

Nettie Asberry

by Abby Rhinehart

Nettie Craig was an African American woman. She was born in 1865 in Kansas. She was the youngest of six children.

Nettie started to play piano when she was eight. Nettie supported giving women the right to vote. When she was 13, Nettie became the secretary for a local club that supported women's suffrage.

At the time, most women and African Americans did not go to college. But Craig went to school at the University of Kansas. She got a degree in music.

In 1893, Nettie moved to Tacoma, Washington. She played the organ and directed music for an African American church. In 1895, Nettie married Henry Asberry, an African American businessman. He owned the Tacoma Hotel Barbershop.

In 1910, Washington state gave women the right to vote. However, many places created extra barriers to stop African Americans from voting, like reading tests.

Nettie organized many clubs. She started a music club for children. Nettie also helped start the Tacoma National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This club fought for the rights of African American people. Nettie also stood up for the rights of African American men at the Fort Lewis army base.

Nettie Asberry died in 1968. She was 103.



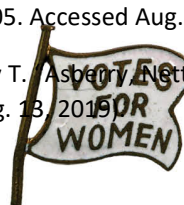
Nettie Asberry. Image via HistoryLink.org

Sources:

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Footer images, left to right: "Woman forever march," Washington State Historical Society Catalog ID Number: 2010.151.4;
"Woman's suffrage pin," Washington State Historical Society Catalog ID Number: C2008.0.132; "Votes for women: official
organ of Washington Equal Suffrage Association," Washington State Historical Society Catalog ID Number 2000.104.38.14