MRS. ALVERTA NELSON has myriads of family pictures, books, and other articles at her Clifton Ave. home.

AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewyc

The Scott family Bible--a treasure of wisdom

By Bryan D. Holt

It is said that the Bible is the world's greatest treasure of wisdom, containing thousands of proverbs, wise sayings, the history of the nation of Israel, and the revelation of the God of the Universe.

Many AFRO readers have found the Bible to contain even more treasure than that, for in their family Bibles many have found the histories of their forefathers. Mrs. Alverta Nelson of the 3300 block Clifton Ave. is one of those people.

Mrs. Nelson's family Bible dates back to the mid 1800s. It contains a record of her ancestors' births, marriages and deaths. There is also some material, put in by her father, which she can't explain.

Among these is a copy of an old hymn, "Come to Jesus" translated into a South African language. It is not dated and Mrs. Nelson doesn't know where it came from.

Her father, the late Elisha B. Scott, is probably responsible for finding the hymn and putting it between the pages of his family Bible. He was a "fill-in preacher" at a Methodist Church in Ruxton, Md.

Mrs. Nelson explaains, "He didn't preach regularly, but whenever the church had scheduled a preacher during the week and the preacher didn't show for some reason, my father would get up and preach."

Born April 11, 1864, Mr. Scott was the oldest of seven children born to Nathaniel and Mrs. Rosetta M. Scott. He married the former Miss Harriet Edwards and ran the Post Office in Melville, Md.

To their union were born 13 children, four of whom are still living. They are Miss Viola N. Scott, Mrs. Alverta Nelson, Edgar, and John B. Scott.

Mrs. Nelson recalled her childhood to the AFRO. "We lived out on Falls Road. I remember that my mother's father would come all the way from Jacksonville every weekend to see us.

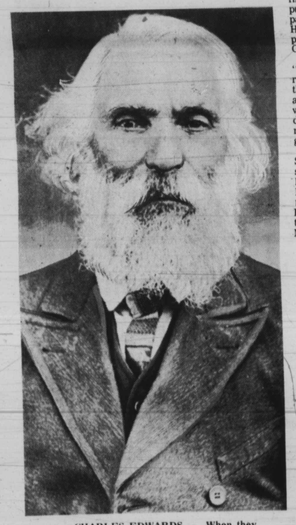
"He had a farm out there and he would drive his old wagon with his two old horses into Baltimore every weekend, loaded down with groceries which he'd sell to our neighbors."

Mrs. Nelson was speaking of Charles Edwards who was born a slave in approximately 1847. He was married to the former Miss Mary Rosetta Scott and died about 40 years ago at the age of 80

Although Mrs. Nelson remembers him fondly as being a wise man, she told the AFRO that he never said anything at all about slavery. The only thing she heard about him as a slave was from her mother.

Mrs. Scott, an early member of St. James Episcopal Church, told her, "When they came around to the plantation and told him that he was free, he just dropped whatever he had in his hands and walked away."

Mrs. Nelson, who looks many years younger than her age is a retired housekeeper and married to Randolph Nelson Sr., a retired Baltimore City employee. They have one son, Randolph Jr., and five grandchildren.



CHARLES EDWARDS — When they told him he was free, he dropped what he was doing and walked away.

MRS. HARRIET E. SCOTT
early member of St. James Episcopal Church

ELISHA B. SCOTT
was a fill-in preacher

"Come to Jesus,"
Translated to South African Language by
PRINCE HOZANNA CORONTO,
Masuta Kaffir Boy.

1. Eni Jesa Bah,
Eni Jesa Bah,
Eni Jesa Bah.
Chorus
Ta ta nu,
Ta ta nu,
Ta ta nu.
2 Yan na Jesu,
Yan na Jesu,
Yan na Jesu.
Repeat Chorus
3 I cube nah,
I cube nah,
I cube nah.
Repeat Chorus
4 I be qua mino,
I be qua mino,
I be qua mino.
Repeat Chorus
5 E qui billio,
E qui billio,
E qui billio.
Repeat Chorus
6 E me donna,
E me donna,
E me donna.
Repeat Chorus

SOUTH AFRICAN HYMN found in Scott family Bible

-The clean

(Continued from C-1

her to visit every block in the campaign. She knew the children, and adult workers, hundreds of them, by name. She loved them and they loved her.

