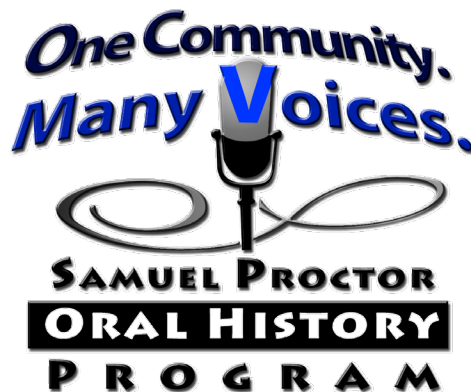


# **Edith Bertha Harris Brown**

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)  
CAT-027**

**Interview by:**

**Emma Reid Echols  
January 25, 1972**



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**CAT 027 Edith Bertha Harris Brown**  
**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)**  
**Interviewed by Emma Reid Echols on January 25, 1972**  
**42 minutes | 28 pages**

**Abstract:** Edith Brown recalls her life and the lives of her family. She begins by naming her immediate family members, including those that have died. She then describes her experience going to school on the old reservation and her teachers, as well as the other students she went to school with. Brown describes her marriage to Early Brown and their children, and her husband's profession as a ferry operator. Brown goes into more detail about her grandmother's gardening, food preservation, and fishing. Then she describes her own recipe for cough syrup and salve. Afterwards, she describes the flood and flu of 1918 and the Great Depression's impact on the community. Brown ends by recalling when she was a little girl watching her grandmother make pottery and describing her own experiences making pottery.

**Keywords:** [Catawba Nation; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Traditional medicine; Pottery]

**ORAL HISTORY**

**P R O G R A M**  
**University of Florida**

CAT 027

Interviewee: Edith Bertha Harris Brown

Interviewer: Emma Reid Echols

Date of Interview: January 25, 1972

E: This is Emma Reid Echols, Route 6, Box 260, Rock Hill, South Carolina, January 25, 1972. I am working on the oral history of the Catawba Indians, and I'm visiting in the home of Mrs. Edith Brown. Mrs. Brown, will you tell me your full name?

B: My name is Edith Bertha Harris Brown. Because I was a Harris before I married.

E: That's right. Now, who were your father and your mother?

B: David Adam Harris was my father, and Lizzy Jane Patterson Harris was my mother.

E: Now, you're not quite a full-blooded Indian, are you?

B: Not quite, like a little bit.

E: And do you know any of your other ancestors further on back? Your great-grandparents, do you know who they were?

B: Well, when my mother died, my grandmother, this one up here, took us and raised us. There were four of us.

E: Now, your grandmother, what was her name?

B: Sarah Jane Harris.

E: Sarah Jane Harris. Now that is her picture you have on the wall, making pottery?

B: Yes. She's got a gypsy pot, that's what you call a gypsy pot on her lap.

E: With the handles to it?

B: Mhm, and the legs.

E: And those legs. Now, who were the four children she took to raise, your brothers and sister?

B: Well, I'm the oldest one. And then my sister, Lavinia, was the second; and Richard Harris is my brother; and Fanny Harris, my baby sister.

E: Now is Fanny Harris still living?

B: No, she's dead.

E: But Richard, your brother, is he living?

B: He's living down here on the river hill.

E: I believe he was a soldier during World War I.

B: Yes.

E: And he remembers many interesting things. He's the one who told me to come to see you.

B: He did?

E: Yes, he did.

B: [Laughter] He is my full brother.

E: He's your full brother?

B: I got—My father has three sets of children.

E: Tell me about that. Your father was then married three times?

B: Yes. He was married to **Delie** George. He married her and he had Owen and Artemis, and there's two dead. Then they had Raymond, Dennis, Chester, and Isabelle. Then the third marriage, he had four children by Dorothy; that was his third wife.

E: Dorothy, what was her last name?

B: Her last name was Price.

E: Yes.

B: And had four children by her. One was David Adam, named after him; and Laura Ann; and then Sarah Lee; and Florence. See Florence was married to [inaudible 3:50] Wade.

E: Yes. Then as a little girl you, when you were being brought up in your grandmothers' home, where did you go to school?

B: I went to school over there—the little schoolhouse built over yonder.

E: Was it the same place the latest school was built?

B: Yeah.

