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A HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE NEGRO IN DANBURY
TO 1900

Research Paper
April 15, 1966
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CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SOME IMPORTANT EVENTS
AFFECTING THE NEGRO IN DANBURY DURING
PERIOD PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR

- 1637-1638 First record of slavery in New England.
- 1639 First record of slavery in Connecticut.
- 1684 Danbury settled.
- 1690 First of the Black Codes enacted to prohibit wandering slaves.
- 1700 1,000 Negroes in Connecticut.
- 1703 Second of the Black Codes making it illegal to serve slaves with intoxicants without express consent of their master.
- 1717 Black Code - denies slave the right to purchase land or live with his family.
- 1769 Connecticut Law against Slave Trade enacted.
- 1777 Danbury burned by British. (American Revolution)
Opposition in State General Assembly defeats measure that would allow the direct recruitment of Negroes but 2 laws are enacted that make it easier for slaves to serve in the Continental Army.
- 1784 Law enacted that a slave must be freed at the age of 25.
- 1793 First fugitive Slave Law enacted.
- 1794 Federal Law prevents slave trade to foreign ports.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SOME IMPORTANT EVENTS (Contd.)
AFFECTING THE NEGRO IN DANBURY DURING
PERIOD PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR

- 1797 Law enacted required slaves to be freed at 21 rather than 25 years of age.
- 1807 Federal Law enacted prohibiting African Slave Trade.
- 1830 Anti-slavery Societies spring up in Connecticut occasioning rioting in principal cities throughout the State.
- 1833 Prudence Crandall Law.
- 1837 Riot in Danbury over slavery question.
- 1848 State Legislature enacts law to emancipate the few remaining slaves in Connecticut.
- 1855 Bethel no longer a section of Danbury.
- 1858 Repeal of Prudence Crandall Law.
- 1861 Civil War.

INTRODUCTION

The material contained within this paper touches on several facets of a subject long in need of examination. This paper attempts a step in the right direction that will, I believe, bring to light several heretofore obscure facts and make the work of the next researcher a little easier.

The organization and survey of the paper was dictated, to a great extent, by the material encountered and has been divided into three major sections to utilize most of this information. The first chapter deals with the early historical background of the Negro up to the Civil War. Chapter two is concerned primarily with the changes or lack of some occasioned by that War and, to a lesser degree, the affect of industrial growth on the Negro. The third chapter traces the early development of the two Negro churches in Danbury that later became focal points of the Negro community.

The sources I have drawn upon for material are, as far as I can ascertain, valid and factual although historical examination of the Negro is quite difficult. There seem to be several reasons for this state of affairs. The institution of slavery, lack of education and the apparent lack of historical awareness accounts, in part,

for the nonexistence of individual documents and records or diaries. This situation is compounded by the lack of Negro social organizations or churches until the turn of the 19th Century which, of course, precludes the existence of any organizational records. The United States Census records add to this predicament by not listing total Negro population by name until 1850. This effects the usefulness of the Danbury Grand List and Property records because they are both indexed by name.

Exact documentation of the paper was also impossible in many cases even when the information was available. This was due to the numbering system employed on the microfilm reproductions of the Federal Census records. The page numbers on these copies are either nonexistent, illegible or changed several times.

Offsetting all of the problems encountered to some extent are a number of secondary sources dealing with the general history of the Negro in Connecticut. Using both sources I have formulated my paper and my conclusions on the Negro in Danbury.

CHAPTER I

Slavery in Connecticut

Slavery in Connecticut during the 17th and 18th Centuries was part of the normal way of life. At first Indians and then Negroes were enslaved to labor in the fields and homes of the Colonists.¹ The lack of manpower in the underdeveloped Colony probably added impetus to the normally accepted cultural pattern of slavery. No doubt, as the seacoast settlements of New Haven and New London grew, an increasing number of Yankee sailing vessels were outfitted for the profitable slave trade. In any case, 16 years after Danbury had been settled (1684) there were approximately 1,000 slaves in all of New England.² By 1915, Connecticut's slave population had grown to 1,500 out of a total of 46,000 inhabitants.³ In 1755 there were approximately 4,000 slaves in Connecticut and by 1774 slaves comprised 3.2% of the Colonies' total population which numbered 6,464, the largest

1 Frank S. Childs, Slavery in New England (Fairfield Historical Society - 13th Annual Report, 1916), p. 6.

2 Lorenzo Greene, The Negro in Colonial New England: 1620-1776 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1942), p. 23.

3 Ibid., p. 73-74, 89-90.

Negro population, at that time, of any New England State.¹

The first population figures I have encountered for the Danbury area are recorded in the 1756 Connecticut State Census. At that time, the percentage of Negro slaves to Whites is just a little greater than one. Danbury's slave population did increase though, and by 1774 it reached the greatest extent of its growth when 53 slaves or 2 1/2% of the total population of the town was recorded in the Census of that year.²

During the next two decades the institution of slavery in Danbury had started to wane and by 1810 it had vanished from the scene except in one instance. Mary Prindle, an older woman residing alone in the town, owned the one remaining slave, a male over 45, who was engaged in agriculture.³ He probably tended a small garden, considering the poor agricultural technology and tools of the time to sustain them both. At any rate, Danbury by the year 1840 was entirely free of slavery.⁴

¹ Connecticut Archives: Revolutionary War Series, Census of the Inhabitants of Connecticut: 1756, 1774, 1782, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, (Hartford: Bound, 1922), Vol. X, p. 139.

² Ibid., p. 124.

³ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Fourth Census of the United States: 1820. Population.

⁴ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Sixth Census of the United States: 1840. Population.

The free Negro population grew from 53 to 81 persons during the first 30 years of the absence of slavery in Danbury.¹ The rate of increase would seem to be the result of natural causes (e.g. birth rate) and not from any migration into the area. This becomes evident upon the examination of the normal progressive increase of population in the town, over these years.²

Decline of Slavery

The decline of slavery in Danbury can be attributed to several primary factors. They are: State and Federal Slave Laws and the chief economic pursuits of the townspeople, limited agriculture and small manufactories, that made slavery expensive and unnecessary.

The Colonial and State Laws affecting the Negro during this period reflect the changing emphasis on the institution of slavery. The Federal Laws, on the other hand, lag far behind Connecticut's initiative during the latter part of the period in irradiating slavery due, in part, to the diversity of the Colonies and the various states in the Federation. Slavery had never been established by

¹ This figure arrived at through the compilation of U. S. Census population reports for the years 1830-1860. See Table for Danbury's growth in population during period of 1756 to 1860. Appendix p. 57.

² Ibid.

law in the Colony but it was recognized by Statutes and in the Courts. During the early growth of Connecticut and for long periods thereafter, slave laws were held to a minimum, for slavery was considered a patriarchal institution.¹ The master, who was held solely responsible for the actions of his slave, treated him as if he were a child. Nevertheless, laws were enacted during this period that laid the ground work for the then infamous Connecticut Black Codes. These restrictive and restraining laws were added to, from time to time, until the pendulum of public opinion swung the other way on the institution of slavery and the Colony adopted a more lenient outlook. For in fact, although it was the largest slave-holder in New England, Connecticut was the first to outlaw the slave trade, which it did in 1769.²

Connecticut Black Codes

The first of the Black Codes was enacted in 1690. It deemed all wandering slaves without a pass from their owners, runaways.³ With the passage of an Act in 1703, inn-keepers were forbidden to serve intoxicants to slaves

¹ William C. Fowler, The Historical Status of the Negro in Connecticut (New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, 1875), p. 126.

² New Haven Historical Society Paper, Slavery in Connecticut (New Haven: Published by The Society, 1851), p.9.

³ Ibid.

without the specific permission of their owners.¹ Fourteen years later all negroes were prohibited from purchasing land or living with families of their own without the consent of the Town.² At the time of the American Revolution, Negroes free or slaves, had no political rights, were restricted from military service, making contractual agreements, business, ownership of land, using intoxicants, movement between towns, residence in towns, flight, theft and striking or defaming Whites under the penalty of the Law.³ At the same time the law insured that certain rights of the slave would not be infringed upon by his master. Slaves had many of the rights of an apprentice in colonial Connecticut.

The master had no control over the death of his slave and a slave could bring suit for an unwarranted beating or wounding.⁴ I don't know whether such a suit was ever tried, and if so, whether the Court found for the plaintiff but it doesn't seem likely.

1 Ibid,

2 Elias B. Sanford, The History of Connecticut (Hartford: S. S. Scranton Co., 1905), p. 252.

3. Greene, The Negro in Colonial New England, p. 126-129, 312-313.

4 Fowler, The Historical Status of the Negro in Connecticut, p. 147-148.

American Revolution and Emancipation

The American Revolution opened the way for the Negro slaves to gain their freedom. Direct Negro recruitment was considered by the legislators in 1777 but the measure was defeated in the State Senate. Yet, two bills were passed that year to encourage Connecticut slaveowners to allow their male able-bodied Negro slaves to enlist in the Continental Army. Masters were urged to offer freedom to slaves who, under the provisions of the new laws, could act as their owner's substitute.¹

The second of the two Acts released the former slave-owner from any future responsibility for the maintenance of his Negro replacement. Prior to the adoption of these laws, a former owner was held responsible for the future maintenance of any person he had emancipated.² Several Danbury slaves served in the Continental Army during the war but there is some doubt that they had received their freedom as encouragement to do so since former masters, at

1 Benjamin Quarles, The Negro in the American Revolution. (North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1961), p. 54.

2 Ibid.

the conclusion of the war, petitioned the General Assembly for renumeration for their slaves who had been killed in the conflict.¹

Gradual Emancipation

An Act for the gradual emancipation of all of Connecticut's Negroes was passed in 1784. This Act declared that, after the 1st of March of that year, all persons born of slaves must be freed at the age of twenty-five.² The voluntary emancipation of older slaves was provided for eight years later.³ By the turn of the Century the age of mandatory emancipation was lowered to twenty-one and slavery was fast dying in the State although certain provisions of the law made emancipation contingent upon the health and consent of the slave.⁴ The Federal Government during the first decade

1 Fowler, p. 134.

2 Sanford, History of Connecticut, p. 252.

3 Fowler, Historical Status of Negro in Connecticut, p. 133.

4 Upon the Memorial of Isaac Mills of New Haven in New Haven County shewing to the Assembly that he owns a Negro girl named Dorcas about 21 yrs of age, and that he is desirous to Emancipate and make her free as Per Memorial on file.

