

MAGGIE ROSEN

Obituary of Harriet Williams,
Consort of Abraham T. Williams, January 12, 1844

Early in the spring, she was attacked by God.

He told her to depart Edisto and rest in Heaven.

She had depth; she was endearing. She left.

She severely sustained her fortitude. Frequently.

She was pious except when she wasn't.

Early in the spring, she manifested. She slept.

ABOUT THE POEM

“Obituary of Harriet Williams, Consort of Abraham T. Williams, January 12, 1844” was created from a notice in the *Southern Christian Advocate* (1844). About the poem and the process of composing it, Maggie Rosen writes:

While doing family research, I found this obituary (the original publication was in the *Southern Christian Advocate*, date as given in the poem). Harriet Williams was my great-great-great-grandmother on my mother’s side. The poem’s words come from the obituary and from my imagination. I wanted to convey a bit of a story, using the fascinating original language of the obituary. I wanted to use repetition of sound and phrase as a kind of hymn.

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