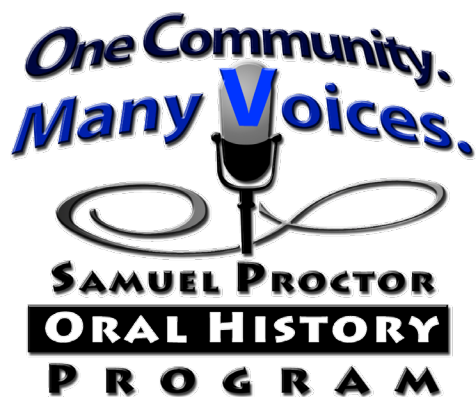


Steven Edward Garland

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-119**

Interview by:

**Edith Frances Canty Wade
July 18, 1975**



University of Florida • Samuel Proctor Oral History Program • Paul Ortiz, Director
P.O. Box 115215, 241 Pugh Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-5215
(352) 392-7168 www.clas.ufl.edu/history/oral

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Program Director: Dr. Paul Ortiz

241 Pugh Hall
PO Box 115215
Gainesville, FL 32611
(352) 392-7168
<https://oral.history.ufl.edu>

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15 minutes | 10 pages

Abstract: Steve Garland discusses his family, household chores, and remembers a recent conversation about Catawba history he had with his mother. Garland discusses his experiences at Castle Heights school. He mentions that he would like to go to college after high school and speaks about the different sports he plays. He comments on oil shortages, pollution, and the government. Garland closes the interview by sharing that he is working at the Catawba Tribal Office and helping his family financially before they move to Michigan.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Family histories; Discrimination]

SAMUEL PROCTOR
ORAL HISTORY
PROGRAM
University of Florida

CAT 119

Interviewee: Steven Edward Garland

Interviewer: Edith Frances Canty Wade

Date of Interview: July 18, 1975

W: This is Frances Wade. I live on Route 3, Box 304, Rock Hill, South Carolina. I am gathering oral history of the Catawba Indians for the University of Florida and today is July 18, 1975. Today, I'm talking with Steve Garland. Steve, who are your parents?

G: My mother's name is—you're talking 'bout maiden name or her name now?

W: Well, tell me her maiden name as well as her married name.

G: Right, before she was married, her name was Hazel Faye George, and today she's Hazel Faye Garland. My father's name is George Edward Garland.

W: Are your parents Indian?

G: My mother is a Indian and my father, I think he's part Indian.

W: What kind of Indian is your mother?

G: Catawba.

W: Who are your grandparents?

G: My grandmother on my mother's side is Evelyn George, and my grandfather on my mother's side is Marvin George and I really don't know the names of my father's parents because they died before I was born.

W: What brothers and sisters do you have, Steve?

G: I got a full sister, Kim, Kimberly Sue Garland, and her name's now Kimberly Sue **Braden**. And I got a **half-brother** Ted **Bodiford** and Bruce **Bodiford**.

W: How old is Kim?

G: She's fifteen. She'll be sixteen in October.

W: And how old are your brothers?

G: Let's see, one of 'em's twenty-two and the other one's twenty-one. I think Kim's sixteen now.

W: What kind of work does your father do?

G: He works for GMC Car Company. I think he works on keys, or he builds, **or** he does both.

W: Where does he live?

G: Pontiac, Michigan.

W: Did you ever live in Michigan?

G: Yep, for nine years. I was born in Michigan, **in Pontiac**.

W: What kind of work does your mother do?

G: She used to work at Gratz Beauty College, but now she's going to Michigan to get a job in a beauty shop.

W: Steve, now I know that your mother is really interested in the history of the Catawbas. Do you remember any old stories that she used to tell you or your brothers and sister about the things that went on, on the reservation?

G: Not really, I mean she used to talk about 'em all the time when we was **really** young. I can't remember 'em now. She talks about 'em every so often. We had a good discussion about 'em the other night. It was just, you know, she called you, and asked you about if there was a cave around here and about the battle where there's some graves and stuff like that. We was talking about that when [inaudible 3:01] You said there was a battle between the Cherokee and the Indians, a bunch of 'em killed **here**. **At** the river bottoms they got some of 'em

buried. [inaudible 3:10] found some of 'em. They were buried with rocks over 'em.

