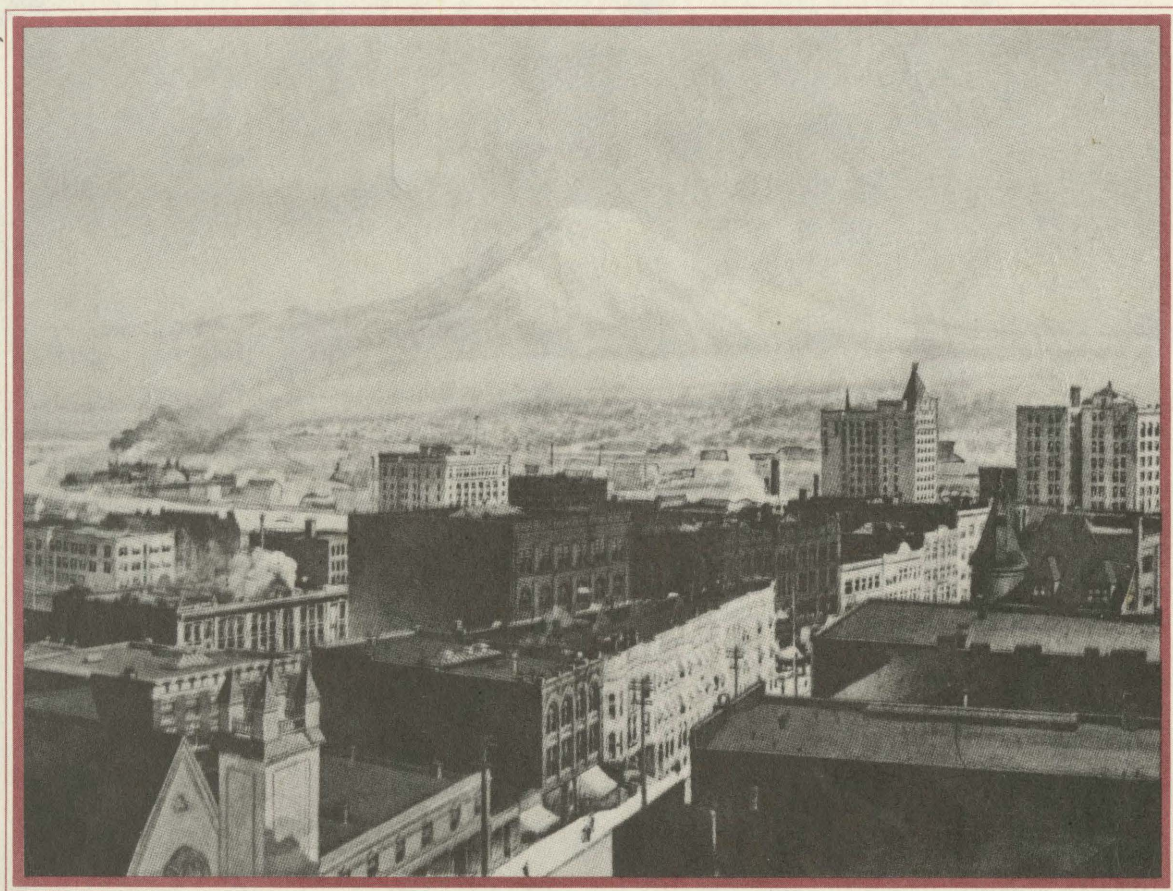


TACOMA



**NORTHWEST
BLACKPIONEERS**

A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE

Acknowledgements

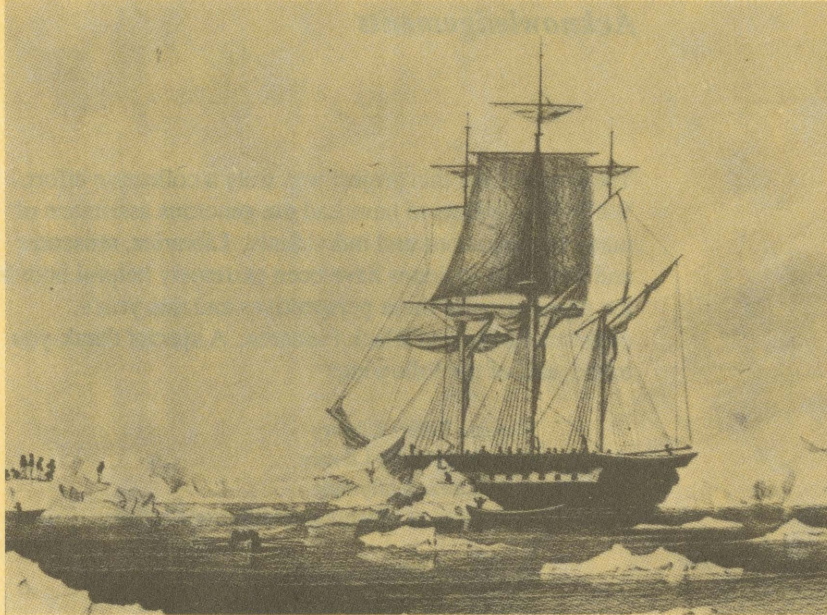
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Black Historical Perspectives In The Pacific Northwest

