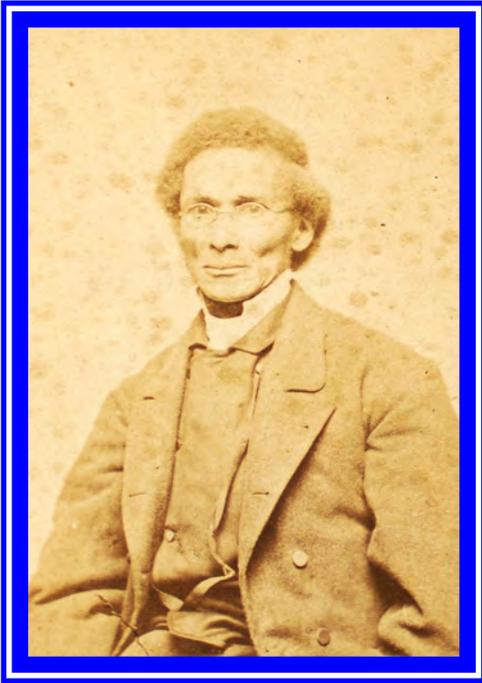


LUTHERAN MEMOIR

Rev. Daniel A. Payne



- African Methodist Episcopal Church Bishop
- A Founder of the AME Church
- Educator, college administrator and author.
- Graduate of Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary

BORN: February 24, 1811

DIED: November 2, 1893

Daniel Alexander Payne was born as a free person of color in Charleston, South Carolina, on February 24, 1811, of African, European and Native American ancestry. Daniel stated later in his autobiographical writings "as far as memory serves me my mother was of light-brown complexion, of middle stature and delicate frame. She told me that her grandmother was of the tribe of Indians known in the early history of the Carolinas as the Catawba Indians." He also stated that he descended from the Goings family, a well known free colored/Native American family.

As a major contributor in the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), Payne stressed education, preparation of ministers and introduced more order in the church. Payne served for more than four decades as bishop of the AME Church (1852–1893). In 1856 he was a leader in the founding of Wilberforce College in Ohio.

Wilberforce was the first college to be owned and operated by African Americans in the United States.

Payne enrolled at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary in 1835 to study theology.

Upon leaving the seminary in 1837, he was licensed and later ordained by the Lutheran Franckean Synod and served a Presbyterian Church in Troy, New York. The Franckean Synod was the first Lutheran body to publically oppose slavery in 1837, 24 years before the beginning of the Civil War. Other Lutheran bodies thought slavery was politics in which they shouldn't get involved or take a

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public stand.

Pastor Payne transferred to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1841 where he eventually became the bishop and later president of Wilberforce College. He was the first African American to lead an institution of higher learning in the United States. Pastor Payne encouraged the African Methodist Episcopal Church to have theologically trained pastors. Wilberforce University now has a seminary named in honor of Pastor Payne.

Gettysburg Seminary has a Pennsylvania State Historical marker honoring him.

November 2nd is designated as a day of remembrance by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Pastor Payne.

Lutherans should be proud that our ancestors had a part in advancing the ministry of Saint Daniel Payne. Payne AME Church in Waterloo, Iowa, is named in honor of Rev. Payne, as are many other AME Churches around the country.

Sources: D. Payne photo Wikimedia, text Wikipedia



Payne Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 1044 Mobile St. in Waterloo, Iowa, is named in honor of Reverend Payne. The church is over 112 years old. *Photo courtesy of Reginald Green*



Wilberforce College now Wilberforce University is a private historically Black institution located in Wilberforce, Ohio. Established in 1856 to provide classical education and teacher training for black youth. The University is named for William Wilberforce an English statesman, who achieved the end of the slave trade with the passage of the 1807 Slave Trade Act in the British Empire.

Affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), Wilberforce College was the first higher education institution owned and operated by African Americans. Rev. Payne was their first president. Neighboring campus, Central State University, the State of Ohio's historically Black College began as an academic department at Wilberforce before the state government took control.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When the Franckean Lutherans publicly opposed slavery, other Lutheran groups refused, saying the issue was political. Explain why you feel political considerations concerning slavery outweigh or do not outweigh moral, humanitarian and Christian considerations?
- How do you think Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) like Wilberforce met the needs of their students in the first 120 years compared to current times? Are race based elementary, secondary and higher educational institutions needed to provide a high quality education for racially minoritized people?
- Payne and others founded the AME church partly in response to changes in the original foundation of openness regarding race within the Methodist tradition. These changes reflected the increasing power of wealthy Southern slaveholders. How might it be beneficial to organize faith communities based on race? How might it be detrimental?

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As a major contributor in the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), Payne stressed education, preparation of ministers and introduced more order in the church. Payne served for more than four decades as bishop of the AME Church (1852–1893). In 1856 he was a leader in the founding of Wilberforce College in Ohio.

Wilberforce was the first college to be owned and operated by African Americans in the United States.

Reverend Payne took training at Gettysburg Seminary in the mid-1830s and later received ordination from the Franckean Lutheran Synod of New York but he had no intention to be Lutheran. Still, it is worth noting that Gettysburg Seminary and the Franckean Lutherans sponsored Payne's influential career. He was one of the preeminent African Methodist Episcopal churchmen of his generation.

Upon leaving the seminary in 1837, he was licensed and later ordained by the Lutheran Franckean Synod and served a Presbyterian Church in Troy, New York. The Franckean were the first Lutheran body to publically oppose slavery in 1837, 24 years before the beginning of the Civil War. Other Lutheran bodies thought slavery was politics in which they shouldn't get involved or take a public stand.

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The African Methodist Episcopal Church was created as the result of racial discrimination in the Methodist Episcopal Church. An African American Methodist Episcopal Church deacon, Richard Allen in 1816 called together five African American congregations of the established Methodist Episcopal Church with the hope of escaping the discrimination that was commonplace in society, including churches. The AME Church was among the first denominations in the United States to be founded for unjust treatment due to racial reasons rather than for theological distinctions.



R. Allen

*Rev. Richard Allen
Bishop of the African M. E. Church*

As a member of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania upon arriving for church service Allen and all other Black members without warning were forced by ushers to sit in a separate gallery built in the church when the Black portion of the congregation increased. Allen walked out of the church in protest of this treatment

He led a group wishing to remain Methodist formed the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1793. In general, they adopted the doctrines and form of government of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1807 and 1815 to establish Bethel's independence, Allen successfully sued in Pennsylvania courts for the right of his congregation to exist as an institution independent of white Methodist churches.

The AME Church name reflects the founders and their religious convictions. Organizers of the church were people of African descent, most descendants of enslaved Africans. The AME church is open and welcoming to people of all ethnic groups, origins, nationalities, and colors, although its congregations are predominantly made up of Black Americans.

The Black members of St. George's Methodist Church left the congregation when faced with racial discrimination, but continued with the Methodist doctrine and the order of worship. Also, the AME Church governance operates under an Episcopal format.