



Susie Revels Cayton



Senator Hiram Revels



Horace Cayton

Susie Cayton received a college degree in journalism and wrote stories, one of which was published in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* in 1900. The *Sydney B.C. Independent* described her as a “writer of force and ability.” She was prominent in the upper segment of the black social set and active in community affairs and charities. But her most unique position was that of associate publisher of *The Republican*, a black newspaper she ran with her husband Horace.

Horace Cayton came to Seattle in 1894, interested in pursuing a journalism career. Shortly thereafter, he became a political reporter for *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. But his true desire was to publish a newspaper for the black community. To that end, he leased the only black newspaper in Seattle, *The Standard*, which had been published by Britt Oxendine. As soon as Cayton started printing *The Standard*, a barrage of attacks against state and local officials began. The local black population was so alarmed by the virulence of Cayton's editorials that it drew up a set of resolutions to publicly disavow him and his policies. Oxendine took direct action against Cayton by pulling the lease out from under him and removing the printing equipment.

That just spurred Cayton on to start *The Republican* in 1894. This paper was a forum for his pro-civil rights and staunch Republican political viewpoint. In the 1800s the Republican party -- the party of Lincoln -- was the voice of liberation for black people. As a result, blacks almost unanimously voted Republican.

Susie Revels Cayton was also strongly committed to equality for blacks. Some believe she was the driving force behind her husband's political fervor. In a practical sense, Susie and Horace's marriage was mutually beneficial. Horace provided Susie a means of escaping the South, and Susie, the daughter of a senator, gave Horace social status. Together they were a formidable team as publisher and associate publisher of *The Republican*.