



WELCOME TO HISTORY



SOJOURNER TRUTH

TRUTH JOINED MOTHER A&ME ZION IN 1829 AFTER LEAVING PREDOMINANTLY WHITE JOHN STREET METHODIST CHURCH, WHERE SCHOLARS SAY PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT COULD NOT SERVE IN LEADERSHIP AND HAD TO WAIT TO TAKE COMMUNION UNTIL WHITES HAD PARTAKEN OF THE SACRAMENT.





FREDERICK DOUGLASS

DOUGLASS WAS LICENSED TO PREACH BY A CONGREGATION OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN NEW BEDFORD, MASS., AND HAD MANY ROLES IN THE DENOMINATION. THE AME ZION CHURCH WAS WHERE HE HONED HIS FAMOUS ORATORICAL SKILLS.

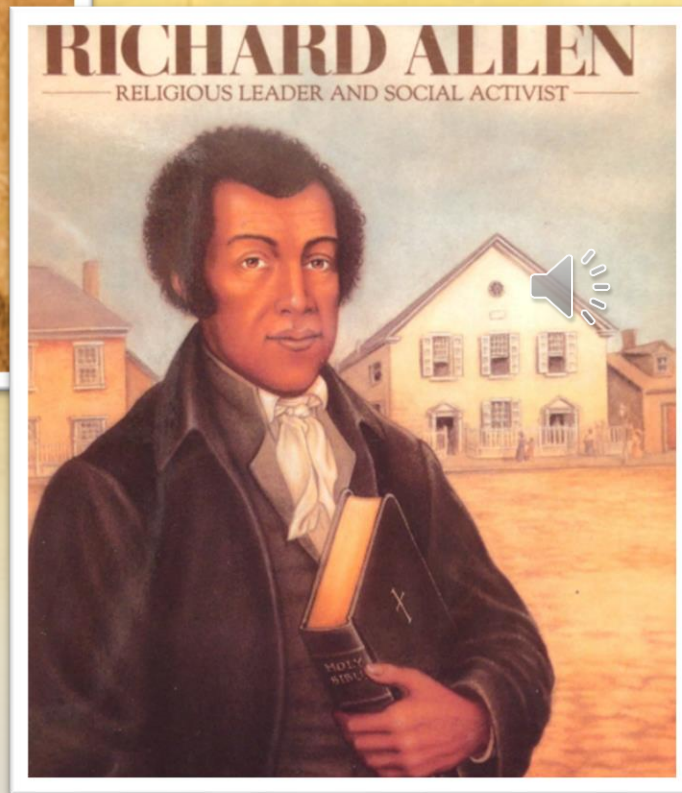
HE WAS WHAT WE CALL AN EXHORTER FIRST AND THEN SECONDLY, HE WAS A LICENSED PREACHER, BUT HE WAS NEVER ORDAINED," SAID THE REV. JAMES DAVID ARMSTRONG, RETIRED HISTORIAN OF THE AME ZION CHURCH. "HE HELD OTHER OFFICES IN THE AME ZION CHURCH, LIKE STEWARD, SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, SEXTON.

HARRIET TUBMAN



For over a hundred years, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church has been the steadfast guardian of the Harriet Tubman Home and the sacred grounds upon which it stands. In so doing, the church has maintained a living memory that will honor the legacy of Harriet Tubman and the freedom movement she so eloquently represented for decades of future generations. For the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, for whom so many view as America's true Freedom Church, it is another brick in the long highway of justice for its people. By the time in 1857 that Harriet Tubman had purchased her first home from former Governor and U.S. Senator of New York, William Seward, in Auburn, New York, and moved her family there, the A.M.E. Zion Church had been long established in the community.

At her death in 1913, the funeral services for Harriet Tubman were held in the Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Auburn.



RICHARD ALLEN

WAS BORN A SLAVE IN 1760 AND
DIED AS FIRST BISHOP OF THE
A.M.E. CHURCH IN 1831. HE AND
HIS FAMILY ARE BURIED IN A
TOMB AT THE LOWER LEVEL OF
THE A.M.E. CHURCH.



