

## Alexander Delos "Boss" Jones

Alexander "Boss" Jones was born in 1818, probably in Columbia County, NY. He settled in Schoharie for a while and then moved to Braman's Corners, in the town of Duanesburg. He married Mary Liddle, daughter of Robert Liddle. They lived in Eaton Corners where he farmed and operated a carpenter shop, powered by Bowman's Creek. He learned the building trade by constructing Erie Canal boats which accounts for the plank construction he used in his buildings.

Boss Jones built several homes in the Town of Duanesburg as well as homes in the surrounding areas. Because he lived in the area, several of the older homes on McGuire School Road were his creations. He built both of the eight sided, or octagon, homes in the Town, as well as, the one on Route 30 south of Middleburgh.

The Jenkins octagon home, located on Route 395 was built in about 1850 and construction of the Shute Octagon home, on McGuire School Road, followed in about 1855. An octagon house was cheaper to build, allowed for additional living space, received more natural light, was easier to heat and remained cooler in the summer. An octagon has approximately 20% more space than a square with the same perimeter. Both Duanesburg octagon homes are among thirteen octagon homes in New York State that are on the National Historic Register.