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Biographical Sketch of
Dr. Joseph Jones. *Mrs Susan P. Jones*

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

DR. JOSEPH JONES.

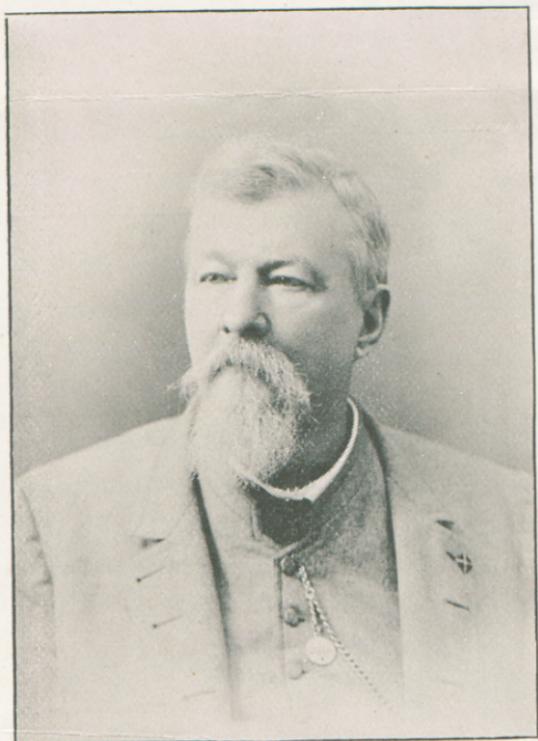
[Reprint from PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF AMERICA.]

Doct^r Irving A. Watson
Concord

New Hampshire



Editor



JOSEPH JONES.

JONES, Joseph, New Orleans, La., born September 6, 1833, in Liberty county, Ga., is the son of Rev. Charles Colcock (D. D.) and Mary (Jones) Jones; and grandson of Captain Joseph Jones (maternal), who commanded the Liberty Independent Troop in the War of 1812; and great-grandson of Major John Jones (paternal), aide-de-camp to Brigadier-General Lachlan McIntosh, who fell before the British lines around Savannah during the assault of October, 1779. His father, the Rev. Charles C. Jones, was a Presbyterian divine, the author of the "History of the Church of God;" of a catechism for the instruction of the Negroes of the United States, and of many elaborate reports extending over a series of years and detailing his labors among the blacks of Liberty county.

Joseph Jones acquired his early education under private tutors; in 1845, entered the University of South Carolina, Columbia; in 1850, matriculated in Princeton College, N. J., from which institution he was graduated with distinguished honors in 1853, and received therefrom the degree of A. M., in 1853. He then entered the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Medicine, and was graduated M. D., in 1855. He was the first private student of Prof. Joseph Leidy, M. D., and enjoyed the personal friendship of Prof. Samuel Jackson, M. D., Hugh L. Hodge, M. D., and of Prof. George B. Wood. The honorary degree of LL. D., was conferred upon Dr. Jones by the board of trustees of the University of Georgia June 17, 1892.

Dr. Jones commenced the practice of medicine in Savannah, Ga., in 1855, in which year he was elected professor of chemistry in the Savannah Medical College, continuing in that chair until 1858, when he was elected professor of natural philosophy and natural theology in the University of Georgia, Athens. In 1859, he was elected to the chair of chemistry in the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, which position he held until interrupted by active service



in the War of the Rebellion, which commenced in 1861, and terminated with the surrender of the Confederate armies under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, in May, 1865. During this war, Dr. Jones was for six months, 1861, in the cavalry service, and for the remainder of the time, served in the Confederate army as full surgeon with the rank of major. His most important duties were assigned by Samuel Preston Moore, surgeon-general of the Confederate army, as will be seen by the following orders and correspondence :

GENERAL HOSPITAL, AUGUSTA, GA.,
February 9, 1863.

S. P. MOORE,
Surgeon-General, C. S. A.,
Richmond.

SIR: Accompanying this, I have the honor to forward to the surgeon-general a small manuscript volume containing observations on traumatic tetanus. I have endeavored carefully to investigate the phenomena presented by a case of tetanus, which occurred in the General Hospital in this place. Such an investigation as that now presented appeared to be necessary, for I am unacquainted with the report of a single case of this disease, where a careful and full record was kept of the pulse, respiration, temperature, nervous and muscular phenomena, and physical and chemical changes of the urine throughout the course of the disease.

I hope that results worthy the consideration of the surgeon-general have been established by this laborious investigation. It appears to be not unphilosophical to draw general conclusions from a single carefully considered case of a characteristic and well-defined disease, for, if we admit that there be anything that can be called science in medicine, it must be intimately connected with, if not absolutely dependent upon, the fixed character of disease.

