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Ardent Activist: Anne E. Amos

Digital Harrisburg

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Messiah College is a Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.
Anne E. Amos was born around the year 1824. She ultimately settled in Harrisburg, where she married Aquila Amos and resided at 432 South Avenue in the Old Eighth. An active abolitionist, she was known for her work helping freedom-seekers, including opening her home as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Amos was involved in the temperance movement in Harrisburg. As a founding member of the Independent Order of Daughters of Temperance, she served as the Grand Recording Scribe and District Grand Deputy of the Good Samaritan Council, no. 1. The Council listed under her address on South Avenue functioned as a political hub in the Eighth Ward.

Serving different roles in various social organizations, Amos was committed to what she viewed as the intertwined causes of temperance, women’s suffrage, and the betterment of the African-American community in Harrisburg. At the 1902 Colored Ministers Conference in Harrisburg, Amos was the sole female speaker, joining other politicians and influential citizens such as Governor William Stone, Mayor Vance McCormick, Professor John P. Scott, and Mr. Dennee Bibb.

Amos passed away in Harrisburg in 1911, leaving a legacy of social and civic influence through her connections within the community. She exercised her agency through political, social, and religious engagement. In her obituary, Amos was remembered by John P. Scott for her commitment to the advancement of African-American citizens in Harrisburg, leadership in the temperance and suffrage movements, and dedication to her church.

Scan for more information on the Temperance Movement.