



## **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.

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