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Jones Family Papers, 1837-2005

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Jones Family Papers

1837–2005

Two South Carolina Jones families were united when Lewis Jones (1813–1892), the son of Matthias Jones (1779–1829) and his wife Clara Perry (1786–1841) of Ridge Spring married Rebecca Margaret Jones, the daughter of Lewis Jones (1786–1876) and his wife Ann Elizabeth Pou (1796–1875) on 18 April 1839. When their son Lewis Pou Jones (1849–1890) married Matilda (Tilla) Virginia Lomax (1851–1926), the daughter of Lucien Hargrave Lomax (1819–1884) and Mary Elizabeth Duncan (1825–1851), on 13 April 1870 other surnames were added to the Jones' genealogical heritage, along with the family letters and papers of the newly minted members of the Jones clan. The family archive expanded once again and added yet other family surnames as the sons and daughters of Lewis and Tilla Jones, eight in number, married and established families of their own during the early years of the twentieth century. By the time the Jones descendants donated the carefully preserved collection of the papers of four generations of their ancestors, and other relatives, to the South Caroliniana Library, more than ten linear feet of correspondence, documents, photographs, account books, receipts, and genealogical records were in the family archive. Family names represented in the collection included Jones, Perry, Lomax, Duncan, Piemont, Hart, Watson, and Wallace.

Several members of the Jones family were interested in politics and held elected office in Edgefield District during the nineteenth century. Matthias, the patriarch, was elected by his fellow citizens to two terms in the South Carolina House of Representatives (1814–1815 and 1816–1817), and two of his sons, Abram (1807–1892) and Lewis (1813–1892) followed in their father's footsteps as members of the General Assembly. Abram was first elected in 1847 to replace a deceased member, serving until 1851, and was later elected to represent his district for two more terms (1856–1859 and 1862–1863). Lewis served a single term in the House in 1864. In addition to his legislator sons, three of Matthias's sons-in-law were members of the General Assembly. William Gregg (1800–1867), who had married Jones's daughter Marina (1811–1899) in 1829, served with his brother-in-law Abram in the Forty-second General Assembly (1856–1857); Paul Quattlebaum (1812–1890), who had married Sarah Caroline Jones (1815–1908) in 1835, was elected to represent Lexington District in the Thirty-fourth (1840–1841) and Thirty-fifth (1842–1843) General Assemblies and later served two terms in the state Senate (1848–1849 and 1850–1851). The voters of Lexington District also elected Quattlebaum to represent them in the Secession Convention (1860–1862) where he signed the Ordinance of Secession. Tillman Watson (1803–1874), the third son-in-law, represented Edgefield in the House in the Thirty-first (1834–1835), Thirty-second (1836–1837), and Thirty-sixth (1844–1845) General Assemblies and later

was elected to the state Senate and served three terms (1854–1855, 1856–1857, and 1860–1861). In addition to the single term he served in the state legislature, Lewis Jones was elected twice as sheriff of Edgefield District. Another son, James Jones (1805–1865), although never a legislator, served his state in various positions beginning in 1836, when he recruited a company of men from Edgefield District to fight in the Seminole War, until 1865, the year of his death. Upon his return from the Florida campaign, he was commissioned as South Carolina's Adjutant and Inspector General, a position he held until 1841. Even after he stepped down from that office, he carried with him the title "General" for the remainder of his life. From 1842 until his death, he was chairman of the Board of Visitors of the Citadel and the Arsenal Academy. He served as colonel of the Fourteenth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry during the first year of the Civil War and was Quartermaster General of South Carolina from 1863 to 1865. Andrew Jones (1803–1873), the eldest son of Matthias, who moved to Columbus, Georgia about 1830, served for many as the Clerk of the Inferior Court of Muscogee County. Lewis Jones's son, Lewis Pou Jones (1849–1890), represented Edgefield as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives in the Fifty-sixth General Assembly (1884–1885).

When Matthias Jones wrote his will on 7 March 1828, he specified that the bulk of his estate should "remain in One General Stock in the Hands of my wife Clarisa to raise[,] maintain and school my Children," but at the same time, he directed that "at the arrival of each or any one of my children at the age of Twenty one or on their Marriage[,] he[,] she[,] or Each of them shall be entitled to and shall receive their Share[,] an Equal Share of the Property that may be left of the General Stock..." When he died on 19 March 1829, Matthias owned almost five thousand acres of land in Edgefield District and, according to an inventory of his estate, taken on 24 and 25 April 1829 and filed with the probate records of Edgefield, he also owned thirty-six enslaved individuals who were included in his personal property which was appraised for over twelve thousand dollars. Apparently, his property remained undivided until the late 1830s. The Ordinary of Edgefield District ordered a new appraisal "of the goods and chattels...of Matthias Jones" on 31 December 1836, and on 10 and 11 January 1837, all the household furnishings, livestock, farming implements, harvested crops, and thirty enslaved persons, listed by their names, were sold at public auction. The widow, Clara Jones, was the major purchaser, but her sons (Abraham, Isaac, and James) and her sons-in-law (William Gregg, Paul Quattlebaum, and Tillman Watson) also made significant purchases in the sale that realized a total of \$23,560.73. The real estate was auctioned two years later. Andrew P. Jones, and other unnamed heirs, initiated a court action against James Jones, the estate's executor, that demanded a division of the real estate previously owned by Matthias Jones. The Commissioner in Equity for Edgefield District published a notice on 13 December

1838 in the *Edgefield Advertiser* of the "sale of the whole real Estate of Matthias Jones, deceased," which was scheduled for the first Monday in January 1839. Divided into nine tracts, all of which were described by acreage and location, the property included "the late residence of the said M. Jones...lying at the Ridge" consisting of 636 acres. The remaining parcels were in the Horse Creek valley and the largest tract, 2,384 acres, was the site of Jones's "saw and grist mill." By January 1839, when the real estate was sold, all the daughters and sons of Matthias and Clara Jones were married except for Lewis, Joseph, and Matthias Bolivar. Lewis, however, married on 18 April of that year; Joseph died later in the same year, on 5 November, in Charleston; and Matthias married his cousin Eliza E. Pou, probably in 1842. Clara Jones, Matthias's widow, lived until 29 January 1841, but after the sale of her home at the Ridge, she apparently moved across the county line into Lexington District where she appears in the 1840 census living near her daughter Sarah Quattlebaum and next to her son Isaac Jones.

The records in two Jones family Bibles provide a genealogical overview of some of the people who contributed the manuscripts and other items that are in the collection. One of the Bibles, published by Mathew Carey in Philadelphia in 1816, contains entries of births, marriages and deaths for the children and grandchildren of Matthias Jones and his wife Clara Jones, along with notations about their parents. "Joseph Jones married Sarah Carter" and became Matthias' parents, while Clara's parents were "Miss Elizabeth Docton [who] married Ezekiel Perry." Twelve children, eight sons and four daughters, were born to the couple over a span of twenty-three years, beginning with Andrew in 1803 and ending with Matthias Bolivar in 1826. Lewis Jones, the fifth son of Matthias and Clara Jones, continued to use his parents' Bible to record his own family information, beginning with his marriage: "Lewis Jones was married to Rebecca M. Jones, by the Revd. Davis, April 18th 1839." The names of this couple's eight children with their dates of birth are also recorded, followed by the death dates of four of those children who failed to reach their twentieth birthdays. Another Mathew Carey Bible, this one published in Philadelphia in 1817, documents Rebecca Jones' family's records. Her father and her husband bore the same first name, Lewis, but were unrelated. Whereas her husband's family descended from a Virginia family that had emigrated to Ninety-Six District, by way of North Carolina, and arrived about 1800, her father's family had resided in Orangeburg District as early as the 1740s. According to an entry in his Bible, Lewis Jones "was born in the year of our Lord 1786, Apl. 7th." His wife, Ann Elizabeth Jones, was ten years younger. They married on 13 July 1813. Rebecca Margaret, the third of eleven children, was born 14 February 1819. The Bible record indicates that Lewis Jones was the son of Henry Jones, who had been baptized on 14 April 1747 and died in 1811, while his mother, Mary Pou Jones (1751–1837), was the daughter of William Pou (d. 1831) and Ann Pou. Also recorded on another page in the Bible are

fifteen names and birthdates, ranging from 1810 to 1828, of enslaved people who likely belonged to Lewis Jones. In 1820, Lewis Jones was listed as a resident of Lexington District with fourteen enslaved individuals in his household. He recorded the date of death for only one of his siblings; his sister, Margaret Jane, had married James Fanning of Orangeburg District and Lewis noted in the family record that "Margaret Fanning Departed this life Sept. 9th 1836." The Bible, however, does record the birth dates for his eleven children who were born during the years between 1814 and 1842. Although most of the Joneses' sons and daughters eventually moved to Edgefield District, Joseph Alvah (1821–1907) remained in Lexington District and was listed in the 1850 federal census, with his wife and two children, living on a farm near Williamson's Mill which was located on Cedar Creek, just north of its confluence with the North Edisto River. Williamson's Mill, as shown on the Lexington District map in the 1825 *Mills Atlas of South Carolina*, was located about two miles northwest of "Lewis Jones' saw mill," adjacent to the North Edisto River, which was the boundary between Orangeburg and Lexington districts. Even though Lewis and Ann E. Jones were not listed in Edgefield District when the 1850 census was taken, they were already living there by that year. Lewis and Ann had signed a promissory note on 18 December 1849, included among the family papers in the collection, by which they agreed to pay E[ldred] N[ewton] Foy, an Edgefield farmer, "thirty nine dollars for value rec[eive]d."

Except for the Lewis Jones Bible, there are only a few scattered documents related to Rebecca Jones's parents in the family papers. The earliest correspondence in the collection, however, consists of four letters, addressed to Rebecca, and dated 1837 and 1838, from friends that she had known while attending school in Columbia. Margaret A. Jones wrote to Rebecca on 10 January 1837 and recounted her recent experiences attending a sick uncle, described the rush of visitors during the meeting of the legislature, and remarked that "In our old room," at her sister's house, "there were the whole time six girls, sometimes seven." She also informed Rebecca that "Sister Freeman has inquired as your father requested concerning the school; she understood that none but small children went to Mr. Value. So you had best go to the Academy." The letter was addressed to Rebecca "Care of Mr. L. Jones, Orangeburgh C. H., S. Carolina." Another friend and classmate, Mary A. E. Comer wrote Rebecca a letter, dated 2 August 1837, from her home near Clinton, Jones County, Georgia in which she discussed her recent return from Columbia and her uncertainty about continuing her education. "Brother Milton is anxious for me to return back to South Carolina and go to school to Dr. Markes but it is rather doubtful as mother is so very unwilling....," she explained. Dr. Elias Marks (1790–1886) opened the South Carolina Female Institute on the outskirts of Columbia in 1828, and by 1835 he had added additional courses to its curriculum as well as the word "Collegiate" to its name. It attracted students from many Southern

states. Another classmate, Mary America Davis, wrote to Rebecca from Columbus, Mississippi on 3 March 1838, just after receiving Rebecca's letter which apparently contained news of her impending marriage. "The 22 of February is past and thou art married!" she began. "I never found it so difficult a matter to write to you before in all my life," she continued, "because I never had before to write 'Mrs. Tredwell' but you are still Rebecca and it is to you...I write and not to the Tredwell part." The marriage to Mr. Tredwell [Treadwell] had not happened, but Rebecca was very much interested in getting married, as evidenced by a second letter from her Georgia friend, Mary Ann Comer. Although unsigned, this letter dated 30 March 1838, bears the same Clinton, Georgia postmark as her 1837 missive. "I am not at all astonished at your having so many su[i]ters as you do have, although if I were to judge from your last letter [,] I would say that you have not any at present or that you had sent them all adrift; which I expect is the case," she surmised. However, a year later on 25 April 1839, the *Edgefield Advertiser* announced: "Married. At Aiken, on the 18th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Davis, Mr. Lewis Jones, to Miss Rebecca M., daughter of Mr. Lewis Jones, Sen. [,] all of Aiken." Rebecca was twenty and her husband was six years older.