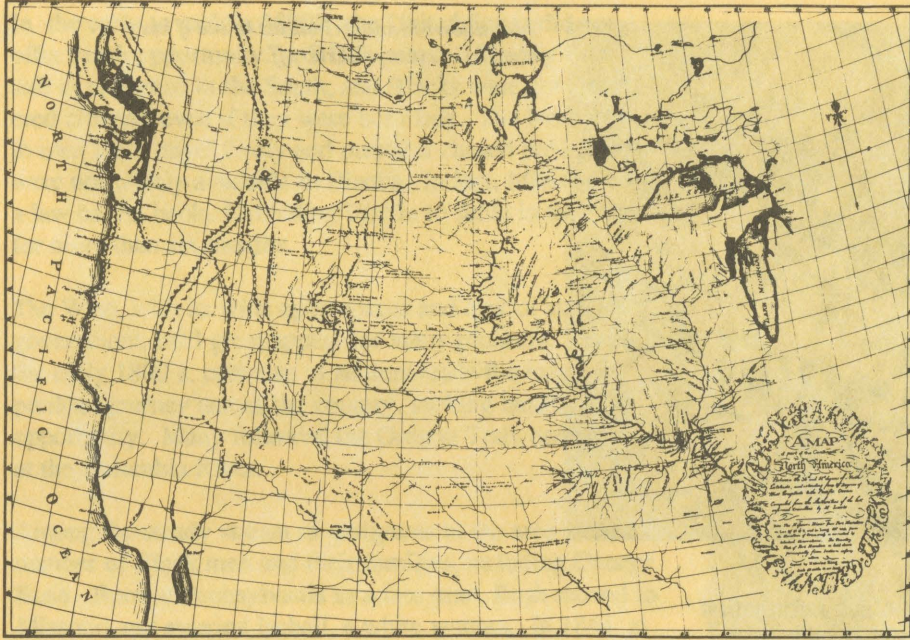


*The ship Columbia commanded by
Captain Robert Gray*

Until 1788, the Pacific Northwest region was occupied mainly by Native Americans and a few British and French fur traders. The first American explorer of the region, Captain Robert Gray, sailed around Cape Horn, at the tip of South America, to make his way to the Pacific Northwest Territories. A trickle of explorers started to arrive in the area in the early 1800's, followed closely by settlers interested in farming the fertile land north and south of the Columbia River. By the late 1800's there were several thriving towns, including Olympia, Centralia, Tacoma and Seattle, all vying for access to the railroad that became the area's lifeline for growth and prosperity.

The Black population grew along with the development of the state of Washington. Black explorers gave way to Black settlers, and finally Black urban pioneers made their mark on the development of many cities and towns in Washington, particularly in Seattle and Tacoma.

The Explorers



Tracing copy of the original map by Meriwether Lewis to President Jefferson from Fort Mandan, April 7th 1805

Captain Robert Gray set out for the Pacific Northwest fueled by stories told by hunting and fur trading adventurers about the richness of game in the region. Trade with China was the ultimate goal of his first expedition, and to that end he sailed from New England around the Horn of South America to reach the Pacific Ocean. Finally, he landed in what is now Tillamook, Oregon, in late summer of 1788. Accompanying Captain Gray was a young man named Marcus Lopez, a native of Cape Verde Island near West Africa. Lopez started off as a cabin boy and was promoted to crew member by the time the sloop “Lady Washington” pulled into shore. Marcus Lopez became the first Black man to set foot in the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, his visit was a short and fatal one.

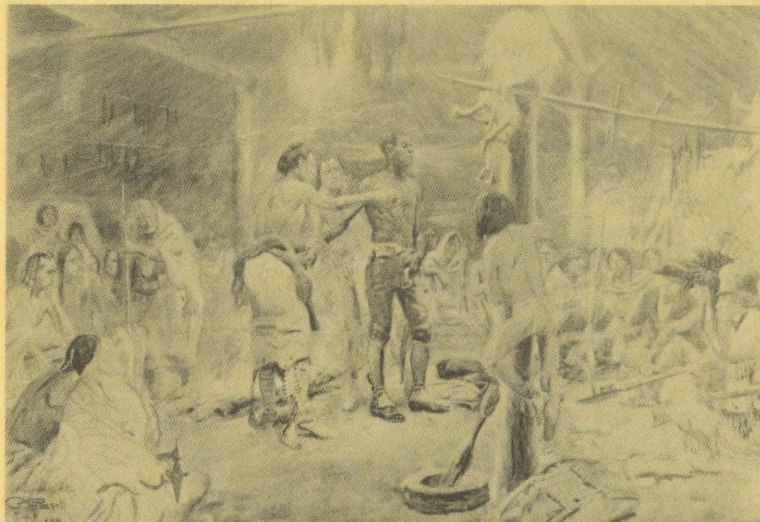
The Native Americans around Tillamook seemed friendly when they first met up with Gray’s Party. Later, some equipment from the explorer’s camp was discovered missing, and it was assumed that the Native Americans

had taken it. Marcus Lopez volunteered to meet with the Native Americans to negotiate a return of the goods, but he was later discovered dead by fellow shipmates.