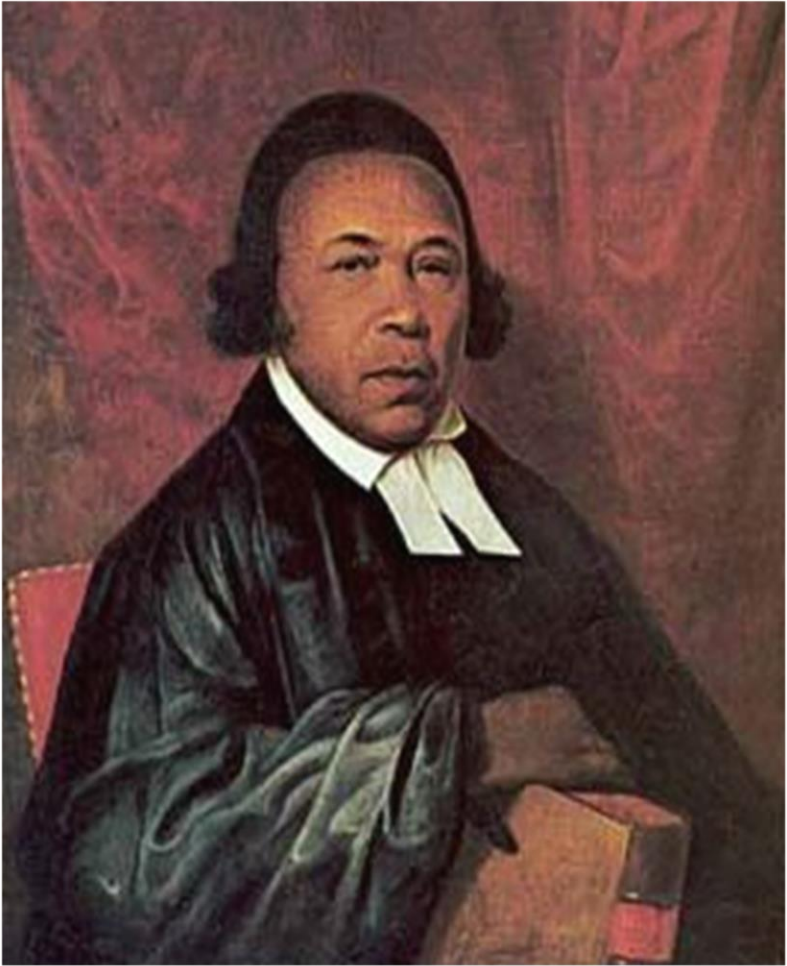
JARENA LEE

WAS LIKELY ONE OF THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE PREACHERS IN AMERICA. SHE NOTED ONE PARTICULAR EXPERIENCE THAT LED HER TO FEEL CALLED: TO MY UTTER SURPRISE THERE SEEMED TO SOUND A VOICE WHICH I THOUGHT I DISTINCTLY HEARD, AND MOST CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND, WHICH SAID TO ME, "GO PREACH THE GOSPEL!"

ABSALOM JONES

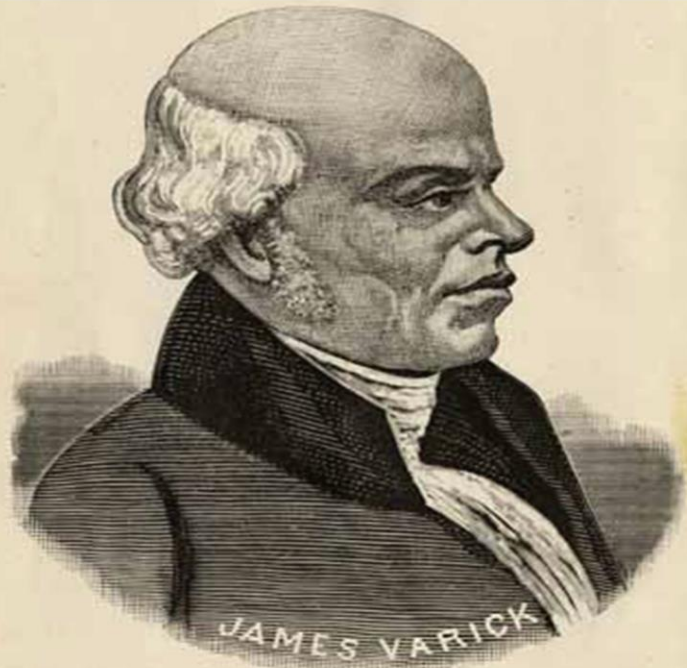
IN 1794 JONES FOUNDED THE FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION, AND IN 1802, HE WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO BE ORDAINED AS A PRIEST IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES. ... HE IS LISTED ON THE EPISCOPAL CALENDAR OF SAINTS.

