
APPENDIX C

The Bird S. Jones Papers
University of Texas at Austin
Center for American History
Barker Library

Gift of Damages Petty, Ida, Louisiana, June 7, 1936

Letter 1: 1825, March 23. Agreement between Thos. I. Smith and H.L. Gray to establish and keep a house of entertainment in Brownsville, Haywood County, Tennessee.

Letter 2: 1832, April 15. A. T. Smith, Pope County, A. T. to Guy or Thomas I. Smith, Durhamville (Lauderdale Co.), Tennessee. Urges them to come out where he is to settle.

Letter 3: 1833, April 13. Henry Jones, New Orleans, to Bird S. Jones, Poplar Corner, Madison County, Tennessee. Offers him employment as a log buyer.

- Letter 4: 1835, June 7. Thomas I. Smith, Cole Creek, to Bird S. Jones, Poplar Corner, Tennessee.
About going on a land prospecting trip to Red River.
- Letter 5: 1835, July 14. Thomas I. Smith, Cole Creek, Tennessee to same. Trip to Red River
delayed.
- Letter 6: 1838, Nov. 15. Thomas Crutcher, Red River County, (Texas) to Bird Jones, Cherryville,
Tennessee. Describes the land, land prices, advantages and drawbacks—
very pleased with his location.
- Letter 7: 1839, Aug. 26. Thomas I. Smith, Lauderdale County (Tennessee) to Bird S. or Guy S.
Jones, Cherryville, Tennessee. Has just returned from Texas. Will tell them
about Texas when they come to see him.
- Letter 8: 1841, Nov. 28. Jones S. Jones, Gay Hill, Washington County (Texas) to Bird S. Jones,
Cherryville, Tennessee. Death of his brother Henry, and of his uncle
Abram, who was killed by Indians three months ago. Prospect good for
farmers. Guy has just arrived.
- Letter 9: 1845, Nov. 28. Thomas I. Smith, Chambers Creek, Robinson (Robertson) County,
(Texas) to Bird S. Jones, Cherryville, Tennessee. Urges him to come
to Texas. John is here and is pleased.

- Letter 10: 1847, July 1. Jones S. Jones, Washington County, Texas to Bird S. Jones, Cherryville, Tennessee. Reports death of Thomas Webb. Tells how his wife became cripple. Crop prospects are fine. John McClellan visited him; he lives near Thomas I. Smith, who has just returned from the Mexican War. News of relatives and acquaintances who live in Texas: Bird Pullen, Guy Stokes, Uncle McClellan, Bob Parks, Homer Thrall, Alfred B. F. Kerr.
- Letter 11: 1847, Sept. 21. B. B. Smith, Ripley, Mississippi to Bird S. Jones, Cherryville, Tennessee. His eyesight is poor. General Bradford has returned from the Mexican War. Saw Tom at Comargo. (Thomas I. Smith is a brother of B. B. Smith). Social news.
- Letter 12: 1848, May 2. B. B. Smith, Ripley, Mississippi to Bird S. Jones, Cherryville, Tennessee. Reports the death of his brother Thomas I. Smith at Austin, Texas, March 30, 1848. Gives news of family and connections.
- Letter 13: 1848, June 12. B. B. Smith, Ripley, Mississippi to Bird S. Jones, Cherryville, Tennessee. Personal and local news. P.S. says Thos. I. Smith died at Houston.
- Letter 14: 1848, Aug. 5. John S. Jones, Montville, Washington County, Texas to his brother Bird

S. Jones, Cherryville, Haywood County, Tennessee. Uncle Thomas

Smith died March 30, at Austin. Cousin Jane Mitchel died June 14. Bird

Pullen lives near Houston; his brother Thomas is dead. Family news.

Letter 15: 1857, May 25. John S. Jones, Washington County, Texas to Bird S. Jones, Cherryville, Tennessee. Crop prospects are poor. His health is poor. Has not heard from relatives. News of McClellan, Jeff Wilson, Bird Pullen, Texas Democrats, Nat Terry, Sam Houston.

Letter 16: 1862, Feb 3. John S. and Mary Jones, Washington County, Texas to Bird S. Jones. Tells after affect of the war, gives family news, etc.

Letter 1

Outside: Agreement

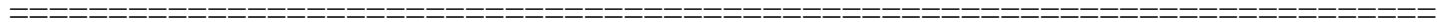
Between Thos. I.

Smith and H. L. Gray

Thomas I. Smith and Henry L. Gray Covenant and agree each with the other to establish and Keep up a house of entertainment in the town of Brownsville, County of Haywood (Tennessee) on the following conditions, Viz, the said Smith and Gray will put or build on No. 19 and 35 such buildings as shall be suitable at the present time for such an establishment and will each bear and pay an equal part for the building and improving of said lots and all things necessary for the maintaining and Keeping a good and respectable house of public entertainment in said town of Brownsville. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 23rd March 1825.

Thos. I. Smith

H. L. Gray



Letter 2

Outside: Scott?(Smith?) A.T.

25

Apr 17th

Mesr.(?) Guy or Thomas I. Smith

Durhamville

Tipton County

Tennessee

Other outside: Dr. E. D. Tienner(?)

Upside down: Tipton County

Pope county A.T.

