

Mammy Pleasant

Helen Holdredge

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"San Francisco has always been noted for its colorful characters, but it is doubtful if even that marvelous city has ever produced another as bizarre as Mary Ellen Pleasant, born a slave in Georgia, who passed as a white. As Mammy Pleasant she became one of San Francisco's legendary figures. Immune to the law, she controlled finances and politics, and exercised enormous influence over many of the city's most eminent citizens. Whether she was a saint risking her life and fortune to free slaves - or sinner, running the nefarious House of Evil on Octavia Street, has long been debated."

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