Maben Jones Papers

Correspondence re descendants of
Charks Lee Jones, with
James Spencer Whedworth; copies
of Spencer letters (1819-1829)
1933-1938.
Buckingham County, Virginia.
July 16, 1819.

Dear Children:

I take up my pen to drop you a few lines to inform you that your Father and myself and family are well as we were when you left us. The rest of your relations are well, except your uncle William Spencer he is very ill and cannot expect to live long. The little girls are going to school and are learning very fast. I am sorry to hear that you are going to move but I hope to come out to see you in two or three years if my health will admit of it. I have no news worth relating to you. I have not received a line from Elizabeth since you left me. You must write to me by every chance you have with word how the negroes are. Margaret and Martha and Judith join me in love to you and family. Judith says keep Melvina for her. I send you six dollars by Mrs. W., five for Elizabeth and one for Melvina.

And if we never meet below let us our lives prepare to meet where the last trumpet shall sound and in His glory share.

Oh, Elizabeth be faithful and true and -----faith to the end a crown of life you will gain.

Charles Jones      E. L. Jones
Judith Spencer.

Phillis sends howdy to Hannah and all of ------
October 16, 1822.

Mr. Charles L. Jones, )
Christian County. ) (on outside
) of folded
) sheet)
In care of Mr. Anderson)

Dear Sister:

My grateful acknowledgements for all your favored confer'd on me but more particularly for the invaluable opportun- ity you have offered me for improving my mind which I hope to make the best use of believing as I do that it will not only con- tribute to my own happiness but to my friends who are anxiously desiring my improvement and will be the best return I can make my Dear Sister for all her expressions of kindness to me.

Papa and Mama would have written to you and Brother Charles but they did not know when Mr. Anderson came by there. I have begun my Sampler and most done it. I began Papa and Mama's ages yesterday and most finished it today. Tell Brother Charles I would have written to him but I did not know Mr. Anderson was coming by until about eight o'clock and then I had to begin and it was too late. Papa talks of coming out in two or three years and Mama, Sister Martha and myself. Give my love to Sarah M., Judith Ayres and Watt. Brother James came up last Monday but I was at Aunt Joneses and did not see him. Sister you must be sure and write to me. I was very glad when I received your letter.

I remain your affectionate,

Judith Hales Spencer.
August 4, 1830.

My dear Brother and Sister have wondered no doubt why I have delayed writing so long, as your much esteemed letter was thankfully received and read twelve or fourteen days from the date. I will now tell you that about two or three days after, which was Easter, I in making ready to visit my dear Mother took a little cold and have had something like rheumatism in my head and jaw and have not felt like writing often but my dears you all know it is not for want of proper regard for any of you that I do not write but my eyes fail me, specks plague me. I spent a few days with Mother. Visited no one else. Mr. B. went to see sisters Sarah and Judith. I promised to see her again in four weeks but did not as horses were too busy. I think Mother much weaker than when we left her the girls are up with her every night. If I was near enough to see her once a week I should like it better. They had gotten your letter and very glad you had made a safe trip and poor Fleebe anxious to hear from her boy. I told her I hoped she had not grieved much after him. She said, 0, Miss Betsy I never thought I should feel as I have about him. I can do well enough through the day but when night comes on I could not rest. Said she, do tell my child to get religion. That is all in all she said. She had many things to say to him and I must write for her but she got so full she could not talk. I left her and the conversation was dropt at that. Abram can you sing, show me de way, show me de way now like you used to do when going to and coming from the spring with your hand gourd of water. Abram will you try and get religion, it was the last request of your Mother.

My dear Brother - will you credit it when I tell you that this letter was begun six weeks ago, yes more. Cousin Judith has been here near that length of time and I had begun to write before she came. I expect that you have heard before this of the death of Cousin Gibson whose disease was that of a breast complaint. Cousin J (I ?) is far, very far gone with the same complaint and I would say no chance for recovery. If I did not know that all power is in the hands of the great I am. We have carried her through two or three courses of medicine but she is too weak and says she shall never try it again. It is as much as she can do to get up stairs. I think the puccoon an excellent thing for the breast. Mr. Brown is as brisk and active as when you saw him tho he has been complaining some this Summer.

How is sister W. and her family. How is Brother Michael with sister Betsy and her family. Tell Cousin Michael he must not conclude himself slighted, it was a mistake altogether, and I would be as glad to see him as any of my nephews. Cousin Judith B. E. and Mary Jane and Elizabeth and Mosby all send their love to you. My health is as good as it has been these 15 or 16 years. I had the rheumatism awhile back and Mr. B. took me through a course of medicine and I then kept tolerably close a few days and am now well. I think you shall hear from me again soon. So fare you all well.

E. L. Brown.

(Elizabeth Lee Jones)

(The original has few capitals and little punctuation. The above may not be copied exactly as intended.)

(This letter was probably written to Charles Lee Jones and wife.)
December 26, 1829.

Dear Sister:

When Sarow's and Mama's letter was written I did not expect to have time to write to you, but as Brother Charles has declined the idea of starting until Monday I will endeavor to write you a few lines notwithstanding I am labouring under a very severe toothache which you know by experience (I expect) is a very disagreeable companion. All of the family is in very good health. Papa appears to be much better this morning than he has been for several weeks. Mama neglected to mention in her letter that she had received a letter from Mr. Guarrant some weeks past. They were all well. Sister Polley has eight children. Their land was to be sold this Winter and they expected to move but I did not understand where they intended to go. Mr. Guarrant has made a profession of religion and I am in hopes (notwithstanding he has reduced his family to poverty by his unruly disposition) that he is much more agreeable than he has ever been heretofore. We are looking for Aunt Jane Holman and Cousin Judith Ayres to see us this Christmas. Cousin Judith has never married. She has had several very good offers to marry but it appears that she prefers a single life. Oh, my dear Sister, when I think of the many miles that separate us from each other I am fearful we shall never see each other again in this world, and if we never do I trust it will be our happy lot to meet in Heaven where parting will all be done away. Oh, pray for me that I may hold out faithful for I can assure you I feel very needy. You must write to me soon. Sister Martha and Brother Ayres join me in love to you all.

