

North. He then moved out west with his family to Oregon. Because Oregon law forbade Negroes, he came to Kitsap County where he earned a living working as a logger.

As early as his arrival, he kept a hand written diary of the time, the weather, what contact he made, and the work he had done that particular day. A graduate of the University of Illinois and possessing a brilliant mind, he preferred the secluded life his ranch offered and spent his leisure hours creating beautiful oil paintings or writing verses, some which were sold. In 1897 he was elected the Justice of the Peace for Seabeck.



He homesteaded along side other homesteaders, building their homes, starting their orchards, butchering, and harvesting. He was their friend, yet he never imposed and was often invited as a guest. Records show, he homesteaded 128 80/100 acres, and in 1903 he purchased 120 more acres of land. He donated land for the Seabeck Crosby School.

A bachelor at the age of 91, he died in Seattle on August 16, 1954.

FIRST BLACK EDUCATOR

JANE A. RULEY was born Lilly Jane Archer in Berkley, Virginia in 1856. The daughter of a slave and considered a very gifted child, she was educated in the General Armstrong School in Hampton, Virginia (now Hampton University) where she was the valedictorian of her class. As reported in the Bremerton News on November 23, 1915, one of her most notable classmates was Booker T. Washington.

After graduating from General Armstrong School in 1875, she moved to the Northwest where she settled down in Kitsap County to work in her profession as a teacher. Here she proved herself as a woman of excellent scholarship and was prominent in the educational affairs of her community and a dedicated community worker. Local records indicate Mrs. Ruley to have been the first Black teacher in this area. It is indicated by other records that she also may have been one of the first Black teachers in the State of Washington.



Shortly after her move to the Northwest, Lilly Jane married Paul E. Ruley. He was born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1857. Mr. and Mrs. Ruley had two children, a son Archie and a daughter Gertrude. The Ruley family became a very well-known family in this area. It is said that in the early days, Mrs. Ruley held school in a barn on the Ruley ranch which was called the "Sleepy Hollow Ranch". Later on they helped establish the first Sheridan School #22 and became instrumental in the support and upkeep of this Bremerton early school.

In addition to establishing the first Sheridan School, Mrs. Ruley also taught the first Sunday School for the Manette Church, introduced music to its members and served as an organist.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruley were both very much loved and respected in their community and their children Archie and Gertrude grew up to follow in their parents footsteps and got involved in community affairs as well.

Archie was known in the Sheridan and Manette area as one of the fastest pitchers during his time who kept the name of the ball team going. He also played ball at the Washington College where he attended school.

Gertrude was known in the community as a very talented young lady. She finished Union High School in 1914 and was the class salutatorian. At the age of 17, Gertrude entered Washington State College in Pullman, Washington. She graduated in 1918 with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Music.

Paul E. Ruley died on September 18, 1913 and his wife Jane in 1927.