

**Mary Frances Harper, Free-
Born Colored Woman, to
Be Buried Tuesday.**

July

1935

Mrs. Mary Frances Harper, age 97, said to have been the oldest colored woman in Howard county, died Sunday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Laura Cole, 905 North Bell street. She had been confined to her bed the past three weeks. Until last summer, she had never been sick throughout her long life.

Mrs. Harper was born Dec. 2, 1837 in Madison, Ind., the daughter of Moses and Nancy Tyree. She was free born and of a line of freedmen. She attended college at Madison. Following her marriage to Anthony Harper, a soldier in the Civil war, on Dec. 14, 1862, she came with him to Howard county, traveling in a covered wagon, about 45 years ago. They resided in the colored settlement in Ervin township and later moved to New London where they resided for 20 years. The last 23 years, Mrs. Harper lived in Kokomo.

The deceased was a member of the African M. E. church, joining when she was 15 years old. She was always of a cheerful disposition and was an influence for good in her home, the church, and the community.

Her five sisters and two brothers have been dead for many years, and four of her five children preceded her in death. The surviving children are: Mrs. Nannie Bailey of Bloomington, Ill., Henry Harper, Mrs. Minerva Curtley, Mrs. R. E. Gaskins, and Mrs. Cole with whom she made her home the last five years, of Kokomo. The deceased children: Mary Duggard, Maggie Hardiman, Richard and Charles Harper.

Six grandchildren are: Mrs. Inetia Curtis, Flint, Mich., Floyd Curtley, New York City; Inez Curtley, Indianapolis; Lloyd Harper, Wabash; Ray Harper and Mrs. A. M. Dunigan, Kokomo. There are five great-grandchildren: Lola Mae, Andrew Junior, Alice Carey and Inetia Dunigan and Harlow Wade Curtis of Flint.

The funeral will be held at 2 p. m. Tuesday in the African M. E. church with the Rev. Mr. Ervin of Muncie, and the Rev. D. W. Graham in charge. Burial will be at New London. The body may be viewed at the Cole home.