

REV. SOLOMON PECK



1800-1874

Born: Jan 25, 1800 in Providence, RI

Died: June 12, 1874 in Rochester, NY

Appointment(s):

American Baptist Home Missionary Society
Beaufort, South Carolina
School Teacher/Principal
1861-1862

American Baptist Home Missionary Society
Beaufort, South Carolina
Pastor, Baptist Church
Nov 1862-1865

Solomon Peck was born in Providence, Rhode Island on January 25, 1800. He attended Brown University at the age of thirteen and graduated in 1816.¹ Peck taught in their college for 3 ½ years and then attended Andover Theological Seminary for 4 years, where he became an ordained Baptist minister in 1823. Rev. Peck's assistant, Rev. Andres Wilkins, was likely an African-American.² Rev. Peck taught at Amherst College in 1823 as an Instructor of Latin and Hebrew. In 1832, he went on a service trip to France on behalf of the American Baptist Board of Foreign Missions.³ From 1836-1856, Solomon Peck was the Corresponding Secretary of the Executive Board of the American Baptist Missionary Union.⁴ In 1861, he resigned that position in Boston and further involvement with the ABMU in order to travel to the Sea Islands off the coast of South Carolina to teach and preach for the freedmen on the abandoned plantations and the refugee 'contrabands' who had flooded into Union-held areas, such as military camps on Hilton Head Island.⁵

Northern teachers from varying agencies differed in belief of what freedmen needed. The evangelical groups such as the American Missionary

¹ McClintock and Strong. *Biblical Cyclopedia*. <https://www.biblicalcyclopedia.com/P/peck-solomon.html>.

² American Baptist Home Mission Society. "Baptist Home Missions", p 405.

- Ibid. *Home Evangelist*, July 1863, p 26.

³ Cathcart, William. The Baptist Encyclopedia: a dictionary of the doctrines, ordinances, usages, confessions of faith, sufferings, labors, and successes, and of the general history of the Baptist denomination in all lands with numerous biographical sketches of distinguished American and foreign Baptists, and a supplement. Baptist Standard Bearer, Paris, AR, 1988.

Charleston Southern University. L. Mendel Rivers Library, Charleston, SC.

⁴ McClintock and Strong.

⁵ "Baptist Home Missions", p 408.

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Association and the American Baptist Home Missionary Society were religious and included religious instruction in their classrooms putting an emphasis on religious conversions. Other groups were non-denominational such as the National Freedmen's Relief Association and the American Freedman's Union Commission (AFUC) which was made up of religious reformers like Unitarians, Universalists, Garrisonians and free-thinkers. Their emphasis was on free-labor cotton production, opening schools and morality rather than theology.

Peck, along with Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist pastors attempted to train black ministers but black evangelicals wanted schools and teachers, regardless of what faith they adhered to. So Peck opened a school in Beaufort, hired 4 black teachers and his own daughter, Sarah Peck, to teach.⁶ He served for two years from November 1862-1864 and his daughter, Sarah E. Peck, served from November 1864-1865 for just 6 months.⁷ Rev. Peck also served as Pastor of a colored Baptist Church in Beaufort from 1861 until the end of the Civil War.⁸

When he returned home to Boston, he became the Chaplain of the Home for Disabled Soldiers. He also renewed his relationship with the freedmen of South Carolina by serving as the Secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society in Boston.⁹ Rev. Solomon Peck died on June 12, 1874 in Rochester, New York. He is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, Lot 165, Section C with African-Americans who were soldiers in the US Colored Troops during the Civil War.¹⁰



⁶ Cathcart, p 893.

⁷ "Baptist Home Missions in North America: including a Full Report of the Proceedings and Addresses of the Jubilee Meeting". ABHMS 1883, p 606.

⁸ McClintock and Strong.

⁹ Cathcart, Opcit.

¹⁰ Findagrave.com Memorial ID 41282885 created 28 Aug 2009 by Daryl Ver Streat.

Findagrave.com/memorial/41282885/Solomon-peck#source. 2 photo added 23 June 2015 by Joel Shore.