

**Moses Parrish Biography**

Moses Parrish was born in Virginia in 1826 and at some point in his life was brought to Kentucky. At age 38, he enlisted in Company C, 16th USCT on December 10, 1863. The 16th USCT had a recruiting station in the area of Ft. Bruce (today known as Ft. Defiance) from about November 1863 to about March or April of 1864. The Army would not muster in a company until it had a certain minimum of men and would not pay the men until after the unit mustered in. The first muster roll for Moses is dated April 30, 1864. He is described on the Company Descriptive Book as 5 feet 7 inches tall, brown complexion, hazel eyes, and brown hair. His occupation at the time of enlistment was as a farmer.

On August 28, 1864, he was detailed to report to Captain Giffe, Commander of Company H, 16th USCT by order of William B. Gow, Colonel Commanding 16th USCT. He was back with the unit by September 1864.

In 1865 when hostilities ceased, commanders began to authorize furloughs so the men could see their families. The July/August 1865 roll records that Moses was absent on furlough by command of General Thomas. He was charged $2.79 for transportation while on furlough.

February 1866 found Moses on duty as a laborer in the Quartermaster’s Department. He was mustered out in Nashville on April 30, 1866. The government owed him $38.52 in pay.

Moses, age 46, appears on the 1870 Census in District 7 of Montgomery County. The majority of this district is between 6th Street and 9th Street and between Franklin Street and College Street in downtown Clarksville. His occupation is listed as laborer and three children are listed as living with him Lucinda, age 20; Mary, age 1; and Adam, age 14. Moses is listed on the 1871 Enumeration of Voters as paying a poll tax of $1. Seven years later on August 8, 1878, Moses was married to Mary Henry by Harvey Thompson. This marriage occurred just four months after 13 acres of downtown Clarksville burned down. The fire was concentrated on Franklin Street between 2nd and 3rd Street and did not reach the area of District 7; however, the Courthouse did burn down.

Moses is mistakenly listed as age 70 on the 1880 census and is living with his wife, Mary, age 58, and four granddaughters: Ella Henry, age 16; Dora Henry, age 12; Julia Garth, age 4; and Cintha Moody, age 8. His occupation is listed as shoe maker and he is now living in District 12 which by this time included downtown Clarksville and areas of the county to the east, south, and west of downtown. In all probability, he was still living in the same neighborhood as he was in 1870. This neighborhood is the same one that William Logan and Isaac Fields lived in. In July 1889, Moses gave a deposition for Hannah Fields in support of her application for a widow’s pension stating that he visited Isaac in his last illness and helped prepare the body for burial. In 1892, the year before his death, Moses gave a deposition for William Logan in support of his application for an invalid pension stating he lived 1/4th mile from William and visited him often, worked with him frequently, and knew him since 1866. He attested to Logan’s disabilities.

Moses applied for a pension on July 19, 1890 and does not seem to have had a hard time getting approved for a pension. His application states that several years before, he was breaking stones when a piece struck his right eye and as a consequence, he lost sight in that eye. His medical examination confirmed the damage to his eye and on June 14, 1892 he was approved for a pension of $8 per month from July 19, 1890. His pension was increased to $12 per month from December 4, 1891. Moses applied for an increase in his pension due to partial loss of sight in his other eye. His pension record gives us his address in 1892: 1034 Franklin Street.

Moses Parrish died on April 18, 1893. The Weekly Leaf-Chronicle published this obituary of him on April 21, 1893: “Mose Parrish, colored, better known as “Uncle Mose,” died at his home in the eastern suburbs last Tuesday of pneumonia. Mose was an old landmark in that part of the city, and his death will be read with regret by his friends.”