Judge Capers is loved and well respected by her fellow Clevelanders and will always be.

By BOB FERGUSON

Contributing writer

In 1913, there were several notables African Americans born and some of the world's finest leaders grew up from among this elite group of babies.

One was Olympic track star Jesse Owens, born on September 12th and two great women, Rosa Parks the mother of civil rights, born on February 4th, and Cleveland' s own trailblazer

Eugenia Mae Murrell, born January 11th, the first black women ever elected to a city council in a major metropolitan city.

In 1949, Jean Murrell Capers made history when she was elected to the Cleveland City Council and was one of the nation's first African American women to ever hold such an office. After her stint in city council, attorney Capers, served the city of Cleveland in numerous capacities. In January of 1977, she was appointed as judge to The Cleveland Municipal Court by then Governor James A. Rhodes. Although she was elected several times, she makes very clear that she was never a politician but a student of American government.

At 99, she is still very active in her church, Holy Trinity Baptist where she is a charter member. And right before this interview, adorned in a fancy bright blue hat, she had just driven from church in her late model Honda automobile.

At 99, she is still seen all around town sharply dressed, sporting her signature hats, attending meetings, mixing with friends and still driving her little Honda courageously.

Judge Capers said she enjoys practicing law which keeps her very busy and she has no plans to retire any time soon.

We talked about how much has been said about her father Edward E. Murrell and his Murrell Printing Company, instrumental along with W.O. Walker in establishing the Call and Post during its' early struggling years, but very little has ever been said about her mother and siblings

She said her mother, Dolly Ferguson, met her father Edward in the late 1800s at Kentucky State University
where they both graduated as teachers.

Her father finished in 1901 and her mother in 1903. They married in 1904. She said there were 5 children born to this couple starting with Edward Jr., William, herself, Dolly and her baby sister Alice who is frequently seen around town with the judge having lunch or dinner. She also said her mother attended the Kentucky State Normal School for Colored People in Georgetown and

that her mother's father, William Ball Ferguson, was born and educated in Cincinnati, Ohio where he grew up to be a college professor.

Finally, I asked her, looking at today's economics and family crises, what she thought was the solution to many of our problems? She stated that the very essence of the progress needed for Black folks still rests in getting a good education which is unquestionably the best asset they can achieve today.

She predicted that President Barack Obama will be re-elected this year and that his wife Michelle is a tremendous woman, the epitome of what every young African American female should strive to be.

A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., "Jean" as she is known takes pleasure in telling everyone she and her sorority are the same age. They will both be100 in 2013.

She said that this year she is going out of town to celebrate her birthday and where she is going is "no body's business," because she is going there to get her some rest.

Judge Capers is loved and well respected by her fellow Clevelanders and will always be.

"Happy Birthday from The Call and Post."