HIS MINISTRY AMONG BLACKS WAS SO SIGNIFICANT THAT HE WAS KNOWN AS "THE BLACK BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

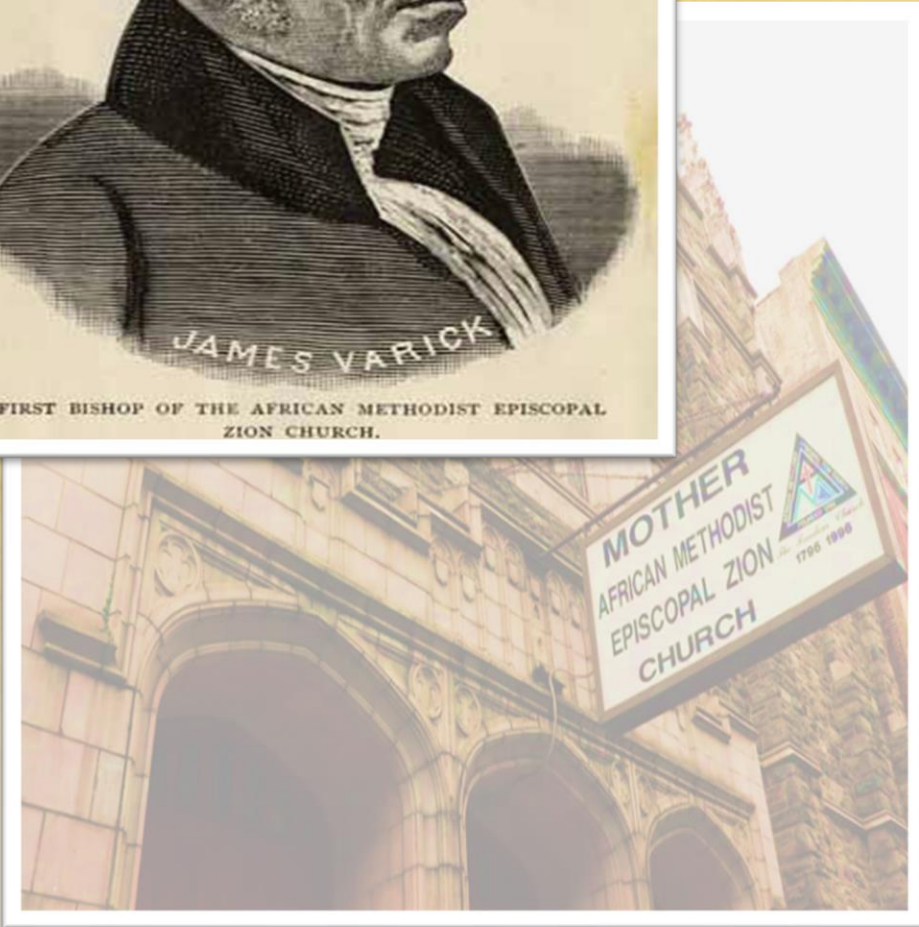


JAMES VARICK

WAS THE FOUNDER AND FIRST BISHOP OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH. VARICK WAS BORN TO A SLAVE MOTHER NEAR NEWBURGH, NEW YORK. HIS FATHER WAS RICHARD VARICK, A FREE BLACK MAN WHO WAS ORIGINALLY FROM HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY. VARICK GREW UP WITH HIS PARENTS IN NEW YORK CITY, WHERE IT IS THOUGHT THAT HE MAY HAVE ATTENDED THE FREE SCHOOL FOR NEGROES. AFTER THIS SCHOOLING, VARICK WAS TRAINED IN THE TRADE OF SHOEMAKING.



FIRST BISHOP OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
ZION CHURCH.





PETER WILLIAMS JR.

WAS AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN EPISCOPAL PRIEST, THE SECOND ORDAINED IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE FIRST TO SERVE IN NEW YORK CITY. HE WAS AN ABOLITIONIST WHO ALSO SUPPORTED FREE BLACK EMIGRATION TO HAITI, THE BLACK REPUBLIC THAT HAD ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE IN 1804 IN THE CARIBBEAN.

JAMES WALKER HOOD

WAS AN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH BISHOP IN NORTH CAROLINA FROM 1872 TO 1916. BEFORE EMANCIPATION, HE WAS AN ACTIVE ABOLITIONIST, AND DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR HE WENT TO NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA WHERE HE PREACHED FOR THE CHURCH TO THE BLACK PEOPLE AND SOLDIERS IN THE AREA.