April 15th 1832

Dear Guy I once more take my pen to rite you. I think it the third time I have rote you and Tom and has never recieved a word from any of my connections except Bird. The cause is unnown (unknown) to me without (unless) you think your selves above me. Stokes (Jordan Stokes, his brother-in-law) has rote to Bill Parks (husband of Jordan Stokes' daughter Hannah) 2 or 3 times and never mentioned me till the last time he rote and the last line of his leter (letter) mearly (merely) said give his respects to me after naming every person else hear (here) of his acquaintance first then mentioning me for which I dont thank him for because

if I cant be first with the except of his daughter (Hannah Stokes Parks and niece of the writer) I wood (would) thank him to forget me. I rote you and Thomas to find out where you had got to. I directed my leters (letters) to Randolph and have since understood by Bird that you had moved to Hogshead old place where you will all be sure to dye (die?). Tom rote me last spring he wood (would) be hear (here) this fall past but has failed and he wood (would) for Sam Hays and Hilary Herring (?) telling me that he is in new business and I now (know) Guy you will come. If you will come you will never rue the trip for I will show you the best country you ever saw and the verry country you and Thomas must come to for if you will come and get a start of stalk you will never work a day and the like of health I have never seen since I left White county and this is as good as that and it is astonishing that men of sense will live in that dammed hole that you and Thomas does. I am sorry to think that you will be so much oversited (oversighted?) in you oppinion (opinion). Give my most dearest love to Sister Polly (their sister Polly Smith Hogshead) and Rhoda (their sister Rhoda Smith Pullen?) and children and tell them that may God help them forever. We had a daughter born on the 4th of March. My family and John's (thier brother John Ingles Smith) is all well. My children is the best look(ing) children you ever saw. Look like the blood will burst out of the faces and tell Polly that my little Rhoda is the liveliest child in one thousand miles of this place. Bird is the best gram (grand?) child in the Territory and is ruining for the want of schooling and I have no chance to give it to him. We have plenty schools but I cant git him to ——(?) without I had money. I have plenty of property but I have nary money and in consequence of that I cant school him. Give my love to all of my connections there and reserve for you self my best love and respect.

A.T. Smith

Direct you leter (letter) to Spodra(?) Bluff Pope county and rite quick and come quick.

A.T.

=====Letter 3

Outside: Henry Jones

April Paid

To

Mr. Bird S. Jones

Poplar Corner

Madison County

Tennessee

New Orleans April 15th 1833

My Dear Friend—

This makes the third time I have written to you on the subject of Cypress timber and Capt. John D. Orr has also written to you in reply to your inquiries of the 7th of Oct 1832, but neither of us have received an answer from you.

Mr. Reynis the owner of the saw mill three or four miles below this City called on me to day and requested me most particularly to write to you immediately & tell you that he will employ you by the year and give you \$50 per month to remain there & purchase timber and \$25 for every good raft of Cypress timber that you may have delivered him at this place. He will moreover furnish you with funds to purchase timber when he finds by your conduct that confidence can be placed in you as an upright & industrious man.

I should suppose that you & William might between you attend to this offer and make money by it. Mr. Reynis is so well please with Capt. John D. Orr's conduct & talents as I had some hand in getting him in his employment he has great faith in my judgement of honest men.

Give brother William and all his family my best love & respects. I hope you may make money by this proposition of Mr. Reynas (sic). your answer to it is required immediately. Yours most respectfully

Henry Jones

Letter 4

Outside: Durhamville Ten.

June 17

T.I. Smith

Cole Creek

7th June 1835

Dear Bird I arived (arrived) home on third day last after a hard and laborious trip. On my return I met with John C. McLemore at Memphis. He has imployed (employed) me to gow (go) on the head waters of Red River to examin (examine) land for him. He told me to look out for a confidential friend to gow (go) with me. He will find a ——(?) and out fit pay all expences ——(?) 25 dollars per month. He is to give me 60 dollar and do proportion of the land. If you can gow (go) you shal (shall) share a part of my land profits. That country is in high respects than any other at this time. McLemore wished as little said about it as posible (possible). He will also furnish me with money to buy settlements on vacant land. If you gow (go) and we should like we would have (?) a home (?) to gow (go) to. I am meeting (?) him on the 3rd or 4th of July at Memphis to receive (?) my outfit. I expect to start the last of July if you have an opertunity (opportunity) by private conveyance write to me. If not write me at Memphis by the 3rd of July. Let Bird Smith know that McLemore will call on him in September and they will come on to Red River on their way to Texas. All is well. My love to Patsey and the cubs.

Yours affectionately

Thos. I. Smith

Letter 5

Outside: Mr. Bird S. Jones

Poplar corners

Madison county

Tennessee (?)

(Also written: T.I. Smith)

Cole Creek

14th July 1835

Dear Bird I have just returned Memphis where I parted with McLemore. he is unable to start me as soon as he would wish for the want of funds. he has gone on to Pontatock where he thinks he will get what he wants. if he is disappointed then he will (be) compelled to go to Nashville. he is anxious for us to be off but cannot go with less than two or three Thousand Dolla(s). what lots he sold amounts to 18030 dollars on a credit. You will (hole in letter) find inclosed (sic) a letter to Genl Bradford which I wish you to deliver as you (fold in letter) and is he pays you the money I wish you to pay Joseph Cock the amount he is bound for on my account for a proven account Jas. Clark left a gainst me \$15.50 and cost. pay your father and after retaining any you need if there is any left (fold in letter) you will have to apply to McIvers to get the time interest is comeing from. if Bradford cannot tell Judgement was got in 1826 for \$83 and some cts.