E: Above the well, on the road leading up to here?

B: Uh-huh. Right where the trailer is sittin' now.

E: Now, your brother remembers that he thinks it was just a little one-room school made of pine slabs.

B: It was just one room then. Long as—I bet as long as the shed building I had—had one here and there. And Mrs. Dunlap was the first teacher I went to. She taught us.

E: Do you know how many years you went to Mrs. Dunlap?

B: I don't remember. I was small. I don't remember, but I remember I went to school when I was real small, and Margaret Harris came along. She was a daughter of Ed Harris and Martha Jane Harris, and she came along our house, and she carried me to school and carried me back home.

E: You were just a little tiny girl, weren't you?

B: Yes, ma'am.

E: That would be a long day for a little girl to stay at school all day, wasn't it?

B: [Laughter] Yes.

E: Do you remember any of the other children that went to school with you? Your brother—

B: Yeah. [Laughter] Sally Day. Let's see, she's a Day now, but she was a Brown then; and Early Brown, and Nelson Blue, and Arthur [inaudible 5:44]. Oh, there's a bunch. I can't think of all of 'em that went to school, all the names, but I know those ones.

E: Did some of them live across the river, and come across on a flat?

B: Yeah.

E: Who were some of the ones who lived across the river?

B: Jim Loss and his wife, and they have a daughter named Leola. They come from 'cross over there, and there's others lived over there, too, I think.

E: The **Ayres** family live over there, too?

B: Yes.

E: Now, did you ever see the flat, or the little canoe that they crossed the river on?

B: Yes. I saw them.

E: Did they all come on this flat, or did some of them come in little canoes?

B: Well, some. of them—most everybody ride on the flats, but then—If you wanted to come just one person—come over, they'd bring 'em over in the little canoe, you know. But if it's a wagon, in them times, there wasn't too many cars; they'd bring the wagon or something over in the flat.

E: Then there'd be a good long distance for them to walk after they got off the flat and walk up to the school. Wouldn't it be a couple of miles, you think?

- B: No, it wouldn't be. Right down there below, down the river, where we used to have a flat on that river—
- E: I have to go down there and see that river one of these days.
- B: It's growed up in there so bad. I ain't been down there in years. I wouldn't know the place to go to it now. Used to be open, and they'd bring a flat across, and you could—There's a little road come right up to here then, come on to the church over there.
- E: Yes. And your mother and father are buried in the ancient cemetery, is that right?
- B: Yes.
- E: And do you have any other kinfolks over there that are buried in that ancient cemetery?
- B: Most everybody over there is akin to me.
- E: I bet they are.
- B: Yeah. We're all akin to one another.
- E: Years ago, they used to have a little house over there they called the little burial house. Do you ever remember a little burial house?
- B: No, I don't.
- E: I didn't know whether you might ever remember anybody ever telling you about it, or not. There's so many interesting stories about that—I saw the old tombstone over there of Thomas Stevens, the old man who froze to death. Of course, you're too young to really remember him.
- B: I remember him.
- E: Oh, you do?

B: He used to come and visit us when my grandmother was raisin' us. He stayed with us when my mother was living. He was just an old man.

E: Do you remember what he looked like?

B: Well, he was old, and his hair was just as white as it could be, he wasn't a great big man, but he was built up kind of stout, you know. He would come over and stay around with people, and with different families, you know.

E: Would he help with working the fields, or wherever you were working around there?

B: No, he didn't help. He'd just—when he get tired of staying with this family and stay with another family a while, you know, beg around over at the reservation like that.

E: I suppose he just had to carry a little pack of his things on his back, didn't he?

B: Well, I guess. I don't remember now, how he carried his clothes.

E: How long did he stay with you? Several weeks?

B: Yes, he'd stay several weeks.

E: Now, he spoke the Catawba language, didn't he?

B: Yes, he did. I don't know now; I guess he did, 'cause it stayed around real long.

E: Did he ever tell you anything about his family or where he came from?

B: No.

E: Nobody ever knew this?

B: No.



E: Did he ever sing to you? Arzada Sanders remembers that he'd go out in the woods and beat on a log, and he'd sing to the children. Did you ever hear him sing any of his songs?

B: No. I don't know. I don't remember him singing to us. He **might've** did. I remember he would go off and come back, and he'd bring wild grapes to us, and persimmons, like that.

