

Robert Athlyi Rogers

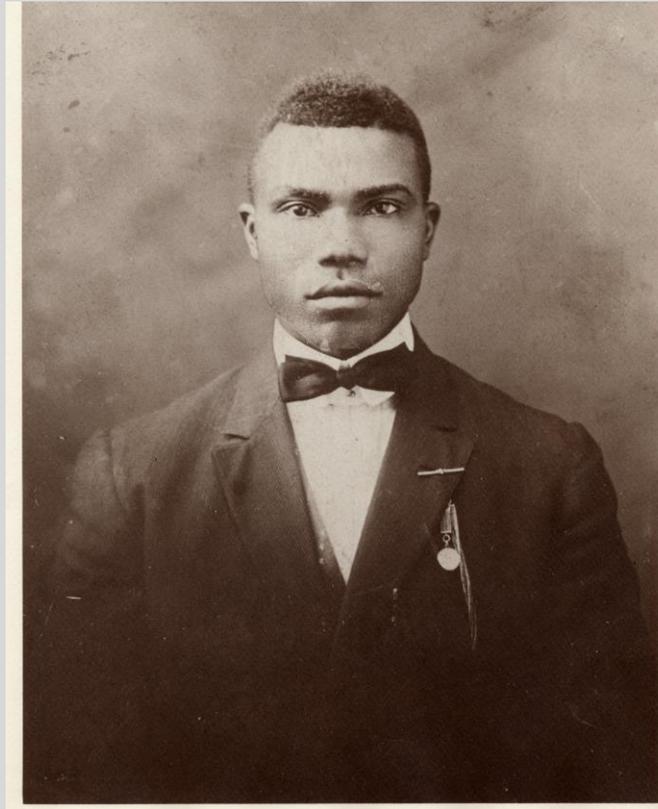
1891 – 1931

Visionary, Spiritual leader, Activist, Thinker, Prophet, Writer

Founder of “The Afro-Athlican Constructive Gaathly” and author of The Holy Piby (Woodbridge, N.J:

Athlican Strong Arm Co., 1924)

Robert Athlyi Rogers was born in Anguilla on May 6, 1891 to Moses Sopia Rogers and Julia Rogers (nee Hodge) in North Side. He had two daughters, Edith Salome Rogers of The Quarter, Anguilla and Muriel Rogers of Newark, N.J.



He migrated to the United States during the early 1900s, a pivotal period in history. Declarations of Emancipation in various parts of the world had scarcely evolved in transformational processes for liberation. Agitation against inequality and abuses of power was mounting. Out of Newark, New Jersey, Robert Athlyi Rogers joined the lobby that encouraged the growth of self determination and enterprise among peoples of African heritage.

The ambit of his vision embraced the black diaspora in the Caribbean, USA, Africa and South and Central America. Anguilla remained his enduring vision of a perfect place as he used to say "*Heaven is like Brimigen bottom*" the home of his youth, symbolic of a lush and peaceful paradise.



MILESTONES

1917

-Produced the Negro Map of Life

-Founded the United Home and Bank of the Negroes in New Jersey, USA

-Spread basic tenets of his teachings across Newark, N.J. Several persons were ‘concretized’ with water and became followers of Athlyi.

1918

The House of Athlyi or the Afro Athlican Constructive Church was formally established Newark, New Jersey when its followers ‘declared themselves Athlyians by name and in faith’. Robert Athlyi Rogers was confirmed by a committee as “Shepherd” of this spiritual group whose fundamental belief was Justice to ALL.

1921

Shepherd Athlyi travelled across Central and South America and the Caribbean preaching the tenets of the Athlican faith. During this journey the mission of the House of Athlyi became clear from a divine vision when he was advised that its spiritual outreach should adopt a two-pronged approach: the church for spiritual guidance and ‘the green pasture to provide for the people’, an initiative for the pooling or resources for economic growth.

WORLD'S GREAT LEADER TO SPEAK



SHEPHERD ATHLYI ROGERS

**"Make the Black Race an economical power to save it
suffering, best service to God," saith the Gaathly Religion.**

Every man and woman should hear SHEPHERD ATHLYI ROGERS, International leader of the powerful Gaathly Religion, speaking at

ESSEX HALL

BANK and RUTGER STS., NEWARK, N. J.

