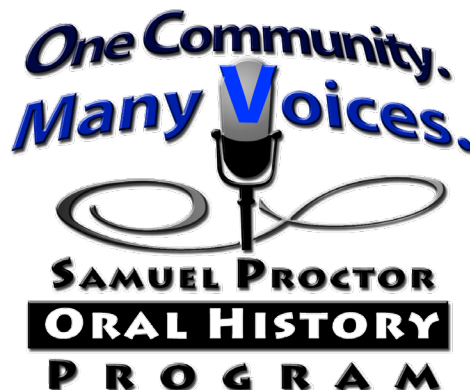


Hazel Faye George Griener

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-097**

Interview by:

**Edith Frances Canty Wade
November 24, 1974**



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19 minutes | 11 pages

Abstract: Faye Griener, with Nola Louella Harris Campbell present, discusses her family and her life on the Catawba reservation. She remembers the role of the church in providing fruit at Christmastime, and what life was like as a child. She explains her involvement with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She reflects on her educational and training experience, as well as some of the places she's lived in outside of the reservation. She also discusses her marriages and her children, and voting patterns, and how she takes pride in her Indian heritage.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; Nola Louella Harris Campbell; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Indian reservations; Mormon Church]

SAMUEL PROCTOR
ORAL HISTORY
P R O G R A M
University of Florida

CAT 097

Interviewee: Hazel Faye George Griener

Interviewer: Edith Frances Canty Wade

Date of Interview: November 24, 1974

W: This is Frances Wade. I live on Route 3, Box 304, Rock Hill, South Carolina. I'm gathering oral history of the Catawba Indians for the University of Florida. Today is November 24, 1974, and I'm talking with Faye Greiner. Faye, what is your full name?

G: Hazel Faye George Greiner.

W: When is your birthday?

G: November 19, 1935.

W: I would like to kind of identify Faye. She is not real tall, but she has coal-black hair, and she's a very good looking, very lovely Indian, I would say. She's not too heavy. Faye, where do you live?

G: I live at Route 2, Box 85, Mount Holly, South Carolina.

W: Who are your parents?

G: Marvin George and Evelyn George.

W: Are they Indians?

G: Yes.

W: Who are your grandparents from your parents' side? Your father first and then your mother.

G: J. P. George was my father's father, and his mother, which was dead when I was born, if I remember correctly, was Easter. My mother's mother was Edith Brown, and her father was Early Brown.

W: What brothers and sisters do you have?

G: I have five brothers and three sisters—two sisters.

W: Would you give us their names and the order that they were born, if you can?

G: Well, Howard, he's the oldest. He's two years older than I am, so he was born in 1933. No, Howard was born in 1931. Charlie was born in [19]33. I was born in [19]35, and Joanne's two years younger than I am, so she was born in [19]37. Let me see now, Phillip is five years younger than I am, so he was born in 1930 then—1940, right? That would be 1940. John, now I don't know how old John is. John must be—you would know how old John is, Frances. He lives right next to you, and I think he comes to visit you a lot. John must be about twenty-nine. I don't remember what year he was born, and then Susan's about a year or two younger than he is. Wayne's the baby, he's twenty—I think Wayne's twenty-five.

W: Are all of your brothers and sisters still alive, Faye?

G: Well, I have a brother and a sister dead, so that would make ten of us.

W: Your parents are alive?

G: Yes.

W: Do you have any idea how much Indian you have in you, Faye?

G: I think my grandmother on my daddy's side wasn't full-blooded, was she?

W: I really don't know.

G: But to my knowledge, I would say about three-fourths Indian.

W: Let's talk about you just a little bit. Can you remember any of the stories that you might have heard some of the older people talking about when you were growing up?

G: No, I don't remember any of them.

W: Well, what was it like at Christmastime or Thanksgiving? In just a few days, it will be Thanksgiving again. What was it like when you were growing up?

G: Well, I remember Christmas real well, but Thanksgiving doesn't stand out too good, but I remember Christmas more for the fruit we got, not for the gifts. I remember getting fruit—oranges and apples and nuts and candies and big clusters of grapes—raisins, rather, which you don't find anymore.

W: Faye, now you're talking about you got a lot of fruit. Do you remember getting any fruit from the Tribe or the church or—?

G: I remember getting fruit from the church or from somewhere, I don't remember now where it came from, but we did get fruit from somewhere.

W: Well, I'm just wondering myself. I can remember getting that also, but I don't know whether the Tribe provided it or the church. What provided it, Nola?

C: They appropriated money in Columbia for the Indians. Well, they set aside so much for Christmas. They set aside so much for deaths. They would go up and get their money at Christmastime, and they would buy fruit, and they would come to the church, and the committees and the Chief would sit there, and they would have to bag it up. Each and every one got one, even if it was a little tiny baby, even got a bag, too.

W: Nola seems to be a world of information, and I'm appreciative of her. Faye, what were some of your childhood duties that you had to perform when you were home?

G: Well, I remember when I was nine years old, my mother worked out, and we had a colored lady that came in and stayed with us, and I started cooking when I was

nine years old, and I had to stand on a crate to get up to the table, I was so small. That's what I did from then on: I cooked.

W: Well, when you were small, you had to carry water, didn't you?

G: Oh, yeah, we had to carry water to wash—washed on a washboard and hung the clothes out.

W: What about wood? Did you have to help get—?

G: Chop wood and go to the woods. I remember we used to take our horse and wagon, and we'd hook the wagon up and take the horse and wagon and go to the woods and, uh, load the wagon up and just turn the horse loose, and he'd come home by himself.

W: What kind of a house did you live in, Faye?

G: We lived in an old wood frame house, just four rooms.

W: Now, was this down on the old part of the reservation, or where was it?

G: No, this was on the new part of the reservation. When I was real small, now, we lived on the old reservation, and I think our house just had three rooms then, and I remember the river would get up and come up almost to the back door.

W: Well, I'm glad you mentioned that because I can remember that, also. When you moved onto the other part of the reservation, what kind of a house did you live in then?

G: A wood frame house. Daddy built it. I helped him—remember helping get on top of the house and put shingles on it.

W: Was this house larger than the first one?

G: Yeah, it was larger. The rooms were bigger. We had a little bit more room.

W: Are you a member of any church, Faye?

G: I belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

W: Are you real active in church?

G: Well, I wasn't. I'm getting back into church though.

W: Well, I know that you are because I see you real regular there. Let's talk about your schooling. How much schooling have you had?

G: Well, I think I completed the ninth grade. I was in the ninth grade at Rock Hill High School, and I had to stop to help my mother at home. I think Susan was a baby then. Mama had just had Susan, and she had to go back to the hospital, and she was real sick, and I had to help her. Then I went away to Cherokee, North Carolina, and I guess I just got homesick and had to come home.

W: How long did you stay in Cherokee?

G: I think I stayed up there about three months.

W: There were several of you who went, wasn't there?

G: Yeah, there was me and Charlie and uh—

W: Charlie is your brother.

G: Uh-huh, and Vivian Sanders and Roberta.

W: And they're sisters.

G: Yes, and **Mojave** Sanders, another sister. We all went. I don't know whether JoAnne went or not. I believe JoAnne did go. I remember we were cheerleaders up there, and we had such a good time.

W: Did you ever go to school down on the old reservation?

G: Oh, yeah. I remember going to school down there in a little two-room schoolhouse.

W: Who was your teacher?

G: Faye Cornwall.

W: Did you walk to school?

G: Yes, and I got sent home just about every day because I was so small when I first started. I was so little.

W: Did you eat lunch at school?

G: I don't remember whether we did or not. It's been so long, but I don't remember having a kitchen there, so I don't imagine we did.

W: What do you especially remember about school? Is there anything that stands out in your mind?

G: I remember, when I was going to school, the teacher whipping us with hickories 'cause we were so **bad** [laughter]

W: [inaudible 10:17] Was this at the old school?

G: At the old school. Dewey Harris and I used to get into little hair-pulling contests at school, and she'd have to whip us with the hickory.

W: And your parents, they didn't run to the teacher, did they?

G: No, they sure didn't. They appreciated her trying to make us mind.

W: Faye, I know that you have taken other training, and I know that you're taking some now. Would you tell me about this training that you're taking and under what program you're getting it?

G: Well, I lived in Michigan—I moved to Michigan in 1953, and I moved back to Rock Hill in 1969. While I was in Michigan, I started to take cosmetology, which is hair styling, and I got in quite a few hours up there, and I was going to school under the same program that I'm going to school now, which nobody didn't know—nobody knew that until I just mentioned it. And, uh, through **Manpower**. It was really hard then, though, because I had two real small children, and I was supporting them and going to school all day and working all night. And then I moved back here with the idea of transferring here to school. My tuition was fully paid then, and they wouldn't transfer me—they wouldn't transfer my hours or my tuition, so I couldn't get back in school because I couldn't afford it, and this was five—over five years ago. So just October 6, I started back to beauty school, and I'm going through Manpower again. I'm not working. I need to work, but I'm enjoying it. I'm getting a lot out of it, and I hope to be able to really use my training and to earn a good living. And I hope that the other that are there will all use theirs, too.

W: How many more Indians are in that same school that you're in, Faye?

G: There's five of us all together.

W: And there is one man?

G: One man, also. Raymond Harris.

W: What are some of your special likes, Faye?

G: Oh, I love to bowl, and I love to play golf. I love to play ball—I just love sports. I don't know, I guess I should have been a boy [Laughter]

W: Well, I know that you sew real well, too.

G: Yes, I sew. I love to sew. I've been quilting some.

W: Oh, you've been quilting, also? I know that you have worked. Where have you worked?

G: Well, when I first came to Rock Hill, I went to work at the industrial mill in the cloth room, and we worked on—what do you call it—production work. The more cloth you inspected, the more money you made. But if you didn't get forty hours, you wouldn't—you had to put in forty hours before you drew overtime. I got laid off there. I worked in the sewing room at different times between working there, and then I went to Everlock, and I worked there for two years making car parts, which I really liked. I enjoyed it. I got laid off there this past January, and then I went to work in the box factory, and I liked it there, but the place in North Carolina paid more money. It wasn't hard work.

W: Faye, do you own your own home?

G: No, I rent.

W: I know that you have been married. Where were you married?

G: In York, South Carolina.

W: And to whom were you married?

G: Dewey **Botterford**, the first time.

W: And do you have any children from that marriage?

G: I have two boys. Ted, he'll be twenty-two, uh, July, and Bruce, he'll be twenty-one in June.

W: And your second marriage?

G: I was married to George **Garland** in Michigan, and I have two children: Steve and—she's sixteen—and, did I say Steve?

W: Yes.

G: Steve, he's fourteen, and Kim, she's sixteen.

W: And you told me that your name is—

G: Grinner. I was married in [19]67, and it didn't work out, so—

W: Do you think that your children have more opportunities than you had when you were growing up? And if you think so, what are some of the opportunities you think that they've got that you didn't have?

G: Well, they have a better opportunity at school to get a better education. There are scholarships and everything now that if they work and make good grades, they can go on to college. They have more opportunities, too, through the church that we didn't have when we were younger. They get to go off to different places and play basketball and softball and things like this, which I think helps them to grow into better people.

W: Faye, I know that you are an active citizen of the community you live in. Are you interested in PTA?

G: Well, I used to be when I was in Michigan, now, I was vice president of our PTA. But since I've come to Rock Hill, I don't—well, I was working second shift, and I never got a chance, and up until I started school, I worked second shift, and that's been just a month and a half ago. Since I've been on the first shift of work, going to school all day, well, I get to go and do more things with Steve than I did before—and bring him to MIA, which he never got to go to MIA when I was

working, and I get to come to church when they have church at night and things like that.

W: Are you registered to vote, Faye?

G: No, I haven't registered to vote.

W: So, you have never voted?

G: I voted one time. I voted when President Kennedy was elected, and that's the last time I voted.

W: Do you have a reason for not voting?

G: No, I just don't vote. Well, one of the reasons is because I've never found anybody that I really, really wanted to vote for. That was the only man that I felt like could do a good job, and that's the only one that I've ever really wanted to vote for, so I've never voted.

W: Do you have friends among the Blacks as well as the Whites, Faye?

G: Oh, yes, I have some real good friends. There's three Blacks going to school with me now in beauty school, and I think they're all my friends. I think if anything was to happen, I think they would be behind me one hundred percent.

W: Now, I would like to ask you if you make pottery.

G: Well, I'm making pottery. I just learned this summer, and I'm trying. I've made some and sold it, and I enjoy it.

W: Do you take pride in being an Indian?

G: Oh, yes, I'm really proud of my Indian heritage.

W: In what way do you think you show that you're proud of your Indian—?

G: Well, one way, by making pottery. I've never denied that I was an Indian or tried to hide it from anybody, so I think that's about the only way I can think of.

[End of interview]

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