Resolved by this Assembly that if the Memorialist shall apply to any two of the Civil Authority or one of the Civil Authority and two of the Selectmen of the town of New Haven it shall be the duty of said Authority, or Authority and Selectmen (As the case may be) to inquire into the health of the said Dorcas and if they find upon examination that said Dorcas is in good health, said Authority

of the 19th Century prohibited African slave trade and the hand-writing was on the wall for that ignoble institution. The first thirty years of the Century saw slavery draw its last breath and pass out of existence in Danbury followed shortly by its demise throughout the State. By an Act of 1848, the few remaining slaves in the State were set free.¹

The people of Danbury and of the State had shown that they were against the evils of human bondage but they were not sufficiently enlightened to allow the Negro equal rights and privileges. Freeing a slave was one thing but allowing him to take his place as a full fledged citizen was another. To insure that participation in Government

shall give to the Memorialist a certificate thereof under their hands; provided that previous to giving such certificate, they shall be convinced by actual examination of said Dorcas, that she is desirous to be made free and if the Memorialist shall on receiving such certificate emancipate and set at liberty said Dorcas. He, his heirs, executors, and the administrator shall be forever discharged from any cost or charge which may be occasioned by maintaining or supporting said Dorcas made free as aforesaid, provided that the letter of Emancipation and Certificate shall be Recorded of said Town of New Haven. *

*Records of the State of Connecticut, 1800-1801 (Hartford: published by the State, 1965) Vol. X, p. 369-370.

¹ Tercentenary Commission to the State of Connecticut Slavery in Connecticut (New Haven: Yale University Press 1935) p. 9.

didn't fall into the wrong hands the State adopted a law restricting suffrage to white male citizens of the United States only.¹

Public Opinion in Danbury

The forerunner of written law is public opinion and sentiment. To sample the prevailing attitude toward slavery in Danbury during the period with which I am concerned I turned to the town's newspapers. Although primarily concerned with news other than local, they do present clues as to the issues and attitudes, or lack of the same, prevalent in the town.

Danbury's first newspaper, a weekly, The Farmers Journal was published from March 1, 1790 to February 25, 1793. During this time, although slavery was rapidly on the wane in the Town, the Journal did carry several advertisements for the sale of Negro slaves and several offering rewards for runaways. Interspersed with these, carry-overs from an earlier era, were poems selected by the editor decrying the evils and folly of one man's enslavement of another. Actually there were only two slaves for sale advertisements in the three years of the paper's publication. The first printed in the December 21, 1790 edition advertising twenty years time of a five year old Negro boy that ran until

¹ Fowler, p. 144.

February 15, 1791 and one advertising the sale of two Negro servants, man and wife, which ran in the paper for two weeks ending March 15, 1791.¹ There were four advertisements for runaways all within the year 1792 but since it was the practice of the time to advertise throughout the State for runaway slaves, they may not have been from Danbury.²

The lack of any specific reference to Negroes or slavery other than those already mentioned furthers my belief that the gradual emancipation that was being effected in the area was tied up more with reasons of economy than with any specific drive or wholesale opinion to erase the evil practice. The laws, by this time had provided for the gradual emancipation of slaves. They were enacted under the pressures of statewide opinion that the institution was sinful, unnecessary and uneconomical. Danbury was following this ready-made path without, it seems, any significant agitation, pro or con.

The years between 1794 and the first edition of The Danbury Times in 1837 saw several newspapers come and go, none of which I am sorry to relate, have I been able to find in any quantity that would give me an inkling

¹The Farmers Journal, March 1, 1791 - March 15, 1791.

² Ibid., March 12, 1792, April 13, 1792, May 28, 1792.

of what people were considering newsworthy at the time. Doubtless the anti-slavery movement that sprang up in Connecticut in the early 1830's was occupying some space in these papers.

The Abolition Question

The second volumes of The Danbury Times, July 12, 1837 edition, is the first time that this paper records anything of significance dealing with the Negro's plight. Two and one-half columns of that paper are devoted to the New York City's Colonizing Societies' Report on Liberia.¹ With this article as a starting point, the editor begins his policy of anti-slavery editorial comments. He voices his sentiments over the abolition question frequently during the next decade. Proceeds of the Connecticut Anti-slavery Societies' annual meeting, held in Hartford, are reported.² The editor agrees with the idea of higher education for qualified Negroes when commenting on an article concerning a colored Hartford Clergyman in the August 30, 1843 edition.³

During this period sentiments must have been building on both sides of the abolition question and yet it seems as though the Danbury Times which was pro-abolition to

1 The Danbury Times, July 12, 1837.

2 Ibid, May 26, 1841.

3 Ibid, August 30, 1843.

some extent was either in a favorable monopolistic position or it was saying what the majority of the townspeople wanted to hear for it remained in business and even increased its advertisements. Oddly enough, the well organized anti-slavery riot that took place in Danbury during October of 1837,¹ and the resolutions of the Anti-slavery Society's meeting in Danbury during April of 1839² apparently were not reported by the Times. In any case, the paper seemed to begin to underplay the problem during the fifties, early months of 1860 (viz. small article on John Brown's trial Jan. 13, 1860)³ and in fact, up to the start of the Civil War. This could very well have been a reaction to the fact that many Danburians, more than ever before, depended on the successful operation of the various hat factories for their bread and butter and the south, to many of these factories, was a seemingly indispensable consumer area.⁴ More explicitly, the paper reflected the attitude of the people in that oratory and resolutions were one thing, and

1 James M. Bailey, The History of Danbury: 1684-1896 (N.Y.: Burr Printing House, 1896) p. 166.

2 Ibid, p 167.

3 The Danbury Times, January 13, 1860.

4 Horatio T. Strothers, The Underground Railroad in Connecticut (Middlebury, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1962), p.36.

even on this they were divided, but biting the hand that helps to feed you is another. And so it seems that Danbury's sympathies and attitudes moved from slight indifference to polarized pro and con positions and back toward the middle of the road until they rallied 'round the flag when war threatening the Union became imminent.

Local Negroes were rarely mentioned in the paper during this period unless one had gotten into trouble with the authorities. Also, since the total Negro population only numbered 63¹ and of that total only 7 were from a different area (New York) they were probably accepted to the point that they were not thought of as being involved in the controversy.

The anti-slavery campaign which was treated lightly on the previous pages must have seemed a very vigorous and vocal, if not a large and effective organization, for this movement stirred up considerable opposition and violence within the State.

The Abolition Crusade and Education

The Abolition Crusade in Connecticut was given

1 U. S. Bureau of the Census, Sixth Census of the United States: 1850. Population.

added impetus by two questions concerning Negro education that seemed to crystalize the issues. Apathy and indifference had to be discarded if either the Negro population throughout the United States was to gain its freedom and various fundamental rights or they were to be forceably restrained in their present status. The subjects that intensified the two basic points of view were the attempt to start a Negro Mechanical and Agricultural College in New Haven and the Prudence Crandall case in Canterbury. In the case of the former, the New Haven town meeting adopted resolutions preventing the founding of the school¹ while in the case of the latter, the State Legislature in 1833 passed an Act which expressly forbade the establishment of schools in the State for the instruction of Negroes from other areas.²

Prudence Crandall had made the mistake of accepting a Negro girl into her previously all-white girls' school. When she did this all of the other students left and Miss

1 Sanford, History of Connecticut, p. 252-253

2. Ibid, p.253

Crandall then proposed to start an all Negro girls' school. It was to defeat this idea which was considered contrary to the good of the village and the commonwealth, that the Legislature acted. As race prejudice grew in one quarter, the belief in the evils of slavery grew in the other. Riots spread throughout the state during the next few years. Violence erupted in many of the major cities and towns including Danbury.¹

Abolition and the Danbury Riot

The Danbury riot focused around a meeting in the Baptists Church at which an anti-slavery lecturer spoke.² I have not found any evidence of Negroes in Danbury being attacked during this period of statewide riots nor do I find that they were actively involved in the anti-slavery movement.

This pattern of inactivity can be traced to several factors which by no means account for this policy in full but do

1 Strothers, The Underground Railroad in Connecticut,

p-35.

2 Ibid, p. 35-36.

add to our understanding of it. The Negro slave in Danbury and throughout Connecticut was completely circumscribed by law as to his rights and actions. He was illiterate and treated as an inferior. He had no background of organization, leadership or social protest. The traditions and practices of slavery were still very much a part of him in the 1830s and 40s, in fact, in 1840 there were still 17 slaves in Connecticut.¹ Some few Negroes do show extraordinary abilities either in mimicing the White master or in accepting his institutions as witnessed by the fact that there were 6 free Negro slave owners in the State in 1830 and one Amos Demosat, a free Negro slave owner, lived in Fairfield County.² Nevertheless they had performed as slaves, circumscribed in their rights, illiterate, and were traditionally directed in their thinking.

1850 - 1860, Transition Period

Danbury's free Negroes during the decade prior to the War of the rebellion were just making the transition from the traditional subservient slave mode of life to that of

¹ U. S., Bureau of the Census, Sixth Census of the United States, 1840.

² The Association for the study of Negro Life and History, Free Negro Owners of Slaves in Fairfield County, U.S.; 1830, Compiled under the direction of The Journal of Negro History (Washington D. C., 1951) p43.

a limited freeman. Many still lived with white families and in some cases, the wife lived and worked at one household while the husband lived and worked at another. They were all laborers or servants with one exception and their children were just beginning to attend school.¹ They did not have the ability, the means, or the direction needed to play a large part in the anti-slavery movement until the war broke out.

Negro War Records

The Negro at that time had one thing in his favor, his war records. Connecticut Negroes had participated in all of the major wars fought on this continent. Negroes fought in King George's War, the French and Indian War,² the Revolutionary and the War of 1812.³ Danbury Negroes fought and died in the Revolution and possibly on privateers during the War of 1812.⁴ One of the first persons to lose his life

1 U. S., Bureau of the Census, Seventh Census of the United States, 1850.

2 Greene, The Negro in Colonial New England. p.76-77.

3 Connecticut Military Records, Records of Connecticut men in the War of the Revolution, War of 1812, War with Mexico. (Hartford: Adjutant General's Office, 1889).

4 Ernest E. Rodgers, Connecticut's Naval Office at New London during the War of the American Revolution. (New London: 1933), p. 60.

during Tyron's raid on Danbury was reportedly a Negro slave named Adams. He was owned by a Samuel Smith of Redding but on the 26th day of April, 1777 was in the employ of Captain Starr of Danbury. When the British arrived a limited encounter ensued and two Whites, Joshua Porter and Eleazer Starr, and the negro slave Adams were killed and the building set afire.¹

So it was when the call went out for Negro volunteers during the Civil War that 21 Danbury men,² out of a total population of approximately 81, volunteered and served valiantly.

1 Bailey, History of Danbury, p. 67.

2 Connecticut Military Records, Records of Connecticut Men in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865. (Hartford: Adjutant General's Office, 1889), p. 845-882.