Among the antebellum letters in the collection are a series written by the mother, and other relatives, of Matilda Virginia Lomax (1851–1926) who would, in 1870, join the Jones family as the wife of Lewis Pou Jones (1849–1890), who was the son of Lewis and Rebecca Jones and grandson of Matthias and Clara Jones. Matilda, or "Tilla," as she was known from an early age, was the daughter of Mary Elizabeth Duncan (1825–1851) and her husband Lucien Hargrave Lomax (1819–1884), and the granddaughter of Irish-born David Duncan (1791–1881) and his wife Alice Amanda Needler Piemont (1806–1875). Mary Elizabeth Duncan was born in Norfolk, Virginia where her father David taught at the Norfolk Academy from 1817 until 1836. Three years after he arrived in town, on 26 October 1820, he married Martha Shirley, the daughter of Captain Ambrose Shirley and his wife Ann Tompkins. Martha Duncan died during the first year of her marriage, and on 8 April 1824, David Duncan married a second Virginia native, Alice Piemont, the daughter of Thomas Piemont and Elizabeth Churchill Robinson Piemont. The marriage ceremony was performed in the Norfolk home of Robert C. Jennings (d.1838), the husband of Alice C. Robison (d.1851), the bride's aunt. The Jennings cousins grew up with their Duncan cousins in Norfolk and continued to correspond and visit even after the Duncan family moved to Boydton, Virginia, where David Duncan accepted a faculty position at Randolph-Macon College in 1837. By the time Elizabeth wrote the first in a series of letters dating from 1843 to 1851, the year of her death, she had been joined by six siblings, who were often mentioned in her communications with her family. Two of her parents' children, however, had died at young ages. William Wallace Duncan, who

was probably born in 1827 or 1828, died in 1839, and Amanda Churchill Duncan (1832–1834) died at only twenty-one months of age. Her brother, James Armstrong Duncan (1830–1877), was born in Norfolk, before the family moved to Boydton. Elizabeth's three youngest brothers were all born in Boydton: William Wallace (1839–1908), named for his deceased brother who had died 31 July, five months before his namesake's birth on 20 December; Thomas Carey (1842–1862); and D'Arcy Paul (1846–1924), named for D'Arcy Paul (1793–1874), an Irish-born Petersburg, Virginia merchant and trustee of Randolph-Macon College.

In her letters preserved in the family collection, she often mentioned her brothers and other relatives, and discussed her experiences as a student at the Buckingham Female Collegiate Institute, which had opened in May 1837, near the village of Gravel Hill in Buckingham County, Virginia. In a letter to her mother, dated 4 May 1843, Elizabeth commented on the clothes she had just received from home: "The dress, I think, very pretty—it fits beautifully in the body, & is just the right length." She was not, however, as pleased with her schoolwork. "And I cannot think of commencement, or examination enough to study very hard, or attempt to write a composition, although some time ago I dreaded both so much," she complained. "I fear our examination will not be very creditable, on Mental Philosophy, & Political Economy [because] we have had to go over them so fast.... Well [,] I will not make myself uneasy about it, but really I am ashamed of my little progress in music. I cannot practice enough, & I forget everything so quickly," she continued. She was, however, happy with some recent changes in the administration of the school. "Mr. Dashiell has left for Portsmouth, & Mr. Lea has taken charge of the boarding department for the remainder of the term.... A considerable reformation has taken place in the fare, & all pertaining thereto. All goes on much more smoothly & quietly. We hear no complaints now." Lorenzo Lea (1806–1876), the president of the Institute for the 1842/1843 school year, had attempted to stabilize the school's financial situation, in the face of declining enrollment, by requesting assistance from the state. He sent a petition, dated 28 March 1843, and signed by many of the Institute's current and former students, to the Virginia legislature. Mary E. Duncan of Mecklenburg County, and her cousin, Amanda Churchill Jennings (1826–1890), of Norfolk, both signed the document. The effort to secure state funding failed and the Institute closed at the end of the 1843 term. Although Elizabeth's 4 May 1843 letter is the only one in the collection written while she was a student, she probably spent two years at the Buckingham Collegiate Institute. In the letter to her mother, she stated that "I did not think you all cared so much about me, as you say in the letter.... [and] I love you all as well, I reckon, but I do not think of you, & going home half as much as [I] did last term." In that reference, "last term" probably referred to the previous academic year, 1841/1842. Written on a photocopy of an undated essay in the

collection titled "Aristocracy" is the note "Graduating composition of M. E. Duncan" in Elizabeth's handwriting. Another essay, also in Elizabeth's hand, titled "The Triumph of Genius," was almost certainly written while she was a student at the Institute.

When Elizabeth wrote to "My Dear Aunt" on 19 June 1844, she was at home in Boydton and eager to describe the events she had witnessed at Randolph-Macon's recent commencement to her mother's sister, Elizabeth C. Piemont Taliaferro (1802–1871). Her aunt was the second wife of the Reverend Philip Taliaferro (1779–1848), and she resided near Gloucester Court House, Virginia, where her husband was pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church. "We had a most delightful party the night of commencement, given, as customary, by the students, to the senior class," she explained. "We had the graduating class to dine with us one day—thirteen took the degree of A.B., and seven or eight that of A.M." During the week, "We had a very interesting and agreeable commencement with as great a crowd of strangers as ever, and more company with us than ever before, I believe," Elizabeth wrote. "Mr. [D'Arcy] Paul was with us, and the boys. We expected Mrs. Paul also, but indisposition prevented her intended visit." But by the time she wrote to her aunt, after the round of parties had ended, she found the "place is lonely enough...[because] every student but one has left college, and they you know are the life of the neighbourhood, seeing or hearing them constantly every day during the session, they are constantly missed very much at first." To partially compensate for the absence of the usual collegiate activities during the summer, Elizabeth had invited one of her Norfolk cousins, Indiana Jennings (1827–1852), to visit. "Cousin I[ndy]," she related, "received a letter from N. Orleans lately, in which the 'new sister' does not speak of coming to Virginia this summer. But yet Cousin Indy seems to think she must return to Norfolk soon to see Octavia, whose displeasure she fears she has already incurred by coming to Mecklenburg in place of going to *Afton*." Two of Indiana's brothers, Needler Robinson (1805–1863) and James Rody Jennings (1816–1872), had moved to New Orleans and Needler had married there, on 10 October 1843, Anna Maria Hennen (1820–1896), the "new sister" that Elizabeth mentioned.

When Elizabeth wrote her aunt Elizabeth Taliaferro on 31 January 1845, she was visiting with her "Aunt Jennings" and her Jennings cousins, Indy and Octavia, in Norfolk. She apologized for not having "written you a long letter all this week, but have been prevented by different circumstances, which I cannot now explain" and, even as she wrote her brief letter, she was "in a room surrounded by the family all talking, & I half listening, hardly know what I am writing." "The town," she continued, "has been very gay this winter. There have been the greatest number of parties every week, but I care nothing about parties, & have accepted only one invitation this season." She would like to visit her aunt, she wrote, but "various circumstances forbid my going now to Gloucester, however much I should wish

it." She must stay in Norfolk, she explained, because "Mr. Masi's Oratorio will take place soon, as soon as the new organ arrives, & I have promised positively to help him.... And besides, you know I mentioned before my wish to take lessons in music, which I might study with great advantage with Mr. Masi...." Philip Henry Masi (1808–1890) spent most of his life as a music teacher and organist in Norfolk. She ended her letter with "my love to all, in haste," but without any reference to marriage plans that she might have, or even a mention of Lucien Lomax, the man who would become her husband six months later.

Elizabeth and Lucien were married in Boydton, Virginia on 21 July 1845. Although there are no letters in the collection that describe their courtship, they obviously met when Lucien began his college career at Randolph-Macon College a few years after David Duncan and his family arrived at Boydton. Lucien graduated in June 1842 with an A.B. degree and then entered the school of law at the University of Virginia from which he graduated on 4 July 1845. Less than three weeks later, he and Elizabeth were married. Lucien Hargrave [Hargrove] Lomax (1819–1884) was born in Abbeville District, South Carolina, the son of James Lomax (1787–1835) and his wife Matilda Hargrove Lomax (1789–1866). Lucien's father had been elected three times to the South Carolina House of Representatives and served during the sessions from 1818 through 1823. Lucien's father and his grandfather, both named James, died within six weeks of each other in 1835 when Lucien was fifteen. The elder James Lomax was in his eightieth year when he died on 9 August and the younger James was forty-eight when he passed away on 18 September. Lucien and his brothers, William James (1817–1889) and Warren George (1824–1886), inherited both land and enslaved persons from the estates of each forebear. Both Warren and Lucien enrolled at the University of Virginia for the 1844/1845 term, during which Lucien completed his law studies and Warren attended classes in chemistry and moral philosophy. Warren then pursued a degree in medicine, and by 1850 he was a practicing physician in Abbeville District.

After their July wedding, Lucien and Elizabeth spent the rest of the summer with the Duncan family in Boydton and, early in the fall of 1845, traveled to Abbeville Court House, South Carolina where the couple planned to establish their home. For the first few months after their arrival in South Carolina, they lived with Lucien's relatives, but by early spring 1846 had moved to a house in the village that Lucien had purchased. In a long letter to her mother, dated 22 April 1846, Elizabeth described her efforts to create a comfortable home for her, her husband, and their first child who was expected soon. She apologized for not answering her mother's last letter, "but, since I have been a house keeper, I have found so much to employ me, that I have not before found time," she explained. "I have had bed, bolster, & pillow ticks, counterpanes, curtains, sheets, & all the et cetera, which you will know, without

need of enumeration, to make," she added. Even with the help of "a most excellent seamstress," she admitted she had been overwhelmed with "much sewing work." She also had servants to help with the other chores of housekeeping: "Our household consists of the cook, Ritter, & three children [and] a girl & a boy in the house; & an old man who attends the garden, & cuts wood, &c." Her household duties, however, had prevented her from attending to the garden. "The flowers & garden have not had as much of my attention yet as I wished; but seem to do very well without it." She was especially fond of the "beautiful large rose bushes, covered now with roses [that] perfume my flower garden." The fruit trees and plants in the yard provided "Peaches & Plums of several kinds, cherries, Apples, Nectarines, strawberries, raspberries and figs; & pear trees, which are right large, but have not yet borne fruit." In the evenings, she could sit with Lucien on one of the "fine piazza[s], both above & below stairs, in full view of the flower garden; & shaded with the honeysuckle & white Jessamine..." She was also delighted with the house: "we have six rooms with fire places, which all seem to be pleasant & comfortable [and a] delightful storeroom, quite large enough to have a small bed in...." In addition, the house contained "Four fine large closets also, besides two small rooms without fireplaces which seemed to have been used as closets. We are," she concluded, "altogether very well and comfortably situated, much more so than I suppose young housekeepers generally are." The only problem with life in Abbeville, Elizabeth intimated, was the scarcity of money. "[T]he times have been such since the drought here, that all Mr. Lomax's debtors, although good, are unable at present to pay him, & if he has a creditor to the amount even of a dollar he is eager to be paid...." The debts, apparently, were from Lucien's farming operations, not his legal business. He was preparing for his examination for admission to the South Carolina Bar and was, as Elizabeth explained to her mother, "so much occupied with his law books" that she had to "write nearly all of even his business letters."

When Elizabeth next wrote to her mother on 28 September 1846, she devoted a large portion of her letter to her four-month-old daughter, Alice Amanda Lomax, who had been born on 26 May and named for her grandmother Duncan. "Say to pa he will have to come and give his little grand daughter his kisses himself for if Mr. L[omax] & I attempt to give her all sent by you [,] aunt Taliaferro & Tennent Lomax & enough for ourselves too [,] we shall have to be at it all day & night besides," she concluded. "She is you may be sure very 'sweet & fair' & worthy of kisses." Elizabeth's mother was well-acquainted with Lucien's cousin, Tennent Lomax (1820–1862), whom she had known while he was a student at Randolph-Macon College in the years before he graduated in June 1840. Another letter, dated 26 November 1846, from Elizabeth to her mother, present in the collection as a photocopy of the original, also focused on "Little Alice." She "is growing very fast...and has two teeth & can sit alone without any

support & play with any thing," she observed. She also mentioned that Lucien was away in Columbia for ten days without giving any reason for his trip; however, he was there to prepare for the examination that he was required to pass before his admission to the state bar. In the 9 December 1846 issue of the *Edgefield Advertiser*, Lomax was listed as one of the eighteen applications who had appeared before the Courts of Appeals in Law and Equity sitting in Columbia who had been admitted to practice in common law. Elizabeth also referred to the changes that had taken place at Randolph-Macon College. She had just received a letter from Tennent Lomax who, in addition to conveying the news that he was "strongly...courting a young lady in Ala[bama]," wrote that he was "utterly astonished at Mr. Garland's forsaking R[andolph] M[acon]." Elizabeth remarked that "I suppose he is unaware of the financial state of R.M." Tennent also thought that "Dr. Smith will make a fine President." Declining enrollment in the early 1840s and the difficulty of raising funds for the college had created a crisis by 1846 that resulted in the resignations of Randolph-Macon's president, Landon C. Garland (1810–1895) and David Duncan. Professor Duncan, however, was persuaded to remain, a new president was elected by the trustees in November, and the college managed to survive under the leadership of Rev. William A. Smith (1802–1870) who would continue in office until 1866. The uncertainty surrounding the college's future was the likely reason for Elizabeth's comment about her father's future: "I am anxiously awaiting that long letter you promised to write after conference and, if Pa decides to move, tell us that you will visit us this winter certainly."