If a block leader reported non-cooperation by city sanitation truck or by another resident — she was quick to go to the person concerned and explain the problem. Usually, after these conferences she had made another friend and worker.

When she retired in 1946, she could point to pride to the blocks and children enrolled, and to the fact that the city had supported the AFRO plan and participated in the drive as it is doing today.

"On this the eve of our country's birth, let every American strive to reach that ultimate which makes every country great . . . love, peace, equality and brotherhood."

A Thought For
THE BICENTENNIAL
From
The National Congregational Church of America
AND
The New Trinity Church
2100-12 Edmondson Avenue
Bishop M. D. Norton, Sr., D.D.
Presiding Bishop, Pastor & Founder

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
525-527 N. CAROLINE ST. BALTO., MD. 21205
PHONE: 675-2333
REV. LEROY FITTS, PASTOR

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God's Providence in the "Black experience" led Moses Clayton an ex-Virginia slave, to come to Baltimore in 1834 to establish a mission among the Negro Baptists.

Initially, Reverend Clayton began his mission in Baltimore as a Sunday School in 1836; in 1836, he organized this body into "The First Colored People's Baptist Church.

Through the years, First Baptist has continued the pursuit of freedom, equality and human dignity through its dynamic programs of Worship, Christian Education, Christian Missions and Social Action.

First Baptist has received numerous citations for its many contributions to America: Big Sister-Little Sister, Inc., 1969; Life Membership of Special Acknowledgement Appreciation from the Public Service Certificate N.A.A.C.P., 1961; Certificate S.C.L.C., 1969; Certificate of Maryland Penitentiary; and a Baltimore City Department of Social Services.

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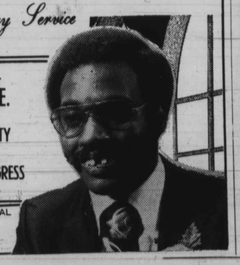
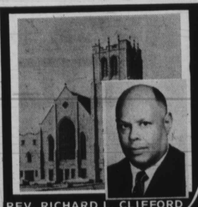


MOSES J. NEWSON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS
WILL BE AT
THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.
JULY 12-15TH



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10:00 A.M.
MORNING WORSHIP

Bethel AME: a struggle hallmark

Traditionally the church has played an instrumental role in the life and history of black people. In many respects, it is the only institution that is run and controlled by blacks solely.

Not only has the church served as a spiritual force in the lives of black people but the church has been the prime mover of many facets in the total life of the black community as a whole.

During the time of slavery, churches served as havens out of which schools, small business enterprises, and early quasi-social service agencies evolved. It was the church and its parishioners who dispensed food, supplied counseling and legal advice for blacks when these social service institutions were designed exclusively to serve whites.

Bethel AME Church has served as the Hallmark of the Black Struggle and her achievements have had local, state, national and international repercussions.

In April, 1975, the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper in describing Bethel AME Church stated that it, "has led a life steeped in the history of the black community and its children."

Dating back to 1785, Bethel Church had its roots as a "Free African Society" consisting of a small group of black people who banned together and held prayer meetings and class meetings in homes.

In 1787 the society adopted the name "Bethel." In 1797, she became incorporated as African Methodist Bethel Church of Baltimore and a part of the AME Church in 1816.

History shows that five years before this great AME Church founded this congregation, Bethel received its charter from the Colonial government of Maryland. Bethel's first location was on Fish Street and its charter was under the pastorship of the Reverend Daniel Coker. Daniel Coker wrote the first book ever published by a black man in America. Coker was elected — but, the first bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bethel's second location was on Saratoga Street.

In 1910, under the pastorate of the Reverend Daniel G. Hill, Baltimore's first Black Cathedral was purchased.

As a church of great historical distinction, Bethel can boast of many outstanding achievements. It started the first school for blacks on the East Coast.

