

Who Is Benjamin Templeton
Benjamin Franklin Templeton: A Chronology
December 28th, 1978

1808-9

Born to Pompey and Terak Templeton, on the plantation of Thomas Williamson, located in Sparanburg, South Carolina.

1813

De-facto emancipation of the Templeton family. In Thomas Williamson's will, slaves divided between the above's son and son-in-law (John Means). Family brought to Ohio. BFT lived with William Williamson, Adams Co., Ohio.

Jan, 25-26th, 1831

BFT "a colored member of the Manchester Church (Presbyterian), Adams Co, Ohio". The Chillicothe Presbytery decided to financially assist (by collecting funds) BFT in obtaining an education for the ministry. A committee consisting of Thomas Williamson Revs. Gilliland and Rankins were to supervise this project. He was enrolled on April 2nd, 1831, as a student Ripley College (est. 1827, opened 1829—250 students). BFT attended classes there for about 10 days until great opposition arose to his presence in the school. The Board of Trustees of the college decided to have him withdrawn from the institution because of a severe "cowhiding" on BFT inflicted by one Frank Snow, a local poor white, and because of the opposition and threatened withdraw of Southern white students.—Autobiography of Adam Lowry Rankin & Minutes of Presb.

April 2nd, 1831

Report and financial statement of Thomas Williamson regarding the private tutoring of BFT in which he states that he will be unable to continue his instruction of BFT due to other obligations—advises not to re-enroll him to Ripley College "or any other unless we could first be assured that no considerable opposition would be made to him."—manuscript letter, PHS.

1832

BFT enrolled at Indiana Theological Seminary, Madison, Indiana. (Now called Hanover College)

September 29th, 1836

Certificate of studies from Indiana Theological Seminary issued by John Matthew. BFT did not complete all course work at the institution. BFT was one of the 12 theological students.—Catalogue Indiana Theological Seminary & Hanover College, 1836

October 17-19th, 1836

Chillicothe Presbytery certified BFT as a candidate for the ministry, arts of trial assigned to him.

1836-1838

Student at Lane Theological Seminary. Graduation in 1838. – General Catalogue 1829-1899, p. 24.

April 3rd & 4th, 1838

Licensed by Chillicothe Presbytery as a minister and appointed as missionary for six months in the Presbytery.

September 11-14th, 1838

Appointed as missionary to “travel out of bounds”

1840-before August 1841

At a church in Monroe, Clermont Co., Ohio (located near New Richmond, Ohio) – Rankin’s manuscript at OHS

1841-1844

Established the Sixth Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pa. – Delany.

1844- September 1856

Called to The Second (Colored) Presbyterian Church on St. Mary Street in Philadelphia. – Delany and Rankin p. 150 (1853-54)

1845

Lithograph of BFT by Alfred Hoffy (advertised in the Mystery)

1847 November 23rd

Birth in Philadelphia of William Renolds Templeton.

July 6-8th, 1853

BFT offers prayer at National Convention of Colored Men in Rochester, N.Y.

October 13th, 1854

Signs letter of invitation to Frederick Douglass – his visit to Philadelphia.

September 1856-Fe. 1858

Pastors Lombard Street Central Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia (30 members of his former church came along) – Brown’s Fifty years...

February 6th, 1854

Death of BFT in Philadelphia. leaves son William R. BFT died of pneumonia around 50 years old at time of death. Buried in vault in front of Church. William R., an orphan is living in 1860 with Mr. George Potter, an elder of the church.