In a letter written to her younger brother, James Armstrong Duncan (1830–1877) on 10 May 1847, present in the collection as a photocopy of the original, Elizabeth responded to James' letter of 12 March with details about her life in Abbeville that she thought would interest a seventeen-year-old. She described her "dissipation of the last week" by recounting the events she had witnessed in her little village which, she had been told, was "quite a dull, stupid, and monotonous place, at this time, compared with its character some years ago." "[W]e have occasional weddings, and little parties to enliven and render us more sociable," even though "these are quite rare," she confessed, and acknowledged that she had attended only one wedding and had "been invited to a bridal party," which she did not attend, since moving to Abbeville in 1845. Her social life expanded, however, when she and Lucien attended "an interesting May Day celebration" which the "young ladies of the Female Academy" had arranged. The Queen of May, Rosa Wardlaw, addressed the crowd, and then "the whole school joined hands, and danced around the garlanded may-pole, [b]ut they did not allow any of the boys or young men to join in, although some implored the Queen's permission." She also described "a delightful evening last Wednesday at Judge Wardlaw's, where we were invited to partake of strawberries &

cream." The Judge "has a large & beautiful flower garden, and we were invited to go early, before sunset, expecting to have the table in the garden, but the evening proved cool enough for fire, and we were compelled to enjoy them in the piazza." David L. Wardlaw (1799–1873), Abbeville attorney and judge, was also the father of the Queen of May, Rosalie Maria Wardlaw (1831–1891). For one of the few times in her letters, Elizabeth commented on politics and current affairs. She asked her brother, "What do you think of 'old Rough & Ready' as our next President?" Her husband, she wrote, "says he will vote for him, but I do not wish him to be President, although he is a *Whig*, because of his military character. I do not think we ought to elect men from the army for our Chief Magistrates; but rather peaceable men." Zachary Taylor led his army to victory in the Battle of Buena Vista in February 1847 and instantly became the first national hero in the Mexican American War. Taylor had won his sobriquet because of the reputation for toughness during the Second Seminole War and did successfully carry the banner of the Whig party in the 1848 presidential election. Elizabeth had a personal connection to the war in Mexico through her friendships with many of the men who had joined a military unit raised in her village for service in Mexico. Although "Mr. L[omax]'s brothers did not go to Mexico [because] the company in which they volunteered only offered for one year, & when news came that all must volunteer for the whole period of the war, it was disbanded and very few of the first company joined the second." Even so, "one of Mr. L[omax]'s cousins Wm. Lomax went." The company that fought in the war was led by "Captain [Jehu Foster] Marshall who resided in this village," she informed her brother. "I also knew a good many of the volunteers, twelve of the most promising young men, went from the village, all single, but Capt. M[arshall] and six of the twelve were lawyers." The company, she continued, was "in the thickest of the fight during the bombardment of Vera Cruz and Capt. M. was knocked down by the shock of a shell or cannon ball...and the letter writers of the company say they were fanned by the passing balls, which fell thick around them, yet not one of the company were hit or wounded."

A second child joined the Lomax household on 19 April 1849 when James Duncan was born in the family home in Abbeville. Elizabeth wrote a letter to her father on 5 November 1849, a copy of which survives in the collection, in the voice of her six-month-old son as a way of relating family life through the eyes of the newest member. Addressed to "My Dear Grandpapa," James explained that "I have been waiting for a long time now, & watching, whether any body would write to you, as I am a very little fellow yet to be writing letters; but, seeing that all the letters went to somebody else, I determined that my dear Grandpapa should not be slighted; for his little boy should write him a letter too." Elizabeth related to her father her own impressions of James from what she thought would be his perspective: "If you could only see me jumping & dancing. I can turn out my toes, so they say, & dance as *naturally* as a

born dancing master, & am sure I would tire down any two fiddlers.... I amuse myself as yet with pulling sister Alice's hair, & sucking my fingers, & biting my ivory rattle, but sooner than they think I will 'put away these childish things,' & be writing letters about Latin & Greek to Virginia." Elizabeth also used James' voice to inform her father that she and Lucien had engaged an artist to paint their portraits. "I have missed mamma several times lately & find she has been sitting for her portrait & papa too, & they are to be sent to you. I hear them talking about taking sister Alice too. The painter is very anxious, but not a word about this little, precious, 'noble looking' boy." Portraits of both Elizabeth and Lucien have been passed down through the family to the present generation, but they are unattributed. The fact that James describes his mother as sitting for her portrait in Abbeville would suggest that the artist was local, or perhaps an itinerant portrait painter. Abbeville was home to Clarage H. Kingsmore, (1823–1873) who, after receiving a medical degree from a private college in Castleton, Vermont in 1844, established a practice in Abbeville that continued until August 1846, when he announced in an advertisement in *The Abbeville Press and Banner* that "having exchanged the practice of medicine for a more congenial employment, I offer for sale my entire stock of Medicines, shop furniture, saddle-bags, an excellent case of surgeon's pocket instruments, &c." His new employment, identified when he responded to the census taker's question in 1850, was "Portrait painter & M. D." At the time of Kingsmore's death in 1873, the editor of the local newspaper noted that he "was quite a successful painter, and a number of his works in our community and elsewhere attest his merit as an artist." Another passing reference in the letter, in the words of James, demonstrated his mother's desire to have her parents closer to her and her family: "How I wish my dear Grandpapa & Grandmamma & all the rest that used to pull me about so much lived nearer here." The family had learned from their neighbor "Mrs. Noble, who knows all about the college in Columbia & has relations there...that the Latin Professor talks of resigning." Mrs. Noble, nee Mary Means Bratton (1827–1905), who was married to Abbeville attorney Edward Noble (1823–1889), the son of former South Carolina governor Patrick Noble, had also suggested that because the professor had "married a fortune" and was not considered "a good professor," he might leave his position. "Now if *he* only would resign, & *you only would get there*," James wished.

When Elizabeth wrote to her father on 13 December 1850, she was pregnant with her third child, and in the letter, which is included in the collection as a photocopy, discussed her plans to travel to Virginia so that she could be with her mother and family when the baby arrived. She had "just finished Alice's little blue dress...& she is very anxious every day to set out to see Grandpa & all in Va. in it." Apparently, her husband had been reluctant for her to make the arduous trip to Boydton until after he received David Duncan's encouraging letter. "Your letter had more effect than any other in

persuading Mr. L[omax] to consent to our going," she wrote. "He says though it will be impossible for him to go all the way and he thinks of stopping at some place, perhaps at Raleigh, for a day or two, & writing whether it will be necessary for you to meet us." She was confident, however, that "if he goes as far as R[aleigh], it will hardly be necessary to trouble you" because she and the children would be able to continue the trip alone. "We think of starting the week after Christmas," she added. The demands of Lucien's law practice were apparently the reason he could not accompany his family all the way to Virginia and stay until the birth of his child. Soon after he was admitted to the bar, he announced in an advertisement published in *The Abbeville Banner* on 12 January 1848, that he had taken over "the Office formerly occupied by B.Y. Martin, Esq., on the public square, [and] tenders his services to the citizens of Abbeville." Lucien did, however, plan "next year, if it be necessary, to go to Kentucky, & from there to Va.," Elizabeth assured her father. A trip to Kentucky might be necessary because David Duncan had given his son-in-law, in February 1850, the responsibility of selling a tract of land located in Barren County, Kentucky that had been left to the Duncan children by Ann D. Shirley (d. 1834), the mother of David Duncan's first wife. Duncan had been named executor of Ann's will, signed in 1830 and witnessed by David's second wife Amanda Piemont Duncan and her brother Robinson N. Piemont. Some of the Kentucky land was sold in 1851 and it is likely that Lucien traveled to Barren County that year to facilitate the transaction.

After the birth of Matilda Virginia Lomax on 13 April 1851 at her grandfather Duncan's house in Boydton, Elizabeth and the children remained in Virginia until late summer before beginning the return trip to Abbeville. On 22 July, Elizabeth and children left for a brief visit to Warrenton, North Carolina, located just south of the Virginia border, about thirty-five miles from Boydton. Elizabeth wrote to her mother on 23 July from there with a report on the day's journey. "I...am writing in a great hurry to let you know of our safe arrival last evening soon after sunset," she began. "We stopped very often during the day & got water & let the horses rest so that they did not seem at all fatigued.... We did not get lost a single time but found our way very well without any trouble at all." She wanted to reassure her mother because she was "afraid you have been uneasy about us for I know Capt. Howard & Pa had a great laugh about our getting lost before we were out of sight of the College." Apparently, the reason for the trip was to visit friends and acquaintances in Warrenton. William Travis Howard (1821–1907), the son of Captain William Alleyne Howard (1787–1859) and Rebecca E.T. Anderson Howard (1788–1871), Elizabeth's neighbors of long-standing in Boydton, had settled in Warrenton after he received his medical degree in 1844. He had recently married Lucy E.M. Fitts (1820–1870) and invited Elizabeth to stop with him and his wife. "I am delighted with Mrs. Howard & feel perfectly at home," she commented

to her mother. Three-month-old Matilda was "sleeping sweetly since she was dressed with her thumb in her mouth," she concluded. Two days later, in a letter of 25 July, Elizabeth continued to describe her visit to the Howards. "A great many have called on us & we cannot possibly return their visits if we do not stay longer & Mrs. L[ucy] Howard says it would never do for us not to do so," she explained. "[W]e are to have a large company to dine here tomorrow, among them Mr. & Mrs. Twitty, Sallie's mother...[and] of course we must stay." Elizabeth's brother, James Armstrong Duncan, had recently married a native of Warrenton, Sarah "Sally" Twitty (1830–1870) and Elizabeth was eager to meet her parents, Thomas T. Twitty (1801–1888) and his wife Eveline Fitts Twitty (1813–1853). The health of her children also concerned her. "Jimmie seems better & the baby very well," she wrote, but Dr. Howard "says Jimmie ought to take iron & without my ever saying that I needed any thing of the sort or speaking of my health at all [,] he told me today at dinner he was going to make me some pills that would make me rosy as possible." She planned to return to Boydton within a few days, but cautioned her mother, "If a letter comes from Mr. L[omax]...Do not open it as he does not like for any one to read his letters to me."

The family returned to Boydton, where they remained, probably until the heat of summer had subsided, before traveling home to Abbeville. A few months after the Lomax family reached home, both Elizabeth and her young son were taken ill and died within a week of each other. An obituary, probably first published in an Abbeville newspaper, but present in the collection as a later manuscript copy, outlined the short life of Mary Elizabeth Lomax. "She was born in Norfolk, Va., and was in her twenty-fifth year" when she died on 5 November 1851. "Having been brought up by a mother admirably qualified to impress upon a daughter's character the excellent virtues which adorned her own, and educated mainly by her own father, with exactness, care, and thorough discipline of mind, she entered upon the responsibilities of married life, with a superior understanding and finished cultivation, and was altogether one of the most lovely and accomplished women of her age." The obituary concluded with the notation that "Mrs. Lomax's death was preceded by that of her son, James Duncan, who died one week before his mother, aged two years and six months." Mother and son were buried in the Upper Long Canes Cemetery at Abbeville. Elizabeth's eldest daughter, Alice, was five years old, and Matilda, known as Tilla from infancy, was seven months old, when their mother died. Although Lucien's mother Matilda, now Mrs. Richey, after her remarriage a few years after her first husband's death, lived near her son, the two Lomax girls, apparently soon after Elizabeth's death, went to Boydton, Virginia, to live with their Duncan grandparents. In a letter written on 8 May 1852 by James Duncan's wife, Sallie Twitty Duncan, to her husband's aunt, Elizabeth Taliaferro in Boydton, she mentioned a letter she had just

received from her mother-in-law, Amanda Duncan, in which she apparently mentioned her two granddaughters. "Dear little Tilla has four teeth...and dear little Alice is learning her book...I was glad to hear she loved to study."

