

Baylor University . The Texas Collection

Jones Family Papers. 1857-1867, 1920, undated

Summary Information

Creator	Jones, John F. Jones, James W. Jones, Martin A.
Language	English
Abstract	The Jones Family Papers consist of correspondence, legal, and financial documents, including fourteen Civil War letters from family members in the 10th Texas Infantry.

Subjects

Confederate States of America. Army. Granbury's Texas Brigade. / Confederate States of America. Army. Texas Infantry Regiment, 10th. / Reconstruction -- Texas. / Slavery-- Texas. / United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.

Administrative Information

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Use/Reproduction Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

Jones Family Papers, #634, Box#, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information Described by Paul T. Fisher and released on 2012-10-19.

Scope and Content

The Jones Family Papers were acquired by gift from Ronald Strickland Shanks in 1974 April 5. Prior to this finding aid, the collection had been last processed by Kent Keeth in 1976 September 7. At the time this finding aid was written, the collection was housed in one folder and a book-like box with the collection title written on the binding.

The collection begins chronologically in 1857 with financial documents, and ends in 1920 with a letter. The series on the Estate of J.E. Jones is the largest in the collection.

Administrative/Biographical History

The Jones Family Papers describes army life in the American Civil War, experiences on the home front back in Texas, and events during Reconstruction in Texas after the war.

The first series in this collection is a group of Civil War letters written by three brothers and a cousin back to their families in Texas. Brothers James W., Martin A., and John F. Jones, all sons of Thomas Jones, enlisted in the same unit, Company H of the 10th Texas Infantry regiment. It is not known what unit their cousin James T. Jones joined.

The three brothers with the 10th Texas served in the west, fighting in battles such as Arkansas Post and Franklin, and during the Atlanta Campaign. Early letters describe abundant food, pretty girls, and a willingness to fight to the end for liberty. The letters also describe camp life, battles, and the health of the brothers during the war. Later letters are more subdued, and the last letter from Martin Jones, written from a hospital in Columbia, South Carolina, fears that the men of his company would all be killed before Martin could return to their company. The letters abruptly cut off before the regiment was captured at Arkansas Post in 1862, and again after the Atlanta campaign ended in 1864. Other letters describe conditions in post-war Reconstruction Texas, and there is one letter from 1920 as well.

The rest of the collection, consisting of various legal and financial documents, describes the estate of J.E. Jones, probably a relative of the Jones brothers. J.E. Jones apparently died in 1858 with a large amount of land, money, and slaves, and it took several years to sort out which descendants inherited what property. There is excellent documentation about the enslaved people associated with J.E. Jones in this collection, notes were kept every month about their work and age.

This collection is a great resource for research on the 10th Texas Infantry, post-war Reconstruction Texas, and research on a Texas planter's possessions in 1858.

Related Resources

Related citations

Hamilton, Matthew K. "Tenth Texas Infantry," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qkt14>), accessed October 09, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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McKay, Scott. "Official Historic Website of the 10th Texas Infantry." <http://www.armoryguards.org/10thtexas/index2.htm>. Accessed 2012 October 10.

The American Civil War Research Database. "Regiment Data: 10th Texas Infantry Regiment." <http://asp6new.alexanderstreet.com/cwdb/cwdb.object.details.aspx?handle=regiment&id=202151>. Accessed 2012 October 10.

The American Civil War Research Database. "Soldier Data: James W. Jones." <http://asp6new.alexanderstreet.com/cwdb/cwdb.object.details.aspx?handle=person&id=200758499>. Accessed 2012 October 10.

The American Civil War Research Database. "Soldier Data: John F. Jones." <http://asp6new.alexanderstreet.com/cwdb/cwdb.object.details.aspx?handle=person&id=200758593>. Accessed 2012 October 10.

Williams, Gary. "The Forgotten Ones: Part 1." Palestine Herald-Press, 2012 April 30.
<http://palestineherald.com/localscene/x474406719/The-Forgotten-Ones-Part-1>. Accessed 2012 October 10.
Williams, Gary. "The Forgotten Ones: Part II." Palestine Herald-Press, 2012 May 6.
<http://palestineherald.com/local/x1720502884/The-Forgotten-Ones-Part-II/print>. Accessed 2012 October 10.

Archival Arrangement

The Jones Family Papers were loosely organized in one folder and one book-like box prior to this finding aid. One folder held the Civil War and Reconstruction letters, and the other held the legal and financial documents from J.E. Jones' estate.

The collection is currently arranged in two series: I. Correspondence and II. Estate of J.E. Jones.

Series 1: Correspondence. 1860-1920

Administrative/Biographical History

This series contains Civil War and Reconstruction correspondence to and from various members of the Jones family. The Civil War correspondence is from three Jones brothers and a cousin who served in the 10th Texas Infantry. This series is in good condition.

Item List

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1860-1862
Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1863-1867, 1920

Series 2: Estate of J.E. Jones. 1857-1867, undated

Administrative/Biographical History

This series contains financial and legal documents relating to J.E. Jones' estate. Legal documents in this series include land deeds, estate documents naming heirs and property, and monthly lists of enslaved people owned by J.E. Jones, probably for the heirs' records. Financial documents include receipts and bills for various monetary amounts. This series is in average condition.

Item List

Box 1. Folder 3. Estate of J.E. Jones: Legal: General, 1858-1865
Box 1. Folder 4. Estate of J.E. Jones: Legal: Transcriptions: (1 of 3), undated
Box 1. Folder 5. Estate of J.E. Jones: Legal: Transcriptions: (2 of 3), undated
Box 1. Folder 6. Estate of J.E. Jones: Legal: Transcriptions: (3 of 3), undated
Box 1. Folder 7. Estate of J.E. Jones: Financial: Bills, Receipts, Statements, 1857-1861
Box 1. Folder 8. Estate of J.E. Jones: Financial: Bills, Receipts, Statements, 1862-1867