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## FACT SHEET

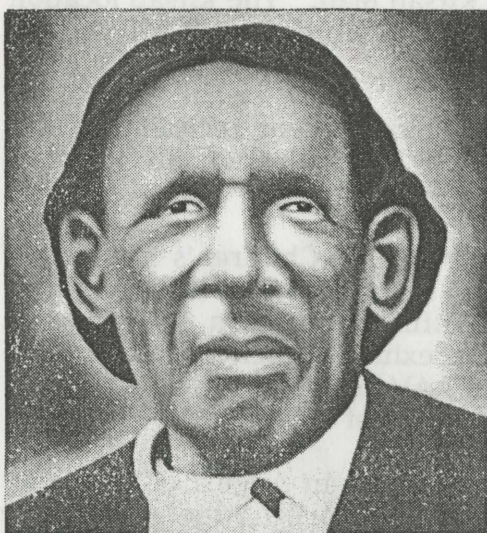
**\*HISTORY:** The African American Museum (AAM) was formed in June, 1993. The mission of the AAM is to: collect, preserve, interpret and exhibit objects and information illustrative of the story of African Americans, for the education and betterment of the community and its visitors. Until now, the Pacific Northwest has remained the only section of United States of America without such an educational and cultural institution.

**\*LEADERSHIP:** The AAM has always been led by its Board of Directors. Currently, that Board is made up of 15 professionals from throughout the Puget Sound community. The Board is broken into 5 committees. The leadership of the AAM rests entirely with the Board. The Board President is also the AAM Administrator who reports and answers directly to the Board. However, as with many non-profit boards, the President has no vote except in the event of a tie.

**\*MANAGEMENT:** The day to day operations of the AAM is managed by the Administrator who also serves as Board President. The Board President is required to forward all major issues to the Board of Directors for decision making. The AAM Administrator, Jackie O'Bannon, holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration. In addition to this, she also has over four years of administrative experience in a local children's museum. The African American Museum has never charged for any of its past exhibit showings. None of the many volunteers and Board members receive any financial compensation.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** docents, clerical, research, children workshops, reception, cataloging, special events, membership drive, publication.

**\*EXHIBITS:** The AAM has developed the following four major exhibits:



George Washington, founder of  
Centralia, Washington - 1872

"Washington State First African American Pioneers" This is a collection of 12 - 4 by 3 feet colored portraits. This collection also includes artifacts from this era such as an 1886 college diploma. The histories of these pioneers and their cities are also included.