Captain Gray continued to China with his cargo of valuable furs and eventually returned to the Pacific Northwest in 1792, where he discovered the mouth of the Columbia River and its entry to the Pacific Ocean.

While Gray was trying to find a route by water to the Pacific Northwest, Thomas Jefferson was concerned with an overland route. He had just negotiated for one of the largest land acquisitions in history, the Louisiana Purchase. Jefferson had heard rumors about the rich resources of the area and assigned Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to head up an exploring party. In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition left Missouri with a group of about thirty men, including Clark’s Black servant, York.

Black Historical Perspectives In The Northwest



York allows Mandan Indians to see if his black skin color will rub off.

Because York was a slave, there is not much information available about him. In the diaries of the expedition, Clark makes mention of York's abilities as a hunter and his general resourcefulness on the trail. Legend has it that York was very popular with the Native Americans, particularly the women, who were fascinated with the color of his skin and his sense of humor. The Lewis and Clark party arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River in the winter of 1805, camped for several months and then traveled back to Missouri. The expeditions were considered a tremendous success and York was given his freedom in 1806. He soon left Missouri for parts unknown, but rumors from Native Americans at the time indicate that York went back west and lived with the various tribes he had met during the expedition.

Marcus Lopez and York are the only known Black explorers during this time. It is safe to assume that others probably existed, as the area was popular with fur traders, sailors and other adventurers.



*York of the Lewis and
Clark Expedition*

The Settlers

In the early to middle 1800's, the United States did not offer much opportunity for Black people. Slavery was still in existence in the South, and Blacks were not considered citizens, even if they were born free. The basic rights to own land, travel freely and pursue a chosen profession were not widely available to Blacks. In fact, Missouri had a law on the books forbidding Blacks to settle in the state for more than six months.

The West, with its wide open spaces and lack of structured government, held great appeal for many pioneers. From the early 1800's, caravans of settlers made the long, perilous journey across the country, seeking land and opportunity. Many followed the Oregon Trail, ending up at the Columbia River.

Among the steady stream of emigrants to the area were a number of Black men and their families, including George Bush. Born in Pennsylvania as a free man, Bush moved to Missouri and married Isabell, a white woman. In 1844, at the age of fifty, Bush, his wife and five children left Missouri with 800 others and headed for the Northwest.

Bush was considered one of the wealthiest members of the expedition and used his wealth to help several other families emigrate. The group spent seven months on the Oregon Trail before reaching their destination, a settlement on the south side of the Columbia River called the Dalles.

But the freedom Bush was seeking eluded him in Oregon. The Provisional Government had recently passed anti-Black laws that were as repressive as those he had left behind in Missouri. Gravely disappointed by what he found, Bush, his family and several others crossed the Columbia River into what would become the state of Washington and formed the first American community there. He settled in what was "Bush Prairie," which later became Thurston County. Bush was among many settlers trying to take advantage of the Homestead Act. The act stated that if an American citizen took possession of unsettled land and showed improvements on that land within four years, the land would legally belong to that



George Bush, Early Settler



The home of George Bush (backside).

person—without putting out a cent of cash to purchase it. Because Blacks were not American citizens, land ownership was still a dream for them. Bush's friend, a white man named Michael T. Simmons, helped Bush obtain ownership of his homestead. Bush had helped Simmons and his family emigrate to Washington several years earlier. One of the first acts of the Provisional Government in Olympia was to approve George Bush's petition to own his land.



William Owen Bush

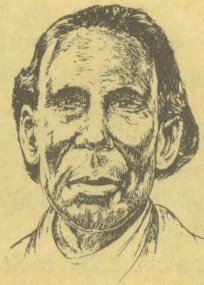


William Owen Bush and his produce exhibit at the Philadelphia Exposition during the Centennial Celebration

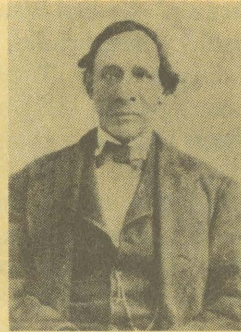
In spite of his difficulty in obtaining ownership of land, Bush did very well in the Northwest. He was well-known as an excellent farmer and was so prosperous that he purchased the first ship owned by the early settlers. This ship, "The Orbit," cost \$35,000 and was used to ship wood products to ports in California.

George Bush's family also prospered. His eldest son, William Owen Bush, surpassed his father's farming abilities to the extent that he exhibited his produce at the Philadelphia Exposition during the Centennial Celebration. William Owen was also elected to the first State Legislature after Washington became a state in 1889. His greatest accomplishment there was to help pass legislation establishing a college for the study of agricultural science. This college later became Washington State University.

During his lifetime, George Bush established a good life for himself and his family. But he never became an American citizen with full rights. He died in 1863, five years before passage of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Constitutional Amendments, which gave Black men full citizenship.



*George Washington,
founder of Centralia*



*Portrait of
George Washington*



*George Washington and his first wife,
Mary Jane Cooness*

Born a slave in Virginia in 1817, another Black pioneer to brave trials of the Oregon Trail was George Washington. Legend has it that Washington's mother was an English lady and his father a slave. Shortly after his birth, Washington was adopted by a white couple, James and Anna Cochran.

Washington did as well as a Black man could in Missouri. He was even made a legal citizen of Missouri in 1843 by an act of the legislature. But Missouri citizenship did not help him prevail in the federal court system. Washington had a business in Missouri, where he gave people goods on credit. One of his customers, a white man, refused to pay his debt. Washington took him to court, where he found that he was unable to prosecute because he was not considered an American citizen. The injustice of this case was the final event that turned Washington's thoughts westward—to land where he thought life would be filled with more opportunity.

Washington and the Cochrans headed for the West Coast in 1850, following the same route as George Bush and many other pioneers. Washington arrived in Oregon and remained there for nearly two years. He probably experienced the same disillusionment that George Bush suffered from the repressive anti-Black laws. He decided to move north to an area called Centerville, which later became Centralia. A few years later, in 1853, the geographic area that would become Washington state had become a

separate territory from Oregon, paving the way for statehood in 1889.

Washington, like Bush before him, found that he couldn't own land because he wasn't a citizen. In 1852, the Cochran's deeded Washington some land, for which he paid them \$2,000. This was the beginning of his considerable landholdings. A few years later, the Cochrans deeded him an additional 640 acres, for which he paid \$3,200. He was now a large landowner.

George Washington was particularly interested in developing the town of Centralia. The town was on the railroad line, and this advantage gave him faith that it would flourish. To that end, he donated land for the construction of several churches. In 1891, as a symbol of his public spirit, Washington platted and designated a block of land as a public square.

Washington's first wife, Mary Jane Cooness, was a Jewish Black woman from Portland. They were married in 1869 and lived happily for the next 20 years until her death. He married again some years later, and his only child was born when Washington was 73. His second wife, who was white, left him and their young son two years later. When Washington died at the age of 88 in 1905, his property was worth \$150,000. 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 emigrants to the Pacific Northwest by offering discounts to the various towns on the line. 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 was moved to 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." Several Black families settled in Tacoma and Seattle. These families came in search of a new life free of discrimination. They came to the cities to work as waiters, porters, barbers and laborers. Many later pursued careers as publishers, attorneys and businessmen.

Both Seattle and Tacoma grew rapidly, with the population exploding between 1900 and 1910. In 1900 there were 307 Blacks in Tacoma and 406 in Seattle. By 1910 there were 778 Blacks in Tacoma and 2,296 in Seattle.

Pierce County (1910)	Males	514
	Females	375
	TOTAL	890

King County (1910)	Males	1506
	Females	981
	TOTAL	2487

Tacoma

Record-keeping involving Blacks was very sporadic and not much information is available before 1889 although the city of Tacoma was founded in 1868. Some of Tacoma's earliest urban Black pioneers were Edward Frank and Mary M. Edson, grandparents of Charlotte Breckenridge. The Edsons left Kentucky heading west, stopping first in California. Not satisfied in California, they continued to Washington in early 1889. In Tacoma Mr. Edson became a prominent businessman with a barber shop located at 1139 Commerce Street.

Mrs. Edson taught music in their home at 1422 K Street for more than fifty years. Together, they were among the organizers of the Allen A.M.E. Church on October 9, 1889. Mrs. Edson organized the first choir in the church and served as its first organist. Like most early Tacomans,



Edward Frank Edson



The Household of Ruth, the women's branch of the GUOOF, had a flourishing lodge in Tacoma before the turn of the century. 2nd from left, Mrs. Edward Edson. Mr. Ernie Tanner in foreground.

the Edsons were club members. She joined the Sierra Leone Club and along with her husband, became a member of the Puget Sound Lodge GUOOF (Odd Fellows). Both are buried in the South Tacoma Cemetery.

Another of Tacoma's earliest Black pioneers, John Conna experienced both hardship and success. He brought the first lawsuit in Tacoma alleging discrimination in a public accommodation. He served as sergeant-at-arms to the state senate during the first legislative session. Mr. Conna was an active participant in the Prince Hall Masonic Order, ran a successful real estate business and became president of the first Black Republican club in Tacoma.

H.J. and Mr. Nettie Asberry left indelible marks on Tacoma. Mrs. Asberry was a college graduate from Kansas where she had majored in music. In Tacoma, Mrs. Asberry taught private piano lessons, and Mr. Asberry owned and operated a barber shop in the Tacoma Hotel. Both were active members in the Methodist Church; Mr. Asberry was a member of the Odd Fellows; and Mrs. Asberry organized Tacoma's NAACP chapter and the Federated Colored Women's Clubs throughout the state. Both

organizations exist today.

