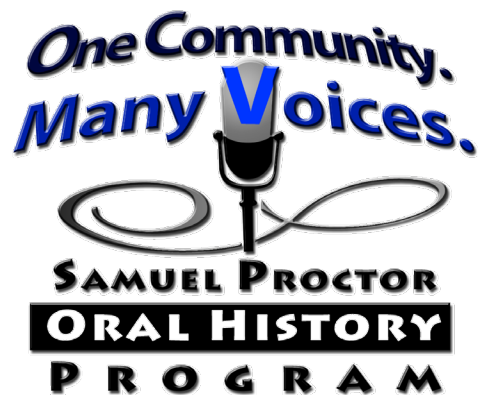


Lisa Canty Greenwood

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-111**

Interview by:

**Edith Frances Canty Wade
January 13, 1975**



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CAT 111 Lisa Canty Greenwood
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16 minutes | 10 pages

Abstract: Lisa Greenwood, niece of Frances and Gary Wade, who is sixteen years old at the time of the interview, recalls her time at school. She voices her support for the new Indian program that is providing opportunities to the younger generation to teach them pottery techniques and give access to schooling. She briefly talks about the drug problem amongst the younger generation, but believes that the new Indian program will help this group to maintain their traditions and to help the community thrive. Wade then asks Green what she thinks about the current energy crisis and of the sale of airplanes to Russia and other countries. The interview ends with Lisa advising the next generation to be proud of their Catawba heritage and to always do the best they can.

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

ORAL HISTORY

P R O G R A M
University of Florida

CAT 111

Interviewee: Lisa Canty Greenwood

Interviewer: Edith Frances Canty Wade

Date of Interview: January 13, 1975

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

Today is January 13, 1975. I'm gathering oral histories of the Catawba Indians for the University of Florida. Today I am talking with Lisa Canty Greenwood. Lisa, what is your full name?

G: Lisa Canty Greenwood.

W: What is your address, Lisa?

G: Route 7, Box 32.

W: Who are your parents?

G: My father is William Harry Thompson. My mother is Thelma Canty Hendrix.

W: Is your mother an Indian?

G: Yes, she is.

W: Is your father an Indian?

G: No.

W: What kind of work did your father do when he—?

G: He was a policeman in the Rock Hill Police Department.

W: Is your father alive?

G: No, he is not.

W: Is your mother alive?

G: Yes.

W: What brothers and sisters do you have, Lisa?

G: I have two brothers and one sister.

W: What are their names and their birth dates?

G: Anthony Scott Canty, born June 8, 1956. Lisa Glen Hendrix, born May 18, 1962, and Robert Floyd Hendrix Jr., born May 19, 1964.

W: And when were you born Lisa?

G: June 2, 1958.

W: Lisa, I know that—how old are you now?

G: I'm sixteen.

W: And you are already married, aren't you?

G: Yes ma'am.

W: When did you get married?

G: June 7, [19]74.

W: And who did you marry?

G: Robert Leon Greenwood.

W: Is he an Indian?

G: No, he's not.

W: Lisa, where were you born? Were you born—

G: I was born in Rock Hill, York General Hospital.

W: But did you live in Rock Hill, or did you live on the reservation?

G: When I was first born, I lived on the reservation, the old reservation. I lived with my aunt Frances Wade and Gary Wade and their family.

W: How long did you live there?

G: Oh, I don't know.

W: I think that you were about eight months old, and I remember that the Wades cried a lot when you and your brother were taken away. Lisa, do you belong to any church?

G: I belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I'm a Mormon.

W: And when were you baptized into the church, Lisa?

G: I was baptized when I was eight years old. I can't remember what year that was.

W: Do you remember who baptized you?

G: Elder Ruskin.

W: And do you remember where you were baptized?

G: I was baptized up in Charlotte, at that church.

W: You were baptized in a fountain in Charlotte. Lisa, are you active in church now?

G: No, I'm not.

W: I know that since you've married, you're not going to school. Where did you attend school?

G: I begun school at Northside Elementary. Then I went to Castle Heights, and I dropped out after the ninth grade.

W: Who were some of your teachers? Do you know?

