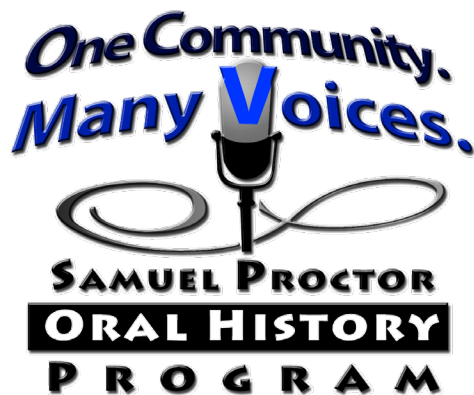


Cheryl Dean Mackie

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-057**

Interview by:

**Emma Reid Echols
September 21, 1972**



University of Florida • Samuel Proctor Oral History Program • Paul Ortiz, Director
P.O. Box 115215, 241 Pugh Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-5215
(352) 392-7168 www.clas.ufl.edu/history/oral

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Program Director: Dr. Paul Ortiz

241 Pugh Hall
PO Box 115215
Gainesville, FL 32611
(352) 392-7168
<https://oral.history.ufl.edu>

CAT 057 Cheryl Dean Mackie
Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
Interviewed by Emma Reid Echols on September 21, 1972
10 minutes | 9 pages

Abstract: Cheryl Mackie, a fifteen-year-old girl in the eighth grade, describes her life growing up in South Carolina and discusses her experiences moving schools. She also describes the different ways teachers treat students and her interactions with other classmates, particularly those of different races. Mackie goes on to describe the lack of curriculum on Catawba history and art, especially regarding resources for her own research efforts. Then, Mackie describes her career goals, the subjects she currently enjoys in school, and her hobbies outside of school. Mackie gives an in-depth description of square dances, including the cake walk, and ends the interview with discussions of her experiences in the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Education; Mormon Church]

SAMUEL PROCTOR
ORAL HISTORY
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CAT 057

Interviewee: Cheryl Dean Mackie

Interviewer: Emma Reid Echols

Date of Interview: September 21, 1972

E: This is Emma Reid Echols. Route 6, Box 260, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

September 21, 1972. And I'm interviewing a junior high girl, Cheryl Mackie, in the home of her mother, Mrs. Watts. She happens to be out of school today and so I'm fortunate to be able to see her. They live in Red River, the first house just beyond the railroad track. Will you give me your full name?

M: Cheryl Dean Mackie.

E: Cheryl Dean Mackie. And how old are you?

M: Fifteen.

E: Fifteen. Now, as a little girl you moved with your parents, I believe, from Pineville to Fort Mill. Where did you live?

M: Fort Mill.

E: Fort Mill?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: And then you remember this home which was your next home. Is that right?

M: No, ma'am. Fort Mill we made—let's see, over behind **lot's store**. Then we went there to Springdale and then from Springdale to here.

E: Oh, yes. And then your first school was where?

M: Lesslie Number One.

E: Lesslie Number One. And tell me about those school days.

M: Well, we had fun back—although, it was mostly more Indians over at Lesslie Number One than there were now.

E: When you played on the playground, did all you Indians play together, or did you mix and play with the Whites?

M: We mixed and played with the Whites and the coloreds together.

E: Did you have some friends among the Whites as well as among the Indians?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: What about the way the teachers treated you? Did they treat all of you alike?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: What teachers do you remember at Lesslie?

M: I remember Ms. Simpson. And Ms. Simpson, that's the only one I remember ever there.

E: Do you remember the principal of the school?

M: Mr.—let's see—

E: Mr. Crawford. Do you remember Mr. Crawford?

M: Well, ma'am, he wasn't the principal, I think. No, that was Mr.—I don't remember who he was.

E: But you had a number of teachers, I know, all through your grades and **you liked** Lesslie School. And where did you go from Lesslie?

M: Rosewood.

E: Now, what teachers do you remember at Rosewood School?

M: Well, let's see for the first few at Rosewood, I remember Ms. Harris. And then in second grade I remember Ms. **Nicholson**, in third grade Mrs. Burns, and in fourth grade I remember Ms. Craig, Ms. White, and Ms. **Elm** and Ms. **McGovern**.

Fifth grade was Mrs. Dickson and six grade was Mr. **Barker** and Mrs. Cordell and Ms. Bayer.

E: You must've been a good student to remember all of those.

M: **Well.**

E: Now, what subjects did you like especially in school? Anything special?

M: Well, I like math.

E: Did you ever read much and find out all you could about the Indians?

M: Back then they never did have enough books about 'em, about us Indians. But I read about just some other kinds of Indians

E: Have you ever been in school where they talk about the Catawba Indians?

M: No, ma'am.

E: They don't have a unit on the Catawba Indians?

M: No. ma'am.

E: You've missed that haven't you?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: And there's so few books written that you can read about that. Well, now, what about in the art classes? You Indians are so talented at art. Did you do anything special in art?

M: Well, I tried the art, let's see, this year and over there at Castle Heights you have to be required to take art and I asked for it and they said that I wasn't required to take it, so I couldn't take art.

E: You are now at Castle Heights and what grade are you in now?

M: I'm in the eighth.

E: Eighth grade. Now what subjects do you like especially in the eighth grade?

M: Well, I like social studies and science and math.

E: And in your social studies do you find anything about the Catawba Indians?

