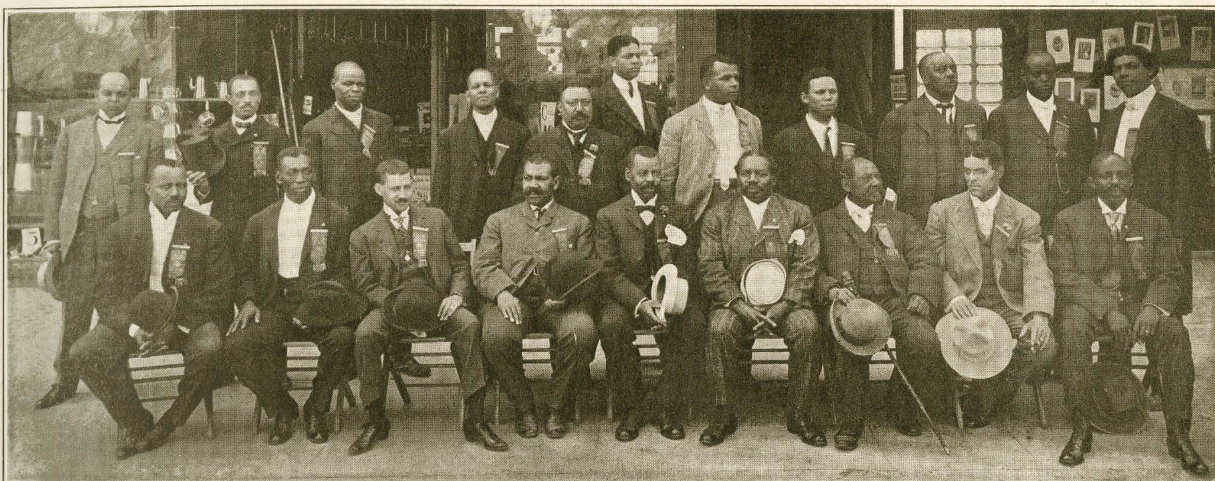


Every town has from one to three strictly Negro churches besides many are members of other churches and creeds. No people is more diligent in sending their children to school than the Negro, and we have yet to hear of a child who is at the foot of his class in any school in this state, but it is very common to hear of the only Negro in a grade leading the class. In business he is as honest and straightforward as the average citizen. He is working hard and accumulating much valuable property, as statistics herein quoted will show. In many communities every Negro there is a taxpayer, in others sev-

enty per cent of the families own their own homes.

Thus we see that in all the prerequisites for good citizenship the Negro of this state is quite up to the average. In education he stands second to none. In the accumulation of property he is rapidly becoming a factor, as a few thousand of them—and that includes men, women and children—have in ten years accumulated more than a million and a half dollars worth of real property, to say nothing of their personal effects and cash in banks. In deportment he cannot be surpassed—being sober, polite, well dressed and genteel.



1906 GRAND LODGE, F. & A. M. 1906.
Convened at Seattle, Washington, U. S. A.

H. J. Asberry, Tacoma; E. T. Asberry, Oakland, Cal.; Benjamin Berry, Everett; G. W. Kinney, Portland; J. Edward Hawkins, Seattle; W. C. Peoples, Seattle; F. A. Stokes, Spokane; C. S. Ryan, Spokane; Walter Scott, Spokane; F. L. Wilson, Spokane; S. S. Freeman, Tacoma.

J. W. Payne, Portland; J. B. Beckham, Spokane; W. D. Allen, Portland; Everett Petway, Spokane; Geo. Manney, Seattle; C. C. Crowley, Everett; B. J. Angelle, Seattle; C. S. Parker, Spokane; J. B. Hagen, Spokane.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

That spirit of unity and companionship that comes from the different secret societies is very evident in this state among the Negro. The old and well established orders are in the lead with the newer ones coming in their turn. The Masonic order is in the lead both as to number of lodges and membership. There are two lodges in the state, working under the jurisdiction of Illinois and four under the grand lodge of Washington. All of them are in good working order and fully capable of caring for the sick and relieving the distress of any and all members of the order. The accompanying cut of the grand lodge members of this state will give the reader some idea of the flourishing condition the Masons are in in this state. The Grand United Order of Odd Fellows is spreading its benign influence in many communities of this state. A large number of the leading and influential men of the state are marshaled

under the banner of Friendship, Love and Truth. There are prosperous lodges at Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane and Roslyn. All of these lodges are doing much for their members and all have substantial treasuries. The Knights of Pythias have two lodges in the state that in all cases and under all circumstances exemplify the noble principles and sentiments that existed between Damon and Pythias. The Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World is a new order, but there are two large and prosperous herds that have escaped the hunters as they passed through the valley, and are doing homage to their Exalted Rulers when the hands point to the hour of eleven. The lodge at Seattle has 70 members, while the one at Yakima is not quite so large. There are a few other orders that have one or two branches in the state. It is safe to say that a member of any secret society will find a brother and co-worker in any of the larger towns of Washington.