Edith Frances Canty Wade

Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP) CAT-094

Monologue by:

Edith Frances Canty Wade September 17, 1973



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CAT 094 Edith Frances Canty Wade Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP) Recorded by Edith Frances Canty Wade on September 17,1973 3 minutes | 2 pages

Abstract: In this monologue, Frances Wade recounts the life of Dennis Harris, the son of David A. Harris and Della Delthia Harris. He was permanently disabled by a broken leg he received as a young boy. He was not educated, but was religious, and regularly sang at church. Bishop Milton Osborne presided over his funeral services at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and President Wilkerson from Columbia, South Carolina, was in attendance. He was survived by two brothers and four sisters.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; Dennis Harris; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Oral biography; Mormon Church]

W: -And I'm gathering oral history for the University of Florida. I work under the direction of Mrs. Emma Echols, and today is September 17, 1973. I would like to tell you about the death of one of the people here in Catawba, Dennis Harris, who was the son of David A. Harris and Della **Delphia** Harris. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Harris and when he was just a young boy, he fell off the trestle down near the Catawba Junction because the train was coming, and he had to jump. He laid there on the ground for more than twenty-four hours and then, retarded, he was unable to know what to do or how to do to get help for himself. Later, a Mr. Miles Lineberger found him. He received a broken leg, which hampered his walk the rest of his life. He had lived for the past few years with one of his sisters, Isabel George. He was not an educated Indian, neither did he enjoy any of luxuries that most people today enjoy, but he believed in a simple faith. He believed in God. He came to church regularly and he sang well. He could not read nor write, but he knew all of the church songs by heart and many a day you could hear him going to the spring to get water and he would be singing one of these church hymns. Sunday at four o'clock his services were held in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Bishop Milton Osborne presided and preached, also, President Wilkerson from Columbia who had been the former state president of which Catawba was a part. He was buried in the new church cemetery out near the school. He is survived by two brothers and four sisters. He had many beautiful flowers and many people who came to pay their last respects to him. He will be remembered for the good deeds that he

accomplished and the good things that he has done for people here in Catawba.

This is just one of the many deaths we have had among the Catawbas in the last

year. Matter of fact, this is the eighth death in Catawba for this year.

[End of interview]

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