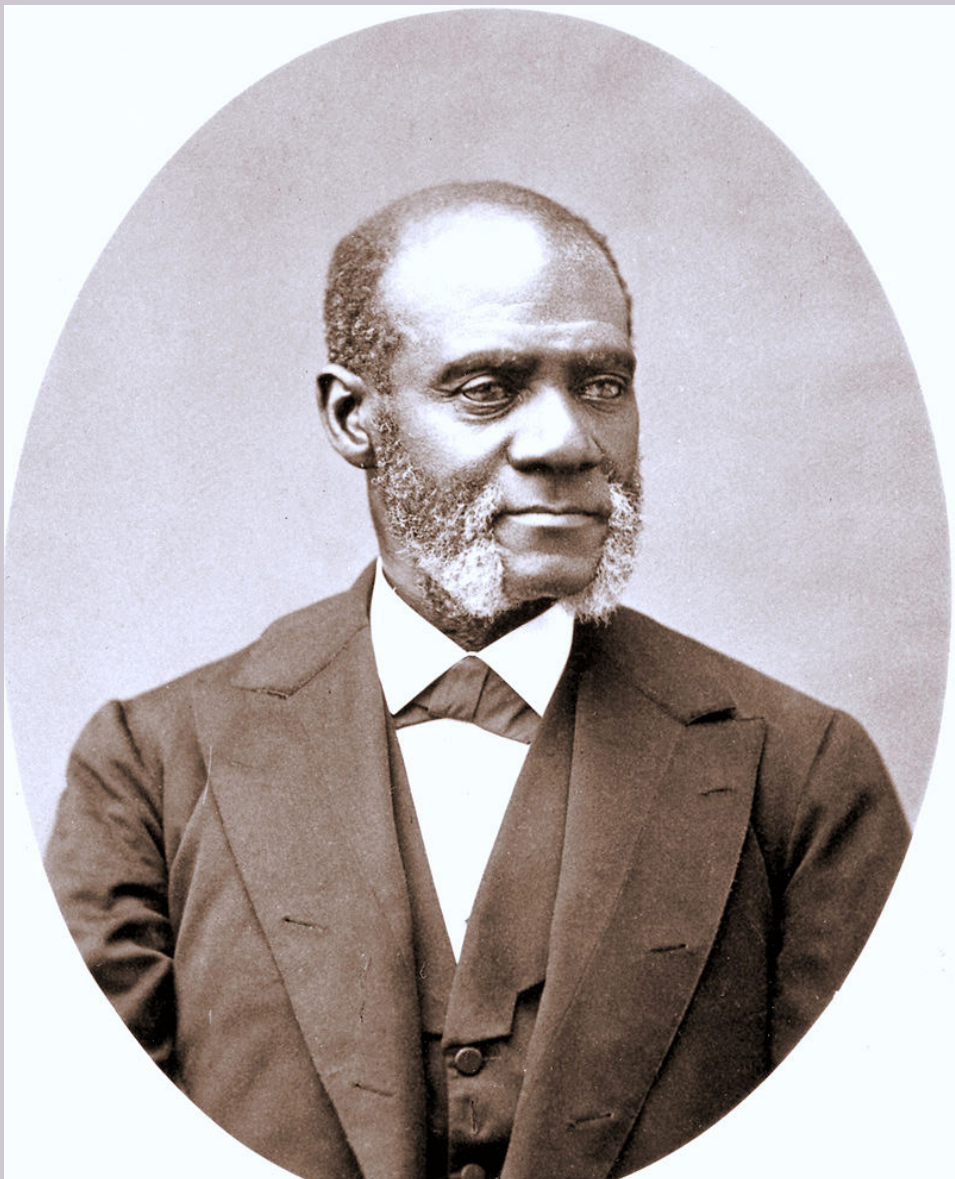


# High & Grove Streets

Known as the “Black” or “African settlement,” throughout much of the 1800s, the West-High Streets neighborhood consisted primarily of land owned by Black Genevans. The neighborhood had churches and the district’s “colored” school.

In the 1820's, their children barred from the district schools, Geneva's Black community started their own school system.



Noted abolitionist Henry Highland Garnet served as superintendent and teacher at the school in Union Chapel on High Street from 1849 to 1851.



The High Street School (often referred to as “the African school”) was a single classroom where students ranging in age from four to sixteen were taught by one teacher.

