

In 1917 the Wednesday Art Club met with 11 other women's clubs to form the City Federation of Negro Women, which became part of a state and then a regional federation.

The men, too, had their clubs, scores of them including the Spokane County Colored Republican Club, the Colored Citizens Progressive Club, the John A. Logan Republican Club, and the Negro Businessmen's League, to name only a few. Their activities were more than social and political in nature; it was the Colored Citizens Club that, in 1911, appealed to President Taft to intervene in the case of a black soldier, Albert Thompson, acquitted of "wronging a white girl" on the Fort Wright military installation but courtmartialed by the Army anyway and sent to Alcatraz Island.

Both the men and women had lodges, including the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Spokane Lodge No. 4794, chartered March 20, 1900, as "the first fraternal and benevolent order of "colored men;" Knights of Pythias, Crispus Attucks Lodge No. 2; Inland Empire Lodge No. 53, S.F. and A.M., chartered in 1901; and the Evergreen Eastern Star Lodge, Evergreen Court No. 62. Many of them met at Oliver Hall, built by black pioneer Daniel K. Oliver - if not regularly, for special social occasions. As far as Masonic activities were concerned, Spokane was on the map. In July 1910 the Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge of Washington and its Jurisdiction, Free and Accepted Masons, converged on Spokane. More than 200 members representing eight lodges met at Improvement Hall at Napa Street and Sprague Avenue and enjoyed a reception hosted by the Inland Empire Lodge and its Worshipful Master, Frank A. Stokes. A reception for the women of Eastern Star was held at the home of C. S. Star at 1714 Calispel, then both genders met for a dance given by a men's group, the Dove Social Club, at Elks Hall.



*Frank A. Stokes.*