

Amanda Smith, Race Martyr, Sleeps Near Her Monument: AMANDA SMITH'S ...

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Amanda Smith, Race Martyr, Sleeps Near Her Monument

AMANDA SMITH'S  
LIFE WORK ENDS; SUC-  
CUMBS TO PARALYSIS

Race's Foremost Evangelist, Who Spent Life and Fortune in Tem-  
perance, Religious and Charitable Work, Passes Away at  
Florida Home in Her Seventy-Eighth Year.

TRAVELED ABROAD TO AID CAUSE SHE LOVED.

Remains Are Brought to Chicago—Funeral Services Are Held at  
Quinn Chapel Monday—Sorrowing Friends Pay Tribute—Laid  
to Rest at Harvey.

"Dust unto dust," in solemn state she lies,  
Who bowed to death, yet wore a death-  
less name,  
And wears in triumph on her mother's  
brow  
The martyr's crown, the hero's wreath  
of fame.

By Frank A. Young.  
Gone, but never to be forgotten, the  
greatest woman that this race has  
ever given to the world—Amanda  
Smith. Gone forever, but behind she  
has left a monument to her race, an  
everlasting reminder of her life's work  
and ambition. Her struggle was ended  
the twenty-fifth day of February at  
Sebring, Fla., as the result of the sec-  
ond stroke of paralysis which attacked  
her the day before, the first one affect-  
ing her just twelve days before. Sev-  
enty-eight years of her life was thus  
ended.

Born a Slave.  
Amanda Smith was born a slave at  
Long Green, Md., one of a family of  
13 children, of whom seven were born  
in bondage. Her freedom was bought  
by her father, who first bought his  
wife, then his children, one by one,  
until they were all free.

Somewhat one sister was taken back  
and the people couldn't be shown that  
her freedom had been bought and it  
was then Amanda Smith went to work  
in the kitchen for a dollar and a half  
a week until she had repurchased the  
girl from the chains of bondage. This  
great woman had no schooling, but  
soon showed signs of unusual ability.  
Capable, thoughtful, pious, she soon  
engaged in church work and before  
she attained her womanhood she be-  
came an evangelist in the Methodist  
Episcopal church. She was twice mar-  
ried, the first time to a Baptist clergy-  
man, and the second time to a Meth-  
odist. Both are dead. She is the  
mother of five children, of which only  
one is living and could not be located.  
The only surviving relative is, Mrs.  
Ward, a sister living in Brooklyn, N.  
Y., and who spent the last days of  
her sister's life at Sebring, waiting on  
her. She came to the funeral in Chi-  
cago and was the guest of Mrs. Ida B.  
Wells-Barnett.

Traveled Through Foreign Nations.  
Amanda Smith traveled through  
England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, In-  
dia, Japan and Africa, preaching the  
gospel and temperance. Her success  
brought an invitation from Lady Hen-  
ry Somerset of England, who was  
then president of the W. C. T. U.

She accepted and so great was her  
success in London and Liverpool that  
instead of staying three months, as it  
was first intended, she spent twelve  
years.  
She met the crowned heads of  
Europe and was received in courts  
and palaces where never a woman of  
color had ever been received before  
or since.

The proceeds of her travel, which  
she saved, amounted to \$10,000. She  
returned to Chicago and gave her life  
as well as her savings to bless the  
little ones who were motherless and  
fatherless in founding what is now  
known as the Amanda Smith Orphan  
Home at Harvey, Ill. This left her  
penniless.

