail*, March 15, 1900, 4.

² Ibid.

³ "Magisterial References, Pathetic Address by the Stipendiary." *Glamorgan Free Press*, June 19, 1897, 5.

⁴ "Sheer Starvation, Cruel Fate of a Welsh Prisoner." *Western Mail*, February 2, 1918, 3.

⁵ Naval vessels were described by the number of guns they mounted. HMS Uranie (38) had thirty-eight guns.

⁶ "Research guide M8: Girls at the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich." *The National Archives*, <http://www.rmg.co.uk/discover/researchers/research-guides/research-guide-m8-girls-royal-hospital-school-greenwich>.

⁷ "Welshmen in the War." *Western Mail*, June 4, 1900, 5.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "What's in a name." *Bristol Mercury*, February 16, 1900, 5.