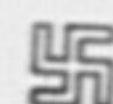


the life and works of Booker T. Washington, and a representative of the Iowa Equal Rights Association talked on "The New Emancipation," the struggle of women for political recognition. On January 18th, Dr. Curtiss Reese, of the Unitarian Church, delivered a tribute to "The Greatness of the American Negro," which is the more noteworthy as coming from a Southerner. And on Lincoln's Birthday, Des Moines held a Lincoln-Douglass Celebration at which Dr. Kerbye of Plymouth Church paid tribute to the great emancipator, and J. Owen Redmond, who won the Spaulding prize for excellence in oratory at Grinnell College, spoke on Frederick Douglass.

This idea of a joint Lincoln-Douglass Celebration was carried out by several branches and is one which should become an annual custom with all. The *Howard University Chapter* combined with the history department in holding a memorial meeting on Lincoln's Birthday to Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Booker T. Washington. In *Cleveland*, the branch co-operated with one of the leading white churches of the city, the First Methodist Episcopal, to fittingly celebrate the emancipator's birthday. Rev. Ernest Lynn Waldorf, pastor of the church, talked on Lincoln and the President of the Branch, Rev. H. C. Bailey, discussed the aims of the National Association.

The *Cleveland* Branch proposes to hold a district conference in May or June at which delegates from Pittsburgh, Columbus, Detroit, Toledo, Buffalo, Dayton and Springfield, will meet with representatives from National headquarters.



#### SOLDIERS

THE following letter has been sent by Secretary Nash to the President, the Secretary of the Interior, the Congressional Chairmen on Military Affairs, and others: This Association is grievously disappointed in the Wilson administration not only because it has done nothing for the colored man but because it has at times been exceedingly unjust to him. Through our Treasurer, Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard, we called your attention repeatedly to the chance for the President to show his regard for the rights of ten million colored Americans, and in no single case has the Administration availed itself of the opportunity.

We now appeal to you to suggest that four of the new regiments about to be created be designated specifically for the enlistment of colored soldiers.

The Adjutant-General has stated that he doubted if 175,000 regulars could be recruited in the United States. There is no difficulty in recruiting colored regiments. Yet, while officers are tearing their hair to get white recruits, the sign is up, "No colored men wanted." Does it not seem a ridiculous program of preparedness which deliberately excludes the best material we've got?