Founds Orphan Home at Harvey.  
But the work became too great for  
one woman, and her only help was  
from lectures she gave through the  
help of loyal white friends and the  
Methodist church, and also what small  
contributions that were made by her  
own people. After giving her last  
cent, she offered it to the A. M. E.  
church to carry on as something that  
they could point to with pride, but  
alas, her efforts were of no avail.  
They turned her down. But it grew  
and she managed, although criticized  
often by her own race, blessed by her

own prayers, hallowed by her sacri-  
fices, watered by her tears through  
the dark and discouraging days, she  
kept her lonely vigils, supported by  
faith, and her only consolation being  
in her little ones who when every-  
thing seemed to turn against her, she  
would call to her and they would  
sing her favorite song, "My Mother's  
Prayer":

Whenever I think of her so dear  
I feel her angel spirit near;  
A voice comes floating through the air,  
Reminding me of mother's prayer.  
As the little ones would softly sing,  
she would kneel in their presence and  
pray.

The work was too much and a board  
was formed to look after the home.  
Mr. Wentworth (white) was made  
president, and Mr. F. L. Barnett was  
made chairman of the board. A state  
charter was granted and as a chari-  
table institution it is looked after ev-  
ery so often and a report is made, but  
contrary to the general thought it is  
not supported by the state. The coun-  
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# SMITH'S LIFE WORK ENDS

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per head for all delinquent  
they send there.

ago Amanda Smith, in years, gave up and Mr. wealthy land owner in a member of the Meth- invited her to spend her days in the little town that name. There he built a according to her wishes and her maintenance and he also



IS. AMANDA SMITH,  
'ld-Famous Evangelist, Who  
at Her Home in Florida  
February 25.

the expense of the funeral. The City Federation of Colored Women's clubs passed a resolution to write Mr. Lebrun a letter of thanks for his kindness.

**Laid to Rest at Harvey.**

The white ministers of Sebring  
ted as pall-bearers and accompanied  
e body to the train. The train was  
opped at another town in Florida,  
here again a tribute of respect was  
yld to a fallen hero. The body was  
ue to reach this city on Sunday, but  
in, to a wreck it was delayed and  
each here until Monday after  
was buried from Quinn chapel,  
e church she was a member.  
lneral was in charge of Dan  
n. Mrs. Noah Taylor, evangel-  
d life-long friend, having com-  
the arrangements. She was  
rest at Harvey, where her life's  
on was about to be realized.

the people going to let this situation stand? Will they lay aside jealousies and come together to build up the home for which this woman has given her life and tears, dying penniless as a mother, memory? It is not what we have done. They did not. The past is gone and the one thing to do is to give to her memory—to make this home the finest of its kind and to her ambition. To clear away the silver lining as the message bringing her from labor to reward.

**Home Funeral Service.**

Anda Smith was buried from the chapel Monday morning. The service was sad and yet a great tribute to one that had given her all to her unfortunates. The order of service was as follows:

**Organ prelude.**

.....Hymnal, Page 492  
announced by Dr. W. D. Cook.

er ..... Rev. T. Reeves  
n ..... Choir

Led by Prof. Morris.  
 Lecture Lesson—Dr. J. W. Robinson

90th Psalm.

at Cor. 15th Chap., 26-57 Verses.

Mistress of Ceremonies.

ary ..... F. L. Barnett  
..... Mrs. Martha B. Anderson

on ..... Dr. J. C. Anderson  
Pastor of Guinn Chapel.

Contributory remarks—Bishop Shaf-  
Dr. J. P. Brushingham, Dr. A. I.

Dr. J. I. Brushingham, Dr. A. J. f.  
resolutions From Minnesota

solutions—From Ministers' association, read by Rev. R. E. Wilson;

Evangelists, read by Mrs. Al-  
worth; from state and city fed-

tion ..... "A Mother's Prayer"

By Children of Home.

representatives from the W. C. T.

white) and the Methodist church there. The floral tributes were

owing to the uncertainty of the  
of the arrival of the body. Rev.

erson delivered a beautiful sermon using as his text, "And He Gave

"The Five Talents," taken from the Chapter of St. Mathew, 15th

Map. E. L. Bennett delineated

bituary, having come in contact

Amanda Smith and picking up work where she left off. He paid

of the most glowing tributes that  
ever paid to any one.

The saddest part was when the ladies who had known her as their

er sang the song that had con-  
her so often. Her remaining words

red at Harvey, just within the