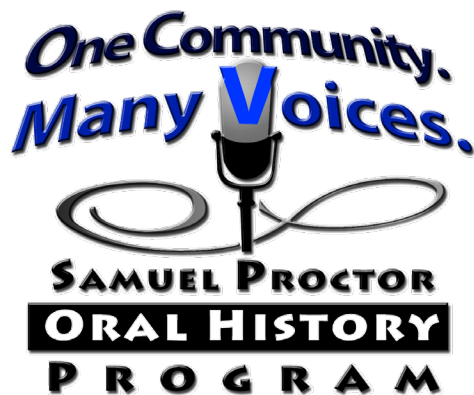


Edwin Campbell

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-200**

Interview by:

**Emma Reid Echols
March 5, 1993**



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>

CAT 200 Edwin Campbell
Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
Interviewed by Emma Reid Echols on March 5, 1993
6 minutes | 5 pages

Abstract: Emma Echols speaks with Edwin Campbell, son of Nola Campbell, about his pottery-making skills and business. They discuss how much he sells and for what price, as well as what types of pottery he makes and where he obtains his clay from. She then asks him what he thinks the benefits will be of the land settlement and what schools he attended as a child. The interview ends with Campbell mentioning some of the other Catawba men who make pottery.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; Oliver Nisbet; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Art; Education]

SAMUEL PROCTOR
ORAL HISTORY
PROGRAM
University of Florida

CAT 200

Interviewee: Edwin Campbell

Interviewer: Emma Reid Echols

Date of Interview: March 5, 1993

E: This is Emma Reid Echols, 5150 Sharon Road, Charlotte, North Carolina. I'm visiting in the home of Nola Campbell, and her son is here, and Nola makes big pots, little pots, all kinds. And her son has recently started making little tiny pots and I'm gonna let him put his name on the tape first. Your name is?

EC: Edwin Campbell.

E: And how old are you, sir?

EC: Thirty-eight.

E: Thirty-eight, and you just recently started making these pots.

EC: Right back before Thanksgiving.

E: You just picked up a piece of clay out there in the yard and said you'd see what you could make and you made two little pots.

EC: That's right.

E: And what different kind are you making now?

EC: I make pitchers, peace pots, wedding jugs, canoes—

E: All kinds.

EC: **Gypsy** pots.

E: But you're making little ones, tiny little ones.

EC: **Yes.**

E: And that little one with a snake wrapped around, is it especially hard to make for you?

EC: No, ma'am.

- E: [inaudible 1:15] Now, you wait till you get, oh, twenty or thirty to fire before you fire them?
- EC: Well, I try to get a **burn's** worth.
- E: They tell me that the Catawba Indians themselves come by here and want to buy from you and then you've lots of White people buy from you. What kinda orders do you have now to sell them?
- EC: Well, I have about thirty, I'd say, that I need to be making for the Indians down here on the Tribe, **and that's what**. A man in Washington, he's got a woman up there that she wants a hundred.
- E: A hundred! That's a lot. He has a man to sell them to someone else I suppose, at a good price.
- EC: Yes, ma'am.
- E: Your little pots run what? Fifteen to twenty dollars?
- EC: Yes, ma'am.
- E: What's the most difficult one you have to make?
- EC: Probably the peace pot, 'cause there's so many stems and legs on it.
- E: You have to wait 'til each one gets dry.
- EC: Well, 'bout three different stages.
- E: I understand that older men on the reservation, years ago, used to make little ones and you're following in their footsteps makin' little ones. You don't wanna make the big ones at all, do you?
- EC: Too much bother to me.
- E: Will you have some of yours on sale at the next festival you think? You hope so?

EC: If my health gets better, I should have a few.

E: Where do you get your clay?

EC: I've been getting it from my momma.

E: [Laughter] And where does your momma get her clay?

NC: What I got, it came from over at Mr. Nisbet's, but I think we're gonna find some down towards closer to Bowater in the [inaudible 3:19]

E: Well, it's important to have the right kind of clay, isn't it?

EC: Sure is.

E: Now, how long will it take you to make a little pot?

EC: Complete it, about three hours.

E: Three hours. Well, you don't get paid too much, you deserve every bit you get for it, don't you? But people come to your door and buy from you, they hear about your picture in the paper and the write-up. They'll come to your door and buy from you, **don't you?**

EC: Yes, ma'am.

E: The new settlement has gone in and you're living here in a nice little white house close to your mother. How will that new settlement affect you?

EC: I haven't really been keeping up with it.

E: You hope you're goin' get some health benefits, don't you?

EC: Well, I think that they need the health benefits more than anything.

E: Now, you went to school here on the reservation?

EC: Yes, ma'am. Four years.

E: Four years. What teachers do you remember?

EC: Ms. Cornish was my first and second grade teacher, and Ms. Robinson was my third and fourth grade teacher. Down here at the church.

E: And then after that they moved to Lesslie, I believe.

EC: Yes, ma'am.

E: Did you go to Lesslie too?

EC: One year.

E: One year. And then you went from there to the high school?

EC: I went to Tamassee DAR in Salem, South Carolina. And I spent the rest of my time there.

E: Well, I well remember—in fact, I have some pictures of Ms. Cornish and Ms. Robinson's classes and I'm sure you're in one of those classes that I have the group picture. 1965, I think it was, [19]64.

EC: I should be in [19]65—

E: Next time I come down here I'll bring 'em to you and show 'em to you. Are you married now?

EC: No, ma'am.

E: You just live in that little house by yourself.

EC: I live in a trailer.

E: Oh, you live in a trailer. Well, I'm anxious to see some of your pottery and I'm gonna follow through and see how you come selling it. Who is the man in Washington? Dr. **Bluemill**?

EC: Yes, ma'am.

E: Got the contract for you. Has he seen the tiny little pots you're making?

EC: Well, he has more of 'em than any one individual I know of.

E: He does.

EC: He has, probably, sixteen to twenty of 'em.

E: Well, the money you make from them helps you to live, doesn't it?

EC: Yes, ma'am. Pays for my medicine.

E: Well, the medicine's **a hard thing too**. Then, tell me the other men on the reservation that are making pottery now. You know any more?

EC: My brother Martin Harris, he makes pottery. Earl **Robbins**, he makes pottery. There's a few more that make it, but I'm not too familiar with—

E: It's real interesting to see that you men are making the pottery now, and I wish you a lot of luck in doing it.

[End of Interview]

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