I remain your affectionate sister,

Judith H. Spencer.
Buckingham County, Virginia.
December 29, 1829.

Dear Daughter:

I avail myself of this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well and all of the family excepting your Father who is very poorly at this time, and has been for some months past with a continual headache. He has employed a doctor several times but has never found any relief as yet. Jack says he thinks it is Dropsey in the Brain and if it is I suppose there is no cure for it. I was very sorry to hear from your letter that you were so unwell. Charles appears to be very uneasy and anxious to get home. I was very much surprised when he talked of starting back tomorrow as I did not expect him to start until some time in January.

Nathan's family is well. Nathan has been in very bad health for some months but I think his health is better now than it has been for some time. His wife appears to be a very agreeable pious woman and extremely kind to the children. Jack's family was well a few weeks past. Betsey was up to see us about three weeks ago. She has six children, four sons and two daughters. The youngest is a daughter. They call her Anna Louisa. Samuel's family was well the last I heard from them and very much pleased with their new home. The rest of your relatives are well. We received a letter from Mr. E. Lewis some time ago. They were well. Mrs. Lewis has seven daughters. O, my dear Daughter, I cannot express the satisfaction I receive when I can hear from you and hear that you are still trying to serve the Lord. The separation is nothing here when we think of the blissful Eternity we will spend together if we will only hold out faithful to the end. Your father frequently talks of coming out there to see you but I have no idea that he will ever come as he is always so very poorly. Charles says he intends coming in again in 18 months and bringing you and all the children. I can assure you nothing would afford me more satisfaction than to see you again if you could come and see me. I am afraid we shall never see each other again as I never expect to travel that far from home. I expect Ayers will come out in a year or two if he does not marry. He and the girls often talk of you and wish to see you and family but I fear sometimes the distance will always keep us apart. Tell the little girls their grandpapa is very much pleased with his socks and gloves. He intended to have sent them a frock apiece but their papa says he has no way of carrying them. Tell them he intends to get them some very nice frocks by the time they come in to see him. You must write to me by every opportunity. Your Father and Ayres say you must excuse them for not writing. Ayres has been from home all day until late this evening. Give my love to all of your family. Tell Sarah and Judith they must write to me shortly. I must come to a close as it is getting very late.

Your affectionate mother,

Judith Spencer.

(See page 2)
Letter written by Judith H. Spencer on same sheet as above and in the same handwriting.)
January 30, 1933.

Mr. James W. S. Wadsworth,
Laguna Beach, California.

Dear Cousin:

Through the kindness of George Jones of Tolleson, Arizona your name and address were given me. Recently I have come into possession of a letter written by Dr. Moses Spencer Jones to my father, the late Louis Dibrell Jones of Virginia, 35 years ago. In this letter Dr. Jones gave the names of the 15 children of Charles Lee Jones who married Elizabeth Leck Spencer in 1817. He also gave the names of those whom these married and the names of their children.

I have had letters from John Jones at Berkeley, California, and from his wife in Florida. I am anxious to get in touch with as many of the descendants of Charles Lee Jones as possible and wish all the information as to the family records. According to the letter written by Dr. Moses Jones your mother was Margaret Dibrell Jones and she married Seaborn Wadsworth in Clinton County, Illinois in 1863. Six children are mentioned. I shall be pleased to have you give me all the data you can about your family, and please refer to me to any of your cousins whose names and addresses you have.

If you are interested, I shall be pleased to forward you a copy of Dr. Jones' letter. I have quite a lot of records pertaining to the Dibrell family—beginning with Dr. Christoffe DuBreuil and his only son Jean Antoine DuBreuil who changed his name to Anthony Dibrell and was thus the first of this name. All Dibrells are descended from him. He married a Lee of the famous Lee family of Virginia.

I hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

P.S. I am a son of Louis Dibrell Jones and he was a son of William Dibrell Jones, brother to Charles Lee Jones.
Los Angeles Calif., Feb. 8, 33.

Dear Cousin,

Your letter received the 5th inst.
I still have a home in Laguna Beach but have been living in the "homestead" with my two elder boys for almost 3½ years.

We are getting "fairly aged" I am 74 years old, "Pete" 79 will be 77 in March, and "Bert F." is the oldest 79 yesterday. The youngest boy, John Lee passed away 6 years ago. He would be 70 coming April.

Our two sisters are "married" and living in N. M. Tarkio is the add "R-44".

It is too long a job for one to tackle now as I am not yet over a 2 months siege of the flue and Kidney ailments but will try later on to give you some of the things I don't know anything about 1st and 2nd. I feel able to write any more, will post post the writing till conditions are improved.

I trust you will extend me and wishing you success in your data hunting. I am very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

F. S. I don't think we need send any more of your proposed cutting as, Thanks the Same.
February 13, 1933.

Mr. James Wyatt Spencer Wadsworth,
1213 Manzanita Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Cousin:

Your letter of February 8th is greatly appreciated, especially so since you took the trouble to write to me when you are unwell. I have recently recovered from a slight attack of the Flu and I know it makes you feel might uncomfortable.

