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GENERAL JONES

by Mark H. Dunkelman

The lithograph was subtly doctored before it was donated to the museum. "Sherman at Savannah", rarely reproduced today, is an 1865 color print made after the original painting by Otto Botticher, depicting Major General William T. Sherman and a score of his generals trotting on horseback across a Savannah parade ground. Off to the right, a small group of mounted officers front a line of infantry presenting arms to the passing cavalcade. In the foreground of that group, an officer is pictured patting his horse's neck. On the copy of the lithograph hanging in the Cattaraugus County Memorial and Historical Museum in Little Valley, New York, that officer's image is retouched. His face is delicately repainted, and his original forage cap transformed into a full-brimmed black hat. Even his horse is painted over, from a light tan to a bright bay with white forelegs. Whoever gave the print to the museum many years ago wanted to make sure a local hero, Brigadier General Patrick Henry Jones, was included in a depiction of a moment of glory--even though General Jones was not part of the original picture.

General Jones is rarely included in the vast panorama of Civil War history, seldom listed in indexes or pictured on pages of the great flood of books that have appeared in the last century and a third. Usually he is left out, as he was left out of Botticher's lithograph. Even the tangible legacies of his service, his wartime relics, are hard to find, as I've learned in two decades of searching. As a subaltern and regimental and brigade commander, Jones--like hundreds of others of Civil War generals, North and South--played a minor role in the war, and what fame he won in

the 1860s was fleeting. When he died in 1900 a Cattaraugus County newspaper declared "his memory shall not fade among men", but his memory died with that generation. By all reckoning, however, Jones deserves to be remembered. He performed his bit part in the war well. His rise in rank from second lieutenant to general was no doubt aided by his ethnic background and political string-pulling, but the promotions were solidly based on battlefield and campaign merit. His commands battled and campaigned hard, and although along the way he was separated from them when wounded, captured, injured or ill, he kept returning to the front and finally was rewarded for his service by leading his brigade in triumph through Washington's avenues in the Grand Review of the Union armies, a brigadier's star on his shoulders. As one of a dozen Union generals born in Ireland, Patrick Henry Jones parlayed his success as a soldier into a promising postwar political career, but the latter years of his life, like his Irish orgins, are shrouded in obscurity. Like so many other veterans of the conflict, his life was defined by his role in the war, and it is for his service that he should be recalled.

The scanty information about his early years in Ireland can be quickly summed up. He was born in County Westmeath on November 20, 1830, the first child (of an eventual seven) of James and Ellen (Lynch) Jones, and christened Patrick Henry after his paternal and maternal grandfathers. That neither his birth nor the marriage of his parents can be found in County Westmeath parish records is perhaps explained by a traditional family story--that the surname was changed to Jones from another name, possibly Mahaney, before the family left Ireland. Young Patrick was sent to school at age seven--one source says a grammar school in Dublin, another mentions a monastery in Tullow, County Wicklow--and remained for three years, leaving when his family joined the great tide of Irish emigration to the United States. The Joneses landed in New York City aboard the S.S. *St. Mark* on June 5, 1840 and traveled overland to the rugged, wooded hills of central Cattaraugus County, in the southwestern tier of New York State, where they settled on a farm in the town of Little Valley.

Patrick worked the farm with his parents, but they also made sure he continued his education, sending him to school in nearby Ellicottville, the county seat. In 1850, at age twenty,

Jones began a career in journalism and traveled the western states as a correspondent, after which he served as an editor with two Buffalo papers, the *Republic* and the *Sentinel*. But he didn't like newspaper work, and in 1853 he returned to Cattaraugus County and began the study of law in the office of Addison G. Rice, a prominent Ellicottville attorney and politician. After passing the bar in November 1856, Jones joined Rice's practice. In 1859, two young Cattaraugus County men, Alanson Crosby of Franklinville and Dan B. Allen of Otto, studied with Rice and Jones, and Crosby joined the firm. Both men were destined to serve under Jones in the military. Late that year, Jones left the firm and formed a partnership with the county surrogate, Allen D. Scott. He also culminated a courtship when he married Sarah Morris of Ellicottville on December 20, in a ceremony performed by her father, the Reverend Thomas Morris, an Episcopalian. Eleven months later a baby boy was born and named after Sarah's father.

