

IN THE BEGINNING

①

- Charles/John Wesley 1729 "Holy Club" called Sacramentarians and later Methodists
- Methodists because of Methodical way of study, religion, college studies, social work. Had a strict Discipline of conduct. (Complete Religious Experience)
- Episcopal means governed by Bishops
- Zion means church of God or God's church
- James Varick first elected Bishop 1822 in New York, born in ¹⁷⁵⁰ Newburgh, died and buried in Newburgh. Later remains were moved to Mother Zion. Dutch upbringing, mother a slave, Hackensack N.J. First school (Free School 1760) Varick attended? (African Free School 1786)

House of God

②

- Bethel A.M.E. was started by Richard Allen in Phila. 1794
- 1796 ~~AME~~ AME was started by James Varick; first church built in 1800. First Discipline written in 1820 (ZION ADDED TO NAME IN 1840)
- [The foundation of the church was "class meetings" to instruct and watch over. Talk about white class leaders of John Street Church]
- First group had many problems getting started } uneducated slaves
- First property purchased was lost (\$80.00) the man they trusted bought the property in his name and refused to change it

LOCAL CHURCH

(3)

• (Read the first incorporation)

3 Trustees

Uriah Boston
Ezekial Pine
Peter Lee

• 1836 United Society Became A.M.E. Church of Pok

(Not a breakaway, a separation) Administered by white church

• 1840 Purchased colored elementary school on Catherine St.

5 Trustees

• \$450.00, added extension (Named it First A.M.E Church Pok

• Gift of 28 Cottage St. as first parsonage - (W.W. Smith)

• 1910 Church here was built (20,000) gift from W.W. Smith

• Windows by members

4 Trustees

• Rev. Judd first pastor

Church was renamed A.M.E. Zion Church of Pok.

Zion appears for first time, this is when the church left the United Society of M.E. Churches and joined the A.M.E. Zion Connection.

(4)

• 1914 Parsonage Built (W.W. Smith)

Rev. Van Buren first occupant - "Shephards Haven"

From 1836-1990 (28) Ministers

(7) Bishops

• Bishops:

• Pastors

17 - J.J. Clinton

1. J. Thomas

10. Lawton

19. Michael

46 - J.W. Hood

2. Decker

11. Florence Randolph

20. B. Jackson

31 - Caldwell

3. Birshmore

12. Judd

21. McKinney

51 - Walls

4. Talbert

13. Van Buren

22. Davis

28 - Shaw

5. Jackson

14. Allen

23. Brower

20 - Smith

6. Holiday

15. MacMullen

24. Cokley

G.W.C. Walker

7. Abbott

16. Taylor

25. Pitts

Battle

8. Johnson

17. Branch

26. McLaughlin

9. Fairfax

18. May

27. Kevin Lewis

28. H.D. Bolton

CHURCH WOMEN: (Women did not hold positions of importance in the church) (5)

- AME Zion - First of any church existing to allow women to head organizations.

* NATIONAL LEVEL

- Marie Clinton - Buds of Promise (1908)
- Catharine Thompson - Womens Home and Foreign Missionaries Treas. Died Newburgh 1893
- Rev. Florence Randolph - First Secy. of Bureau of Supplies (Foreign Missionaries) collected money/supplies for overseas
- Julia Foote - ordained deacon 1894
PoKeepsie Annual Conference
- Mary Small - ordained elder in 1898
- Sojourner Truth - Harriet Tubman

* LOCAL LEVEL

- Sarah LeFevre
- Helena Rhodes Glasby
- Alvaretta Bolin Pexo
- Della Bolin Lawrence
- Larinda Hardin Brown
- Mrs Francis Johnson Goodman
- Mrs Josephine May
- Mrs. ~~For~~ ^{Scotland} Cassell
- Renda Dubois 1894 Trustee
- Hannah Rose 1895 "
- Mary Jane Colden 1910

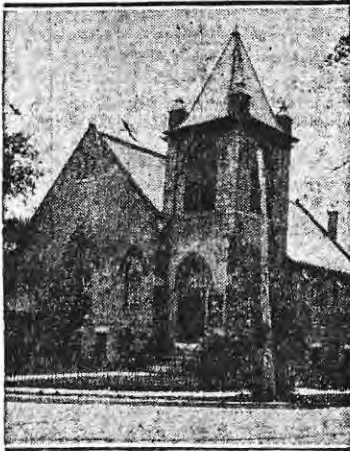
(6)