E: To the children?

B: Uh-huh.

E: He seemed to like the children very much, did he?

B: Yes.

E: I guess he liked you all—he'd tell you stories and play games with you and bring you little gifts of candy. He didn't have any money to buy you anything.

B: No. He didn't have no money. He'd just beg around to the people. [inaudible 10:34]

E: Do you remember the last time he ever came by? Did he come by and tell you all goodbye before he went away? He went away in 1905 when he froze to death. Do you remember when he came by and told you all goodbye?

B: No, I wasn't here. My father sent us off to a government school.

E: Oh, is that right? Where did you go to school?

B: I went to Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

E: Oh, you don't mean it? Now what year were you in Carlisle, Pennsylvania? Do you have any idea?

B: I went in 1905 and stayed 'til 1909. I stayed five years.

E: Now, what other children from here went to Carlisle?

B: My sister, and my other half-sister went, and then my cousin of ours went, and me.

E: Now, let's get the names?

B: Nelson Blue went out there some, and Wade Ayres went. He died out there and was buried out there. Took sick. And Moroni George went out there.

E: Now, let's see your sister went—the one whose picture's up here. Now, her name was?

B: Lavinia.

E: Lavinia. And then your cousin was named?

B: My other half-sister was Artemis Harris.

E: Yes.

B: And then my cousin Mary Ayres.

E: And your [inaudible 12:11]

B: Uh-huh.

E: That was a wonderful thing, that you got to go away and learn that, wasn't it?

B: Uh-huh. I took homesick. [Laughter]

E: You were homesick?

B: Yeah.

E: But you stayed on there, didn't you?

B: Uh-huh. And after I stayed there, I liked it. When I got ready to come home when we all come back home, and I wasn't ready to go back.

E: Did you have any schooling between the time Mrs. Dunlap taught you and the time you went off to Carlisle? Any other teachers? Did Mr. **Lesslie** ever teach you? Or Miss Macie Stephenson?

B: I don't remember that. I think I did go to one between that time.

E: There was a lady, Mrs. Macie, who drove a horse and buggy and taught the children. Sally Beck—I mean, Sally Wade remembers her. Do you remember her or not?

B: I don't remember, but I know I went there to school before they sent us off.

E: What did you do when you came home from school?

B: Well, we came home, and I stayed with my grandmother; she was still living.

E: And then what year were you married?

B: 1910.

E: And to Early Brown?

B: Right. Yeah.

E: Had he been in the same school as you at that year?

B: No, he hadn't.

E: But he was an Indian?

B: Yes.

E: A full-blooded Indian, I believe.

B: No, he wasn't a full-blooded Indian. No.

E: Now, where did you and Early Brown live when you got married?

B: Well, we stayed up there at that house up there, right up the hill yonder where his mother and daddy was living. I don't know how long we stayed down there. I had my first baby was born up there—Edward Brown.

E: How many children did you have besides Edward?

B: I have four children living, and Edward. He's passed away. Soon to be three years.

E: My goodness.

B: He was fifty-seven.

E: Edward was buried in the new cemetery?

B: Yeah.

E: Now what are the other children's names, besides Edward?

B: Evelyn, and Lizzie Jane, and Richard, and William, who lives right up there in that blue house.

E: Now, are the girls married too?

B: No—well, one of 'em is divorced, and one of 'em's married, and she lives in New Mexico.

E: Does she come to see you very often?

B: Been two years since she been here.

E: I know you're anxious to see her.

B: Yeah, I just wrote a letter to her today.

E: Now, tell me, your whole family went to operate the ferry?

B: Down here at Cureton's Ferry.

E: Cureton's Ferry?

B: Yeah.

E: Tell me about that. I want to know what did it look like, and did you live close to the river then? In a house close to the river?

B: Yeah, the house was close to the river.

E: How many rooms did you have? Was it a log house?

B: No, it wasn't no log house. It was a riverboat house. We had two rooms there.

E: So many of you are carpenters. Did he build this house himself?

B: No. You see, the county built it for us.

E: Yes. And so, they paid him a salary to operate the ferry?

B: Uh-huh. Yes.

E: Now, who operated that ferry before Early?

B: His father.

E: Who is his father?

B: John Brown.

E: John Brown.

