

## JONESVILLE (NONESUCH)

Jonesville, first named Nonesuch, was probably settled prior to the middle of the nineteenth century. The early name Nonesuch gave way to Jonesville in honor of one of the first large families to settle in the vicinity. Among those were Sonie and Sid Jones, the latter being the grandfather of S. R. "Roscoe" Jones, prominent automobile and livestock dealer and farmer. Other early names still frequently encountered in and around Jonesville are Calendar, Toon, Renaker, Stewart and Baldwin. John Foster is reputed to have had the first store.

The first school at Jonesville was a log cabin in what is now the Baptist churchyard. Following this was a frame building on the same site, later it was moved across the road and was occupied as a dwelling by Mrs. Theodore Edmondson. The first record shows C. H. Beatty, R. McKensie and D. L. Stewart as trustees of the school in 1885. Still later, school was held on the first floor of the Masonic Hall, the building was then purchased in 1894 and the first two-teacher school was established.

The first record shows C. H. Beatty, R. McKensie and D. L. Stewart as trustees of the school in 1885. The 1894 school trustees Jefferson Davis Renaker, A. H. Calendar and Thomas V. Toon purchased the Masonic Hall on the Elliston Station Road from the Masonic Joint Stock Company. Its stock holders were William M. Gray, W. T. Noel, J.J. Jump, Joe R. Thomas, Thomas Toon, M. O. Hampton, Thomas R. Stewart, W. H. Owen, T. Jones, J. D. Rennecker (Renaker) and Joe McKinsey.

Three school buildings have stood on the same site. In 1931 the schoolhouse burned. A two-room schoolhouse was built and then torn down in 1939. A two-story brick schoolhouse was built in its place. This building had a lunch-room, auditorium, storeroom and five classrooms. After 1966, which was the last year school was held in Jonesville, the building was sold. It was converted to a person care home by Juanita Kaiser and later Robert and Clifford Wallace became the owners.

Macedonia Baptist Church at Jonesville was organized in 1843, which makes it as old, if not older, than the village. The charter members were William Smith, Robert Patterson, Wesley Wharton, Nancy Whaton, Julia Wharton, Margarita Hambrick, Amamda Hambrick, Lydia Stone, Johnathan Johnson and Julia Johnson. Like the early churches founded by the Apostles, its first meetings were held in the homes of the members until a log building was erected in 1844. This rude structure endured for twenty-four years and, in 1868, the first frame church was built on the same site, still on the same ground the present church was begun in 1928 and dedicated in June 1929 under the pastorate of the late and well beloved Brother G. C. Mullins who served for 24 years. In 1936, the church was deeded the adjoining cemetery by Jonesville Lodge #637, Free and Accepted Masons. The parsonage was built in 1944.

Brothers C. B. Love, Forest Taylor and L. M. Hamilton followed Bro. Mullins, beginning a long line of faithful pastors of service. For well over a century Macedonia has stood in its original setting – a bulwark of faith and doctrine.

In keeping with the spirit of brotherly love and good-fellowship, which has pervaded the community, Jonesville has been well represented with fraternal orders. Including Junior Order, United American Mechanics; Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Free and Accepted Masons as well as chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star and Daughters of America. All of these having good strong memberships and generally recognized by similar organizations in other communities for their consistently good attendance. The Masonic Lodge was organized in 1889 and the Odd Fellows in 1899.

Jonesville was for a while an incorporated city, complete with mayor, council, board sidewalks, kerosene street lamps and a jail of which Jake Reynolds was custodian. The city surrendered its charter about 1928 in order to share the benefits of a new state road being built from Owenton to Williamstown. The only record of its activity as a city found today was the sale of the city jail property to James Caldwell in 1919. The old jailhouse complete with iron bars stood on the property of and was used as a chicken house by Mrs. Jessie

Miller into the mid 1950's. The city's Board of Trustees at that time (1919) consisted of A. T. Stewart, J. M. Beverly, James W. Stewart, G. W. Caldwell and M. D. Hamilton.

In 1910, Uriah (Coon) Bickers donated ground for a new Methodist Episcopal Church South. Marion Beverly, Willie Perry, John Robert Clifton and Lester Issacs landscaped the property by digging up trees from a farm and replanting them in the churchyard. The church was dedicated July 30, 1911. Rev. J. M. Evans was the first minister and remained until 1914. Other charter members were Mr. and Mrs. John Tippet, Mr. And Mrs. W. H. Brown, Mr. And Mrs. Kelly Beverly and Mr. And Mrs. J. B. Cook. The church did not have a parsonage until 1924 when a house in the center of town was purchased. In 1937 this house was sold and a parsonage built on a lot next to the church.

With the death of Dr. Luke Roberts, the town and community have been without a neighborhood family physician. However, the names of former practitioners such as Tucker, Foster, Snell, Shupert, Abbot, McBee, and Chrisman lend much to local history.

From the 1910 through the 1930's Jonesville was a thriving community, with a hotel run by Mrs. Mary Dow Beverly and three blacksmith shops owned by Al Greene, Henry Edmondson and Jim House. Charlie Beverly owned and operated an undertaker's establishment. Neal Elliott ran a sawmill business. There were two barbershops run by Theodore Edmondson, and John Davis. In the 1940's John Miller had a barbershop.

The U. S. Postoffice was established in 1927 with Otis Wilson as postmaster. Margaret Thornton Conrad became post-mistress in 1938; Kathryn Satterwhite in 1973; and Linda Kinman Conrad in 1983.

In its time Jonesville has weathered several serious fires, two of which have been disastrous. These two, by turn, swept and destroyed first one side of Main Street and then the other. In 1909 fire destroyed several buildings. In 1931, the schoolhouse burned. In 1936, a garage, lodge building, J. C. Vannarsdall's residence and Stewart Drug Store burned. In 1970 the people of the community organized and equipped a fire-fighting unit. The firehouse was built in Owen County behind Maddox Grocery. This fire department remains as a protector of the community and recently upgraded their equipment with a new fire truck. Though suffering such calamities, each time, the town has arisen from its ashes and now boasts of homes, two churches, a garage, a store and a bank.

The Jonesville Deposit bank was incorporated June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1893. It opened its office for business on July 1, 1893. Signing the incorporation papers were W. E. Foster, W. T. Callendar, Jacob Maddox, R. C. Green, C. W. Bradley, Jeff D. Rennekar, Joe McKinsey, T. B. Toon (Coon) and W. M. Gray.

On March 13, 1934, the bank was recapitulated and the articles of incorporation were restated in accordance with the requirements of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. In addition to those already named, J. R. Ennis, H. J. Satterwhite, H. D. Brock, Walter Brock, R. W. Orr, B. C. Cotton, Leonard Snell, C. D. Cotton, Frank Bromley, J. L. Tackett, Green Smith, Alfred Green, G. C. (Grover) Rennekar, Bradford Bock, Eulysis Jump and Edwin E. Blackburn, among others, also served the bank as officers and/or directors, at one time or another.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1940, the bank was reincorporated under the name of Citizens Bank with its main office at Dry Ridge and an agency office at Jonesville. In Dry Ridge, it acquired the premises of the Farmers Bank and Trust company, which had gone into voluntary liquidation. In Jonesville, a new bank building replaced the old one in 1954 and today remains a vital part of the community.

The Grant and Owen County lines divide Jonesville laterally, so one only has to walk across the street to be in another county. It is now a quiet, peaceful community, but, one only has to look at names on the mailboxes or the names given to the roads to learn of the impact those early settlers had on the community. Even today, we reap the rewards of their struggles.