

Muriel Morisey

Senior Legislative Assistant, Representative Shirley Chisholm of New York

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Family History

Muriel Morisey describes the significance of her family history.

Interview recorded April 19, 2017

I think the impression I had was of pride, and that we had a, we had a history of, of people coming out of slavery and having prosperous lives in the sense that they were—my ancestors, as I—this is how I capture it—they went from slavery to prosperity, and there was never a period of poverty. And I think part of what my family wanted to convey to me is that that's something to be proud of. That despite everything they were educated, they were homeowners, they were very well established and highly regarded members of their community. And slavery—having been enslaved is nothing to be ashamed of, but it didn't necessarily determine everything that would happen afterward because even formerly enslaved people could achieve and did achieve a great many things. The simple fact of home ownership and, and material comfort, living—not being poor, those were, those were big deals. And I think my family wanted to—both my mother and father—wanted, wanted all of us to understand that and appreciate it.