



*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.

In addition to keeping the house in order and raising the children, Black women were expected to help their husbands in their professions. Women were encouraged to bring home additional income as well.