W: And you mean down on the Catawba Reservation?

G: Yeah, river bottoms.

W: When you were talking about the Cherokees fighting, they were fighting the Catawba Indians?

G: Yeah, and both of 'em, a **mound of 'em** were killed.

W: How old are you?

G: Fifteen.

W: You're fifteen. What is your full name, Steve?

G: Steven Edward Garland.

W: What are some of the duties that you have to perform around your house?

G: Let's see. Sometimes I have to wash dishes, I take out the trash, I clean up my bed, stuff like that. Dust the furniture. I work in—more like, you know, we have beans, watermelons, and tomatoes and I work out there and water 'em and put fertilizer and stuff like that. That's about it.

W: Steve, what can you remember about your home life when you were just a little boy?

G: When I was real little, I had a big old giant guitar. I used to remember Mom and them, she used to bring houseguests over and she used to brag about it. She used to try and get me to sing songs. [Laughter] And all like that. When I was a little bit younger, my parents had a divorce and I remember me and Kim was

going to have to stay with my father, but we ended up staying with my mom. **We** begged 'em, sorta.

W: You're talking about the guitar; did you ever learn how to play it?

G: No. [Laughter] I might have been able to play a few notes when I was really little. I can play—about a year ago, I was taking lessons, but I had to stop, and I don't really remember anything about it.

W: Do you still have the guitar?

G: Unh-uh, it was one of 'em expensive guitars and when I was a little bit younger, my father sold it. When I got a little bit older [inaudible 5:04].

W: You say that you're in the fifth grade in school, where do you go to school?

G: No, not in fifth.

W: You're in the—

G: I'll be in the ninth.

W: You'll be in the ninth grade.

G: Castle Heights.

W: You go to Castle Heights. That's in Rock Hill?

G: Yeah.

W: How many teachers did you have last year?

G: Oh, in school?

W: Mmhm.

G: Well, I had Mr. White for a homeroom teacher. I was in the seventh grade, but I got put up to the eighth because I had missed a quiz the year before and I had to make up for it. So, I had him for a homeroom teacher, but I had Mr. Green in the

eighth grade for a social studies teacher. Another Mr. Green for a science teacher. And I had Miss Cherry for math and Miss **Griggs** for math. Mrs. Parish for social studies and I think—oh yeah, Miss **Caretow** for science. And I think that was it.

W: How did you get to school, Steve?

G: Bus. **Before, my momma took me.**

W: Of all the subjects that you've taken, which subject do you like most?

G: History.

W: Which subject do you like the least?

G: Let's see. Least, I guess science. Science is my hardest subject anyway.

W: Do you make good grades in school?

G: Yeah. **Well**, about average.

W: Do your teachers know that you're an Indian? I'm sure they couldn't help but know that.

G: Yeah.

W: Did they treat you as good as they did other students, knowing that you were an Indian?

G: Mmhm.

W: Did you get as good a training, as far as schooling is concerned, as the other students?

G: I guess that **was** about even.

W: What do you think you would like to become once you have finished school?

G: I'd like to go on to college and maybe become a lawyer or go into the Marines.

W: I think really that you might make a good lawyer because you constantly talk—

G: **Arguing.** [Laughter]

W: [Laughter] And you present everything so well. Do you take part in sports, Steve?

G: Yeah. I play softball and baseball sort of. But I play football a lot and basketball. I go camping, I love camping. Let's see, I like to golf, I like to bowl, and play tennis. That's it.

W: And what about hunting? Have you ever been hunting?

G: Once or twice. Yeah, it's all right.

W: What about fishing?

G: Yeah, I love fishing. I love hunting and fishing really, but I ain't going hunting too much.

W: Do you get along well with the Black people at school, Steve?

G: Yeah, I guess all right. It all depends on how they act. Some of 'em act, you know, sort of pushy, some of 'em don't. The ones that don't act pushy, we get along good. To me, they **act** pushy. [Laughter]

W: Do you attend church?

G: Just recently I started attending more than I used to.

W: What church do you belong to?

G: The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

W: Are you happy that you're an Indian?

G: Mmhm. I'd rather be Indian than White or Black or any other race. 'Cause White and Blacks don't get along too good, and the others call each other names. Like

Polish people are called polacks, Japanese are called japs or nips or something like that. Indians are called Indians.