CHAPTER II

CIVIL WAR AND ITS IMPACT ON THE NEGRO

Call to Arms

As arguments of secession ruffled the eagle's feathers, the people of Danbury could see no immediate cause for alarm as the weekly Times duly reported. The threat to the Union would eventually be eliminated through compromise.¹ Of course the possibility that this couldn't be effected had to be reckoned with and as early as Jan. 5, 1860, a committee to preserve the Union was formed in Danbury.² In either event, the voters of Fairfield County cast their ballots in an overwhelming majority for the man they felt best suited to resolve the problem, Abraham Lincoln.³

to their dismay, armed conflict between the States broke out at Fort Sumter, Charleston, S. C. on April 12, 1861 and thirteen days later the first Company to respond to the urgent request of Gov. Buckingham was Danbury's Wooster Guards.⁴ By May 23rd, two other Companies,

¹ Danbury Times, This editorial attitude is found throughout the paper during the last few months before armed conflict broke out in South Carolina.

² Ibid., Jan. 5, 1860, Committee mentioned again Dec. 26, 1861.

³ Ibid., Nov. 8, 1860.

⁴ Ibid., April 25, 1861.

The Danbury Rifle Company and the Danbury Zouaves were quickly formed and dispatched to Hartford and dedicated to the cause of preserving the Union.¹ During the May session of the General Assembly that same year a public Act was passed relating to Connecticut's Militia. It states, in part, that

"...every able bodied white male citizen 18 to 45 years of age....(with certain exceptions)....shall be enrolled in the Militia...."²

President Lincoln was, in the early war years, also disposed against the use of Negro troops in the Union Army. When the recruitment of a Negro regiment was suggested to the President, the Danbury Times reports that he could use all that would volunteer as laborers but not as armed fighting men.³ This policy was pursued in Connecticut until August 11, 1863 when the first Negro enlisted in the 28th (Colored) Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Gov. Buckingham was authorized under a Bill passed by the General Assembly that year to organize regiments of Negro Infantry in Connecticut. As an additional incentive to recruits a \$600.00 bonus was offered them,⁴ this, no

1 Ibid., May 23, 1861.

2 Ibid., August 22, 1861.

3 Ibid., August 7, 1862.

4

W. A. Croffut and John E. Morris, The Military and Civil History of Connecticut. (New York: Ledyard Bill, 1868) p.460.

doubt, accounts in part for the rapidity with which the 29th was organized but it does not offset the fact that a Negro Union soldier, if captured by the enemy, had no hope but to be killed instantly.

Danbury Negroes in the Civil War

It was in the 29th Regiment that 20 of the 21 Negro men who volunteered from Danbury for the military served. Company B, with the largest number of area men, 12, had as its First Sargeant Charles Richards also from Danbury.¹ Richards, 23 at the time of his enlistment, had within the past ten years, arrived in town with his mother from New York.² He worked as a stage driver in Danbury prior to his enlistment.³ He must have exhibited the qualifications needed to achieve the rank of First Sargeant while in the 29th since there is no evidence that he had pretiously served in any military organization whatsoever.

The Regiment participated in five hard fought engagements in which the men distinguished themselves gallantly.

1 Connecticut Military Records, Connecticut Men in the War of the Rebellion. p. 862.

2 Eighth United States Census: 1860, Fairfield County.

3 Ibid.

Although the casualty list of the 29th was not exceedingly high, 66 dead and 13 missing, it is highly probable that several Danbury men were a part of those statistics. After more than 2 years of service, the Regiment was mustered out November 25th, 1865.¹ While awaiting their discharges in Hartford, the officers and men of the Regiment were welcomed by an address of the Governor in which he both praised and thanked them for their service. He also attempted to placate them, the men of the "colored service", who were about to return to civilian life in which they were to be held inferior in every way. This address, in part, seems to have set a precedent for others that have fallen upon dark ears down through the years as witnessed by a portion of the Governor's speech:

"And although Connecticut now denies you the privileges which it grants to others, for no apparent reason than because God has made you to differ in complexion, yet justice will not always stand afar off. Be patient; be true to yourselves. Remember that merit consists not in color or in birth, but in habits of industry, in intellectual ability and moral character. Cultivate these characteristics of true worth. Show by your acquirements, and your devotion to duty in civil life, that you are as true to virtue and the interests of government and country as you have been while in the Army, and soon the voice of the majority of liberty-loving freemen will be heard demanding for you every right and privilege to which your intelligence and moral character shall entitle you."²

¹ Henry G. Marshall, History of the 29th Colored Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (Hartford: Adjutant General's Office, 1889) p. 859-860.

² Croffut and Morris, The Military and Civil History of Connecticut. p. 825.

Earlier, the General Assembly had ratified the 13th Amendment without a dissenting vote but on the first Monday of October, 1865, Connecticut again failed to grant Negroes the franchise.¹

Negro Population Increase

Danbury had not changed greatly during the period of the War of the Rebellion but it had seen some population increase, growth and consolidation of industry. In the case of the Negro, the community during the span of ten years beginning with the conflict, had increased two-thirds, while the interstate immigration of Negroes into the area had doubled.² This pattern of influx into the area had started in the late 1840's and was given impetus by the mobility afforded the Negro after the war. Negro migration was to continue and increase in Danbury throughout the next half Century. In the year 1850, seven of a total Negro population of 63 were born in New York State.³ Ten years later, 24 of 81 listed in the Census were not native to the area.² The 1870 report lists the first Negroes

1 John M. Morris - W. A. Croffut, The Military and Civil History of Connecticut, (New York: Ledyard Bill, 1868), p. 798-799.

2 Comparison of Statistics given in the 7th and 8th United States Census: 1850, 1860, Population, Fairfield County.

3 Seventh United States Census: 1850, Population, Fairfield County.

4 Eighth United States Census: 1860, Population, Fairfield County.

of southern slave state birth among Danbury's population¹ and at the time of the next federal report, 81 of a total population numbering 192 are not native to the town.² The majority of Negroes born out of the state and residing in Danbury throughout this span of time were of New York State birth with very few coming from States below the Mason-Dixon Line.³ The vital statistics of the town of Danbury for the period 1871-1891, the earliest birth/death records available, seem to indicate that the population increase that took place in Danbury were a result of inter-state immigration rather than natural causes. Although the Negro community had increased in size from 63 in 1850 to 133 in 1870 and 192 in the year 1880,⁴ the deaths, at least during the last decade mentioned and up to 1888, had outnumbered Negro births by 29.⁵ The major contributors

1 Ninth United States Census: 1870, population, Fairfield County.

2 Tenth United States Census: 1880, population, Fairfield County. Also see list of Negro residents born out of state, p. 64.

3 Compilation of the number of Negroes born out of state but residing in Danbury from the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th United States Census: population, Fairfield County.

4 Total derived from 7th, 9th and 10th United States Census: 1850, 1870, 1880, population, Fairfield County.

5 Danbury Town Records, Record of Births in Danbury 1895 Vol. 1 and Record of Deaths in Danbury 1871-1895 Vol. 1 The compilation of Negro births and deaths in Danbury for the period specified disclosed the fact that the Negro mortality rate was greater than the birth rate for 18 years, See Birth/Death rate chart in the Appendix, p. 74.

to the Negro mortality rate in order, were consumption, heart disease and pneumonia.¹

Negro Property Owners

The Civil War and industrial growth had little positive influence on real estate as far as the Negro in Danbury was concerned. The small body of Negro property owners increased their numbers slowly before, during and after this period.

Negro real estate owners can be traced through Danbury's property records back to 1850. (The task of tracing owners prior to this time becomes extremely difficult because the majority of free Negro heads of household were listed by first name only, while all of the property records I have confronted list surnames in conjunction with the first names. Therefore, unless the records for this period are examined with the first and last name of a party in mind, the search will be fruitless.)

The first Negro property owner in Danbury, as far as I can ascertain, was Lyman Peters, a barber, who in 1850 purchased property on Grassy Plain Road.² Lyman Peters was to continue to buy real estate and in the late 1800's was

1 Ibid.

2 Town of Danbury Property Records, Vol. 38,

the largest Negro landholder in the area.¹ Another barber, Homer Peterson, on July 25, 1856, bought property and buildings on Town Hill Ave.² Two months later he added to his holdings and in time he owned considerable property in Danbury.³ Millison Phillips, a 63 year old woman who lived with her son and his family,⁴ bought the house in which they lived, November 1860, for \$300.00.⁵ Three years later this property was sold to Ralph Holly,⁶ a Negro saloonkeeper in Danbury.⁷

In 1868 Alexander Pine bought property on Cherry St. in the westend of town.⁸ Four years later, his brother James became the second member of his family to own property in Danbury.⁹

1 Ninth United States Census:1870, population, Fairfield County.

2 Danbury Property Records, Vol. 44, p. 317.

3 Ibid., Vol. 44, p. 347

4 Eighth United States Census: 1860. Population, Fairfield County.

5 Danbury Property Records, Vol. 48, p. 307. The spelling of Mrs. Phillips' first name is all but illegible in the 1860 Census records which lists her as a property owner but it appears to be Millicent. In the property records it is listed as Millison Phillips.

6 Danbury Property Records, Vol. 50, p. 228.

7 Eighth United States Census:1860. Population, Fairfield County.

8 Danbury Property Records, Vol. 57, p. 171.

9 Ibid., Vol. 62, p. 359.

Stephen Drew, in 1871, purchased farm property in Middle River District.¹ The original Drew homestead stood on a slope overlooking the road until recently when, after a long period of being boarded up, the house was razed.

Nelson Butler who had lived with his family of eight on Clapboard Ridge Road purchased land in Hayestown District, February 1877.² During the next few years he built a house on the property which still stands today. Several hundred yards away from the Butler house stands a building constructed in the late 1870's by William Jenkins. The property was purchased in his wife's name April 5, 1877.³ The Jenkins home is still owned by descendants of William and Nancy Jenkins.

In addition to the property owners mentioned above there were, no doubt, several others who had acquired real estate during this period although, in relation to the number of Negro households, they comprised a small minority.

1 Ibid., Vol. 56, p. 459.

2 Ibid., Vol. 67, p. 274.

3 Ibid., Vol. 67, p. 548. There are records of two property transactions involving a Nancy Jenkins and both in Hayestown District. One piece of real estate was purchased on April 5, 1877 and the other in September, 1894. On the advice of a direct descendant of Mrs. Jenkins, a Mr. Nathan Freeman, I concluded that the property in question was purchased in 1877.

