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Ella Carter was a talented hardworking woman, whose health was so good she refused to retire even at the age of 92, seeing a doctor only twice in 69 years. Arriving in Tacoma in 1903, Mrs. Carter was featured in the Tacoma News Tribune while living at 1612 S. Yakima Avenue.

James Hollowell came to Tacoma in 1905 from Little Rock, Arkansas. He worked as a waiter at the old Tacoma Hotel and in 1916 was proprietor of the Mount Tacoma Billiard Room at 1327-1/2 Broadway. Another Hollowell, Eliphas, lived in Tacoma since 1920. He was proprietor of Hollowell Auto Laundry, 910 Court C in 1926. He also wrote a book in 1929 entitled Census and History of Tacoma and Pierce County Negroes, State of Washington.

Eliphas Hollowell and his wife raised their niece, Helen Young and her brothers Edward, Frank and John when their mother died. Edward became a local architect and graduate of the London Royal School of Architecture who designed the Colored Women's Clubhouse at 23rd and Yakima.

Helen Young's daughter, Charlotte Williams, lived with "Uncle and Auntie" Hollowell at 1613 South J Street, in the same house in which her mother and uncles were raised.

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 region.



*Blanche Gaston*