Jones had fashioned a pleasant life in Ellicottville around his family, a profitable practice, and a wide circle of friends. Then the war came, and Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers in April 1861. Hundreds of enthusiastic Cattaraugus County men rushed to enlist in Buffalo and Elmira and elsewhere, rather than wait for companies to be raised at home. Jones too was eager to serve, and soon grew impatient with the disorganized reaction to the president's call. On May 10 he addressed a letter to the only Cattaraugus man he knew in Washington, John Manley of Little Valley, a clerk in the Interior Department whose exertions on behalf of his home county's volunteers over the next four years would earn him the title "the Soldiers' Friend". "We are in the fog here" as to how to proceed in response to the call, Jones wrote. "Cattaraugus wants to furnish a regiment if they can go under their own officers, etc. This county will get only a couple of companies in under the State volunteer system." Jones asked Manley to send information soon, because "our men are anxious to know."

Manley worked fast, and soon enlistment forms and copies of the army regulations were on hand in the county. Cattaraugus didn't get its own regiment quite yet, though, and only the two companies required by the state quota were raised that spring. The "Cattaraugus Guards" were recruited in Ellicottville and the "Chamberlain Guards" volunteered in the town of Allegany, the two

companies being filled in a few days. Jones joined the Allegany company, enlisting there on May 15, 1861, to serve two years. Why he enlisted in that company instead of Ellicottville's is unknown. Perhaps he sensed an opportunity there--in any case, the Allegany recruits elected him their second lieutenant. About five days later the Cattaraugus volunteers boarded trains for Elmira, and on the night of May 25 they continued on to New York City.

Patrick Jones was in the right place at the right time, a perfect example of the proverbial luck of the Irish. Because in the great metropolis, the Allegany and Ellicottville outfits were designated Companies H and I, respectively, of the 37th New York Volunteer Infantry. The core of the newly organized 37th was composed of New York City's 75th Militia--an Irish-American unit. Irishman Jones found himself greeted by the brogue of compatriots from Eire. The New York Irishsmen were no doubt pleased to discover one of their own among the western outsiders. Jones's reaction to this development is unknown, but that of his Cattaraugus County comrades was vociferously negative. The vast majority of the county's volunteers throughout the war reflected its demographics--they were the sons and grandsons of Yankee pioneers, who had migrated westward from central New York and New England. Companies H and I made no secret of their displeasure in being assigned to the 37th--the "Irish Rifles", the regiment was called--and ridiculed the unit's commander, Colonel John H. McCunn, as a "tap-room politician...profoundly ignorant of all military matters, and (as was alleged by some) of questionable loyalty to the Union, but of boundless conceit and overbearing in his disposition," as a later historian of the 37th wrote. Dissatisfied as the rural western New Yorkers were to be thrown in with the big city Irish immigrants, fate nevertheless bound them together. On June 7 the 37th was mustered in, Patrick Jones as second lieutenant of Company H. He immediately secured a leave of absence.

When Jones returned to New York City on June 30, he found the 37th had left a week earlier for Washington. Paying his own way, he journeyed to the capital, where he found his regiment bivouacked near the Old Capitol on First Street in "Camp Mary", named after the president's wife. On July 21 the 37th crossed the Potomac into Virginia for the first time, meeting the steady stream of fugitives from the Bull Run battlefield but not getting close to the fighting. A

few weeks later the two Cattaraugus companies were overjoyed by an order detaching them from the Irish Rifles and sending them to Washington.

The order was a result of the Cattaraugus men's adamant refusal to serve under the insufferable Colonel McCunn. Their complaints had reached the ears of two prominent political allies, Reuben E. Fenton, United States congressman from Chautauqua County (Cattaraugus's western neighbor), and Addison Rice, Jones's former law partner, and those two had used their influence to wangle the detachment, earning McCunn's emnity and a charge they were trying to break up his regiment. After reaching Washington, Jones's Company H guarded the east end of the Long Bridge for five days before joining Company I at Fort Washington, fourteen miles below the capital on the Maryland side of the Potomac.

On September 21 Lieutenant Jones left Company H to go on recruiting service, and when he returned the following month he found a change had been made that considerably boosted morale in the 37th New York, especially among the Cattaraugus companies. The despised McCunn had resigned and was replaced by Colonel Samuel B. Hayman, a fine former regular army officer who would lead the 37th until its term of service ended. While Companies H and I remained on detached duty, Jones joined the regimental staff officers at headquarters when he was promoted to first lieutenant and adjutant on November 4, 1861 and mustered in as such four days later. Colonel Hayman obviously held his adjutant in high regard. Eleven weeks later, on January 21, 1862, Jones was mustered in as the 37th's major. This promotion to the third highest rank in the regiment evidently met with the approval of the Hibernian element as well as the Cattaraugus boys.

