

- Thelma Hayes Thornton, RN '63 graduate of the Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing, Durham, NC

I am the daughter of Lucious Hayes and Pearlie Bass Hayes and was born in Person County, North Carolina. I was the fifth of eight children and was educated in the Person County Schools. I graduated from Person County High School in 1955. Later I entered Durham technical school (now Durham Technical Community College) and became a licensed Practical Nurse. I worked at Duke University Hospital, in Durham, North Carolina, for three years.

I married the love of my life, Tom Thornton, Jr., in 1959. We were blessed with three daughters.

I applied to Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing (LHSN) and graduated in the Class of 1936. I was one of the first married students allowed to attend, along with my roommate Yvonne Spencer. I passed the State Board of Nursing Examination on the first attempt and continued my training in public health. I've been employed as a school nurse, in the Vance County School System and later in the Granville County School System in Oxford, North Carolina. I was also a nurse in a doctor's office and a camp nurse at Camp Oak Hill in Oxford, North Carolina.

I am a member of many church ministries and civic organizations, and I most recently became a member of the Trustee Board of the Granville Health System.

I am grateful for the excellent training I received from the faculty and staff of LHSN and would like to thank them, the wonderful students I met, and my husband for their unwavering support, which gave me the incentive to stay and complete nursing school.