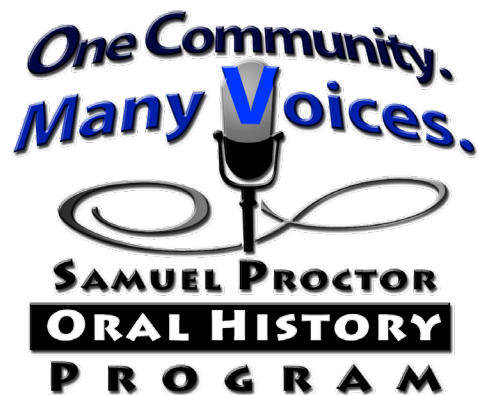


# Grady Harris

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)  
CAT-089**

**Interview by:**

**Edith Frances Canty Wade  
April 2, 1974**



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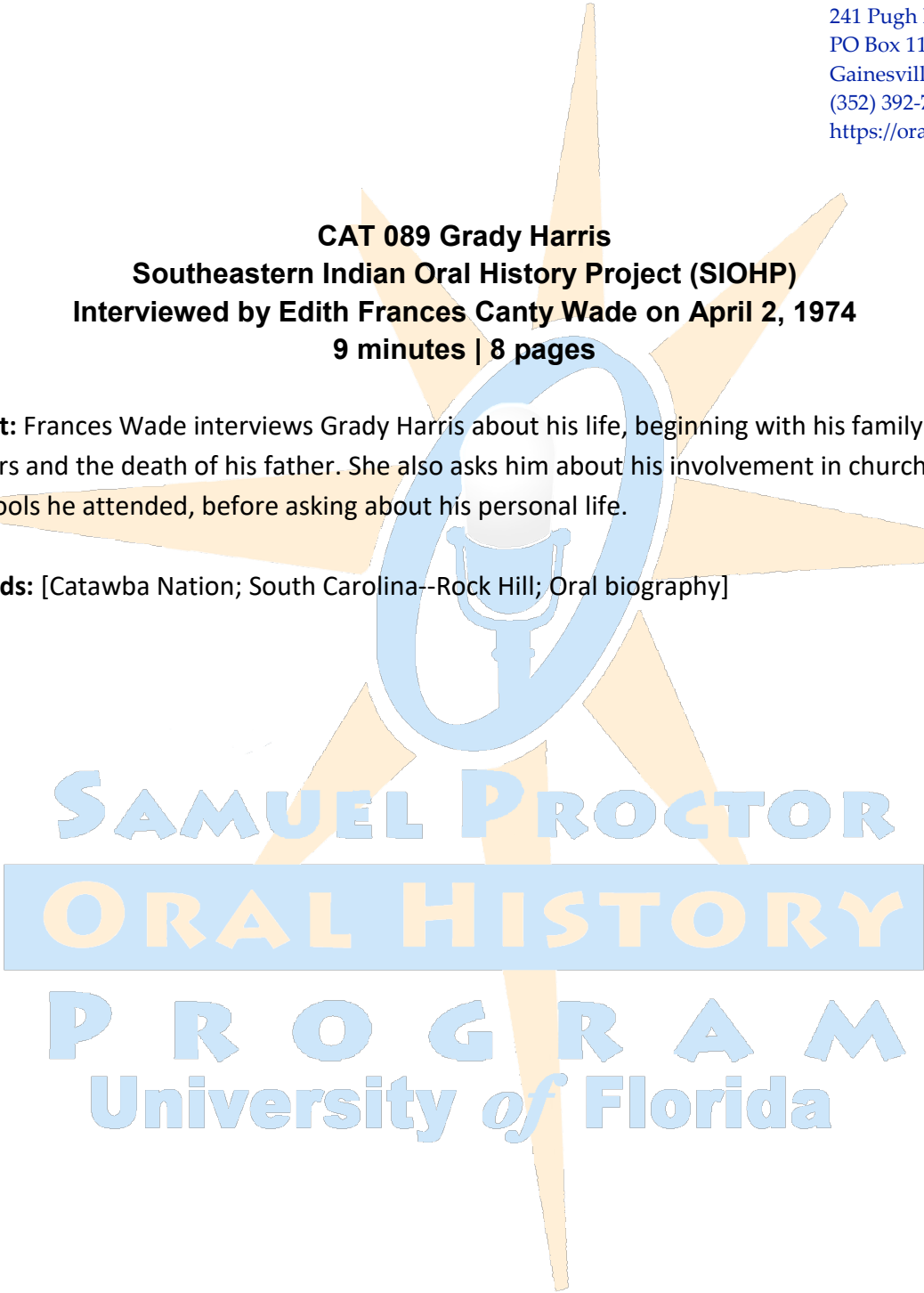
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**CAT 089 Grady Harris**  
**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)**  
**Interviewed by Edith Frances Canty Wade on April 2, 1974**  
**9 minutes | 8 pages**

**Abstract:** Frances Wade interviews Grady Harris about his life, beginning with his family members and the death of his father. She also asks him about his involvement in church and the schools he attended, before asking about his personal life.

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



**SAMUEL PROCTOR**  
**ORAL HISTORY**  
**PROGRAM**  
University of Florida

CAT 089

Interviewee: Grady Harris

Interviewer: Edith Frances Canty Wade

Date of Interview: April 2, 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 and today is April 2, 1974. I'm visiting the home of Grady Harris. Grady is a bachelor, and he lives on the far end of the old reservation. He has a real nice trailer, and he raises chickens and little chihuahua dogs. Grady, what is your full name?