The Irish Rifles finally saw action during the Peninsula Campaign, a year after they enlisted. The regiment embarked with the great fleet that carried the Army of the Potomac to Fort Monroe, cautiously crawled up the Peninsula, and burrowed into the siege lines in front of Yorktown. There the Cattaraugus companies rejoined the 37th, and two days after the Confederates evacuated the Yorktown lines, on the afternoon of May 5, 1862, the regiment fought its first battle. Brigadier General Philip Kearny hurried his Third Division, III Corps along a muddy, crowded road to relieve

staggered troops on the Union left at Williamsburg, and the 37th suffered 95 casualties in the ensuing fight. On the last day of May Kearny led the 37th in an attack at Fair Oaks, and the regiment lost 82 more men. Colonel Hayman's official report commended Major Jones for his advice on the Confederates' movements and his general good conduct in the battle. During the Seven Days, the Irish Rifles lost another 81 casualties in fighting at Oak Grove, Glendale, and Malvern Hill. Major Jones withstood the crucible of combat.

The day Malvern Hill was fought, July 1, 1862, President Lincoln issued a call for 300,000 three-year volunteers. In response, Addison Rice organized a regiment of eight Cattaraugus companies and two from Chautauqua with the understanding he would accompany it to the front and be relieved of command by his old law partner, Major Jones. And so Patrick H. Jones got his own regiment--the most representative regiment his home county of Cattaraugus sent to the war--when he was mustered in as colonel of the 154th New York Volunteer Infantry on October 8, 1862. Sick and hospitalized at the time, Colonel Jones joined the 154th for duty on November 19 at its camp near Fairfax Court House, Virginia. The regiment was part of Colonel Adolphus Buschbeck's 1st Brigade, Second Division, XI Corps of the Army of the Potomac. The three regiments the 154th was brigaded with were composed of German-Americans--an ethnic group that heavily flavored the entire XI Corps. The 154th New York soon displayed a condescending attitude toward the "damned Dutchmen", similar to the distaste the Cattaraugus companies had shown for their Irish comrades in the 37th. Jones immediately set about preparing the green soldiers for their duties, ordering a strict regimen of drills, inspections, and recitations in tactics by the company officers.

That fall Colonel Jones, a Democrat before the war, wrote letters to his Ellicottville friends urging support for the Republican candidate, Brigadier General James Wadsworth, in New York's gubernatorial campaign against Democrat Horatio Seymour. For that he was taken to task by Ellicottville's Democratic newspaper, the *Cattaraugus Union*, and defended by its Republican counterpart, the *Cattaraugus Freeman*. Wadsworth lost the election, but Jones's prescient switch to the Republican party would benefit him greatly in the future.

The 154th arrived opposite Frederickburg after that disastrous battle was over, slogged along on the notorious Mud March, and made several seemingly senseless and annoying moves of its winter camp--one of which was named "Camp Jones" after the colonel-- finally settling near Stafford Court House. That last winter camp was named after John Manley when the Soldiers' Friend brought a barrel of whiskey and an immense load of boxes from home for the boys. On St. Patrick's Day, Manley joined Colonel Jones and other officers of the 154th on a visit to the camp of the Irish Brigade, where they witnessed a religious service in "the Cathedral of the Pines and Tents" and got swept up in a wild steeplechase, horses and riders flying over hurdles and ditches and often landing in a heap in the mud. At Camp John Manley the men of the 154th New York earned the lasting nickname "Hardtacks" when they cheated the German regiments of their brigade by trading used, dried coffee grounds for newly-issued hardtack. During the uneventful winter Jones traveled to Washington and Albany in January 1863 and took ten-day leaves of absence in February and March. The 154th had got to know its colonel well, and Jones was "universally liked by officers and men," according to his old law student Alanson Crosby, a second lieutenant with the Hardtacks. However, one enlisted man, Private Barzilla Merrill, recorded a different assessment. "Our colonel is a rough, wooden kind of man," he wrote, with "no refinement."

Springtime brought the campaigning season, heralded by a flurry of reviews. On April 8 Sergeant Stephen Welch wrote in his diary, "The Regiment marched in review before Colonel Jones and there was not an officer that saluted him. After being reprimanded, tried again and done better." The next day the 154th marched before XI Corps commander Major General Oliver O. Howard, and on April 10 the corps was reviewed by President Lincoln, a memorable experience for the Hardtacks. Eight days later, Buschbeck's brigade was ordered up the Rappahannock River to Kelly's Ford. First Sergeant Alfred W. Benson thought the untried 154th was ready for whatever awaited it. "Colonel Jones has been indefatigable in his exertions to place the regiment on a good 'fighting basis'," he wrote, "and I presume the first band of Rebels we meet will testify that his exertions have not been wholly without effect."