Lucien Lomax remained in Abbeville after Elizabeth's death where he continued to practice law and look after his planting interests. By March 1851, he had joined another Abbeville attorney, John Harris Wilson (1804–1869), as a partner in Wilson & Lomax, Attorneys at Law, according to an advertisement printed in the *Abbeville Banner*. Another announcement published in the same newspaper on 25 November 1852, noted the addition of William M. Hadden to the firm, renamed Wilson, Lomax & Hadden, Attorneys at Law and Solicitors in Equity. William M. Hadden (1827–1864) was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1851 and remained with the firm until 1858 when it appears that the firm was dissolved. Lucien's friends announced him as a candidate for the state legislature in the election of 1856, but he was not among the slate elected. By 1860, Lucien had apparently, at least for a brief time, left the state. He was enumerated in the 1860 census as a resident of the village of Fulton, Arkansas, and listed as L. H. Lomax, age 36, a lawyer by profession, born in South Carolina, and the owner of real estate valued at one thousand dollars and personal property worth sixty-five thousand dollars. In the same year, a bill for the partition of real estate that had belonged to Jesse S. Adams was filed in the Abbeville District, South Carolina Equity Court. Jesse S. Adams (1790–1860) had married Lucien's aunt, Rachel Lomax (1791–1872), his father's sister. Adams owned three tracts of land when he died, one of which was advertised as "The James Lomax Tract," containing 360 acres, and another was named "The Lucien Lomax Tract," which included ninety-one acres, and was located on Baggs Creek, a tributary of Long Cane Creek, and adjoined property owned by Dr. W. G. Lomax, Lucien's brother.

Lucien was occasionally mentioned in the scattered letters from other members of the family written during the 1850s that remain with the collection. Elizabeth Taliaferro's sister-in-law, Penelope Piemont, the wife of Dr. Robinson Piemont, wrote from her home in Elizabeth City, North Carolina on 4 May 1853, and asked about the Lomax children: "I wish I could see Lizzie's dear little children—are they like her? I don't know how Mr. Lomax stays from them, but of course it is unavoidable." Again, on 19 August 1853, Penelope wrote to Elizabeth that "I am surprised to hear Mr. Lomax has not been on this summer to see his little children, particularly as you say the youngest is delicate. [D]o you think he has any idea of marrying again?" After the Duncan family moved to South Carolina in 1854, it was easier for Lucien to see his daughters. Amanda Duncan, in a letter written on 24 May 1855 to her sister Elizabeth Taliaferro, wrote that "Mr. L[omax] left us this day [last] week, said he would be back again in June, but I told him I had not much faith in his promises, but he seemed to be very anxious to get here again by the

4th Sunday in June as Whitefo[o]rd Smith is to preach to the students on that day previous to the closing exercises on the following Wednesday." The desire to allow Lucien to see his daughters more often was clearly one of the reasons that David Duncan decided to move to South Carolina. Professor Duncan resigned from the faculty of Randolph-Macon College in September 1853, effective June 1854. By late July 1854, the Duncans were living in Spartanburg and David Duncan assumed his duties as Professor of Ancient Literature at Wofford College when the school began its first session in August. Another factor that likely encouraged Duncan to move to the new college in Spartanburg was the opportunity to rejoin his friend and former colleague from Randolph-Macon, Reverend William May Wightman (1808–1882), who had served as a financial agent and professor of English at the college during the 1830s, and who was selected as Wofford's first president. Another former colleague, Warren DuPre (1816–1879), graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 1837, received his Master of Arts degree in 1840, and worked as a tutor at the college until June 1844. He was later elected to the Wofford faculty as professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy. In this community of family and friends, Alice and Tilla Lomax grew to maturity and, under the guidance of both grandfather and grandmother, were trained and educated.

By the time the family moved to Spartanburg, the eldest son, James, had graduated, in 1849, from Randolph-Macon and had begun his life's work as a Methodist minister. He was the only one of the Duncan sons to remain in Virginia. David, the second son, continued his studies at Randolph-Macon, graduated in 1855, married Virginia Nelson (1833–1910) in Boydtown in 1856, and then joined his parents in South Carolina. He read law in Spartanburg with local attorney Oliver Evans Edwards (1819–1863) and was admitted to the bar in 1857. He then practiced law with James Farrow until 1861. In the late summer of that year, James organized a company for the regiment that his mentor, Colonel Edwards, raised and was mustered into Confederate service at Lightwood Knot Springs on 4 September. William Wallace, the third son, had started his college career at Randolph-Macon, but accompanied his family to Spartanburg and entered the freshman class of Wofford College in the fall of 1854. After his graduation with Wofford's first senior class in 1858, he was licensed to preach by the Virginia conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and was assigned to churches in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and Alexandria and Leesburg, Virginia in the years preceding the outbreak of the Civil War. By 19 March 1861, he had returned to South Carolina and, on that date, married Medora Rice (1836–1914) of Union District. On 20 November 1862, he was appointed chaplain of the Seventh Regiment, South Carolina Reserves with the rank of captain and served in that capacity until 17 February 1863, when the regiment's term of service ended. Almost immediately thereafter, he was appointed chaplain of the

Twentieth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry, which was stationed on Sullivan's Island, near Charleston. His regiment was ordered to Virginia in May 1864, and he was present during the battles at Cold Harbor and Petersburg and was with the regiment during the campaign in the Shenandoah Valley in August 1864; however, he retired from active duty in November of that year. Thomas Cary (1842–1862), the fourth son, graduated from Wofford College in 1860, then accepted a position as principal of the Reidville Academy in Spartanburg District where he taught for a year. On 13 April 1861, he joined the "Spartan Rifles," a company raised in Spartanburg District by Captain Joseph Walker, and which entered Confederate service as Company L, Fifth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry. The regiment, commanded by Colonel Micah Jenkins (1835–1864), was briefly stationed near Charleston before it was ordered to Virginia where it arrived just in time to participate in the Battle of First Manassas on 21 July 1861. For three months during the fall of 1861, Private Duncan was one of thirty-five men detailed to take charge of two guns that were part of Calhoun's Battery stationed near Centreville, Virginia. In February 1862, as the end of his one-year enlistment drew near, he re-enlisted for the duration of the war. When the reorganization of the army occurred in April, he, and several of his comrades from the Fifth Regiment joined the Palmetto Sharpshooters, a newly organized regiment under the command of the former colonel of the Fifth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry, Micah Jenkins. A few months later, on 30 June, Tom Duncan, now First Sergeant of Company K, was killed while leading his men in pursuit of retreating Federals during the Battle of Frazier's Farm. The youngest Duncan brother, D'Arcy Paul (1846–1924), remained a student at Wofford College until the summer of 1863. In 1864, he enrolled at The Citadel in Charleston and, as a member of Company A of the Battalion of State Cadets, D'Arcy was engaged in active duty during the last months of the war on James Island. The four surviving Duncan brothers are all represented in the collection by post-Civil War letters addressed to their niece, Tilla Lomax Jones, and to several of her daughters.

Another set of letters was added to the family's collection by Elizabeth Piemont Taliaferro who, after her husband died in 1848, spent much of her time with her sister's family while they lived in Boydton as well as after they removed to Spartanburg in 1854. She resided there during the final years of her life and, after her death on 18 June 1871, her sister saved her correspondence. Among the more than thirty letters in the collection addressed to her, written by her, or related to her, nine were from her sister-in-law, Penelope Sutton Albertson Piemont (1806–1884), the wife of her brother Robinson N. Piemont (1811–1870). Beginning with the first letter, dated 16 January 1848, and continuing until the final extant letter, written on 19 March 1869, Pen, as she always signed her name, shared family news, discussed her Elizabeth City, North Carolina neighbors, and, after the birth of her daughter, Elizabeth

Taliaferro Piemont, frequently discussed Lizzie's development and interests. In her letter of 4 May 1853, Pen described her involvement in organizing a fair to raise money for the local school which was headed by the Reverend Edward M. Forbes. "I was elected 1st directress, a situation very responsible & troublesome & I really have hardly had time of late to *darn my stockings*, so many society meetings, so many calls, so much shopping & cutting out work & planning, fixing & arranging," she complained. The hard work paid off, she continued, because "we have been well rewarded by making over \$300, 100 more than Mr. Forbes asked for." Much of the remaining letter she devoted to "our dear [who] is quite well & grows every day I believe, as fat as she can be & as wild as a young colt." Lizzie was also advanced for her age, Pen averred: "She is shedding her teeth, isn't it remarkable. I never knew a child to begin to shed them till 7 or after & she is only 5 years old. She is a very precocious child I think in many respects altho not very forward in her books, as I do not push her." In another letter, written 28 January 1857, Pen's focus was on "the most awful snow storm ever known in eastern N. Carolina." The storm "commenced on Saturday 17th Jany & continued without intermission for nearly 2 days & nights, violently blowing part of the time. The snow drifted as it does in hilly country & in many places it was over six feet deep." The townspeople took advantage of the rare occurrence and "there was grand sleighing—every thing was put in requisition from the goods boxes to the four horse sleigh.... [and] every man, woman & child in town was out I believe & for a whole week the sport was continued day & night." She also noted that "we have it cold enough here to satisfy any one these two last winters—the thermometer stood here at one time 4 degrees below zero, such a thing never known before here." With the extremely cold temperatures, "our harbor too was all frozen over, many ladies crossed the river on the ice & many gentlemen went down to the sound 20 miles off on their skates." The final letter in the series from Pen to Elizabeth was written on 19 March 1869 and chronicled the distressed situation in post-Civil War Elizabeth City. Her serious illness during the previous winter had, she wrote, made her "so low spirited," especially since Lizzie had been away in New Orleans visiting relatives for several months. "The Dr. has scarcely been at home at all since Lizzie left," she continued, "& expects to go again tomorrow to Washington City—he is anxious to know what they are going to do about his office, he has heard nothing so far." After the end of the Civil War, Dr. Piemont had been appointed as the United States Assessor of Internal Revenue, with his office in Elizabeth City. "If they remove him, he is certainly going away from here, but does not know yet, where he will settle." Robinson Piemont probably did lose his position and apparently decided to establish his medical practice in Baltimore, Maryland, where he resided when he died in June 1870 and was buried there in Green Mount Cemetery.