This situation was, I believe, due, in part, to the limited wage scale and occupational opportunity available to the Negro. In other words, the rebellion and subsequent industrialization acted as a negative influence keeping property out of the hands of would-be Negro owners. Although the influence seems less by design than by chance there can be no doubt that the Negro's ability to earn was impaired by the slow rate with which industry was absorbing him into better paying occupations.

Occupations of the Negro

Industry in Danbury during the war years had begun to consolidate. Hat factories which had numbered over 50 as early as the first decade of the 19th Century¹ were, more than ever before, the major industrial employer.² With the close of the war this employment seems to have slacked off considerably. In 1860 at least 1500 persons worked in hat factories or related industries.³ Yet 10 years later employment in this industry had dropped approximately 300

1 Bailey, History of Danbury, p. 217.

2 Seventh and Eighth United States Census, 1850, 1860, Products of Industry in Danbury, Fairfield County.

3 Eighth United States Census, Products of Industry in Danbury.

workers from its rolls.¹ This loss effected male employees to the greatest degree.²

The Negro, during this time, had made several inroads into previously all-white occupations. William Wheeler, Clarence Whitney and Warren (last name illegible) by 1870 were working in hat factories.³ Negroes also numbered among their occupations, other than the traditional servant, washwoman and laborer, a barber, engineer, cook and hostler. The latter two worked and lived at one of Danbury's hotels.⁴ Barbering rather than industry had offered the greatest chance for economic advancement to the Negro. As early as 1840 the colorful "Judge" Homer Peters was earning a substantial living at hair-cutting.⁵ He was followed in this

¹ Seventh and Eighth United States Census, Products of Industry in Danbury. This figure arrived at through the comparison of employees of Hat Factories in Danbury for years 1860 and 1870.

² Ibid.

³ Ninth United States Census: 1870, population, Fairfield County.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ It is assumed, from the value of Peters' real estate holdings as listed in the various United States Census reports starting in 1850 and the Town of Danbury Property Records, that he earned a substantial income at hair-cutting.

profession by Lyman Peters, both of whom were to become relatively large property owners by Negro standards of the time.¹ Evidence seems to indicate that the two barbers catered primarily, if not exclusively, to the white male trade. William Brooks, who is still remembered by some of the elderly residents of the area, set up his barber shop at 19 Elm Street sometime between 1870 and 1880.² Whether he followed the Peters' mode of operation in regard to his customers during the early years of his business, is not known although by 1900 his clientele was almost exclusively Negro.³

The 1860 Federal Census lists several other non-manufacturing occupations filled by the Negro including a stage driver, a hat brushman and a farmer who worked his own land.

But it was to take several decades before the Negro, in any number, could move into even the most menial of industrial jobs. The Civil War had occasioned a certain amount of mobility for the Negro but it did little in the way of affording him any industrial connected occupation.

¹ Seventh and Eighth United States Census, Population, Fairfield County.

² Tenth United States Census: 1880, Population, Fairfield County.

³ Interview with Mr. Clarence Bowman.

In 1880 there were only 9 Negro males employed in hat factories.¹ At the same time only 26 of the entire number of working adults in Danbury had jobs that were not classified in the traditional way.²

Better paying semi-skilled occupations upon which hinged the ability to own land and acquire some of the niceties of life were to remain out of the reach of the multitude, who during the 50's were earning on the average of \$1.00 a day without board as a laborer or \$1.50 a week in the case of female domestic servants.³

Population Shifts Within the Community

At the same time that the Negro was moving throughout the State and, for that matter, the country, he made several significant moves within Danbury. Each passing year after the Civil War saw more Negroes "go it on their own." The number of Negroes residing in white households diminished greatly⁴ although, as already noted, their occupations

1 Tenth United States Census, Population, Fairfield County.

2 Ibid. See Chart of Negro occupations in Appendix P. 65.

3 Eighth United States Census, 1860, Products of Industry in Danbury, Fairfield County, p. 647.

4 See chart of free Negroes residing alone in the appendix, p. 60-62.

on the whole remained the same.

As Negroes set up their own households they usually picked the center of town to do so. This movement was not a result of ghettoization for as late as 1880 there were 36 families located on 17 different street, with the greatest concentration consisting of four families residing on Ives Street and four on Cherry Street.¹ The shift of population within Danbury seems more a result of the fact that most of the jobs occupied by Negroes were increasingly located within the confines of the Borough. Since the majority of Negroes were employed as domestic servants or laborers rather than farm workers, transportation could also have been a factor suggesting relocation within a close proximity of the job, although arguments premised on the idea of property (e.g. the lack of available rents and inability to buy property) could be justifiable. At any rate, it seems that movement toward the center of Danbury as a trend started about 1860 when approximately half of the 21 households were located in the Borough.²

1 Ibid.

2 The total number of Negro households in 1860 was compiled from the Eighth United States Census while the approximate number of families residing in the borough was arrived at through the use of the DANBURY PROPERTY RECORDS, Baileys' History of Danbury and various interviews.

By 1880 this number had grown to 36 with only 3 Negro households located outside of the center.¹ This pattern of diffused location was very shortlived though and it wasn't long before the Negro community during another period of industrial growth and consolidation, relocated within the center of Danbury.

¹ Tenth United States Census : 1880, Population, Fairfield County.

CHAPTER III

NEGRO CHURCHES: FOCAL POINT OF THE COMMUNITY

Scarcely more than a decade had elapsed since the settlement of Danbury, when the First Congregational Society erected a church building.¹ Organized religion was and still is a large factor in the lives of the people of Danbury. Similarly, if not to a greater degree, Negro life in the Community is bound up with religion although Negro institutions and buildings were not to come into being until the turn of the 19th Century. Since their inception and continuing until recently, these institutions have served as focal points in the community for social as well as religious activities. Negro churches have provided a place of comfort, fellowship and a feeling of belonging for their congregation. Because the churches have played an important part in the life of the Negro, this section will be devoted to their history.

Documentation

Unfortunately, that history, as presented here, will not do justice to the institutions due, primarily,

¹ Bailey, History of Danbury, p.51

to the lack of records and documents. A lack of written reports is characteristic of both of the Negro Churches in Danbury. In fact, neither of the two have membership rolls dating back over 20 years. Financial records and reports, except for deeds, are also nonexistent. It seems that each officer kept the records of his respective office and the records have been lost to oblivion.

The material that I am using to construct this section was obtained, primarily, through interviews. Only in several instances have I been able to document any of that material with primary source written evidence although, in the main, the accounts of the various people interviewed seem to substantiate one another.

Negro Worship in Colonial Times

In colonial Connecticut it was generally the accepted practice for Christian Negroes to attend the Congregation Churches. They could attend service but naturally had no voice in Church matters.¹ It is needless to say that the Societies, since they exercised

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¹ "Negro Slavery in Connecticut," The Connecticut Magazine, June, 1899, p. 320.

exceptional powers over the white populace, also affected the Negro. Even after other churches were organized in the area the First Congregational Society retained its control over the Negro as witnessed by an address delivered by Mr. Timothy Langdon, Pastor of the First Society, at the execution of Anthony, a free Negro who had requested a sermon.¹ Similarly in 1817, William Andrews, also a minister of the First Congregational Church of Danbury, delivered a sermon at the execution of Amos Adams, also a Negro, in front of a capacity audience.² The "Word" and the church influenced the Negro at every turn. In later years, the 1880's and 1890's, many Negroes of their own volition attended the Advent Christian Church located

¹ Langdon, Timothy, A Sermon Delivered at Danbury, (Danbury: Douglas and Nichols, 1798).

² William Andrews, A Sermon Delivered at Danbury at the Execution of Amos Adams, (N. H.: T. C. Woodward, 1817).

on Madison Avenue in Danbury. The Butlers, Jenkins, Freemans, Wests, and Helts, were a few of the older Negro families to attend that church.¹ But growth in the population of the Negro community was soon paralleled by the desire for a Negro Church.

A.M.E. Zion (Mount Pleasant)

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church had been active throughout New England for a number of years. The New England A. M. E. Zion Conference of Churches Annual meeting which had begun in 1856,² organized a Mission in Danbury in 1887.³ A grant from the Department of Missions of the New England Conference, that first year, undoubtedly enabled the local Mission to rent a meeting-hall and to acquire Bibles and Hymnals.⁴

1 Interviews with Charles Holt, George West and Nathan Freeman.

2 The New England Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church, Proceedings of the 5th Annual Meeting (Hartford, Connecticut, 1866).

3 Interviews with John Bryant, a member of Danbury's A.M.E. Zion Church for approximately 60 years, and Rev. Leslie Lawson present Pastor.

4 This monetary grant is assumed for two reasons. First, the conference was to vote a grant in 1904 for the expansion of the church so it does seem probable that they would vote one to start a mission and second, the value of church property in 1891, just four years after the founding of the mission in Danbury, was \$700.00 and with only nine members in the congregation.

In 1889 the A. M. E. Zion Mission was located in a large hall over Barnum's Feed Store at 223-225 Main Street.¹ The Services were held there for 20 years.² Probably the first pastor appointed to the Church was Rev. C. Hatfield who was to remain in Danbury from 1890 to 1899.³

The clergy of the A. M. E. Zion Church, unlike the Baptist who serve one area for years, are appointed to the various churches each year at an annual Conference.⁴ The minutes of the 46th Annual New England Conference, held May 6th to 11th, 1891, lists 3 members and 6 probationers as the total adult congregation at that time. The Sunday School enrollment, at the same time, was 25.⁵ Financial difficulties plagued the early Mission and were to continue

1 Fred B. Crofutt, Danbury City Directory: 1889 (New York: Fred B. Crofutt, 1889) p. 9.

2 Interviews with John Bryant and Charles Holt, a member of The New Hope Baptist Church in Danbury for approximately 60 years.

3 A. M. E. Zion Conference, Proceedings of the 46th and 5th Annual Reports, 1891-1899.

4 Interview with Rev. Leslie G. Lawson.

5 A. M. E. Zion Conference, Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting, 1891.

to do so for some time to come. Often the Pastor's annual salary of \$72.99 couldn't be met and when that was taken care of, the hall rent was usually overdue. This was the case in 1891.¹ Funds were solicited from the white merchants and factory owners for the support of the Church during this early period.²

Throughout the next decade the Mission grew slowly. J. H. Young was appointed to the Danbury Mission in 1891 where he remained as Pastor until 1902.³ The delegates to the 58th Annual New England Conference, May 6th to 11th of that year, were glad to report a favorable balance of \$557.00 in the Danbury Treasury.⁴ When Rev. Greene took over the spiritual reins of the Church in 1903, the congregation numbered 30 while the Sunday School had a total enrollment of 19.⁵ Rev. Greene, during his 3 1/2 years

1 Ibid.

2 Interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bowman, Members of The New Hope Baptist Church for 50 odd years, Charles Helt and John Bryant.