H: It is Grady Harris.

W: Grady, when were you born?

H: December 25, 1939.

W: Were you born on the reservation?

H: Uh-huh.

W: Who are your parents?

H: Nola Campbell and Raymond Harris.

W: Nola Campbell and Raymond Harris. Are they both Indian?

H: Uh-huh.

W: Do you know how much Indian blood they have in them?

H: No.

W: Who are your grandparents?

H: Maggie Price and David Harris.

W: Maggie Price, she's not an Indian, is she?

H: Unh-uh.

W: He—was David? Did you say David? Was he an Indian?

H: Mmhm.

W: Who were your other grandparents?

H: [inaudible 01:38]

W: And they were both Indian?

H: Uh-huh.

W: Grady, what did your father do for a living?

H: Well, he was in service and worked at the industrial company.

W: That's textiles then, isn't it?

H: Yes.

W: Is your father alive, Grady?

H: No.

W: What happened?

H: He died in [19]52.

W: He was still a young man, too, wasn't he?

H: He was thirty-eight.

W: He was at one time Chief of the Catawbias, wasn't he?

H: Yes.

W: Grady, how old were you when your father died?

H: Twelve.

W: You were twelve years old?

H: Mmhm.

W: Can you remember any jobs or things that you had to do when you were a child growing up?

H: I didn't have to do much.

W: You didn't have to carry water?

H: No.

W: You didn't have running water in your house, did you?

H: No.

W: Who carried the water?

H: Mom, and Daddy and Carl.

W: Oh, you mean the older children—your mother and the older children carried the water. Who got the wood? Did you heat with wood?

H: Yes.

W: You didn't have to help get the wood either?

H: No.

W: [Laughter] Well—

H: Not 'til after Daddy died.

W: Alright. And after your daddy died, you began to really have jobs, didn't you?

H: Yes.

W: Grady, do you belong to any church?

H: The Mormon church.

W: Did you go to church when you were a child?

H: Yeah.

W: Did you go to a church here on the reservation?

H: Yeah.

W: What do you remember about that church building that you went to?

H: Not much of anything.

W: Was it the same church that I went to? It was one room. Was it one room?

H: I think so.

W: Do you remember the church bell that was at the front of the church?

H: What, was that that old church over there?

W: Where Louise's house now stands?

H: Mmhm.

W: How did you get to church, Grady?

H: I walked.

W: About how far away did you have to walk?

H: I don't know.

W: Almost a mile I imagine. Grady, did you go to school on the reservation?

H: Yes. The old school and the new one.

W: How old were you when you got to start school?

H: Almost seven.

W: Who were your teachers? Do you remember?

H: Faye Cornwell.

W: Faye Cornwell.

H: Miss Groves.

W: Miss Groves.

H: And Miss Robinson.

W: And Miss Robinson. Mrs. Robinson.

W: How far in school did you go, Grady?

H: To the eighth grade.

W: Why didn't you go farther? Did you have any reason?

H: No, I just didn't want to.

W: And your mama didn't insist that you go?

H: Yes.

W: But you didn't go anyway?

H: No, Willie said I could quit, so I quit.

W: Who said that?

H: Willie.

W: And who was Willie?

H: My stepfather.

W: Alright. What do you remember about school?

H: A lot of things.

W: Do you remember taking part in all of the games of sports that they had over at the school?

H: No.

W: I remember when I went, I was the fastest runner of the girls in the whole reservation about my age. Did you ever have to go to the spring and get water?

H: No.

W: You didn't have to do that. [Laughter] Well, you didn't have to do too many things, I don't believe Grady. Do you like any kind of sports?

H: Not really, just baseball.

W: Baseball, and do you like to take part in baseball or just like to watch it?

H: Just like to watch it.

W: Well, all of us are not alike, so that's alright, too. Were you ever in the service?

H: No.

W: Is there any reason why you were not in service?

H: No.

W: Grady, I'm getting rather personal, why did you not ever marry?

H: Because I didn't want to.

W: Well, that's a good reason. Have you ever voted, Grady?

H: No.

W: Have you ever registered to vote?

H: No.

W: Do you think that you would like to vote?

H: I don't know. I don't think so.

W: Do you think it's important to vote?

H: No, I don't.

W: Would you tell me why you don't think it's important to vote?

H: I don't know.

W: You don't know. Alright, I know that you get along well with w=Whites, do you have any friends among the Blacks?

H: A lot of them.

W: Grady, where do you work?

H: Woolco Department store.

W: How long have you been working there?

H: Two and a half years.



W: Do you think you draw a good salary for the work that you do?

H: Yes.

W: I want to talk to you about some pines that several young people set out a few years ago. Did you set out any pine trees?

H: Yeah.

W: Where did you get them?

H: From 4-H

W: Were you in school at that time?

H: Yes.

W: And you got them from a teacher at school?

H: I got them from someone.

W: How many did you get?

H: Five hundred.

W: Where did you set them out?

H: Down at the old place.

W: The place that you lived at that time?

H: Yes.

W: Did most of them live?

H: I don't really know.

W: You haven't really been to check? Do you know how many years ago it has been that you set them out?

H: No.

W: Grady, are you proud to be an Indian?

H: I reckon.

W: You reckon. I've been talking to Grady Harris, and he's scared to death of this microphone so I didn't get half of the information that he could have given me. Grady is a very likable person and once you get to know him the shyness of the Indian that's in him would soon be gone. He too is a typical Indian, tall, slim. He has dark brown eyes and black hair.

[End of Interview]

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