B: Mmhm. You see, his father operates the Cureton Ferry—that's down below the ferry where Early operated, on back up this way, where Early run the ferry. From Catawba, it went—the road crosses and goes to—

E: You sometimes call it the Ash Ferry, don't you?

B: Yeah. Then the Cureton Ferry is on down below it.

E: 'Bout a couple of miles below it?

B: Yeah. Way down the river.

E: So, Early operated the Ash's Ferry and the Cureton's Ferry was operated by his father, John?

B: Yes.

E: Well, that was real interesting. How busy was your husband kept operating this ferry? Many times he'd have to take people across?

B: Yeah. Many times they went across—night and day both. When people come and want across, why he'd get up and put 'em across, you see.

E: Now, his flat would take cars or wagons or?

B: Yeah. Two. I think it'd take two cars, I believe, on the flat.

E: Did you and your husband have a garden down there when you were?

B: Well, I have a garden. Yeah. And I work a garden now, and I work flowers, too!

E: You do! How old—how young are you?

B: Well, I'm seventy-eight years old now.

E: You don't look it.

B: I'll be seventy-nine in June.

E: You look mighty young to be that, and very active to do all that. Mr. Lineberger remembers you and Mr. Early down there. He said you were mighty good neighbors to him. Do you remember the Lineberger family?

B: Yes.

E: Now, I imagine you have lots of White friends, as well as Indian friends.

B: Yeah. Cause, you know, you get to meet people that's crossing, you know. Then they cross regular, and you know 'em.

E: Who were some of the White people you got to know down there?

B: I don't remember.

E: Where would you go to do your buying and your shopping for groceries? Did you go to Catawba Junction?

B: No, we go to [inaudible 18:19]

E: Now, did you have a horse and buggy, or horse and wagon, or mule and wagon? How did you go to [inaudible 18:30]

B: A lot of times they get somewhere they take 'em, you know. They—a horse and wagon, or something, like—

E: If you had a good garden, you wouldn't have to get very many, did you? You get sugar and coffee and things like that in the store, wouldn't you?

B: Yes.

E: But most of the things you'll have already in cans or preserves?

B: Yes.

E: Did you dry some of your fruit?

B: Huh?

E: Did you dry some of your apples and fruits to have?

B: Yeah. My grandmother used to dry fruit, and dry pumpkins, too. Take the seed out of the pumpkin, and leave the hull on, and just cut around in a big ring and put it up on the cane and let it dry that way in the house. And then they'd kill rabbits, and they would let the rabbits in a big **sack**. They'd hook the rabbit by its leg, and let it hang in front of the fire, you know, and dry like that. And it wouldn't spoil.

E: You don't mean it? What about squirrels? Did you use squirrels?

- B: I don't remember about squirrels now. Don't remember about squirrels, but I remember 'bout rabbits.
- E: Were there plenty of fish up and down that Catawba River, too?
- B: Yeah. My grandmother loved to fish. She would take me fishing with her and make me sit way back up on the bank.
- E: She didn't want you to bother her when she was fishing?
- B: She's afraid I'd fall in the river.
- E: That's right. But you didn't dry your fish; you could catch fresh fish, couldn't you?
- B: Uh-huh. And she'd set hooks late in the evenings like this. She goes back early the next morning and there'd be fish on the hooks, you see. But the water'd be— just a little bit of water'd be down there, tail'd be flappin' in the water. The river goes down at night.
- E: You had plenty of good fish to eat?
- B: Yeah.
- E: What are some of the other good things you had to eat when you were living down there?
- B: Well, I don't remember. I know we had enough vegetables and things.
- E: What about medicines? Did you ever use any of Chief Blue's medicines, or did you use other kinds of medicines?
- B: Ed had been sick and used medicine. I can make cough syrup out of herbs now. I make cough syrup.
- E: You do?



B: For some of the children. I take catnip and some wild cherry bark, and you skin it down, don't skin it up, and mint and some pine needles, and cook all of that together. I put a aspirin in it and some sody, and cook it. And then I strain it through the strainer into another vessel, and then I put my sugar in it and let it cook till it come to a syrup. And it tastes—it's good.

E: It sounds like it would taste pretty good. The children like the taste?

B: Yeah.

E: Well, now you have some grandchildren that you like to nurse up with that cough syrup?

