



# SUSAN PAUL: ABOLITIONIST

by *Hanna Szelenyi*

Susan Paul was born in Boston, MA in 1809 as the youngest daughter of Thomas Paul and Catherine Waterhouse Paul. After her father died, she worked hard to support her family as a teacher and seamstress. Paul was heavily involved in the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society (BFASS) and the New England Anti-Slavery Society (NEASS), which inspired other African-Americans to join anti-slavery and other social justice movements.

She was the first African-American woman in the United States to publish a biography, called *The Memoir Of James Jackson*. She wrote this book as a memorial to one of her students who passed away at age six and eleven months. As a teacher, Paul also formed the Paul's Juvenile Choir, which traveled to Boston and other cities and towns to sing anti-slavery songs. Paul used the choir to teach young African-American children about Northern abolitionism and expand the anti-slavery movement.

**Did You Know?** The Paul's Juvenile Choir was such a beloved group that they often performed to packed audiences in concert halls.