You and your two brothers have reached a ripe old age and you are to be congratulated, for it means that you have lived the right kind of lives. My grandfather, William Dibrell Jones, lived to be 92.

I am not going to ask you to write me further details regarding your family at this time, but when you feel like doing so I will be very much pleased to hear from you again. However, you failed to give me the married names of your sisters who are living in Tarkio. Will you put their names on the enclosed postal card and mail to me.

According to the letter written by Dr. Moses Spencer Jones, there were 14 children, as follows:

3. Emma Jane Jones, b. 1847.
4. James Rennick Jones, b. 1851.
5. Hellenah A. Jones b. 1852, married George Smith.
10. Charles Lee Jones b. 1837, married Alvira Quick.
11. Margaret Dibrell Jones b. 1835, married Seaborn Wadsworth.

If you can give me the names and addresses of any of the descendants of any of the above, please do so when you feel inclined to write again. Give my best regards to your brothers, and with very best wishes, I am

Cordially your cousin,

Naben Jones.
Feb 20, 33 (to Angell) 

Dear Emmin, how are your sisters. The oldest Mary Able married H P 

Logan, Born 1867 3 children, 2 living one married 2 dead.

No 2 Emma Melinda married to Edward Smith no children.

Born in 7th Mary Logan's 4 by 8 inches and son Harold Readworth 

All their address is 

Frederick Me - 

other two are in France some where? Well, I have just gotten over a sile of 

Social trouble. Don't know what next - Well try not allude to 

either part of this letter where a little stronger. Love to 

Ellie and most splendid in any 

place they are all well. 

Grandad had 11 children 

I
Maben Jones
1207 Taylor St
Columbia S. C.
Dear Cousin Mary,

I'll start this letter today but may not finish it. Yes, we old bachelors never lived a fast life, not too poor for that but we worked hard most of our lives. Took in many trades—sterning, blacksmithing, carpentry, machine helper—fish with good hall of which own last labor all living in 'Teo' in own room clear house, drive, no horse and cabin at Laguna Beach 4 saloon rights a Fragler Park about 50 m. from here 40 a. of 5 city lots in Long Beach. Max about 50 or 60 m. from Teo house, none of which is bringing in an income will all fall for all.

The also have electric smoke and while straight dem, ticket not large fighters but worked for the repeal of the 18th am.

In the first place, my dear, I'll say that Mr. Moses Spence (whom I knew most intimately here) must have got hold of some of that famous 'Southern moon shine' when he said to much dad was. Jack Jones had 14 children, he had eleven and no more. We all were personally acquainted with all but Aunt Melbie "the paper" after she died. John pepper went south? His daughter "Betty" and "Melbie" his only son = I think went with him to 2. Aunt Juliette Black raised 4 children—Charley, Elizabeth, Helen and "Max Painick." Text in other old that you'll find you have them in your list of "Gran Pa's" children when they are his daughter Jeudith's. Not known all of them personally.
2 P. No 3. Uncle Matt & Aunt Phoebe. Feb 20, 1933
1 son.- Tom; died when grown. (T 18) Lizzie & I
and 2 daughters. Lizzie married a neighbor boy
Jason Pratt (age 18 years) and lived only about
10 years (T 18) and married neighbor boy. Mr.
Steele by name moved to Texas and raised
some children but I don't know how many. I think
and died a few years ago.

7th. Michael Lee & children = "Jo Moyle" the eldest boy
first wife I think, one don't know what became of him.
2 sons by aunt Mary Talbott. = John Whitfield &
Henry. Henry died about 10 years ago but the family
Hendy & 2 children live either in Fresno or
Oakland. He had 2 children that I knew of
and one daughter called "Spencer". Now this son John Whit-
field = unk. Mike's oldest boy can give you
all the info. you want regarding his books family.
He is add. was - a short time ago - 2112 Addison St, Berkeley, Cal.
Feb 20, 1933

1. No 5, Elizabeth Lee Jones, died 2 am by 1st marriage to Albin and Jan Ellsworth, no children that I am aware of, her 2nd husband was Ralph Adame, 2 sons & 1 daughter, all are now all told you of the family. No 6 Charles Lee Jones, 6 children.

Montgomery Buchanan. Char, Whitfield Eliza Leach, Hattie, Melmoth Atwood and Edward. They had plenty of offspring, especially Char Whitfield, Eliza Leach, Melmoth. She had 8 that I know of. Char raised a family up in Washington. Bette died when about grown. I think all of the old stock is gone.

No 7 Martha Ann Melmoth Jones, Healy.

Charles, Ellen, Jo No. 4, Obediah, Hattie, all dead but Chloe. She's married and lives in Hills, Clinton Co., Ill. in the old Jo Healy home. No 8, But I don't know her married name. Chas. Ellen & Jo Healy still living close to me.

No 8 is Margaret Wilmarie Jones Nodsworth and you have all of that info you can get for.

No 9 James Wm. H. Jones & Aunt 'Peachie'.

Cora, Augusta, Wm. Milton & Lewis 10, by 1st wife = Daisy. And Loren by 2nd wife = Amanda.

Now all old stock dead but Wm. Milton, he was in Ill. Home Town (RCO) lately if you want info about these children, offspring or might get you some see to short it'd do no good.
John Milton Jones = Jane Phillips Feb 20, 1733

Edward Spencer married and raised a nice family near Santa Ana. Oldest daughter Anne, Laura, weighed at least 5-0-0 lb. From Milton Fountain. Jane and Frances.

J. M. Jones and Emily sister of sunk Charles Lee's wife = one daughter, name of Mary, married a man named on John and did.

