



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.