

# 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)





# 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&pgs\\_id=iC6EANTRpk0oj70YYDj4oQ%3A64980%3A284839442](https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/117452779/?match=1&terms=%22Edward%20%20Africanus%22&pgs_id=iC6EANTRpk0oj70YYDj4oQ%3A64980%3A284839442)

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

# Sources. I

## Books, Articles and Reports

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- (3) French, Mary. "Macedonia A.M.E. Church". New York City Cemetery Project. March 1, 2020. <https://nycemetery.wordpress.com/2020/03/01/macedonia-a-m-e-church-cemetery/#:~:text=Cemetery%20was%20Rev.-,Edward%20C.,Church>
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- (5) Kearns, Betsy, and Cece Kerkorian. *Phase 1A archaeological assessment report for the Flushing Center Project, Queens, New York, CEQR 86-337 Q*. Riverside: Historical Perspectives, Inc., June 30, 1988. [https://s-media.nyc.gov/agencies/lpc/arch\\_reports/526.pdf](https://s-media.nyc.gov/agencies/lpc/arch_reports/526.pdf)
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# Sources. II

(7) Snodgrass, Mary Ellen. "Africanus, Edward C. (1822-1850)". In *The Underground Railroad: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Operations*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2015. [https://api.pageplace.de/preview/DT0400.9781317454168\\_A24376215/preview-9781317454168\\_A24376215.pdf](https://api.pageplace.de/preview/DT0400.9781317454168_A24376215/preview-9781317454168_A24376215.pdf)

(8) Spindler, Ellen M., and Charlotte Jackson. *Independent minds: Bowne and Parsons women*. Flushing: Bowne House. Accessed April 20, 2024. <https://www.bownehouse.org/bowneandparsonswomen>

(9) Wayman, Alexander W. "Africanus, Edward C." In *Cyclopaedia of African Methodism*. Baltimore: Methodist Episcopal Book Depository, 1882. <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100629183>

(10) Wellman, Judith. *Brooklyn's Promised Land: The Free Black Community of Weeksville, New York*. New York: New York University Press, 2014.

## Newspaper Articles

(11) *Flushing Journal*, February 22, 1841, 2:4

(12) *Standard Union*. "Anniversary of the Bethel A.M.E. Church." October 13, 1903, 5:1. [https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/542173063/?match=1&terms=%22Edward%20C.%20Africanus%22&pgsid=LdtZ0ZPvJiK\\_zlj2aHHr0g%3A1108325%3A1878307143](https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/542173063/?match=1&terms=%22Edward%20C.%20Africanus%22&pgsid=LdtZ0ZPvJiK_zlj2aHHr0g%3A1108325%3A1878307143)

[Note: Newspapers.com requires sign-in, available at many libraries.]

# Sources. III

## Images

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(14) Jones, Devry Becker. *Macedonia A.M.E Church Marker*. March 5, 2022. Photograph. Historical Marker Database. <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=193361>

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