

BLACK HISTORY

The Portland Observer

Black Business Expo Set At PCC Cascade

The Cascade Campus of Portland Community College will host the annual Black Business Expo on Saturday and Sunday as part of Black History Month.

A variety of local business companies, artists and craftspeople will participate in the community event, to be held

in the gymnasium at the campus, located at 705 N. Killingsworth St.

A wide selection of clothing, crafts, art and jewelry will be displayed and may be purchased. Various hot and cold foods will be available.

The Black Business Expo

will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The expo is free and open to the public.

It is still possible to rent a stall at the expo, but only a few openings remain. Interested business persons can call Sonia Key-Fender at 295-2944.

History Of Blacks In Oregon

1788
 Marcus Lopez was the first black person to set foot on Oregon soil. He arrived on the ship Lady Washington, originated in Boston Mass. The vessel stopped at the Cape Verde Islands, located off the west coast of Africa, to replenish supplies. Marcus Lopez was hired as a cabin boy. Two days later he was killed by Indians over grass stolen by the natives from Lopez that he had cut for livestock.

1804
 A black slave called York reached the mouth of the Columbia River near modern Astoria as a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He was owned by William Clark but enjoyed a measure of equality during the expedition. He was permitted to vote with the rest of the members of the party on the site of the winter camp, located on the south side of the Columbia River three miles up a small creek, where elk were plentiful.

1810-11
 The crew of the Tonquin included a black cook whose name has not survived, and two black men, Edward Rose and Francoise Duchouquette. They were associated with an overland expedition. These expeditions were funded by the Pacific Fur Co. to establish a trading post at the mouth of the Columbia River near modern Astoria.

Rose met Wilson Price Hunt who hired him to guide the overland expedition to Oregon, but he was dismissed before reaching Oregon.

Francoise Duchouquette served as Hunt's expedition as a blacksmith, and remained at Fort George (formerly Fort Astoria) until 1814. While in the Northwest he fathered a son, also named Francoise Duchouquette. His mother was an Okanogan Indian. He learned to read and write and was a storekeeper for the Hudson's Bay Co. at Fort Okanogan from 1853 to 1860.

1812-1830
 A number of black men were associated with the Rocky Mountain fur trade, many as servants or slaves, or in menial positions as free laborers. It was not uncommon, however, to find blacks operating as independent trappers, guides and interpreters. Many had spent their lives living with Indians, and gained invaluable knowledge that served them well as negotiators with hostile tribes and enabled them to survive the rigors of a wilderness life.

1830
 James C. Douglas, chief accountant, Fort Vancouver was born in the African colony of British Guiana in 1803. His father was John Douglas, a Scottish merchant, and his mother was a creole woman named "Miss Ritchie". There is some evidence to suggest that Douglas may have inherited some from his mother. He was described as a "West Indian" by Governor George Simpson in 1832.

1834
 A black man named George Winslow came to Oregon with the famous trapper, Ewing Young, and an Oregon promoter, Hall Jackson Kelley. He settled on the Clackamas Prairie, married an Indian woman, and raised a family. A knowledge of medicine supplemented his income, until the arrival of Dr. Forbes of the Hudson's Bay Company reduced his business. He was best known to boast that he had come to Oregon not with Kelley, but with Astor's expedition on board the Tonquin in 1811.

1835
 James C. Douglas was promoted to Chief Trader for the Hudson Bay Company.

1836
 The Whitman and Spalding families arrived in Oregon, bringing with them a black man named John Hinds. He had joined the party near Green River at the 1836 fur traders' rendezvous in order to receive medical attention from Dr. Whitman, as he was suffering from dropsy. His condition did not improve and he died at the Whitman mission at Waiilatapu in November 1836.

1838
 James C. Douglas was in charge of Fort Vancouver during the absence of Dr. John McLoughlin for a period of one year.

1839
 A black man called Wallace came to Oregon on board the big Maryland, which had been sent from Boston on a trading expedition. While the Maryland was anchored in the Columbia, Wallace deserted.

1840
 James C. Douglas was promoted to Chief Factor, the highest rank with the Hudson Bay Co. Later, he became Sir James Douglas, the first governor of British Columbia.