The surgeon-general will please excuse the liberty which I take in calling his attention to the following conclusions, which I have attempted to establish from the results of the investigation of this case. The essential phenomena of inflammation were absent. The phenomena were exaggerated manifestations of nervous and muscular action, rather than results of structural alterations. The increased actions in the nervous and muscular systems were attended by corresponding

changes in the materials composing these structures, thus rendering it probable that the two were intimately connected and even dependent on each other, in the relation of cause and effect.

The phenomena, during the active stages of tetanus point to a change in the electric conditions and relations of the nerves and muscles. In the discussion of the last proposition I have endeavored to present a clear and concise view of the remarkable investigations and theory of the German philosopher, Dubois-Reymond, who, by a series of experiments of wonderful delicacy, accuracy, and variety, has established the important fact that both nerves and muscles have their own electrical currents, which vary in direction and character with the various muscular and nervous actions, and has clearly established that the nervous and muscular forces are either electricity or some modification of this force.

I have also presented the theory of De-La-Rive, which embraces that of Dubois-Reymond, extends and perfects it, and is also based upon the experiments and physiological labors of Matteuci, Humboldt, Nottli, Marianni, and others. This discussion will be found at the close of the manuscript.

I am now engaged on the investigation of the typhoid fever of the camp. The investigation has been and will be pursued in a manner similar to that followed in this case of tetanus. In the course of three months I hope to complete a manuscript volume of several hundred pages on this disease, which will be transmitted to the surgeon-general. The subject is of great importance and worthy of the most careful study and investigation. When this is complete, I will then turn my attention to intermittent, remittent, and congestive, or pernicious, fevers, which will be investigated and treated in a similar manner.

Any suggestions with reference to the method and objects of the investigations which the surgeon-general may think proper to offer, will be carefully considered and acted upon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) JOSEPH JONES,
Surgeon, P. A. C. S.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
RICHMOND, VA., February 17, 1863.

SURGEON JOSEPH JONES,
AUGUSTA, Ga.

SIR: Your letter of the 10th inst., as well as the report in the case of tetanus, has been received. The

opportunities now offered of making a free and thorough investigation as to the nature, history, and pathology of fevers caused by animal effluvia, contra-distinguished from those produced by vegetable exhalations, or malaria, should not be permitted to pass unimproved. Your attention, therefore, is especially called to this class of disease, and you are directed to make a thorough investigation. Besides the mere satisfaction, in a scientific point of view, the results are likely to be of the greatest practical importance to the army.

If additional medical aid is necessary for this purpose, you will communicate the fact to this office.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

S. P. MOORE,

Surgeon-General C. S. A.

AUGUSTA, GA., June 28, 1863.

S. P. MOORE.

Surgeon-General, C. S. A.

Richmond, Va.

SIR: Accompanying this I send the surgeon-general, by express, the first manuscript volume of my labors, conducted in accordance with the order issued from the surgeon-general's office, Richmond, Va., February 17, 1863.

Since the receipt of this order I have devoted all the time not absolutely demanded for the discharge of my duties as surgeon, to the investigation of the class of diseases indicated, and this volume contains the results of my labors. In the prosecution of these investigations the inductive method has been followed. The phenomena and individual facts have been observed and recorded, and general principles established by the analysis, comparison, classification, and combination of the facts and phenomena.

If the surgeon-general will furnish an order sufficiently definite and liberal, the present report will be preliminary to a more extended investigation of disease in the different divisions of the army of the Confederate States of America, by which we hope to establish facts and principles of universal application and permanent value. By such an extended study of the diseases of armies under all the variations of climate and soil, and under all the varied circumstances of toil, exposure, and changes of diet, to which the Confederate soldiers are subject, we may hope to settle definitely their true characters and modes of treatment.

From the complicated nature of the phenomena demanding investigations, as well as from the peculiari-

ties of the struggle in which we are now engaged with a powerful enemy, who has blockaded our ports and thus cut off from us implements and materials of research so valuable in modern inquiries in all the departments of chemical, physical, physiological, and pathological science, many embarrassments have arisen, and will continue to arise, and great expenditures of health and strength have been and will continue to be necessary in the prosecution of these investigations, which have been conducted by the author, in addition to the full discharge of his duties as surgeon.

* * * * *

The cases presented in the present report were selected from more than one thousand cases treated and carefully observed by the author; and in addition to those treated immediately by himself, in person, several hundred additional cases were examined in the various hospitals and camps of the military department of Georgia, South Carolina, and conferences held with the surgeons and other medical officers.

