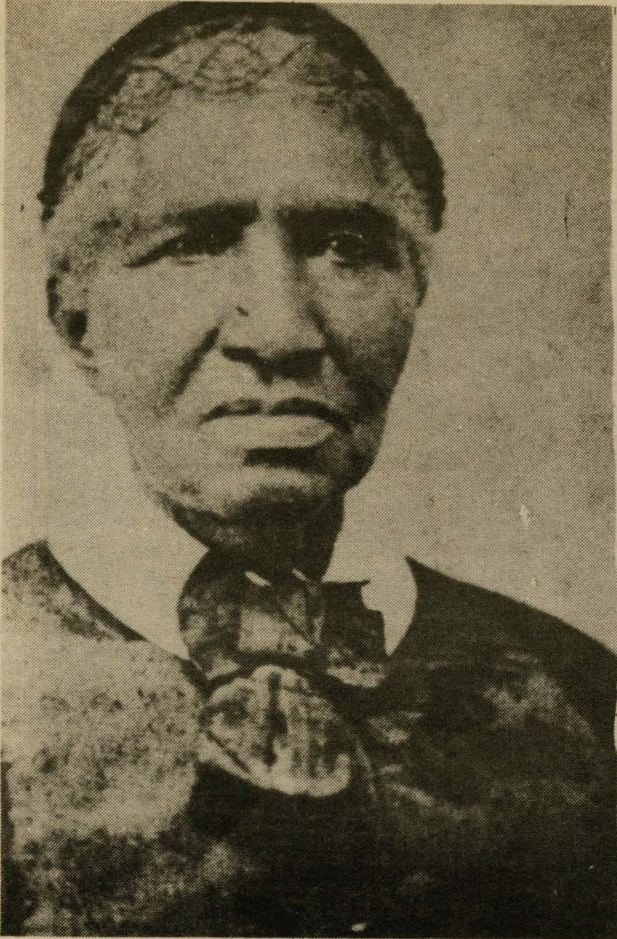


Unique Black Women Cont'd.



"Aunt" Clara Brown

Although unable to locate but one daughter, she found thirty-four other relatives. Mrs. Brown encouraged and sponsored wagon trains of Blacks to move west. Aunt Clara organized the first Sunday School in Central City and aided many organizations. She was buried with honors by the Colorado Pioneers Association. She has also been commemorated by a brass plaque in the St. James Methodist Church, and a chair in the Opera House is dedicated to her.



Mary Fields

Black women have performed in many unusual occupations; Nettie Elizabeth Miller was the first woman of any race to own and operate a drilling rig.

But perhaps the most colorful of the transplanted southerners was **Mary Fields**. Born a slave in Tennessee about 1830, she emigrated to Cascade, Montana after the Civil War. Standing six feet tall, she hauled freight and did other heavy work for the Ussuline Nuns at St. Peter's Mission. While hauling freight one night, her wagon was attacked by wolves and was overturned. She kept the wolves away all night with her rifle and pistol.

Always heavily armed, she would take on any antagonist. When angered by a co-worker at the Mission, she challenged him to a shoot-out. The Bishop fired her for her aggressiveness. Undaunted, she tried but failed as a restaurateur. In 1895, over sixty years old, she became a mail deliverer and gained reputation for dedication to her job in spite of the weather or roads.

When Fields was 70, she ran a laundry. Her buddies were the men at the saloon in town, where she drank and smoked cigars with the best of them. While at the saloon one afternoon, she encountered a man who owed her for laundry, invited him outside, and knocked him down with one blow. Satisfied, his bill with her was now settled. She died in 1914 having mellowed a bit with the years.



Mary Ellen Pleasant

The woman who came to be called the "Mother of the Civil Rights Struggle in California" has her beginnings shrouded in mystery. One story is that **Mary Ellen Pleasant** was born in Georgia in the early 1800's, freed by her master and educated in Boston. Another is that she was born in Philadelphia. However she came to be, there is no question that she fought vigorously for the rights of Blacks.

As the widow of a wealthy abolitionist, she used her inheritance to further anti-slavery causes while living in the East. She is reported to have supported John Brown's crusades with a thirty

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Weyerhaeuser Supports The Celebration Of Black History Month February, 1983



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