- Historic designation is a very long process
November 1989 began
July 1990 had a site visit
(8) pages of pictures and written material describing the interior and exterior of the building
- Explain the Dutchess County marker

Asbury - First Bishop
of M.E. Church in America

Freeborn Garrettson - Rhinebeck

Has Birthday



A. M. E. Zion Church

ARMED PATROL ONCE GUARDED LOCAL CHURCH

Mob During Civil War Threatened To Burn A. M. E. Edifice

How the A. M. E. Zion Church, then in Catharine street, was threatened with burning by a mob during the Civil War, and some of its male members patrolled the street night and day for some time, with firearms, prepared to protect it with their lives, is told in a history of the church written by Galus C. Bolin Sr. and read at the recent centennial celebration.

Recalling the early days, Mr. Bolin mentions that a great institution of the church here in Poughkeepsie and a part of its regular worship required by its Discipline or the resolution and acts of the conference under the jurisdiction of which the church functioned was the Quarterly Meeting.

"Quarterly meeting Sunday," says Mr. Bolin, "was a banner day in the old Zion Church down on Catharine street; on that day every member and every attendant at the church made it his and her business to be present at the services and people attended from all around the surrounding country, from out in our county, from Hudson, Kingston, New Paltz and other places in Ulster County, from Fishkill, Baxtertown, Newburgh, Peekskill and even New York and Brooklyn.

"On those occasions almost always the presiding elder of the district would conduct the services and do the preaching; sometimes one or two visiting pastors besides the presiding elder would be present and sometimes the Bishop himself would be present to carry on the services."

Among the old time ministers mentioned by Mr. Bolin are Father Leonard, Joseph P. Thompson, who was both preacher and doctor of medicine; William H. Decker, who was presiding elder over this district for many years after his pastorate; Jacob Thomas, Jonah Smith, who had been a cook on a whaling vessel before he became a minister and who was a great stickler for punctuality and would start church services promptly at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and 7:30 o'clock in the evening, no matter how few were present at those hours.

"In those days," Mr. Bolin says, "the major part of the congregation would come marching into the church anywhere from 8:15 to 8:30 and some of them later, and, by the time the bulk of the congregation became comfortable in their seats, Mr. Smith was announcing the closing hymn and pronouncing the benediction.

"One hundred years ago the inhabitants of this city who worshipped together and who finally founded this church worshipped in the old Lancaster school which stood on the north side of Church street between Market and Academy streets and which afterward became the Church street public school and is now owned and occupied by the Germania Singing Society and it was here that the A. M. E. Zion Church of Poughkeepsie, was organized." This was on November 12, 1837. First trustees elected were Ezekiel Pine, Uriah Boston and Peter Lee.

"Until 1910 the church stood on Catharine street. Since that time through the kindness and generosity of the late William W. Smith, who did so much for Poughkeepsie during his life-time, it has stood on its present site," at Smith and Cottage streets.

"From the public records available it would seem that the old church on Catharine street was built about 1840, because the Dutchess County clerk's records show that on July 3, 1840, The First African Methodist Episcopal Church gave Solomon V. Frost a mortgage for \$450 and the mortgage was signed by Peter Lee, one of the three original trustees, as president of the Board of Trustees and was afterward assigned to Galus C. Burnap and was satisfied thereafter and the description of the land in the mortgage corresponds with the description of the old church property on the west side of Catharine street and the money thus raised by this mortgage was undoubtedly used to build the old church structure."

Shapers of a nation

Book chronicles landmarks to blacks in history

By **STEPHANIE A. REID**

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

African-Americans' contributions to the rich mosaic of U.S. history and culture date from the arrival of the first Africans who accompanied Spanish explorers to these shores in 1619.

History-minded travelers interested in a self-guided tour need only to pick up a copy of "Historical Black Landmarks: A Traveler's Guide" (Visible Ink Press, 1991), in which author George Cantor takes travelers to the sites in their region of the country.