Mr. Asberry, Mr. Thomas W. Woods, and Mr. Edmond North were early Tacoma residents who worked in the service industries. Despite the location of Tacoma and Seattle as great port cities on Puget Sound, employment on the waterfront was closed to Blacks. Nor did any of them belong to the Colored Marine Cooks and Stewards Union, created in the early 1920s in Seattle.

An exception to the male employment pattern was Lawrence Sledge, who arrived in Tacoma from Mississippi in 1890. Sledge attended Stadium High School and later business college. Still he was not pleased with himself. Possessing a brilliant and inquiring mind, he yearned for the challenge of the legal field. Ultimately he studied law, passed the bar and in 1909 he became a very successful attorney (probably the first Black attorney in Tacoma).

Another exception was a woman. Mrs. Viola Berry arrived in 1919 and settled in Sumner in Pierce County. Soon afterward she deserted her former vocation of

The Urban Pioneers

operating a Turkish bath and purchased a four-acre farm on which she raised chickens, ducks, geese, milk cows, fruits and vegetables for market.

Hesikiah S. Rice was born a slave in West Virginia in the 1850's. He came to Washington Territory in 1888 to work as a coal miner in Roslyn. Leaving the mines after about a year he became a cook at the McNeil Island Penitentiary. Mr. Rice remained there for two years, then worked as a street sweeper for the City of Tacoma for more than fifty years.

Martha Duckworth is the daughter of H.S. Rice. She became Tacoma's first Black nurse. Unable to attend the University of Washington because of the color line, Ms. Rice received her nursing education in Chicago at Providence Hospital. It was not until 1951 that she was hired by Pierce County Hospital where she worked for 17 years, retiring in 1971.

J.H. and Ella Ryan came to Tacoma around 1900 from Spokane where they had lived for eleven years. Shortly after arriving in Tacoma they began publishing the Forum, a weekly newspaper. Before this they published Tacoma's first Black newspaper, the Weekly. Both remained very active in church and social clubs in the city that is watched over by its namesake: Mount Tahoma (Rainier).

Four years into this century, William W. Arthur Dixon arrived in Tacoma and twelve years later he married Chong Ling. Within two years, he was managing the dining room at the Olympus Hotel, but prior to arriving in Tacoma, Mr. Dixon had attended the New England Conservatory of Music and had traveled with the William and Waker's Theatrical Company. Dixon put some of his previous experience to use while serving as the local editor of the *Seattle Searchlight* and the northwest *Enterprise*.

Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Gibson were late nineteenth century Tacoma residents. In 1892 Gibson operated a barber shop in Tacoma. He was a member of the African Methodist

Episcopal Church and the Mount Tacoma Lodge. Mrs. Gibson was active in the Ladies Aid Society of the Allen A.M.E. Church, the Colored Women's Republican Club and the Douglass Women's Voters League. The Gibsons had four children, three sons and a daughter. Two sons made Tacoma their home; another settled in Seattle. Their daughter, Viola, died at an early age.

Horace Prince Lawhorn was the first Black officer in the Tacoma Police Department. He drove a patrol wagon in 1899. An enterprising sort, Lawhorn owned a real estate business and worked as a laborer in Tacoma. He resided at 825 S. State since 1902 with his wife Anvalara and their foster daughter, Daisy Taylor. Lawhorn died in 1921 at the age of 59, having been a resident of Tacoma for 30 years.



Horace Prince Lawhorn

Ella Carter was a talented hardworking woman, whose health was so good she refused to retire even at the age of 92, seeing a doctor only twice in 69 years. Arriving in Tacoma in 1903, Mrs. Carter was featured in the Tacoma News Tribune while living at 1612 S. Yakima Avenue.

James Hollowell came to Tacoma in 1905 from Little Rock, Arkansas. He worked as a waiter at the old Tacoma Hotel and in 1916 was proprietor of the Mount Tacoma Billiard Room at 1327-1/2 Broadway. Another Hollowell, Eliphas, lived in Tacoma since 1920. He was proprietor of Hollowell Auto Laundry, 910 Court C in 1926. He also wrote a book in 1929 entitled Census and History of Tacoma and Pierce County Negroes, State of Washington.

Eliphas Hollowell and his wife raised their niece, Helen Young and her brothers Edward, Frank and John when their mother died. Edward became a local architect and graduate of the London Royal School of Architecture who designed the Colored Women's Clubhouse at 23rd and Yakima.

Helen Young's daughter, Charlotte Williams, lived with "Uncle and Auntie" Hollowell at 1613 South J Street, in the same house in which her mother and uncles were raised.

Her husband, Charles A. Williams, moved to Tacoma in 1916 from Chicago. His father was Walter F. Williams, Sr., a railroad porter; and his mother was Ellen Powell Williams. Ellen's mother, Blanche L. Gaston had been a resident of Tacoma since 1912. She was a retired nurse and was active in the Eastern Star and the Pentecostal Church at 25th and Tacoma Avenue.