3 A. M. E. Zion Conference, Proceedings of the 46th and 58th Annual Meetings, 1891, 1902.

4 Ibid., 58th Annual, 1902.

5 A. M. E. Zion Conference, Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting, 1903. See appendix for partial list of early church members, p.66

in Danbury, was to increase both the membership and treasury of the local organization.¹ The Department of Local Missions of the New England Conference in 1904 resolved to donate Church expansion money to the Danbury Mission after hearing Rev. Greene's optimistic report on the state of affairs at the Mission.² There was, according to Greene, \$700.00 in the treasury and the congregation entertained the idea of purchasing a lot and erecting a church in the near future.³ The Conference gave \$36.82 to the local body that year.⁴ This grant, at the time, was considerable when the fact that total membership of all the A. M. E. Zion Churches in New England was less than 2,000 just two years earlier.⁵ With this grant safely deposited with the rest of the treasury, Rev. Greene and his Trustees began to consider various pieces of property in and around Danbury. One such piece, land and buildings on Liberty Street, was turned down on the advice of Dr. Penfield, a white female patron.⁶

1 A. M. E. Zion Conference, Proceedings of the 58th, 59th and 60th Annual Meetings, 1902, 1903, 1904. The increase in membership and treasury were indicated by comparison of the membership charts located in above reports.

2 A. M. E. Zion Conference, Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting, 1904, p. 21.

3 Ibid., p. 25.

4 Ibid., p. 34

5 A. M. E. Zion Conference, Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting, 1902.

6 Interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bowman.

Tragedy struck the local Church in 1905 with Rev. Greene's untimely death while he was in Torrington.¹

That same year, Rev. O. Willis was chosen by the Presiding Elders of the New England Conference to fill the remainder of Greene's appointment.² In 1906 the newly appointed pastor, Rev. Moses Monzinger, brought Greene's plans to fruition with the acquisition of a building lot on the corner of Rowan Street and Second Avenue in Danbury which is the site of the present Church.³ The lot was an excavated sand bank owned by Henry B. Hawley, caucasian, of Brookfield, Conn.⁴ Although statements of the various people interviewed conflict on the amount of money given in exchange for the property, only One Dollar (\$1.00) and other valuable consideration are listed in the Deed. Hawley in the Deed, also stipulates

"...that the said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of Divine Worship for the use of the Ministry and Membership of the A. M. E. Zion Church in America."

As it would seem that the property was actually a gift to the Church.⁵ Almost immediately, the congregation, with

¹ A. M. E. Zion Conference, Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting, 1906, p. 27.

² Ibid.

³ Danbury Property Records, Vol. 123, p. 581.

⁴ Ibid. Also an interview with Rev. Leslie Lawson.

⁵ Danbury Property Records, Vol. 123, p. 581.

the aid of some area neighbors, began to construct a foundation which, ironically, was not used until the 30's when the parsonage was erected on it.¹ The lot, 90 x 130 feet, was large enough to accommodate two small structures so the church was erected north of the existing foundation.²

As could be expected, the financial strain of the building program took its toll upon the local church. Charles R. Norman and George P. Rice, builders, placed a mechanic's lien on the recently completed church structure December 1st, 1908, for a sum of money overdue since October of that year. The lien was subsequently discharged by "operation of law" on the request of the Trustees years later.³

The construction and opening of the building came under the Pastorship of Rev. A. J. Talbert. The formal dedication ceremony held September 23, 1909, with the guidance of Rev. A. J. Talbert and Presiding Elder Ball,⁴ culminated the first 20 years of growth of the A. M. E. Zion Church in Danbury.

1 Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bowman.

2 Ibid.

3 Danbury Property Records, Vol. 123, p. 581.

4 Danbury Times, Sept. 23, 1909, p. 5

New Hope Baptist

The only other Negro religious organization in Danbury during this period was the New Hope Baptist Church. It was founded nine years after the A. M. E. Zion,¹ possibly due to its dependence upon an increase in numbers of sufficient Negroes from Southern States. In 1896 Rev. T. A. Garnett from Virginia officially organized and affiliated the body with the Connecticut Baptist Convention of Hartford through the endorsement of Dr. A. C. Hubbard, pastor of the 2nd Baptist Church of Danbury and the Rev. Moses Taylor, pastor of the 1st Baptist Church of Stratford.² Rev. Garnett and the early church members consisting of: Stephen Drew, George Johnson, Jacob Wilson, Kate Bailey and Matilda Randolph, held their services at the third floor meeting hall located at 26 1/2 Main Street.³

As the congregation and the treasury increased, a desire for a permanent church building became evident. Under the able direction of Rev. D. C. Thomas, the congregation negotiated for land and buildings owned by Samuel E. Brown on Cherry St.⁴ I don't know whether the Convention

Church" 1 "Historical Sketch of the New Hope Baptist (Unpublished pamphlet, 1963).

2 Ibid.

2

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

added to the local treasury to enable them to buy property but, in any event, the Pastor and the members of the New Hope Baptist Church did solicit funds from the white citizens of Danbury. They were to solicit funds once again for their building program under Rev. J. E. Harris in the face of scattered opposition.¹

Cherry Street in 1915 was predominantly a white neighborhood. Several of the families on the street voiced their protests, to no avail, against the Negro Baptist Church locating in their midst although there were several Negro property owners in that general area of the city. The decision to purchase Brown's property, who by the way was not a Negro, was not based on the closeness of a Negro neighborhood but on economic reasons. Since Brown's property was the best possible buy they could hope for with their limited assets, the transaction was made.² On March 16, 1915, the property was purchased in the name of the Connecticut Baptist Convention of Hartford and the New Hope Baptist Church had a permanent home.³

The old house located on the 46 by 140 Ft. lot⁴

1 Interviews with Clarence Bowman and Charles Holt.

2 Interviews with Mr. & Mrs. Bowman and Mr. Holt.

3 Danbury Property Records, Vol 148, p. 374.

4 Ibid.

was renovated for temporary use as a church almost immediately.¹ Ten years later, the present church was erected upon that site after a long and vigorous fund-raising drive by approximately thirty-odd members that made up the total congregation.²

Church Services

Both churches during this period of early growth, held their services, except for Sunday School, in the evening, a time structure necessitated by the occupations of most of the members of the congregation. The Negro, almost exclusively, worked as domestics in area homes and couldn't leave their jobs until Sunday afternoon.³ By 1915, similar services were offered in the late morning and early evening. Several years later the late Sunday morning service took precedent.⁴ The Churches also offered mid-week functions from their inception. Prayer Meetings were held by both organizations at least one night a week. Prior to the time that either church had a permanent building these and

1 Interview with Mr. Charles Holt.

2 Although the cornerstone of the building is dated 1924, the church wasn't erected until 1925. Interview with Mr. Charles Holt.

3 Interviews with John Bryant, Rev. Lawson and Clarence Bowman.

4 The Danbury Times, 1915 through 1918. This ~~and Danbury~~ church service in its Saturday editions for ~~Danbury Churches~~ during this period.

associated meetings were alternated between the homes of individual members rather than to rent the meeting halls. Soon various church groups and informal organizations were formed to provide fellowship and Spiritual direction and later a whole array of church connected social functions and holiday programs were forthcoming. Box lunch socials, sewing parties and annual picnics became the high points of Negro social life in relation to the church. Through the churches, Negroes recently arrived in town became acquainted with the rest of the community and as the church rolls grew, so did the membership in affiliated adult and youth group organizations.¹ The Good Samaritan Order of the Knights of Pythias, a church affiliated fraternal group, was organized by the founder of the New Hope Baptist Church, T. A. Garnett. This Good Samaritan Lodge was to reach maximum strength in the latter 20's and early 30's and then decline and disband several years ago.²

In all, the churches provided the Negro with leadership and direction and became a rallying point for the dark community at a time when that community was beginning to desire recognition as something more than Mister Charlie's boy.

1 Ibid.

2 Interview with Mr. Charles Holt.

CONCLUSION

Throughout this paper I have drawn various conclusions about the Negro, his life and circumstance in Danbury. These conclusions, although based on fairly reliable material, are undoubtedly shrouded in subjectivity. The same material examined from a different point of view would probably yield different conclusions. Recognizing this fact, I will proceed with setting down the main inferences I have drawn from my research.

The most obvious conclusion reached in this paper is that the Negro in Danbury from the period of slavery up to the first decade of the 20th Century progressed a great deal in many ways. The year 1910 witnessed fifty-four of fifty-seven school age children attending public schools,¹ At the same time two Negro churches had been built that served both the religious and social needs of the community. Various occupational opportunities, which had previously been barred to the Negro, were slowly opening up for him. The list of property owners had grown over the years and increased mobility added impetus to the Negro population expansion in the area.

¹ Thirteenth United States Census: 1910,
population, Vol II, p. 258.

Prior to 1860 the attitude of the majority of the white citizens of Danbury varied between paternalism and indifference until required to take a definite stand by the Civil War. Underlying these shifts in public sentiment those remained a minority that opposed the Negro at every turn. The classical example of this opposition was the anti-abolition riot in Danbury. Before and after the Civil War certain occupations, notably hatting, remained closed to the Negro. Various neighborhoods, especially in the southend of town, were off limits for the Negro throughout the period. As late as 1910, bodily harm was inflicted on Negroes found walking along South Street because they were trespassing in a white neighborhood.¹ Minority opposition which took various forms, was also found throughout the State.

In the State Legislature, where at the close of the Civil War, the 13th Amendment was ratified without a dissenting vote, a bill for Negro suffrage was overwhelmingly defeated. However, after the Civil War, the responsible white citizens of Danbury often aided, or at least did little to hinder the progress of the Negro.

¹ Interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bowman, Rev. Lawson and Mr. Charles Helt.

Prior to the writing of this paper I held general mistaken notions. One, there was a marked change in the status and role of the Negro in Danbury immediately after his release from slavery; two, the increased mobility occasioned by the Civil War had, at its end, led to a large immigration of Negroes from southern states into the area. The evidence seems to prove that just the opposite is the case in both instances.

For the first two decades after the majority of Negroes in Danbury had been freed, their status and roles seemed to change very little from that which they had been during slavery. The notable exception was that a free Negro could no longer be bought or sold. Negroes still lived and worked in white homes or farms as servants and laborers. More than two or three members of a family rarely lived together because of the nature of their employment and financial conditions. During these early years many of the Negro's rights were limited by law. He took no part in civic affairs and had little sense of community. It wasn't until the Negro was financially able and resolute enough to set up his own households that he began favorably to alter his position in society.

