

ay visitors with the former's
Mrs. Gladys Wilson, Front St.
g a happy family reunion.

Gladys Wilson motored to
ng, Mich. with her father and
spending the week as their
returning by motor, accom-
by Mr. Perry Norris and fam-
d Mr. and Mrs. Earl Woodford.

SCHOOL FOR NEGROES

Valley School for Negroes is
by the Georgia State education
ties, Bishop Mikell says, as the
dustrial school in the state.

—Living Church

Church Around the Corner

York—The "Little Church Ar-
e Corner." in spite of the
riness of life in mid-town
ork, has in its confirmation
is spring a little colored girl
mother was confirmed there
o, and whose grandfather and
other were confirmed there.

—Living Church

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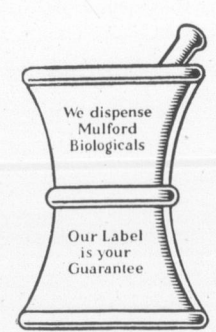
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SOME EARLY NEGRO HEROES

(Continued from Page 1)

that the color of the skin or the cut
or trimmings of the coat can affect
a man's qualifications or usefulness. I
have fifty blacks on board this ship
and many of them are among my
best men."

After the capture of Washington by
the British in 1814, Philadelphia was
seized with a panic of fear, and those
in authority appealed to the colored
leaders for assistance. Twenty-five
hundred Negroes worked ceaselessly
for two days throwing up earthen
defenses for the city and were pub-
licly thanked. Before that Negroes
had done valiant service in Pennsyl-
vania in the two yellow fever epid-
emics in 1793 and 1797 which struck
terror to the populace. It was diffi-
cult to get nurses for the sick or men
to bury the dead. The Negroes seem-
ed least susceptible to the disease
and rendered a real service and for
a while were the only helpers to be
had.

It was not only as soldiers that the
Negroes of this early period proved
their worth. Benjamin Banneka, a
Negro of Maryland, born in 1731, was
a mathematical and astronomical gen-
ius, a self-made scholar who master-
ed five languages. He accompanied
and assisted the commissioners who
surveyed the District of Columbia.
George Ellicott allowed him the use
of his library and his astronomical
instruments. Banneka published his
first almanac in 1792, said to be the
first almanac published in America.
Thomas Jefferson prized the almanac
so highly that he sent a copy to the
Academy of Sciences at Paris and
wrote Banneka a highly appreciative
letter.

A number of Negro preachers of
the eighteenth century showed such
ability in the pulpit that they mini-
stered to white churches with great
acceptance. Rev. Lemuel Haynes, a
soldier of the Revolution, served as
a Congregational minister to the
whites in several New England churches
beginning with 1780. By a cur-
ious coincidence he was a predeces-
sor of the writer as pastor of the
First Congregational Church, Torrington,
Connecticut, nearly a century
and a half ago. Josiah Bishop, Negro
Baptist preacher, was pastor of the
First Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va.
in 1795. "Black Harry" accompanied
the Methodists, Asbury and Coke, on
their evangelistic trips and is said
to have preached more acceptably to
the white congregations than these
gentlemen themselves. Henry Ev-
ans, free Negro preacher in Virginia,
tarried at Fayetteville, North Caro-
lina, and preached so effectively that
large numbers of white people were
converted and a Methodist Church
could be organized there in 1790.

These are but a few of the out-
standing heroes and leaders of the
Negroes in the early days of our coun-
try, when history was in the making
and these black men helped to make
it. They showed themselves capable
of courage and loyalty, patriotism
and service.

—The Adult Bible Class Magazine

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