**TIME LINE IN THE LIFE OF RICHARD ALLEN**

by

The Rev. Dr. Esther L. Seales

Born1760 February 14th Richard Allen is born on the

Benjamin Chew Plantation in Philadelphia, Pa.

Age 8 1768 (Approximately) Allen and family sold to Sturgis

Stokeley in Delaware.

Age 17 1777 Richard Allen converted.

Age 24 1784 (Dec) The Christmas Conference was held in Baltimore,

to organize the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

They chose Wesley’s order of Sunday Service and the Articles

of Religion. John Wesley has published the Rules of the United

Societies in 1743. In 1744, he held his first Annual Conference.

The meeting was opened by Francis Asbury. Francis Asbury

and Thomas Coke were elected the first Methodist Bishops in

America. This was a General Conference. Richard Allen and

Harry Hoosier were the only two Black men at this General

Conference. The conference fail to order the ordination of

Black Preachers when a special resolution was made to ordain

Colored Preachers.

Age 26 1786 (p. 53 of Newsman) Richard Allen returns to

Philadelphia, Pa.

Age 33 1793 Richard Allen and Absalom Jones were trained by Dr. Benjamin

Rush of the Univ. of Pa. how to bleed the sick who were

suffering with the Yellow Fever. Allen also drove transported

the sick to Bushkill, Pa. which was a colder climate. Allen also

helped bury the dead. Over 5,000 persons died in the summer

of 1793. The Black people were forced to nurse the White sick

people. It was thought at one time that Black people were not

as prone to the Yellow Fever as White people. But this was not

true; just as many Black People were suffering with the Yellow

Fever Epidemic as White people.

The Yellow Fewer stopped in October of 1793. One hundred

years later it was discovered that the Yellow Fever Epidemic

was caused by the Aedes aegypti mosquito. It is believed

that the mosquito came over with immigrants from Haiti

and would hatch in standing water around homes, flower pots

rain water standing around the home.

Age 34 1794 **(July 29**) Richard Allen builds Bethel Church from an

Old Blacksmith Shop. Bishop Francis Asbury preached

the dedication sermon.

Age 39 1799 Richard Allen was ordained by Francis Asbury in the Methodist

Episcopal Church.

Age 47 1807 Richard Allen writes The African Supplement that

was intended to supersede the original charter

with the Methodist Church and Bethel Church.

Age 55 1815 **(June 22nd**) Methodist Church declares the African

Supplement illegal and auctions Bethel Church in

a Sheriff Sale. Richard Allen is the Highest bidder

and buys back Bethel Church.

Age 55 1816 (**Jan 1)** The Methodist Conference filed a lawsuit

for a writ of mandamus to the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court to have the Methodist to be the

owner of Bethel Church. But the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court ruled that The African Supplement

and not the original Articles of Association

governed Bethel Church. The court ruled in favor

of Allen and the people of Bethel Church. Bethel

Church was free! Richard Allen and the people of

Bethel Church fought 22 years to own Bethel

Church. By 1816 Bethel Church had over 1400 members.

Age 56 1816 **(April 9,10**) The A.M.E. Church was organized at the General

Conference. Sixteen Black Methodists Congregations held a

conference in Philadelphia for the purpose of forming a separate

body. They called the new organization The African Methodist

Episcopal Church, and elected Richard Allen as Bishop. He was

consecrated by Bishop Francis Asbury. Note: Daniel

Corker was elected the first Bishop on April 9, 1816; he resigned on

April 10, 1816, with Richard Allen in his stead. The churches in the

city of Baltimore were planted by Daniel Corker.

The A.M.E. Church adopted the Methodist Doctrine, Discipline, and

Polity. Bishops who wrote Books on Polity:

Bishop Henry McNeil Turner

Bishop Joseph Gomez

Bishop Harold I. Bearden

The following persons were in attendance at the General Conference

In 1816:

**Baltimore, Md**: Daniel Corker, Rev. Richard Williams, Rev Henry

Harden, Mr. Edward Williamson, Mr. Steven Hill, Mr. Nicholas Gillard.

**Philadelphia**: Rev. Richard Allen, Rev. Clayton Durham, Rev. Jacob

Tabisco, Rev. James Champion, Mr. Thomas Webster

**Wilmington, Delaware:** Rev. Peter Spencer

**Attleborough, Pa**. : Rev. Jacob Marsh, Rev. William Anderson,

Rev. Edward Jackson

**Salem. N.J.** Ruben Cuff

Please note that Rev. Jacob Marsh, Rev. William Anderson,

Rev. Edward Jackson, were from the Colored Methodist Society of

Attleboro, which later became Bethlehem A.M.E. Church of

Langhorne, Pa. The Colored Methodist Society was founded in 1809.

It is seven years older than Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church. But it

asked to join the connection of the A.M.E. Churches at the General

Conference of 1816

Age 57 **1817** Richard Allen wrote the first Doctrine and Discipline of the

African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Age 71 **March 26, 1831** - The Right Reverend Richard Allen transitioned to

Glory. Bishop Richard Allen was known to have been ill, but his

death caught everyone by surprise. Bishop Morris Brown, who

owed his career to Allen after Richard Allen opened his home to

Morris Brown following the Denmark Vesey slave rebellion, took

three days to plan the funeral. Morris Brown headed the Union

Benevolent Sons of Mother Bethel Church. This organization was

started by Bishop Richard Allen in 1826. It was a charitable

organization that oversaw church burials, and those who could not

afford funerals. They knew that Bishop Richard Allen did not want

anything fancy, no pomp and circumstance… but yet they knew that

his funeral would need to be marked in a special way. Therefore they

decided the Allen well-wishers could follow the processional as they

saw fit. The Benevolent Sons did not have to pay one penny for Allen’s

burial, because Allen had filled funeral coffers in advance. The word

of the processional spread quickly throughout the Black Community.

Allen’s Funeral turned out to be a grand affair. The immense concourse

of Colored people who attended the funeral of that pious patriarch

exceeded perhaps anything of the kind witnessed in the country. No

other African corpse… was ever attended to the place of internment in

America by so great a number of sincere mourners.

Newsman – Pgs. 288-290