

STOP! LOOK and COME

— TO THE —

COMMUNITY FAMILY CLUB PICNIC

ANNUAL PICNIC!

MONDAY, AUGUST 7th — CIVIC HOLIDAY

At SPRINGBANK Park

Starts 10:30 a.m.

FEATURES OF THE DAY WILL INCLUDE

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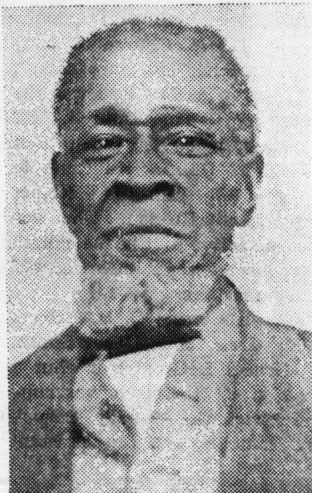
125 Dundas Street

The B.M.E. Church
of Canada

Colored Methodist dates away to October 4th, 1848 when land was sold in trust to William Hamilton Benjamin Harris, John Osburne, Henry James, Henry Logan, Thomas Wingate and George Winemiller, for the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Property for building at 275 Thames St. was originally thirty feet frontage by a hundred and ten feet deep. It was sold to trustees by William Clark, a carpenter who originally secured the land from the Crown on September 8th, 1848.

Litenses to the sale agreement were: William Patrick, Hunter Murray and W. C. U. Connor, a missionary of A.M.E. Church. The original A.M.E. Church of London was known as the "Old Fugitive Slave Chapel on Thames Street" because it was found by slaves who made their way to London by means of the underground railway.

Eighteen years before 1848 an effort was made to establish a colony of former slaves near Lucan at a place called Wilberforce in honour of the British Statesman of that name who had done so much to free Ne-



RT. REV. WILLIS NAZERY
Bishop B.M.E. Church of Canada
1856—1875

groes in British possessions. The colony failed and the fugitives were scattered. The failure was due to our "old friend" racial prejudice. The Canada Company feared that a colored community would hinder their interest and refused to sell any more land to Negroes.

Archie Bremer stated in his book "Illustrated London," that John Brown the Negro liberator, spent days in London drawing up a constitution for his Free Slave Republic. The constitution was adopted at a meeting of abolitionists and colored men in Chatham on May 12 1858.

City residents of years ago claimed that Brown held a mass meeting of colored people in the little chapel on Thames St. in 1858. It was reported that Brown was the chief speaker of the evening. He wanted the Negroes of the city to be drilled, and in time, join with others on a raid of slave holders.

One of the original pastors of the chapel was Rev. Benjamin Miller, a runaway slave. Old city directories show that in the early sixties Rev. J. Rawlings was pastor.

Former slaves who attended the Slave Chapel were: Isca Adams, resided on (Ottaway Ave.) South St.; Big Buckley, Rev. Geo. Barclay, pastor of the chapel. James Worthington had a barber shop on the market. George Duncan who was recognized as a physical marvel, lived on Maitland Street. He was employed for some years at Craig's Lumber Yard. He had two sons, Hodgen and Isca.

Henry Logan lived on Pall Mall St. Mrs. Harper resided on Wellington Road South. Her son Alex Harper for years was city auditor of Chicago. Henry Moorehead, known as Professor Moorehead, along with A.

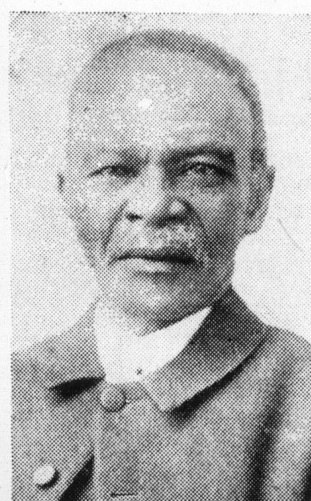


RT. REV. R. R. DISNEY
Bishop B.M.E. Church of Canada
1875—1886

B. and A. T. Jones, was mentioned in Drew's "North Side View of Slavery." William Berry lived over Clark's Bridge. He was a successful auctioneer and founded the City Chimney Sweep. His son William Berry still owns and operates the City Chimney Sweep business. A frequent visitor to the city was A. Stevens. He was a fiddler who had no fixed place.

On the 29th day of September, 1856 the Canadian Church of the African Methodist Episcopal Connexion separated from the United States connexion of A.M.E. to form an independent body called the British Methodist Episcopal Church and moved from the chapel on Thames Street to the building on Grey Street. Thus came into being, on September 29th, 1856, the Bethanuel Methodist Episcopal Church on Grey St., one of the oldest churches in the city.

Rt. Rev. Willis Nazery came to London from the U.S.A. to be the first Bishop to take charge of the new connexion. He was bishop of the B.M.E. connexion from 1856 to 1875 when he died in Shelburne, N.S.



RT. REV. W. HAWKINS
General Superintendent
B. M. E. Church of Canada
1886—1894

On August 22nd, 1875. Next to become head of the conference was Rt. Rev. R. R. Disney, from 1875 to 1886. During the years between 1856 and 1898 the title of Bishop changed to General Superintendent. In 1898 it was changed back to Bishop again. It was changed back to General Superintendent in 1908 and has remained General Superintendent since.

In 1886 Rt. Rev. Walter Hawkins was General Superintendent of the B.M.E. Churches of Canada, until 1894. Rt. Rev. C. A. Washington

(Continued on page 4)

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