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## Gayton family papers

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This document forms part of the Preliminary Guide to the Gayton Family Papers. To find out more about the history, context, arrangement, availability and restrictions on this collection, click on the following link:

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GAYTON FAMILY PAPERS  
Acc. No. 850-1

GUIDE

This collection of newspaper clippings, programs and other memorabilia was presented by members of the Gayton family of Seattle, Washington, to the Afro-American Project in the University of Washington Libraries, in 1968. It measures .21 cubic feet.

The materials in this accession document three generations of the Gayton family, beginning with John Thomas Gayton, ca.1869-1954, who migrated to Seattle in 1889. The family has been prominent in Seattle's African American community since the early 1900s. John T. Gayton was appointed bailiff under Cornelius Holgate Hanford, the first United States District judge of the state of Washington. He continued in this position under succeeding U. S. District judges, while also holding a dual appointment as law librarian for the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. He also helped found the First A.M.E. Church of Seattle. Carver Gayton, Gary Gayton and Donald Phelps, third generation members of the family, have made noted contributions in athletics, law, and education.

This accession spans the period 1920 to 1968, with the majority of the items focusing on the athletic, educational and professional achievements and the social activities of family members during the years 1954-1968. The accession is divided into Gayton family papers and four subgroups: Carver Gayton, Gary Gayton, John J. Gayton and John Thomas Gayton.

**RELATED MATERIAL**

Related accessions include tape recorded interviews conducted by Larry Gossett for the Afro-American Project with John J. Gayton (acc. no. 4784-1), Leonard Gayton (acc. no. 4736-1) and Virginia Clark Gayton (John J. Gayton's wife) (acc. no. 4737-1). John J. Gayton (acc. no. 4746-001) discusses his father, John Thomas, and his own personal history and describes the conditions for Blacks in Seattle, ca. 1910-1950. Leonard Gayton, the youngest son of John Thomas, also discusses his father as well as the Communist influence on young Blacks during the 1920s. He describes Black social life in Seattle, ca. 1900-1945.

Virginia Clark Gayton, member of another pioneer Black Seattle family, recounts her family history and education and discusses employment opportunities and social conditions for Blacks in Seattle. She comments on the social role of the church in the Black community. In 1970, Mrs. Gayton was interviewed a second time for the Afro-American Project by Richard Berner. A transcribed copy of this interview is included in acc. no. 4737-2. Mrs. Gayton was also interviewed in 1977 for the *Black Women Oral History Project* sponsored by The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe College of Harvard University. A transcribed copy of all interviews from that project is held separately in Manuscripts and University Archives.

### Gayton Family Tree

John Thomas Gayton m. (ca. 1901) Magnolia Scott  
(ca. 1869-1954) (ca. 1883-ca. 1953)

John J. Gayton  
m.  
Virginia Clark

James A. Gayton

Louise Gayton  
m.  
?? Phelps (divorced)

Leonard C. Gayton  
m.  
?????

Tony Phelps Donald Phelps Stanley Phelps

m.  
???Adams

Peter Gayton

Guela Gayton Sylvia Gayton John Gayton Gary Gayton Philip Gayton Carver Gayton Leonard Gayton Elaine Gayton  
m. m. m. m. m. m. m.  
H. Hume ?? Wesley Mona Lombard ??Whitehead

Virginia Hume

m.  
O. Johnson

Gayle Johnson

Note: This family tree is not complete, nor are all the people included covered in the the collection.

GAYTON FAMILY  
Accession No. 850-1

INVENTORY

<u>Box/Folders</u>		<u>Dates</u>
1/1	CORRESPONDENCE	1931
1/2	PROGRAM	1962
1/3	PUBLICATIONS <i>Score</i> Miscellaneous	May 1960 1920-1964
1/4	CLIPPINGS	1936-1968
	<u>Subgroups</u>	
	GAYTON, CARVER	
1/5	Photograph 1968	
1/6	Programs and Other Printed Matter	1959-1960
1/7	Clippings	1954-1961
	GAYTON, GARY	
1/8	Program	1962
1/9	Publication <i>Score</i>	August 1960
1/10	Clippings	1955-1965
	GAYTON, JOHN J.	
1/11	Certificates and Ephemera	1938-1944
1/12	Programs	1940-1942
1/13	Clippings	1944-1959

Subgroups (cont.)

Box/Folders

Dates

GAYTON, JOHN THOMAS

1/14	Certificate	n.d.	
1/15	Program		1965
1/16	Clippings		1951-1954