Yours affectionately

Thos. I. Smith

Letter 6

Outside: H. Crutchson

Texas

Mr. Bird Jones

Cherryville

Tennessee

Dear Sir

Red River County

Texas 15 Nov 1838

I have seen your letter to William Crutcher in which you request him to give you such information of this County as he may possess. William having been called out to defend (defend) our Frontier against some Indians that are Emboding (embodying) and occasionally (occasionally) stealing & Killing where they can Slyly do so. he requested me to Answer your letter. as to the Lands in Texas there is the finest Bodies of Good farming Land that I ever have seen. particularly the Soil is well Adapted to the Growth of Cotton. you can have Cotton Rows from One to three miles Long and in some parts particularly in the Prairies you can have them ten miles Long. it would be quite common to get from 500 to 100 Acres in a field if necessary. lying as well as you could desire the County in General is not level yet this is gradually undulating and is Sufficiently Broken to carry off the water. in some parts it is the best mountains. there is a proportion of the County that have clear runing (sic) Branches at sll Seasons of the year Supported by never fading springs that Boil up through white sand and is as clear as Crystal. Since the Land office was opened I have seen Certificates sold as low as ten cents per acre. indeed the Common price has been twenty five Cents. I have been Employed in the Office by the Clerk for several months last spring and while there I purchased a third of a League for \$300—and paid most of it in property. You can get Land here On the best terms and in some Cases put in property such as Homes, Waggons etc. I arrived in this County in September 1837. Just time Enough to Entitle me to 1280 Acres of Land for my headright. Nancy Hale 1280 Acres—McWhorter 1280—Wm. H. Moore 1280. Wm. Crutcher was here at the Declaration of Independance and he has one third of a League. I have given you the out lines of some of the good properties here. I will now turn over and State some of the difficulties. in the first place there are fragments of tribes of Indians on our Frontiers that deters persons from Settling and our Congress stoped (stopped) the Donation law which has prevented thousands from coming. Aliens cannot hold Land here. Government Recieves nothing for fees on their Land but Gold

and Silver or Texas money. When I mentioned having claims ——(?) recollect Government have three fees which will amount to Something like \$150 on a League and so in proportion for a less quantity. as to health Keep off the Main River and I have no doubt in saying it is healtier then the District (Western District of Tennessee). my children have been healthier here than they have been for ten years. all but Wm. and he has had so many hard spells of sickness that I fear he never will be stout. again my health is unusually Good. Our Congress is now in Session. it is believed they will pass a Donation Law which if they do and our Country is delivered from the Encroachment of Indians etc (?) we shall have more agreeable times. there is nothing necessary here but a Dince (dense) population of Good Farmers to make it one of the most desirable places known. it is the only retreat left for weathly farmers to work their hands to advantage. mean time poor people that have acquired fine Bodies of Land will Sell their Lands for something Else that they may want. I would advise you to come and see this County before you think of moving. I have given you as candid (?) account of things as I can. I acted as Assessor in this County which is about 150 miles in length in the months of July August and September. my living naturally called me through every part of it and I can assure you I never ha (ve) see(n) such a prospect for Land and Range of Every Kind. I am Still on the Stage of action can go about and do business according to my chance. I have done well here. I have Saved 2756 Acres of Land—have made about \$500, in Cash which has enabled me to move my children out and Support my widow Daughter Since we came and not withstanding corn has been 75 cents & a Dollar per Bushel. Beef four Dollars & ct (?). Pork from 8.1.10 dollars as yet we have not Suffered from Something to Eat one hour. Give my respects to all the friends and your Father & family.

Yours with respect

Thomas Crutcher*

*A Thomas Crutcher was involved in a land transaction in White Co., Tennessee in 1816 which was witnessed by John (Ingles?) Smith among others.

=====Letter 7

Outside: Ripley Tn

August 27

Bird S. or Guy S. Jones

Cherryville

Haywood County

Tenn

Outside (on other side of folded sheet)

Uncle thomas Smith im thescas (?) at home. Martha Jones at hom on the eleventh of July. Peine (?) S. Arnold Mary Mander (?) Martha Hening (?) Abram S.(?) William Jones wish William(?) Bob it(?) S. Jones B R (writing very poor and childlike.)

Cole Creek August 26th 1839

Dear boyes (boys)

I returned from Texas on Thursday last. I lef(t) John well and well pleased with Texas. He owns one section of land and got 75 dollars for joining a volunteer company for three months and his Capt. stationed him at my house. he was not one day from home only when we would gow a buffalow hunting. I will say nothing to you a bout Texas till I see you. come and see me as horse and self is both broke down. sent word to distiller Arnold I want to see hom. My respects to All.

Yours affectionately,

Thos. I. Smith

Letter 8:

Outside: Mr. Bird S. Jones

Cherryville Post Office

Haywood, Ten.

Washington Co. Nov. 28th—1841

Mr. B. S. Jones.

Dear Brother although it has been some time since I recieved (sic) a letter from you and although I answered the only one that I have recieved (sic) from you soon after the reception of it yet fearing you may not have received it and as I have an opportunity of sending a letter by a Gentleman going to the States I avail my self of the pleasing task of once more communicating with you by letter in compliance (sic) with your request. it affords me much pleasure to converse with you by letter as we are deprived of the pleasure of going so personally. I should be very glad to see you and Sister Patsy but circumstances will not admit of it at present. we must therefore content ourselves with a social intercourse by letter. what a source of pleasure it is to be able to hold converse with each other in this way though separated by so great a distance. it afforded me much pleasure my Dear Brother to hear from you. the letter which I recieved (sic) was dated Nov. 14th 1840. I am much obliged to you for your advice and I hope that my future conduct will prove to you the estimate I place uppon (sic) it.

I was truly sorry to hear of the death of our poor Brother Henry (Henry Jones?) but we must submit to the dispensations of providence and endeavour (sic) to profit by them. I was also sorry to hear of Father looseing (sic) the sight of one of his eyes. I am much obliged to you for the information about our connexions (sic) generally. I presume you have probably heard of the untimely death of Uncle Abram Smith (Abraham Trigg Smith) who was killed about three months ago on an Indian expedition while in the act of charging on some Indians who were conceled (sic) amongst some rocks about two hundred miles from home. Aunt Alcy (Elsie/Alcy W. Parks Smith) took it very hard. She is now living with Uncle Thomas Smith. She is well. Sister Rhody Ann* is going to school. She professed religion at a camp meeting about a year ago and joined the Methodist Church. the conversion were all usually well about a month ago. I have not heard from them since. I presume you have heard that Ann Stokes (youngest daughter of Jordan and Ann H. Smith Stokes) is married. She married Wm. Wilkinson from Obion Co., Tennessee. they live near Uncle Thomas Smith. Ross How (William Ross Howe?) lives there two (sic). he has a fine Son about three months old. Guy Stokes (son of Jordan and Ann H. Smith Stokes) is living on the Frontier. he has no stationary home. he was with Uncle Abram when he was killed. I made a verry (sic) good crop this year. I have lately moved on a piece of Land of

