

# Black History Month Profile

Daniel Alexander Payne  
Written by Sylvia Eley



## Daniel Alexander Payne 1811-1893

Payne was born on February 24, 1811 to free Black parents London and Martha Payne in Charleston, South Carolina.

Daniel Payne studied at the Minors' Moralistic Society School for two years, and then was privately tutored. Payne went to work at age twelve to a shoe-merchant, as a carpenter at thirteen, and then as a tailor, finally entering teaching profession and opening a school for

Black children in 1829, when only nineteen years of age. In 1835, South Carolina passed bill No. 2639: An Act to Amend the Law relating to Slaves and Free Persons of Color which forced Payne to close his school.

After his school was closed, Payne left for the North where he enrolled in the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, studying there from 1835 to 1837. In 1837 he joined the Franklin Synod of the Lutheran Church, and was ordained as the first African American minister in the Lutheran Church in Fordsboro, New York in 1839. At his ordination he delivered a speech, *Slavery Brutalizes Man*, in support of a synodical report to end slavery in America.

Payne left the Lutheran Church and joined the A.M.E. Church in 1841, becoming part of the ministry in 1843. From 1842 to 1843 he was a leader in the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee, which provided enslaved black women and men food, clothing, and temporary shelter, and also assisted them in escaping to Canada which did not recognize the Fugitive Slave Act. Acting as historian for the A.M.E. Church starting in Episcopal Church. In 1853 Payne was elected sixth bishop of the A.M.E. Church.

