

240 JONES, JOHN JR.

Publisher

Abingdon

Publisher of Baptist religious tract (1808) through Abingdon press of John G. Ustick (421).

Jones was a Baptist minister in Washington County, who founded the Rush Creek Primitive Baptist Church in the Widener's Valley community of Chilhowie in 1812. He was the son of a like-named Baptist minister from North Carolina, and dropped the appended "Jr." after his father's death in 1825. He is seen frequently in the Washington County marriage records after 1812, indicating his permanence there, but several secondary sources suggest that he had been an itinerant preacher before that time. Jones evidently retired from his ministry in 1835, about a year before his death; he was buried nearby his church in a grave now lost.

Jones undertook his only publishing venture In 1808, privately contracting John Gano Ustick to print a collection of sermons on *The Mode and Subject of Baptism* by Daniel Merritt. The work was the result of controversies unleashed by Merritt (1765-1833) among Baptists in Maine over his refusal to conduct infant baptisms there, as such were not sanctioned by the gospels; for Merritt, adult baptisms, voluntarily embraced upon conversion, were the only legitimate form of the sacrament. Jones evidently agreed with Merritt, as evinced by his ensuing role in establishing a Primitive Baptist congregation, a denomination that openly embraces an adult baptism ritual.

Personal Data

Born:	In	1770	Wilkes County, North Carolina.
Married:	July 18	1802	Patience Main @ Washington Co., Va. (d. 1828)
Married:	ca.	1829	Elizabeth [???] @ Washington County, Virginia.
Died:	May 28	1836	Washington County, Virginia.
Children:	Rachel (b. 1804); another daughter died in infancy.		

Sources: Imprint; *Marriages of Washington County*; *History of Washington District Regular Primitive Baptist Association*; *Millett's History of the Baptists in Maine*.