Add to Central City 1811

Jack and last is Moses Spencer Jones. 1 child died in infancy. George and Easie, by first wife = none by second. Lawrence covering.

Who is still alive in Santa Ana.

I didn't know Comrie 69-0 and till I read your letter, now if you have Easie's add, I'd like to have it but she's so transient it's hard to keep track of her. Being a town of miners who go to many places generally to make money and keep the need to visit one about once a year. When they visit, they visit. And I wrote in Laguna Beach.

She missed one last visit I heard of. Rather gathered one too because the end of it were more like goals than Comrie's. Wish my dear lady. I hope all for now and keep your health and getting over a severe illness. I feel well.

I can do for you. Comrie are done any thing further. I can do for you. Comrie are done and

Yours old Comrie Tim
February 26, 1933.

Mr. James Wyatt Spencer Wadsworth,
1213 Mansanita Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Cousin Jim:

Many thanks for your good letter of the 20th and the splendid information on the Jones family.

My apologies to you for stating that Charles Lee Jones had 14 children. It was my mistake in copying Dr. Moses Spencer Jones' letter, which was clear enough as to hand writing but the names were not numbered. I am sending you a copy of his letter written 35 years ago. I have also copied the data from your letter and am sending this for comparison. There are some discrepancies, but on the whole they agree exactly.

I am glad to have the addresses you gave and shall write to all whose names and addresses I secure.

Just recently I had a letter from Ben H. Jones, at Coin, Arkansas, who sent me a newspaper clipping regarding his father's death—Joseph Morton Jones. I enclose a copy of this clipping.

I also had a letter from Mrs. George Nicholson, RFD 1, Mountain Grove, Missouri, who was Cleo Huey. She gave very little information.

John W. Jones, 1925 University Avenue, Berkeley, California, who married his cousin Essie Jones, has written me several times but nobody has given me as much information as you have. Cousin Essie Jones is now at Seabreeze Station, Daytona Beach, Florida, and she writes me that she will pass through Columbia in April on her way north. I'll be delighted to meet her.

Please send me more information, when you feel inclined to do so, regarding the families of James William Dibrell Jones, and Charles Lee Jones, Jr. The third child of J.W.D. Jones is named Louis D. I wonder if the "D" is for Dibrell? That was my father's name. Please give me full names whenever possible. I feel I am now making splendid progress with the Jones genealogy, and I am greatly indebted to you for your help. Please make any corrections or additions you can to Dr. Moses Spencer Jones' letter.

I hope you will soon recover from your indisposition. With best regards to your brothers and to yourself, I am

Cordially your cousin

Maben Jones
Dear Cousin Mabel:

Your most welcomed letter received several days ago but have been too busy to write anything intelligently. We were all much pleased with the news you gave us regarding our old cousin "Joe More" as we always called him. We had wondered for years what had become of him and heard nothing from the family. Regarding Aunt Judith, I don't think she's heard of "Penny R. Jones" uncle "Pinkie" has three sons, I think all of "wink," other two sons all children are all gone. Eliza Lear, oldest daughter married Alfred Barrett, son of the late James Lear, she was killed by an auto while out for a walk, possibly 2 yr. ago, going to put you on track of them through Anna Laura, Jones (old maid) daughter of Edward Spencer Jones, "whale John" only son.

Laura was in communication with "Sister" Melvina Allen Jones Lear.

Ed and I think she can give you all the in to read this side of the Rockies, my Best love, has corresponded with "Anna Laura" 3-4 yrs., till in her last letter to him she said that she a "lone found"
more going on a trip to Mo - Gill.

And my stations - in her big brougham
And I don't know whether she's gone or not
She has a love - "mmm Milton" Jane

Frances' married name - she lives on the
"home street" add. above

Jane's name in chatelherault - don't know her add.

"Later", Bob, just came and learned she's dead. She wasn't living on homestead.
It is: Orange, Calif.

Re: Box 60. All I'll be able to

Tell you regarding Aunt Alberta,

Hoping you can use it to advantage.
Yours most sincerely,

Les, A. Tradeworth

P.S. I forgot! Something, "Lewis" no? I have two sons "Amil" and Leo" living in

Santa Maria. Amil is married.
March 8, 1933

3. Look don't know anything I just met some him my youngest bro, Joe, T's name is Mattie Allen. My sister-in-law said yesterday she did not know what the D stood for but looked it up from the book.

That is all, since my pencil I do all my writing in my old arm chair on the back porch. It makes too many holes so I just the pencil is easy to erase.

John M.
May 25, 1935

Post Office Department,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Could you furnish me with a copy of all records pertaining to two old post offices now long since discontinued.

Planterstown, Virginia, (Buckingham County).

Crooked Creek, Illinois, (Southern part of state)

Very truly yours

mjs

Haben Jones.
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

June 14, 1935.

Mr. Maben Jones,
1207 Taylor Street,
Columbia, S. C.

My dear Mr. Jones:

In reply to your letter of the 25th ultimo you are advised that the post office of Crooked Creek, Clinton County, Illinois, was established September 13, 1837, with Fletcher Gilmore as postmaster. Mr. Gilmore was succeeded by Charles Lee Jones, who was appointed postmaster on March 29, 1838. Mr. Jones served as postmaster until the discontinuance of the office on May 20, 1849.

The Crooked Creek office was reestablished July 19, 1850, with John S. Johnson as postmaster.

The name of the office was changed to Centalvia and into Marion County, March 31, 1854, at which time John S. Johnson was appointed postmaster. The Centralia office is in operation at the present time.