MONDAY EVE., SEPT. 28, 1925, 8 O'clock Sharp

All preachers and congregations are invited.

Admission free.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Gaathly Headquarters, The House of Athlyi, 252 Nyembane St.,
Kimberly, South Africa.

THE CLINTON PRESS, 8 Avon Avenue, Newark, N. J., Phone Terrace 1875

1922

When Marcus Garvey addressed the Newark division of the UNIA (Universal Negro Improvement Association) Robert Athlyi Rogers spoke on the same platform and declared Marcus Garvey “ an apostle of the Lord God for the redemption of Ethiopia and her suffering posterities.”

The Holy Piby both in the preface and a chapter entitled “Marcus Garvey” documents Athlyi Rogers’ deep recognition of Garvey’s movement to assist in laying the “foundation of industry, liberty and justice unto the generations of Ethiopia”.



1924

This was a landmark year for Robert Athlyi Rogers. His pent-up resentment over the use of the word “church” disappeared when the alternative name of “Gaathly” was revealed to him during commune with God. His organization became known as the Afro Athlican Constructive Gaathly.

The Holy Piby was first published in New Jersey on January 15, 1924.

On August 3, 1924 a branch of the House of Athlyi was established in Kimberly, South Africa but encountered stiff resistance from the white, racist South African government, who made every effort to prevent his organization from taking root in Africa.

1925 - 1931

Shepherd Athlyi continued his efforts to consolidate both the teaching and enterprise arms of the Afro Athlican Constructive Gaathly.



On the 24th August 1931, Athlyi Rogers felt he had accomplished his mission on earth and so he took his own life and flew away home. As he stated in writing to his daughter, Edith, "I am going to a big home no more to see you."

A Heaven of Peace and Plenty.

3

The Sub House of Athys
& Seventh Ave Newark N.J. U.S.A.
Western Headquarters of the A.A. O. G. G.
Holy Temple
Subject to the House of Athys, Kimberley
South Africa, 253 Nymbane St.

August 20, 1929

Letter of Loyalty.

This is to certify that Arch Convent Charles Goodridge
has stood the test of Complete loyalty to
Athlicanity, having pass through a fiery
test with out a single sign of disloyalty.
I herein declare that during my life
or my absence in death said Charles J.
Goodridge shall be considered worthy
to fill any important office in the Afro
Athlican Constructive Gaathly, Inc
and that said Charles J. Goodridge
shall be looked upon by all Athlicans
with eyes of great honor and respect
more over that the Children of said
Charles J. Goodridge shall profit by this
this letter.

Written Signed and Sealed by
Athys's own hand as upon this copy
in the Secretary's Book (Page #3) even so
the finger print

Keep this for ever as long as you
remain Loyal.