That first band of Rebels turned out to be a small band of cavalry vedettes, who fired a hasty, harmless volley and turned and fled when the 154th crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford in pontoons on the evening of April 28, spearheading the movement of the Army of the Potomac to Chancellorsville. The second band of Rebels proved to be much deadlier.

The Hardtack Regiment was posted in a clearing at Dowdall's Tavern, General Howard's headquarters, when the mighty storm of Lieutenant General Thomas J. Jackson's famous flank attack broke over the unprepared XI Corps on the evening of May 2, 1863. As the farthest XI Corps unit from the initial point of the attack, Colonel Buschbeck had ample time to deploy his brigade in a shallow rifle pit while brigade after brigade to the front was shattered and sent reeling past his men into the woods to their rear. The so-called "Buschbeck line" stood stubbornly against overwhelming numbers of Jackson's exultant men for about twenty minutes, while the corps reserve artillery was withdrawn to safety, until the rifle pit was outflanked and Buschbeck's men too were sent running to the rear under a murderous crossfire. The 154th New York anchored the left of the Buschbeck line, and stood the longest. Colonel Jones received a gunshot wound in the right hip early in the fight, but held his regiment steady until the left flank began to crumble. Captain Commodore Perry Vedder of Ellicottville wrote, "I was standing by the side of the colonel and he...asked if I heard the command to retreat, or who gave it, for men and officers on the left were going to the woods on an accelerated run. I told him I did not know." About a minute later Jones told Vedder, "I guess you had better fall back, for the enemy are on both our flanks." When Jones gave the order to retreat, he was the highest ranking Union officer left on the field, Buschbeck, Howard and the others having fled. Another Ellicottville man, Sergeant Alexander Bird, left his full canteen with Colonel Jones and ran for the woods. The victory-flushed Confederates swarmed over the rifle pit, and Jones was a prisoner of war.

The 154th lost 281 of 590 men engaged in their stand at Dowdall's Tavern, more than any other New York State regiment at the Battle of Chancellorsville. Back at Camp John Manley after the demoralizing retreat from the bloody battlefield, the Hardtacks mourned their losses and complained bitterly about the cowardice of the XI Corps Germans and the inept leadership of

General Howard. Their colonel they praised. In a letter to the *Cattaraugus Freeman*, John Manley called Jones a dauntless, Christian soldier, brave and magnanimous, proud of his command, faithful to his men and they to him--"amounting as near to affection as men are capable; and when the terrible ordeal came, commander and soldiers were not found faithless, but true to each other, with heroic devotion to the Union, they merit the plaudits of their kinsmen and friends on the far-off hills of Cattaraugus and Chautauqua!" An anonymous member of the regiment wrote, "He is a noble officer and worthy of a much higher position than he now holds," and said the men hoped Jones would return soon. Surgeon Henry Van Aernam of the 154th amplified the case for Jones's promotion. "It seems the 'Dutch' powers that be are determined to make a general of Colonel Buschbeck. That is all right and proper if it can be done with justice to other parties, but if any officer of the XI Corps has earned a commission as general for anything that was done in that rout Colonel Jones is entitled to the position."

Jones was paroled by the Confederates at United States Ford on May 15, and reached Camp John Manley later that day. "Colonel Jones has just been brought to camp--he has a severe flesh wound of his upper thigh--though not dangerous," wrote Surgeon Van Aernam. "He was over there among the Rebs nearly a week--had rather rough fare although he says he was used as well as they used their own wounded." Sergeant William Charles echoed those comments. "Our colonel has come back. He is badly wounded in the thigh....I made a pair of crutches for him yesterday. He was in the hands of the Rebels for nearly a week. They treated him very kindly and took first rate care of him." Colonel Jones began a six-month separation from his regiment on May 17, when he left to seek treatment for his wound in Philadelphia (where his wife was apparently staying with her sister), accompanied by his former partner Addison Rice, who had journeyed to the front to look after the 154th's wounded.

