

"AUNT VINEY" WINS INDEPENDENCE FOR HERSELF

**Works Hard, Saves Her Money
and Minds Her Own
Business.**

One of the well-known figures in Boise to all pioneers and particularly to children of the pioneers, is "Old Aunt Viney Moulton." Aunt Viney is now 83 years old and is enjoying the fruits of her early industry.

She crossed the plains in '64 immediately after she had been freed from slavery. A family which she knew, Judge Gray and wife and children, were headed for California and Aunt Viney thought she would like a change of scene and asked to go with them. They stopped at Boise en route and Aunt Viney concluded that she had had enough of travel by wagon, part of the time having to walk barefoot over the plains, so she tarried and never left the city until about eight years ago, when she made a visit to Virginia.

Has Nothing to Worry Her.

No one would suspect to look at her that Aunt Viney was 83. Erect, full of life and vitality, her whitened hair gives her a look of dignity instead of age. When asked for the secret of her young looks, she replied, "Well, I never married so I had nothing to worry me, I rested when my work was done and I went to church regularly. I guess that was the reason."

Most of her early life she "went out to service" as she quaintly expressed it. She was extremely frugal and saving and finally accumulated \$575 with which she purchased the frame dwelling on Idaho street between Ninth and Tenth streets, next to the home of James H. Hawley. Here she lived, doing mending for some busy housewives and washing for some bachelors and sometimes helping out at a household when company arrived until nine years ago.

To visit "Aunt Viney" was the acme of bliss for the youngsters who had known her since their birth. Your shoes had to be wiped thoroughly if you were admitted to Aunt Viney's, and your hair brushed and your hands clean, but it was worth it, for her cookies beat any others, and these together with other delicacies made visits to her home much desired.

Sold at Good Price.

Nine years ago Aunt Viney was persuaded to sell her home for what was considered a large price, \$4500. Had she kept the property until now she would have realized four times that sum, as it is the site of the I. X. L. store at present.

A friend of hers going south, Aunt Viney went to Charleston, West Vir-

"AUNT VINEY" MOULTON, A PIONEER OF '64 AND A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOISE.



ginia. "I had been born in Missouri," she said, "and I had never seen many colored people and those that I had seen were menials, but in Virginia I saw more at one time than I had seen altogether in my life and they were educated, owned their own stores and business, and it made me a little homesick to leave them, for here in Boise there are very few people of my race, but I have so many friends among the white people that I don't miss them so much. You say that you do not notice that my speech is different from white folks', and I guess that this is because I have always been with them."

Helps Found a Church.

Aunt Viney has the distinction of being one of the charter members of the First Presbyterian church together with Mrs. Sonna, Mrs. E. Smith and others. Her chief pleasure is going to church and she regrets extremely that her present home, the neatest of little doll houses on South

Fourth street, surrounded with a tiny lawn, roses and vines, is so far from church. "I used to go twice a day on Sundays, always," she said, "but now I have neuralgia so had I can only go mornings and sometimes I can't get to prayer meetings."

During the past few days Aunt Viney has not been so well, and she is afraid she may have to get some one to take care of her, but she hates to give up her independence.