my own near my Mother in Law (Lucy Thomson Kerr) which I have commenced improving. I have verry (sic) good Land and iff (sic) I have good luck I have no fear of making a good Living for we certainly have one of the finest cotton countries in the world. my Brother in Law Wm. P. Kerr who lives near me made verry (sic) fair Cotton this year (not with standing the drouth (sic) which we had) by just planting betwen (sic) the corn in laying by the crop and never even thined (sic) it. Crops are a good all (?) shortened by the drouth (sic) but I think there will be corn enough for the consumption of the country besides a good deal (?) of cotton of the finest quality. it has been one of the finest falls for Saveng (?) Cotton I have ever seen. we have a fine daughter now. Seven months old. we call her Amanda Jane. I wish you to inform me if you have heard from Uncle Henry Jones. how he is doing and of our connexions (sic) generally. I wish you to come to this country and look at it and I have no doubt you will like it well enough to move to it. tell Jack Arnold that Helen Rebecca is well and growing finely.

I have no verry (sic) important news. our congress is now in session but it has not passed any acts of importance as yet that I have heard of. I have been informed that they were waiting for the arrival of General Sam Houston who is ReElected President of the Republic and will be Inaugurated into office (sic) on the first Monday in December. the People generally are looking forward to his administration for better times which are at present in a depressed condition. the many man Ret (?) particularly Gen. Burleston (Burlson) is our vice President. the aspect of our affairs with the Mexican Gov. is yet dubious. it is reported that San Ana (Santa Anna) is at the head of affairs and has promised to recognize our Independence which will make this one of the finest countries in the world for once we get a trade opened with that country we will have plenty of specie. with the exception of an occasional visit to the Frontiers by small parties of Indians on Stealing excursions we have genial peace and quiet. I must come to an end by requesting you to write to me often. Mary requests me to give her love to you and all our relations. Remember me to Father Brother Guy Brother Abram and all our dear relations and accept for yourself and Sister Patsey renewed assurances of my warmest esteem and Affection. I Remain your Affectionate Broter (sic) untill (sic) death.

John S. Jones

P.S. You will please write to me soon and direct your letters thus:

Mr. J. S. Jones Washington Co: Texas

Gay Hill Post Office

P S Dear Brother I resume the pleasing task again to inform you that Brother Guy (Guy Jones?) just arrived at my house before I had an opportunity of sending this letter and requests me to inform you that he has arrived safe and in good health. he was twenty three days on the road besides a few days that layed (sic) by on the road. he wishes me to say that he will write to you in a few days. Yours
John S. Jones

*Rhody Ann may be the author's sister; there was also a Rhoda, daughter of Abram and Alcy Smith and a Rhoda, daughter of Jordan and Ann (Smith) Stokes

Letter 9

Outside:

Mr. Bird S. Jones

Cherryville

Haywood County

Tennessee

(other writing on outside of sheet added later: "Col. T. I. Smith")

Chambers Creek Robertson County

28th Nov 1845

Dear Bird

I have not wrote you for a long time believing from every information that you would of been here long before this. I have dispared of your coming . John (John Smith Jones?) is now with me. he sayes you will come. he is hear for the purpose of selecting a place to move to which he had done a bout six miles from me. Though you have let the golden hour pass I think you had better come to Texas. our Buffalow has to give way to the overflowing imigration that is pooring in since anexation is certain. when I first setted this place two years a go the nearest settler was seventy miles below. now there (?) is a strong settlement for thirty miles a bove and one of the most public roads in Texas runs by me. we have weekly mail and a post office at my house. the people is generally poor but indepentent (sic). plenty to live on out of debt neither fears man or devil. John sayes you must come to this place. you can have any land I have, cross red (?) River as high up as you will can inquire for Dallas on Trinity. I live thirty five miles south of Dallas. write me as soon as you receive this. I am cooking dayly (daily) for Jack Arnold. Burel Hunter is in forty miles of me and is doing well. direct your letters to the a bove address. all is well at this time. Louisa (Thomas' second wife) joins in love to Patsey and the children.

Yours affectionately

Thos. I. Smith

*Mary Stokes, eldest child of Jordan and Ann H. (Smith) Stokes married an Arnold.

Letter 10

Outside: Mr. Bird S. Jones

Cherry ville PO.

Haywood CO

Tennessee

Washington Co., Texas. (sic) July 1st, 1847

Mr. Bird S. Jones

My Beloved Brother.

I received your kind letter dated the 2d of May. for which I return you my thanks. I was very anxious to hear from you. it is my painful duty to announce to you the death of Thomas Webb* which took place on the 11th of June. he lived and died a christian. he praised the Lord with his latest breath. was perfectly in his senses. he has left a bright testimony to the triumphs of Redeeming Grace and dying Love. O I wish you could have witnessed the tranquility (sic) of his mind. altho he suffered great pain owing to inflammation (sic) of the lungs and spleen. he was sick only a few days. but his mind was calm (calm) and happy. he spoke of death with the utmost composure and was anxious to depart and enter into that rest that remains for the people of God. a few minutes before he died he was asked if he felt happy to raise his hand. he immediately held up both his hands for some time. he made his will and left all he had to his two children. he left me his execution and their guardian and requested that I should raise them. I have wrote several letters to you. and mentioned the affliction of my wife (Mary Ann). but I suppose you have not received them. I will state to you the cause of her being a cipple (cripple). it was the fifth day after our youngest child was born. that she was taken with a severe atack (attack) of phlegmasha (phlegmatic) doloris or milk leg. So termed by the doctors. it settled in her left leg and caused a contraction of the sinews. and has become a confirmed cripple for life I think. she has to walk on crutches and can only get one foot to the ground. We have a helpless family but with the blessing of God we are getting a long very well. I have a splendid crop of corn and cotton. this has been a fine season for growing. there is as good prospect for an abundance as I ever saw. my cotton is the best I ever saw. the rows are six feet apart and it looks it is from six to eight feet high. I have ten acres of it. John McClellan (son of William B. and Rhoda Smith McClellan, and writer's first cousin) has just been down on a visit from the Trinity where he lives near Uncle Tom Smith's. he states that Uncle Thom (Thomas Ingles Smith) has just returned from an expedition to mexico. he is Major of all the Ranging companies. he and all the our connections are well. he owns a world of Land. Rhody Smith aunt Elsey's daughter (Rhoda Smith, daughter of Abram and Alcy Smith) is married to a man by the name of patrick. (Callaway Patrick). the(y) are all doing well. Charles Severe (?) is dead. he died on the Rio grande. Bird Pullen (son of Josiah and Rhoda Smith Pullen and writer's first cousin) lives in the lower part of this county. I heard from him about a month agoe. he joined a company and was going west. Guy Stokes (son of Jordan and Ann Stokes) is in this county and is horse racing for a living. he and his partners has won bewetwen (between) 3 and 4 thousand dollars this summer. my hopes are almost blasted about your coming to Texas. but I am

