

Hawkins would go home and study the law. He also studied with Judge Isaac Hall and W.A. Slate, an attorney. His hard work paid off in 1895 when he was admitted to practice in the King County Bar. He was the first black person in the state of Washington to be admitted to the bar without prior certification.

Hawkins handled both civil and criminal cases, but his most renowned suits involved racial discrimination. He sued many restaurants and other public places for refusing to serve blacks. Often he won his case -- but was awarded a mere \$1 in damages by the court. He was heart to say, "It's the principle, not the damages, we're after."

Hawkins became so successful at his practice that he bought a house on Capitol Hill and was later appointed the first black judge pro tem in Seattle.



Senator of the United States, H.R. Revels of Mississippi, Susie Cayton's father (sitting far left).

Equally concerned with civil rights, but more outspoken, was Horace Cayton. Born a slave in Mississippi in 1859, Cayton was sent to school by his father after emancipation. He continued his education at Alcorn College where he studied under Senator Hiram Revels, a renowned black Senator. Senator Revels' daughter, Susie, also went to Alcorn College, where it is assumed she met Horace.

It was very unique for a black man to rise from slavery to a college education, but it was doubly unique for a black woman to have a higher education. Most women were caught up in the demands of day-to-day survival. During slavery women had suffered severe exploitation. After emancipation, they faced the dual tasks of rebuilding their broken self-esteem and surviving in a generally hostile environment.