Another discrete series of letters, incorporated into the Jones Family Collection, apparently came from the estate of General James Jones who died in October 1865. His brother, Lewis Jones, served as the administrator for his estate, supervised the sale of his household furnishings, and likely preserved the letters that his brother had saved. James Jones, in addition to his public service, had devoted much of his time to textile manufacturing beginning in the late 1830s, first with his brother-in-law John Bauskett, Edgefield attorney and planter and the husband of Sophia Elizabeth Creyon (1800–1872), the sister of James's wife Catherine Louisa Creyon (1806–1863). Bauskett and Jones had purchased, as partners, the Vaucluse Factory located on Horse Creek in Edgefield District. In 1843, Bauskett sold his interest in the factory to William Gregg, who was also Jones' brother-in-law. In 1829, Gregg had married Marina Jones (1811–1879), James's younger sister. For three years, Jones and Gregg operated Vaucluse together; however, in 1846, Gregg sold his interest in the enterprise to Jones who ran it for another ten years. In 1855, when he was chosen to superintend the construction of the new State House in Columbia, Jones sold Vaucluse to Gregg and moved to the capital city. He continued his interest in textiles and invested in Gregg's Graniteville Mill which was built just a few miles from Vaucluse and derived its waterpower from Horse Creek. In the summer of 1865, although in failing health, Jones took over supervision of Graniteville while Gregg traveled to New England, seeking to purchase new machinery for his mill. When James Jones died at his home in Graniteville, after a brief illness, he left no children of his own; however, he left his entire estate to his two adopted children. Edward Joseph Nichols (1847–1929) and Mary Emma Nichols (1849–1930) were the children of Robert H. Nicholls [Nichols] (1803–1851) and his wife Susan Travis Nicholls (1827–1851), both of whom taught at the Edgefield Female Academy. After Professor Nicholls died suddenly in April 1851 while on a trip to Charleston and his wife died in Edgefield in July, both children were eventually adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

The scattered letters that fell into the hands of Lewis Jones related to three significant events in James Jones's life. The first letter, written from Vaucluse on 20 September 1843 and addressed to Benjamin C. Yancey (1817–1891), who at the time practiced law in Hamburg, South Carolina, concerned Yancey's role in a scandal that had roiled the village of Abbeville Court House for months during the summer of 1843. "I received last night your note of the 18th Inst. enclosing the proof sheet of your contemplated publication," Jones acknowledged. He agreed that notes he had made on two occasions about the controversy were Yancey's property, but he cautioned against publishing his writings. "And I must express the hope that you will spare me any further notoriety in the matter, unless the publication of my connection with it becomes necessary as forming part of your defense," he continued. The proof

sheet enclosed with Yancey's letter was a mock-up of a letter, dated 7 August 1843 and signed by John H. Wilson and Samuel McGowen, two Abbeville attorneys. In their letter, which was later printed in the *Augusta, Georgia Chronicle and Sentinel*, they explained the nature of the Yancey controversy. Apparently, during the spring of 1843, John Cunningham (1818–1893), an Abbeville attorney and the husband of Floride Calhoun Noble (1819–1871), the daughter of South Carolina's former governor Patrick Noble, had written several inappropriate notes to a young lady who lived in the Abbeville home of Major James Alston and his wife. News of the contents of the communications spread through the village and several gentlemen, Wilson and McGowan among them, rallied to the cause of the offended, unnamed, young woman. Their letter was written as a response to one from Yancey, previously printed in the columns of the *Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel*, which attempted to defend Cunningham's actions in view of his subsequent apology to the lady in question. "Whatever may be thought of the appellate judgment of Mr. Y[ancey], we cannot too much commend the delicacy of his phrase, when he designates a series of base attempts on ladies, long stoutly denied, and at last ignominiously confessed, as 'an affair of gallantry,'" Wilson and McGowan facetiously remarked. "Mr. Yancey's code of honor overlooks such petty matters as truth and virtue." By the end of August, the public airing of the scandal in the *Augusta* newspaper was over, but there was still the possibility that the dispute would end on the "field of honor," even though Wilson and McGowan had eschewed any intention of resorting to bloodshed when they wrote: Mr. Yancey "may vindicate his courage, and chivalry, and consistency, in any mode he pleases, and he is certainly welcome to any laurels bathed only in ink." Yancey likely turned to Jones, who himself was trained in the law and was considered an expert in the rules and rituals of duels, for advice about the possibility of a challenge. Indeed, a duel was the eventual result of the hostile feelings engendered by the Cunningham affair, but it did not involve Yancey. Unlike his more famous brother, William L. Yancey (1814–1863), who, in a fit of rage, shot and killed his wife's uncle on a Greenville, South Carolina street in September 1838, Ben Yancey controlled his impulse to demand satisfaction from Wilson or McGowan. Samuel McGowan (1819–1897), however, answered a challenge from John Cunningham and as reported in the *Edgefield Advertiser* on 20 March 1844, an "affair of honor came off on Saturday morning last, near Hamburg, in this District" that left McGowan with a minor head wound after the two men fired at each other with rifles "at a distance of thirty paces."

Seven letters, dated October 1854, document a dispute between James Jones and Edgefield attorney George Dionysius Tillman (1826–1901) who, at the time, was campaigning for a seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives. Tillman's first letter, dated 14 October, described an incident that had occurred in "the debate at Graniteville on Saturday last" where he had "made a statement as to

the manner in which the Charter of Jones & Kennedy to this end of the Augusta Bridge was passed by the Legislature, whereupon you rose in your seat & said, 'that is a statement which I pronounce a lie.'" During the previous legislative session in December 1853, the legislature had granted a charter to James Jones and J. J. Kennedy which would allow them to collect tolls from people passing over the bridge from Hamburg to Augusta. Tillman demanded to know from Jones whether "you intended to cast the slightest imputation upon my veracity." Jones retained a draft of his response to Tillman, written on 17 October, in which he denounced Tillman's "*statement*" that the legislative act '*was passed by a low trick of vulgar diplomacy.*'" Tillman responded on 19 October and admitted that he had no personal knowledge of the act's passage but based his characterization of the process "upon knowledge & information received from others, & which I believed to be true, without personal & individual reference to yourself." Unwilling, however, to let the issue drop, Tillman again demanded for Jones "to avow distinctly whether you intended to charge personal falsehood, or dishonor upon me, by your offensive language." Jones complied and, on 24 October, acknowledged "that the charge of falsehood involved in my remark in reply, does not rest upon you, and I therefore disclaim any imputation upon you personally," to which Tillman wrote, on 28 October, "I have received your note of the 24th inst. & am satisfied."

General James Jones lived in Columbia when South Carolina seceded from the Union on 20 December 1860. He had moved there when he was first elected to supervise the construction of the new State House in 1855. He was re-elected to serve another one-year term as supervisor by the legislature on 22 December 1860, but Jones increasingly devoted himself to the military defense of his state. As a member of the state's Ordnance Board, he was called upon to examine and evaluate the forts and armaments around Charleston and he also continued his duties as chairman of the Citadel's Board of Visitors. By the late summer of 1861, at age fifty-five, he accepted an active field command, and on 11 September, was commissioned as colonel of the Fourteenth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry. The regiment included companies from the counties of Abbeville, Barnwell, Darlington, Edgefield, and Laurens and was organized at Camp Butler, near Aiken. In addition to Colonel Jones, the men of the regiment elected Samuel McGowan to serve as lieutenant colonel and William D. Simpson as major. By early November, the regiment had passed through Charleston on the way to Pocotaligo, a village located on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, two dozen miles north of Beaufort. The regiment remained there until the end of the year when Colonel Jones was ordered to oppose the landing of a Federal force near Port Royal Ferry in Beaufort District. After skirmishers from the Fourteenth Regiment had pushed the opposing force back toward the shoreline on 1 January 1862, howitzer fire from the federal

gunboats killed or wounded a dozen men from Jones' regiment. Colonel Jones and his men remained in the vicinity of Pocolaligo for the remainder of the winter without engaging the enemy again.

When States Rights Gist (1831–1864), who had served as a brigadier general in the state militia in the late 1850s and as Adjutant and Inspector General of South Carolina during the first year of the war, was promoted to brigadier general in the Confederate army on 20 March 1862, James Jones was furious because he had been, in his view, unfairly passed over for the position by someone with much less experience than he possessed. As a result of the perceived affront, he resigned his commission as colonel of the Fourteenth Regiment and, on 29 March 1862, wrote an eight-page letter of explanation to his old Edgefield-born friend and Seminole War comrade Louis T. Wigfall (1816–1874), who was a Confederate congressman representing Texas and, more importantly, Confederate president Jefferson Davis's close friend. "I have been forced by the action of the President of the Confederacy, in appointing Gist a Brigadier General, to resign my command of the 14th Regiment S. C. Volunteers," he began. He admitted that he had been "*unpopular* with a large portion of the Regiment, disposed to shirk duty and upon whom the wholesome restraints of discipline was unpalatable," but that now "they all think and say, that they 'belong to the best Regiment and have the best colonel in the service.'" However, the blame for his decision he placed directly on Jefferson Davis. "I have, in defense of my military honor, been driven from this regiment by President Davis....It has been a bitter trial to me, but submission was dishonor and there was no alternative left me but to resign and leave the service." Jones criticized Gist as "a young man without either...a military education, or [one who] had shown military ability in previous service." Jones continued to denigrate Gist for his lack of military experience: "He is like myself a graduate of the So. Ca. College," but had "'never set a squadron in the field,' he never commanded even in the militia, in the field on an ordinary 'muster day' or turn out of the militia, either Company, or Battalion or Brigade." Jones then recounted his own military experience: "I served my first campaign in the Field as Captain of a Company in the Seminole war, when Gist was in his mothers arms and had never worn breeches. I have passed through every grade in the militia from orderly sergeant to Brigadier General. As Adjutant & Inspector general of the state, I think I can say to you without imputation of vanity, that I brought the militia of the State to a perfection unequalled before or since." He also cited his years of service as chairman of the Permanent Board of Visitors of the State Military Academy. "It was mainly by my labours that that Academy was organized, put into operation and brought up to its present state of perfection." Jones acknowledged that his age might have been a consideration in the appointment of a general officer, but also argued that he had proven his ability as an active field commander. "I am near fifty seven years old....It may be, that in the opinion of the President I am too

old for active duty [and] he may be right, but I was with my Regiment immediately upon quitting my camp of instruction, thrown into the advanced position on the coast of South Carolina, and required to watch and defend, with a single regiment, a line ten miles long in front of and in plain view of the enemy, our advanced sentinels...separated by a river entirely under the control of the enemy." But all of that apparently did not matter to Davis, Jones opined, because he had made his decision "through the influence of some miserable political trickster...." Jones then asked his friend Wigfall "to interpose to prevent any unnecessary delay in the acceptance of the resignation." The envelope in which the letter was sent to Wigfall is also in the collection and confirms that Wigfall forwarded the letter to Davis. Wigfall lined out his name and added "His Excellency The President." Davis then penned his response in the margin above the heading and apparently returned it to Wigfall who sent it back to Jones. "Col. Gist was appointed on the recommendation of the council, he being the first named of two. Col. Jones not named. Genl. Lee recommended Col. Gist. There is no right of promotion to the grade of Brig. Genl. I could have no wish to wound Col. Jones and regret that he should feel injured." He signed his brief note with his initials "J. D." Jones had submitted his letter of resignation on 23 March 1862 to his commanding officer, Brigadier General Maxcy Gregg, who tried to convince him to remain with his regiment. After a brief delay, however, the resignation was accepted on 11 April. On 17 April, Jones addressed a letter "To The Officers and Soldiers of the 14th Regt. S. C. V.," a draft of which is preserved in the collection. After explaining that "it would be unjust to you and to myself, not to declare to you the cause of my unexpected resignation, though by doing so in perfect candour I may subject myself to the imputation of overrating my own merit as an officer and of displaying a ridiculous vanity," he repeated many of the arguments he incorporated in his letter to Wigfall. "For thirty seven years I have been connected with the military organization of the State," he stressed, "but the President of the Confederacy has declared, by an act more mortifying to me than words, that I am unfit to command." Under those circumstances, "I tendered my resignation [,] and it has been accepted. Mortified and humbled I retire from a service in which I can no longer continue with self respect." The former colonel received a response to his address from the officers and men who had served under his command in the form of a set of resolutions that they adopted as an expression of their regret at his resignation. Major William Dunlap Simpson (1823–1890), wrote Jones from Tomotley, South Carolina, where he was quartered, on 20 April 1862, and noted that "yesterday your communication, informing us that your resignation had been accepted & that your connection with our Regt. was severed, was recd. by Col. [Samuel] McGowan and was this evening read at dress parade [where] it made a deep impression upon the entire regiment." Simpson also expressed his gratitude for the "kindnesses recd. of you...while

commanding the 14th. When I came to Camp Butler, I was wholly inexperienced in the duties of my position. You kindly indulged me until I was willing to understand their discharge, and during the whole period of our association, that kindness was uniform and continuous." He also forwarded a copy of the resolutions which included praise for the colonel's leadership during the previous seven months of service: "We regret to part with Col. Jones, as the head of our regiment: whose military knowledge and experience are beyond question, whose impartiality [,] decision and firmness in the government of this regiment commanded our respect, and whose frankness and sincerity in social intercourse, bound him to us by ties stronger than official relations." Jones, however, did not long remain out of military service. On 11 June 1862, he was commissioned by Governor Francis W. Pickens "as Quarter Master General of South Carolina with rank of Colonel to take rank from April 3d 1862." The duties of his new position allowed him to remain in Columbia where he had lived since 1855. Even after his wife's death in 1862, Jones evidently resided in Columbia until the end of the war; however, when he wrote his will on 29 April 1865, he called himself "now residing at Vaucluse in the District of Edgefield...."

