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The Long Struggle for Representation: Oral Histories of African Americans in Congress

Janie Kelley
Roger Addison describes the role his aunt played in his career and helping other people in his family.

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My aunt, she was born Janie Kelley out of Bishopville, South Carolina. And as far as I know she came here as a, at a young age to try to better herself. And I think that the only job that she ever had was here at the U.S. House of Representatives. She started as a domestic—I don’t know her position, but I’m quite sure it wasn’t a fancy position at the time. I believe my aunt worked here pretty close to 60 years. She was married. She had two sons, Eddie and Carl Moore. And she married a young man that worked here, Jimmy Galman. And they both worked here and she worked her way up to head chef in the Members’ and Family Dining Room. Not only did she do that, she was very instrumental in grooming a lot of individuals that work here on the Hill, such as myself—just so many people that she, she helped and mentored to become productive citizens of this world and this country. A lot of them work here now and they tell me the times that I didn’t even realize she helped push them to get jobs here. She was very influential. I guess when you’re feeding somebody, you got their ear. And she was good at that. So, she was a lovely woman. She also had a famous bread pudding that the Members here loved.