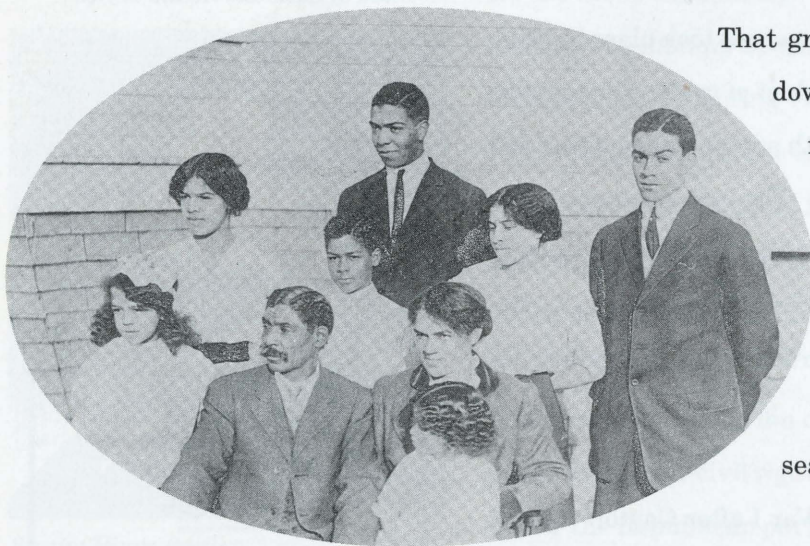


First among black residents now living in Seattle in terms of continuity, the Charles H. Harveys arrived back in 1887. He was a veteran of the Union Army during the Civil War but arrived out here with his wife Evalina (Eva), a happy couple of less than a year in matrimony.

Attracted to the Sound Country and its weather through railroad travels, Charles and Eva first lived in Belltown. Nevertheless, their first child, a girl named Gertrude, was born where the Arcade Plaza now stands. Born on October 4, 1888, Gertrude was the first black girl born in Seattle. But her sister Irene Harvey Alexander, is the oldest living descendant, age 90, of the Urban Black Pioneers Families.



*Charles H. Harvey Family*

That great fire of June 6, 1889, which destroyed much of downtown, was watched by baby Gertrude and her mother from the front porch of their home. Father Charles was at work on Queen Anne Hill; he ran all the way home to look after the safety of his family only to find they had a front row seat, in a manner of speaking, watching the fire burn and burn. He was really shocked to find them in their front row seats, watching, watching.

In addition to Gertrude, the Harveys gave birth to seven other children. The youngest two were born at 308 29th Avenue East, in the home built by Charles Harvey himself. In fact, construction work is where he made his mark upon Seattle. In the vicinity of 29th Avenue East stand three other homes built by him. In this same vicinity stands a beautiful home built by his oldest son George Robert (Bob); directly across the street is the home of Charles and Eva's youngest daughter, Corinne Marie Harvey Taylor.

And there is line of Harvey descendants to watch and help Seattle continue to build, whether from a fire, population expansion, or whatever.