

The Great Baptizing  
At Beech Hill, Nova Scotia  
May 30, 1869

Pastor: Rev James Thomas, officiating  
by William H. Golar

One morning when the sun shone bright  
'Twas in the Month of May,  
A great baptizing did take place  
Upon the Sabbath Day.

The colored folks, from far and near,  
With a united will,  
Moved on their way rejoicing  
To the village of Beech Hill.

About a thousand, white and black,  
Assembled at the place,  
Where union, love and fellowship,  
Was mingled with God's Grace.

The many came from far and near,  
But few to make a mock,  
And the Reverend Pastor he got there,  
Some time near 9 o'clock.

The candidates they then appeared  
Arranged in spotless white:  
And all who saw them did admit  
It was a solemn sight

The Reverend Pastor then moved off,  
Robed in a splendid gown:  
The workmanship, the people say  
Of Mrs. John F. Brown.

The Deacons, then, they next fell in  
And marched down to the lake:  
And waited while the Reverend  
George MacDonald spake.

He spoke of what our people were,  
In Egypt's far-famed land;  
If how they fell, and how they had  
The fetters on our hands.

Then the Reverend Thomas wading out,  
In a solemn voice did say:  
"We'll ask a blessing from above—  
Brother MacDonald, pray."

He prayed that God would condescend,  
And act the Saviour's part:  
Would solemnize us every one,  
And convince every heart.

The candidates they numbered all  
About fifty in the flock:  
And he baptized them all,  
In twenty minutes by the clock.

The baptizing now being o'er  
The people moved off soon;  
He blessed them all, and hoped to meet  
At Hammonds Plains in June.

Then Father Thomas left the place,  
Filled with the Hope of Heaven: