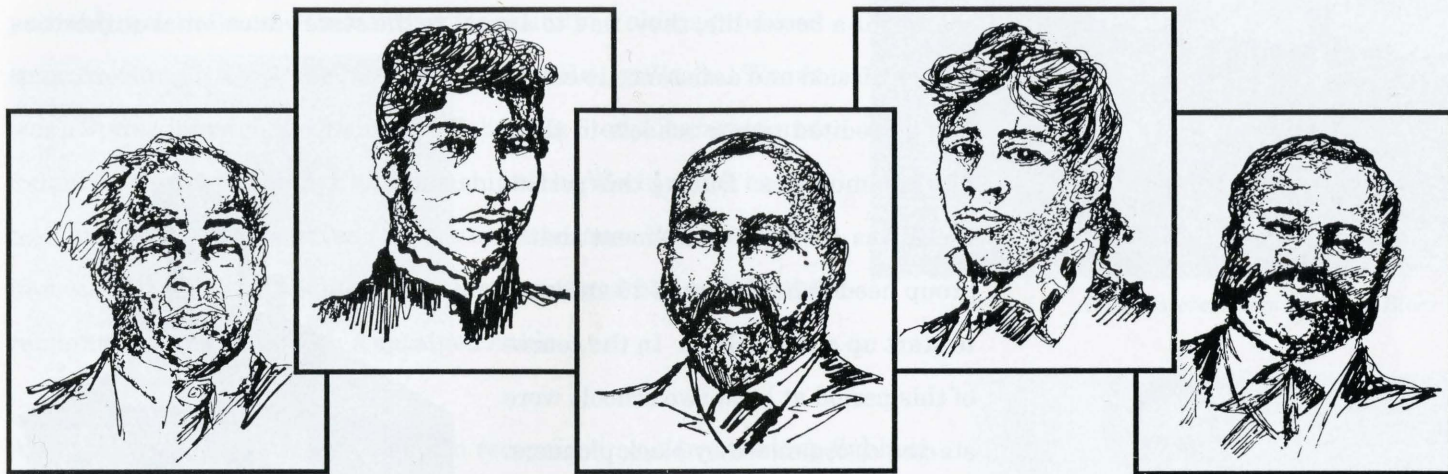
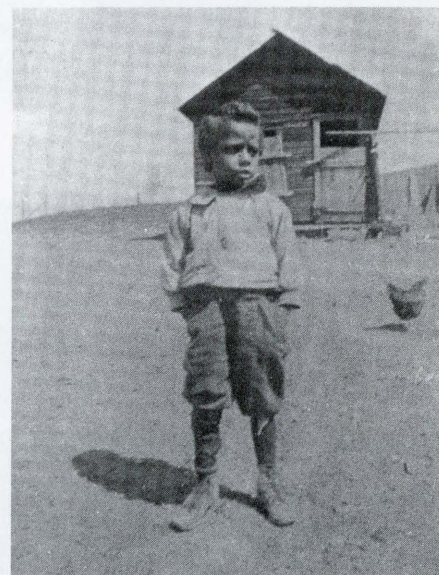


YAKIMA

*Yakima's First Families*

Prior to the turn of the century, several black families moved to the Yakima Valley. Most settled in the Lower Yakima Valley, while others settled in upper Yakima, primarily in the Squaw Creek area which is in the current Firing Center Reservation area. Most of the pioneers had one thing in common: they had come to Washington State to work in the coal mines at Roslyn, then later migrated on to the Yakima Valley. Numbered among those early families were the Ole Washington, Will Taylor, Louis Sanders, John L. Bedell, Jasper Evans, and Lee Pollard families. From 1889 on, this steady migration of blacks into the Yakima Valley produced black families who added much to the development of this area. Of those early pioneers who came to the Yakima Valley, many homesteaded undeveloped acreage both in Lower and Upper Yakima Valley. The land was covered with sagebrush but through hard work many of the pioneers developed fruit, hop and row crop farms and ranches. Some pioneer descendants still live on their ancestors land today. Many of the early black settlers went into businesses, such as: hand laundries; grocery store/gas stations; hotels; restaurants; barber shops; etc. The pride and determination to succeed was burning in the hearts of these pioneers who came out West seeking out a better life.

*George Harris on his farm*