B: [Laughter] Yeah. My little granddaughter stayed here, great-granddaughter, and she was sick bumin' up with fever, and I went and made her some mint and catnip and put a aspirin in it. She was sick, and I fixed that for her and give it to her, and she got better.

E: Well, that's wonderful. Do you have any trouble finding those things close by here?

B: No, they're all around my house. [Laughter]

E: Well, that's good. What did you used to put on when a child would stump their toe or get hurt? Did you have any salve or anything you could mix for that?

B: Well, they make salve, too, but I never have made any. You can make salve out of onions. You cook a onion and get the juice and get you some Mentholatum or something like that, and mix it in with it, and try to cook it down. And it's good. You can grease with it for a cold, too.

E: Yes.

B: See, it'll open ya up.

E: There used to be deer up and down this river. You haven't seen any deer for a long time, have you?

B: No, I haven't.

E: And there used to be lots of birds. You don't see many birds around here now, do you?

B: No, you don't see too many birds now like you used to.

E: And it used to be over across the river there's a big owl. Do you ever hear those owls at night?

B: Yeah, you hear them yet—

E: You do!

B: Mhm. Late in the evenin's. I ain't heared none right lately, but now when spring begin to come, you'll hear 'em, just down yonder branch, big ones, and way over cross that way they'll be just big hootin' owls.

E: I haven't heard any of those hooting owls in a long time.

B: 'Bout this time in the evening they'll start to hoot when it gets warmer. I guess they're matin', you know, fixin' to mate.

E: When you were a little girl did you ever hear any stories about the wild Indians?

B: No, I never heard any famous stories. Maybe if they told 'em, I didn't listen to 'em.

E: Well, I don't blame you. There's lots of stories, you know, like that—opening your umbrella in the house; you don't want to open an umbrella in the house.

B: Yeah, I remember. Said, "Don't open a umbrella in the house, it's bad luck."

E: That's right.

B: And a black cat crossing the road is bad luck.

E: I think we all have ideas like that.

B: Yeah.

E: Think about goin' to church. I'm sure you went to the Mormon church, didn't you?  
You and your husband?

B: Yeah.

E: And took your children along with you?

B: Yeah, I took my children with me, night and day. Winter sometimes, if it was real cold, I carried my baby, and the other little ones walked.

E: How far would it be for you to walk from your home to the church?

B: Oh, it wouldn't been too far. I just walked right across over there.

E: That was their white stucco Mormon church, right?

B: Yes.

E: It was quite a landmark.

B: Uh-huh.

E: Now, was it warm when you get inside the church?

B: Yes. It was warm.

E: Were you sorry when they tore that church down, and built up on that hill near the schoolhouse?

B: Yeah, 'cause we could walk over there, you see. It's just a mile from here to this church now.

E: Your children then went to school at the Catawba Indian School on the reservation, didn't they? For a while?

B: Uh-huh.

E: And then where did they go to school?

B: Then they went to Rock Hill after, to high school.

E: Since you went to Carlisle to get an education, did any of your children finish from high school? They all went to high school then, didn't they?

B: Uh-huh. One of 'em, my daughter that's in New Mexico, she went to high school to the tenth grade.

E: Well, good. Now, where are your children working?

B: My daughter lives in town. She's workin' for—oh, I can't think—she's been working for 'em about sixteen years in Mathews, the lady that makes curtains. And my son up here, my son livin' in town. He's not—they're disabled, they can't work. My son up there did work in the mill, but he ain't worked in eight years.

E: Oh, that's hard.

B: That kind of crippling disease—he gets when he walks; it's in his legs and back, and he can't walk good. The other son, he's worse than he is. And my other daughter lives in New Mexico. She's a bus driver, drives a school bus.

E: And Mrs. Brown, how many grandchildren do you have?

B: [Laughter] Oh, I couldn't tell you how many I got. Last time I counted I had forty-two great grandchildren, and thirty-two grandchildren. I ain't counted them in a long time.

E: They can only come to see you a few at a time, can't they?

B: I reckon when they get ready. Some of 'em, I don't see 'em for three or four months, and then they come and see me. Come home Sundays. Down by

Chester or someplace down in there. Most all of 'em live in town, but these right up here.

E: But you look after yourself; you do your own cooking and raise your own flowers and your garden?

B: Uh-huh.

E: And who brings your groceries to you?

