



REV. JOHN CAREY

Little is known about the Rev. John Carey, founder, and for three years, minister of the Union Baptist Church.

In 1924, I talked with an elderly lady then a member of the First Baptist Church, who declared that she knew when he came to Baltimore. That he worked and had his belongings tied up in a bandana handkerchief swung on a stick across his shoulder. That he was very modest and retiring and talked in a very shrill voice. She asserted that "he was highly educated."

From the fact that he was into so many things of interest to the denomination, the latter could be easily true.

He was one of the incorporators of the American Baptist Association the first effort to organize the Negro Baptist Churches, nationally. Served on several important committees; and was a member of its Executive Board. He was listed then as being from the State of New York.

In 1849 he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, the Rev. Moses Clayton, having given away for a more educated man. His tenure there was hectic and full of financial difficulties. In the November church meeting, 1851, he offered a resolution that the church building be sold to pay off the congregations' many debts. This was done the following January and his resignation followed immediately. On April 22 following, he organized a Sunday School and on May 10th this was further organized into the Union Baptist Church. A long drawn out law suit followed between this group and the original church, but in the end the Carey faction won.

The Rev. Mr. Carey resigned the Union in 1854 or early in 1855, and left the city. From 1865 to 1868 he was a missionary for the American Baptist Home Missionary Society and was founder of a church at Yorktown, Va. An inquiry to this church brought back the answer that while there is no definite record to that effect, there is a tradition that he died there. In 1885 a writer suggests, however, that Mr. Carey was then with a church in New Jersey.

1st pastor

John Carey
to Union's
founder
abt of
First Pastor