

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY

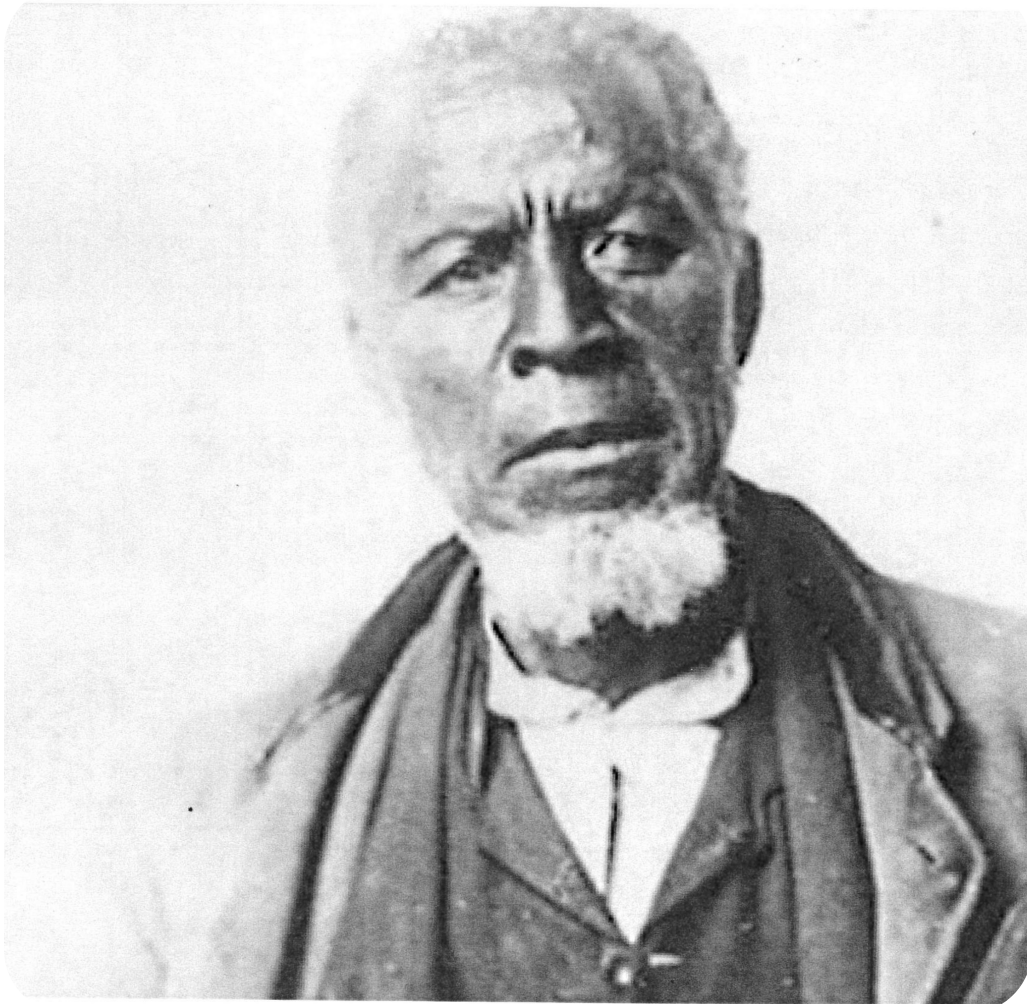


Image courtesy of Encyclopedia of Arkansas

Rev. Squire Jehagen was brought from Africa and enslaved in America. He was one of 300 men purchased by Matthew Leeper of Texas and became Leeper's personal attendant. Jehagen was allowed to sit outside the window of Leeper's church and learn the gospel during a time when slaves were not allowed to learn to read. Once freed, he became a Baptist preacher and founded the oldest African American church in Fayetteville, Arkansas (Washington County): The Historic St. James Missionary Baptist, dating to 1865. He envisioned a place that would revive the spirits of those who were once rebuked and scorned as slaves. The church founded by Jehagen was a place of refuge, hope, love, compassion, dreams, peace and strength.



ARKANSAS
HERITAGE



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