



Black History Month

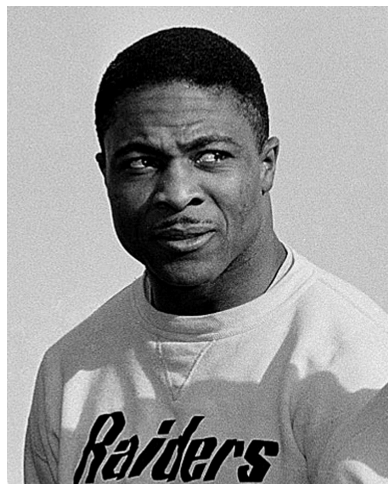
Community Voices: Carla

My name is Carla, and I was born in Texas during Jim Crow. As a librarian, historian, and genealogist, I can trace my people to 1874 Texas. But, like many African Americans, I haven't been able to trace them beyond the brick wall of slavery. Many in my family worked picking cotton as children to supplement their household and purchase school supplies. My mom, uncle, grandmother, and great-grandmother lived in a multi-generational home, where neighbors fed them when they were hungry. My ambitious grandmother worked



Great-grandmother Nana and me.

as a maid for a wealthy family in McKinney, Texas. She encouraged education and worked hard to impart these values to my mom and uncle. My grandmother finished 8th grade, and my mom and uncle finished high school. My uncle Clem was the first in our family to finish college. He went on to serve as an officer in the Army and as a player on the Oakland Raiders football team. I finished graduate school and my children have all gone to college.



My uncle Clem Daniels, who played for the Oakland Raiders from 1961-1967.

I'm proud enslaved African Americans were tenacious. It was incredible so many lived through enslavement and 100 years of Jim Crow and beyond. They fought for justice and expanded the 'we' in the constitution. They used their agency to continually make a way out of no way. They built beautiful lives, lives that people in my generation, and my children's generation, and their children, can build on.



My daughter Amber, son-in-law Anthony, and granddaughters Isabella and Olivia.



Me with my sons Alex and Taylor.

Black History Month can be every month. It teaches all of us about the humanity in our country that was suppressed and marginalized, beautiful and sad stories of terror and violence, featuring courage and humanity that stirs the conscience, history that is still under attack and feared.