The increase of the Negro population of Danbury after the Civil War was primarily a result of interstate

immigration. This population movement had been gaining momentum since the 1840's and it did increase substantially after the war but the southern states were poorly represented in the movement. The majority of the Negroes who came to Danbury, at least up to 1880, were natives of New York State.

In all, I have concluded that the Civil War and Danbury's industrial growth had little immediate effect on the life of the Negro. He had been free for a number of years before the war so that this status was not affected. The influx of population from other states, although it increased after the war, was not greatly changed as a direct result of the conflict. The Negro's occupation and financial conditions remained somewhat static after the war and he did not benefit directly from the industrial expansion going on in Danbury. Consequently the small number of Negro property owners grew very slowly. No doubt the war did give rise to a sense of citizenship and it offered the Negro a chance to prove himself on the battlefield but the future changes that were to come as a direct or indirect result of the war did so slowly and not cataclysmically as one might have suspected.

On the eve of World War 1 the Negro in Danbury belonged, if not to the whole community, at least to his own. He had progressed but still was low man on the

totem pole of social structure. He had his churches, his households, and increasingly, his rights. He was on the threshold of a new era. It was an era that was to see many Negro young men go off once again to prove their worth on the battlefield and their love of freedom as they had done some half century earlier.

APPENDIX

Sample of an 18th Century Slave Deed

Original owned by Robert Rider
of Redding, Conn.
(Unpublished)

I Jededah Hull of fairfield in the county of
farfield and coloney of Concutat in new englen Resived
to my full Satesfation of Daniel Chapman of Reding in
said county the Sum of twenty Pounds lawfull money for
a neger gall named mille is fore years and nine months
old of Delucco Said Gal for a well hail ruged gall and
will warent said Gall from any person or Persons laying
any lawfull clame to to Gall as witness
my hand this 18th Day of Janary AD 1775

Sined in Presence of

Phineny Chapman
Cornelio Hull

Jedediah Hull.

NEGRO AND WHITE INHABITANTS OF CONNECTICUT, 1756-1860

(Compiled from State and Federal
Census figures)

	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
1756	126,976	3,636
1774	,197,910	6,462
1782	202,577	6,273
1790	202,902	6,281
1800	245,621	4,335 - Free 951 Slaves
1820	267,161	7,844 - Free 97 Slaves
1840	301,856	8105 - Free 17 Slaves
1860	451,504	8,627 - Free

POPULATION OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

State Census Records 1774 - 1756 - 1782

Towns	1774		1756		1782	
	White	Negro Slaves	White	Negro Slaves	White	Negro Slaves
Danbury	2,473	53	1,509	18	2,697	50
Fairfield	4,544	319	4,195	260	5,003	273
Greenwich	2,054	122	2,021		2,530	93
New Fairfield	1,288	20	713		1,429	12
Newtown	2,168	61	1,230	23	2,354	50
Norwalk	4,243	145	2,956	94	3,919	132
Redding	1,189	45			1,257	53
Ridgefield	1,673	34	1,069	46	1,672	25
Stamford	3,503	60	2,648	120	3,756	78
Stratford	5,201	354	3,508	150	5,105	369
Total	28,936	1,214	19,849	711	29,722	1,134

DANBURY'S GROWTH IN POPULATION DURING
PERIOD OF 1756 TO 1860.¹

	White	Negro Slaves	Free (Non-whites)
1756	1,509	18	
1774	2,473	53	
1782	2,697	50	
1790	2,977	23	20
1800	3,220	3	57
1810	3,558		48
1820	3,815	1	57
1830	4,279		53
1840	4,455		49
1850			63
1860			81

¹ Population totals are taken from the State of Connecticut Census records for the years 1756, 1774, 1782 and the United States Federal Census records for the years 1790, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850 and 1860.

DANBURY NEGROES IN THE CIVIL WAR¹

29th (Colored) Regiment Infantry

Co. A - Overton, Charles

Co. B - Richards, Charles, 1st Sgt.	Knapp, John
Gaul, Isaac	Phillips, Chauncey
Pine, William	Phillips, Granville
Armstrong, William	Smalley, John S.
Brown, Elbert	Watson, John T.
Gaul, George	

Co. C - Godgrey, Jeremiah

Co. D - ****

Co. E - Halstead, George W.	Halstead, Albert
-----------------------------	------------------

Co. F - Aray, Charles B.	Prince, Albert
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Co. G - -----

Co. H - Barker, Joseph	Smith, Charles
------------------------	----------------

Co. K - Pine, Albert

31st (Colored) Regiment Infantry
(Originally the 13th (Colored Regiment
Connecticut Volunteer Infantry)

Co. B - Edwards, Joseph

¹ List compiled from Connecticut Military Records,
Connecticut Men in the War of the Rebellion.

FREE NEGROES IN DANBURY RESIDING ALONE¹
1790 - 1840

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Members in Family</u>
1790	Cato	1
	Jube	5
	Cato	4
	Gimri	4
1800	Nimrod	4
	Samson	7
	Cato	1
	Cato & William	8
	Cato	1
	Abraham	4
1810	Nimrod	5
	Cato	2
	Uriah	6
1820	Benhard, Sampson	1
	Gibbs, Joshua	2
	Starr, Jack	3
	Woodbridge, Peter	2
	Gewl, Abraham	4
	Armstrong, William	3
1830	Judd, Akan	3
	Joshan	3
	B ----	7
	Billy	2
	Peter	2
	Jack	3
1840	Hubbit, Philip	3
	Peters, William	3
	Peters, Homer	4
	Freeman, Ebenezer	3
	Armstrong, William	4
	Sages, Amy	3

1 United States Census: 1790-1840, Fairfield County.

NEGROES IN DANBURY RESIDING ALONE
1850 - 1880

(These lists were compiled from the 3th, 8th, 9th and 10th United States Census, population, Fairfield County.)

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Members in Family</u>
1850	Darling, Phinias	2
	Armstrong, William	3
	Ryley, Heland	4
	Peters, Homer	6
	Potts, Richard	2
	May, Malinda	12
	Leatus, William	4
	Fisher, Warren	2
	Armstrong, Alexander	2
	Freeman, Ebenezer	7
1860	Butler, William	6
	Armstrong, Amy	2
	Edwards, James	3
	Riley, William	7
	Fisher, Warren	3
	Watson, May	1
	Pine, James	4
	Watson, Betty	4
	Selbo, Lafayette	2
	Whiteny, Warner	4
	Butler, Nelson	2
	Gibson, Julia	3
	Peters, Dolly	1
	Phillips, Harriet	3
	Holey, Ralph	2
	Phillips, John	5
	Phillips, ----	3
	Richards, Maria	2
	Cornell, Henry	4
Peters, Lyman	3	
Freeman, Ebenezer	10	
1870	Butler, James	6
	Glover, Augustus	3
	Butler, Nelson	3
	Richardson, Frank	2
	Richards, Charles	2
	Phillips, Clancy	2
	Scott, Eli	2
	Pine, Alexander	4
	Pine, William	4
	Pine, Wallace	4
Steele, Lewis	2	

NEGROES IN DANBURY RESIDING ALONE - Contd.
1850 - 1880

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Members in Family</u>
1870	Walter, Ophelia	3
	Robinson, Charlotte	2
	Brian, Osey	2
	Whitney, Warner	6
	Phillips, Caroline	2
	Thompson, John	2
	Johnson, George	3
	Peters, Dolly	1
	Peters, Lyman	2
	Lewis, Eliza	4
	Jenkins, William	2
	Hatfield, Warren	3
	Cornwall, Theodore	3
	Freeman, Sally	3
	Scott, John	3
	Gant, ---	3
Fisher, Warren	3	
1880	Drew, Stephen	8
	Jenkins, William	4
	Butler, Nelson	4
	Logan, Charles	2
	Bassett, John	2
	Darling, (r)?	4
	Brown, Charles	2
	Greeny, George	2
	Butler, Harry	2
	Whitney, Julia	2
	Glood? Henry	2
	Richards, Charles	2
	Steele, A.	2
	Franklin, William	2
	Hatfield, Warren	2
	Young, Priscilla	1
	Young, ?	2
	Digs, William	6
	Wheeler, William	2
	Robinson, George	2
Gaul, Abora	2	
Von Liew, Frank	2	
Halstead, George	2	
Treadway, Edwina	4	
Williams, Anna	2	
Cornell, Theodore	2	

NEGROES IN DANBURY RESIDING ALONE - Contd.
1850 - 1880

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Members in Family</u>
1880	Starr, George	4
	Johnson, George	4
	Glover, Augustus	2
	Morris, Frank	2
	Brooks, V.	3
	Pine, Jane	3
	Eston, Harry	3
	Stevens, William	2
	Jackson, Margaret	2
	Williams, John	2
	Butler, Harfy	3

LOCATION OF NEGRO HOUSEHOLDS IN DANBURY
1880¹

Wooster St.	2
West Wooster St.	1
Cherry St.	4
Elm St.	2
Highland Ave.	3
Beaver St.	2
Franklin St.	3
Coal Pit Hill	2
Canal St.	3
Delay St.	2
Ives St.	4
Center St.	1
Railroad Ave.	2
South St.	1
Smith St.	2
Osborn St.	1
Maple Ave.	1
Clapboard Ridge	2
Middle River	1

¹ Tenth United States Census, population,
Fairfield County.

NEGRO RESIDENTS OF DANBURY BORN OUT OF STATE
(As listed in the Federal Census
for the years 1850-1880)

	<u>Number</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Total Number of Negro Residents</u>
1850	7	New York	63
1860	19	New York	
	2	Pennsylvaniz	
	2	Maryland	
	1	West Indies	
1870	32	New York	134
	8	Virginia	
	2	New Jersey	
	2	District of Columbia	
	1	Maryland	
	1	Louisiana	
	1	South Carolina	
	1	New Hampshire	
	1	Canada	
1880	60	New York	192
	7	Virginia	
	3	West Virginia	
	2	Maryland	
	2	South Carolina	
	2	Massachusetts	
	1	New Jersey	
	1	Pennsylvania	
	1	District of Columbia	
	1	Georgia	
	1	Louisiana	

LIST OF NEGRO OCCUPATIONS OTHER THAN
LABORER OR SERVANT
(For the years 1850-1880)¹

	<u>Occupations</u>	<u>Number Employed</u>
1850	Barber	1
1860	Barber	3
	Saloon Keeper	1
	Stage Driver	1
	Hat Brushman	1
	Farmer	1
1870	Barber	1
	Cook	1
	Hostler	1
	Engineer	1
	Hat Factory Worker	3
1880	Barber	3
	Hat Factory Worker	9
	Hostler	5
	Porter	2
	Teamster	2
	Waiter	2
	Peddler	1
	Janitor	1
	Carman	1

¹ Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth United States
Census, population, Fairfield County.