convinced if you come to see us, you will like this country. When Guy came here it was an unfavorable time as it was in the winter and he did not see much of the country. I know your country and this both and do sincerely think this much superior to that. if you could see this country I would be good for you. I am sorry to hear of sister patsy's bad health. Uncle McClellans (William B. McClellan and family) are well. he is doing well and has a fine crop. he has a mill and doing very well. he has a good stock of cattle and is in better circumstances now than I ever saw him. he says he intends writing to you.

Bob Parks (Robert Parks, brother of Alcy Parks Smith?) is dead and his family have gone back to arcansaw (Arkansas). I am glad to hear that you have bought gabe. If you were here you could make more in one year than you can there in 3. one of my neighbors paid for a negro fellow with cotton in one year. my Mother in laws family are well. her youngest daughter Amanda Kerr was Married a few days agoe to the Rev. H. L. Thrall** of the Texas conference. Alfred B. F. Kerr is now a traveling preacher. please give our love to Sister patsy. and my step mothers family and all inquiring friends. I want you to write as soon as you receive this and I will gladly pay the postage on your letters. I remane your most affectionate Brother.

J. S. Jones

PS Mary sends her love to you all. please excuse bad writing.

*Husband of Rhoda Ann Smith Jones, probably sister of John S. Jones

**H. L. Thrall married Susan McClellan and Abram McCain as well as Mattie A. McClellan and Charles H. Dunn.

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Letter 11

Outside: (Postal mark: Ripley, Mi Sep 21)

Bird S. Jones

Cherryville

Haywood County,

Tenn.

 Ripley Miss* 21st Sepr. 1847

Dear Bird

Your letter of the 10th of august came safe to hand and owing to my eye sight being so bad I have put off righting to you until now. you can readily judge of my fix. you can see I right bad & cannot keep the lines. I do all by guess work. your letter gives us much information & great satisfaction. you must right me often. I saw Genl. Bradford who was in the Mexican war. he returned home about the 4th of July & said he saw Tom at a place called Carmmargo (Camargo, Mexico) & that he commanded a Battallion of Texas dragoons. he thought his time there was not quite expired. I was glad to learn from your letter that he had got home safe. he has quit righting to me. I have rote him three letters and received no answer to either which I think very hard. he will not right me as we are the only two brothers left out of six for what cause he does not right I am unappraised. Bird I feel lonesome & dejected at this time. Margarett (the writer's daughter) is married & left us. she married a Mr. Griffin of this county. the other children at school in this place & we have no one with us at home but our two selves which ——(?) enough I can assure you. Margaine (Margaret, his daughter?) was to see us in august. she made but a short stay. I got a letter from them on satyrday (Saturday) informing me of their safe arrival at home and the particulars of a great many things that I was or felt some interest in. he says he met with Mr. Bard from Acola who stayed at his house all night and give him full history of the times on the river. he says your man Dickison never pretended to doe any thing towards saving my old place. let the time ——(?) that would bar the private ——(?) right to enter. Mr. Bill Beason went on ——(?) with a view that he could then hold it under the new presumption law. Col Fletcher pushed off to Helena fully elated that he would enter it & have it safe & snug to him self but low & behold when he made his application at the office door there had just left one certain William Strong who I know you have heard spoken of by the common name he have was old Bill Strong. he had just entered my old place & Buford's which was forfeited also & all the county assessed. I want you to tell your friend Dickison that he could of made more by selling to me. I have a prospect of selling my place here & probably will for \$2600 for a half section. if so it is unknown where I may locate again. Mr. Eastwood rights me that some scamp has lately passed through there country while he was out here claiming him self to be my Brother bearing the name of John I. Smith going to marry my acquaintances for half (?). this is not the first rascall that has attempted to impose in that way. right me often & give me the news generally. I expect friend Alford (Alfred?) has by this time met with his old associate Blount Corwell (?). he left here for Tennessee or Arkansas. Eastwood met him near the widow Lias (?) packing his child. alls well here. crops are fine. tell old Whig Whitaker not to take on so. his nominee Mr. Harris could not court (?) Col Embry's (?) oldest daughter. Mrs. Callicuter is dead. She died in Alabama & was brought to his house to be buried. give my love to your family and believe me to be as usual Your ever aft uncle

B B Smith

PS right where Bill Patton is

*Ripley is in Tippah County, Mississippi on the Tennessee border; it is almost due south of Brownsville, county seat of Haywood County, Tennessee.

