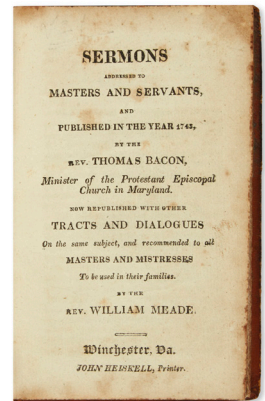


# Chronology of History of Slavery at All Saints (ASEC), including modern-day Episcopal Church history of Civil Rights anti-racism action <sup>i</sup>

Maryland Episcopal Churches had a long history of embracing slavery; as a slave-holding state and a church with wealthier leaders and members, there was a greater likelihood of whites enslaving people and/or hiring enslaved people for work.



- **1760s:** Thomas Bacon, ASEC 3<sup>rd</sup> rector, 1758-68; articulated a belief widespread about the inferiority of African Americans. In a letter to ASEC vestry referred to “those poor, ignorant, benighted Creatures.”
  - Bacon had traveled and preached to slave-owners and enslaved. Book published 1743, *Sermons to Masters and Servants*.
    - Told enslavers that slavery is God’s will;
    - Told enslaved people not to complain, being slaves was their place, and they would be “rewarded by their Just Master in Heaven.”
- **1790:** vast majority of clergy and Lay Delegates to the Diocesan Convention owned slaves
- **1792:** Thomas Claggett, 1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of the American Episcopal Church and 1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of the Dioceses of Maryland, owned slaves
- **1790s – 1864:** Many prominent ASEC wardens, vestry and other church members enslaved people – Francis Scott Key, Ann Key Taney (wife of Roger Brook Taney), Gov. Thomas Johnson, John and Ann Johnson Grahame for example
  - Congregation and church’s wealth was built on backs of enslaved people
- **1810s:** Construction records for the Court Street building include payments to enslaved people (some of whom may have been enslaved by ASEC Vestry and/or members)



**1950s:** 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland swimming pool to desegregate - pool and overnight camp at Frederick County’s Bishop Claggett Diocesan Center

- Bishop Noble Powell 1955 letter: “When Claggett policy was being formed, no question was ever raised as to what approach, other than the Christian approach, would be made to the use of the facilities. From the beginning there has been no segregation... We have tried to make Claggett Center the spiritual center for all, and we have tried to put Jesus Christ at the center of the Center.”

**2000:** General Convention requires all employees of Episcopal Church take anti-racism training

**2007:** Diocesan Convention, adopts formal apology for the Church’s acceptance of racism; pledges to take effective action

**2014:** Episcopal Churches of MD recognized the 150th anniversary of Emancipation in Maryland on November 1, 2014. To prepare, Diocesan Bishop Eugene Sutton asked all churches to learn about their history of slavery and hold public programs sharing what was learned.

- ASEC T&R Committee, chaired by vestry member Waymon Wright, learns about segregated balcony seating in Court Street building and significant quantity of references to enslaved and free African Americans in church's archival records. (example of All Saints Parish Register page from 1831 is below)
- Marriages, baptisms, confirmation, and deaths of free and enslaved individuals, sometimes with note of owners who were ASEC members
- Some references to people leaving ASEC to go to African American churches in Frederick

1831  
Nov 20 Baptized Ann Cecilia Nelson born March 17 1821  
" " John Lawrence " " June 16 1824  
" " Rosa Landoria " " Sep 15 1825  
" " Thomas Bond " " July 14 1827  
" " Edw M Thurnton (son of J. W. & Catharine born . . . . .  
30 Married M<sup>rs</sup> Nelson to Miss Josephine Emily (Clemson)  
Dec 20 Buried M<sup>rs</sup> Caroline Graham widow of Th<sup>o</sup> . . . . .  
1832  
Jan 25 " M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Ann Mattox (from the country)  
24 Baptized Charlotte Vernon (wife of Vernon)  
Buried Gaiter a Col<sup>d</sup> woman  
1831 Feb 10 " Gaiter a Daughter of J.  
" " Alexander Kedgley  
" 18 Married Rob<sup>t</sup> Smith a free Col<sup>d</sup> Man to Maria Waters belong<sup>g</sup> to M<sup>rs</sup> Rebecca Johnson.  
" 23 Buried A Col<sup>d</sup> Child (of the above named Gaiter)  
" 26 Baptized Mary Ann Frost (Daughter of Thos & Catharine Frost) born Oct 1831  
March 12 Married William Otis to Miss Mary A. C. Late  
" 21 Buried Rachel Wayman (a Col<sup>d</sup> woman)  
14 (Q 23) " Frances Columbia Nelson (Daughter of John & Frances<sup>th</sup> Nelson)  
15 (Q 24) Married Mahlon Talbot to Miss Louiza B. Charlton  
" 4 Baptized Louiza Pitcher (Daughter of Barjow & Hannah Pitcher) born Feb 18 1832  
" 16 Buried Nancy Ashman (Daughter of George & Semina)  
June 26 Baptized Johnson (Daughter of W<sup>m</sup> & Maria Johnson) born  
1831 July 8 " Laura Sophia Jackson (Daughter of Thos & Maria. W. Jackson) She was born Sep 24 1831



continued



Sara Iredell and Christian Fleetwood photographed on their wedding day in 1869 by Mathew Brady. (Library of Congress)

Last Sabbath in company with an old lady I visited the Episcopal church, the pastor of which having heard that the "new teacher" was an Episcopalian sent for me to call on him, which I have not done. Judge of my disgust when I found that our seats were benches ranged against the wall and separated from the body of the pews by an isle through which the congregation passed to their seats brushing the colored Christians with

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- Years later, documentation found of Reconstruction era segregation in Church Street building. Letter from Sara Iredell to Christian Fleetwood from 1868 is above.

**2017:** Diocesan Reparations Task Force established to work on restoration, atonement, and reconciling wrongs

- ASEC T&R Committee reactivated in 2021, hosting book discussion, participating in Diocese T&R committee, annual Trail of Souls, hold Juneteenth celebration coffee hours
- 2024-2025 : after seeing reparations plaque on St James Episcopal Church in NYC, began researching and discussing options for ASEC to do a similar plaque as part of our reparations work

<sup>i</sup> Some Sources for Additional information

- Reparations-Letter-Appendix-A.pdf – Mary Klein, Diocesan Archivist
- Racism-in-the-Anglican-and-Episcopal-Church-of-Maryland.pdf – Mary Klein and Kingsley Smith
- A Diocesan Journey toward Truth and Transformation – The Episcopal Church – video with Bishop Sutton made for 2022 Episcopal Convention