

Pueblo Mexico 3rd July 1847

My Dear Sir

It is my painful duty to announce to you the death of your brother Boliver M. Jones. He died this morning about 7 o'clock with composure and ease. He was first taken about the 10th of May at Jolappa and had about two weeks ago so far recovered as to walk down from the hospital to see me. We are in quarters some half a mile from those that are very sick and have a Regimental Hospital that is well attended by Doctrs Clark and Bland. He soon after relapsed and his doom I saw at once. I saw him frequently. Until the last interview he confidently relied upon getting up and told me if he once got up again he would endeavor to keep so. But yesterday he told me he was worse and should not again he thought recover, that the tea and hominy Seymour(?) had taken him he relished. He wanted nothing. Since he had been removed to his then new position(?) he was quiet and easy. He died of typhoid fever at first taken with sohrea(?) and which was contracted at Vera Cruz. After we reached Jolapa an officer Lt. OBanon and four privates were sent back. Your brother volunteered. I sent for him and advised him not to go without it was his detail but he said he wished to go I think he said and see Marshall Smith on some business. There he contracted this fever. Every possible attention was paid him and particularly by Lt Moragne commanding the company. I got the surgeon Genl Lawson to go and see him or rather he visited our hospital and while there I got him to see particularly Boliver and Glover (Glover is up). Dr Lawson says our hospital is in better order and more comforts than any in the Army. We bought sacks and had them filled and have plenty of nurses. With all this we lose a great many men but I believe unavoidable - the climate and the service. Your brother was a favorite in the company, a fine manly soldier, never a word of grumbling or complaint. I did not know there was a member of your family in the company after your brother William left until after we got to Vera Cruz and not until after he was taken sick did I become well acquainted with him.

He is gone, Jones, and let us bear with firmness and fortitude what we cannot change or control. Our Regt has suffered dreadfully with sickness and death - we have lost by death since we left Jola(?) 105 souls - have now 117 sick present and 240 behind. Many of those behind have recovered and are on the way up - others discharged and some doubtless dead. The service is a hard one and the climate prostrating. We are necessarily led to the reflection - is the volunteer system properly adapted to this service. Alone for the active duties in the Force(?) - amidst excitement and the prospect of a fight - when gallantry and highbearing can be conspicuously developed - they are eminently useful and qualified. For all others illy adapted - at least for 6 or 12 months in service. It is not a service the patriotism of such material as ours should be drawn on for. Enlisted men should be induced by direct emolument to engage in all aggressive wars. Commissioned officers have no cause of complaint or regret except those that fall by the exposure and climate. We are in this and I advise all to bear with patience and to conduct themselves with honorable deportment and to perform in good faith all their obligations. Those that are well and in good health and fair discipline. Of the dead Co. D Captain Brooks has lost 8.

Ramsay - Reynolds - Jarrett - Duncan - Deloach - Cobb - Robinson and Jones. I have however advised Gov Johnson at the end of each month of the names and company.

Our force here is about 7000 men. Genl Pillow expected the 5th with 4100 more when it is contemplated to move on the city of Mexico. I think the calculation is to move about the 8th. We have been here since the 15th of May. In the last 4 days there are active rumors of a preparation for peace. The Mexican congress met did not form a quorum - reformed for 7 days. It is thought they will listen to reason. And a skilful diplomatist or diplomatists could I think bring it about. It can be felt here some decided change in the public mind. Their government and people are worse than confusion confounded. Their government only a government in name. In the next ten days I should think, decided developments of a pacific or hostile character will be indicated - I confess I ____ think and hope the former.

Present me kindly to Mrs. Jones and when you see D Burt most especially.

Yours truly
P. M. Butler

Genl Jas Jones
Aiken
South Carolina