At one time, Mrs. Gaston owned a large home which still stands at 1037 S. Trafton Street. During one period, five generations lived in that house at the same time: Mrs. Gaston and her brother Charles Parker; Ellen and her husband the Reverend Percy Jones; Charles and Helen Williams and their children, Charlotte, Sidney and Carol; plus Charles' sisters and brothers. The Williams/Hollowell clan is still very much a part of Tacoma. Members of the family can be found throughout the Puget Sound region.



Blanche Gaston

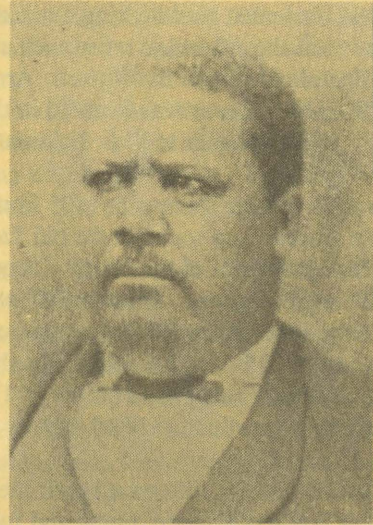
Seattle

The earliest Black urban pioneer, Manual Lopes, was born in Africa in 1812 and was believed to have been kidnapped and enslaved before arriving in Massachusetts. He probably worked as a sailor in New England before making his way to Seattle. Lopes arrived in Seattle in 1852 and promptly started a barbering business, complete with the first barber chair brought to Seattle via Cape Horn. He also operated a restaurant in the same building that housed his barber shop on First Avenue South. Well known for his generosity toward working men, Lopes often gave them meals and lodging even if they were unable to pay.

Lopes was unique in Seattle even by official standards—the 1860 census listed him as the sole Black resident of King County. But his personality was also unique. Lopes was known to be a devoted snare drummer who announced mealtimes at his restaurant with drum solos. Even though he was foreign born, he was an avid patriot. He was renowned for his Fourth of July celebrations, where he and a fife player named Kelly marched around town playing patriotic tunes. In 1859, Lopes sold his business to Dexter Horton and moved to Port Gamble, where it is assumed that he lived until his death.

More Blacks moved to Seattle during the next two decades, increasing King County's Black population to 22 according to the census of 1880. William Grose was one of those Black emigrants.

William Grose was nicknamed "Big Bill the Cook," an apt description as he was 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighed close to 400 pounds. In spite of his bulk, he led a very active and adventuresome life prior to arriving in Seattle. He served in the Navy for four years, traveling to Japan and taking part in a rescue mission in the Arctic. He went to California to join the Gold Rush and formed a west coast branch of the Underground Railroad. Because he spoke Spanish, Grose was sent as a delegate to Panama to persuade the governor there to halt the return of escaped Black slaves that had traveled to Panama via the Underground Railroad.



William Grose, Urban Pioneer

In 1860, Grose and his wife Sarah arrived in Seattle. He worked at the trade he knew best—cooking. In 1876 he opened his own business, a combination inn and restaurant named “Our House.” In 1883, he expanded his business by building a three-story hotel on Henry Yesler’s wharf. Grose also bought 12 acres of land from Yesler for \$1,000 in gold. This land was rolling farmland in what is now the Central District.

It may be hard to imagine farmland in what is definitely the urban area now, but many parts of Seattle in Grose’s day were isolated rural communities, inhabited by wild animals such as bears. Black urban pioneers settled all over the city, from Queen Anne to Green Lake, and very often had cows, chickens and large gardens to sustain themselves. The most urban part of Seattle was the Pioneer Square area, and many Black families started out there. Later on, particularly after the fire of 1889, Black families bought land in the heavily wooded and undeveloped outlying parts of Seattle.

William Grose followed this same pattern, first buying a lot on Sixth and James and developing it, and later buying the acreage from Yesler in what would become the Central District. He became a prosperous rancher as well as a restaurateur. Despite the fact that the fire of 1889 destroyed his restaurant and hotel, he still remained a wealthy man. In 1891, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported his assets at \$250,000.

William Grose and his family played a key role in the Black middle class in the late 1890’s. Their house was the center of social life, and Grose sponsored the first Black grand ball. In their leisure time, members of the Black middle class participated in musical programs, picnics, barbecues, balls and excursions. An all-Black performance of Shakespeare’s *Richard the Third* and *Macbeth* was presented at the Seattle Opera House. While some members of the white community were experiencing the age of opulence, wealthier Blacks were also enjoying luxuries and entertainment.

William Grose appreciated the finer things in life, but his

“OUR HOUSE.”

WM. GROSS & SON, Props.,
Mill Street, Seattle, Wash. Ter.

This hotel is located on the steam-boat wharf, and is the best and cheapest hotel in the city for workingmen. Table always supplied with the best the market affords.