You are also advised that the records of the Department fail to show there was ever a post office of the name of Planterstown in Virginia.

Sincerely yours,

V. C. BURKE

Acting First Assistant
Postmaster General.

DCL
Mr. Maben Jones,
The Letter Shop,
1207 Taylor Street,
Columbia, South Carolina.

My dear Mr. Jones:

In reply to your letter of the 25th ultimo you are advised that the post office of Crooked Creek, Clinton County, Illinois, was established September 13, 1837, with Fletcher Gilmore as postmaster. The office was discontinued May 20, 1849. The Crooked Creek office was reestablished July 19, 1850, with John S. Johnson as postmaster. The name of the office was changed to Centralia and into Marion County, March 31, 1854, at which time John S. Johnson was appointed postmaster. The Centralia office is in operation at the present time.

You are also advised that the records of the Department fail to show there was ever a post office of the name Planterstown in Virginia.

Sincerely yours,

V. C. Burke
Acting First Assistant Postmaster General.
Mr. Maben Jones,
1207 Taylor Street,
Columbia, South Carolina.

My dear Mr. Jones:

In reply to your letter of June 17th requesting information regarding the postmasters at the former post office at Crooked Creek, Clinton County, Illinois, you are advised that according to the records of the Department this office was established September 13, 1837, with Fletcher Gilmore as postmaster. Mr. Gilmore was succeeded by Charles L. Jones, who was appointed postmaster on March 29, 1838. Mr. Jones served as postmaster until the discontinuance of the office on May 20, 1849.

Sincerely yours,

W. W. Howes
First Assistant Postmaster General

CBG
June 17, 1935

Mr. V. C. Burke,
Acting First Assistant Postmaster General,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Ref: AF

Accept my sincere thanks for the information regarding Crooked Creek post office, established in Clinton County, Illinois, September 13, 1837, and discontinued May 30, 1849.

Do your records show whether Charles Lee Jones was postmaster at any time, or whether his name is shown in connection with the establishing of the office.

I trust you will pardon my further request. I assure you the information will be of great value to me.

If convenient, I shall be pleased to have the names of all postmasters from 1837 to 1849, at least.

Very truly yours,

mj-s

Haben Jones.
Hodsworth's, 2-26-36:

Dear Cousin Mabel:

I've had a long time between chances, but there
we are in Maine, taking on or leaving off.
We can't help it - not even try to improve
our personal appearance. I tell all of us
we never drew any beauty prizes - didn't care
for 'em! All we wanted was plenty of hill-
side nancy, Corn bread and hog's jaw with
plenty of fruit beans - black coffee thrown in
for a filler. We get lots of tips from folks till
us what to eat to. Well I tell you I am on the
right path now, with my bill of fare (I am the
official cook now) and the "boys" seem to thrive and
I am the proud yet one of the 3 = branch of
a cook. Tribs but I gradually getting better in
them. Tribs but I gradually getting better in
them. I have 90 a. at 29 Palms - 163 m. from here, that I
have go a. at 29 Palms - 163 m. from here, that I
want to go to, but can't leave the kids alone
want to go to, but can't leave the kids alone
until I can get some use to earn for them. I
still I can't get some use to earn for them. I
I do, I don't much about our "tribe" as I
have my hands full doing almost all the corves of
shopping and cooking. If I had been in a tin with
a cast of the first class "most of the City" but
this 9 M. I have about knocked the fever with a few
70 = 90's" of summer.

Say = Mabel, that's a wonderful book you
sent me, "Macle Harelyton" can't keep it at home
long at a time. The old story go at people's heads
by it off and continues thin it the kids can't for
I wish I could write you something worth while
Near Corinne, Mabel:—It's a long time between dinners, but then
we are in maize. Take one or leave one. We can't help—nor even try to improve
our personal appearance. I tell all of us
we never drew any beauty parlor—didn't care
for it. All we wanted was plenty of hill
side mawy. Corn bread and hogs jaw with
plenty fruit beans—black coffee thrown in
for a filler. We get lots of tips from folks talking
us what to eat to. Well I like coffee in the
end. keep right on with my bill of fare (I was the
official cook now) and the boys seem to thriving on
I am the funniest one of the B = branch. E
atom. Troubles but gradually getting better. I
have 90 a. at 29 Palms—163 m. from here that I
want to go to but can't leave the kids alone
still. I can get some one to care for them. I
do not care much about our "Tribe" as I
don't much about our "Tribe" as I
have my hands full doing almost all the corsets. I'm
shopping cooking etc. if have been in a ton with
a rise of the fluid. I'm most of the city. But
this A M. I have almost knocked the fever with a few
"105 = 90" of Guinint.

Sag = mabel, that's a wonderful book you
sent me. "Ade Memorial" can't keep it at home
long at a time. The old "I dare" you to remember
of it. If I could see the kids away for a
week I could write you something worth while.
May 24, 1936.

Mr. James Spencer Wadsworth,
1215 Manzanita Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Cousin Jim:

You said in your letter, written in February, "It's a long time between drinks," and I agree with you and here I am making it still longer by not answering your most interesting letter. It was my intention to write you immediately but I have kept putting it off. Say, Cousin Jim, I appreciate that picture of you and Cousin Ben and Cousin William more than any picture I have ever had, and I greatly enjoyed the nice write-up that the Evening News gave you.

I enjoyed every word of your letter and did appreciate it, and thank you for your good wishes to me and my wife. We were married on November 16th last year and are getting along fine.