The attention of the surgeon-general is respectfully directed to the colored drawings of the liver, intestines, and typhoid deposit in the so-called camp fever.

It is of the utmost importance to the value and accuracy of these investigations that the post mortem examinations should be extended as far as possible. . . .

I would still further direct the attention of the surgeon-general to the important fact established by these researches, that the disease which has proved most fatal to our soldiers in the military district of Georgia and South Carolina, has been typhoid fever, and that no case of true typhus fever has occurred in this department. . . . The importance of this fact cannot be over-estimated in its bearing on treatment. . . . As the treatment of typhus and of typhoid fever is different, purgatives being borne well in the former, whilst they are destructive in the latter, it is of great moment to our army that typhus fever should be recognized and investigated. . . . The perfection of such investigations will clearly depend in great measure on the number of cases subjected to analysis. It is well known that fevers arising from animal exhalations are dependent on certain circumstances and causes, which are far more limited in their operation than those producing the various kinds of climatic fevers. As, therefore, the class of diseases indicated in the order of the surgeon-general are necessarily circumscribed within narrow limits and dependent upon peculiar circumstances and causes, their full and free investigation will

necessitate occasional change on the part of the investigator. The true character of these diseases, as well as the great fact of their uniformity or diversity, of their contagion or non-contagion, of their relations to climate and soil, as well as the circumstances most favorable to their production or spread, can only be determined by an examination of their various phenomena in different localities, and by the careful experience and testimony of numerous intelligent observers widely separated.

During the past seven years I have been conducting investigations similar to those now indicated, upon the diseases of the climate of the Southern states, and have endeavored not only to determine their true characters and to illustrate their phenomena, but also to investigate their relations to climate, soil, and waters, and their relations to well-known poisons. At the commencement of the present struggle, I volunteered my services as a private of cavalry; my medical services were immediately required after my enlistment, and during a period of six months' active service I was able to treat about six hundred cases of disease in one of the most unhealthful regions of the Southern Confederacy, and after entering the medical service as a surgeon, I have been engaged up to the present time in the investigation of the class of diseases indicated in the surgeon-general's order. The views, therefore, which I express in the accompanying manuscript volume, are the results of much labor. In conclusion allow me to express my high appreciation of the honor conferred, and to testify my urgent desire to fulfil the high and responsible trust by every means in my power.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) JOSEPH JONES,
Surgeon P. A. C. S.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
WAR DEPARTMENT, SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
RICHMOND, VA., July 15, 1863.

SURGEON JOSEPH JONES,

SIR: Your letter of the 2d inst. is received, and also the first volume of your "Report on Tetanus and Typhoid Fever." The pressing importance of a vast variety of official engagements has so far prevented only a brief and desultory investigation of the contents of the latter; but even with this, evidences enough are discovered to justify the belief that much very valuable acquisition to the science and art of medicine is contained therein.

For the zeal, untiring energy, patient and laborious industry therein displayed, you are entitled to and are hereby tendered the thanks of this department. . . . It would be well to visit the hospital in this department (Virginia) at once.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) S. P. MOORE,
Surgeon-General C. S. A.

The orders regulating the investigations of Surgeon Joseph Jones were enlarged by the surgeon-general of the Confederate army so as to admit him into any army, camp, or fortified town within the bounds of the Confederate States. His investigations were conducted in the army of Northern Virginia, in the army of Tennessee, in the great hospitals of Richmond, Va., Charlottesville, Staunton, Gordonsville, and Charleston, S. C., Savannah, Augusta, Atlanta, and Macon, Ga., and other places. He also investigated the nature of the diseases which proved so fatal to the Federal prisoners, and suggested measures for the relief of this unfortunate class of sufferers. He especially investigated the condition of Belle Isle, Libby Prison, Richmond, and Andersonville, Ga., where he camped upon the ground and made a thorough investigation of the diseases of these prisoners, illustrating his investigations by numerous and careful post mortems. The United States government after the close of the war seized the papers of Dr. Jones relating to Andersonville, and forced him to attend the trial of Wirz in the old capitol building in Washington. Dr. Jones established by conclusive evidence that the suffering of the Federal prisoners was due to several causes, but chiefly to the fact that the government of the United States and its representatives stopped the exchange of prisoners, and forced the Confederate government to sustain over two hundred thousand prisoners, the Confederate government being thus deprived of more than two hundred thousand veteran soldiers.

The investigations of Dr. Jones upon the prisoners confined at Andersonville, Ga., were pub-

lished by the United States government, and by the United States sanitary commission.