Shepherd
Athys Rogers



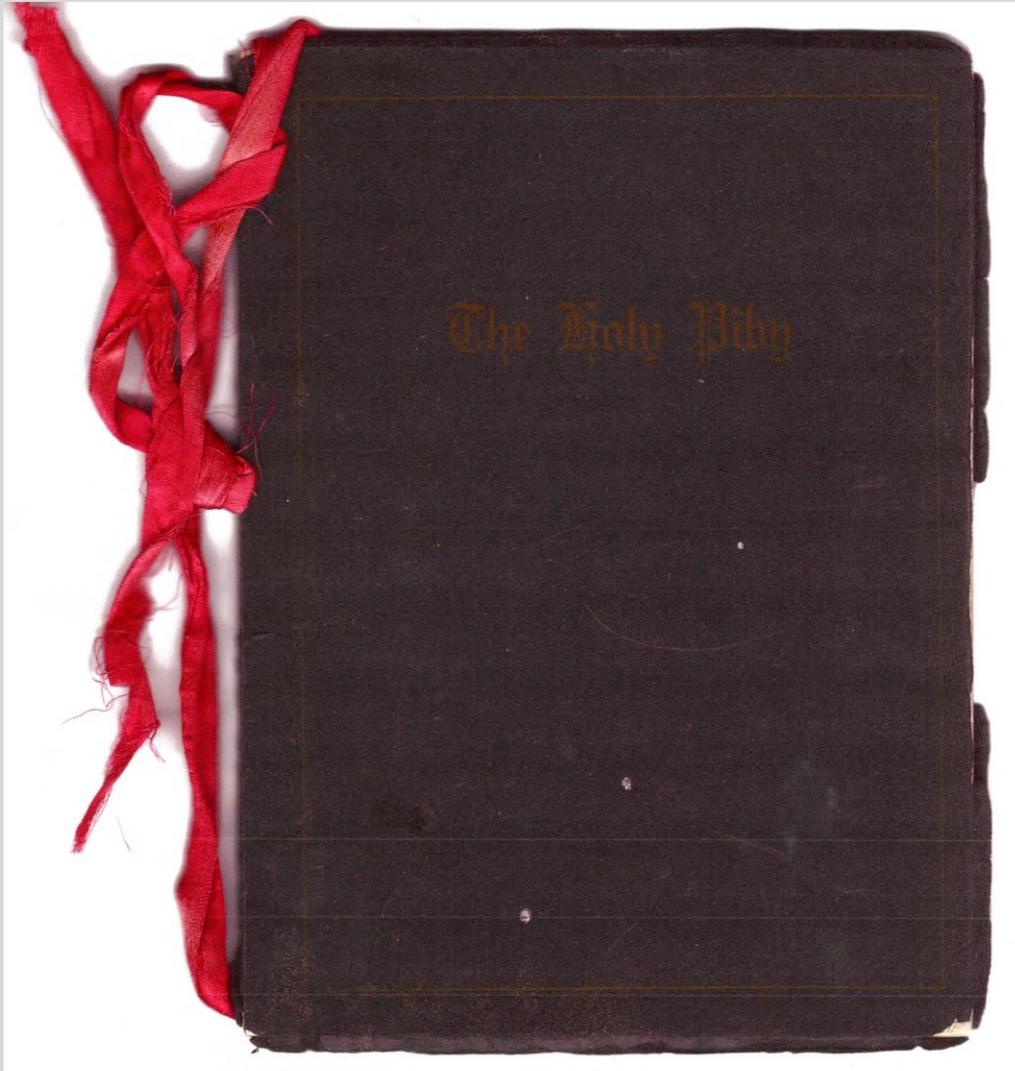


Photo of the original Holy Piby

LASTING LEGACY

The Holy Piby

Athlyi Rogers' fervent hope was for the Piby to 'live forever'. Since its publication in 1924 it has crossed many borders blazing a chequered history. It was the foundation for the establishment of the Afro Athlican Constructive Church (AACC) in Kimberly, South Africa for the diamond-field workers. Sol Plaatje, renowned activist from the Free State is credited with taking the Piby to Kimberly but In the face of opposition it went underground. In 2000 however, two internationally acclaimed anthropologists, Carole Yawney of York University and John Homiak of the Smithsonian Instituion in Washington, D,C. returned copies of the Piby to Kimberly, where the South African National Council of Rastafari headquarters is located.

Reverend Charles Goodridge, a Barbadian Minister discovered a copy of the Piby in Colon, Panama. In 1925, he and his associate, Grace Jenkins Garrison introduced the doctrine of the Holy Piby in Jamaica and started a branch of the AACC using the name Hamatic church. This encountered much harassment from the conventional Christian churches and Goodridge and Garrison were forced to lie low in the countryside where the seeds of Rastafarianism were being planted. The opportunity for the Piby's most powerful connections was ushered in. Its underpinning messages of Ethiopian divinity, racial consciousness and self emancipation fused with the birthing pains of the Rastafarian religion. It is this convergence with the mushrooming Pan-African movement that will keep the sparks of the Holy Piby aglow.

The Shepherd's Prayer from the Piby has been adopted almost verbatim as the Rastafarian Creed:

O God of Ethiopia, thy divine majesty; thy spirit come in our hearts to dwell in the path of righteousness, lead us, help us to forgive that we may be forgiven, teach us love and loyalty on earth as in Heaven, endow us with wisdom and understanding to do thy will, thy blessing to us that the hungry be fed, the naked clothed, the sick nourished, the aged protected and the infants cared for. Deliver us from the hands of our enemies that we prove fruitful, then in the last day when life is o'er, our bodies in the clay, or in the depths of the sea, or in the belly of a beast, O give our souls a place in thy kingdom forever and forever. Amen.