G: The principal at Northside was Mr. Acott. Some of my teachers were...I don't know.

W: Miss Alan?

G: Yes, Ms. Alan and Ms. **Eadie** and Ms. **Earls**.

W: All right. Of all the subjects that you took at school, what subject did you like best?

G: History.

W: Which subject did you like least?

G: Math. [Laughter]

W: I find that lots of Indians didn't like math. Lisa, you always went to school among the Whites. Did they all know that you were an Indian?

G: Well, most of them would say, "My, you got pretty skin" and I'd say, "Yeah, that's cause I'm Indian." And they would say, "I didn't know that," and I'd say, "Yes, and I'm proud of it."

W: Did they treat you good, Lisa?

G: Most of 'em did. I remember when I went to school, my aunt—well, Aunt Frances, she taught seminary, and we'd get up around five in the morning. She'd pick us up around about six fifteen and there'd be a crowd of kids in the car. Sometimes we'd sit on top of each other. We would go down the road to the old schoolhouse to go to seminary early that morning. Sometimes we'd have a campout and we'd all camp out at the old schoolhouse and we'd tell scary stories, and everybody would get real scared. Oh, we'd have us the best time down there.

W: Lisa, since you're talking about seminary, what kind of things did you learn in seminary?

G: Well, I learned about the church and about its leaders and learned some scriptures and learned how to scripture chase. That was fun.

W: Why did you quit school, Lisa?

G: Well, I quit when I got married and I hope I'll be going back to finish up before long.

W: Well, I'm hoping so too. You going under this new Indian program, aren't you?

G: Yes ma'am.

W: And I'm real pleased that it started because I feel like it will benefit lots of young people. Lisa, you don't know anything hardly about the old reservation. I'm sure there've been changes since—from the time that you were small. Can you make any comparison with what you remember of it a while back and the way it is now?

G: I can't remember too much. I remember when before the roads got paved there wasn't nothing but big, old, dirt road all the way through the reservation. There wasn't too many White people living down there. But now there's too many White people living down there.

W: Right on the outskirts of the reservation, aren't they? And the roads are paved as you said. Lisa, let's talk about the things—something that you do know about. What do you think about all the young people who are on drugs? I'm sure that you're not. You've got too healthy a looking skin and too clear eyes to be on anything like that. What do you think about the people who take drugs?

G: Well, I don't know. People have their own life to live, and they know that it's wrong, yet they still do it so I think that, well if that's the way they want to live their life, off drugs and stuff, well, can't too many people do too much about it.

W: Do you have any idea what causes the young people to get on them?

G: Well mostly, well I've been around it, and I'd say all these young kids, there's not as many young kids as you think that are on it, cause mostly the older people,

from the ages of twenty-five on down, get them started. Get the young kids started and as far as I can say there's more older people than there are young.

W: And so, the older people, they have a tendency to cause the young people to take it.

G: Yes.

W: Well, that—I'm glad you brought that out. What do you think about the situation today and the way our country is? What do you think about this unemployment and seem to be, energy shortages, and food shortages, and everything. What do you think about all of that?

G: Well, I think it's terrible that the world is getting in such a bad situation and can't too many people do too much about it.

W: What do you think, do you have any idea what—if you had a voice in it, what could be done about it?

G: If I had anything to do with it, and how the president is giving other countries food, such as Russia, and Russia don't need our food. And I just think he should keep all our stuff right here, in the United States where it belongs. Well, I reckon if he didn't do that, then we couldn't get oil from, where is it, Israel?

W: From Egypt.

G: Egypt, yeah. So, I don't know.

W: Well, what do you think about the energy crisis? Now you know just last week, the president sold a lot of airplanes to one of the oil countries, where we're having trouble getting oil from. What do you think about that?

G: I think—well, that was wrong. I think it was, cause them people might want to start some kind of war, and then they got all these planes from the United States and we're in a bad situation.

W: What do you think we can do really, about the energy crisis that we have here? They talk about we consuming too much electricity, we're burning too much fuel. What do you think we can do about it?

G: If it was left up to me, I'd like to go back just—like in the old times, when they used oil lamps. I'd like to have a wood stove.