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Letter 12

Outside: (Postal stamp: Ripley Mi* May 2)

(Postal stamp: 5)

Mr. Bird S. Jones

Cherryville

Haywood County

Tennessee

Ripley Miss. 2d of May 1848

Dear Bird

I again sit down to right you the second time since your last letter to me but alas It is sorrowful tidings I have to impart to you. grieved and distressed I am for the loss of my Brothers & Sisters that seems allmost (sic) constantly to appear leave me in a much depressed state of mind. It was but a short time since I relieved a letter from poor Thomas. his letter was dated at Austin the 10th of March last. the first I had from him in 4 years. he rote to me in such a lively strain that he was in perfect good health & his wife had a fine Boy and called Its name Tom. but oh Bird what was my distress when It was pointed out to me by Genl. Bradford last week here at court an extract from the Houston Telegraph published in the Memphis Eagle where It says died in austin on the 30th of March last Thomas I. Smith a revolutionary soldier of Texas and frontier

citizen. that is all It says. the circumstances of his righting to me from there on the 10th seems to me to be conclusive evidence of the facts. he said in his letter that he was resolved to come & see me this summer as he had dispared (despaired) of my ever coming to Texas. poor fellow he was called off when a broad. he was denighed (denied) the satisfaction of dying at home. all you know of the mail part of my family but my self I have nothing more of great interest to right you. I got a letter from Susy a short time since. alls well. I also got one from Uncle Coutcher. he speaks of several deaths in his family. Moors & his wife and some children. William had just left for Texas the day before he rote me which was a bout the 10th of last month. he the old man resides in Carrolton in this state and is now in his 79th year and is quite active. he is doing business for Wm Saunders. right me soon again (?). give me all the news. let me hear all the river news & else where. let Jack Arnold (husband? of Mary Stokes, daughter of Jordan and Ann) know in relation to poor Tom. I rote you in my last on several particulars & ——(?) your French Grays note for a \$11.00. he bound him self to me in honor to pay It. tell him I am kind verry (?) kindy (?) in deed. nothing has occured (sic) with us of any importance since my last. only the country seems to be in a state of improvement. the Telegraph wire runs right by my door from Memphia to tuscumbia. the news can be conveyed in a few minutes from one point to the other. Edwin had returned from the east and is now operating in this place with a beautiful stock of goods though there is large quantity of goods brt (brought?) to this market & the late revolution in France & throughout all Europe seems to put a check to business. Margarett (writer's daughter) was to see us last week. She lives about 170 miles from here. she was well. William is sick to day. the rest is all well and Join me in sending there lest love to you and the family while I remain as usual your ever aft. uncle.

B B Smith

*Ripley is in Tippah County, Mississippi on the Tennessee border; it is almost due south of Brownsville, county seat of Haywood County, Tennessee.

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Letter 13

Outside: Bird S. Jones

Haywood County

Tenn.

Written on opposite outside:

I was in Ripley this morning and B. B. Smith recd a Letter from Wm. McClelland of Texas stating that Thomas

I. Smith was dead. He died at Houston (Texas) June 14th 1848. Jesse Crutrey (?)

Ripley Miss. 12th of June 1848

Dear Bird

Your letter of the 19th of May came directly to hand and I am glad to find you yet prompt and punctual in righting to me which is the greatest consolation. I hear/ have I—(?) James Embry leaves for Haywood tomorrow & promises to be the bearer of this to you all though I have nothing of a churning or consoling nature to impart to you. my mind is yet in great trouble and confusion you say I must give you my notions from time to time this is one of the times that I am entirely at a loss what to write you on that subject Francis Says if I will stay here a while till her children can get schooled she is willing then to go any where I will say I want to go there is but one tavern in this place kept by C. Miller & he is now trying to swap his houses & lots to me for my farm and the lots I own here but I am opposed to it yet Edwin and Mr. Spight is urging the trade I have no Idea that I will make it at the present time. my old place is rented to a Doctor Briscoe. It is in a high state of cultivation has a beautiful grown crop on It 100 acres in corn 90 acres in cotton 10 do (ditto) in oats and a great deal of fornight (?) apples peaches plumbs (plums) and grapes Crops are generally likely here & bids fare (fair) to be a bundant our friends here are all well and generally doing well Edwin has a very neat stock of goods well selected by him self in Philadelphia and is selling a h—(?) if he ever gets pay times is hard here on act (account) of the fall in cotton for there is yet at least 1000 Bales yet in Tippah Spight has over 100 bales yet unsold Margaret (writer's daughter) and her husband Mr. Griffin left here on satyrday last she is well and in fine health my other children is all at school we got a letter from Wm Kiveate (?) on satyrday stating that old Mr. Wilder was dead he made a will and from what we can learn he made a partial one I met with an old friend of mine a wk (week) ago Genl. William Taylor on his way to Texas he resides a bout 65 or 70 miles from Chambers Creek I rote to Wm. L. Mitchel for information and all the particulars concerning poor Tom (Thomas Ingles Smith) the Genl. promises me to give my letter a speedy convey once and I shall expect to here all about It in a short time if you have heard any thing more since you rote me last doe not fail & hasten to communicate It to me right me all the knews (news) as It interest me you mention several deaths but no marriages one of the young Hopsons on Thursday night last stole one of old Gabe Mays daughters and ran away with her you say you have got there two smart men Bill Bowin (Bowen?) & Alfred Brigance for neighbors if you have any thing they can steal you may lookout right me how that man came out with Cherry as I am told by James Embry the (man?) got in and brought (bought?) him back I would like to know what Ned Reed wanted to see Pattons old book for Mr. Patton had no knowledge of the transaction It was entirely a private matter with me and Mr. Reed It was my own private money (?) I loaned him and not the money of A. Patton at all It is not on his books nor never will be for he has nor never had any knowledge of the affair (sic) in regard to them other notes hold on to them and if ever Mr. Preacher Mahon comes in your bounds take a bale (bail) warrant for him get a Judgment & levy on his hair (?) if Gray has any honor in the world he will pay me I have no more to right at present James can tell you all the particulars Right me often and where to send my letters as yours is generally dated at Cherryville & Postmarked at Jackson if you see any of Rufus Worthams people tell them he is well & thinks hard of them for not writing to him give my respect to Washington Wortham and Jess Wilson and all the inquiring family while I remain you ever aft (affectionate)

uncle

B B Smith

P S I head that Wm Patton you deranged is It so

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Letter 14

Outside: Mr. Bird S. Jones

Haywood County

Tennessee

Cherryville P.O.

