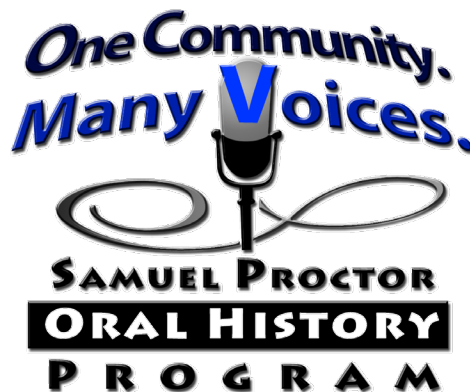


Pauline Angeline Gadbury

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-085**

Interview by:

**Edith Frances Canty Wade
October 17, 1973**



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11 minutes | 7 pages

Abstract: Pauline Gadbury recalls her life. She begins by talking about her grandparents and parents, particularly about her mother's work and craft. She then talks about how her family was not able to carry out many typical American holidays because they did not often have enough money for gift-giving. Gadbury then talks about her childhood home. She recalls a time where she and her family needed to hurry into the river to pull out corn when the river unexpectedly shifted. She then talks about growing up religious and how many of her teachers were elders and sisters in her church. Gadbury discusses the fun she had carrying out chores for her school such as fetching water and wood with her peers. She then talked about her adulthood, becoming a nurse's aide in Stockton, California, and her marriages and children. She ends by talking about her gratitude for the different opportunities her children and grandchildren have compared to her generation.

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

ORAL HISTORY
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CAT 085

Interviewee: Pauline Angeline Gadbury

Interviewer: Edith Frances Canty Wade

Date of Interview: October 17, 1973

W: This is Frances Wade. I live on Route 3, Box 304, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Today is October 17, 1973. Today, I'm talking to Pauline Gadbury. Pauline, would you tell us your full name?

G: Pauline Angeline Gadbury.

W: Where do you live, Pauline?

G: In Stockton, California.

W: Would you give us your complete address?

G: 429 East Anderson Street, Stockton, California.

W: Who were your parents?

G: Sally Wade and Anthony Wade.

W: Who were your grandparents?

G: Ben Harris and Mary Harris.

W: Pauline, what did your mother do for a living?

G: She worked in a textile mill.

W: Did your mother ever make Indian pottery?

G: Yes.

W: Did you help her?

G: Yes.

W: Can you remember, when you were small, any early stories that some of the older Indians might have told?

G: [Laughter] I can't remember that far.

W: All right, can you remember what it was like during holidays such as Christmas, Thanksgiving?

G: [Laughter] Well, I guess it was very poor because we didn't have very much.

W: Did you get anything for Christmas?

G: Sometimes we did, sometimes we didn't.

W: When you were growing up, were there bags of fruit given out at Christmas time?

G: Yes.

W: It was the same way with us, and I thought maybe it might've been the same with you. When you were a child, what was it like at your home? Everybody thinks Indians lived in teepees, how did you live?

G: We lived in a log house.

W: All right, would you tell a little bit more about your home?

G: Well, we lived in a house just like anybody else. [Laughter] We had furniture like other folks.

W: Did you have electricity in your home?

G: No, we used kerosene lamps.

W: Did you have a heater, or did you use fireplace?

G: Fireplace.

[Break in recording]

G: I worked in the home and helped my mother to keep house. I worked in the fields when we worked in the field. I remember once when we had corn in the river bottoms and the river got out of bank. We had to go and wade out in the river to

pull the corn to keep from losing it all. And I was scared and I guess all the rest of us was scared. [Laughter]

W: Do you remember how old you were, Pauline, at that time?

G: I must have been about ten or eleven years old.

W: Well, this must've been a frightening thing really wasn't it—

G: Yes—

W: For you to have gone out in the water like that? What do you remember about church?

G: Well, I remember we went to church all the time. My mother sent us to church.

W: Did you live far away from church?

G: Not too far.

[Break in recording]

W: Pauline, do you remember how old you were when you started to school?

G: No, I don't remember.

W: Do you remember who your teachers were?

G: Yes, Elder Dans and Sister Smith and Elder Hayes were the teachers I remember.

W: And you walked to school?

G: Yes.

W: What was it like at school?

G: Well, I went to learn, to get a education. It was a lot of fun being with other people, being in the school with other children and learning.

W: How was your school heated?

G: With wood heaters.

W: Who brought in the wood?

G: The children did. [Laughter]

W: That was great fun, wasn't it?

G: Yes.

W: How did you get water?

G: We carried it from a well with buckets.

W: And who got that?

G: The children.

W: Did you have many classes a day? Did you get to go in a room by yourself or was the room full of all grades?

G: The room was full of all grades.

W: And what happened when it was your turn to go to a class?

G: They just called the grade, the grade that had to go up. They called up class.

W: Where did you go?

G: Up on the stage.

W: We sat on some benches, didn't we?

G: Yes.

W: Is there anything that stands out in your mind about school that you can think of?

G: No, not now.

W: Is there any of the teachers, anything that happened where they're concerned that sticks out in your mind?

G: No.

W: Did you go to high school?

G: No.

W: Have you had any further training?

G: Yes. In Stockton, California, I went to school for six months to train to be a nurse's aide.

W: Can you tell us a little more about that, Pauline?

G: Yes, I went to the NTDA school. I went to school a half a day and I worked in the hospital for half the day until we completed our training. Then, the day we graduated, some government officials flew down from Washington and presented us with our pins and our diplomas. Then we could go to work in the hospital.

W: Who paid for this, Pauline? Did you pay for your training?

G: No, the government did.

W: The government paid for it. Have you been working since that time?

G: Yes.

W: Do you work in a hospital, or where do you work now?

G: Now I work in a private rest home.

W: Pauline, I know you're married. Would you tell us who you married?

G: My first marriage, from my children, was A.J. Petty. He passed away and then I married James F. Cox. He died three years ago and since I've remarried to Gene Gadbury.

W: How many children do you have?

G: Two.

W: Who are they?

G: John Wayne Petty and Sheila Rita Osborne.

W: You have grandchildren?

G: Yes.

W: How many do you have?

G: Nine.

W: Do you think that your children have a greater opportunity than what you had when you were growing up?

G: Yes.

W: Can you cite some of the opportunities that they have that you didn't have?

G: Yes, they can go and do lots of work, different than we could've done back when we was comin' up. They can go in different department stores and work now. When we was comin' up, we couldn't.

W: What about their school? What about their education?

G: Well, they can go to more schools than we could when we was comin' up, so they can go get a better education than we did.

W: Pauline, do you belong to any church?

G: Yes.

W: What church do you belong to?

G: I belong to the Mormon Church.

W: I know that your children are grown, and they have families of their own, but I know that you are active, I'm sure, in your community in California. In things that's goin' on. Pauline, have you ever voted?

G: No.

W: Have you ever registered to vote?

G: No.

W: Have you ever thought about voting?

G: No.

W: [Laughter] Do you have any reason for not voting?

G: Well, no, I don't have reasons, but I haven't ever voted, so I just thought, well, what's the use for me to go vote now.

W: I know that most of your friends in California are Whites. So, I know that you get along with the Whites. Do you get along, or do you have friends among the Blacks?

G: Yes.

W: And Pauline, how do you feel about being an Indian?

G: I don't know. I feel like I can't tell anybody how I feel. [Laughter] I know the Indians are the only true Americans there is, so I'm proud to be one. That's all I can say, I'm proud to be an Indian.

[End of interview]

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