

## **Underground Railroad Operator Henry Suttles of Waynesburg**

*The obituary of Edyth Hill Workman tells of her and her brothers escaping slavery to Waynesburg by running away from Clarksburg WV and eating their first meal at the home of Henry Suttles. Thanks to Laura Nelle Poland who transcribed this years ago.*

April 30, 1896 (Waynesburg Republican) [Greene Co., PA]  
"Aunt Edie" Workman died at her home, in this place, Friday morning, about seven o'clock, of paralysis. She was aged about 80 years and was the wife of James Workman, colored, who was a son of Josiah Workman, for many years employed in the Blaine family and a companion in early life of the distinguished statesman, James G. Blaine. "Aunt Edie" was born in slavery and before coming here was owned by James Bartlett, who kept the Bartlett House at Clarksburg, W Va. Just before or after the Emancipation Proclamation, she and her brothers Benjamin and Emanuel Hill, ran away and came to Waynesburg. They ate their first meal, here, at the hospitable home of the genial old colored couple, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Suttles. "Aunt Edie" had a kind heart, so characteristic of the "good mammy" of olden days, and was industrious every day of her life until stricken with illness. She was the mother of ten children. The funeral was held from her home on Sabbath at 3 p.m. Interment in Green Mount cemetery.

More:

1896 (source unknown)

Mrs. Edyth Workman, wife of James Workman, and familiarly known as "Aunt Edie", died at her home in the North Ward, Friday, April 24, 1896, of rheumatism.

She was aged about 70 years. She was a slave during the days of slavery and was owned by a man named Bartlett, of Clarksburg, W. Va., and went by the name of Jones. During the war she came to this place, where she resided until death. She was very kind-hearted, charitable and always was willing to lend a helping hand in sickness or distress and was generally liked. She was very industrious, and worked hard. She was the mother of 16 children, several of whom were born to her while she was a slave. Paul Jones, of Sewickly, and Joseph Workman, of Pittsburg, were among the children from a distance who came to the funeral. A telegram was received from her son William, stating that he was coming home but he was ignorant of his mother's illness or death. He has been absent for twelve years. For some years she has been chief cook at the Walton House, and was noted for her ability to prepare a good meal. The funeral took place Sunday and was largely attended by both white and colored people. Services by Rev. Newsom.