

## ***Transcription***

**Subject: The Duel of Brockholst Livingston and James Jones**

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THE DUEL BETWEEN BROCKHOLST LIVINGSTON AND JAMES JONES - An inquiry as to the history of this encounter has elicited the following reply from the learned librarian of the New York Historical Society: -

New York, Oct 10, 1883

Gregory B. Keen, Esq.

Dear Sir: An examination of the newspapers of the spring and summer of 1798 will show the successful efforts of the Federal leaders to organize resistance to the French influence on the politics of the country. The calls for meetings were generally addressed to "The Young Men;" one was held at Philadelphia on the 30th of April. The New York meeting was organized on Saturday evening, May 5th, with Col. Nicholas Fish (father of Hon. Hamilton Fish) in the chair; the attendance was estimated at over none hundred persons. Samuel Jones, Jr., was the principal speaker. The papers of Monday, May 7th contain a full report of the proceedings. The Argus, a democratic newspaper, published by Thomas Greenleaf, contained in its issue of Tuesday, May 8th, a squib calling attention to the "Youth" who attended the meeting, and mentioning Col. Fish, a stripling of forty-eight years. "We also hear, that Master Jemmy Jones, another boy, and not quite sixty, graced the assembly with his presence." Jones, who was not present at the meeting, took offence at the publication of his name, and demanded of the printer the name of the author, He was informed that it was Brockholst Livingston, a leading lawyer and son of Gov. William Livingston, of New Jersey. The same evening Jones met Livingston on the Battery, when a fracas took place, a challenge was given by Jones and accepted. The parties met on Wednesday afternoon, May 9th, at Hoboken, with their seconds. They fired at the same time. Jones received a ball in his groin, which opened a main artery, and he died in a few minutes. His body was brought to New York and interred on Thursday evening, May 10th, I believe in St. Paul's churchyard. The verdict of the coroner's jury I remember seeing in print, probably in some newspaper, long after the event.

James Jones was the youngest son of Dr Evan Jones and brother to the distinguished Dr John Jones, who was vice-president in 1780 of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Another brother Thomas practiced medicine in New York City. From his house the funeral took place. James was a merchant.

The Commercial Advertiser of May 10th, 1798, contains a full statement of the meeting. You will find a copy in the Philadelphia Library.

Respectfully yours,  
Wm. Kelby