Lewis Jones, like his brother James, was an active participant in the Civil War as a Confederate officer. In a letter in the collection, written from Jacksonboro, South Carolina on 17 June 1863, he informed his wife Rebecca of his intention to resign his commission as captain of Company B, Sixth Regiment, South Carolina Cavalry. He had organized the company early in the summer of 1862 and his men were mustered into service on 14 July in Columbia. The *Edgefield Advertiser* printed the roll of his company, the Edgefield Partisan Rangers, on 17 September 1862, which listed seventy-four officers and men. "I shall tender my resignation in a few days and if accepted," he wrote to his wife, "I will be relieved from many annoyances and perplexities, and have the great satisfaction of once more being permitted to remain with those I hold more dear than any thing on earth, 'my wife and children.'" His health, he wrote, "still continues good, though I have no doubt that we are in a very sickly country." Lewis offered his resignation a fortnight later in a letter to Samuel Cooper, the Adjutant and Inspector General of the Confederate States Army in Richmond, Virginia, which was later filed with Cooper's papers in the National Archives. The primary reason Jones gave for his decision related to the current civil office he held as sheriff of Edgefield District. "[M]y term of office being four years will expire on or about the tenth of February next" which would require his "personal attention...for the remainder of the Term, to settle up the business of the office, as required by the laws of this State." Jones also cited his age and family responsibilities as contributing factors. He was fifty years old and had "been in the Service nearly a year on the coast of my native State, have a large family dependent on me for support, have contributed freely of my limited means towards raising, equipping and mounting my company, and

would not now ask to leave the service, so long as this insidious war shall continue, were it not that *official business* compels me to do so." A year later, after he had settled his sheriff's accounts, he ran for a seat in the state legislature. Unnamed friends placed a notice in the 4 May 1864 issue of the *Edgefield Advertiser* in support of his candidacy along with a brief explanation of his retirement from active service: "We place Capt. Jones before the people of the District and the soldiers of the army. He was in service for some time—is above the conscript age, and hence the charge of desiring to escape the Soldier's hardships, cannot be brought against him. We are confident that he will be supported." From a field of fifteen candidates, Lewis Jones was one of six chosen by the voters to represent Edgefield District in the Forty-Sixth General Assembly. While in Columbia during the session that continued from 28 November until 22 December, Jones served on two committees, Privileges and Elections and Roads, Bridges and Ferries. Although no correspondence from Jones dated in 1864 is present in the collection, one manuscript item is extant. Written on a single page taken from a small notebook is Lewis Jones's authorization for an enslaved artisan to travel to Edgefield District to ply his trade. "Allen has permission to pass from place to place in this District and take Jobs of work in his trade 'Brick laying & making' and contract for the same. Persons employing him will please state the account of work done in this book under their own signature. Edgefield C. H. January 5th 1864. Lewis [Jones]."

One letter only exists in the collection from 1865 and it is a copy of a letter written from Spartanburg on 11 April, by Alice Amanda Lomax to her Aunt Dora Duncan, the wife of Wallace Duncan. Alice recounted the arrival on the previous afternoon of her uncle, James R. Duncan, his wife Sallie, and their children from Richmond, Virginia. "They just did escape the Yankees, left Richmond last Sunday week at 11 o'clock at night; could not have come at all had not Pres. Davis very kindly offered them seats in the special train appropriated to himself and the cabinet," she explained. Her grandmother, Alice Duncan, "says she is hoping every day to hear that you have heard something definite from Uncle David and Wallace." She also reported that "D'Arcy got back safely Saturday evening." One of Alice's four Duncan uncles who survived the war was, at the time she wrote, a prisoner of war. Although unknown to the family, her uncle David had been captured on 2 April 1865 when Petersburg fell to Union forces. He had survived unscathed the battles and campaigns that his unit, the Thirteenth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry had been part of, and had advanced through the ranks from lieutenant to captain of Company C, and finally to major of the regiment. By early 1863, an effort led by his brother James A. Duncan, who was for the duration of the war the minister of the Broad Street Methodist Church, South in Richmond and the editor of the *Richmond Christian Advocate*, to secure for David an appointment in the Confederate military court for South Carolina, away from the combat in

northern Virginia, failed, and David continued to lead his company until promoted to major, effective from 8 June 1864. On several occasions, he was in command of the Thirteenth Regiment after higher ranking officers had been either wounded or killed in battle. After his capture, he was first imprisoned in Washington, D.C., and then, a few days later, sent to Johnson's Island, Ohio, where he remained until he subscribed to the oath of allegiance to the United States on 18 May 1865. Alice also mentioned in her April letter that her grandfather Duncan's brother, James Armstrong Duncan, who was on a visit from Ireland to his relatives in South Carolina when the Civil War started, was left behind in Richmond when James and family fled and, she remarked, "the dear old gentleman will at last get home." An undated letter in the collection to "My beloved Tilla" was written by James Duncan, probably in 1865, while waiting to sail home. "When far, far away beyond the deep blue sea, memory shall carry me back, very often to Spartanburg, and take much pleasure in dwelling upon your affectionate and loving deportment towards me," he began. "You often made me forget for a time, that I was a stranger and an exile from home and all its endearments, by your playful, kind and childlike attentions to me."

On 5 June 1867, sixteen-year-old Tilla Lomax sent a note addressed to "Mr. L. Jones, Magnolia St." in response to a recent gift he had given her: "Accept, Mr. Jones, very many thanks for the beautiful bouquet, which contains my favorite flowers. It is a treat—as great, as unexpected." This note was likely the first formal communication that the two young people shared. Lewis Pou Jones had entered Wofford College in the fall of 1865 as a sixteen-year-old freshman who had prepared for college in Edgefield, probably at the Edgefield Male Academy, during the war years. One of eight children born to Lewis and Rebecca Jones, Lewis had lost four of his siblings, all of whom had died before reaching the age of twenty-one. His eldest brother, Isaac Matthias (1840–1858), was tragically killed in Edgefield the night of 13 October by Thomas Markee (b. 1830), who had worked as a printer for the local newspaper. The writer of his obituary, printed in the *Edgefield Advertiser* on 20 October, attributed his death to "the superior traits of his character, for he fell generously, fearlessly, and disinterestedly defending the cause of his friend." Although three of Lewis's sisters had died unmarried, his oldest sister, Marina (Rena) Gregg Jones (1842–1894) married William Kennedy Blake (1824–1897), who was the president of Spartanburg Female College, when eighteen-year-old Rena was a student. Blake, in his reminiscences written in the 1890s and preserved in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina, recounted the occasion of his marriage: "In the Methodist Church in Edgefield, on the morning of January 28th, 1861 Wm. K. Blake and Marina G. Jones were married, the Rev. J.A. Connor officiating. After the marriage a most delightful reception was held at the residence of Capt. Lewis Jones, which was attended by a large number of relatives and friends from town and country." Spartanburg Female

College was affiliated with the Methodist church and Lewis Jones's decision to send two of his daughters there may have been influenced by his family's connection to the Methodist Church in Edgefield. Although Spartanburg Female College survived the war, President Blake found it necessary to close the school during the summer of 1865 because of the difficulty of providing food for the college's 130 students, but he remained in Spartanburg and, in partnership with two Methodist ministers, John Wells Vandiver (1821–1893) and Jackson Smith Barnett (1820–1893), started a mercantile business. When the partners could raise only fifty dollars in cash with which to buy merchandise for the new enterprise, Blake borrowed another fifty dollars in gold from his father-in-law, Lewis Jones in Edgefield, then traveled to Augusta to purchase dry goods to sell in the Spartanburg store. The business was a success and the Blakes remained in Spartanburg where they were an integral part of young Lewis P. Jones's life while he was in college.

Lewis Jones was also a frequent caller at the home of Professor Duncan and his family, attracted no doubt by the Lomax sisters who resided with their grandparents on College Hill. Edward Patterson Chambers (1845–1905), wrote to his college classmate, Lewis P. Jones, on 27 July 1868, while both were away from Wofford during the summer break, about their mutual romantic attachments to the Lomax sisters, Alice, and Tilla. Edward, at home in Oswechee, Alabama, had attended church the previous day where he "saw others of the fair sex, but none to compare with ours who live in house No. 2, College Campus." He was interested in Alice, while Lewis was courting her younger sister Tilla. "But I ought not to refer to any thing that will only bring longings and painful (loving) emotions to your restless bosom," he continued. "Lewis, you have my deepest sympathies, and I hope that the hours will be fleeting, not lonely, until you return to our Alma Mater." When Lewis did return to Spartanburg in October for the fall term, Tilla was away visiting her uncle James and Aunt Sallie in Petersburg, Virginia, where he was minister of the Washington Street Methodist Church. In a letter to her sister Alice, written 19 September 1868, Tilla described her days with her aunt and uncle. Her aunt wanted her to take singing lessons from a local teacher, Jennie Major. Although Miss Major was not willing to commit to the lessons, because "she would not have time to do herself justice, as I would remain in Petersburg so short a time; but she has very kindly lent me an instruction book with exercises in it...." Tilla's only complaint about her visit was that "Aunt Sallie has company nearly all the time, morning and evening, and this cold weather I have nothing to wear." In closing, she asked Alice, "How are you progressing with your school?" Alice had joined the faculty of the Spartanburg Female College when it reopened in 1867 as a teacher of music and French and English literature, but apparently was attempting to establish her own school for younger students in 1868. In a second letter from Petersburg, also addressed to Alice and dated 3

October 1868, Tilla discussed the new duties that their uncle James had assumed when he was named president of Randolph-Macon College by the board of trustees on 7 August. The school had been relocated to Ashland, Virginia, and opened on 1 October. "Uncle James opened College Wednesday, with about forty students, he thinks," she wrote. "He will go to Ashland every Monday and return Friday or Saturday until after Conference when aunt Sallie will move there. He says the students are delighted with the appearance of the place; some say it is the prettiest place they ever saw." When Tilla wrote Alice again, on 11 November 1868, she had moved with her uncle's family, including daughters Eppie and Nannie and sons David and James, to Ashland. "We were all much surprised to find such a nice looking house [in Ashland] for from aunt Sallie's description of it, Ep[pie] and I had expected a horribly dilapidated old shanty and instead of that we have a very comfortable nice house.... I like the appearance of Ashland very much and expect I will enjoy the winter right well." Tilla described Christmas at Ashland in her 26 December 1868 letter to Alice: "We were invited to a dance last night, but did not go," she began. "I have been invited to three since I came to Ashland but have attended none." She had received nice gifts from her aunt and uncle, including a photograph of "Uncle James enclosed in a five dollar note," and had given her aunt "a glass preserves dish," her uncle "a penswipe," and her cousin Eppie "a piece of blue ribbon for her hair...." The other children had been delighted with the Christmas tree, although she did not think it very pretty, "so [if] they were satisfied it makes little difference about others." She also gave a prank gift to Reuben Shorter (1850–1893), a student at the college from Alabama who, much to her chagrin, called her "cousin Til." Reuben was the son of Caroline Billingslea Shorter (1826–1907) and her first husband Reuben Clark Shorter (1825–1853). After her husband died, she married Tennent Lomax who was Tilla's father's first cousin, hence the claim to kinship. "I had heard Mr. Shorter express great horror of cats so I got him a toy cat that could cry...and wrote on the bottom of it From cousin Til and he seemed right teased by it." In closing, Tilla expressed her good wishes for all the members of the family and asked Alice to "give my love to Pa and tell him I am going to write to him soon. Mr. Shorter speaks of him and enquires about him often, calls him cousin Lucien." Their father apparently visited his daughters in Spartanburg from time to time, but apparently no longer practiced law, or had a home of his own.

