

University then became the first university in the world owned and operated by African-Americans.

Not far from this Brown Township settlement was the town of West Jefferson—a station on the Underground Railroad. Because of this, it is highly likely that the Union Seminary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church community was also involved in Underground Railroad activities.

A prominent freeborn, black abolitionist, writer, orator, and lecturer, Frances Ellen Watkins, also known as The Bronze Muse, was one of the teachers at the Union



*Frances Ellen Watkins*

Seminary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Frances became its first woman teacher in 1850 when she traveled from Baltimore, Maryland to take this position. While teaching in Brown Township she published the first of her many books. This 1851 book of prose she called *Forest Leaves*. In 1852, while teaching a class of 53 active children, she wrote a letter to her friend William Still, who quoted her many times in his book *The Underground Railroad*. Her letter included the following:

*There are no people that need all the benefits resulting from a well-directed education more than we do. The condition of our people, the wants of our children, and the welfare of our race demand the aid of every helping hand. It is a work of time, a labor of patience, to become an effective school teacher; and it should be a work of love in which they who engage should not abate heart or hope until it is done.*

The Union Seminary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church settlement was located on the north side of Roberts Road. Today Amity Road, Interstate 70, and Hubbard Road all cut through the area where it stood. Their property extended west all the way to Big Darby Creek where a Girl Scout Camp is now located.

Joseph O' Harra was the first Brown Township Postmaster of the private Darby Post Office when it was established in July of 1848. By this time the population of the township had grown to 630. This post office was located on the west side of Amity Road on the slight rise of ground just north of Patterson Road. The address today would be about 2469 Amity Road. This was in the heart of the town then known as the Darby Creek Settlement.



*The Talligewi cemetery on Amity Road*

This settlement was formerly a large First Nation city of the Talligewi People and then the Haudenosaunee People prior to the white invasion. A little north of here across Amity Road from the Henry Francis homestead is a Talligewi Cemetery or what remains of it. This sacred cemetery and another one, which is being farmed



*The Talligewi cemetery on Walker Road*