Heroes Of The Past

By Eloyce Brooks

Richard Allen was one of our most outstanding religious leaders. He founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church and later, became the first black bishop in America.

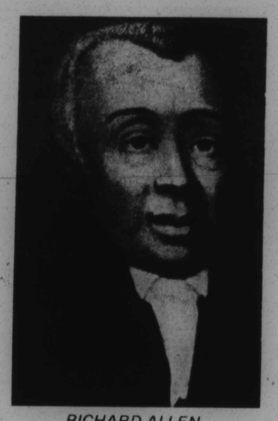
Born in slavery in 1760, Richard Allen became a Methodist minister early in his youth. During the Revolutionary War, he worked as a wagon driver, a woodcutter and worked in a brickyard until he earned enough money to buy his freedom. He then left Dover, Delaware and traveled to Philadelphia where he joined the St. George Methodist Church.

Allen's oratorical and leadership talents soon became evident to the white church leaders and, consequently, he was occasionally permitted to preach there, although there were some strong objections. When he did preach some of the area blacks were allowed to attend.

First Bishop

One Sunday while Allen and some of his friends were praying, they were interrupted by a white usher and asked to go to the back of the church. It was then that Allen, with the help of some of his friends in 1787, founded the Free African Society, whose purpose was to improve living conditions for the free blacks and to provide a place for them to worship in peace.

Out of this society Allen brought together the black persons from both the Methodist and the Episcopal denominations and formed the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was elected by this religious organization as its first bishop. Richard Allen became famous not only as a minister and the pastor of Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia, which he organized, but he was an active civic leader.



RICHARD ALLEN
Founder of AME Church

Organized Protest

Bishop Allen organized a mass meeting of three thousand black persons in 1817 to protest the plans of the American Colonization Society to deport free blacks back to Africa. He was recognized as the leader of free blacks in the north.

He was elected president of the "Colored Convention" in 1830. Its objectives were to protect free blacks from deportation, the abolition of slavery and of racial discrimination. He worked for full citizenship for all blacks across America.

At the time of his death in 1831, AME churches were spreading throughout the northern states. Today, there are well over a million of AME members all over this nation.

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What DAWN Readers Say

'A Good Thing Going'

This week I saw DAWN for the first time. It looks like you have a good thing going; push it along. Put me on your subscriber's list.

DR. WALLACE S. HAYES
New York City

Worthwhile Contribution

I have followed DAWN through the Cincinnati and Columbus Call and Post Newspapers. I want to congratulate you on a worthwhile contribution to journalism in the United States. Your layout is excellent. The selection of your articles appears great. I predict your success will be phenomenal.

I found the article entitled, "Peace Safari in Africa," published in Volume I, No. 3, most informative and noteworthy. As one who believes firmly that world peace and justice, both internally and externally, will come when through law we demand it, I was particularly impressed.

E. WINTHER McCROOM

Patricia Not Ruth

For the record, the young lady who was elected to head the youth organization of the World Peace Through Law Conference is Patricia Worthy of Washington, not Ruth Worthy as indicated in the article, "Peace Safari in Africa," in the recent DAWN.

A. MANTEL CARTER
Washington, D.C.

Peace and Progress

Peace and progress in your expanded and timely reader service with DAWN. My prayer and hope is that your slogan is not just a timely wordage. Let's make it a reality.

WILLIAM H. ROBERSON
New York City

DAWN Quiz

QUESTIONS

1. What is "Apartheid?"
2. Who was the first black woman to win three gold medals in Olympic competition?
3. Who was the educator who founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History?
4. How many black persons have served in the U.S. Senate?

ANSWERS

1. "Apartheid" is the term used for the policy of separate racial development as practiced in the Union of South Africa. It provides for an extreme form of racial segregation, and is vigorously opposed by the majority in South Africa.

2. Wilma Rudolph Ward who won the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints for women in the 1960 Olympics at Rome, Italy, then added a third goal medal as the anchor runner on the winning United States women's relay team. She was the fastest women's sprinter of her time.

3. Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) was known as the "Father of Negro History." He founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 and began publication of the Journal of Negro History in 1916. The association changed its name in 1972 to Association for the Study of Afro-American History.

4. Three black persons have served in the U.S. Senate. The first two served in Congress during the period 1870-1888. They were both from Mississippi. Senators Hiram R. Revels, 1870-1871, and Blanche K. Bruce, 1875-1881. The third, Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, was elected in 1966, reelected in 1972, and is now serving.

Holiday Hints

Have a good selection of non alcoholic beverages available at your Christmas party.

Bring on coffee, and plenty of it, at least an hour or more before your guests will be leaving. Coffee is not a cure for over-indulgence, but when drinking coffee, guests are not taking on more alcohol.

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