LIST OF SOME OF THE FIRST MEMBERS
OF NEGRO CHURCHES IN DANBURY¹

New Hope Baptist Church

Stephen Drew
George Johnson
Jacob Wilson
Kate Bailey
Matilda Randolph
William Cruse
William Brown
Arthur Jones
Benjamin Perry
Mary Baldwin
Bertha Brown
Mildred Conway
Martha Evans
Laura Marshall
Esther Pembleton
Laura Spatley
Carrie Taylor
Mary Taylor
Mary West

A. M. E. Zion Church

Lizzie Green
Mary Atkins
James Butler
Gusty Butler
Orrin Butler
Jennie Butler
Kelly Cummings
Fannie Williams
Margaret Steadwell
Thomas Robinson
Albertie Walton
R. H. Cousins
W. G. Cutts
Jane Cousins

¹ These lists were compiled from various interviews, the unpublished pamphlet "Historical Sketch of the New Hope Baptist Church" and the A. M. E. Zion Property Deed.

NEGRO BIRTHS IN DANBURY

January 1871 to November 1895

(Extracted from earliest birth records of the Town of Danbury)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Whitney, Warren	April 28, 1871
Jackson, Emeline	October 28, 1871
Smalley, George	November 25, 1871
Richardson, Nellie	March 1, 1872
Steadwell, Hattie	November 10, 1872
Johson, Mattie	November 21, 1872
O'Brien, Arthur	September 8, 1872
Richardson, Harry	September 27, 1873
-----son	February 3, 1873
Johnson, Mary	September 3, 1874
Stetson, Sarah	June 22, 1875
Ryley, James	March 31, 1876
Johnson, ----	October 15, 1876
Carl, Ida	March 21, 1877
Dunning, Katherine	June 30, 1877
Johnson, Ulysses	November 2, 1877
Steadwell, Carrie	November 26, 1877
Steadwell, Charles	December 19, 1877
Richards, Henry	April 10, 1878
Hall, James, Jr.	April 15, 1878
Reede, Lewis	October 29, 1878
Sowarrow, Jennie	December 22, 1878
Johnson, Walter	June 11, 1879
Brown, Francis	June 16, 1879
Starr, Anna	August 10, 1879
Bryan, Catherine	September 28, 1879
Wheeler, Minnie	December 26, 1879
Dourland, Charles	May 9, 1880
Robinson, George	June 29, 1880
Phillips, Walter	December 25, 1880

NEGRO BIRTHS IN DANBURY, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Butler, Caroline	January 31, 1881
-----	February 2, 1881
Brown, Albert	September 13, 1881
Robinson, Gertrude	June 21, 1881
Butler, Nelson	November 21, 1881
Johnson, Edith	November 21, 1881
Butler, Carrie	January 2, 1882
Treadway, Harry	October 28, 1882
Johnson Frederick	November 5, 1882
-----	December 12, 1882
Washington, Clara	January 22, 1883
Wheeler, Herbert	February 18, 1883
Foote, Edith	May 28, 1883
Robinson, Mary	July 27, 1883
Reed, Clason	August 26, 1883
Brown, Josephine	September 5, 1883
Johnson, Harry	October 24, 1883
Brew, Jennie	February 8, 1884
Drew, Annie	July 3, 1884
Robinson, Emma	September 23, 1884
Robinson, Sarah	October 19, 1884
-----	November 6, 1884
-----	November 6, 1884
Jones, Tillie	May 17, 1885
Butler, Henry	October 2, 1885
Johnson, Cornelia	October 8, 1885
Steadwell, Frazure	January 24, 1886
Jones, Arthur	May 4, 1886
Jones, Lulu	June 9, 1886
Drew, Annie	June 9, 1886
Robinson, James	December 12, 1886
Drummond, Gertrude	December 12, 1886
Wheeler, Jenny	May 23, 1887
Steamons, William	June 13, 1887
Steadwell, Rosa	July 3, 1887
Willis, Nellie	July 4, 1887
Rones, Mathilda	November 29, 1887

NEGRO BRITHS IN DANBURY, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Robinson, Charles	July 30, 1888
Riley, Sanford	July 31, 1888
Tallman, Howard	October 8, 1888
Vails, Grace	December 9, 1888
Miner, Hattie	January 12, 1888
Steadwell, Fraser	January 24, 1889
Williams, Albert	July 16, 1889
Bland, -----	September 1, 1889
Reed -----	November 17, 1889
Myers, John	February 13, 1890
Ellwood, William	March 12, 1890
Robinson, Frank	June 18, 1890
Butler, Arinda	July 18, 1890
Riley, John	December 23, 1890
Robinson, Inez	April 13, 1891
Hickson, Mamie	April 18, 1891
Johnson, Jennie	May 9, 1891
Wheeler, Christina	August 16, 1891
Steadwell, Lucy	December 5, 1891
Butler, Charles	January 21, 1892
Williams, Edith	January 22, 1892
Burdis -----	February 12, 1892
Knipland, Herbert	June 18, 1892
Allen, Ferdinand	June 29, 1892
Butler, Christina	September 1, 1892
Steadwell, Lucy	, December 3, 1892
Reed, -----	February 2, 1893
King, Florence	April 20, 1893
Wheeler, Charles	April 30, 1893
Eaton, Mallie	May 12, 1893
Wheeler, Clarence	May 13, 1893
Allen -----	August 31, 1893
Robinson, Mattie	October 20, 1893
Borman (Bowman)?, Joseph	November 18, 1893
Edwards, Frances	January 31, 1894
Kingsley, Joseph	February 24, 1894
Jones, Amanda	March 4, 1894
Ellwood, Ernest	April 9, 1894
Eaton, Artemus	April 16, 1894
Moorman, Frederick	April 24, 1894
Steadwell, Benjamin	August 1, 1894
Butler, Frank	November 3, 1894

NEGRO BIRTHS IN DANBURY, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Bowman -----	January 4, 1895
Butler, George	March 12, 1895
Johnston, Ethel	June 1, 1895
Steadwell, Harry	June 1, 1895
Johnson, Mary	June 10, 1895
Mathews, Thomas	July 21, 1895
Balding, Anna	October 18, 1895

NEGRO DEATHS IN DANBURY
1871 @ 1888

(Extracted from the earliest
death records of the Town of Danbury)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year</u>
Johnson, Harriet	18	1871
Gaul, Esther	70	
Whitney, Clarence	15 1/2 Mo.	
Whitney, Arthur	3 Mo.	
Johnson, George	11 Mo.	
Steele, Louis	65	
Hall, William	53	
Pine, George	7 Mo.	1872
Butler, Merser	92	
Edwards, Joseph	45	
Mary Belinda	95	1873
Freeman, Walter	17	
Watson, Betsy	50	1874
Hglstead, George	31	
Storms, Evalina	1 Day	
Bütler, James	67	
Kiefer, Harry	97	
Freeman, A.	20	
Collins, Grace	3	1875
Freeman, Sally	59	1876
Crosley, Theron	19	
Mitchell, Tillie	24	
Carl, Lottie	27	1877
Champlin -----		
Pine, Viletta	23	
Scott, Walter	10	
Brown, Agnes	4	
Scott, John	40	
Vaulies, Evaline	21	1878
Capenter, Henry	82	
Brown, Luch	75	
Reed -----		
Young, Anna	40	
Cudgo, Eseke	8	

NEGRO DEATHS IN DANBURY, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year</u>
Robinson, Willie	1 1/2	,1879
Steddle, Charles	1 1/4	
Derimings, Carrie	1	
Jackson, Daniel	56	
Butler, Susan	65	
Halstead, Emma	16	
Halstead, Pruce	80	
Hickok -----	80	
Sowarrow, Flora	1	
Morris, Mary	52	
Jackson, William	47	
Richards, Mary	26	
Bryan, Mary	38	
Peters, Polly	75	
Whitney, Frederick	18	
Scott, Josephine	9	
Peters, Lyman	70	1881
Watson, Mary	40	
Brown, Cornelia	30	
Brian, Kitty	2 1/2	1882
Bassett, John	63	
Bryant, Hattie	10	
Brown, Alfred	11 Mo.	
Brown -----		
Scott -----	6	1883
Gregory -----	1 Day	
Foote -----		
Logan, Cornelia	68	
Denny, Sarah	43	
Minis, John	20	1884
Smith, Frank	7 Mo.	
Glover, Henry	63	
Robinson, Sarah	9	
Sowarrow, Lena	27	
Spencer, Norman	8 Mo.	1885
Reed, Marcia	3	
Reed, Mary	28	
Wood, Minnie	23	
Jones, Isabella	6	
Jones, Lula	5 Mo.	

NEGRO DEATHS IN DANBURY, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year</u>
Drew, Lewis	3	1886
Drew, Annie	1 yrs.10 Mo.	
Brown, William	48	
Brown		
Steadwell, Clara	59	
Logan, Elizabeth	43	
Burr, Francis	38	
Steel, Ephram	22	1887
Lee, Carrie		
Robinson, Charles	2 yrs.	
Burr, Charles	52	
Robinson, James	1/2 yr.	
Wheeler, Jennie	2 Mo.	
Davis, Burt	2 Mo.	
Jones, Charles	52	
Westn, Mary	50	1888
Hatfield, Warren	63	
Vinson, Grace	8 Mo.	
Hatfield, Karen	56	
Catskill, William	18	
Jameson, Georgiana	6 Mo.	
Riley, Sanford	2 Wks.	
Tallman, Ella	10	
Tallman, Howard	20 Days	

COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF NEGRO
 BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN DANBURY
 1871 - 1888

Year	Total	Births*		Total	Deaths	
		Male	Female		Male	Female
1871	3	2	1	3	1	2
1872	4	1	3	5	5	
1873	2	2		2	1	1
1874	1		1	6	3	3
1875	1		1	1		1
1876	3	1	2	3	2	1
1877	5	2	3	6	2	4
1878	4	3	1	6	1	5
1879	2	2	3	9	4	5
1880	3	3		7	1	6
1881	6	2	4	3	1	2
1882	4	2	2	3	2	
1883	7		4	3		3
1884	6		6	5	3	2
1885	3	1	2	6	1	5
1886	6	3	3	7	4	3
1887	5	1	4	8	6	2
1888	5	3	2	9	4	5

*6 of the Births were still born.

