

Avenue, Seattle, Washington. He owned the property. Webb was aged 42, and his occupation was given as 'Minister, Church of God'. His birth state was Tennessee, and his father's birthplace is given simply as 'United States'. Webb's wife was Nannie F. Webb, aged 34 and born in Tennessee. Like the other female members of the household she had no stated occupation. Her father's place of birth is given as 'United States' and her mother's as Virginia. Their children were Nannie T. Webb, aged seventeen, and Mary Ann, aged nine. The younger Nannie had been born in Montana, and Mary Ann in Washington State. The final member of the household was James' mother, Mary Ann Webb, a widow aged 61. She had been born in Tennessee, but the birthplace of her parents is shown simply as 'United States'. The race of all five household members is given as 'Mulatto'.

In 1921 Webb joined the Marcus Garvey movement and became an active organiser, not only in Seattle, but also in San Francisco and Los Angeles. He made motion pictures of Garvey and Garveyite events, filmed Biblical pageants, and gave lectures in Liberty Hall, New York City, where on 22nd October 1921 he showed his films and his documentary material on Biblical history. On November 5th that year he preached on the topic 'God is Waiting for the Gathering of Ethiopia' ('Negro World', 5 November, 1921). Webb asserted that Garvey was the 'Moses of the Modern Age' in a lecture entitled 'The Garvey Movement is Biblical', and in a pamphlet, 'The Black Man Will Be the Coming Universal King' ('Negro World', 29th July 1922).

On 6th September 1924 the 'Negro World', the organ of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, published an ad in which Rev. Webb claimed that Jesus, King Tut and King Solomon were Negroes by blood and that his book (price \$1) would prove it. (Tutankhamen's tomb had been discovered by Howard Carter in 1922). A picture of Jesus as a coloured man with woolly hair and a book proving the same also sold for one dollar. On 15th September, 1924 the 'New York Times' reported on a Webb address under the headline 'Says a Black King Will Rule the World'. In the 'Negro World' for 3 October, 1925, the Reverend, still giving his address as 1107 Yakima Avenue in Seattle, was selling 'four pictures in two forms: No. 1 'Negro King Solomon' and 'Colored Queen of Sheba'. No. 2 'The Negro King Tut and His Treasures' (\$1)'. Yet another advertisement, this time in the 'Chicago Defender' and headed 'Negro Universal King' asked purchasers to send their money to Rev. James M. Webb, 3638 S. State Street, Chicago, Ill, care of Bailey's Office.

The 2nd April, 1930 census shows 'J.M. Webb' still residing at 1107 Yakima Avenue, and continuing to own the property, which was valued at \$4,000.00. He was aged 45, had married at age 23, and his occupation was 'Clergyman, Evangelistic'. His wife was listed as 'N. T. Webb' [sic] aged forty, having married at fifteen, and her occupation was 'Practical Nurse, Private family'. Their daughter, Mary, was aged nineteen, single, and working as a 'Waitress, Café'. Only Mary's age in 1930 is compatible with that given in 1920.

# JESUS WAS A NEGRO BY BLOOD

King Tut Was a Negro by Blood—

King Solomon was a Negro by Blood

King Solomon instructed King Hiram to employ black men to work on the Temple. The



book entitled, "This Black Man Was the Father of Civilization," has the above matter in it. (Proven by Biblical history.) It gives 2,000 years of the black man's history in the Bible. Price of said book, \$1.

Rev. Webb

Agents wanted.

Send \$1.50 for outfit. Write Rev. Jas. M. Webb, 3638 S. State St., Chicago, Ill., care Bailey's office. Send money order or registered letter.

A picture of Jesus as a Colored man with woolly hair and a book proving the same. Price \$1.—Adv.

Chicago Defender, 30th July 1927. From the David Evans collection.

The following is a summary of the Polk's city directory listings for this household (all middle initials [sic]):

- 1930 Webb, Jas. M. Rev., evangelist h 1107 Yakima Ave.  
Webb, Mary, wtrs. Mrs. Art Smith, h 1107 Yakima Ave.
- 1931 Webb, Nana L., nurse 1107 Yakima Ave., h. 1107 Yakima Ave.
- 1932 Webb, Nannie M. Mrs., maid h 1107 Yakima Ave.
- 1933 Webb, Nana F. Mrs. maid h 1107 Yakima Ave.
- 1934 same as 1933.
- 1935 Webb, Nana F. (wid Jas. M) h 1107 Yakima Ave.
- 1936 same as 1935.
- 1937 Webb, Nana F., Mrs. h 1107 Yakima Ave.
- 1938, 1939 and 1940 same as 1937.
- 1941 No listing, and in the reverse street address listing 1107 Yakima Ave. is shown as vacant.

This suggests that Rev. Webb left Seattle circa 1930/31, but that his wife remained there. The use of 'widow' where a divorce or separation had actually occurred is not unusual in city directories.

A brief newspaper article in the 'Seattle Times' of 28th December, 1940 reads:

'Rev. Webb to Speak at Negro Churches:

The Rev. James M. Webb, evangelist and former resident here who is remembered for his sermons in Seattle nearly thirty years ago, is a visitor in the city and plans to speak at Negro churches on 'A Colored King is Coming to Stop All Wars'. Mr Webb believes the Bible makes reference to a 'colored king' coming to end war and has written a book on the subject'.

Rev. Webb's visit to Seattle in 1940, and the absence of Mrs. Webb from the city directory in 1941 may indicate that they were reunited, and that she left Seattle with him at that time. Alternatively, he may have returned to Seattle for her funeral.

The belief that the Ancient Egyptians were black is a persistent thread in African-American thought, stretching as far back as Frederick Douglass and continuing to be advanced today. Webb's prophecy that 'The Black Man Will Be the Coming Universal King' is part of the current of ideas that fed from Garveyism into Rastafarianism.

Thanks to: Bob Eagle, Ahari El (Magribine Press), David Evans, Darlene E. Hamilton (Seattle Public Library), Chris Smith and Alex van der Tuuk.