

in Cambridge, England, and afterwards spent twenty years in Africa as minister and teacher. On his return to the United States, he became a noted black scholar and founder of the American Negro Academy.

3. Born in New York City, Charles L. Reason received his education in the African Free Schools of New York City. In 1852, Reason became head of the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia. He was also one of the first blacks in the United States (William G. Allen was another) to teach at a predominantly white school, becoming professor of belles lettres at Central College in McGrawville, New York. Reason was highly active in the political, social and educational activities of his people.

4. Austin Steward (1793-?) was born in Prince William County, Virginia. His master, Captain William Helm, later sold his plantation and moved his remaining slaves to New York State. In the town of Bath, where Helms settled, Steward was hired out by his master. But with the passage, in 1799 of the state's gradual emancipation law, however, along with a series of statutes passed in 1807, which prohibited the removal of the slaves from the state and guaranteed their freedom if their master had promised in writing to free them, Steward's liberty seemed certain. In 1815, he achieved his release from bondage and hired his services in his own right. Steward later became a prosperous grocer in Rochester during the 1820's.

In the early 1830's, Steward was instrumental in organizing and directing a settlement of American free blacks and escaped slaves in Canada. The Wilberforce Settlement, as it became known, was located near London, Ontario (then Upper Canada). In 1837, however, Steward left Wilberforce, returned to Rochester, and reentered business. He met with little success and gave up the enterprise altogether after fire destroyed his premises. In later years he engaged in school-teaching in Canandaigua, New York, and for a time served as agent of the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*. While little is known about him after 1850, Steward was an active participant in the Negro Convention Movement, having achieved the high distinction of being elected president of the New York State Convention of Colored Citizens in 1840.

5. Theodore S. Wright (1797-1847) was born in New York City. After completing his formal education, Wright entered Princeton Theological Seminary, where he received his degree. In 1828, Wright became pastor of the First Colored Presbyterian Church (generally known as Shiloh Presbyterian), founded in 1823. Here, he ministered until his death. Wright was an active member of the New York Vigilance Committee, founded in 1837 by David Ruggles, which aided fugitive slaves. Wright also served on the Executive Committee of the American Anti-Slavery Society from its founding until 1840. He was also a member of the Board of Managers for New York State from 1834-1836. When the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society was organized in 1840, Wright became an active supporter of this organization. Throughout this period Wright remained intimately involved in the many-sided struggles and campaigns of his people.

6. The Reverend J. T. Raymond was pastor of Zion Baptist Church in New York City. The church, founded in 1832, was located on Spring Street, between Varick and Hudson Streets. Raymond ministered to the congregation until 1839. From 1848 to about 1854 Raymond served as minister of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York City. From 1840 to 1848, he pastored a church in Boston. John Daniels, in *In Freedom's Birthplace: A Study of the Boston Negroes* (Boston and New York, 1914), p. 452, noted that Raymond was "a man of high character, and an active worker for anti-slavery and many of the principal reforms of the day."

7. Henry Highland Garnet (1815-1881) was born a slave in Maryland, the son of an African chief who had been kidnapped and sold into slavery. He escaped with his parents in 1824 and settled in New York City. He was educated at New York's African Free School, Canaan Academy in New Hampshire (until local farmers destroyed the school), and Oneida Institute. Licensed to preach he became one of the foremost ministers in New York City. At the National Negro Convention in 1843, he called for slave rebellions as the surest way to end slavery. In the 1850's, Garnet was a leader in the African emigration movement.

8. William H. Topp (1812-1857) was a noted black abolitionist and a tailor by profession. Long active as a leader of his people in Albany and in