

**CW/VFM-121: *William Thomas Jones of the 23<sup>rd</sup> (and the 61<sup>st</sup>) Pennsylvania***

Jones started out in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania, which was organized on August 31, 1861. However, while serving in this regiment, he never saw active duty. He was transferred to the 61<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania in March of 1862. After his transfer, this regiment was involved in such major engagements as Antietam (9/16-17/1862), Fredericksburg (12/12-15/1862), Chancellorsville (4/27-5/6/1863), Gettysburg (7/2-4/ 1863), Spotsylvania & Spotsylvania Courthouse (5/8-21/1864), and Appomattox Courthouse (4/9/1865). Jones, however, did not see the surrender because he was mustered out on September 7, 1864.

Letters (10/4/1861-5/16/1863):

The majority of these letters are simply a detailed account of camp life. He often reports to his family what he is eating and how far he has marched. Occasionally, he briefly mentions when he thinks battle is going to occur; however, there is not always a letter describing the action that ensues within the next few days. Includes a letter on the Battle of Gettysburg. Listed below are the letters that give a description of action that has occurred either on that day or days prior to the letter.

5/8/1862- mention of skirmishing at Williamsburg, VA

6/16/1862- detailed description of the battle of Fair Oaks

7/4/1863- description of what he saw at the battle of Gettysburg

5/16/1864-mention of fighting at Spotsylvania

Photocopy of the typed copy: 25pp

General Note from Kenneth C. Trotter:

This note simply gives some background on Jones and the letters contained within this file.

Photocopy: 1pp

**Keywords:** Union – East- Pennsylvania- 23<sup>rd</sup> & 61<sup>st</sup>; Letters; Army – Infantry;  
Soldiers – Privates

**Location:** Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives,  
Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

*See also:* [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)