It has been my intention, and still is, to get in touch with some more of the Jones families out in the west that are kin to you and me and try to complete the family records. Cousin Mary helped me wonderfully about two years ago by sending me names and data, I just recently secured from the War Department at Washington a record of the War service of your grandpa, Charles Lee Jones, and his brother Anthony Dibrell Jones. I think maybe you would like to see this so I am sending you a copy. I am also sending a copy of a letter I received last year from the Post Office Department at Washington, showing that your Grandpa was Post Master at Crooked Creek for eleven years.

You said something about going up to your place at 29 Palms, 165 miles from there. Have you had a chance to go yet. If so, tell me about your trip. I am glad you enjoyed the Wade Hampton book, and hope you found something of interest in the Sesquicentennial edition of The State which I sent you. People here in South Carolina are not as much interested in their state history as they are in Virginia, but they are beginning to take more interest. I have just read a fine book about the Lee family. It made me proud to claim kin with them. It is said that more distinguished men came from that family than from any other family in America.

I hope you and the other "boys" keep well. I certainly would like to drop in some time when the band is in operation. Do you play much? Write me when you feel so inclined and I promise to be more prompt in the future. Yours cousin, Maben.
THREE BACHELOR BROTHERS LIVE IN PEACE.

In woom in their lives. No discord either. Just music and pinochle and tobacco. And probably lots of reminiscences.

And there it is in a nutshell — the history, and the future of the three Badsworth brothers, who will grin at you today in living refutation of the old saw about men not getting along so well without women.

And they have the right to grin too. They've lived together all their lives, and haven't even been on the "out" with each other yet. They sing and play together today just as they did back in Illinois some seven or eight decades ago. And they couldn't trade places with anybody else either.

Benjamin Franklin Badsworth is the oldest of the trio. He's celebrating his 82nd birthday today. Next is William Anthony, who will be 80 on March 21st. James Spencer, 77, is the baby of the lot.

It's Bill, better known as "Doc," who takes care of the housework. Jim does the cooking, and even cuts it himself. He will tell you, twirling a "Uncle Samy" keeps up the yard of the Los Angeles property which they own at 1215 Hanover Street.

When they aren't playing pinochle — and they always play until each has won at least one game — they can form a first rate hillbilly band, and usually do.

They say they were never the right age at the right time to participate in any of the many wars they've lived through. But they will tell you, grinning up through those gray beards, that they did sit on the fence during each "hollering 'Six O'Clock.'"

They will tell you too, with a touch of pride, that they are third cousins to General Robert E. Lee. And then, contentedly, they will go back to their pinochle.
Dear Melvin:

Your wonderfully good letter came several days ago. Don't have so much to do & the indy crippled up, making an extra chore that I can't tell at times whether I'm coming or going.

"H" had to have a dr. few days ago but was glad to pay he's way & promise to go once more. Mr. S. repulsed in times = both caps cracked etc. for ago.

Rheumatism developed later on = came hand to work but has a wonderful physique in other ways.

You sent me data that was really new & some about granddad being a "soldier" etc., now if there's any other info desired that you can't give me, you think I might know something about it, I should like a bit.

So back to me, I've long looked back & I'm little rasty about small toes. I don't know whether it's Jones or not. I think the first name was "Joe." I wrote it the way he spelled it. I changed it to "Walter" Stiller.

My fault, as it was a common name."

How about the "Hill Billy" music, that's mostly hard.

Now about the "violin" some = Vi. A. used to play. I am now in my church still has it. Many lost can't play anything.
any more & f. since his operation Feb 14 we have got trying to sing or play his fiddle. He had
not both read music, & A was a wi at one time
attended "Sing School" long time as read music fast as
I could read from while I made his home & in
it we met it in the road traveling in long guns.
Yes I was Jack could play by more but all of
us took their hats of to me when it came to good
old "live down" dance music. I never cared much
about dancing but would play all night for the fun
of watching the girls dance & sing. While Jack
and I were young was say 17 or 18, and when we walked to "me three stuck snow" to a friend of ours a
played violin (or tried to) most all night. Next rest of it
walked back next mon (Sun) for which we had
3-0 of that we were read. Coming in the musical
worlds I said I have to laugh right out in meeting
when I think of some of the wild creatures me and
use to pull off. Now I am free to admit I didn't
know much about music but when I came to shoring
rooms I soon hunting trapping & fish in I didn't take
my gray people off to none of my native tribe of my 92
one of my neighbors took me to "my desert ranch" 1 yr.
ago 2d of last Feb, haven't been able to go since but
am planning trip soon so can get my kids in shape to
look after them selves want go be done. No one
one of Bannier's "Carrie Nations"
July 1, 1936

All of us enjoyed the book of papers very much last of course we haven't yet been able to digest all that massive edition. The book went over like a house afire—rest of my (our) friends read it and passed it along to their friends. Course we lived thru all that period of course knew a great deal about it. But only one here that has put it in book form. And we were not old enough to comprehend to the fullest. The book comes to our rescue, I guess. Maybe, you are one of the busy gents here in a much different way. I have the busy gents here in a much different way. I have to do all the cooking. Of the worst part of that is I have to do all the cooking. It's good old Southern style baking. We are now working on seed o' short cake. My best wishes to you and your family. Combination Corn meal flour muffins honey and some other things I won't mention.

Well, my dear, that's all for now. I got to get busy. No one written around here but me so don't chide me if I see you next month. A word of best wishes to Thee and Thine.

Your Cousin (which is 2nd or 3rd)

[Signature]

Los Angeles
July 12, 1936.

Mr. James Wyatt Spencer Wadsworth,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Cousin Jim:

Your letter was greatly enjoyed both by myself and Ernestine. We are always glad to hear from you whenever you feel inclined to write us even a few lines. And for your convenience I am enclosing a few envelopes to make it easier for you to think about writing.

