

Obituary, Malinda Paris
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Mrs. Malinda Paris was born at Paris, Kentucky, December 4th, 1824. Her maiden name was Robinson. Her father was a slave, but her mother was born free. From this marriage there were nine children, of whom Malinda was the sixth.

On account of the father being a slave a very determined effort was made to enslave the children. This the mother steadfastly resisted through the courts for fourteen years, when they were finally declared free, the subject of this sketch distinctly remembering the time, she being then five years of age. The mother then tried to buy the freedom of her husband, but the sum asked (\$1500) being beyond her power to secure, he urged her to take the children and go north, choosing to die there alone in slavery rather than run the risk of having them stolen from her. She finally did so, taking her departure in the night, her husband, unknown to his master accompanying them nine miles of the way. They then knelt together and prayed and sang a parting hymn, and the slave father turned back alone to end his life a slave, while the faithful mother hurriedly bore her children onward to a place of safety. They never met again on earth. She found a home for herself at Terre Haute, Indiana, where they earned their living, the mother at her trade as a tailor-ess, and the children working out. There Malinda became acquainted with William Paris whom she married at the age of eighteen. He was born free, but had been kidnapped three different times and taken into slavery. Twice he was held thus for 6 months at a time before he found opportunity to escape, and the last time he was held a year. This was before their marriage.

After their marriage they went to Vincennes, Indiana, where they found employment as cooks. But they had not been long there when his would-be Master found him out, and came with his bloodhounds to force him back into slavery; but by means of the "Underground Railway" a safe landing on Canadian soil was secured to him. He went to

Chatham where he was soon joined by his wife Malinda, and there their first child, Jane, was born. He enlisted as a soldier but in a short time the regiment was disbanded, after which they went to Detroit, and meeting with Gen. S. B. Brown they were hired by him to come to St. Clair and cook in his hotel, and here they spent the remainder of their lives, she being left a widow in the year 1860.

There were seven children born to them three of whom are still living. Her oldest son Henry enlisted in the war of the rebellion where he remained till its close, a period of over three years and three months. He contracted disease in the army (consumption) and after a lingering illness, died in his mother's home. She finally applied for and received a pension on his account, but only lived to enjoy it for about three years. She was always a very hard worker and for the last few years of her life she suffered a good deal from difficulty of breathing. Fourteen months ago she had a very sudden and serious attack of sickness, which the physicians pronounced heart trouble. From this she never recovered. During the most of this period her sufferings were intense. She knew that her life hung upon a very slender thread, but her trust in God was unflinching to the end. Her desire for continued life was only for the sake of others that she might still help to bear their burdens.

At half past twelve o'clock on the morning of October 22nd her weary life was ended. She had sweetly fallen asleep in Jesus. On the Sunday afternoon following, her funeral services were held at the Congregational church, of which she had long been a faithful and consistent member, her pastor, Rev. W. B. Millard, officiating.

The immense concourse of people present on the occasion was sufficient testimony that "Aunt Malinda" will long be held in loving remembrance by the people of St. Clair.