

mired York for his dark skin, tall build and physical prowess.

Evidence was shown that York was treated as an equal. At Fort Clatsop in Astoria, Oregon, York was allowed to room with the other men in their sleeping quarters. He was also the only man that Lewis and Clark trusted with the liquor supply, an important stock used for

their journey. As a fur trader, well-established entrepreneur and translator of many Native American languages, Moses "Black" Harris was a very able wagon guide. Leading the pack from St. Louis to Yellowstone and from the Salt Lakes to Oregon Country, Harris was known for bringing two of the largest wagon trains to the

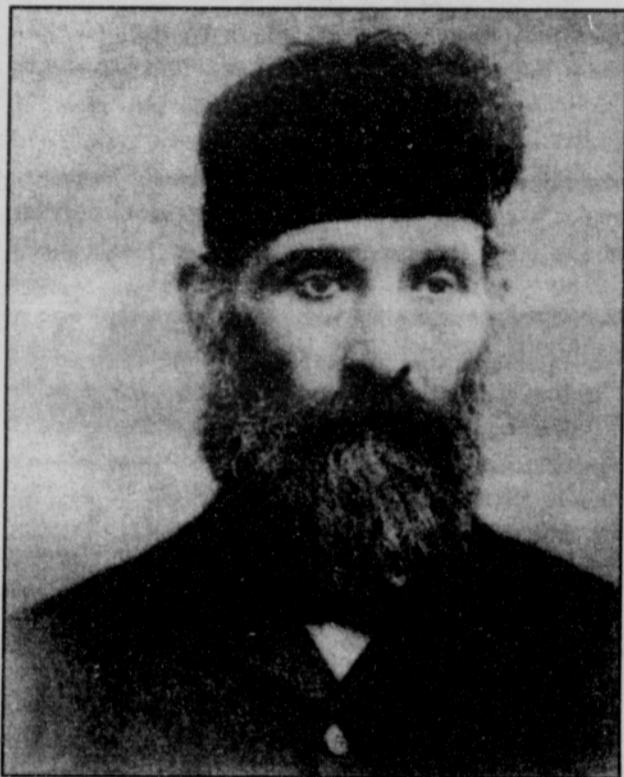
ways the nucleus. Many pioneers who were brave or foolish enough to travel the 2,000 - 3,000 miles of partly-chartered territory experienced loved ones die of small pox or cholera. Other fatal tragedies were from such things as accidents or carelessness. Fortunately, Native Americans seldom waged war on

wagon trains.

Harris later participated in blazing new trails with George Bush who settled Centralia, Washington. He also trekked with the Applegate family during the "Great Migration" of 1843. Together, they blazed the Applegate wagon trail that runs through Nevada, California and

Southern Oregon.

The first Christian missionaries were brought to the Northwest by the Whitman family with Moses "Black" Harris leading the pack. By 1844, Harris guided the largest number of immigrants to the Willamette Valley, consisting of 137 wagons carrying 982 people.



Because of Oregon's race-based exclusionary law, William Owen Bush, a free African American and his group of white friends and neighbors crossed the Columbia River to head north. The party settled in the Puget Sound region in what would later become the state of Washington.

medicinal purposes and to keep everyone warm.

York later became the very first African American allowed to vote in the United States.

The mountain men who traveled, hunting for animal pelts were plentiful throughout the Pacific Northwest. They were often stationed during the warmer months at rendezvous points (temporary posts) where they enjoyed the company of women and good times. Nearby these sites were Native American encampments.

Wagoneers passing through would contract a mountain man to serve as a wagon train guide for

West. He also saved two other wagon trains that were lost with many wagoneers perishing from malnutrition and thirst. One distressed party was in the mountains of Southern Oregon in 1839 and the other was the Meeks party of 1845 in the desert region between Idaho and Oregon.

Most covered wagon trains were organized around the group's religious or ethnic heritage. Family groups were al-



A wagon train traveling out West.

**Without these firsts,
American History wouldn't
be the same.**

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, performed the first successful heart operation in 1893

Madame C.J. Walker, first self-made American woman millionaire • **Hyman S. Thomas**, invented the potato chip, originally known as the Saratoga chip • **Matthew A. Henson**, first man to set foot on the North Pole • **Jessie Jarue Mark**, first woman to earn a doctorate in botany • **Isaac Murphy**, won the very first Kentucky Derby • **Dr. Charles Drew**, discovered the method for preserving blood plasma • **Jewel LaFontant Mankarious**, first woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court **Yvonne Clark**, first woman to earn B.S. in chemical engineering at Harvard • **Louis Armstrong**, first to sing in "scatting" style • **Otis Boykin**, invented guided missile device • **Jane Wright**, pioneered several advances in the field of chemotherapy • **Frederick Mckinley Jones**, inventor of portable X-ray machine **William A. Hinton**, developed first test for syphilis • **Norbert Rillieux**, developed the first system for refining sugar • **S. Boone**, invented the first ironing board • **Frank Grant**, inventor of the baseball chinguard • **L.D. Newman**, inventor of the hairbrush • **Shelby J. Davidson**, created the first adding machine • **William Warwick Cardozo**, pioneered the study of sickle cell anemia • **Kurtis Blow**, first rap artist

**You can't talk about Black history without talking about American history.
Let's remember the African Americans who helped build America.**



Washington Mutual

FDIC Insured