

# Recording of Seminary

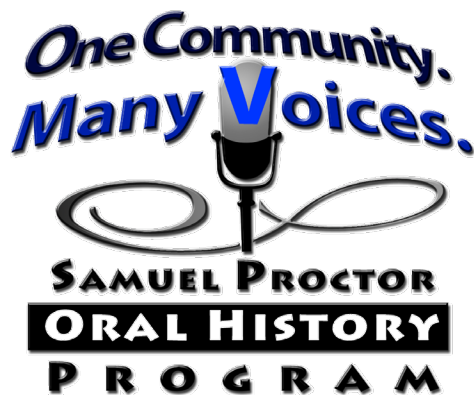
**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)**

**CAT-093**

**Recorded by:**

**Edith Frances Canty Wade**

**May 29, 1974**



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**CAT 093 Seminary**  
**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)**  
**Recorded by Edith Francis Canty Wade on May 29, 1974**  
**28 minutes | 11 pages**

**Abstract:** This recording is a collection of testimonies from youth from the ninth through the twelfth grade at their Seminary class, an organization of the Church of Latter-day Saints. Taught by Frances Wade, these students meet every day before school to learn about the tenets and history of the Mormon Church. At this gathering, they all share their testimony and express gratitude for the church and their families and friends. Speakers include Denise Paris, Ronnie Petty, Ronald Canty, Randy Blue, Anna King, Mark Sanders, and Johnny Beck.

**Keywords:** [Catawba Nation; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Religion; Religious gatherings]

**SAMUEL PROCTOR**  
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CAT 093

Interviewee: Recording of Seminary

Interviewer: Edith Francis Canty Wade

Date of Interview: May 29, 1974

U1: I'd like to welcome all y'all out at the seminary this morning. I'm glad to see ones that are here, I'd like to begin this morning by asking **Eleanor** to give us the opening prayer.

E: Father in heaven, we're thankful this morning that we come out to the Seminary. And that we'll have a good time, and that we'll all get up and bear our testimony in the things that we know that are true. And bless us when we go to the beach that we'll all have a good time, and that no harm or danger come of us when we go. And bless the sick, that they'll get well soon. And bless the boys in the service, that while they're away from home, no harm or danger will come over them. In Jesus Christ, Amen.

U1: We will now sing from page 206, "Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel."

[Choir sings hymn "Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel", accompanied by piano]

U1: We will now begin our testimony.

DP: I'd like to say my testimony this morning, 'cause I know that this is a true church, and the gospel we have is for us and for the things that we live. If we do right, we able to live with our Father in heaven when we die. And I'm really, truly thankful for every one of you, and for all the things you've done for me, and for the problems which I've had that you've helped me with. I want everyone to know that I love you, and if 'you ever have any problems, it doesn't matter. Come to me or anybody in this class. Come to me and I'll try to help ya. I know that sometimes, as young people, we have problems that we think that the adults just don't understand, and we really need each other. And I'm glad that we have the love in

our class, that we feel like brothers and sisters, and I know that the Prophet who stands at the head of our church, he knows us, and that he'll teach us right and he'll never lead us astray from the teachings God wants us to have. I'm also thankful to Johnny and Ellen, as our president and vice-president, for the things that they do. They are really a good example. Mostly Ellen, because she smiles at me most of the time. That makes me feel good. And all of you. I know that sometimes it's hard to get out of a bad mood, but if you come and you really listen, it's worth your while and that sometimes you think, "Well, I don't know why I'm doing this. And it's not going to benefit me in any way." It benefits us more than anybody who doesn't come half the time. I'm thankful for Ronnie, for the things he does for me, and for the closeness I've grown to him over this year. And I'm thankful for Paula, because she's always smiling, and she always has this certain way that she walks, and it just tickles me. And I'm thankful for you, too, Ann, because I know sometimes you lead astray from the gospel. And I really love you, and I want you to stay close to me, and close to the gospel. I say these things in Jesus Christ, amen.