In 1868, Dr. Jones was elected to the chair of chemistry and clinical medicine in the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana, and became attached to the Charity Hospital, as visiting physician, serving in this capacity until 1894.

In April, 1880, he was elected president of the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana, his term of service expiring in April, 1884. During the four years, 1880-'84, forty-four hundred and thirty-six vessels, more than half of them being ocean steamers, were inspected by the officers of the board of health at the Mississippi Quarantine station, together with their crews and passengers, and during the same period four hundred and seventy-nine vessels from ports infected with yellow-fever were held in the Mississippi quarantine, disinfected and fumigated. At the Atchafalaya and at the Rigolettes quarantine stations an equally large amount of work was accomplished, making in all about ten thousand vessels and not less than one hundred and fifty thousand passengers inspected and disinfected.

The labors of Dr. Joseph Jones in Louisiana, during the years 1880-'83, established the fact that yellow-fever can be excluded from New Orleans and the Mississippi valley by a rigid and effective quarantine; that yellow-fever is not indigenous to the Mississippi valley; that quarantine, to be effective, must embrace not merely inspection and detention, but discharge of infected cargoes, thorough ventilation, fumigation and disinfection by the recognized methods of sanitary science. After a continuous battle of four years' duration, in which the vast maritime interests of the state and the power and influence of the wealthiest railroad and steamship companies in the southwestern states were marshalled against the legally constituted health authorities, the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana achieved a memorable and signal victory on January 21, 1884, in

the complete and triumphant vindication of its efforts to exclude foreign pestilence from the Mississippi valley by the highest tribunal of the state of Louisiana. The decision of the supreme court of Louisiana is of interest and importance to every state and municipal government in the United States of America, for the doctrine is hereby clearly recognized that the establishment and enforcement of quarantine by individual states is not a regulation of commerce in violation of the provisions of the Federal constitution, but is a legitimate exercise of the police powers of the individual states which are inalienable. The supreme court of the United States, in the appeal which was taken by Morgan's Louisiana & Texas Railroad and Texas Steamship Company, from the decision of the supreme court of Louisiana, sustained the decision on January 21, 1886, and thus the views and actions of Dr. Joseph Jones, in his official capacity as president of the board of health, are now upheld by the finding of the highest tribunal of the Republic.

In 1870, Dr. Jones visited Europe, examined the art galleries, hospitals, and archeological collections of London, Paris, Edinburgh, and Liverpool.

Dr. Jones's life has been devoted to the original investigations and labors in the wards of the civil and military hospitals, in the camp and military prison, and in the discharge of his professional and official duties. The character of his work may be gathered from the titles of some of his more important writings,—“Abstract of Experiments upon the Physical Influences by Living and Inorganic Membranes upon Chemical Substances,” October 25, 1854; “Observations on the Kidney and Urine in Different Animals,” *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, 1855; “Digestion of Albumen and Flesh, and the Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Pancreas,” *Medical Examiner*, 1856; “Physical, Chemical and Physiological Investigations upon the Vital Phenomena, Structure and Offices of the Solids and Fluids.

of Animals," an inaugural dissertation for the degree of M. D., in the University of Pennsylvania, *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, July, 1856; "Experimental Investigations Instituted with a View to Ascertain the Action of Saline Solutions of Different Densities upon Living Animals, and also the Reciprocal Action Through Dead Animal Membranes upon Serum, Water, and Saline Solutions," *ibid.*, 1856; Investigations, Chemical and Physiological, Relative to Certain American Vertebrates," *Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge*, March, 1856; "Case of Diabetes Mellitus," *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1858; "Suggestions on Medical Education," introductory lecture to the course of 1859-'60, Medical College of Georgia, published by the class; "Observations on Malarial Fever," *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, June, 1858; "Observations on the Chemical, Physical, and Pathological Phenomena of Malarial Fever," *Transactions of the American Medical Association*, 1859; "First Report to the Cotton Planters of Georgia, on the Agricultural Resources of Georgia," Cotton Planters' Convention, 1860; "Indigenous Remedies of the Southern Confederacy Which May Be Employed in the Treatment of Malarial Fever," *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, September, 1861; "Sulphate of Quinia Administered During Health, the Best Means of Preventing Chill and Fever, Bilious Fever, and Congestive Fever, in those Exposed to the Unhealthy Climate of the Rich Low Lands and Swamps of the Southern Confederacy," *ibid.*, August, 1861; "Quinine as a Prophylactic to Malarial Fever," being an appendix to the third report on "Typhoid and Malarial Fevers," delivered to the surgeon-general of the late Confederate army, August, 1864, *Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, 1867; "Researches on Spurious Vaccination and the Abnormal Phenomena Accompanying and Following Vaccination in the Confederate army during the Recent American Civil

