



The Rev. Amos Gerry Beman  
1812 - 1874

Pastor of the Temple Street African  
Congregational Church, New Haven,  
1838-1857

Amos Gerry, son of Jehiel and Fanny Beman, received his early education in Colchester, where one of his teachers has been named as Miss Huldah Morgan. He undoubtedly also studied under James Quash in Colchester. When he was twenty, he spent a short time at Wesleyan University; he then taught for four years in Hartford. In 1839 he went to New Haven to become the pastor of the Temple Street Church.

During the ten years between 1843 and 1853, both Amos Beman and his father worked unceasingly in behalf of every movement which might promote the welfare of their race. Both were frequently elected to head the many conventions held in Connecticut and out of the state; both were in great demand as speakers. Their work took them to Buffalo, to Boston, and to New York. They fought for the right to vote, for suffrage had been denied to the black man by the Connecticut State Constitution of 1818. They went on record as opposing colonization; they backed resolutions promoting temperance and educational opportunities for blacks. On the question of abolition, both Bemans were moderates and led the fight against the radical anti-slavery groups within the ranks of the black movement. They never ceased to work for their people's freedom, however, especially after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.

Some  
Successful,  
Colchester  
school  
graduates

**C**OLCHESTER - Lyman Trumbull might have been president of the United States.

But the senator from Illinois was not interested in seeking higher office, and when the Republicans, in 1860, nominated his friend Abraham Lincoln, Trumbull campaigned diligently for his election.

Trumbull, who helped found the Republican Party in the mid 1850s and authored the 13th Amendment freeing the slaves, was born and educated in Colchester. And despite the loss of many of Colchester's old historic homes, the Trumbull homestead still exists.

With limited funds, young Lyman could not attend Yale. But he did attend Bacon Academy, then a private school free to Colchester youth, and at that time ranked second behind Yale among all schools in the state.

