Noah Washington, John Washington, Nettie Washington Douglass, and her son, Douglas Washington Morris, are the direct descendants of Booker T. Washington. Nettie and her son, Douglas, also being the direct descendants of Civil Rights Leader, Frederick Douglass.

Nettie’s paternal great grandfather, David T. Howard, was the first licensed mortician in the state of Georgia and a survivor of the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre. The shared clan of Washington-Douglass have deep roots in the city of Atlanta that run through the city to this day.

David T. Howard rose from slavery at his birth in Crawford County, Georgia in 1849, to being called “Atlanta’s most beloved citizen and the city’s pioneer businessman” in the Atlanta Daily World’s obituary of him in 1935.

Howard was a noted philanthropist and civic activist and his efforts and contributions included support of the Butler Street YMCA, Big Bethel AME Church and education on behalf of Booker T. Washington High School and the Atlanta University Center.

Howard, who took the name of his slave master after the Civil War, worked as a railroad porter in Atlanta before becoming an undertaker, with his mortuary business eventually making him one of the city’s first black millionaires.

He was a founder of the city’s first black-owned bank, Atlanta State Savings Bank.