The book contains a state-by-state breakdown and information on 300 sites and describes their historical significance, visiting hours, locations, admission charges, special programs or exhibits, phone numbers and helpful maps. The Sojourner Truth Monument in Akron, Ohio, Detroit's Motown Museum, New Orleans' Preservation Hall, Louisville's Kentucky Derby Museum and Los Angeles' California Afro-American Museum are among the tour stops.

The illustrated book begins with a brief discussion of African-American history, stretching from the Colonial period to the present, and includes a historical time line.

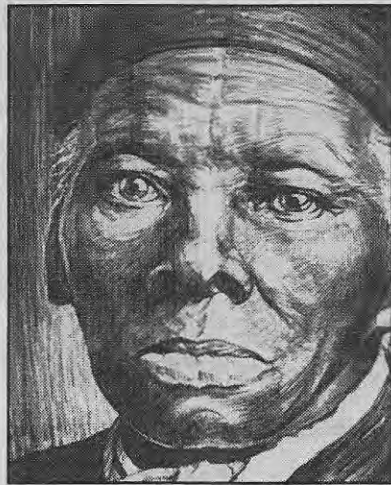
Travelers wanting more information about African-American history can select from among additional sources listed in a bibliography in the back of the 372-page book.

Robert L. Harris Jr., the Cornell University associate professor of African-American history who wrote the brief history portion, considers the guide the most comprehensive work of its kind available.

Cantor, a syndicated radio show host and Detroit News columnist, developed the guide at the request of Gale Research Inc., based in Detroit.

In doing so, he took a road rarely traveled by other guide writers.

"There's really nothing else on the market that highlights black America ...," says Beth Dempsey, spokeswoman for Gale, a large publisher of reference books.



Gannett News Service

A National Historic Site in Auburn, Cayuga County, honors Harriet Tubman, a key organizer of the Underground Railroad.

"I think most Americans are really shamefully ignorant of black history in this country and that the names don't mean anything to them," Cantor says.

"But I hope just by having it Americans will learn something about their history."

Many are familiar with Booker T. Washington but few, says Cantor, are able to put in proper historical perspective his life as a prominent African-American leader and educator of the late 1880s and early 20th century and founder of Alabama's Tuskegee Institute.

"Through the sites in this book we try to tell his story: the importance of Washington in his time and his America," he says.

Based primarily on information provided by state travel offices, cities and sources in various communities, his list of sites is by no means exhaustive.

Excluded are places that have nothing tangible for travelers to see.

He mentions only the historically black colleges — such as Howard University in Washington, D.C. — that are most directly associated with major historical events and famous people as well as those with especially notable campuses.

"Lansing, Mich., had a plaque at the birthplace of Malcolm X but you go there and there's nothing to see," Cantor says. "If there had been a house there, I certainly would have included it in the book."

Nearby sites honor fighters for human rights

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

Among the things 19th-century figures Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman had in common was their single-minded fight against the human rights injustices of their time.

What they now have in common is that monuments and landmarks documenting their presence in upstate New York are included in George Cantor's "Historical Black Landmarks: A Traveler's Guide."

Douglass' memorial and grave as well as homes connected to Anthony and Tubman are among a dozen sites Cantor has identified in New York.

■ **Frederick Douglass:** The noted former slave, orator, statesman, writer, abolitionist and publisher of the newspaper North Star, made his home in Rochester for 25 of his 77 years before his death in 1895.

Helen Pitts Douglass, who died eight years later, is buried at his side.

The cemetery is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Travelers can reach the site by entering the main gate and making a right on Fifth Avenue.

■ **Harriet Tubman:** Like Douglass, she fled to freedom in the North and worked to help others escape bondage. As a key organizer of the Underground Railroad, she helped as many as 300 slaves to freedom, prompting some to dub her "the Moses of her people."

Tours of the Harriet Tubman Home, 180 South St., south of the business district along New York Route 34, are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Saturday tours are available by appointment only. Phone 1 (315) 252-2081. Fee: None, but donations requested.

■ **Susan B. Anthony:** She and Douglass crossed paths through their work in the abolitionist and women's suffrage movements. Those interested in memorabilia documenting her life and relationship with Douglass can find them at the Susan B. Anthony Memorial, 17 Madison St., just west of downtown Rochester.

Tours are available from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Admission fee: \$2 1 (716) 235-6124.