George Moses Horton: Poet for Freedom - JSTOR

Born around 1797 in North Carolina, George Moses Horton taught himself to read as a slave. In 1828, he began to publish his poetry in the Colored Hill Books, which were anonymously published until 1835 under the pseudonym "Colored Bard of North Carolina". In 1845, his second volume of poems, "The Poetical Works of George Moses Horton", was published under his own name. Despite his lifelong enthusiasm for liberty, nature, and the arts, Horton was not able to achieve freedom until 1880.

Horton is recognized as one of the most important African American poets of the 19th century. His poetry covers a wide range of subjects, including antislavery, spirituality, and nature.

The Black Bard of North Carolina: George Moses Horton and His Poetry


Horton is well known for his antislavery poems and his lifelong enthusiasm for liberty, nature, and the arts. The Black Bard of North Carolina, George Moses Horton was born in Northampton County, North Carolina, in 1797. He was a slave but was well known as a poet at the University of North Carolina. By the age of 18, he was teaching school and had begun to write poetry. In 1828, he published his first volume of poems, "The Poetical Works of George Moses Horton", under the pseudonym "Colored Bard of North Carolina". The Black Bard of North Carolina, George Moses Horton and His Poetry

George Moses Horton was the first black poet to gain national recognition. His poetry was widely read and admired, and he was a significant influence on later African American writers. The Black Bard of North Carolina, George Moses Horton and His Poetry

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Horton was eventually freed in 1880, and he continued to write poetry until his death in 1893. His legacy as a poet and abolitionist lives on, and he is remembered as one of the most significant figures in African American literature.