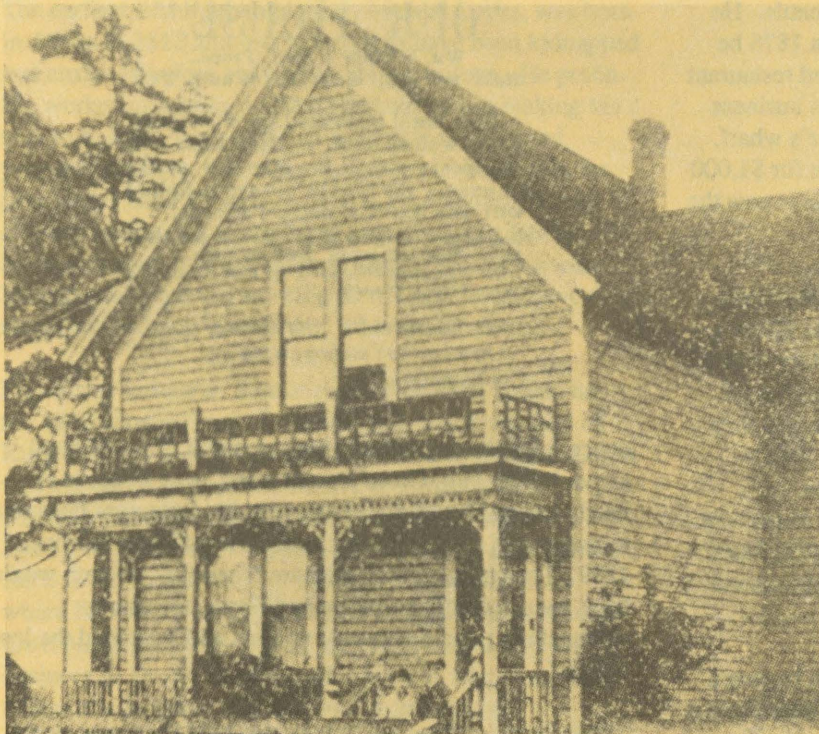
Board and Lodging \$5.00 Board, per week \$1.00 Meals 25 cents Beds 25 cents.

Baggage conveyed to and from the house free of charge.

*Advertisement for “Our House,”
a hotel owned and operated by
William Grose*

concern for those less fortunate remained. Like Manual Lopes before him, Grose never turned away a person in need. Legend has it that Grose sold his restaurant business to two young men just prior to its destruction in the fire of 1889. The business was uninsured, and the two men would have been instantly bankrupt had Grose not quietly returned the purchase money to them and sustained the loss himself.

The love and respect his fellow men held for Grose were clear when he died sometime around 1898. It is reported that so many people attended his funeral that sixteen carriages were insufficient to carry all of them to his burial plot at Lakeview Cemetery.



The Grose family home, around 1983



John Edward Hawkins

The first Blacks who arrived in Seattle worked mainly as barbers and restaurateurs. Toward the end of the 19th century, the fields of law and journalism opened up to Blacks. One of the most unique lawyers of the time was John Edwards Hawkins.

Born in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1866, Hawkins came to Seattle in 1890. He immediately started work as a barber in a building which housed many lawyers. Perhaps he was influenced by his customers, but he soon became determined to become a lawyer through diligent study. After working on his feet six and a half days each week, ten hours a day, Hawkins would go home and study law. He also studied with Judge Isaac Hall and W.A. Slate, an attorney. His hard work paid off in 1895 when he was admitted to practice in the King County Bar. He was the first Black person in the state of Washington to be admitted to the bar without prior certification.

Hawkins handled both civil and criminal cases, but his most renowned suits involved racial discrimination. He sued many restaurants and other public places for refusing to serve Blacks. Often he won his case—but was awarded a mere \$1 in damages by the court. He was heard to say, "It's the principle, not the damages, we're after."

Hawkins became so successful at his practice that he bought a house on Capitol Hill and was later appointed the first Black judge pro tem in Seattle.



Senator of the United States, H.R. Revels of Mississippi, Susie Cayton's father (sitting far left)

Equally concerned with civil rights, but more outspoken, was Horace Cayton. Born a slave in Mississippi in 1859, Cayton was sent to school by his father after emancipation. He continued his education at Alcorn College where he studied under Senator Hiram Revels, a renowned black Senator. Senator Revels' daughter, Susie, also went to Alcorn College, where it is assumed she met Horace.

It was very unique for a Black man to rise from slavery to a college education, but it was doubly unique for a Black woman to have a higher education. Most women were caught up in the demands of day-to-day survival. During slavery, women had suffered severe exploitation. After emancipation, they faced the dual tasks of rebuilding their broken self-esteem and surviving in a generally hostile environment.

In addition to keeping the house in order and raising the children, Black women were expected to help their husbands in their professions. Women were encouraged to bring home additional income as well.



Susie Revels Cayton

Most Black women led lives of unrelenting drudgery, unappreciated for their hard work and perseverance in keeping the family together. Socially, they were at the bottom of society, regardless of their marital status. This is one reason that Susie Cayton was truly special in her time.

Susie Cayton received a college degree in journalism and wrote stories, one of which was published in the *Seattle P.I.* in 1900. The *Sydney B.C. Independent* described her as a “writer of force and ability.” She was prominent in the upper segment of the Black social set and active in community affairs and charities. But her most unique position was that of associate publisher of *The Republican*, a Black newspaper she ran with her husband Horace.

