

Fanny Parrish
1807- January 6, 1846
Frank Parrish
1804 – May 31, 1867

Section 31 # 310013

Section 32 # 320015

Frank was born in 1804, a slave in the Parrish household in Davidson County. His mother's name was Cleracy. When Mr. Parrish died, his will directed that his widow was to pay special attention to Frank. Even though he was a slave, he was allowed to live and work in town. Frank was permitted to marry Fanny Dismukes who was also a slave. The certificate, in the Metro Archives Collection, stated: "We the undersigned Masters of Frank Parrish and Fanny Dismukes do agree to their marriage and request the clerk of the county court to issue license." Frank and Fanny were married on November 26, 1829, by the Justice of the Peace.

A few years after their marriage Frank opened his first barbershop on Deaderick Street near the Courthouse. In 1836 he opened a Bathing House next door. His newspaper advertisement urged the public to enjoy "the luxury of the falling spray" or "a cold shower" or "a tepid bath." Ladies were provided with separate facilities and female servants to assist them. The Bath House was open from 6 in the morning until 10 at night.

Frank and Fanny had one son James. Fanny, age 39, died in 1846 and James, age 19, died three years later. Frank had carved on Fanny's tombstone: "She died in faith. She rests in hope. Fanny, Fond Wife of Frank Parrish."

In the U.S. Census 1850, Frank was listed as a "Free Inhabitant of Davidson County." That same year his mother Cleracy came to live in this home. Just before the Civil War, Frank opened his fourth barber shop in the St. Cloud Hotel, on the corner of Summer (now 5th Avenue North) and Church Street. Luckily for him, the hotel became the Federal Army Headquarters during the occupation of Nashville.

After the war Frank continued to expand his business interests, took a leadership role in the Colored Barbers Association and the Freedman's Bank in Nashville. On the day of his funeral, June 2, 1867, all the Colored Barber Shops in town were closed in his honor.

Replacement Tombstones have been dedicated at City Cemetery for Fanny and Frank Parrish and for Frank Parrish's mother Cleracy Parrish.

Sources

The African American History of Nashville, TN. 1780-1930. Dr. Bobby Lovett. 1999
Frank Parrish Lot. Family members buried on this lot. City Cemetery website
Tombstone Inscriptions. City Cemetery website
Nashville Union & American, June 4, 1867. Obituary of Frank Parrish
History of Frank Parrish's Barbershops & Bath Houses. City Cemetery website

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