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers had its beginning in Bethel at the hands of the late John H. Murphy Sr. A plaque highlighting this historical event was recently given to the current president, John Oliver, at a recent Men's Day Banquet.

Moreover, Bethel organized Maryland's First Aid Society under the pastorship of A. W. Wayman. Through Bethel's Literary Society, many of the nation's great speakers, both black and white, were brought to Baltimore.

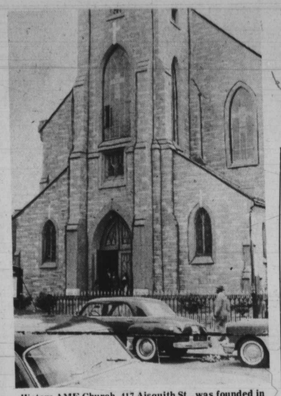
State Teachers College was named in honor of the wife of the Reverend Levy J. Coppin, who later became bishop of the AME Church.

The first Denominational Hymnal was produced at Bethel. Bethel was the first black church to install a mandolin. Under the pastorate of the Reverend John Hurst, Bethel AME Church purchased a house at the corner of Lexington and Aisquith Streets to establish an "old folks home."

Not surprisingly, the men who have pastored at Bethel have gone on to become great national and world leaders. Daniel Payne, long considered the "Father of Black Education" pastored at Bethel. He went on to found Wilberforce College, an AME denominational church college, which was the first black owned-and black-operated institution of higher learning in the United States. Moreover, sixteen of the former pastors of Bethel have gone on to become bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Notable among them are such giants as: Edward Waters, Alexander Wayman, Benjamin Tanner, James Handy, John Hurst and W. Sampson Brooks.

Bethel continues to move in its historical tradition under the young, electrifying, and deeply spiritual leadership of the Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant. Pastor Bryant is the son of Bishop Harrison J. Bryant, who himself served as pastor of Bethel AME Church from 1948-1964.

Pastor Bryant came to Bethel in May, 1975. In seven months, his dynamic ministry has brought over 225 new members to the church. In addition, the congregation has purchased a building which will serve as the focal point of Bethel's Outreach Program. This building will house a "Free Store," a museum which houses many of the artifacts depicting the history of Bethel and a spiritual center for women.



Waters AME Church, 417 Aisquith St., was founded in was by 1866 known as Waters Chapel. The chapel designation persisted in tradition well after the church moved in May 1902 to its present location. Bishops who have served the AME Church include five of the 39 pastors who have served Waters AME Church since 1843.

Dates to remember

DEC. 9
Black soldier William Flora participates in the "Second Bunker Hill" battle at the Great Bridge outside of Norfolk, Va., 1775.

DEC. 10
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., receives Nobel Peace Prize, at ceremonies in Oslo, Norway, 1964.

DEC. 11
In 1851, the courts in Christiana, Pa. upheld the right of fugitive slaves to defend themselves.

DEC. 12
In 1895, a black woman named Mary Fields (Stagecoach Mary) carried the U.S. mail via stagecoach in Montana.

freedom to the family of Austin Dabney, a slave who had aided the Patriots during the Revolutionary period.

DEC. 20
Boston raised a black regiment during the American Revolution called "The Bucks of America," commanded by a Black soldier, Colonel Middleton.

DEC. 21
In 1899, black inventor J. A. Burr received a patent for a lawn mower.

DEC. 22
Mississippi excluded black persons from voting by adopting racially biased literacy tests as prerequisites, 1890.

DEC. 23
Birth of millionairess and philanthropist Madam C. J. Walker, in Delta, La. She made a fortune in the manufacturing of beauty products for black women. 1867.

DEC. 24
George Washington crosses the Delaware accompanied by two blacks, Oliver Cromwell and Prince Whipple, 1776.

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GREETINGS
On this occasion of the Bicentennial celebration of our great nation, the officers, members and juvenile circles of our organization extend our greetings to all Americans whose support, cooperation and participation has made it possible for our leadership to achieve so many successes.
We are aware that perfection does not exit everywhere, and as Masons and Eastern Stars we join those who look to the future when equality, freedom, justice and liberty for all will prevail and when, under God, we will continue forward, ALL AMERICANS TOGETHER.

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