

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at Ancaster in August with Rev. William Case presiding. Peter Jones was a candidate for Deacon's orders that year. Statistics for the year showed that Grape Island had 120 members and 56 scholars attending the two schools. In addition, there were three white members.³⁸ Conference was not able to settle a missionary on the Island. However, Peter Jones mentions a Brother Benham as part of the Mission family when he visited there at the end of September.

Peter Jones spent two weeks at the Grape Island Mission in October. He noted progress in the construction of buildings in the village, the most important of which was a work-house 40x28 feet. This was designed as a 'vocational school' where the Indians could be taught various trades. While he was there, Peter visited all the houses and was impressed by the improvement of the Indian house wives. He observed that "many of the houses were neat and clean, and the dishes washed and placed in order, like as the house and cupboard of a white squaw."³⁹ As always, he showed a keen interest in the progress of education. The publishing of some Scriptures in the Indian language proved a good incentive to encourage people to learn to read. Often Peter Jones commented on the singing of the Grape Island people. Mr. and Mrs. Case were able instructors in music, and Jones was able to write that in singing, "the children at this place excel those of the other stations."⁴⁰

Peter Jones gathered some interesting statistics during his short visits: The Population of Grape Island

BELLEVILLE Indians	25	116
KINGTON Indians	20	92
TOTAL	45	208

In addition, there were certain Indians visiting at the Island who were not included in this early census. The Kingston and Belleville Indians received \$2320 in goods annually as payment for the surrender of their lands to the Crown.⁴¹ This did not include the yearly gift of "King's presents".

1830

A detailed account of events at Grape Island Mission is not available for 1830, although the life of the Mission itself is described

³⁸ The Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, Toronto, Conference Office, 1846, p25.

³⁹ Jones, *Journal*, p261.

⁴⁰ Loc cit.

⁴¹ Jones, *Journal*, p262.



Well on
Grape Island

in great detail by two visitors. Peter Jones once again visited his good friends on the Island, staying from August 6 until September 7. He was warmly welcomed to the Island by Mr. and Mrs. Case and the Indians. He immediately noticed the continuing improvement in the lot of the people. "The neatness of their houses, the luxuriant growth of their crops, and everything else showed that our Grape Island brethren had made great proficiency in the arts of the civilized life."⁴² There were now five white workers on the Island— Rev. and Mrs. Case, Mr. Robinson, the blacksmith, Mr. Thomas Hale, Teacher of the boys' school, and Miss Nancy Brink, teacher of the girls' school.

A distinguished visitor from the United States, Bishop Hedding, spent three days on Grape Island prior to the opening of the Annual Conference. The Bishop visited the schools. He preached on Sunday, with Peter Jones translating his sermon. The Indians of the Island felt highly honoured to have him visit them. The purpose of Bishop Hedding's visit to Canada was to conduct the Ordination Service at the Conference which met in Kingston August 18-23. On Sunday, August 22, the Bishop ordained 21 Deacons, including Peter Jones.

⁴² Jones, *Journal*, p279.