

'Uncle George' Moseley, Veteran Barber, Former Slave, Dies

George Moseley, 102, one of the last of the Southwest's slave-time Negroes, and a barber in El Paso since 1902, died Thursday night in his home, 3216 Madera Street.

"Uncle George," as the ancient, quiet-spoken Negro was called by hundreds of his friends, was born on a plantation in Arkansas in 1844, the son of slave parents. When he was 18 years old the Yankees began their drive into the Southland, and George and his relatives, true to their master, moved by oxen train ahead of the Yankee invasion to Marshall, Texas. There the young slave awaited his master and family, helping to care for "Old Massa's" children, livestock and belongings.

Young Moseley at first refused to accept freedom offered by his master and by the Emancipation, but eventually he "went on his own," and learned the barber trade.

For years he operated barber shops in Marshall, Longview and Tyler, Texas.

A few years ago he clipped the bangs of a young El Paso boy, the tiny son of Eugene Haden, Jr.

"Son," the aged Negro told the little boy, "I've lived to cut your hair. I cut your father's hair when he was a little boy. I cut his father's hair when he was little. And I cut your grandfather Haden's father's hair when he was a young man over in the Piney Woods, East Texas. Four generations."

And the old Negro refused to accept even a tip for cutting the child's hair.

For 87 years Moseley followed his trade of "barbering." He and his wife, Mrs. Buelah Moseley, were preparing to have in friends when he died.

He had operated a barber shop in the Caples Building for nearly 25 years before his death. At time of his death he was still "barbering" in a Kansas Street shop.

Funeral arrangements were pending at the Banks Funeral Home.