B: Well, I got a niece. She takes me places where I want to go. Takes me to the doctor and takes me to get my groceries.

E: That's good. And which niece is that?

B: Sherri Osbourne. She lives up there right in the house up where the Chief used to live, Chief Blue, right across from the church.

E: That's right, I know where that is. Now, your husband's been dead a number of years, hasn't he? When did your husband, Early Brown, die?

B: He's been dead 'bout—oh, 'bout nine or ten years, I reckon.

E: So many of the people around where you live at Catawba Junction, and around the ferry, remember your husband and remember you as raising a very fine family down there.

[Break in recording]

B: We had dirt roads all through here, and the road right in front of my house goes right down here and then across the back. Two, one matches the other stream of water way up yonder, and they all work upon the river, and work cotton and corn. That whole place up there and down here, the row my brother raises, and on down the river, it all was worked in corn and cotton.

E: That was a good farming land, wasn't it?

B: Yes.

E: There wasn't much of it on the reservation that was good, but the bottom lands were good.

B: Uh-huh.

E: Now, wasn't there a road?

B: My grandmother, her husband was dead, but she had people to work for her. She had her own mules; she had two big ol' mules, and the people would come and help. Frank Collins, outside the reservation, he worked her land for her. She said he'd come and get the mules and go on and work her land. She had land up the river, and land all down—river bottoms down by the Richard's, and she had corn and sweet potatoes, and all down there she raised.

E: Now did she pay him so much to work her farm? And then did he give her a share of the crops, or what was the—?

B: Share of the crops, you know. And she had cows, and raised pigs, she did. In that time, when I was comin' up, and when I was married, too, we all had cows and chickens, and everybody raised pigs, and all the Indians did then. But now very few of 'em do that and that's true.

E: Now, you ever go by the road that goes from the reservation here down to Ash's Ferry, and on down to Cureton's Ferry?

B: Uh-huh.

E: Just a dirt road, wasn't it?

B: Yes, just a dirt road.

E: Wouldn't be a very good one, would it?

B: No.

E: Now, what about the woods and timber around here? Would they dig the trees, and what kind of trees would they dig?

B: Well, there'd be a few big trees, and some little ones. They weren't big and think like they use now, 'cause everybody burned wood. And they'd go in the woods and cut wood, you see. Kept the wood, big wood, when it was big enough, thinned back, cut out, you see. And now hardly anybody burns wood. I think just me and my brother, and I reckon about four families, or five families burn wood, I guess. Rest of 'em heat with oil.

E: That makes it easier ways to heat, doesn't it?

B: Uh-huh.

E: Well, do you remember the flood of 1918, when the bridge was washed away?

B: Yeah, I remember that.

E: What was it like then?

B: What do you mean?

E: How high did the waters come up?

B: I lived down there on the river, and they come up across the road in front of the house. We went down there and looked at it, and it come all up them streams, all up the low streams, you know. It just come way up, even right down there on that road where—it come way up in there.

E: Now, some of the Indians took their boats and their flats and ferried people back and forth across the river. Did any of your family help to do that?

B: Wade River where they went. All the Indians went. They come and got all the Indian men to take the people back and forth across the river when that big flood, or to catch the train back and forth, and all—to get the Indian men, cause they said the Indian men was good swimmers. And that the people wouldn't ride, didn't know what else, but with the Indians. And so, they had Chief Blue, and Nelson Blue, and Early Brown and a bunch of 'em—Douglas Harris, and just a bunch of men from down here to go up there and run them boats for 'em.

E: That was a wonderful thing you did. There were all kinds of things floating down that river—pieces of houses, and bales of cotton, and things like that. Did you see that too? I'm sure you did.

B: Yes. Down here, I didn't go up there but once. I went up there one time, but I must have had my children with me, so I didn't go up too close.

E: Now, what about the 1918 flu epidemic? Did that hit your family very hard, or this community very hard?

B: Yeah. It hit a lot of 'em—families died out. Ernie Sanders's wife and baby died with it, and John Brown had ... had four children that died with it. It might have been some more. Some of my children had it. I was down in Columbia, one of those boys was sick with it, and his daddy was in service in the army down there, Fort Jackson then. But it was over with; it didn't go across over yonder.

E: Did the Red Cross do anything to help you during that flu epidemic down there? Do you remember the Red Cross helping in anyway?