(Written on side: Montville, Aug, Texas, John Jones)

(Written on other outside: John Jones 1848)

Washington Co., Aug 5th, 1848

Mr. Bird S. Jones.

My Dear Brother

Your affectionate letter of the 31st of May came safe to hand we were glad to hear that your family were well through the kindness of our Heavenly Father. We are in the enjoyment of that greatest of earthly blessings, health, but as you fear Uncle Thomas Smith is dead. He died on the 30th of March last at Austin with winter fever. Also cousin Jane Mitchel (Rhoda Jane Stokes Howe Mitchell, daughter of Jordan and Ann H. Smith Stokes) died on the 14th of June. She was sick only four days. Truly we have daily admonition to be always ready. For we know not how soon we may be snatched from time to Eternity. I received a letter from Bird Pullen (son of Josiah and Rhoda Smith Pullen) a few days ago which informed me of the death of his brother Thomas. Bird is living near Houston. But he thinks he doing poor business and intends leaving and going up the country. His health is no good. I was informed that Billy Mitchel was Uncle Tom's administrator and wrote him concerning that land of yours. But he wrote me that he is not the administrator that it was another Mitchel. I went twice to see Uncle Tom about that land of yours but he said he wished you to come and chose it yourself as he intended to give you some land also. I received a letter from Kinchen Webb which informed me that he had writen (written) to Alden (?) Hicks concerning that part of the estate that was comeing (coming) to Webb. He states the money is ready and will pay it at any time when applied to by propper (proper) authority. The amount that is comeing (coming) is so small that I think it is not worth while to go after it until I can get his part from his mother's estate. I have exchanged my land that I traded for and have got my old place back again tho you may think strange of it. I had my reasons. First I was fearful of the title and I found the prairie did not suit me as well as the other on many accounts. It seems strange that I can not get a letter from Brother Guy (Guy Jones). I wish you would give me all the information you can respecting him and his. I would like to know how many children he has and what are there (their) names and how he is doing. When you write to him let him know what I have writen (written) to you. It would be a great pleasure to me to embrace you both once more in this world but if we never meet in this world I will once more entreat you to meet me in Heaven when we shall meet to part no more and be with all those who have been redeemed and be forever blest. Uncle McClellan family are well and doing very well. Susan was married a few days agoe (ago) to Mr. McCane (Abram McCain) of this county. Mc he has three children married. We have good crops generally in this part of the country. My crop is short on the account of its being new prairies. You know all the political news that relates to our country I presume. I intended to write to Mr. Mitchel to day concerning that land of yours and Mr. Webbs. Times are pretty fair here now and as we are going to have a Pennitentiary (penitentiary) I think they will be better. The bones of the 16 men that were decimated in Mexico have been brought to LaGrange (Fayette County, Texas) the adjoining county to us and they are to be buried on the 15th of this month and they are going to erect a monument over them. One of them was my cousin, J. M. Thomson (Jasper Newton McDonald Thomson, son of Alexander "Sandy" and Elizabeth Maury "Betsy" Dowsing Thomson). I received a letter from Kinchin Webb some time agoe (ago) in which he stated that there would be but little comeing (coming) to these children of Wells (Webbs?) from his mother's estate but I think differently from what Webb told me in his life time and when the issue comes I wish you to attend to it and see that justice is done. We must come to close. Please to give our love to Zilpha's family. And accept the same for your self and Sister Patsy and all the children and my friends generally and believe me my dear Brother I am yours affectionately.

J.S. Jones

please excuse this

bad writing

P.S. I heard from Aunt Laura Smith short time agoe (ago). She had a son called Thomas. She is keeping house with William Smith and one of her Brothers. The connexion (connection) were well generally. Please write to me as soon as you get this and let me know about Uncle Henry Jones. I have not heard from him since I left Ten (Tennessee). Let me know where to write to Brother Guy for I want to hear from him.

J.S.J.

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Letter 15

Outside: Mr. Bird S. Jones

Cherryville.

Haywood Co.

Tenness.

Washington Co. Texas, May 25th 1857

My Very Dear Brother

I received (sic) your kind favor of the 18th April. for which I return you thanks. this leaves us all in good health. except my self I have not been well for over a year. I was taken with cold and chill. and it has terminated in a spinal and Liver affection. I have been taking medicine but am no better yet. we have had the most unusual weather this spring that we have ever had since we have lived here. the corn has been planted 3 times over. we have had to plant cotton 3 and 4 times. Some of us. the prospect is yet very unpromising. we have had no rain of consequence for twelve months. we have not heard any thing from our relations on the trinity since I wrote last. the McClellans are doing about like they were when I wrote before. they and the rest of your friends have promised to write to you. Jef Willson was here a few days agoe. I showed him your letter. he has got a splended (splendid) place about 9 miles from here on the Austin road and is doing very well. Bird Pullen have moved to the railroad Depot in Austin Co. about 35 miles from here. he is running four waggons at present and is doing pretty well, if he will continue. I was there a few days agoe. he

