

But Jones disliked this work and in 1853 he returned to the Cattaraugus County town of Ellicottville.³ Here he studied law under the tutelage of Addison G. Rice, a prominent attorney. In November of 1856 he was admitted to the bar and he joined his mentor in the firm of Rice and Jones. In 1859 the firm was joined by a young man destined to serve under Jones during the war. Alanson Crosby, from nearby Franklinville, had read law with Rice and Jones.⁴ In November of that year another future officer, Daniel B. Allen, studied law in the firm.⁵ Soon after these two joined, Jones left the firm and formed a partnership with Judge Allen D. Scott.⁶ During 1859 Jones also courted and married Sarah Morris. Sarah's father, the Reverend Thomas Morris, performed the ceremony in Ellicottville on December 20.⁷

His wife, a lucrative practice and many friends in the community were soon to be left behind by Jones as his adopted country was gripped by the crisis of the Civil War.⁸ After the firing on Fort Sumter and President Lincoln's call for volunteers in April of 1861 he responded without hesitation. On May 15 Jones enlisted at nearby Allegany, New York, to serve two years.⁹

The new soldier was thirty years old and was five feet, eight inches tall, "a gentleman of slight proportions, but plainly possessing powers of great endurance." Curly brown hair, a mustache and grey eyes marked a "pleasant face", and he carried himself with a "courteous, modest mien."¹⁰ His popularity was shown in his election as second lieutenant of his company. This was Company H of the 37th New York State Infantry Volunteers.¹¹ All but three companies of the newly formed regiment consisted of the 75th Militia, Irish-Americans of New York City. Two