

A.M.E. Notable Members: 1834—2001 (Excerpt)

Transcribed and Edited by Owen M. Bennett, Assistant Director of the Montgomery County Historical Society

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“Maria Gates and the Nelson Patterson family were responsible for organizing this first African Methodist Episcopal church in the Wabash valley. They recognized their dependence upon their spiritual upbringing dating to the late 1700’s by the church’s first Bishop in Africa. They sensed the need for ethnic sustenance for their social life. The combination of reasons proved its worth in their long century and a half of existence.”