I had not written to Cousin Mary for a long time until a few weeks ago when I sent her a letter but have not had a reply yet. I wonder if the dry weather has hurt them much there in Missouri. It is very dry here also but nothing like as bad as it is in the west, according to accounts in the papers. I am enjoying the good watermelons that are coming in now, also cantaloupes. Our peach crop is short this year. We have very few grapes in this section.

I am sending you several sheets of Jones family history. Don't think you have got to read it if you don't want to. This relates to the family of Anthony Dibrell Jones, who was a brother to your grandfather and to my grandfather. He and Charles Lee Jones went to Kentucky to live. He had only four children, one of whom was Thomas Anthony Jones who was born April 22, 1842, and was almost exactly the same age as your uncle, Wyatt Spencer Jones, who was born in Christian county, Ky., March 11, 1822. This Thomas Anthony Jones was quite a wealthy man and he died at the age of 85. I am sending you a copy of a letter from Mrs. Susie Daniel Suttle, who is a descendant—a grandaughter of his. I thought it might be of some interest to you.

Several years ago Cousin Essie Jones sent me a box of old letter that she has saved, and among them was a record of the Spencer family of Virginia. I failed to make a copy of it. The Spencers are numerous up there now and mighty fine people. There was an old Dr. Spencer who was our family physician before I was born who was of that same family of Spencers.

Sometime when you feel like it, tell me something about the old home place at Centralia. Do you know if your grandfather's old house is standing and whether his grave is marked? I can get one of those free Government markers for his grave if somebody there will agree to have it erected.

Give my love to Cousin Ben and Cousin William. Ernestine send her love and says that menu of short ribs etc. sounds mighty good.

Your cousin, Maben
Los Angeles Calif. 3 - 4 - 37

Dear Cousie Mallen & Family,

I haven't much news to blow about but will send what I have in stock. Enclosed you will find another part of the dream flashlight pictures taken on a trip the 7th of last Fall. No. 8, A.D. 82. Still the night is a solemn neighbor. These come from 7th Ave. and 9th St. and are all in full feed and ready for the S.P.N. every time. One fellow sings it all a little stiff for songs of our age of having gone through the hard knocks we've had in our time. The picture above is deeply engrossed in a fog pinnicle (our favorite) 2nd floor. Receiver was long time finishing then I had some better ones but only 2 of each of good ones & naturally had to send those to Marlay Melil. For some reason or other we developed 6 of my quarry they are 3 1/2 wks old. I started a growth of spinach for 3 4 weeks & am so that I'd go along with the trend with them as cormorant as they wish'd as more of us aren't in society any more. We were sure a tough looking bunch of Klansmen till they got tired of birds & other varments roosting in their plumage. Moved them off. Course I did like as if I feel well again once more in the air. Mary wrote me she had telegraphed Melil
to come back to live with her till she's ready to come to see me. When she's going to do soon as my boys get
their O.A. Pension, I want her here to look after the "Keds" awhile as I can't go to my
desert one more only been there once and want to be where I can live close to Nature and
hear the Coyote howl. That's what I call movie To heck with movies and radios
we have all that house & seldom time in
unless it's a speech by "Rooney" or a
field line. Content. Well the sunshine is one
more with us for which we give thanks.
That's about all today dear 500d Y. We
will close & look after my hogs. I am well & hoped
Hope this finds all my (we) dear ones
in the South land well & prosperous.
I'll remain most truly yours

James Coons

Mrs. &

Jesus from your Wadsworth.

Send more film

China Lily
May 23, 1937.

Dear Cousin Jim:

I hope you can forgive me for my neglect in thanking you for the wonderful pictures you sent me. I have planned a dozen times to write you but times slips by and here I am just now telling you how delighted I am with the pictures—the one of yourself particularly, and the fine group at the card table.

I'm going up home to Virginia soon—maybe about the middle of June, and am going to take the pictures to show to some of your cousins up there. Ernestine has never been to Virginia, so she will have lots of cousins, nieces and nephews to meet for the first time.

Say, Cousin Jim, have you ever had a chance yet to visit your desert claim. I know you will enjoy that trip and I hope you can take it if you have not already been. I agree with you thoroughly about liking the "open spaces". I too like the country and one of the things I like about going back to old Buckingham county is that I can hear the hoot owls. No coyotes up there but it is plenty quiet and far away from city noises.

My family records have been neglected very largely. I have been a little bit interested recently in tracing the LeGrand family. Your grandpa married a Spencer and went to Kentucky. Your great uncle and two great aunts also married and moved to Kentucky. My grandpa married Judith Baker LeGrand of Prince Edward county and settled down in business at New Store, Buckingham county, where he had a large country store and a lot of land. Some of the LeGrands went to Kentucky and it is this branch of the family I am trying to trace. Peter LeGrand was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, a vestryman in his parish, and a county judge. He was a man of prominence in his day—served with George Washington in the House of Burgesses when the capital was at Williamsburg. He went to Fayette county, Kentucky, near Lexington, and is buried there. I have recently had letters from some of his descendants. I think a man like this should be honored and there should be a suitable monument to his grave.

We will all soon pass along that one-way road, and little will we be remembered by the coming generations.

I hope you and the other boys keep well. Ernestine would send some message if she were here. She is delighted with the pictures of her cousins. Love to all of you.
July 10, 1937

Dear Cousin Jim:

Cousin Mary has just written me that Cousin Willie passed away on June 28th. I am so sorry to hear of his death and I wish I could express to you and Cousin Ben something that would help you to feel less grief at the loss of your brother, your lifetime companion and your pal. You three have been together all these years and I think I can realize what it means to you to be separated. But I know you can find consolation in the thought that he was spared to you for a very long time and that at his age it could not be expected that he could live a great many years longer. God in his wisdom has taken him away and may God be with you and give you comfort.

