

## Reverend William P. Jones

At the southern end of the Buxton Cemetery, about as far away as one can get from the Reverend Ezra Fountain, is the gravesites of the Reverend William P. Jones. His tombstone reads, Methodist preacher for 45 years. The Reverend Jones is not buried with any family members, rather he sleeps amidst a congregation of Barretts. Most all of the Barretts were Presbyterians, so why might a Methodist preacher be buried in their midst? None of the records of the various Methodist churches in Bedford area list Reverend Jones as a preacher. Most likely he was an itinerant preacher, moving around to various congregations.



However, one reference to Reverend Jones appears in the Bedford Town Meeting minutes for March 31, 1868.

“Whereas the Methodist Episcopal Church of Bedford Village (now Historical Hall)...are about to repair their church building and to improve their church grounds, and whereas people in coming to and departing from the church with teams are very much incommoded on account of not being able to drive around the church building, and whereas the ground adjoining the church building on the east belongs to the Town.

“Therefore, we respectfully ask of the electors of the Town to grant us the privilege to open an alley one and two third rods wide\*. This will interfere with but two graves, one of which is now unmarked. These we pledge ourselves to have removed very carefully and everything put in order about them. We also pledge ourselves to have erected a good face wall built on a true circle adjoining the road and to grade the ground.”

This document is signed by five men. one of whom is Wm. P. Jones.

The Bedford Town census for 1860 lists a Wm. P. Jones to be 40 years of age, occupation—farmer. Since Reverend Jones’s tombstone says he was born on 21 July 1820, this is most probably the same man.