Horace Cayton came to Seattle in 1886, interested in pursuing a journalism career. Shortly thereafter, he became a political reporter for the *Seattle P.I.* But his true desire was to publish a newspaper for the Black community. To that end, he leased the only Black newspaper in Seattle, *The Standard*, which had been published by Britt Oxendine. As soon as Cayton started printing *The Standard*, the barrage of attack against state and local officials began. The local Black population was so alarmed by the virulence of Cayton’s editorials that it drew up a set of resolutions to publicly disavow him and his policies. Oxendine took direct action against Cayton by pulling the



Horace Cayton

lease out from under him and removing the printing equipment.

This just spurred Cayton on to start *The Republican* in 1894. This paper was a forum for his pro-civil rights and staunch Republican political viewpoint. In the 1800’s, the Republican party—the party of Lincoln—was the voice of liberation for Black people. As a result, Blacks almost unanimously voted Republican.

Susie Revels Cayton was also strongly committed to equality for Blacks. Some believe she was the driving force behind her husband’s political fervor. In a practical sense, Susie and Horace’s marriage was mutually beneficial. Horace provided Susie a means of escaping the South; and Susie, the daughter of a Senator, gave Horace social status. Together they formed a formidable team as publisher and associate publisher of *The Republican*.

The Republican was published for twenty-one years, most of the time as a weekly newspaper. Its short stint as a daily in 1896 lasted for only a few months, but its influence on the Black community was considerable. *The Republican* gave validity to the activities of the community and encouraged Black participation in ongoing issues of the day. Its influence in Republican politics was considerable, and Horace Cayton was even a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1898.

The paper had its financial ups and downs, particularly due to Cayton's lack of restraint when describing local figures. For instance, he referred to a local Black barber who refused to serve Blacks as "a puke of the lowest ilk."

Cayton was arrested for libel twice. The more notorious case took place in 1901. He had mocked the Chief of Police and accused the Chief of graft. Cayton was arrested at home, carried off to jail and locked up with a hobo, refused bail and denied communication with his lawyer and friends. The uproar surrounding Cayton's treatment was considerable, and the *Seattle P.I.* noted, "[That]....no case has attracted more attention from the public than this." The trial ended in a hung jury, but *The Republican* gradually began to lose its advertisers.

The paper finally folded around the time of World War I after Cayton wrote a series of anti-Ku Klux Klan editorials that completely dried up revenues.

The Caytons did thrive, however, during the good years of *The Republican*. They were so well off that they owned a large house near Volunteer Park on Capitol Hill and had at least two servants, one Swedish and the other Japanese. They participated in various cultural activities and were members of a number of clubs. Horace and Susie Cayton were widely considered the best known Blacks in Seattle at the turn of the century.

The Seattle Republican

Established May, 1894.
OFFICE 714 THIRD AVENUE.

H. R. Cayton.....Editor
Susie Revels Cayton.....Associate

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One Year\$2.00
Six Months 1.00
Three Months 60

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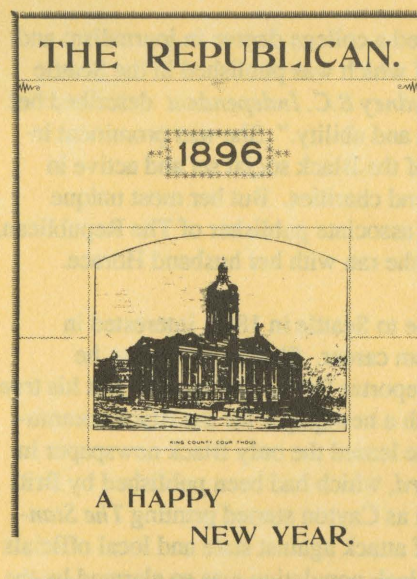
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The Seattle Republican Centennial Edition

Conclusion



*The First African Methodist Church,
14th Avenue, between Pike and Pine,
Seattle, WA*

Blacks arrived in the Pacific Northwest Territories in search of a better life, one without prejudice and restriction on their ambition. The state of Washington, while not perfect by any means, did offer Blacks opportunities to follow their dreams. Many Blacks opened businesses, pursued professions, reared families and prospered significantly in the growing urban centers of the Puget Sound. Urban pioneers like the Caytons, Cragwells, Vinyerds, Harries, Harveys and Allens had an impact on their communities, and their descendants continue that tradition today. Blacks started churches early on in Seattle's history. The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, the First African Methodist Church and Grace Presbyterian Church all played significant roles in the growing Seattle Black community. Tacoma Blacks founded two Baptist churches and the Allen African Methodist Church which is one hundred years old this year. Those churches are still active today. Other black families settled in rural areas and made farming their livelihood with land ownership a dream fulfilled. Ethel Craven and her son William settled Roslyn, and William became mayor of that town, the first Black in the history of Washington to become a mayor. While Blacks were not always significant in number, their

contribution to the development of Washington state cannot be ignored. Descendants of the pioneer families still live in the Seattle-Tacoma area, and they can feel pride in their freedom-seeking forefathers and the legacy they left behind.

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