Daniel Alexander Payne Biography

Daniel Alexander Payne was born on February 24, 1811, to free Black parents, London and Martha Payne in Charleston, South Carolina. At 19, he taught at a school he founded for Black children. Payne was forced to close the school after South Carolina passed a law that regulated educating slaves and free persons of color. After that, he traveled north and enrolled in the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. 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 1839.

Payne left the Lutheran Church and joined the A.M.E. Church in 1841, becoming part of the ministry in 1843. Under his leadership, they expanded its foreign missions, reorganized its publication program, and established hundreds of new congregations. Payne became the first Black American to lead a college and was named the president of Wilberforce University in 1856. The Wilberforce University Board of Trustees approved the establishment of a seminary in 1871 and Payne served as the first dean. Payne made his last public appearance at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893 and passed away shortly thereafter on November 2, 1893, in Xenia, Ohio at age 83.
Published works of Daniel Alexander Payne

References from Nelson Strobert book: Daniel Alexander Payne: The Venerable Preceptor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Payne, Daniel A. to the Rev. Phillip Wieting 5 June 1838. Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Archives at Wagner College.
---. to the President and Members of the Franckean Synod, 1 June 1842. Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Archives at Wagner College.
---. "Epistles on the Education of the Ministry No. 2." African Methodist Episcopal Church. 1, no. 7 (July 1843): 159-160.
---. "Epistles on the Education of the Ministry No. 4." African Methodist Episcopal Church. 1, no. 9 (November 1843): 201-211.
---. "Diary for 1856." Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.
---. "Religion and Piety." Repository of Religion and Literature 1, no. 2 (July 1858): 72-75.
---. "On General Literature" Repository of Religion and Literature 1, no. 3 (October 1858): 109-113.
---. "Mrs. Mary Virginia Forten." Repository of Religion and Literature 1, no. 4 December 1858): 172-174.
---. "Matrimony-No. 2." Repository of Religion and Literature (December 1859).
---. "Matrimony-No. 3." Repository of Religion and Literature. 3, no. 1 (January 1860): 8-11
---. "Rev. Daniel Coker." Repository of Religion and Literature, 3, no.3 (July 1861): 97-100.
---. "Two leaves from the forthcoming History of the A.M.E. Church." Repository of Literature and Literature. 3, no. 4 (October 1861): 145-146.
---. "Journal de l'Anne 1877." Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.
---. "Journal de l'Anne 1878." Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.


---. to the Rev. Samuel S. Schmucker, 30 March 1869 Wentz Library Archives, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

---. to SS Schmucker, 24 May 1870. Musselman Library Archives, Gettysburg College.

**Additional Resources – Addresses, Sermons, Speeches, etc.**


Contents of *Sermons and Addresses 1853-1891:*

- **Introduction**, Payne, Bishop Daniel A.
- **Annual Report and Retrospection of the First Decade of Wilberforce University.** Cincinnati, 1873.
- **General Conference of 1852.** *(Reprinted from History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.)* Nashville, 1891.
- **The Relations of this Conference with the African Methodist Church.** *(Reprinted from Report of the Third Meeting of the National Conference of Unitarians and other Christian Churches.)* Boston, 1868.
- **Semi-Centennial Sermon.** *(Reprinted from Proceedings of the Semi-Centenary Celebration.)* Cincinnati, 1874.
- **Welcome to the Ransomed; or, Duties of the Colored Inhabitants of the District of Columbia.** Baltimore, 1862.


“Historical sketch of Wilberforce University: with general information for 1879/80.” Daniel Alexander Payne, microfilm.

