



## Lorraine Khazan

I would like to share a small part of my family history. My Mother's family has lived in this area since before the 1700's and members are documented in the first census. Her family identified as African American (Colored, Negro, Black), Indian (Native American) and European. She was also related to Paul Cuffee. My family has always been involved in politics or civil rights in even the smallest manner. My grandfather was a local poll captain as well a business owner (Barber) who along with other Colored American businessmen made plans for creating franchises for their businesses to encourage more opportunities for Colored people.

My Father was born on the British African island of Saint Helena. He came with his Grandmother, Mother, Aunt and Cousin as British African citizens under the sponsorship of his Mother's brother John Timm who came to America working a whaling ship. My Father was a baby, and they came through Ellis Island, when Uncle John sent for them. One day while going through my Father's bureau when he had passed, I found their original passport. They were Asian, European and African, I have been told.

I have been active in my community, I have volunteered on the Board of the Women's Center, The Community Health Center, and the YWCA. I was President of the Martha Briggs Educational Order Club, and the Council of Woman's Organizations. Also, I am a Past Worthy Matron of J. W. Hood, Prince Hall Order of the Eastern Stars. I have been involved in community activities since I was 17 years old. In my life, I have luckily been mentored by some of New Bedford's community leaders who are family and friends.

My husband who is originally from North Carolina, has lived here for more than fifty years and is one of the four young men who started the Sit-In Movement on February 1, 1960. Here he was one of the organizers of the first Black History celebration at the Bethel AME Church. In additional to this, he convinced the New Bedford School Department to approve him to teach the first Black History under the public schools, as part of their adult education program. Over the years, he has continued to teach and lecture to all grades from preschool to college in this area and nationally. Usually he has volunteered his time.