

**CONGRATULATIONS
ON
ROOTS 20TH ANNIVERSARY**

**FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM GROSE (GROSS),
SEATTLE PIONEER**

William Grose (also written as Gross) was one of the first African Americans to settle in Seattle, arriving about 1860. Born in Washington, D.C., he served in the Navy. Following his discharge, he became a gold miner. He was part of the formation of the Underground Railroad in the West, and he was a member of a California delegation to Panama to negotiate the effort to return slaves to that country. "He was among the men to made arrangements with Governor Douglas of British Columbia for the emigration of African Americans to Victoria and the Fraser River area." (Mumford: SEATTLE'S BLACK VICTORIANS). From 1883 until it burned in the Seattle fire, Grose operated a workingman's hotel on Yesler Wharf in what is now Pioneer Square. His family home was on 24th Avenue near Madison where he purchased 12 acres of land from Henry Yesler in 1882.

Grose was married to Sarah "Granny" Grose who is reported to have been the first Black woman to reside in Washington State. She was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Grose died in 1898. Four generations of the Grose family resided at the family homestead at 24th and Howell, including William Dixon, the first Black postmaster in Seattle, and Carrie Dixon Black Lewis, the mother of Helen, Bernice and William Black. Bernice black was one of the first African Americans employed in the telephone company in Seattle. Her daughter, Carrolle Fair Perry, born and raised in Seattle, serves as the director of the Philadelphia foundation.

Descendants of William Grose include three great-great-grandsons: Gary Olive resides in Los Angeles; Peter Langston Ward and Aubrey William Ward, the children of Carrolle Fair Perry, are students. Peter attends Hampton University and Aubrey is a student at Morehouse College.

"OUR HOUSE."

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

This hotel is located on the steamboat wharf, and is the best and cheapest hotel in the city for workmen.  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.

William Grose (Gross) operated a three-story hotel on Yesler's Wharf from the time built in 1883 until it burned in 1889.