spoke of puting (sic) up a tavern which I am affraid (sic) he will not make it profitable, as he tried (sic) that business once before. he is considerably in debt. he is a kind hearted fellow. I am sorry that he is in that fix, but he will not be otherwise it seems. I heard from him the other day. his family had the measles. as for the Land give your self no uneasiness about it. my reason for writing to you about it before was I thought that you wanted the Deed sent to you to make some dispoision (disposition?) of it. we can pay Taxes for Lands any where in the state in the county in which we live. as for the amount of trouble or expence (sic) I cheerfully do it. as I consider you to me a Father as well a dearly beloved Brother. whenever Lands come into market I would advise you to dispose of it as the timber is scarce in that portion, and it is liable to be stolen. never the less whatever you want done with it in the future, let me know and I will attend to it cherfully (sic). I saw a Gentleman from the State modern Democrat convention at Waco on the Brazsos (sic). he saw Nat Ferry (Terry?) there. Nat was a delegate. there is a considerable stir between the Antient (Ancient?) and moddern (modern) Democrats about a Bank in Texas. the modern Democrats have nominated the Hon. Mr. Runnels for Governor. Gen. Sam Houston is a candidate for Governor. he is a Jacson (Jackson) & Jefferson democrat, and has always been, and so am I. we shall see nex (next) August how the Governors Election will work. I am opposed to the Banking System, and so you see I am a Jackson Democrat and nothing else. our Rail road from Houston is graded 50 miles and the cars are running 35 miles of that, altho the prospect for crops is gloomy, our country is improving rappidly (sic). I had forgot to state that there is a branch road leading from the mane road to Brenham, our county site (seat), and they are working on it, and also there is one which will soon be finished from Houston to Galveston, and also one from New Orleans to Berwicks bay, and so you see, you can come within 15 miles of my house, with the exception of 6 hours Sail, on a rail road, no excuse now. I hope to hear from Brother Guy (Guy Jones) soon as you have sent my letter to him. I am sorry to hear of the condition of our step mother, give our love to her and tell her to write to me. Say to Arnold (Jack Arnold?) that he promised to write to me but has failed to do so. I should like to hear from him ocasionaly (occasionally). and am glad to hear of his making money so fast their (there) as he is getting good wages for that country. enclosed you will find a communication from an old Texian in behalf of Gen. Houston. I feel sorry to hear Aunt Susan and Amanda's great misfortune in loosing their eyesight, as that is a great affliction. I think as we are the only two Brothers that correspond of the remaneing ones that are left we ought to write often to each other. as I can not hear from Brother Guy only through you please get all the information from him respecting himself and family and let me heare from him that way. let me know his address and P.O. in your next. and give me all the particulars as far as you know of our connection whenever you write and let it be often as it is a great pleasure to me to heare from you all. tell your children to write often to. I never wanted to see you worse than I now do. I have nothing more of interest to communicate and herefore must close. please give our united love to your family and also to all our connection there in your country, and write as soon as your receive (sic) this. I remane your ever affectionate Brother.

J. S. Jones

Letter 16:

Washington Co, Texas Feb 3d 1862

Mr. Bird S. Jones

My very Dear Brother. After waiting for a very long time for an answer to my last letter I was very glad to hear from you through Arnold (Jack Arnold?). I received a letter from him on yesterday, written (sic) on the 5 of Jan, he said you were all well when he last heard from you, and that he heard from you once or twice a week, and wished me to write to you so he could hear from us. I also recived (sic) a letter from him written (sic) on the 27th of June 1861. he was at Union Cty, Camp Brown, when he wrote. he seems very well please with his situation. this leaves us all tolenally (tolerably?) well at this time except Laura (John's daughter) she has been quite sick but is recovering. our Daughter Amanda who was maried (sic) (married) to Travis Burton was delivered of a son on the 8th of Jan and was very ill. she came very near dying. she had child bed fever and milk leg, also and suffered exerciateing (execrating) paine (pain), but by the most unremiting (sic) attentions (sic) of two physicians she is slowly recovering. altho she can not sit up yet, and needs constant attention. she has a fine sprightly child. very healthy and very forward he laughed before he was a week old. my own health has been very bad all the summer and fall and now I am very much afflicted with wrzings (wrings). I have had one on my neck a very painfull (sic) one, and it is not well and another one coming on the back of my neck. if my health had permited (sic) I have doubt but what I would have been in Ten, now helping to fight for my native Land. it makes my blood boil to think the abominable Yankies are invading and trampling on our rites (sic). We are expecting an attack daly (sic) on Galveston Cty, but we defy them to land, as we have a large force about 4 or 5 thousand brave men and well fortified. William Stokes (son of Jordan and Ann Stokes) has a company in parson's regent. there has been a rise of 12 hundred men gone from this county to the scene of war. our vote is betwen (sic) 15 or 16 hundred and so you see we are waltzing up to this music. John Stokes (son of Thomas B. Stokes, grandson of Jordan and Ann (Smith) Stokes) was here a few weeks agoe. he had been in the army, and had the sore eyes very bad and was furlowed to go home and lost one of his eyes, but he is well and gone back to the army. he is a fine robust looking fellow. he weights the rise (?) of 2 hundred lbs. his mother and all of her children have lost an eye apiece. Col Winkler (third husband of Thomas Ingles Smith's widowed second wife) is in Virginia with a company, and his wife (Louisa R. Barlett Neil Smith Winkler) died after he left home. our connection are well as far as I know. I saw Jef Willson yesterday. his family are well and requested me when I wrote to you to give his love and best respects to you and family. all your acquaintances here are well as far as I know. Mary Pullen (widow of Bird Pullen) is still living in round top and doing very well. times are dull here. there is no good to be had here and the ladies have gone to making homespun. there is but little cotton setting here. I have sold mine at 8 1/2 cents. I made the finest crop of corn and cotton both that I ever made. please write soon and let me know all you know about Brother Guys family, and our connection generally. I would like to know what pleasan (Pleasant?) Stanly (Stanley) political sentiments are. Uncle Billy McClellans family are all well. he has quit merchandizeing (sic) for the present, and had made a fortune. B. T. McClellan is dead and his family have moved back here. we have had a remarkably warm and dry winter here. please give our love to all your family and say to Arnold I highly appreciate his kindness in writing to me and would be glad to heare (sic) from him often and tell the girls to write. our children have writen (sic) but have not received (sic) a letter for a long time. I want to see you very much and if I can I intend to go and see you again. please write as soon as you get this. Your affectionate Brother and Sister.

J. S. and Mary Jones