



Her husband, Charles A. Williams, moved to Tacoma in 1916 from Chicago. His father was Walter F. Williams, Sr., a railroad porter; and his mother was Ellen Powell Williams. Ellen's mother, Blanche L. Gaston, had been a resident of Tacoma since 1912. She was a retired nurse and was active in the Eastern Star and the Pentecostal Church at 25th and Tacoma Avenue.

At one time Mrs. Gaston owned a large home which still stands at 1037 S. Trafton Street. During one period, five generations lived in that house at the same time: Mrs. Gaston and her brother Charles Parker; Ellen and her husband the Reverend Percy Jones; Charles and Helen Williams and their children, Charlotte, Sidney and Carol; plus Charles' sisters and brothers. The Williams/Hollowell clan is still very much a part of Tacoma. Members of the family can be found throughout the Puget Sound

SPOKANE

Looking Back with Pride

In the Spokane region's pioneering period, many doors here as elsewhere were firmly shut to blacks, who built a world of their own around family, friends, churches, clubs and organizations. One black person's door was always open to another, and food, a warm bed for a newcomer or traveler, and companionship could be counted on.

These were hard-working people, laboring as barbers, janitors, waiters, drivers and coachmen, cooks, dressmakers, servants, bootblacks, housekeepers and porters. There were also a sprinkling of other occupations, including pastor, editor, physician, baker, attorney, electrician, cowboy, gardener, brickmason and stonemason. Their work was targeted toward building a future foundation for