On May 21, the ship Lausanne anchored at the mouth of the Columbia River near Baker's Bay. On board were Rev. John H. Frost and his family, Methodist missionaries sent to Oregon as part of Jason Lee's "Great Reinforcement".

The ship was piloted up the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver by several individuals, including a black man called George Washington. Little is known of this man, other than a few details noted by John Frost. Washington had been sent down river by John McLoughlin, with fresh bread and butter for the weary missionaries.

In December, Wallace went to the missionary settlement with John Frost to help drag the supplies through waist-deep mud. He was hired to help construct a building near the banks of the Columbia.

1841
 James D. Saules came to Oregon with the U.S. Sloop-of-War Peacock. He served as a cook on the ship, and settle in Oregon City where he bought a farm from Winslow. He ran into trouble with a white settler who accused him of stirring up the Indians against white settlers. Three witnesses testified against him, and he was found guilty. He was kept in custody for several weeks, but because there was no jail he was released and told to leave the area. He went to the Clatsop Plains near Astoria and worked at the Methodist Mission until 1846 when the mission was closed.

1843
 A black man named Jacob Dodson, 18, came to Oregon with Capt. John Fremont. Dodson was a free servant in the family of Thomas Hart Benton, Fremont's father-in-law, and volunteered to accompany the expedition to Oregon. Jacob Dodson later became an attendant in the U.S. Senate and at the outbreak of the Civil War raised 300 black men to fight for the Union, but President Lincoln refused their services.

1844
 Moses Harris, black mountain man and wagon train guide acted as guide for one of the largest immigrant trains to come to Oregon. The party, divided into three large sections, included a wealthy black man, George Bush, and Michael T. Simmons, John Minto, Nataniel Ford and his family and their black servants Robin, Polly and Mary Holmes. They arrived in the Willamette Valley in October 1844.

Moses Harris remained in Oregon for about three years. His name was listed on the tax rolls of Yamhill County, and he signed a petition from the citizens of Yamhill County addressed to the Provisional Assembly, urging them to finance the construction of a public road in Oregon City. He left the Willamette Valley in spring of 1847, returning to St. Joseph, Mo. where he hoped to guide other settlers to Oregon. He died of cholera in 1849.

George Bush, a black man of wealth, aided other needy families on the trip west. His father, was born in India and was brought to the United States as a servant. His mother was Irish and worked as a maid. Bush married a white woman in 1832 and raised a family of five boys. He first arrived in The Dalles in the fall of 1844.

Portland Kids See Black Pioneer Exhibit

Principal Rosemary Daniels took fifth graders at southeast Portland's Brooklyn School to Salem recently to celebrate Black History Month and visit the Northwest Black Pioneers Centennial Exhibit in Salem.

Daniels said the students had read about northwest black pioneers, but after the tour they were overly impressed with the many accomplishments of blacks in the northwest.

They recognized Dr. Matthew Prophet, ex-superintendent of Portland public school.

Daniels also showed the students pictures of her relatives from Seattle, Dr. Charles Mitchell, president of Seattle Community College; Paul Mitchell, a buyer for The Bon Marche, the exhibit's sponsor; and Dr. Robert Gary, principal in Seattle.

"It was an enjoyable day," Daniels said.



Portland students Ben Percival (from left), Shawn Brewster and Chris Schroder with principal Rosemary Daniels.

This Month In Black History

February

- Langston Hughes, renowned author, poet and playwright, born, February 1, 1902.
- Free American Blacks settle Liberia, West Africa., February 4, 1822.
- Henry "Hank" Aaron, baseball great, born, February 5, 1934.
- Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1809.
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded, February 12, 1909.
- Baseball's Negro National League founded, February 13, 1920.
- Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, lecturer and editor, born, February 14, 1817.
- W.E.B. DuBois, scholar, writer and Pan-Africanist, born, February 23, 1868.
- Hiram Revels becomes first African-American U.S. Senator, February 25, 1870.

February is Black History Month.



Dr. George Washington Carver
 Scientist

He had a thirst for knowledge and the determination to become a scientist.

It may be recognized in one month, but the contributions of African-Americans will last a lifetime.

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