

MAMMY DOLLY - MAID



Real Name - Dolly Jones

Dolly, a young negro woman, came to work for Charles J. and Margaret Colonna in 1881 at their newly acquired farm house and property for building and operating a shipyard (now Colonna's Shipyard) at the southeast intersection of the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River and what was to become Pescara Creek in Berkley, Virginia.

Her duties were general overseeing of the housework such as washing, ironing, cleaning house, kitchen duties including preparing and cooking meals, washing dishes, etc. She worked seven days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 7 a.m. till dinner was over, usually 6 or 7 o'clock at night and Sunday from 7 a.m. till 11 a.m.

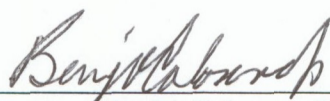
She lived in the Colonna house except for weekends when she went home off Church Street in downtown Norfolk.

When Margaret Colonna died in 1892, Dolly along with young Evelyn Colonna, the second oldest child and just 12 years old took over the duties of the household and raised the five Colonna brothers, the sixth brother died an infant. They actually raised the Colonna children until 1902 when Charles J. married Fanny Cornick Fentress and moved to a three story house in Norfolk at the north west corner of Colonial Avenue and Raleigh Avenue. At that time a new maid was hired for Colonial Avenue as Dolly was from the old school wearing her regular dress to work and without formal training. The new maid wore a uniform and had proper training inducive of the new social climate expected at the new address.

The old home on shipyard property eventually became its business office.

Mamma Dolly was hired by Ben Colonna, Sr. circa 1912 and remained their maid until 1938. This was a total of 57 years she worked for the two Colonna families. Dolly and Evelyn were always spoken of in the highest regard and respect by all of the older Colonna children they helped raise.

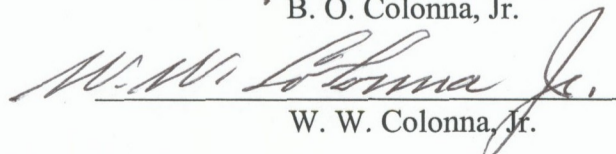
She had a son named Emmett Jones, nicknamed "Jonsie", who worked at the shipyard but Emmett was such a good cook he was often taken to North Carolina on Captain W. W. Colonna's houseboat where he served as cook and handyman to the businessmen hunters that stayed aboard. In old photos of the houseboat, Emmett is often seen looking over the rail.



B. O. Colonna, Jr.

9/7/95

Date



W. W. Colonna, Jr.

9/7/95

Date