Jones spent much of May, June and July in an army hospital at Georgetown, D.C., healing his wound. In early June he visited Albany and made unofficial recommendations for promotions in the 154th--unofficial because he had not been exchanged. While there he wrote to the *Cattaraugus Freeman*, "I am getting much better--can travel with great ease now. Perhaps I may

yet see my friends in Ellicottville before I am returned to duty." Early in July came news of the Battle of Gettysburg, and how the Hardtacks lost 212 of 274 men in another gallant but futile attempt to cover a retreat of their XI Corps. Jones's former law student, Lieutenant Colonel Dan Allen, commanded the 154th at Gettysburg, and he and about 75 men were all that was left of the regiment. In mid-July, Colonel Jones made his hoped-for trip to Ellicottville. The *Freeman* reported, "He has nearly recovered from the effects of his wound, and appears to be in excellent health and spirits." A rumor had spread that Jones was going to resign, and the *Freeman* was quick to contradict it. "He entertains no such purpose," reported the paper. "He is much attached to the gallant regiment he commands." "Good for the colonel!" chimed the rival *Union*.

On July 27 Jones was assigned to command the 3rd Battalion of paroled prisoners at Camp Parole, Annapolis, Maryland. While sickness kept him in the post hospital through August and until mid-September, he kept up an unceasing effort to obtain his exchange. "The long restraint from active service," John Manley wrote, "bore heavily upon one of the active temperament of the colonel." After he was finally exchanged, on October 1, Jones faced another struggle to get ordered to his regiment. In his quest for both exchange and a return to his regiment, the colonel was aided by political ally Reuben Fenton. But the commissioner of prisoners of war wrote to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton that Jones's duty at Camp Parole was important; consequently it wasn't until November 1 that Jones left Annapolis, and then he was in charge of detachments returning to their commands in the West. Six days later he was in Nashville, Tennessee, whence the men were to be distributed.

Colonel Jones was well on his way to rejoin the 154th New York. XI Corps had been transferred to Bridgeport, Alabama, in supporting distance of the besieged Union army in Chattanooga, and by the time Jones rejoined the Hardtacks they had helped open the famous Cracker Line and were camped at the foot of Lookout Mountain. The day he arrived the 154th broke camp and marched to Chattanooga. In the battle of the next three days, the regiment was minimally involved, losing six men wounded in skirmishing on November 23 and 24. General Howard and Colonel Buschbeck took most of the brigade to join in Major General William T.

Sherman's attack on the Confederate right on the morning of November 25 and saw heavy fighting. Jones was left in charge of the 134th and 154th New York and saw no action, and when his command rejoined the brigade the next morning, the great victory had been completed. At some point during the Chattanooga fighting, Sergeant William Charles wrote, Jones had a close call: "Our colonel had a ball put through his boot and another took a piece of mane from his horse's neck."

After an arduous march to the relief of Knoxville and return to Chattanooga, the 154th built a winter camp of log huts for themselves and Major General Joseph Hooker (commanding XI and XII Corps) in Lookout Valley. Corporal Martin D. Bushnell of the Hardtacks wrote, "Our camp is now near General Hooker's headquarters. Joseph and Colonel Jones are pretty good friends and I don't know but he wants us all for staff and bodyguard. Joseph knows that we are about as good as they make." Hooker indeed held the 154th and Buschbeck's brigade in high regard, praising the stand they made at Chancellorsville while deprecating the XI Corps conduct at that battle in general. As Bushnell's bragging indicates, morale was high in the 154th after the successful Tennessee campaigns. Private Emory Sweetland wrote, "No regiment has a better name in the corps," and added, "Colonel Jones is very popular in the regiment." During a period in late January and early February 1864 Jones commanded the brigade and served on a court of inquiry requested by Major General Carl Schurz to investigate his conduct during the Battle of Wauhatchie. (The court found no reason to censure Schurz.) On February 25 Jones left Lookout Valley on a twenty-five-day leave of absence, visiting his wife and son in Philadelphia. The day he returned, March 22, a foot-deep snowfall had many of the Hardtacks thinking of their northern homes. A month later, baseball was the rage in camp, and First Sergeant Homer A. Ames of the 154th wrote "our colonel bet $200" the Hardtacks could beat the 33rd Massachusetts in a game. (The outcome of the contest is unknown.)

During the winter, the ambitious Patrick Jones had done some politicking for a promotion. In January he wrote to Brigadier General Lorenzo Thomas, the army adjutant general in Washington, summarizing his military career and seeking a brigadiership "after suggestions of my

immediate commanders in this corps." In March Reuben Fenton and seventeen other New York State congressional representatives signed a petition to President Lincoln recommending Jones be appointed brigadier. The president turned the petition over to Secretary Stanton, who took no action. Colonel Buschbeck had seniority and had ably led the brigade at Chancellorsville and Chattanooga. He would remain in command.