M: No, ma'am, not so. No, we ain't found nothing in there yet.

E: Do your teachers ever talk to you about the history of the Catawba Indians?

M: No, ma'am. I've still never had anybody come over and tell them about the Catawba Indians. My science teacher, he's a social studies teacher too, but I don't have him for social studies, and I got a book out of the library about the Catawba Indians, so he said he was gonna read it, but I don't know if he gave it out to his social studies class or not.

E: Do you remember the name of that book?

M: *History of the Catawba Indians.*

E: That's the one written by Mrs. Brown.

M: Yes.

E: I believe so. That is a very detailed and very good book and I hope you get a chance to see it. There are lots of pictures in that book—

M: Yeah, I've looked at it and **Sarah** said, "It's my book," and he wanted to borrow it, but I couldn't look at it.

E: I hope you get it back and you get to read it a whole lot. Now, when you finish school at Castle Heights, you're to go on to high school, don't you?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: And after you finish high school, what do you want to do?

M: I wanna be a teacher.

E: Good for you! That means some more studying. That means going to college and taking preparatory courses of all kinds.

M: Mmhm.

E: What special subject would you be interested in to teach?

M: Math.

E: Math. I think that would be fine. Now, besides school, what else are you interested in? Do you have any hobbies?

M: Not really. We used to have—we're usually out there **four or five** some place—softball and things and I really liked to play. Now, we got some good games over there in P.E. up at Castle Heights. We play football now and we'll get it on up and we'll play bowling and soccer and we'll be jumping over the big ol' thing and we'll sit in the middle of the floor, and we'd jump on down to see if we can touch the ceiling on the way.

E: Now, at Castle Heights there's both Blacks and White and Indians and you're in the classes with all of those.

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: Do the teachers treat all of you alike?

M: Not really. Over there, they tell you be good to them, they'll be good to you. But some of those coloreds over there, they can't get along with us and they just try to go their way and we try to go our way. Sometimes they'll get in trouble. Like last year—I wasn't there, it was the day I was sick—they had a riot, what you call it, and **Negroes** walked out of school and no Whites walked out so they expelled

the Negroes for two weeks. When they came back, the Negroes tried to start more trouble.

E: Now, you Indians, you ever cause any trouble?

M: No, ma'am.

E: Well, I'm glad to hear that. Now, on the athletic field, you have both Whites, Blacks, and Indians. Do you notice any difference? Can the Indians do things the others can't do 'bout it?

M: Well, I've been there and hadn't seen it so far.

E: Do any of the Indians go out for football?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: A number of them do?

M: That's right.

E: And you yourself enjoy anything in line of sports, don't you?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: What do you do with your hands? Do you do any embroidery or sewing or anything of that kind?

M: I tried to sew a little and then embroidery, I tried to do that too.

E: Do you hope to take sewing lessons at school?

M: Yes, ma'am. I'm gonna take that next year.

E: Well, I hope you do get to take that. You're gonna need that as you go to make a home. And at fifteen years old, do you date yet?

M: No, ma'am.

E: But do you go down to any parties down on the reservation?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: What do you do at your parties down there?

M: Well, we'll go down there and mostly when they have parties it's just grown-ups get down and they'll get on stage with guitars and they'll sing and then some of 'em get up and they'll cut up and they'll tell jokes, you know, funny jokes and all. They get out there and they have big square dances and all.

E: Do you join in those square dances?

M: Yes, ma'am. They have the cake walk there now, too.

E: Cake walk?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: Now, tell me 'bout a cake walk.

M: Well, so we'll have to pay a dime to get in and we'll have to go as a couple, and we'll go around in circles, and they'll be playing music and whatnot. And there'll be a certain person standing outside the circle and they have a broom in their hand, and **we have to be back** that far apart. And we're going in the big ol' circle and they're playing guitar with the music and when they stop somebody— whoever has got the broom—they have to throw it down in the middle and then whoever it gets between gets the cake, they have to get half of it.

E: Oh, they throw the broom down in the semicircle. And whoever had that broom when the music stops, they get that cake?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: Have you ever won one of those cakes?

M: No, ma'am.

E: Well, maybe your time will come yet. And you enjoy the square dances?

M: Mhm.

E: How often do you have that celebration thing?

M: Not too often I had them. I have classwork because seminary. For the young, you know, I'd say for kids about eight to about thirteen they have seminary classes in the evenings for them, and **for those** about fourteen to about eighteen they have a seminary class in the mornings for 'em. They go down at Frances Wade's house. She's the teacher of it and she would have parties down there for them and we'd camp out. I went to it last year and we camped out in the woods—not in the woods—we camped out in her sideward house after, under the big ol' trees.

E: Do you go to that seminary this year?

M: No, ma'am. See, she doesn't have a way up. She can't come up. It's far to get here.

E: That's right. You miss that don't you?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: Then you really studied the bible at those seminary meetings?

M: Well, we don't have the bible. We have a book called the Book of Mormon.

E: The Book of Mormon. And that's what you used in your study?

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: How many would be in a group like that studying with Frances Wade?

M: Well, there are between one and—when I was there last year, there was about twenty-five people in there.

E: And you think she does a good work for the—

M: Yes, ma'am.

E: Everybody seems to like her, don't they? Well, I hope you get a chance to go back to those classes because you seem to be interested in them.

M: I wish too.

[End of interview]

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