

Civil War Letters of Lewis L. Jones, written from Alabama to his parents, John L. Jones and Elizabeth Lamb of Freedom, NY. Four letters in the possession of Beulah Van Dyke Westover, descendant of John L. and Elizabeth Jones.

Lewis L. Jones, born 1842, son of John L. Jones and Elizabeth Lamb who emigrated from Fishguard, Wales to U.S. 1853-54; enlisted at age 20, August 26, 1862 at Freedom for three years as a private in Co. F, 154th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry. He was captured in action May 3, 1863 at Chancellorsville, Virginia; paroled May 14, 1863 at City Point, Virginia. Wounded in action May 8, 1864 at Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia; died June 2, 1864 in hospital at Nashville, Tennessee and was buried there.

June 16, 1863

"There is good many sick soldiers coming in here every day and quite many from our regiment and some from our company but there hasn't any of the Welch boys came here. I have heard that Bill Davis has gone to the hospital at Washington. The rest of the boys was in pretty good health. They have had a pretty tuff march..."

"They say that the Rebels has gone into Pennsylvania and Father you must look out if they come that way to have your old musket ready for them when they come."

[Lewis sends money home for his family and to Rev. Williams.]

October 18, 1863

"Here when I ly down in my tent my mind will runn home an think of the old times think of the children how they used to come to meet me when I hadn't been away but a week or two but now one year has past away an I am further from home than I ever was before...When will the time come when I shall see you all onez more on earth but if it will be my lot to fall here away from home I have a hope to meet you in a better world where parting is not known. My little Bible is a great comfort to me..."

[Lewis goes on to indicate that there is little religion in the camp, no religious meetings and that their chaplain has not arrived yet nor had Bill [William] Charles. He expresses his concern for other Freedom Welshmen in the war.]

October 25, 1863

[Lewis Jones' regiment has received marching orders, he has heard to go up the river to Chatanooga to drive out the rebels who are tearing up the rail road track. He mentions the arrival of William Charles and John Williams, son of William Williams who came to see his brother, Sam, but Sam is a prisoner and has not yet been released. They are all feeling "very anxious."]

"I hope that the time will soon come when we shall return to our dear homes in peace but Dear Father and Mother I hope that you won't weary your self about me if we won't meet here again on earth oh I hope that we may meet in a better world in that place where war nor sorrow will never enter but Joy and Peace forevermore."

[Sources: Report of the Adjutant General's Report, New York, p. 1160. The Lewis L. Jones Letters are in the possession of Beulah Van Dyke Westover (Mrs. Rollin Westover), Box 4, Yorkshire, NY 14173, 716-492-4496. She has given permission to Barbara R. Henry to quote from the letters in a book on the Cattaraugus/Allegany Welsh.]

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