It was a reorganized command, seven regiments designated the 2nd Brigade, Second Division, XX Corps. Brigadier General John W. Geary commanded the "White Star Division" (so called because of its badge), and General Hooker commanded the corps, formed by the consolidation of XI and XII Corps. "Hooker told Colonel Jones that he did not think that we should have any fighting to do here," wrote Private Sweetland, "that all of the fighting would be on the Potomac." Hooker proved to be a poor prophet.

Four days after embarking on the spring campaign, on May 8, 1864, Geary's division was ordered to make a demonstration against Dug Gap on Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia. A rugged palisade of rock bristled atop the mountain, and as Geary's men approached the crest the Confederates sent huge boulders tumbling down the slope in addition to their musketry fire. Colonel Jones led the 154th New York to the shelter of the mountaintop's rock outcropping, where the men paused to catch their breath, and ordered them to assault the summit. The regiment's colors were planted on the crest, and finally rescued after many of the color guard were shot down. Casualties in the 154th were high, and included the commander. Climbing up the tangled cliff, Jones was thrown from a rock and badly bruised. Lieutenant Colonel Dan Allen ordered the Hardtacks back down the mountain. The next day Jones was sent to the rear.

He spent a month recuperating in a Chattanooga hospital, while the 154th moved south to battles at Resaca and New Hope Church. Finally fit for duty, he rejoined the regiment near Brown's Mill, Georgia on June 7, and assumed command of the brigade. Colonel Buschbeck and his 27th Pennsylvania Regiment had returned home, their enlistment expired. (The overlooked Buschbeck never even received a brevet brigadiership for his fine service.) Colonel Jones's 2nd

Brigade included the 33rd New Jersey, the 73rd and 109th Pennsylvania, and the 119th, 134th and 154th New York.

A week after he took command, Jones's brigade was in the vanguard of XX Corps assaults on Confederate positions at Gilgal Church on June 15 and took heavy losses in the fighting. The next day skirmishing cost more men, among them Jones's friend Captain Alanson Crosby of the 154th, mortally wounded and mourned by the colonel as a brave soldier and a young man of great promise. Jones sent the losses in his old regiment to the *Cattaraugus Freeman*, hoping to ease the minds of the soldiers' home folks, and noted, "After a fight, matters are reported worse than they really are. God knows it is bad enough as it is." But the bitter fighting of the Atlanta Campaign was yielding results, and Jones was proud of his brigade's part in it. "We are as well as could be expected; don't complain since we are drubbing them up, and driving them splendidly as we move on," he wrote. "Hooker and [Army of the Cumberland commander Major General George H.] Thomas speak of the command in the highest terms--the poor fellows deserve it."

Another month of skirmishing and maneuvering brought the brigade within sight of Atlanta. On July 19, Major Lewis D. Warner of the 154th New York wrote, "Colonel Jones relieved of his command...by order of General Geary, for alleged disrespect." Exactly what passed between the two is unknown, but by the next day Jones was back in command of his brigade. Geary and Jones were posting the 33rd New Jersey in advance of the line on July 20 when the surprise Confederate attack opened the Battle of Peachtree Creek. The 33rd was sent reeling and Jones's right regiments were forced back before the brigade rallied at the edge of a ravine and repulsed the Rebels with great slaughter. The 2nd Brigade reported 128 killed, wounded and captured. It was the last great battle Jones and his brigade would fight.

He spent much of August sick in the division hospital, and also served as president of a court martial. Colonel George W. Mindil of the 33rd New Jersey commanded the brigade in Jones's absence. A prejudiced member of the Hardtacks, Sergeant Horace Smith, derided Mindil as "a miserable little Jew" and wrote, "we will all be glad when Colonel Jones gets well enough to take command of the brigade again." Smith also noted the 154th raised $600 to buy the colonel a

set of horse equipment. Atlanta had fallen by the time Jones recovered. He resumed command of the brigade on September 18, and made his headquarters in a brick house on the McDonough Road, southwest of the city. That autumn Reuben Fenton wanted Jones to return home to help in the political campaign and asked President Lincoln to suggest the idea to General Sherman. Jones himself applied for a leave, but nothing came of it. He and the officers of the 154th issued an endorsement of Fenton for governor of New York, and the Republican was elected.

Colonel Jones led his brigade on the March to the Sea and on the last day of 1864 wrote his official report of the campaign, describing how his men destroyed miles of railroad track, trestle work and the bridge over the Ogeechee River, burned cotton gins, and guarded trains. During the siege of Savannah the brigade was posted as division reserve, on the banks of the Savannah River opposite Hutchinson Island, the left flank of Sherman's army. When Savannah fell, Geary's division occupied the city and Jones's brigade guarded and patrolled a district from its camp on Forsyth Place.

