

The Walking Preacher of the Binga Family – Part 3

Elder Anthony Binga married Rhoda Story who escaped enslavement in Tennessee and came to Canada. Among their children was Anthony Binga Jr. (1843-1919) who was educated at King's Institute in Buxton where he had a scholarship that paid for his tuition. Anthony completed three years of medical training and it was his goal to become a physician. He also had a private tutor in Latin and anatomy and it was in 1865 that he completed his studies. Following his schooling, Anthony became a teacher in Atchison, Kansas. It was only after becoming ill that he returned to Canada in 1867. To help with his recovery, Anthony Jr. was baptised in the Detroit River so that he could regain his strength. Although illness is never a good thing, Anthony's sickness changed his path from medicine to religion, considering he became an ordained minister by the Canadian Anti-Slavery Baptist Association. Eight months after, he was the pastor at Puce River Church. From there he went to Athens County, Ohio, working as a preacher and principal at the Albany Enterprise Academy.

Anthony Binga Jr. married the daughter of a Baptist minister, Rebecca L. Bush of Xenia, Ohio on December 2, 1869. They had two daughters. He remained there until 1871 and took a job in Canada which allowed him to spend more time in his ministerial role. The following year, in January 1872, he left for Richmond, Virginia becoming a pastor of the First Baptist Church of Manchester. He simultaneously accepted a teaching position with Manchester Public Schools, while he oversaw the education of Black children in Manchester, which included six schools. He taught there for 16 years and was highly respected.

Anthony Binga Sr. had other siblings including his brothers Daniel Jr. (born c. 1808) and Moses. Daniel Jr. was an engineer, but he and his brother Moses also worked as clerks. Daniel Jr. married Mary Haney/Haynie on December 24, 1846, and he was roughly 24 years older than

Mary. According to the 1861 Census, Mary was born in Upper Canada, in Colchester in 1832. Their children were: Louis, James, Daniel, Hannah, Eliza, Jane and Herman. Mary and Daniel's daughter Hannah was born in 1854 in Fort Malden (now Amherstburg) and she was most likely named after her father Daniel's sister. On October 4, 1875, in Albion, Michigan, Hannah married Samuel Hughes who was born in 1842 and raised in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and was the son of Elizabeth Stanton and John Hughes. Their marriage did not last, but several years later Hannah married James Taylor of Amherstburg. They had no children and moved to Pontiac, Michigan. It was Hannah's son, from her first marriage, Wilbur (b. 1888) who was the first person of African descent to graduate from Pontiac High School. Hannah's brother, Herman married Martha Rann on August 7, 1901 in Pontiac, Michigan. Still more to come next week.