

property was worth one hundred fifty thousand dollars. He was buried in the cemetery he had donated to the city, and all of his property was left to his second wife, whom he had never divorced.

The Urban Pioneers

While some blacks were proving themselves able farmers and ranchers, others were drawn to a more urban lifestyle. The railroads played a role in attracting immigrants to the Pacific Northwest by offering discounts to the



Panoramic view of Seattle in 1882 taken from Beacon Hill.

various towns on the line. Up until 1893, the terminus for the state of Washington was Tacoma, and Seattle played second fiddle to this prosperous town. When the Great Panic of 1893 hit, the railroads went bankrupt, along with many other businesses. When the time came to refinance the railroads with eastern money, those investors looked with great favor upon the

bustling town of Seattle. Seattle was in the midst of a construction boom as a result of being burned to the ground in the fire of 1889. In 1895, the Northwest terminus of the railroad became Seattle and Seattle's economic success was assured.

Blacks traveled by foot, train and boat to the Pacific Northwest, seeking what one new arrival referred to as "free air." The earliest black urban pioneer, Manual Lopes, was born in Africa in 1812 and was believed to have been