On January 4, 1865 Colonel Jones boarded the steamer *Louisa* with a thirty-day leave of absence, and sailed the next day for the North. He was unfit for duty, the brigade surgeon testified, having suffered from chronic diarrhea for over six months. On January 14, the soldiers of the 154th New York cheered the news that Jones was promoted to brigadier general, to rank from December 6, 1864, an advancement that had been recommended at various times by Generals Howard, Hooker and Sherman. (When Jones finally received his commission as brigadier, it was dated April 18, 1865.) Newspapers in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties lauded the promotion as well deserved. Early in February the *Cattaraugus Freeman* reported General Jones was home in Ellicottville and declared, "We are proud of him as a man, a citizen and a soldier."

Twice during Jones's stay in Cattaraugus County his leave was extended on the recommendation of doctors. When he finally resumed command of the 2nd Brigade, on March 30, 1865, it was resting at Goldsboro, North Carolina, and the Campaign of the Carolinas was nearing its end. Hardtack First Lieutenant Winfield S. Cameron was pleased to note Jones "has stars on his shoulders," and Sergeant Marcellus W. Darling wrote, "Our Colonel Jones has been made a

brigadier general and returned....We all think a great deal of him." An Ellicottville man working as an agent of the military railroads, John W. Meloy, visited the Goldsboro camp as General Jones's guest. "Pat is first rate and looks well," Meloy wrote. "Everyone likes him." During the lull General Geary presented Jones's brigade with a new flag, a triangular blue pennant adorned with the division's proud symbol, a white star. The war ended for General Jones and his men a few weeks later, when General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to General Sherman. Corporal Charles W. McKay of the 154th New York recalled that when the news arrived, "the camp was soon in an uproar. Brigadier General Patrick H. Jones sent his compliments to his old regiment, with the glad tidings, accompanied by a sample of the commissary department"--whiskey.

After a grueling, 300-mile march to the vicinity of Washington, the celebrations continued. On May 24 General Jones led his brigade in the Grand Review, through streets teeming with cheering spectators, a snowstorm of waving handkerchiefs, thundering applause, and garlands of flowers for the soldiers. Two days later Governor Reuben Fenton visited camp, and Hardtack Sergeant Joshua R. Pettit wrote in his diary, "Lot of citizens to General Jones's headquarters--six hundred officers drunk." Two days later the governor returned and presented the 154th New York with a new set of colors, and after a few days the regiment was mustered out. On June 17, 1865, Patrick H. Jones resigned his commission as brigadier general, United States Volunteers.

A few weeks later he returned to Ellicottville, and area veterans hauled out an old cannon and fired a salute in his honor. The *Cattaraugus Freeman* stated General Jones was a "great favorite" of the veterans, and the *Union* noted, "The returned soldiers all speak well of him, which is a sure sign that he did not send his men where he dare not go himself."

That fall Jones left Cattaraugus County for good, bound on a political and legal career in the wider circles of Albany and New York City. As a native Irishman and a war hero, Jones was an attractive candidate for the Republicans. In the first decade after the war he was elected or appointed clerk of the state court of appeals, counsel to the state commissioners of immigration, and register and postmaster of New York City. He did not enrich himself in these positions. Clerks customarily kept the interest on appeals court-held money--Jones gave it to charity. When Charles

Halpine died (the Irishman famous by his *nom de plume* "Private Miles O'Reilly"), Governor Fenton appointed Jones to finish his term as New York City register, and Jones presented his salary to Halpine's widow and family. During his term as city postmaster--a surprise appointment, engineered by Jones's friend Horace Greeley in a personal interview with newly-elected President Ulysses S. Grant--an employee of the money order department embezzled over $100,000, money that Jones was legally liable for. Much of the loot was eventually recovered from the thief and his family, but the case dragged on for four years before it was settled.

Jones opened a law office in New York City in 1867 and practiced there for the rest of his life. His most famous case, an unwanted and bizarre one, began in 1879 when he was contacted by the grave robbers who had stolen the coffin and remains of the millionaire department store magnate Alexander T. Stewart. For eight months Jones acted as an intermediary, conducting unsuccessful negotiations with the police, the court and the ghouls. The case took a red herring twist when Guiseppe Sala, the stone cutter who perpetrated the Cardiff and New Hampshire Giant hoaxes, claimed he too was in touch with the criminals. The strange saga ended with the payment of a ransom and the return of Stewart's corpse.

