

## Historical marker dedicated at Prospect

Members of the Prospect A.M.E. Church on Railroad Avenue in Georgetown dedicated a new historical marker on Sunday, Nov. 24. Site of one of the few schools for African-American youth for many years, Prospect A.M.E. Church dates back to the early days of the African-Methodist-Episcopal movement.

The marker reads as follows: "The roots of African-American Methodism in this community can be traced to the organization of a black 'class' within the local Methodist society in the 1790's. By the 1830's a group of residents had affiliated themselves with Bishop Richard Allen's African Methodist Episcopal Church. On November 13, 1839, trustees Moses Robinson, Timothy Jacobs, Curtis Jacobs, George Ratcliff, and Isaac Waples, purchased land for the construction of a church and establishment of a cemetery. The original structure was replaced by the present church circa 1867. For many years, Prospect A.M.E. was the site of one of the few schools for African-American youth in Sussex County."

Russell McCabe, director of the Delaware Archives' historical marker program, noted that Moses Robinson eventually became a pastor in the church, was active in the African-American-Episcopal Church movement, and is believed to be buried alongside his wife, Rachel, near the front door of the church.

"He was born into slavery during the Revolutionary War," said McCabe to the gathered crowd, "And died after the end of the Civil War. He lived for 90 years and in that time became free and saw the development of a church and a school on this site. During the 1830's, 1840's and 1850's, he was ministering on the frontier of the A.M.E. Church. That's a lot for one lifetime."

Charles West, representative for the 41st District where Prospect Church stands, helped procure the money needed for creation and erection of the historical marker. "I'm proud to be your representative," said West. "I think of the hardships that people like Moses Robinson and others like him went through and still they kept the faith. And I wonder, would we be able to do the same?"

Shown in this photo are (l-r) the Rev. Dr. Herman Moody, pastor of Prospect A.M.E. and its 65 parishioners; McCabe; Artishia Conoway Stevens, whose late stepfather, the Rev. Eliott, ministered at Prospect; and Rep. West.



PROSPECT