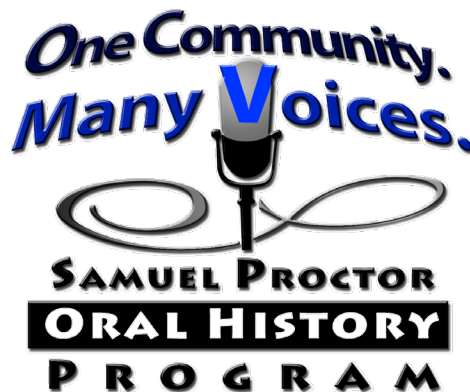


Eleanor Lorraine Harris Griggs

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-139**

Interview by:

**Emma Reid Echols
October 27, 1976**



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CAT 139 Eleanor Lorraine Harris Griggs
Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
Interviewed by Emma Reid Echols on October 27, 1976
5 minutes | 5 pages

Abstract: Eleanor Harris Griggs reflects on her time in school at Northside, where Emma Echols was her seventh grade teacher. She recalls other teachers and the principal as well as her siblings' school experiences. She shares her desire to pursue cosmetology with a government grant. She discusses her six children and their education. She speaks about pottery, which one of her daughters attempts to make. She recently moved back to the reservation from Greenville, South Carolina.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Education; Oral biography]

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

CAT 139

Interviewee: Eleanor Lorraine Harris Griggs

Interviewer: Emma Reid Echols

Date of Interview: October 27, 1976

E: —Route 6, Box 260, October 27, and I'm working on the oral history of the Catawba Indians. I'm visiting in the home where I taught this girl many years ago. So, will you tell me your name?

G: My first name is Eleanor, but while I was in school, I went by Lorraine. I was a Harris, but now I'm married to a Griggs.

E: Lorraine Harris. And I taught you in the seventh grade at Northside School, is that right?

G: That's right.

E: Now, do you remember the subjects I taught you?

G: The social studies, I remember, but I can't remember the others.

E: Everybody always remembers social studies because I like to travel, and I remember I taught you Mexico and Central America and those—I do remember some of the Indian children that I had in my class that year. I remember that in the afternoons, Buck George was there, and he would play football, and great crowds of Indians would want to go down that fire escape and out to watch Buck George play. Now, are you related to Buck George?

G: Distant, not close.

E: Distantly related. I suppose you've seen him play football?

G: I think I have. I'm not sure, it's been so long ago.

E: Northside, at that time, had a large number of Indian children in it. Did you find any difference in the way you were treated, and the White children were treated at that time?

G: I don't think so.

E: Do you remember Miss Elizabeth Lesslie?

G: Yes, I remember her.

E: She was one of your favorite teachers, I believe?

G: That's right.

E: And Mrs. Parker—did you have her?

G: Yes, I had her in eighth grade.

E: In eighth grade. And who was your principal at that time?

G: Mr. R. L. Wiser.

E: Yes, I remember him; I believe he's dead now. At that time, where were you living? In the village close to Northside?

G: No, I lived out on Route 3, which is the Old Freedom Track.

E: Yes, you were living in a part of the Catawba Indian Reservation.

G: Yes, the newer part.

E: Now, how many brothers and sisters did you have?

G: I've got three brothers and three sisters.

E: Were you all in Northside School?

G: Well, all, except—the five youngest. Two oldest ones were in high school.

E: You finished Northside, and you went on to high school after that. You didn't quite finish high school, did you?

G: No, I didn't. I went to the eleventh grade and went three months in the twelfth grade.

E: And then you got interested in a friend—a boyfriend, and were you married shortly after that?

G: Yes.

E: You could go back and finish high school now, if you'd like to. Would you like to go back?

G: Yes, but it'd take me a little while, and I've got another idea that I want to go on into cosmetology.

E: You have an application there that I was interested in. What's that application for?

G: BEOG program—to go into the beauty college. I have to send this off, and then they'll get in contact with me if my grant has been approved.

E: And this is a government grant for a beautician. This does not have anything to do with the Indian grant—it's a government grant, is that right?

G: It's the government. Nothing to do with the Indians.

E: Well, that will be a fine thing for you to do. How many children do you have now?

G: I have six—two boys and four girls.

E: Are they in school?

G: Yes, all except one; he works.

E: Do any of them go to your school where you used to attend, at Northside?

G: Yes, I have one, Lisa. She's in the first grade at Northside, and the other two go to Sunset Park; one at Sullivan Junior High and one in Rock Hill High.

E: Do you find that all of them are treated the same, whether Black or White or Indian or whatever? Are they all treated alike?

G: As far as I know, they are.

E: Have you been back to visit your old school at Northside recently?

G: Only when I enrolled Lisa; that's the only time.

E: I was visiting your school, Northside, last week because they asked me to come and talk on the Catawba Indians. I was amazed how many children came up and spoke to me afterwards and said, "I was kin to so-and-so and so-and-so." I took your mother's pottery with me, and they were interested in seeing the pottery that your mother made. Do you make pottery at all?

G: No, I don't.

E: Do any of the other members of your family make pottery?

G: Well, I have one that tries, one of my daughters. She's thirteen years old. Bonita, she tries.

E: Do you think that any of 'em will ever be pottery makers like your mother makes?

G: I don't know, but I hope so.

E: I hope so, too, 'cause I think it's beautiful. Do you know any of the stories of your people, the Catawba Indians, years and years ago?

G: No, I don't.

E: Do you read about the Catawba Indians? I know you're proud to be one.

G: Well, I haven't in the last five or six years, I haven't.

E: Well, whenever you can, you attend the meetings, don't you—of the Tribe?

G: Well, I've only been back in this town five months, so I've only attended one since I've been back.

E: Where were you living before you came here?

G: I was living in Greenville, South Carolina.

E: Well, we're glad to have you back here, and you're back close to your friends and your home, and back close to all the Indian friends down on the reservation. You just go back down there, and you'll find you've got lots of kinfolks down there.

[End of interview]

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