War, 1861-'65," *ibid.*, 1867; "Inquiries on Hospital Gangrene," *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1869; "Explorations and Researches Concerning the Destruction of the Aboriginal Inhabitants of America by Various Diseases, as Syphilis, Pestilence, Malarial Fever and Smallpox," *ibid.*, 1878; "Observations on the Losses of the Confederate Armies from Battle Wounds and Disease During the American Civil War, 1861-'65, with Investigations upon the Number and Character of the Diseases Supervening upon Gun-shot Wounds," *Richmond and Louisville Medical Journal*, October, 1869, to June, 1870; "Outlines of Observations on Hospital Gangrene as It Manifested Itself in the Confederate Armies During the American Civil War, 1861-'65," Transactions of the American Medical Association, 1869; "Mollities Ossium, Malakosteia, Osteomalacia, Osteo-Sarcosis, Rachitismus Adulorum, Rickets, or Softening of the Bones in the Adult," *ibid.*, 1869; "Memoranda of University Clinics and Charity Hospital," 1869; "Clinical Memoranda, Diseases of the Heart, Liver, Kidneys, and Malarial Fever as a Symptom of Various Diseases," 1870-'71; "Contributions to the Natural History of Specific Yellow-fever," *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, January, 1874, *et seq.*; "A Table of the Comparative Pathology of Malarial and Yellow Fevers," Transactions of the Louisiana State Medical Society, 1879; "Medico-Legal Evidence Relating to the Detection of Human Blood, Presenting the Alterations Characteristic of Malarial Fever, on the Clothing of a Man Accused of the Murder of Narcisse Arrieux, October 26, 1876;" "Observations on the African Yaws and on Leprosy, in Insular and Central America," *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1877; "Explorations of the Aboriginal Remains of Tennessee," *Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge*, October, 1876; "Investigations upon the Nature, Causes, and Treatment of Hospital Gangrene as It

Prevailed in the Confederate Armies, 1861-'65," illustrated with colored plates; "Numerous Cases of Gangrene, also Analyses of Blood and Urine, and Post-mortem Examinations in Hospital Gangrene, Pyaemia, Small-pox, Dysentery, Malarial Fever, etc.," Sanitary Memoirs of the United States Sanitary Commission, New York; "Investigations upon the Diseases of the Federal Prisoners Confined in Camp Sumter, Andersonville, Georgia," *ibid.*; "Observations on Koch's Lymph," New Orleans, 1891; "Official Report," *United Confederate Veterans*, June, 1890; "Brief Report of the Proceedings of the United Confederate Veterans, and Especially of the Veteran Confederate Surgeons," July 2, 1890; and "Official Correspondence, 1890-'92," 1893. The great work, embracing the chief labors of the life of Dr. Joseph Jones, in which he is still engaged, is his "Medical and Surgical Memoirs," containing investigations on the geographical distribution, causes, nature, relations, and treatment of various diseases, 1855-'93.

That Dr. Jones has felt a lively interest, and been an earnest student of American archeology, appears from the fact that he was the author of "Explorations of the Aboriginal Remains in Tennessee," while his collection of archeological remains contains specimens from Mexico and Peru.

In 1869, Dr. Jones took an active part in the foundation of the Southern Historical Society, was elected its first secretary and treasurer, and wrote its constitution and plan of action. He is a member of the American Medical Association, 1859-'95; of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; vice-president of the Numismatic Society of Pennsylvania; honorary member of the American Antiquarian Society; honorary member of the Historical Society of Georgia; honorary fellow of the Virginia Medical Society; honorary member of the Physicians and Surgeons of Philadelphia; member of the Louisiana Medical So-

ciety; visiting physician to the New Orleans Charity Hospital, 1870-'94; president of the Louisiana Medical Society, 1885-'86; president of the Board of Health of Louisiana, 1880-'84; president of XIV Section, Public and International Hygiene, Ninth International Medical Congress, Washington, D. C., 1887; appointed surgeon-general of the United Confederate Veterans by Gen. John B. Gordon, in 1889.

Dr. Jones married, first, October 26, 1858, Miss Caroline S. Davis, of Augusta, Ga., who died in 1868; married, second, June 21, 1870, Miss Susan Rayner, daughter of Rev. Leonidas Polk, bishop of Louisiana, and lieutenant-general in the Confederate States army. Dr. Jones has six surviving children: Charles Colcock, Hamilton Polk, Caroline, Mary Cuthbert, Frances Devereux, and Laura Maxwell. His eldest son, Dr. Stanhope Jones, died in 1894, leaving three children.

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