

## **Jones, Robert Elijah** <sup>[1]</sup>

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by Grady L. E. Carroll, 1988

**19 Feb. 1872–18 May 1960**



"Methodist Episcopal clergyman and editor Robert E. Jones and his second wife, Harriet." Image courtesy of Emory

University. <sup>[2]</sup>Robert Elijah Jones, Methodist <sup>[3]</sup>clergyman and editor, was born in Greensboro <sup>[4]</sup> and earned degrees at Bennett College <sup>[5]</sup>, Greensboro, and Gammon Theological Seminary <sup>[6]</sup>, Atlanta, Ga. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Hurst and elder by Bishop Mallalieu. Jones served pastorates in Leaksville, Lexington, and Thomasville, and in 1897 he became assistant manager of the *Southeastern Christian Advocate*. In 1901 he was field secretary of the Board of Sunday Schools, and in 1904 returned to the *Advocate* as editor.

In 1920 Jones was elected to the episcopacy and served in that capacity at the Central Jurisdictional Conference (black) until his retirement in 1944. Bishop Jones was a member of five General Conferences and a trustee of three institutions of learning. He founded the Gulfside Assembly at Waveland, Miss., and served as its president and in other high offices. In 1927, when awarded a bronze medal by the Harmon Foundation, he was recognized as one of the outstanding preachers and orators in black Methodism; two years later the foundation awarded him a gold medal for distinguished religious service. He was the recipient of honorary degrees from seven institutions. After retiring, he lived at the Gulfside Assembly. He was survived by a son, Robert E., Jr.

#### **References:**

Lindo D. Addo and James H. McCallum, *To Be Faithful to Our Heritage: A History of Black Methodism in North Carolina* (1980).

#### **Additional Resources:**

Robert Elijah Jones papers, 1872-1965 Add to your cart. Amistad Research Center: <http://www.amistadresearchcenter.org/archon/?p=collections/controlcard&id=51> <sup>[7]</sup>

Robert Elijah Jones Papers (1872-1965). Emory Libraries: <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/woodruff/fyi/robert-elijah-jones-papers-1872-1965> <sup>[2]</sup>

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#### **Subjects:**

Biographies <sup>[8]</sup>

Religious Leaders and Clergy <sup>[9]</sup>

Writers, journalists, and editors <sup>[10]</sup>

#### **Authors:**

Carroll, Grady L. E., Sr. <sup>[11]</sup>

**Origin - location:**

Greensboro <sup>[12]</sup>

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Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press,<sup>[13]</sup>

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