

# Selah Mills Africanus (1822-1870)

**Selah Mills Africanus** was an educator and abolitionist active in New York and Connecticut. He is reputed to have been a conductor on the Underground Railroad in Connecticut.

An 1846 article in the *Brooklyn Evening Star*, reprinted from the *Albany Journal*, lists him as representing Queens County (along with J. Mingo) on a committee connected with the process of framing a new state constitution. (Sources: 9)

He taught at the Talcott Street School in Hartford from 1847 to 1850 and participated in the 1849 state convention of Black men. (Sources: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12)

In 1851, he was Principal of the Colored School in Flushing. He died in 1870 (exact date and location unknown). (Sources: 10, 11)

He was the brother of Edward C. Africanus (1822-1853), a minister of Macedonia A.M.E. Zion Church, also a teacher at the Colored School. (Sources: 2)



# Selah Mills Africanus in the Flushing Journal

## *Flushing Journal, December 27, 1851, 2:3*

Report of the Bd. of Education, Dist. #5: The school for colored children has taken place under the charge of **Selah M. Africanus** whose experience in teaching induces the hope of much benefit to this class. There are at present 68 scholars at this school and the studies pursued are Spelling, Reading, Writing, Geography, Arithmetic, and Drawing.

## *Flushing Journal, February 10, 1870, 2:5*

**Selah M. Africanus**, principal of Flushing Colored School died; no date given.

# Selah Mills Africanus: Addresses and Speeches

Africanus, Selah Mills. *The Fugitive Slave Law*. Hartford, 1850. Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbpe.33700200/>

Africanus, Selah Mills, Henry Nott, and Henry A. Thompson. "An Address to the Colored Men of Connecticut." In *Proceedings of the Connecticut State Convention of Coloured Men, Held at New Haven, on the September 12th and 13th, 1849*. New Haven: William H. Stanley, 1949. Colored Conventions Project Digital Records, <https://omeka.coloredconventions.org/items/show/25>

*The Liberator*, October 5, 1849

Untitled and unsigned newspaper report on a speech delivered in Hartford (date unspecified). Black Abolitionist Archive, University of Detroit Mercy.

[https://libraries.udmercy.edu/archives/special-collections/index.php?record\\_id=533&collectionCode=baa](https://libraries.udmercy.edu/archives/special-collections/index.php?record_id=533&collectionCode=baa)

# Sources. I

## Books, Articles, and Reports

- (1) 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)
- (2) Hodges, Graham Russell. *Root and Branch: African Americans in New York and East Jersey, 1613-1863*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.
- (3) Marinelli, John. "Africanus, Selah Mills (1822–after 1880)." In *African American National Biography*. Oxford African American Studies Center. February 28, 2013. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acref/9780195301731.013.39327>
- (4) Spindler, Ellen M., and Charlotte Jackson. *Independent minds: Bowne and Parsons women*. Flushing: Bowne House. Accessed April 20, 2024. <https://www.bownehouse.org/bowneandparsonswomen>
- (5) Strother, Horatio T. *The Underground Railroad in Connecticut*. Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 1962. <https://ia800209.us.archive.org/31/items/undergroundrailr1962stro/undergroundrailr1962stro.pdf>
- (6) Vara-Dannen, Theresa. "Letters of Protest: Responding to Racial Prejudice against Frederick Douglass and Others in Connecticut". *Connecticut History Review*, 51, no. 2 (2012): 172–202. <https://doi.org/10.2307/44370136>

# Sources. II

(7) Vara-Dannen, Theresa. *The African American Experience in Nineteenth-Century Connecticut: Benevolence and Bitterness*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2014.

(8) White, David. "Hartford's African Schools, 1830–1868". *Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* 39, no. 2. (April 1974): 47-53.

## Newspaper Articles

(9) *Brooklyn Evening Star*. "People of Color." January 30, 1846, 2:2.

[https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/117450004/?match=1&terms=%22S.M.%20Africanus%22&pqsid=LdtZ0ZPvJiK\\_zlj2aHHr0g%3A83026%3A338792717](https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/117450004/?match=1&terms=%22S.M.%20Africanus%22&pqsid=LdtZ0ZPvJiK_zlj2aHHr0g%3A83026%3A338792717)

(10) *Flushing Journal*, December 27, 1851, 2:3

(11) *Flushing Journal*, February 10, 1870, 2:5

(12) *The Liberator*. "Colored Convention." October 5, 1849.4:4

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

## Images

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