W: Steve, I know that you know about the drug situation. Are drugs easy to get in school?

G: If you talk to the right people, I guess they would be. I don't know, really.

W: Would you know the drugs if you saw them?

G: **Unh-uh.**

W: That's real good. I'm glad to hear that because since you don't know them, this tells me that you're not interested in drugs at all.

G: I don't even know what they are.

W: Do you have friends who do take drugs?

G: Not really. I've had some friends who've told me they've taken it before, but I've told 'em not to, or I wouldn't mess around with 'em anymore. I know a couple of people who have, or told me they have anyway.

W: Steve, what do you think about the situation in the world today? Do you really believe that there is a big shortage in oil?

G: Not really. I mean, yeah, there could be. I mean it's not so bad that we're going to hand over, you know, everything we do to the Arabs. I mean we might have a shortage, but it couldn't be that bad, bad enough to turn over our things to Arabia, because if we was, we wouldn't be sending people to the moon like the Apollo-Soyuz Mission. That'd be wasting millions of tons of fuel. If we was that bad off, we wouldn't have done that.

W: All right. You've got a good point there. Do you really think that the pollution in the air is as bad as people say that it is?

G: Not around the reservation it ain't that bad. I mean it's bad in certain places. It is bad in South Carolina because pollution goes up, and the air is too thick with the clouds and everything and it can't get through, so it sends it all the way back down. It stays in the sky. It won't go on up in the atmosphere.

W: What do you think we could do about pollution?

G: We could set up filters in the mills, and we could stop littering. Littering is sorta bad, but if we got together and all picked it up, well, we'd be all right. I mean we could all stop littering and—we wouldn't be able to pick it all up, but sooner or later if everybody stopped **going**, it would disappear.

W: Well, what do you think about the government? Do you think that we've got a good government now?

G: Yeah, I would rather live in America than a communist—I mean, there's a bunch of politicians who rip off the people and stuff, but I'd rather be in this country than any other country, because there they have dictators, and you can't do anything. You can't say anything against the government. They don't have free press and we have the right to do what we want. We have the right to say what we want and everything.

W: Steve, I know that you've been holding a job for about four weeks. Where are you working and what kind of work are you doing?

G: Catawba Tribal Office, and we work outside and help the old people who can't help themselves. We cut the grass and we've been trying to plant a garden, but

we never did get to it. We'd plant some tomatoes—but we're trying to plant a garden for the old people, so they'd have something. We'd give it to 'em. We just help the old people who can't help themselves, old Indians. Only Indians can work on it.

W: And you work on the reservation. Do you get paid for this?

G: Yeah, I get paid \$2.10 an hour.

W: How many hours a day do you work?

G: Five, I work five hours a day, five days a week, twenty-five hours a week.

W: What do you do with your money?

G: I had to buy clothes. I helped to buy clothes and helped my mom and I put some of it in the bank.

W: Steve, when you say you helped your mom, in what ways do you help her money-wise?

G: Well, the first week I helped her buy the groceries. Well, she gave me twenty dollars back of it, but I bought forty dollars' worth of groceries, and they gave me twenty dollars of it back, and I paid for twenty of it. I help her in that. Then this week when we leave, I'm going to help pay for the way up there. **As far as** she don't get a check, me and Kim'll be paying.

W: I would just like to assert right here that when Steve says that he's going to help pay the way up there, Steve and his mother and sister are moving. And you're moving back to Michigan.

G: Mhm.

W: You haven't been there—

G: Six years.

W: Have you seen your father in that length of time?

G: Unh-uh.

W: You have not seen him in that length of time. You talk about helping the elderly people on the reservation and you talk about how you helped your mother. I'm sure that Steve is going to be a very good citizen. He defends the country he lives in, and he is proud to be a part of it. How long will it take you to get to Michigan, Steve?

G: It'll take about a week. Well, five days.

W: And how are you going?

G: By car.

W: What will you be taking with you?

G: Clothes, maybe a little bit of furniture, and stuff like that.

W: This is everything that you all own, isn't it?

G: Clothes, furniture, yeah, stuff like that. We ain't taking beds or couches or anything like that.

W: I feel very close to this young man. I feel that he will be a great asset not only to the Catawba Tribe, but to the country in which he lives.

[End of interview]

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