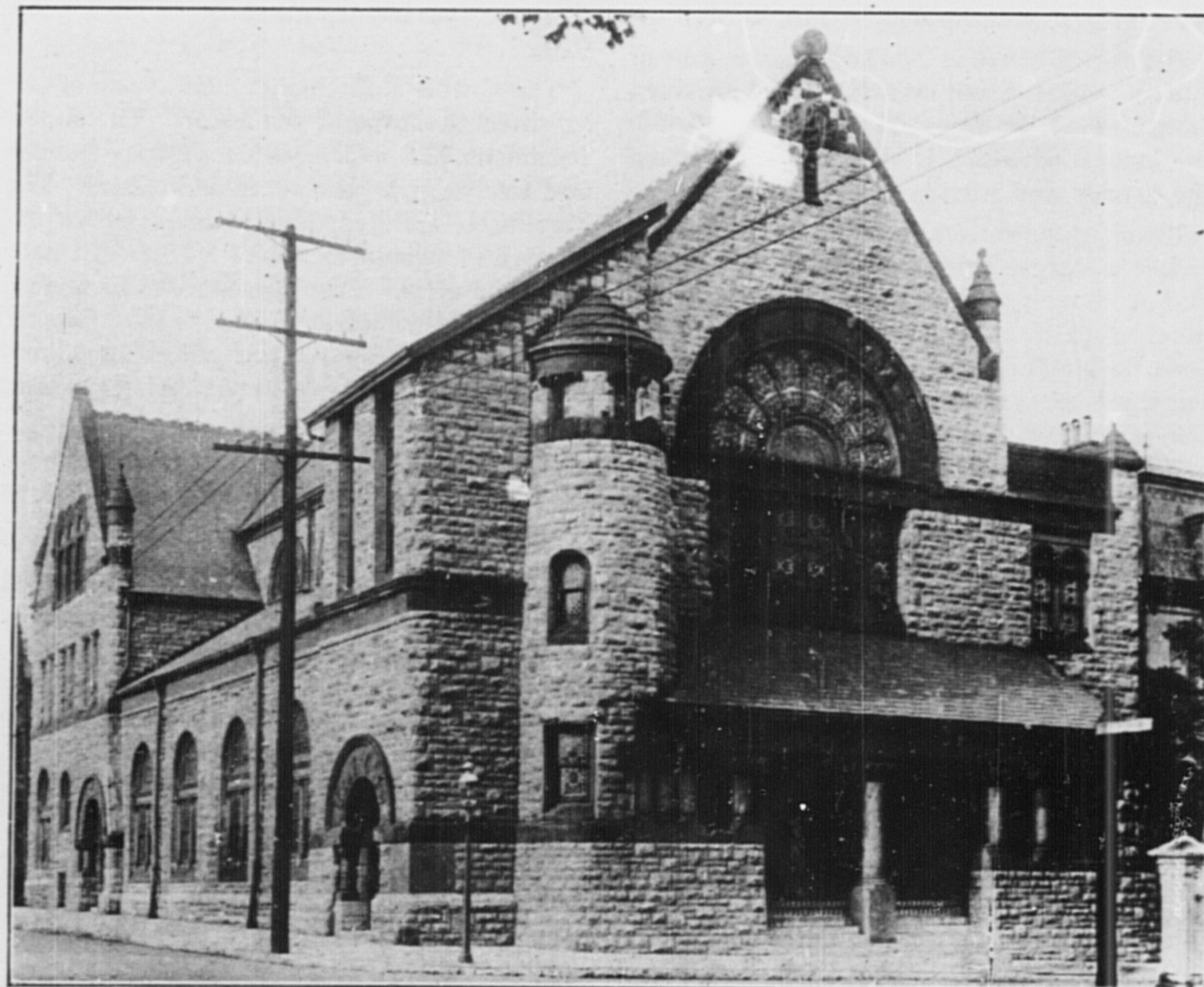
That is no idle boast. When the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts stormed Fort Wagner in '63 it established for all time the fact that the colored soldier could fight and fight well. The history of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry in the Indian fights between 1868 and 1890 piled up the evidence of their courage and loyalty.

There have been notably fewer desertions from the colored regiments than from the white. The Ninth Cavalry once astonished the army by reporting not a single desertion in twelve months, an unheard of and undreamed of record.

Their service during the Spanish War and since has shown our colored troops to be infinitely better fitted for service in our tropical dependencies than white troops. Company L, of the Forty-ninth Volunteers, composed wholly of colored men, and commanded by Capt. E. L. Baker, a colored veteran who had served for seventeen years in the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry, made a record which no white company remotely approached. This company had on its rolls during a period of twelve months one hundred and six men who were fit for duty at all times and never lost a day on account of sickness. More extraordinary still is the fact that during the same period not one of these men ever went before a court-martial. Surely a striking illustration of what can be done by colored officers! Such traits enabled Gen. A. S. Burt, in relinquishing command of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, on April 17, 1902, to quote the Inspector-General of the army as saying, "The Twenty-fifth Infantry is the best regiment I have seen in the Philippines." It was noticeable, too, that neither the officers nor the men of any colored regiment figured in the charges and counter-charges which arose out of the use of the "water cure" in the Islands.



EVOLUTION OF THE NEGRO CHURCH. I. A COUNTRY MEETING-HOUSE



EVOLUTION OF THE NEGRO CHURCH. II. A CITY CHURCH, ST. LOUIS, MO.