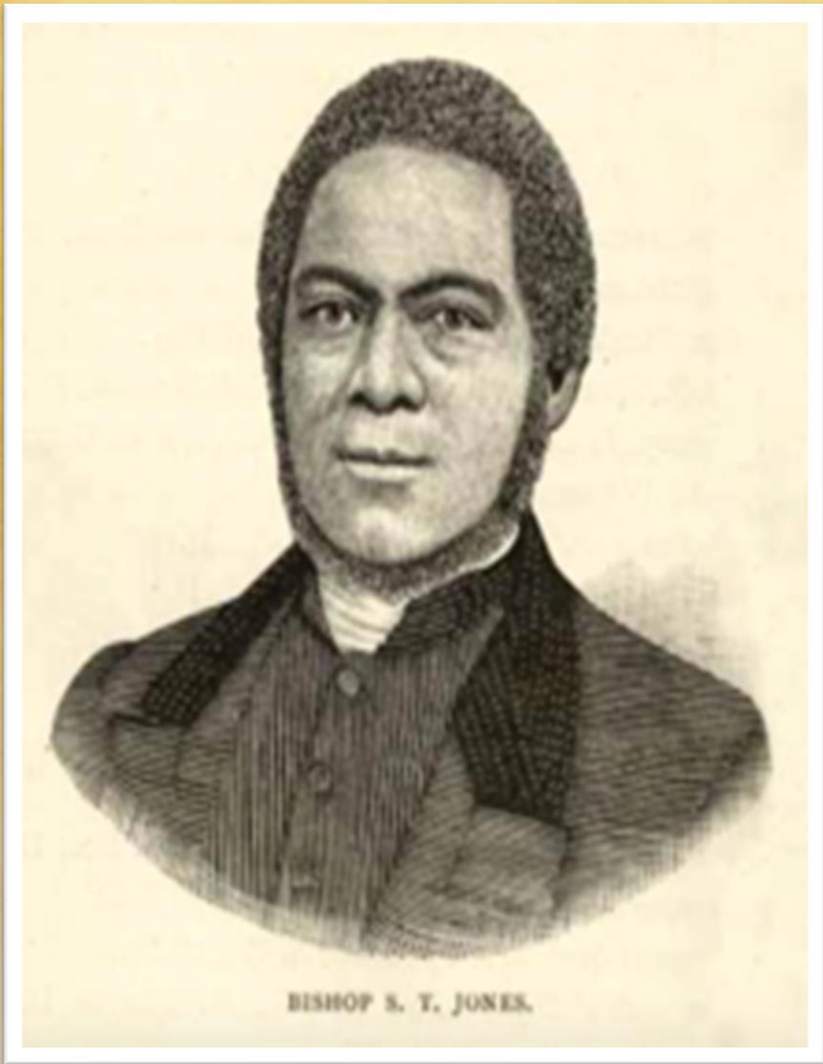


Bishop Singleton T. Jones

was a religious leader in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AME Zion). When he was ten years old, he was apprenticed to a lawyer and worked for him for four years, after which he found positions at an inn, as a hod carrier, and on a riverboat on the Ohio River. He became a pastor in the 1840s, serving churches throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Although he had little education, he taught himself to be an articulate orator. Besides being a pastor to churches, he also edited AME Zion publications, the Zion's Standard and Weekly Review and the Discipline.

He helped establish churches before and after the Civil War and was known for his skills for helping blacks adjust to the post-war Reconstruction era. He became a bishop of the church in 1868. He and his wife had twelve children, two of whom attained a higher education, and their son Edward D. W. Jones sought a career with the AME Zion Church, becoming a bishop as well. He wrote several hymns and his sermons and addresses were published a year after his death.

He was the first of the African American clergy to be awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity and was listed with Harriet Tubman as one of the most effective church members to understand and meet the needs of African Americans.