Patrick and Sarah Jones and their two sons (the second boy was born in 1866) moved to Staten Island in 1885, living from 1890 in a house on Ann Street in Port Richmond. Years later the *Ellicottville Post* would note General Jones never used his service to "gobble honors and questionable wealth," that he lived and died comparatively poor, "for he never could withstand the appeal of a friend in need, and never enriched himself at the expense of a human being." Jones's acknowledged generosity might have hurt his family, but another factor must have had a devastating effect on Sarah and his sons, and no doubt was the cause for so little being known of his last years. It is revealed in an 1888 letter from Henry Van Aernam to Alfred Benson, one old soldier of the 154th New York writing privately to another. "Many of our old comrades and friends have passed away," wrote Van Aernam, "and I am sorry to say that General P. H. Jones is a moral and physical wreck. Whiskey has destroyed him! Generous, kind hearted, and gentle and brave, he was a noble specimen of a true man--whiskey destroyed him prematurely. He is *staying* about

New York and New Brighton completely demoralized and not much better than a tramp. Truly a sad ending of his career!"

A sad ending indeed. In 1899 Jones wrote, "I have been very ill for the past year, owing to a stroke of paralysis, which has left me much enfeebled." He died at his home of heart failure on July 23, 1900 and was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Port Richmond. A simple marble stone marks his grave--none of his family lie near him. (Sarah Jones died in Philadelphia in 1912 and presumably is buried there.) In the many years since, flotsam from his life has occasionally surfaced. In 1923 an Ellicottville man gave the saddle the 154th presented to their colonel to the Cattaraugus County museum, where it is housed with his spurious lithographic portrait. How it got to the donor's hands is unknown. In more recent years, a couple of signed documents, two carte de visite wartime portraits, and Jones's Model 1862 Colt Police Revolver have been found floating in the memorabilia market. But where are his sword, his wartime letters, his family photograph album, his brigadier's commission? Much about General Patrick Henry Jones remains hidden in the depths of obscurity.

The End.

Sources

This article was drawn from materials gathered before and since the publication of *The Hardtack Regiment: An Illustrated History of the 154th Regiment, New York State Infantry Volunteers* (1981) by myself and Michael J. Winey, specifically the letters and diaries of the soldiers quoted. The *History of Cattaraugus County, New York* (1879) edited by Franklin Ellis, and the *Historical Gazetteer and Biographical Memorial of Cattaraugus County, N.Y.* (1893) edited by William Adams, were helpful; and the files of old newspapers, especially the *Cattaraugus Freeman* and the *Cattaraugus Union*, were indispensable, as were Jones's military and pension records from the National Archives.

Suggested Illustrations and Sources

1. Colonel Patrick Henry Jones, 154th New York Volunteers, from the original carte de visite by R. W. Addis, Washington, D.C. *(USAMHI)*

2. Brigadier General Jones, from the carte de visite by Gurney & Son, New York. *(USAMHI)*

3. The retouched portrait of General Jones (with his hand on his horse's neck), a detail of the lithograph "Sherman at Savannah" by Otto Botticher, owned by the Cattaraugus County Memorial and Historical Museum in Little Valley, New York. *(USAMHI or reshoot)*

4. Stonewall Jackson's victorious troops approach the Buschbeck line at Dowdall's Tavern as darkness falls on the evening of May 2, 1863, in a drawing by Alfred R. Waud. Jones, wounded, was left behind and captured when the Yankee line was overwhelmed during the Battle of Chancellorsville. *(USAMHI,* Battles & Leaders*, or* Campfires and Battlefields*)*

5. Geary's division nears the crest of Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia, in its assault on May 8, 1864, as depicted by Alfred Waud. Jones was thrown from a rock near the crest and severely injured during the battle. *(USAMHI, or* War Scenes on the Western & Atlantic*)*

6. The rugged crags atop Rocky Face Ridge at Dug Gap, in a postwar photograph. *(USAMHI)*

7. Jones's 2nd Brigade, Second Division, XX Corps destroying the Macon and Savannah Railroad bridge over the Ogeechee River on November 30, 1864, during Sherman's March to the Sea. The work was done, Jones noted in his official report of the campaign, "in a very effectual manner." *(USAMHI, or* Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, January 14, 1865)*

8. Campbell style saddle given to Colonel Jones by his regiment, the 154th New York. A presentation escutcheon on the pommel identifies the saddle, now part of the collection of the Cattaraugus County Museum. Surviving relics of General Jones are few. *(USAMHI)*

9. Jones's gravestone in St. Peter's Cemetery, Port Richmond, New York. *(I can provide print)*