RP: I'd like to stand and bear my testimony because I know this church is true, and I know the gospel's true. I enjoy coming to the seminary this year when I started. It finally got me started, and I'm proud to come. I know that the True Prophet stands at the head of this church, and I know that he gets through revelations from God. I'd like to say that I'm very glad to take part in this church, and to have the activities, and meet new friends, and thankful for Ronald and Johnny. They

helped me a lot, and for all my friends, 'cause they're the ones who kept me going and keep me going strong. And I'd like to say that I think I'm improving a little bit, and if I keep on staying with the right people and all my friends here, I will keep going strong. I say this in the Lord's Name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

RC: I'd like to stand before you and bear my testimony at this time. I'm glad to say that I am proud to be a part of this seminary today with you, and I'm thankful for all the friends I have down here in Catawba. I'm thankful for my parents, because they brought me up in this church. And my sisters and brothers, 'cause they try, they try to teach church. And especially one of my brothers. He really changed in the past five weeks. I can't even say nothing to him now. Everything out of the way. **He's mad.** I really am thankful to be in this church, 'cause I know that it is true. I'm thankful for the bishop, 'cause he helps in my problems a lot, too. I'm especially thankful for Mike, because me and him somehow just get along pretty good. And I'm especially thankful for Aunt Frances, 'cause she comes to pick us up and you know what she's saying. And I say these things in Jesus Christ, amen.

P: My name is **Paula** [inaudible 8:34] and I'd like to stand and bear my testimony because I know this church is true and I'm glad to be a part of it. I'm glad that I've active in this church and got all of y'all as friends to help me and all. And I'm not improving that much, but I'm trying and y'all helping me. If y'all help, I'll improve a lot more. I'm glad that I got Ronnie to come to the seminary. I hope he's going to do a little bit better than he is. And I'm proud of all of my brothers, and my family and I'm proud of y'all, and I'm thankful for Aaron, who talked me into coming to

the seminary and I'm thankful for Aunt Francis to come to pick me up. And uh, I know the prophet lives, and I'm really glad to be a part of y'all's church and hope to stay in it. I say this all in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

T: I'd like to stand and bear my testimony. My name's **Tammy Belt**, and I know this church is true. There's not any doubt in my mind it's not. Not so long ago, I didn't really think it was true and I kept looking at it and trying to find something wrong with it. I thought maybe every other church thought theirs was true, too, and how could I be sure. I kept looking, and I couldn't find anything wrong with it, so it has to be true. Now I know it is. The power of the priesthood—no other church has that. And I've seen it work, and I know it's true. I'm thankful for each one of y'all and that I was raised in this church. I don't know what I would do without this church and without y'all as being my friends. And I want each one of you to know that I love you, and I say this in Jesus Christ.

AK: My name is Anna King, and I'd like to stand up here and bear my testimony. I know this church is true. If I'm not up here bearing my testimony, John's either got me giving a prayer or something like that! I'm thankful for my parents, for my brothers and sister that I have. I'm thankful that I could come to seminary and this, I think, is our last year in seminary like this. I'm thankful for my parents because they try to help me, and Johnny, I'm especially thankful for him. I'm thankful for Aunt Frances. And I want to change, but it's just so hard [voice cracking] I can't. But as God keeps up with me, I can. Because the things that we're going through today are so hard. Because you want to live right, and you

can't. But you can if you really try. And most of the people around here—they want to live right and it's hard for them, too. But if you just stick with it, you can. I'm thankful for every one of y'all in here, that y'all are my friends. And I really love you a lot. And I want y'all to be very special to me. And I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

TT: My name is **Tim Trotson**, and I'd like to stand and bear my testimony and say that I know that this is the true church. And I know that there is a true Prophet that stands head of this church. And I know that we all at some time don't feel like we agree with some of the things, the standards and stuff. I know I feel that way, but he is a true Prophet. I'd like to say that I'm thankful for my parents. I haven't been a member of this church all that long, but I can really tell that this is the true church. I'm thankful for the priesthood that I hold, and I'm thankful for each one of you that you always help me somehow every day. It seems like when I don't get up and come to seminary, the day just don't go off right for me. I know that I do have problems sometimes, and I always don't live as good as I should. But I would like for each one of y'all to try to help me so I can maybe live just right. I know no one's perfect, but I'd like to be as close to perfect as I could. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

AT: My name is Ann **Tuther** and I'm very thankful that I could be here today to stand and bear my testimony. And I'd like to say that seminary is a great part of my life, and I don't know what I'd be like if it hadn't been for me starting come to seminary again. It's all because of Denise and Lynn and Tammy and Francis. I'm very

thankful for them, because this morning Denise and Lynn told me something, and now I know that I do have somebody to rely on if I have a problem. I'm thankful that Frances can come around when she doesn't even feel like getting out of bed. I know that sometimes she can be so sick that she just wishes she could just stay in bed. I know sometimes I'm not sick at all, and I just lay there and don't come to seminary. And I know it isn't right. I'm thankful for my mother that she can stand behind the family and not give up ... [tearful pause] I know that ... I know that my mother loves us children, and that sometimes she'll go without things she needs so she can get us what we want. I know that I haven't been treating my mother as I should be. I'm gonna really try, and I'd like to ask all of you to help me to try to get my life straightened out and to get me back on the right track again. I'm especially thankful for Johnny, and I know everybody always says that, but Johnny is a great blessing to all of us. And I'd like for all of you to know that I do really love you as my brothers and my sisters. And that all of you are a great help and a great blessing to me. And I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

LP: My name is Lynn **Paris**, and I'd like to be thankful for this opportunity that I can stand and bear my testimony. I know that this gospel is true. I'm thankful for all of you in this seminary class, that each one of you have a testimony that you know that the gospel is true. I'm thankful that people like Tammy can think out their minds if it really is true. And that they've found out for themselves that it is true. I'd like to say I'm thankful for each and every one of you. I'm thankful that each one



of us can be as brothers and sisters. I'd like to say that Ellen and Ann, that I love you two. And I can help you if you just ask me. I'd like to help you. And each one of us can—I know it's hard to in this life and this day, to try to live and be like you should be. I'd like to say that I'm thankful for my parents and that I know that if I live worthy, that someday, after we die, I'll be able to live with them in the celestial kingdom. I'm thankful for my brothers and sisters. I'm thankful for Frances, that she could be our seminary teacher and that she's helped us in so many ways. There's just no way to really thank her. I'm thankful for the bishop of this ward, that if we have a problem, that we can tell him and we know that he won't tell anybody else, and that he'll help us. I'm thankful for all the many blessings that my heavenly Father has given me in the past year. And I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

MS: I'd like to stand and bear my testimony, and my name's Mark Sanders. I know that this church is true, and I'm thankful to be a member of it, and I'm thankful for each and every one of y'all, especially Donny, and Tim and Randy. They're sort of like clowns around me. I'm thankful for Frances, that she can get up in the mornings to come get us. I know sometimes she can't even talk when she comes. I'm thankful for Johnny and all of y'all. I'm thankful to be a member of this church. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

D: My name is Don [inaudible 18:26] and I'd like to stand and bear my testimony. I know this church is true, and I'm thankful for the priesthood I hold. I know I don't always do right, and I'd like to try to do better than I do now. I'm thankful for all of

y'all, and Johnny, 'cause y'all help me a lot. I hope that one day maybe I can do better in church than I'm doing right now. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