W: I would like to have a wood stove myself. There is a—this, you can't remember about us drawing money or any of those things, but you know about what's going on now. We have a Chief, assistant Chief, two councilmen, and a secretary. Do you think it was a good idea to start this up again?

G: Yes, yeah, I think it is.

W: Well, how do you think it'll benefit us?

G: Well, it's letting the people speak up for what they want to be done and what they want. It's helping us out a good bit.

W: And Lisa, do you think it's a good idea to keep the old part of the reservation as it is?

G: Yeah, I think so. I'd like for it to stay like it is so we can remember it, you know.

W: That's good.

G: I'd like to have new things did to it. Like they was talking about, the museum, arts and crafts.

W: Well, that's true. There is talk and it might be more than just talk in just a few months. That we might get a building, a type of museum building on the old reservation. And a place to, for the people, for the older Indians to teach the younger Indians the art of making Indian pottery. Catawbas were not—never a beadmaking or a basket-weaving group. Some of them did do that and they're talking about reviving that also. Plus, if you wanted to really draw or paint, there would be qualified people who would come down there and teach us that and I think that would be good for the young people, also. Lisa, were you one of the people who got pines to set out?

G: No.

W: You were not among that group. What can you remember about Christmas when you were growing—well you're still young but, a few years ago?

G: I can't remember too much.

W: All right, well what do you remember about Christmas now?

G: Well, Christmas now just don't seem to mean much to nobody no more, 'cause people think that they got to give expensive gifts, and people think they got to give something in return, and I don't know.

W: Lisa, if you had your way, what kind of Christmas would you really have?

G: I'd like to have one like what y'all used to have. That would be nice enough for me.

W: And what kind did we used to have?

G: Just get fruit and candy and hand-me-downs.

W: And all get together and just really have a good time.

G: Yes.

W: It was a good time. You a young lady, so you have never been in service. You are still too young to really work. And you have already kind of talked about your heritage as an Indian. Do you want to say anything else about being an Indian?

G: All I have to say is that I'm proud of it and my heritage is **my meaning**.

W: And would you like to learn to make pottery?

G: Yeah, I would. I'd like to learn to make anything that Indians used to make long ago.

W: That's really good. You'll certainly be on the list to take advantage of this pottery making business as soon as it gets started. If you could leave any words for your—for the people who will come after you—you're young, I realize that. But if you could leave any words for the people who is going to come after you, what would you tell them?

G: I'd just tell them that they should be proud to be an Indian and always stand up to it if anyone puts you down, and always try to do the best you can.

W: I would describe Lisa; she is a very lovely young lady. She has brown hair, and it is so clean it glistens. It sort of has a reddish tinge to it. She has brown eyes and thick eyelashes and thick eyebrows and freckles on her face. And she is not dark skinned. She is not completely White. She has this lovely olive complexion. She's a very lovely Indian girl, and I'm sure that under this new Indian program she is going to get her education and if she so desires, she can become a registered nurse. I had forgotten to ask Lisa about the sports that she liked or that she liked to take part in. Lisa, what sports do you like?

G: I like softball, but I especially like to ride horses. I remember when Aunt Isabel, she'd tell me about how she used to ride the horses. The big old draft horses, down on the bottoms at the river, and just ride them, bare backing without anything to guide them with just riding them up and down. I like to do that. I like to ride a horse bare-backed and every time I see one, I want to ride one. I enjoy it. If left up to me, I'd prefer horses before I would cars.

W: Well, I know that you can ride because I have seen you. Lisa, do you like to fish?

G: Yeah, I like to fish, but usually I wind up getting mad, 'cause either I can't catch nothing, I get tired of sitting down and waiting, and I get mad and quit.

W: So, you are not the patient kind where fish are concerned.

G: No.

W: Do you like to just look at sports, rather than take part in some of them?

G: I like to watch football and basketball, if I am there, so I can see it in person, but not on TV.

W: But you also like to play basketball, don't you?

G: It's all right. I like softball better.

W: Well, it was softball, I guess, that I'm thinking that you played so hard in last year as you were practicing up at the church.

[End of interview]

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