

John Walcott Douglass, born in Fairfield County on February 27, 1864, the son of a slave, who was skilled in shoemaking, and of Sallie Parker Douglass, became intensely interested in the ministry. In 1887 he married Meta Leitner. Though not highly educated as many of his counterparts, he entered the ministry with a public school training, and thereafter "became a member of the A.M.E. Conference at Columbia in 1896."⁷⁶ Douglass built four A.M.E. Churches and remodeled three across South Carolina. Well respected by fellow church people, he was elected to the Centennial Conference at Philadelphia and later became a trustee at Allen University.⁷⁷