



*Lucy Breckenridge
and her son, John.*

whose contributions are neglected in the official histories of the period but whose tremendous impact on their community cannot be overstated.

Who will write the histories of women like Lucy Breckenridge? Born in slavery about 1855 in Staunton, Va., she rode the train with her family to Roslyn, Washington, around 1888, when the Northern Pacific Coal Co. recruited blacks to break a strike by white miners. Lucy Breckenridge, who taught herself to read and write, and her husband, Henry, moved to Spokane between 1898 and 1899, where she lived for 40 years until her death in 1940.



Dora Alice Freeman

Who will tell Dora Alice Freeman's story of making the journey from Durham, N.C., and settling in Peaceful Valley in 1904? In about 1908 she became the first black sales clerk for Miller, Mower and Flynn, a department store at Riverside and Monroe, then was discharged because of complaints from some white customers. She became a ladies' maid at the new Auditorium Theatre and later the Spokane Athletic Club. She sold automobile and furniture polish for XL-O Chemical Co. at Riverside and Division, supplying customers including the Davenport, Ridpath, Coeur d'Alene and Spokane hotels. Mrs. Freeman, who reared six sons alone, died in 1964 at the age of 84.



Mrs. J.C. Mapps

Surely the history books must have space to record the accomplishments of Mrs. J.C. Mapps, founder and first president of the Colored Women's Federation of Washington Jurisdiction in 1907. In addition to co-founding the federation with Lucille Parker, its vice president, Mrs. Mapps also was a founder of the Wednesday Art Club and put in more than 800 volunteer hours for the American Red Cross during World War I.

The record of the black presence in the early history of the region will not be complete until these and other stories become a part of the printed historical record, left to inspire those who follow the current generations. Thus this volume is both a gift and a challenge to today's black youth: It is you who must set the record straight.