

## **We Are Here Part 2**

Today in Part Two of We Are Here, Love explains what happened to the Karankawa People and the choices they had to make to save themselves. She also sets the record straight about using the word savage as a descriptor of native people.

**Love:** In the late 1800s the settlers were trying to take the land. I know that our ancestors were trying to stay in the area that they know, um, despite being pushed around and having their land taken from them. They were pushed into hiding, that's why eventually the history says that we were extinct. But our ancestors intermarried, they changed their last names, they went into missions for safety and protection. Like, there were different things they did in order to stay around they no longer had their land or their water.

**Heather:** Will you address the belief that the Karankawa were an aggressive people?

**Love:** Our tribe, our ancestors were, I'm sorry I am getting emotional.

Heather: That's okay.

**Love:** Our ancestors were said to be savages because of the way they reacted to settlers coming into their territory. My comment when it comes to that is, how would people feel now, especially nonnatives, if somebody opened the door and went into your house? How would that make that person feel? Would they just sit there?

It's almost like a survival mode. You are going to react, defend and protect your house. I mean, our tribe wasn't the only people. It's written in history that natives were savages because they were literally defending where they lived. We didn't have doors; we had spaces (laugh). And

somebody coming into your space and terrorizing and killing, and trying to take resources from them. Of course they are going to react. They are going to react the way anybody, any human being would react. It's not one single, ya know, race or ethnicity that's going to react like that. I believe as a human being we all react the same way when it comes to somebody coming into our homes.

**Heather:** In Part Three of We Are Here, Love will explain the ways in which her circle is bring awareness back to the Karankawa Heritage.

Heather Stark, Corpus Christi.