

Listed among single men in Seattle in 1889, was John Thomas Gayton. But he soon found it was better to live a shared existence, thus he married. He and his wife Louise became the parents of four children - three sons and a daughter. Their daughter was also named Louise and would become the mother of Dr. Donald Phelps, former Chancellor of the Seattle Community College System with three campuses. He is currently Chancellor of the California Community System.

More than any other pioneering urban family in Seattle, the Gayton family, through its three sons, John, Thomas and Leonard, through more grandsons and great-grandsons, and granddaughters and great-granddaughters, there is no genealogical tree that has the branches and stems as the Gaytons.

Four grandsons, John, Phil, Gary and Carver have become very successful as professionals and businessmen. So, too, have some Gayton women, including Guela, Sylvia and daughter-in-law, Willetta, especially. These types of successes are directly attributable to the standards set by Papa John Thomas whose record of employment went from waiter to librarian in the Federal Courthouse.

Looking toward the future again, one is compelled to observe, come Washington State's Bicentennial Celebrations, there will be many, many, many John Thomas and Louise Gayton descendants here to provide leadership and numerical support.

The first stop out West was in Southern California for Isiah Allen and his wife. It was from there they moved to Washington Territory early in 1889. He came first, liked what he saw, then sent for his wife Mary. They soon became active in helping establish the African Methodist Church. Coming from the wife's side of the family that helped establish the first such church ever in America, back in Pennsylvania in 1794, it was only natural to participate in Seattle.



*The John Thomas Gayton Family*