

HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OUR FOUNDER
RICHARD ALLEN

(summary)

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized by Richard Allen and fifteen other persons. This separation grew out of the uncharitable treatment administered by their white brethren of the Methodist Episcopal Church of which they were members. They were pulled from their knees while at prayer and forced to sit in back seats in the gallery, as they were considered a nuisance.

Because of this uncharitable treatment, they decided to organize a church of their own. They purchased a lot at the corner of 6th and Lombard Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, after which an old blacksmith shop was bought and moved to this location. The congregation remodeled this building and it was dedicated by Bishop Frances Ashbury in 1794. Today, the Mother Church, "Bethel", stands and represents more than a million African Methodist all over the world.

At the end of the Civil Fight for religious freedom that lasted about twentynine years, the result was victory. Other groups of African congregations organized in Baltimore, Maryland; Wilmington, Delaware; New York; New Jersey; and many other states.

Richard Allen visited many of these churches and he was able to encourage them to coporate as a body. After the Channels of deliberation, the A.M.E. Church was organized in Philadelphia at the first General Conference which met April 9th, 1816. Daniel Croker of Baltimore was elected the first Bishop, however, he resigned the next day. Richard Allen was then elected on April 11, 1816 and consecrated the first (Black among Protestant denominations in America) Bishop of the A.M.E. Church. However, Richard Allen began his ministry in 1786. In 1782 he received his