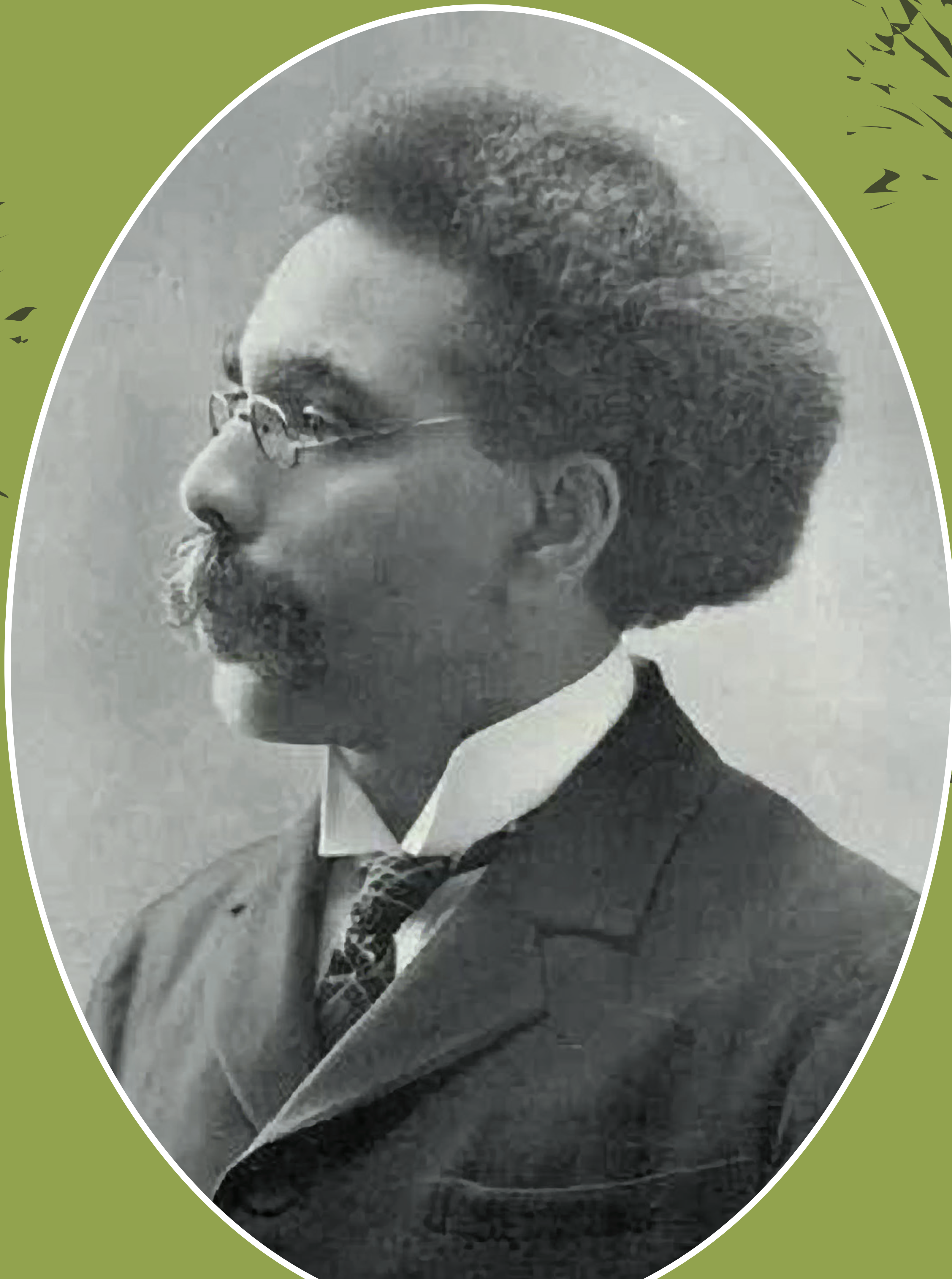


ABRAHAM BEVERLEY WALKER

1857-1909, Kars, New Brunswick



CANADA'S FIRST AFRO-CANADIAN LAWYER

Abraham Beverley Walker was a lawyer and publisher, born and raised in Kars, New Brunswick. He was educated in a one-room schoolhouse in rural New Brunswick and went on to study at the National University School of Law, in Washington, DC, a prestigious program at the time. In 1881, Walker was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, making him the first Black Canadian-born lawyer in the country. He opened a law practice in Saint John and took courses at the Saint John Law School when it opened in 1892, making him among its first students to enroll, as well as its first student of colour. Despite his high education and tenacity, Walker's legal career was deeply affected by New Brunswick's colour-line, suffering ridicule by white lawyers in open court and unable to acquire white clients. He was promised consideration for Queen's Counsel and King's Counsel positions but later excluded on account of his race. Walker was also the first Black magazine publisher in Canada when, in February 1903, he began publishing "Neith," a magazine aimed at not only improving civil rights but also discussing topics such as literature, politics, science, and economics. In 2019, Walker was honoured posthumously with the Order of New Brunswick.