## Edward C. Africanus Minister and Educator (1821/22-1853)

Edward Cephas Africanus was a minister of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Weeksville (Brooklyn) and Macedonia A.M.E. Zion Church in Flushing. (Sources: 2, 5, 9, 11) He was also a teacher at the Colored School in Flushing. (Sources: 3) He is believed to have been the brother of the educator and abolitionist Selah Mills Africanus, who taught at the Colored School beginning in 1851.

His year of death has been variously reported, as 1850 (Sources: 7, 9), 1852, and 1853. His participation in the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, held in New York in May 1852, renders a date before mid-1852 impossible (Source: 1). This memorial lithograph by the Tappan & Bradford Lithography Company was made ca. 1853.

(Sources: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. Image: 15)



# Edward C. Africanus and the Underground Railroad

Edward Africanus worked in support of waystations on the Underground Railroad from Jersey City, New Jersey, north through the Hudson River Valley to Canada.

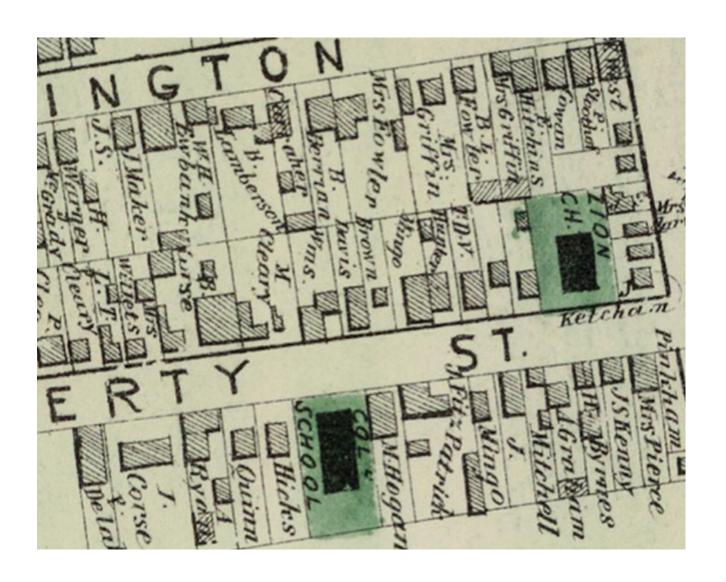
The Macedonia A.M.E. Zion Church in Flushing was a station in this network. (Sources: 3, 5, 6; Image: 14)



## The Flushing Colored School

The Colored School was established as a free and integrated school by the Flushing Female Association, a Quaker women's organization, and was later absorbed into the public school system as a segregated school. (Sources: 5, 8)

This image shows the location of the Colored School and the church on Liberty Street in 1873 (Sources: 13)



## Edward C. Africanus in the Flushing Journal

#### Flushing Journal, February 22, 1841, 2:4

The ladies of **Macedonia Church** propose to pay their pastor, **Rev. Edward C. Africanus** a friendly visit on Wed. the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November throughout the day and evening and they would respectfully invite the friends of the cause of Christ to unite with them in offering their kind purposes. (Source: 11)

## Another Edward Africanus of Flushing: A Relative?

#### **Brooklyn Evening Star, March 16, 1843, 2:5**

https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/117452779/?match=1&terms=%22Edward%20%20Africanus%22&pqsid=iC6EANTRpk0oj70YYDj4oQ%3A64980%3A284839442

Died. At Flushing...Also Edward Africanus, aged 51.

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- (11) Flushing Journal, February 22, 1841, 2:4
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[Note: Newspapers.com requires sign-in, available at many libraries.]

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#### **Images**

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