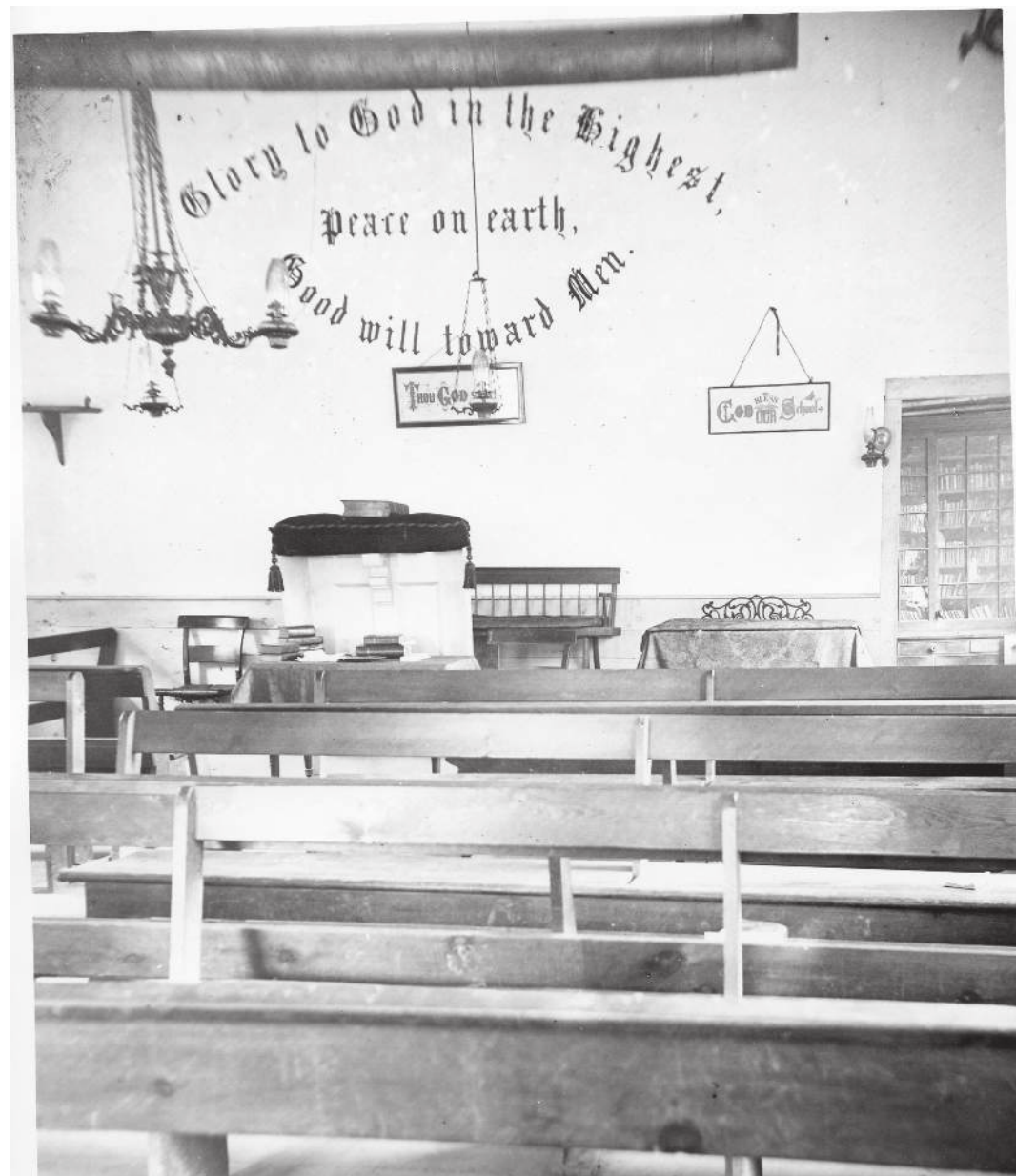


The Black community in Geneva is as old as the community itself, though many of the first Black settlers were enslaved and brought to Geneva against their will. In 1818 Black Genevans began buying property on the western outskirts of the town. This 1856 map shows the families who owned various plots of land in the West-High Streets neighborhood, many of them prominent families in Geneva's Black community.



# High & Grove Streets

Meeting first in their homes and later at Union Chapel, the community-led education system operated until the High Street School (known as “the African school”) was built in 1853 as part of a project to build four free primary schools in Geneva. Far less money was devoted to the High Street School’s construction and furnishing than the others. Soon after it was built, it was considered grossly inadequate. Despite vocal opposition to continued segregation in education, Geneva’s Black students were taught separately until April 1873.



The Union Chapel served as both a church and school. With Black children barred from attending the district’s schools, the Union Chapel housed the first and only public school for the Black community until the village built the High School Street School.