

SHARE CROPPERS

When the sharecroppers realized they would lose money when the slaves were free, the plantation owners got together to devise ways to hold the Negroes on the farm. The consensus of opinion was that they must hold the Negroes to sharecropping, so the plantation owners would assign a number to a Negro family and allow them a portion of what was grown on the land. the usual amount of payment was one third of the crop. The plantation owner would give credit at the store for tools, groceries, clothing, and other supplies. A seed record was kept at the store, and when the crops were harvested and sold, the plantation owner would too often tell the sharecropper that he had not made it too good that year. His bills at the store exceeded the value of his sharecrops...but never mind, the owner would say, "Next year we do better".

After some time the Negro began to see that they were looking at a hopeless future, so they started seeking other employment. Recruits for mine workers were offered a pay of \$1.50 a day to work in the mine. Many

Negroes went to work in the coal mines of Tennessee and other places. Loss of the Negro worker did not please the plantation owners, so they formed the KKK in 1869 for the purpose of keeping the Negroes in their place.

PUBLIC NOTICE COLORED WORKING MEN

GO - WEST WORK IN THE NEW STATE OF WASHINGTON

500 hundred coal miners and laborers
for inside work and outside work-
Dump men - Bottom and Timber men -
Chute Builders -

steady work
good wages

LEAVE FROM SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
COMFORTABLE ACCOMODATIONS ON THE
RAILROAD.



FRANKLIN CITY CENTER: This photo taken in 1910 looks along a row of coal miners' cottages toward the company store. The main shaft of the old Franklin mine was entered on the hillside behind the houses. A number of houses across the track from those in the picture were burned in a disastrous fire that swept Franklin a few years later. The railroad track connected Franklin with Black Diamond and Seattle.