RB: My name is Randy Blue, and I'm thankful to be a member of this church. You can really tell of the Spirit, the heavenly Father in this testimony we make today. I'd like to say that I'm thankful for each and every one of y'all, 'cause y'all help me and my problems. I'm not really living the way I'm supposed to, but I try real hard. I'm thankful for my father that he helps me along, too. I'm thankful for Frances that she's able to, uh, come pick us up in the morning. She's really a mother to all of us. And I pray that all of you will have strength in the gospel, that if all need any help, well, get me. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

JB: My name's Johnny Beck, and I'd like to stand before you and bear my testimony to of truthness of the gospel today, that there is a Prophet that stands at the head of our church, Prophet Spencer W. Kimball, and that Prophet Joseph Smith was the very first prophet, and that he received the revelations from God. I'm very thankful for Francis Wade for all the many trials that she goes through teaching us. If you'd only know her, then you'd really appreciate her. Then you'd know the problems that she has and all the things she goes through. Because anytime any of us do anything or if she hears anything about us, and she just about worries to death until she finds out that we're doing better. Even if it's in school or any kind of work we're doing. I just wish that everybody in this world could have, uh, really have just one year of Francis Wade and could really appreciate the blessings that

she restores upon us. I'm very thankful for my mother and father bringing me up in this church, and for the guidelines they set down for my life, my goals and standards. I have a lot of long-range goals to be married in the temple. I'm really looking forward to that, because there's no greater thing than to be sealed forever. I'm thankful for each one of you, for the love and help that you give me. I love each and every one of you. I know every day coming home from work or something I'd ask Dean about Ronald and Ellen ... because I want them to do good so much ... But just because I ask about them, don't mean I don't care about nobody else. I enjoyed playing ball this year with Ronnie and Randy and Tim and all these boys. And I'd like to see these other boys get interested in the activities that the church sponsors, too, because they're really a great thing. You really won't be able to appreciate them until you take part yourself. You can listen to us boys talk about it, but you won't ever appreciate it until you're out there on the court, or out there on the baseball field really playing by yourself. You get to meet a lot of friends from the different wards and all over the state. It's just such a great feeling to see everybody having such great fellowship with one another. I'm thankful for what Ellen's given me this year as vice-president, and Donna as secretary. I'm very thankful for Ben and Denise and Tammy—for all the things they've done for me. For all the problems that they bring me. They strengthen me every day. I'm thankful for this church that we have to come to. Just to be able to worship the gospel. It is true to say that we're a different people from everybody else. How many people in this world do you see with the guidelines and

standards that we have in our lives and goals. You say something about Temple marriage around somebody, and they don't know what in the world it is. We've been taught it all our lives, and we just ignore it. I've learned a lot from the primary class that I teach from. I remember when Sister Perry gave a lecture about two weeks ago. The best way to learn is to let one of them teach. You let them tell something and then you get all of the—then you can see what they really gain from it, and you can see what you've done to them. If you see their weak points, then you know where they can be strengthened and that what to—I believe this represents us a pretty good bit. Saying that the things we're taught—let's see how good we are by turning around and teaching other people. I'm thankful for the bishop that stands at the head of this church, because nobody really knows how many problems he has. He just has one thing after another, and I think we should take it upon our shoulders to do what we can to make it easier for him. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

W: You have been listening to our seminary class which consists of youth from the ninth through the twelfth grade. And the first three, uh, students you listened to was Denise Paris, Ronnie Petty, and Ronald Canty. This seminary class is an organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The students meet five days per week for fifty minutes. They meet each morning before school. Some of the students live farther away from church than other, so they have to get up about 5:45 A.M. and leave home in order to get to church for the class. After class, part of them can ride the bus on to high school, and the other

students will have to be carried in the car, and I do this. I am also the teacher of this seminary class. One year we studied the Old Testament. One year we studied the New Testament. One year we studied about the restored church, which is our church, and the next year we studied the Book of Mormon. This is Francis Wade. I'm gathering oral history of the Catawba Indians for the University of Florida, and today is May 29, 1974.

[End of Interview]

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