I am so glad you sent me the fine picture of you three. I have it before me now and I prize it very highly. I have been trying to recognize some family resemblance between you three and members of our family. You remind me very much, in personal appearance, of my brother, Louis Dibrell Jones, Jr., who was a Dentist and who died in Ironton, Ohio, several years ago. His hair was a little reddish and thin on top. He was humorous and could tell a funny story better than anybody I ever knew. Your humorous letters remind me of him.

My wife and I had a nice trip to Virginia last month. We were there less than a week. Had nice weather and we saw most of the kin people. There are only six of us now living, out of a family of twelve that grew to maturity. All of the family live in Virginia except me. One of my sisters died in Los Angeles (Alhambra) several years ago. Her husband now lives in Washington, D. C.

Give my best wishes to Cousin Ben and accept for yourself my sincerest sympathy. I hope to hear from you when you feel like writing.

Cordially your cousin,

Maben
Los Angeles, Calif. 7-8-37.

Dear Cousin [name and wife]:

You will no doubt my seeming negligence in writing from but my time was taken up with household duties and looking after an invalid bro. or two that I couldn't do much better. Poor old [name] finally passed away the 28 of June. Laid to rest in Forrest Lawn. Can't the 30th. Beautiful funeral (if there is such a thing) Beautiful floral offerings - more flowers than I that me had lost it all over once kept the loneliness.

I think [name] will be with us this fall. Make I'll go see my desert home again. Haven't been it but once - that was 2 yrs ago 2d of last Feb. Guess its still there.

That's all for now that's left in good writing mood yet.

Best loveful wishes for the end of the year.

Yours [name]

[Signature]
Los Angeles, 12-18-37

Dear Loving Mother and Wife:

I trust you'll excuse long delay in my Coming "out of the shell" for I've had many difficulties to overcome that I just couldn't write or do much of anything else. My millie and hubby came from me = a couple other states to make their home with us. As Yvonne took a few as we was quite tonesome. I guess they'll rem me if we can rustle up fowder to keep up a full head o' steam. All me have to do now is to buy the good = eat it not kick too much I've got more fancy dishes than formerly but I guess me can stand it till the roll is called. I haven't seen my desert farm since the trip but too about near 3 yrs ago.

It's grown up out there = my stuff I am told is worth 2000 dollars now. As I am soon going to try to move in. They tell me I've got much personal stuff to get in hand. I can't sell all if I sold my tagging home on contract it is 1500 per mo. which is not that all the income I have. There's about 1000 o' job due me but it'll take up but 5 yrs to get it. Can't sell all it for funds sum with out almost giving it away which I'll not do. They passed near here law removing
the Lien Claim - last June - that
why I applied for one. Now - they
tried to prove the latter in connection
which - if they do - I'll tell 'em to go
to lunch to Dix. or some other warm
climate where chill blains won't bother 'em.

I sent some "Hend's" to some o' my
favorites - not very expensive but they
mean just as much as the expensive ones
mother Thing we're all kinder layin up
against the rain and not gettin' too far
from shore as when a squall does hit us
now won't have to fear to swim
Cruse me in no immediate danger
of a shortage in food but just
bein' kinder. The awful.

Well - my dear - I hope you excuse
my own liking flights of fancy off for this
time and if get real drunkry try to for one
once more will try to do better
with many joyful returns of the season

I remain your admiring old

P.S. Cousin Jno. I. Watervorth -

Soon be 79 and join strong.
January 16, 1936

Mr. James S. Wadsworth,
1215 Manzanita St.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Cousin Jim:

Your interesting letter came just about Christmas time and we both enjoyed hearing from you and appreciate your writing. We thank you also for the Christmas card.

Well, now that Cousin Mellie is with you I hope you can get a chance to go up to the ranch and see what you have there, and then I want you to tell me all about it.

A few months ago I was surprised to receive a letter and a picture from a little eight year old girl in Green Forest, Arkansas, who signed her name June Jones. I then looked up my correspondence file and found I had exchanged a few letters with her father, Ben Jones, way back yonder when I first got acquainted with you. Now Ben's father was Joseph Morton Jones, and Joseph's father was Michael Jones, who was born in Christian County, Kentucky, in 1823. He was married three times, 1st to Jane Wakefield, 2nd to Betsy Morton, and 3rd to Mrs. Faulkner, by whom he had two sons, John W. Jones and Henry Spencer Jones. Do these two live in Los Angeles and do you ever see them?

We had a card from Cousin Mary, which we appreciated very much. She is certainly one sweet woman and she is very devoted to you brothers.

Ernestine and I spent a very quiet Christmas. We haven't been out of town since last June when we spent a few days in Virginia. We want to go back up there this spring. Out of the original 12 members of our family there are only six of us living, and I am next to the youngest, having been born April 9, 1881, so you see I will be 57 next April. So you were 79 December 22, last, and Cousin Ben will be 86 February 7. I wish you both many more birthdays. I never hope to reach your age. We are all getting old together and one by one I see my friends pass away. My oldest sister, Mary Louise Jones, who married Cleveland Owen Forbes, has recently had a stroke. She is 75. She is holding her own but will probably not improve much.

Write me when you feel inclined. Ernestine sends love and says she likes the picture of you three brothers. We think a lot of that picture.

Your devoted cousin,

Naben