Tilla returned to Spartanburg for a brief visit early in 1869 but was back with her aunt and uncle in Ashland in March when she wrote to Lewis on the 29th. Her cousin Eppie was with her, and she had asked her "what I must say to you and the following was her reply: 'Tell him that you are the greatest flirt living. You are just as deceitful as you can be and non-appreciative of him—you don't love him at all &c.' Now isn't that an enviable character?" On a more serious topic, she responded to a comment in

Lewis's last letter in which he "expressed...that same want of interest in many things that you spoke of while we were separated from each other before." Her advice to Lewis was straightforward: "Now please for my sake try to overcome it. I know you can if you try, for you certainly have strength of character sufficient to rule any little feeling like that." In closing, she asked, "How are Mrs. Blake and your aunt?" Mrs. Blake, his sister, had lived in Spartanburg since her marriage in 1861, while his mother's sister, Cornelia Jones (1827–1907), had moved to Spartanburg after the Civil War where she owned and operated a boarding house that catered to Wofford College students. Previously, she had helped run her father's boarding house in Edgefield. Tilla continued to correspond with Lewis while in Ashland during the spring and early summer of 1869. She wrote about her experiences while there and responded to comments from Lewis's letters. In her letter of 5 April 1869, she wrote: "I am glad you are through with your examination, and don't suppose you are quite as ignorant as you pretend to be, at least if any one were to tell you, you were. I reckon you would hardly like it, now would you?" She also related a message contained in a recent letter from Alice. "Sister commissioned me...to scold you for not going to the Musical Club, but staying away to play baseball, but tho' I promised her to do it, as I gave you one in my last letter, I don't believe I will, for I don't want to establish a character for scolding." In a later letter, written from Ashland on 31 May 1869, Tilla confessed that she often included statements in her letters that would cause Lewis to think her "very foolish, heartless and all such things." "When I go to write to you, I am almost invariably seized with a desire for teasing you, and so I put all sorts of things in my letters, such as, thinking you unreasonable &c for the express purpose of worrying you, even though I know it will make you feel badly. Now do you think I am *very* unfeeling?" In addition to the letters from Tilla that he saved, Lewis also kept a few letters from his friends. One letter presents a friend's view of Lewis's feelings for and relationship with Tilla. Richard Davis Smart (1846–1914) had graduated from Wofford College in 1868 and was a student at the Theological Seminary in Columbia when he wrote to Lewis on 18 May 1869: "I was *much amused* to see, in your last letter, how quickly you slid off into encomiums upon Miss T[illa]. It *does* show very clearly 'the bent of your mind.' Well Lewis I commend you for it. It is just as it ought to be. You have given your heart to her, and as was your duty, you have withheld none of your affections but centered them all upon her and have thus a right to claim all of hers in return."

Tilla faced a dilemma when she wrote Alice from Ashland on 31 May 1869. "How are we to get home by Commencement? I think uncle J[im] is going to break his promise of going, but don't exactly know, and I am beginning to feel a little anxious on the subject." Randolph-Macon's commencement was "not quite three weeks off" when Tilla wrote, and she was committed to remain in Virginia until that

three-day event was over, but she also wanted to be present when Lewis graduated at Wofford's commencement. Although Randolph-Macon's ceremonies would take place on 23 and 24 June, and Wofford's commencement was scheduled for 14 July, Tilla was nonetheless concerned about returning home as soon as possible. She was also worried about the state of her father's health and informed Alice that she "wrote to Pa as soon as I received your last letter. I would have written long before but did not know he was well enough to receive letters." While Tilla was away from Spartanburg, Lewis was busy with preparations for the final months of his senior year in college. On 10 May 1869, he read a paper titled "Hebrew Poetry" in the Wofford College Chapel in which he argued that "The time will come when Homer and Virgil, and Shakespeare and Milton shall for ages have been buried in oblivion, but the Hebrew bards are immortal...." He pointed out that the "Bible has given to the world an inexhaustible treasury of poetic imagery and sublime conception, from which the great masters of literature have been drawing from ages past." Both the final version of his speech and an earlier draft, titled "The Poetry of the Bible," are present in the collection. He also saved a copy of the printed program for Wofford's commencement with the names of the twelve graduates rendered in their Latin equivalents, including his own, "Ludovicus Pou Jones," on the front cover, and with the titles of the speeches delivered by each student on the third page. The salutatory address, by Edwin Wiley Peeples, was on "The Great Eclipse of August Next," while Lewis chose a topic from the past, "The Saracens." The valedictory was delivered by Lewis's close friend Daniel Allston DuPre (1848–1930), the son of Wofford professor Warren DuPre (1816–1879).

After graduation, Lewis returned to Edgefield and, from his home there, wrote to thank Tilla for her recent letter and to outline his plans. "I have concluded to clerk for a man living here in town.... [who] is going to put up a store on the Ridge, about sixteen miles from here, and I am going to take charge of it until January," he informed Tilla. The most notable event of the summer, he related, was "the Eclipse" which he had witnessed while in Lexington County. Even though it was a cloudy day, he had "had a very good view of the grand sight, as it was, but I had been working at it so long at college that it detracted considerably from its interest to me." Otherwise, his time at home held little interest for him. He mentioned an upcoming "entertainment.... for the benefit of the Methodist parsonage," but he wished that Tilla could be there to accompany him because, without her, he was certain he would not enjoy himself "a bit" even if he decided to go. "I have no desire at all to go to such places here, and I have not been to see a young lady since I came home," he confessed. "I am getting so I do not care to be with any except you and those to whom you have confided our engagement. I believe I am a little crazy about you." While they were apart during the fall, Tilla continued to write to Lewis. In a letter written on

7 October 1869, Tilla teased Lewis about his trip back to Edgefield, after a brief visit with her in Spartanburg. "I hope you had a safe and pleasant journey home, though you were heathen enough to travel on Sunday." She continued in a similar tone: "How do you like your new position? I can imagine you as quite a fair specimen of a country clerk, bowing and scraping to every *graceful* and otherwise attractive young country girl that comes in the store." She mentioned the weather, the Scott novel she was reading, the health of various members of her family and community, and affairs at the college. "College opened with fewer students than they had last session but I suppose they will come in... the course of a few weeks. I hope so at any rate." She signed her letter "With much love, T." Much like her previous letter, the one dated 19 October 1869, repeated many of the same themes: friends, family, and college. "Dan [Daniel DuPre] has gone to Georgetown, and you don't know how much we all miss him. It seems like a large proportion of the inhabitants of Spartanburg is away when he is not here. But you know him well and appreciate his worth, so you can understand our sorrow at losing him." Tilla had been present, she recounted, when "Prof. Carlisle delivered a lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association." It was "excellent, and I thought of you and wished so much that you could have heard it," she continued. "Some of the ideas he advances are so startling." "You must, where you are now, miss the religious privileges of Spartanburg...especially Prof. C[arlisle]'s class. I was so glad to get back to Prof. DuPre's. I feel the need of his encouragement and warning when away. I love him almost like a father, he is so—in short, a Christian gentleman."

Several friends wrote to Lewis Jones during the months leading to his marriage to Tilla and invariably praised the sterling qualities that each partner possessed. Daniel DuPre wrote on 1 November 1869 from Georgetown, where he had just been hired as principal of the Georgetown Male and Female Academy, apologized for not having time to write before he left Spartanburg, and lamented leaving his friends in Spartanburg. He then addressed the anticipated marriage of his two dear friends, Lewis, and Tilla: "I hope and pray that you may lead a happy and useful life with her whose love you deserve and have already won. I know no one I admire and respect more than Miss Tilla; and I know no one whom I prefer that she should marry than yourself. I think each of you are capable of making the other happy." Daniel also described his living situation in Georgetown. "I am boarding with a very pleasant family, Mrs. Williams. Her son-in-law, Dr. Bailey is staying with her; and as he is the editor of the town paper, I have access to a great many papers and periodicals." Dr. Thomas P. Bailey (1832–1904) edited the Georgetown *Times* and his mother-in-law, Mary Elizabeth Williams (1821–1915) was the widow of another local physician, Dr. Charles Williams (1807–1865). On 23 March 1870, Daniel DuPre responded to the news, apparently shared in a letter from Lewis, that Lewis and Tilla planned to marry in April in

Spartanburg, with "Surely it is not so that you are going to get married?" He recalled that "It seems to me but a few years since Miss Tilla and I were little children roaming over the [Wofford College] campus, and now to think of her taking upon herself the office of *wife* is *indeed* startling." That his teaching duties in Georgetown would prevent him from attending the nuptials in Spartanburg was especially troubling to him, because Lewis had been his "constant companion at College whether in the recitation room or rambling about for pleasure; we have eaten, slept, talked, walked, *sang*, played and laughed together; indeed '*we have spent many happy hours together*,' or in other words we have been bosom friends. What would I give to be with you on the eventful occasion!" His friendship with Tilla was equally important to him. "I have known Miss T. almost from infancy.... Many scenes of laughter and sport, in days of yore, are very vivid to my mind now; and although many of our characteristics have escaped my mind yet 'Fleetfoot' is ever prominent. (Get her to explain this last clause)." A few days before the wedding, another friend and Wofford classmate, J[oseph] A[dolphus] Foster, wrote to Lewis from New York to acknowledge the receipt of "a card of invitation to your wedding." Although Foster would not be able to attend, he joined with Lewis's "many friends in wishing for yourself and fair bride much happiness and a smooth and prosperous voyage through life, with many blessings attendant." Lewis's sister, Maria G. Blake, sent Tilla an undated note in which she expressed her "delight in soon having you for a Sister." She hoped "to enjoy very much your society and love." According to a wedding invitation addressed to Dr. & Mrs. [Lionel C.] Kennedy, which is preserved in the collection, Professor and Mrs. David Duncan invited friends to the ceremony, performed "at home" on Wednesday evening, 13 April 1870 "at half-past 8 o'clock." No contemporary description of the wedding exists in the collection; however, on 14 April 1871, Lula Bobo, the daughter of Spartanburg attorney Simpson Bobo (1804–1885), who was one of Tilla's closest friends, wrote to "Dearest Tilla" on her "first wedding anniversary." Lula was present when the "bridal party assembled in your grandfather's parlor," but provided no other reminiscences of that day. After they were married, the young couple lived in the home that Tilla had grown up in on College Hill, along with Tilla's grandparents, her aunt "Tollie," and sister Alice who, at the time the 1870 federal census was taken in June, was a "Teacher in College." Lewis had taken a job as a "Dry goods clerk," in the store owned by his brother-in-law, William K. Blake. Next door to Professor Duncan's house, Lewis's aunt, Cornelia Jones ran her boarding house.

Only a few letters exist in the collection from the first few years after Tilla and Lewis married; however, they apparently remained in Spartanburg for a year. Their first child, Elizabeth Churchill Jones, was born 9 September 1871, and over the next twenty years, seven more children joined the family: Rebecca Margaret (b. 5 January 1874), Alice Amanda (b. 22 June 1877), Marina Duncan (b. 17 June

1880), James Lomax (b. 26 May 1883), Matthias (b. 3 January 1886), Cornelia Lomax (b. 28 May 1888), and Lewis Pou (b. 3 September 1891), a daughter born after her father's death and given his name, but called "Lewie." Lewis Jones eventually decided to return to Edgefield County where he planned to farm land that he owned there. In a letter dated 21 April 1872 and written from his home in Edgefield, Lewis's father acknowledged the receipt of his son's recent letter and offered him advice about his future. "In regard to selling your place, I do not see the propriety of doing so at present, at least until you see whether you can succeed at farming, and if you intend following that as a business." He also observed that the "place you have is about as good as any you can get for the same price." During the years of sparse correspondence, several significant losses occurred in Tilla's life. Her aunt "Tollie" died in Spartanburg on 18 June 1871, and her grandmother passed away on 29 November 1875. An event that brought happiness instead of sorrow to Tilla and her family was the marriage of her sister to William Henry Wallace (1848–1924) on 26 December 1872 in Spartanburg. Wallace, a native of Laurens District, earned an A.B. degree from Wofford College in 1871 and an M.A. in 1873. The sisters frequently corresponded with each other and letters from Alice to Tilla are scattered throughout the collection until the year of her death.

