

Conclusion



*The First African Methodist Church,
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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.