B: I don't remember 'bout the Red Cross helping in that.



- E: Well, there've been some hard years down here—the Depression hit, too, which was difficult for you all down here, I know. That was in the 1930s and 1940s. Times were hard then, too, for whites and Indians both, I think. You've lived such an eventful life. Tell me, what's the happiest thing you remember?
- B: I don't remember. But I've been had lots of—with my grandchildren and my own children.
- E: I know there's still some happy times coming when those grandchildren all come back to see you again. Isn't that right?
- B: Got one grandson up in Alaska in the Air Force.
- E: Oh, you do?!
- B: Uh-huh.
- E: And when will he be coming home?
- B: He's been in about two years this month. I reckon he signed up for four years.
- E: Did your husband ever speak the Catawba language?
- B: I never did hear him, if he did.
- E: What about your grandmother? You lived with your grandmother?
- B: My grandmother spoke it all the time.
- E: She did?! Did the children learn any of the words from her?
- B: No, they didn't. I wished I had.
- E: I know you do.
- B: I said many a time I wished I had learned it while she was sittin' around, and she'd make pottery every day in the winter. In the summertime, she'd sit out under two big old cedar trees, and she'd make pottery, and I'd sit out there with

her. Course then she took—and then other Indians would come along, and that's what she would talk, Indian language to 'em, you know. I don't know what she said, but—

E: Now, do you make the same kind of pottery today that your mother used to make?

B: Yeah.

E: How often do you make your pottery?

B: The weather's been warm. You can make some now, put them where they won't freeze, you know. Wrap 'em up in a box or somethin' another and put 'em back. And burn 'em when it's dry weather. You can make 'em every day if you got the clay.

E: Did you ever go up to Winthrop College and sell any of your pottery up there?

B: Yeah, I did a long time ago.

E: Now, the trouble now is, you don't know where to sell it, do you?

B: No.

E: After you make it.

B: People don't want to give you your price for 'em neither you know, but it's hard to make.

E: Takes a long time, doesn't it?

B: Uh-huh.

E: Who goes and brings you your clay?

B: Well, my daughter went with me one time; we got some.

E: You go across the river to Nesbitt's Farm to get everything?

B: Yeah.

E: Is it hard to find the clay over there on the riverbank now?

B: Well, it's washed up, you know, filled in. You have to dig deep to get the clay, get good clay.

E: What special patterns did you make? Do you make some of the Indian pipes?

B: Uh-huh. I make peace pipes and candle holders and ash trays and canoes and vases and long-necked pitchers and bowls and pots, gypsy pots, and all.

E: Now the gypsy pots—the one your mother's making is turned upside down and has handles. Is it three handles on a gypsy pot? Or two?

B: Three legs and two handles.

E: Three legs and two handles.

B: Course, you put as many handles on 'em as you want when you make 'em.

E: Now, you make the pots first, and then make the handles?

B: Yes, I make the pot first and let it get dry enough to hold the handles on it. You can't put the handle right on there when it's soft too much. Have to wait till they get dry enough, and then you put the handles on. Then when you get it dry enough, you can turn it over, take it loose from the bottom. If it come loose—sometimes it don't come loose right then. You have to wait, 'cause they're not dry enough, until you turn it over, and then you can work it over at the bottom, and make it quite round like a saucer, you see, and you can put your three legs on it.

E: Then it would take, what, at least a couple of hours to even make a pot, wouldn't it?

B: Yeah.

- E: And then besides adding the handles and the feet, and then burning it.
- B: You had to scrape it and get it smooth, and then let it dry, let it get good and dry, and then you take you a wet rag and rub over it, get it smooth, and then get you a rock and rub it and make it slick and shiny, and then you have to heat it a long time for it to get hot enough to burn.
- E: That's right. Well, I hope I get to see some of your pottery. Maybe you'll show me some pieces.
- B: I haven't got none now.
- E: You haven't?
- B: No.
- E: Well, when you make some, I'd like very much to see it. Do any members of your family make pottery now except you?
- B: Yeah, a lot of them makes pottery. They can make it, but they ain't none of 'em doin' any now.
- E: When springtime comes, you'll probably make you some more.
- B: When the spring comes, a lot of 'em make it then. **Get some clay** and get it ready.

[End of interview]

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