

Delaware HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Delaware Historical Society is the statewide, non-profit organization that explores, preserves, shares, and promotes Delaware history, heritage, and culture to strengthen our community.

Forging Faith, Building Freedom launches the Delaware Historical Society's new project, the Center for African American Heritage, scheduled to open Fall 2015.

The primary purpose of the Center will be to research, collect, preserve and present for public enrichment the history and heritage of Delaware's African Americans.

Forging Faith, Building Freedom is generously supported by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs and



The Delaware Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance (IMA) of Dover and the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council (IMAC) of Delaware (Wilmington) in developing this exhibition.

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www.dehistory.org

Image: Rainbow Club, Bethel A.M.E Church, Wilmington, November 11, 1934
Sanborn Collection, Delaware Historical Society

FORGING FAITH, BUILDING FREEDOM



September 27, 2013 - Summer 2014

FORGING FAITH, BUILDING FREEDOM

African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980

Forging Faith, Building Freedom, a special exhibition at the Delaware History Museum, honors the faith experiences of African Americans in Delaware and their contributions to the development of African American religion in the United States.

Delaware's champions of religious freedom Absalom Jones, Richard Allen, Peter Spencer, and Samuel Cornish led in the creation of independent black churches in the United States in the late 1700s and early 1800s. In Wilmington, former enslaved African Peter Spencer founded the nation's first independent, incorporated black denomination, the Union Church of Africans, and the Big August Quarterly in 1813-14.

This exhibition has been developed in full collaboration with the faith community throughout Delaware and consultant historian Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin of Vanderbilt University, the leading scholar on Peter Spencer and his churches. This cooperative venture has resulted in the first public presentation of a rich and exciting collection of documents, images, and objects. These heritage materials explore two centuries of diverse faith experiences, telling the story of the struggle for freedom and equality for African Americans in Delaware.

Forging Faith, Building Freedom commemorates the bicentennial of the African Union Methodist tradition and the August Quarterly, the nation's oldest African American religious festival.

equality
and freedom

diverse
faiths

liberation

Guided Group Tours - Adult and Youth
Available by reservation only.

Specialized self-guided tours available.

For information regarding the
exhibition, programming, and
reservations visit www.dehistory.org
or call (302) 655-7161.