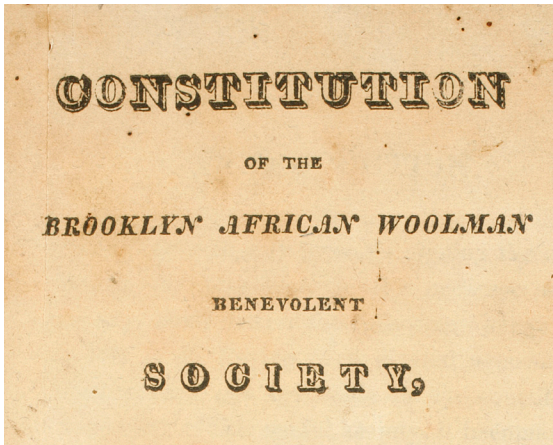


## Lesson 6, Worksheet 2

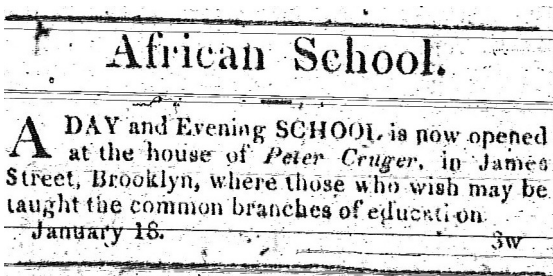
# Assistance in Brooklyn's Free Black Communities



Constitution of the Brooklyn African Woolman Benevolent Society, New-York Historical Society Collections. Y1820.BrookAfrican.

### Brooklyn's African Woolman Benevolent Society

In 1810, brothers Peter and Benjamin Croger established the Brooklyn African Woolman Benevolent Society. It was the first mutual aid society in Brooklyn created by the African-American community in order to care for and assist widows and orphans of its former members.



Advertisement for African School. *The Long Island Star*. January 18, 1815. Brooklyn Historical Society.

### Peter Croger's African School

In 1815, Peter Croger founded a school which he named the African School. The school was located at his home on James Street (the street no longer exists) and offered day and evening classes to African Americans. The school was important, as Brooklyn's first district school initially refused to accept students of color and kept them in a separate classroom once they did.



Bridge Street African Methodist Church. Eugene L. Armbruster. 1923. Eugene L. Armbruster photographs and scrapbooks. V1974.1.1342. Brooklyn Historical Society.

### Brooklyn's AME Church

On February 7, 1818, the Croger brothers, together with other residents of Brooklyn's black community, opened the African Methodist Episcopal Church on High Street in the village. They were forced to establish the church after being segregated to an end gallery which they had to pay for, and forced to listen to the pro-slavery views of the church's Irish pastor Alexander M'Caine at Sands Street Methodist Church. The Brooklyn AME church was more than a place of worship; it also served as a venue for political protests, educational meetings, and a haven for newly arrived fugitives who had escaped slavery. The church was renamed Bridge Street AME after relocating in 1854, and moved to Bedford Stuyvesant in 1938. Today it is Brooklyn's oldest black church.