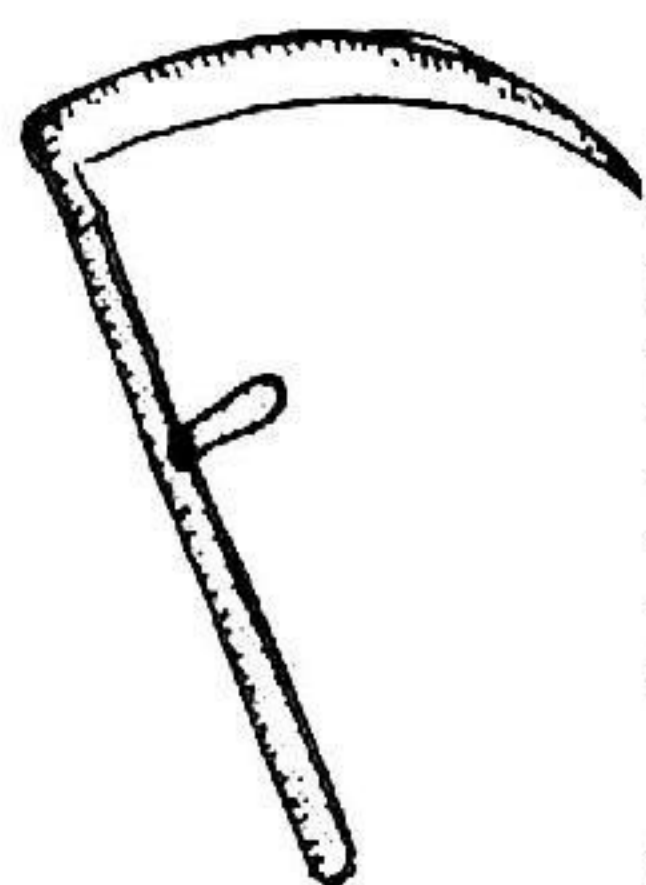




Foundation Stones on Grape Island

Elder Case was given much material for use at the Mission. G.F. Playter tells us that there was enough ticking for straw beds to provide 20 families with their first beds!

When the travellers returned to Grape Island in mid-May, two women accompanied them. The women came to devote their lives to the Indian work and their leadership was a course of much good for the natives. Miss Eliza Barnes was a gifted preacher and she became a teacher at Rice Lake. (Later she became William Case's second wife.) Miss Hester Ann Hubbard settled on Grape Island, married William Case and died an early death there.

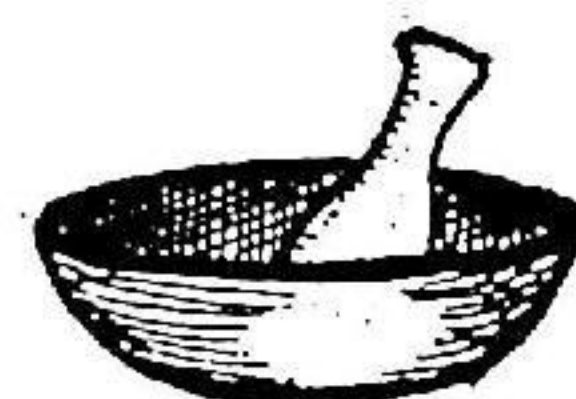


Peter Jones was at the Mission when his friend Elder Case returned from the states with the women workers. The Indian women of the Island now had an opportunity to display their handiwork, mainly maple sugar and baskets of various sizes and colours. Miss Hubbard and Miss Barnes gave the Indian women sewing supplies— needles and thimbles.

June 26-30 Indians from Grape Island attended a Camp Meeting near Haldimand. In addition to the usual program of preaching, the

children from Grape Island put on a display in order to show their educational improvement. They recited parts of the Ten Commandments and sang. Peter Jones, who was at the Meeting also, reported that "the congregation appeared greatly interested, and it must have been a great satisfaction to those who contributed to aid this good cause."²⁸

The Indians new-found joy in their religion was not something they wanted to confine to themselves. Early they showed a concern for others, especially their brothers of other tribes. In September, the much-travelled John Sunday attended an Indian Camp Meeting on Snake Island in Lake Simcoe. He spoke to the assembly and brought greetings from the Grape Island Indians. He said that "previous to his leaving Grape Island, his brethren spent one day in praying for a blessing to rest on his labors amongst the Indians whom he was about to visit. Thus you see my brethren at Grape Island made up my pack and sent me off in the name of the Lord to this place."²⁹



September was the month for receiving goods from the government— their treaty 'gifts'. The presentation as made in Belleville by Mr. Clench, the Indian Agent. Peter Jones interpreted for him and showed much pleasure at their progress in Christianity. Peter Jones went up the Trent River with Clench to give

the Rice Lake Indians their presents. Peter Jones has recorded the gifts that were made to the Indians from Rice Lake, and these were probably similar to the ones received by the Grape Island Indians. "Each man received two blankets, cloth for one coat, and one pair of trowsers, two shirts, several small articles, and also several guns, ammunition, kettles, etc."³⁰

The Canada Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met in Switzer's Chapel, Ernestown on October 2 to 8, 1828, with Bishop Hedding of the United States presiding. Statistics from the year show that there were now 118 members in the Society on Grape Island.³¹ William Smith, a preacher taken into the work on trial, who had been assisting at Grape Island, was appointed as missionary succeeding Samuel Waldron and Richard Phelps. During the Missionary Society presentation at the Conference, Indian school children from Grape Island and Rice Lake demonstrated their

²⁸ Jones, *Journal*, p157.

²⁹ Jones, *Journal*, p173.

³⁰ Jones, *Journal*, p177.

³¹ G. Cornish, *Cyclopaedia of Methodism in Canada*, Toronto, Methodist Book & Publishing House, 1881, vol. 1, p339.