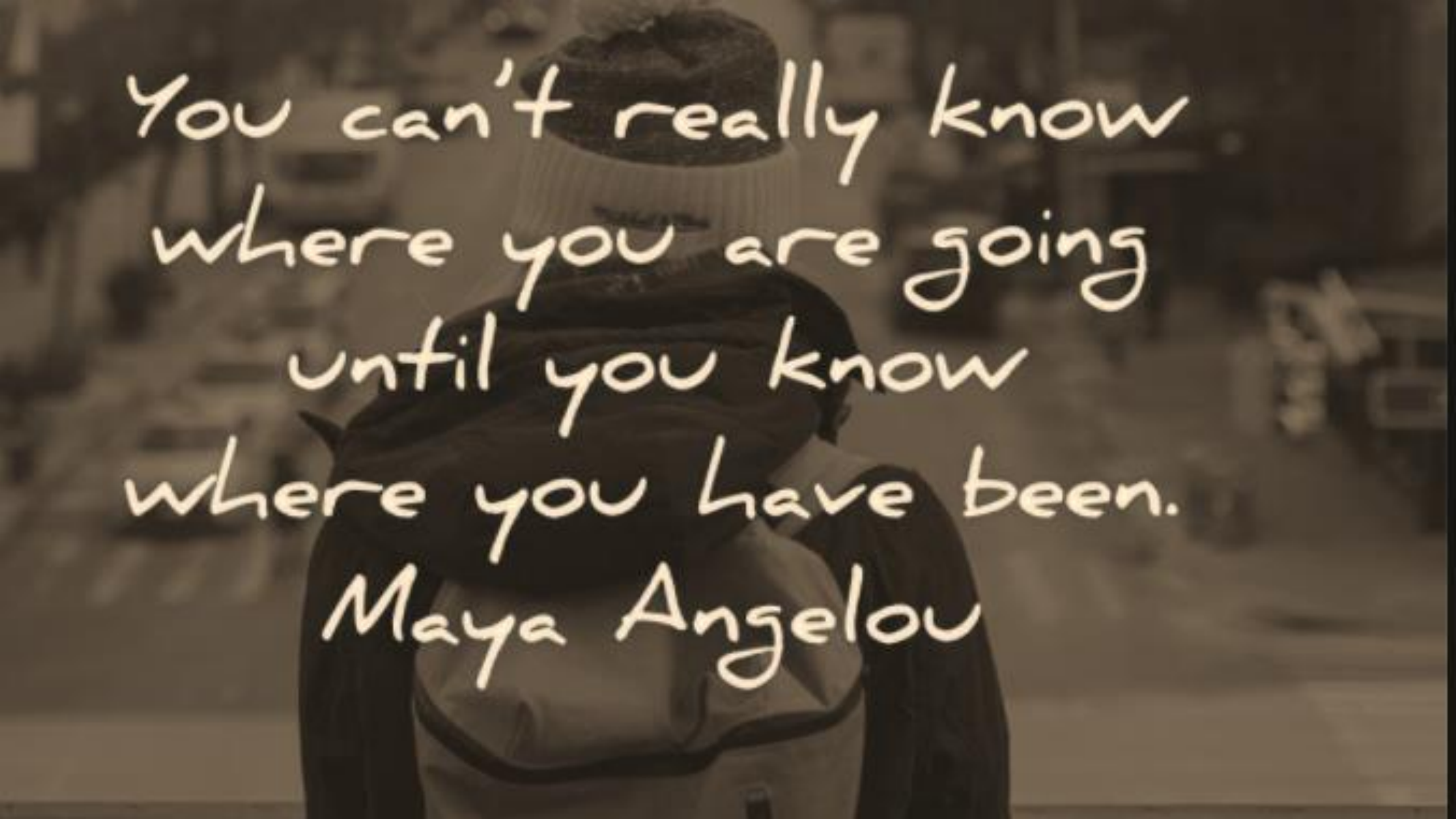
Henry McNeal Turner

(was a minister, politician, and the 12th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). After the American Civil War, he worked to establish new A.M.E. congregations among African Americans in Georgia.[1] Born free in South Carolina, Turner learned to read and write and became a Methodist preacher. He joined the AME Church in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1858, where he became a minister. Founded by free blacks in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the early 19th century, the A.M.E. Church was the first independent black denomination in the United States. Later Turner had pastorates in Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, DC.

In 1863 during the American Civil War, Turner was appointed as the first black chaplain in the United States Colored Troops. Afterward, he was appointed to the Freedmen's Bureau in Georgia. He settled in Macon and was elected to the state legislature in 1868 during the Reconstruction era. An A.M.E. missionary, he also planted many AME churches in Georgia after the war. In 1880 he was elected as the first Southern bishop of the AME Church, after a fierce battle within the denomination because of its Northern roots.

Angered by the Democrats' regaining power and instituting Jim Crow laws in the late nineteenth century South, Turner began to support black nationalism and emigration of blacks to the African continent. This movement had started before the Civil War under the American Colonization Society. Turner was the chief figure to do so in the late nineteenth century.



A person wearing a dark jacket and a backpack is walking away from the camera on a sidewalk. The background is a blurred city street with buildings and other pedestrians. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, handwritten font.

You can't really know
where you are going
until you know
where you have been.

Maya Angelou