A LIST OF SOME EARLY NEGRO INHABITANTS
OF DANBURY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Abel, Maria	45	x			
Abell, Maria	30		x		
Abels, Maria	19				x
Adams, Margaret	45				x
Adams, James	23		x		
Armstrong, William	60	x			
Armstrong, Anna	63	x			
Alexander	35	x	x		
Sarah	32	x			
Lorenzo	54			x	
George	73				x
Brown, Andrew	17	x			
Francis	20	x			
Block, Warren	17	x			
Sarah	22	x			
Buckley, Roswell	14	x			
Butler, William H.	40		x		
Delia	40		x		
Mary	17		x		
Theodore	10		x		
Charles	7		x		
Floyd	5		x		
Henry	20		x		
Nelson	22		x	x	x
Phebe	36		x		
James	47			x	
Susan	46			x	
Harriet	17			x	
Ann	15			x	
Susan	13			x	
James	12			x	
Nelson	39	x	x	x	x
Jennie	39				x
Lewis	14			x	x
Orrin	8				x
Minnie	4				x
Annie	4				x
Sally	1				x

A LIST OF SOME EARLY NEGRO INHABITANTS, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Banthcomer, Hattie	17		x		
Brian, Osey	25			x	
Mary	25			x	
Bassett, John	62				x
Rebecca	58				x
John, Jr	32				x
Abner	22				x
Nora	16				x
Burr, Augusta	49				x
Bruce, A.	45				x
---	29				x
Jefferson	50				x
Brinley, Fanny	14				x
Brown, Charles	23				x
Jennie	20				x
Betsey	40				x
B.	9				x
Melville	5				x
Delia	28				x
George	9				x
Brewster, Mary	9			x	
Butler, Harry	43				x
Priscilla	29				x
Lloyd	2				x
Brewster, J.	3				x
Brown, George	24				x
Mary	22				x
George, Jr.	1				x
Harriet	1 Mo.				x
Brooks, W.	34				x
Julliette	37				x
Butler, Harry	18			x	
Emma	21				x
Annie	23				x
	11				
Cromwell, Alexander	22	x			
Cudgal, Mary	22			x	
Corn---, Henry	28			x	
Amanda	24			x	
Isabella	1			x	
Frederick	6 Mo			x	
Cahil, Clara	18			x	
Cornwall, Theo	38			x	
Mary	23			x	
A.	2			x	
Coley, Caroline	14			x	
Crosby, Arthur	15				x
Carrl, Martin,	23				x
L.	3				x

A LIST OF SOME EARLY NEGRO INHABITANTS, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Cornell, Theodore	50				X
May	48				X
Orelia	12				X
Don, Betsey	16	X			
Darling, Phineas	25	X			
Maria	30	X			
Donand (?), Seneca	17	X			
Drew, Stephen	49			X	X
Jane	20			X	X
Frances	4			X	X
Emma	2			X	X
Georgianna				X	X
Tilla	5				X
Arrena	2				X
Darling, R.	23				X
B.	16				X
Samuel	1				X
S.	1 Mo.				X
Diggs, William	29				X
L.	27				X
Jeanie	7				X
Sarah	6				X
Leora	4				X
Jessie	2				X
Deming, Richard	40				X
Catherine	33				X
Emma	11				X
George	8				X
William	3 Mo.				X
Edwards, James	31		X		
Emily	23		X		
Charles	5		X		
Susan	19				X
Elwell, Ann	46				X
Fisher, Warren	21	X			
Mary	37	X			
Franklin, James	29	X			
Harriet	22	X			
Freeman, Ebenezer	38	X	X		
Sally	36	X	X	X	
Sarah	13	X			
John	10	X	X		
Benjamin	9	X	X	X	
Helen	7	X	X	X	
Josephine	2	X	X		
Caroline	10		X	X	
Alta	5		X	X	
Walter	3		X	X	
Hannah	1		X	X	

A LIST OF SOME EARLY NEGRO INHABITANTS, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Fisher, Warren	42		X		
Mary	49		X		
Emma	14		X		
Fields, Joseph	27				X
Gall, George	30	X			
Ann	25	X			
Nancy	4	X			
Thomas	2	X			
Hiram	33	X			
Gibson, Samuel	18		X		
Julia	48		X		
Jane	7		X		
William	6		X		
Glover, Augustus	35			X	X
Eliza	35			X	X
Ida	16			X	
Gabriel (?)	18			X	
Graves, Eveline	21			X	
Green, Charlotte	58			X	X
Gant, ----	31			X	
Lillian	25			X	
Alta	8			X	
Sarah	3			X	
Herbert	1			X	
Greeny, George	59				X
Glood (?), Henry	59				X
Wife	53				X
Joshua	30				X
Indiana	26				X
Matilda	14				X
Gaul, Aaron	72				X
Clara	73				X
Hatfield, Warren	25	X		X	X
Harriett	41				X
Holley, Ralph	40		X		
Fanny	38		X		
Hunter, Emma	32		X		
Halstead, George	22				X
Emaline	26				X
Larue	11				X
Alice	18				X

A LIST OF SOME EARLY NEGRO INHABITANTS, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Hawley, Fannie	50				X
Hyatt, Jerak	18				X
Johnson, Jane	21	X			
Jackson, Clara	65			X	
Johnson, Stephen	25			X	
Frances	21			X	
George	31			X	
Julia	23			X	
Isabell	1			X	
Elsie	13			X	
George	35				X
William	53				X
George	22				X
Lettie	23				X
Samuel	4				X
Frankie	2				X
Jackson, Clara	62			X	
Israel	62				X
Margaret	54				X
Jenkins, William	25			X	X
Nancy	22			X	X
Homer	12			X	
Elizabeth	8			X	X
Katie	2			X	X
Catherine	11			X	X
King, Mary	22				X
Leatus, William	60	X			
Margaretta	25	X			
Sally	35	X			
Henry	23	X			
Lewis, Eliza	33			X	
Florence	6			X	
John	5			X	
Elizabeth				X	
Logan, Charles	30				X
Elizabeth	35				X
May, Malinda	55	X			
Lida	80			X	
Murray, John	30			X	
Lyda	21			X	

A LIST OF SOME EARLY NEGRO INHABITANTS, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Nitchell, Emily	16			X	
Morris, Frank	52				X
Lois	32				X
Matthews, ---	22				X
Peters, Homer	28	X	X		
Nancy	38	X	X		
Mercy	18	X	X		
Mary	16	X	X		
L.	16	X	X		
Dolly	66	X	X		
Leonard	14	X	X		
Potter, Jacob	27	X			
Mary	28	X			
Powers, Amelia	20	X			
Potter, Richard	35	X			
Hester	35	X			
Peters, Dolly	16		X	X	X
Lyman	43		X	X	
Mary	43			X	
Fanny	47		X		
Samuel	24		X		
Nancy	56			X	
Phillips, John	27		X		
Caroline	23		X	X	
Nelson	2		X	X	
Homer	1		X		
Millicent	63		X		
B.	18		X		
Chauncey	16		X	X	
Molly	20		X		
Pine, James	25		X		
Julia	23		X		
Violetta	6		X	X	
William	6Mo.		X	X	
William	45			X	X
Berta	36			X	
Alexander	42			X	
Jane	45			X	
Loretta	11			X	
Frederick	7			X	X
Wallace	36			X	
Hannah	26			X	
Bertha	5			X	

A LIST OF SOME EARLY NEGRO INHABITANTS, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Phillips, Sarah	20			X	
Margaret	35			X	X
Dora	10			X	
Bernice	2			X	
Lyman	10			X	
Parish, Frances	40			X	
Phillips, Madera	20				X
Ralson, Landur	18		X		
Ray, Louise	10	X			
Riley, Heland	32	X			
Martha	24	X			
James	3	X			
Martha	1	X			
William	37		X		
Rebecca	32		X		
Andrew	11		X		
Lewis	11		X		
Henry	2		X		
Jane	1		X		
Daniel	1 Mo.		X		
Richards, Maria	53			X	X
Charles	20			X	X
Ryless, Walter	21				X
Richards, Lucy	21				X
Reed, Edward	33				X
Margaret	25				X
Ella	5				X
Caroline	3				X
Laura	5 Mo.				X
Richards, Charles	12			X	X
Mary	39				X
George	4				X
Lellus	5				X
Charles	2				X
Robinson, Charity	50				X
Charles	27				X
George	25				X
Ida	28				X
Mary	4				X
Riley, Martha	28				X
George	15				X

A LIST OF SOME EARLY NEGRO INHABITANTS, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Richardson, Frank	23			X	
Caroline	19			X	
August	19			X	
Richards, Charles	29			X	
Clara	17			X	
Robinson, Charlotte	40			X	
Ann	7			X	
Sage, Margaret	15	X			
Sturges, Elizabeth	16	X			
Sellers, Lafayette	40		X		
Sally	4		X		
Elizabeth	14		X		
Scott, Eli	50			X	
Julia	38			X	
Steele, Lewis	60			X	
Orinda	56			X	
Simon, Sarah	40			X	
Steale, Limeson	21			X	
Scott, John	31			X	
Mary	22			X	
William	4			X	
Wallace	2			X	
B.	-			X	
Mary	30				X
Josephine	8				X
Emma	6				X
Percy	4				X
Eli	47				X
Julia	47				X
Jodi	3				X
Smalley, Catherine	24			X	X
Emma	1			X	X
STeele, Simeon	32				X
Amanda	60				X
Steadwell, John	14				X
Leroy	18				X
Stevens, William	44				X
Abbie	42				X
Styles, Hannah	19				X
Taylor, Ann	40	X			
Thabaker, Awlson	40	X			

A LIST OF SOME EARLY NEGRO INHABITANTS, Contd.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Treadway, Elmira	40				X
Frank	15				X
Anna	14				X
Edward	11 1/2				X
Titus, D.			X		
Treadwell, Norris	26		X		
Thompson, Ella	18			X	
John	35			X	
Augustus	39			X	
Tallman, Abraham	25			X	
Weston, Ellen	12	X	X		
Erline	15			X	X
Whitney, George	20	X			
Watson, Betty	40		X		
Alexander	24		X		
George	22		X		
Tyler	18		X		
Mary	23		X		
Williams, Georgia	18			X	
Watson, Ophelia	45			X	
Mary A.	29			X	
Mary E.	13			X	
Whitney, Warner	35		X	X	
Julia	32		X	X	X
Clarence	14		X	X	
Benson	12			X	X
Frances	9			X	
Frederick	7			X	X
Madison	8				X
West, Thomas	32				X
Williams, H.	23				X
Wheeler, William	23			X	X
Annie	18				X
Effie	6 Mo.				X
Washburn, L.	37				X
Williams, Anna	38				X
Howard	15				X
Bertha	2				X
Weston, Harry	37				X
Sarah	37				X
Ida	9				XX
Williams, William	20				X
John	29				X
Martha	27				X
Young, Priscilla	25				X
----	26				X

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