Tilla's grandfather, David Duncan, was also a regular correspondent until the end of his life. In his letter dated 2 September 1876, he invited Tilla and her children to spend the winter in Spartanburg and suggested that "you had better come at once and let the children have it while the weather is warm." On 11 October 1879, in another letter to Tilla, he confessed that "my memory is becoming more trickery every day, and my sight dimmer." As his health grew more precarious, he decided to divide his possessions with his children and grandchildren. He wrote Tilla on 13 February 1881 that "your things have all been sent to the RR this morning" and cautioned her to not "for a moment suppose that I in slightest degree regret to have done this...." As he usually did in closing his letters to Tilla, he sent his "love to all [even though] I cannot think of the 2 younger as I do of my dears Bessie and Maggy." On 31 October 1881, Tilla's uncle, David R. Duncan, wrote her a detailed account of the death of her grandfather that had just occurred. "Today at 11o'clock, dear, dear Pa quietly, without a struggle & with no pain, as he stated [,] went [to] join our & your sainted mother on the other side. As I now look upon his calm dear face & then back over the 90 years that his feet have trod the path of life, my heart fills immeasurably full of gratitude to our God, for the blessed & glorious heritage which he leaves through all these years to his children and to his children's children, a life without a blemish or the *slightest* imputation, it is a rare legacy." David had asked his father if he wanted "to send a message to Alice & Tilla." As he leaned over the bed, his father "replied quite low 'can't talk' 'my love' and you knew how he

loved you both." David also remembered that "He was 90 years of age on Saturday [29 October]." He also recalled that "65 years ago he crossed the Atlantic, upon whose bosom now one of his sons is hasting by the power of the mighty ocean steamer, then not dreamed of, to hear on his arrival that the ear which was anxiously waiting to hear of his old home & kindred from the lips of his son, is cold & dead to all earthly sounds & music." David's son Wallace was returning from a trip to London where he attended the Ecumenical Methodist Conference, held during September, and visited his father's native land. Two letters from Alice to Tilla, both written shortly after their grandfather's death, are in the collection. In the first, dated 2 November 1881, Alice conveyed to her sister her sense of loss: "Who ever had such a Grandfather before? It was a blessed privilege to have lived within the influence of such a life and such an old age, beautiful in its self forgetfulness, centering with such sympathy into the feelings of the young, and showering blessings & benefits on all around him." In her second letter, written from Newberry on 13 November 1881, she continued to focus upon her grandfather's death. "Each day the sense of our great loss seems to acquire more force & vividness." She also mentioned that "I wrote to Pa, to tell him of our dear Grandfather's death. I know he loved & appreciated him *much*." For some years past, Lucien Lomax had been institutionalized in Columbia, where he remained until his death in 1884.

Some correspondence in the collection, even a year or two after David Duncan's death, related to the way the family honored the patriarch. Tilda's uncle Wallace, who had taught at Wofford College since 1875, sent her a long letter, dated 8 February 1883, in which he described the monument to David Duncan which had been erected over his grave in Magnolia Cemetery. He promised to send a drawing of the design for her to see "when I get an opportunity," he wrote. "I think it neat a[nd] appropriate. It is of Italian marble, & Scotch granite, with home granite base." He also quoted the inscriptions that ringed the tall column on all four sides. Alice sent her sister a letter, dated 9 February 1883, in which she provided a detailed listing of all the items that she had received from their grandfather's house when his belongings had been divided among his children and grandchildren. "The old piano & the other things arrived safe, & awakened many sad associations, as you may imagine," she wrote. In her list, she noted where the piece of furniture, painting, carpet, clock, or other items, had been situated in the house. She also provided an inventory of titles she received from her grandfather's library. In closing, she promised to visit Tilla and her family and would "not stay a day less than a month." She planned to send her eight-year-old son, David Duncan Wallace (1874–1951), "to school with the older children, & Lizzie will be just too happy for anything with Alice & Rena..." Lizzie Wallace (1877–1885) was the same age as her cousin Alice, and three years older than Rena. As Tilla's and Alice's children grew older, they often sent letters

to their cousins and, especially during the summers, paid visits to their relatives in Newberry, Edgefield, and Spartanburg. During August and September 1884, twelve-year-old Bessie Jones visited her aunt and uncle, Rena and William Blake, in Spartanburg. Her father wrote to her from Edgefield on 9 August 1884, conveying family news and reminding her that "you must give our love to...Uncle Wallace's family and to your Uncle David's family also when you see them." He also wrote that he was "compelled to be gone the whole time during the next two or three weeks," probably campaigning for a seat in the state legislature which he won that fall. Her mother sent her a letter, written on her birthday, 9 September, wishing her "a happy day."

Nine-year-old Duncan Wallace wrote to his aunt Tilla from his home in Newberry on 13 May 1885 with a report on his scholastic achievements: "I am writing to you to tell you how I am getting on at school. I have already got the prize, but I cannot get the medal. I am nearly through my Geography, and I am in Addition of Compound Quantities." Lizzie Wallace wrote her cousin Rena Jones a letter, which her mother enclosed in her own letter to Tilla, dated 13 July 1885. The Joneses had visited their Newberry relatives in early July and Lizzie told Rena "I miss you very much since you have gone home." Less than two weeks after Lizzie wrote her letter, her father sent Tilla a frantic letter, dated 22 July 1885, with news that "Lizzie was taken with typho-malarial fever Friday am [,] is seriously ill, the physician coming to see her three or four times a day.... We are in great distress and fear. Pray for her." On 25 July, Lizzie's devastated father wrote Tilla of his daughter's death which occurred two days earlier. "Alice, my poor wife, is heartbroken. To her Lizzie was not only a daughter, an only daughter, but a companion and friend—there was perfect sympathy between them—their love for each other was as perfect as human love can be." In five letters, bordered in black, Alice shared her grief with her sister between 30 July and 17 September 1885. In the last letter in the series, Alice thanked Tilla for sending her "the letter written by my dear Lizzie. I shall keep it as a precious memento."

Tilla's oldest children, Bessie, and Mag had reached their teenage years by the late 1880s and, increasingly the family correspondence included letters to or from them, especially during the summers when they were on visits to relatives. By 1889, much of the correspondence in the collection was addressed to Bess, and to a lesser extent, her sisters. Also, on 18 April of that year, the Jones family gathered to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary of Rebecca and Lewis Jones which was observed at their residence in Edgefield. Alice Wallace and family received an invitation and, in her reply, dated 16 April, she graciously congratulated her sister's mother and father-in-law on their fifty years of marriage. "It would afford us great pleasure to see you on this happy celebration, surrounded by your children, grandchildren, relatives and friends, and to join our heartfelt congratulations to theirs."

On 27 December 1890, the Jones family experienced a sudden shock when Lewis P. Jones died of peritonitis after an illness of only a few days. Several obituaries in the collection from various newspapers memorialized his life. The Edgefield *Chronicle* printed a brief obituary that characterized him as "a generous neighbor, a faithful friend, a devoted son, husband and father, a public-spirited and useful citizen, an earnest and unpretentious Methodist...." He was "a worthy representative of an historical Edgefield family...who lived upon a part of the estate of his grandfather, of Edgefield's earliest days; and there, near the graves of grandfather, grandmother, and many honored relatives gone before, he was laid to rest on Monday last." A similar obituary from the Johnston *Monitor* noted that "Our community was shocked on Sunday last by the announcement of the death of Hon. Lewis P. Jones, which occurred at his home near Ridge Spring about 12 o'clock on Saturday night....Known to be in the prime of life, and supposed to be in the vigor of robust health, it did not seem possible that Lewis Jones could so soon and so suddenly have passed over to the other shore." He had been "at one time a teacher in the Johnston High School and was held in the highest esteem by both patrons and pupils. He served two years in the lower House of our General Assembly, his services being characterized by ability and a conscientious regard for the rights and interests of his people." His brother-in-law, W.H. Wallace, the editor of the Newberry *Observer*, emphasized his education, his family, and his work: "Mr. Jones graduated at Wofford College in 1869, and was shortly afterwards married to Miss Tilla V. Lomax, of Spartanburg. She and their seven children survive him. For a short while after his graduation, he followed the business of merchandizing, in Spartanburg, in partnership with his brother-in-law Mr. W.K. Blake; but preferring an active, outdoor life, he chose the life of a farmer, and followed it with zeal and diligence." He was also remembered, a few years later, before the members of the Alumni Association of Wofford College when, on 12 June 1894, the Reverend William Anson Rogers, class of 1872, read a tribute to Jones. In the days and weeks after his death, Tilla received letters of condolence from friends, relatives and from many of Lewis's Wofford College classmates. Hope Hull Newton (1845–1915) wrote from Bennettsville on 4 January 1891, that "you may be sure of my deepest sympathy." "Mr. Jones," he added, "is the first of my class to die." Her uncle, Wallace Duncan, was in Jacksonville, Florida, on 2 January 1891, while on his way home from a visit to Cuba, when he wrote to Tilla: "I am shocked & saddened beyond expression. My thoughts are with you & the dear children of the household." Lewis's aunt Marina Gregg, wrote to Tilla on 4 January 1891 from Charleston, and offered her sympathy. "I wish I could say something, dear Tilla, to comfort & console you in your great bereavement, but I know by sad experience, how unavailing human words of sympathy are to heal the wounded & stricken heart." She also acknowledged the "terrible blow Lewis's death is to all, his poor old father and mother especially.

Poor brother Lewis seems completely heart-broken. I received a letter from him a few days since telling me the particulars."

When her husband died, Tilla's eldest child, Bessie was twenty years old and her youngest, Cornelia [Nellie, or Nell] was only two and a half, but Tilla was pregnant with her eighth child, a daughter who was born 3 September 1891 and called "Lewie." When Maggie Jones wrote to her sister Bess from Spartanburg, where she was a student at Converse College, on 29 October 1891, she asked her to "Kiss dear little Lewie & Nellie for me, also the boys & tell them to write to me. Love & Kisses for you, Mama & Rena." The correspondence in the collection after 1891 increased in volume with frequent letters exchanged between Tilla and her children. As they grew older, continued their schooling, in some cases in college, or accepted jobs, primarily teaching positions in schools around the state, the daughters especially exchanged letters with their mother and with each other. Sons James and Matt also wrote to their mother and siblings after they left home for college. The number of letters continued to increase as the Jones sons and daughters married and had children of their own. Although Bess (d. 1947) never married, all but one of her siblings did. Maggie (d. 1958), a member of the first class to graduate from Converse College in 1893, married Robert W. Hart in 1905 and they had three children, Margaret Duncan Hart, Dorothy Seabrook Hart, and Robert William Hart; Alice (d. 1947) married Arthur Gaillard Rembert (1860–1933) as his second wife in 1922, but had no children; Rena (d. 1951) married Jerrold Josiah Watson (d. 1925) in 1901 and had two children, Virginia Watson, and Lewis Pou Watson; James (d. 1977), married three times, but had no children; Matt (d. 1962), married Sue Williams, and had no children; Nellie (d. 1917), a talented graduate of Winthrop College, married Glover S. Scaife, but left no children; Lewie (d. 1925), never married. The letters exchanged among these daughters and sons of Tilla and Lewis, dated from the 1890s through the 1940s, generally include news of close family members, with occasional comments about other relatives and friends. Typical of many family collections, the Jones family correspondence focuses on everyday life: the weather, the health of the writers, and the inevitable deaths of friends and family members, but rarely mentions national or world events. After Tilla's death in 1926, a few months after both her daughter Lewie and her son-in-law Jerrold Watson were killed in a tragic automobile accident in Ridge Spring on 15 December 1925, the volume of letters declines. There are over six hundred letters present in the collection that were written between 1890 and 1940, but only 130 letters, and a few emails, are dated between 1941 and 2005, and most of those were written by the grandchildren of Tilla and Lewis Jones.

In addition to correspondence, the Jones Family Collection contains other significant groups of manuscripts and other material, including a series of receipts and promissory notes, 1849–1886; deeds,

mortgages, and plats, 1827–1974; wills and estate files; farm contracts and liens, 1874–1885; stock certificates, 1921–1933; lawsuits, 1890–1907; newspaper issues and clippings, 1851–1926; diplomas and certificates; post cards, both used and unused; and two family Bibles. In addition, there are several genealogical files and charts, including material about the following families: Churchill, Corbin, Duncan, Gregg, Jennings, Jones, Lomax, Perry, Piedmont, Quattlebaum, Rembert, Robinson, Taliaferro, and Watson. The family also preserved photographs of several generations of family members, with images of portraits of both Lewis Jones and his wife, Rebecca Margaret Jones present, as well as individual and group photographs of their children and grandchildren. Photographs of other relatives and friends are among the approximately two hundred cabinet photographs, snapshots, and negatives in the collection.

Gift of Ms. Mary DuBose Watson Black, Ms. Miranda Watson Kelley, and Mr. Jerrold Watson.