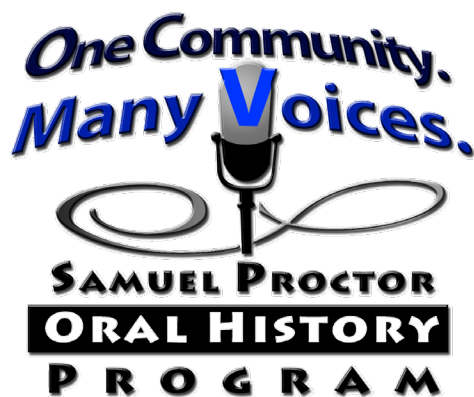


Rhonda Denine Wade

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-095**

Interview by:

**Edith Frances Canty Wade
October 19, 1974**



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CAT 095 Rhonda Denine Wade
Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
Interviewed by Edith Frances Canty Wade on October 19, 1974
7 minutes | 6 pages

Abstract: Rhonda Wade, Frances Wade's nine-year-old granddaughter from Charlotte, North Carolina, shares the names of her family members and their jobs. She describes the chores she does around the house. She speaks about how she gets to school, her favorite subject, and that she has friends of different races. Rhonda Wade mentions that her classmates do not believe she is an Indian and says she is proud to be one. She describes how she helped her grandmother make pottery and says that she will try to learn how to make pottery in the future.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Education; Race relations]

SAMUEL PROCTOR
ORAL HISTORY
PROGRAM
University of Florida

CAT 095

Interviewee: Rhonda Denine Wade

Interviewer: Edith Frances Canty Wade

Date of Interview: October 19, 1974

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

Today is October 19, 1974. I'm gathering the oral history of the Catawba Indians for the University of Florida. I'm talking with Rhonda Wade. Rhonda, what is your full name?

RW: Rhonda Denine Wade.

FW: How old are you, Rhonda?

RW: I'm nine and a half years old.

FW: When were you born?

RW: February 8, 1965.

FW: Who are your parents, Rhonda?

RW: Horace Gary Wade and Brenda Wade.

FW: Are your parents Indian?

RW: My father is but my mother isn't.

FW: Who are your grandparents on your mother's side?

RW: Louise Coleman and—

FW: What is your grandfather **Jack's name**.

RW: Papa Jack Coleman.

FW: And who are your grandparents on your father's side?

RW: Frances Wade and Gary Wade.

FW: Rhonda, where do you live?

RW: Charlotte, North Carolina.

FW: What is your address?

RW: 5132 **Uttica** Avenue.

FW: Do you have any brothers?

RW: I have one brother.

FW: Do you have any sisters?

RW: One stepsister.

FW: What is your brother's name?

RW: My brother's name is **Brent**.

[Break in recording]

FW: Rhonda, what kind of work does your father do?

RW: Well, he works on boats and he's a carpenter.

FW: What kind of work does your mother do?

RW: She works for **Dixie Tag and Labels** in an office.

FW: What kind of duties do you have to perform at your house?

RW: I have to clean my room, and sometimes wash dishes, and sweep the floors, and make my bed up, and clean my closet.

FW: What do you like most to do when you're home?

RW: I like to mop because it's real fun.

FW: What makes it so much fun?

RW: Well, I like to play house for a little while.

FW: Rhonda, do you belong to any church?

RW: No.

FW: Do you ever go to church?

RW: Yeah, when I go down to my grandmother's house.

FW: What grandmother are you talking about?

RW: Frances Wade.

FW: Well, what church do you go to?

RW: Mormon.

FW: All right, now, let's talk about the school you go to. What's the name of your school?

RW: Oakhurst School.

FW: And that's where?

RW: On Monroe Road.

FW: In Charlotte?

RW: Mmhm.

FW: Who are your teachers?

RW: My teachers is Ms. **Fence** and Ms. **Trailwick**.

FW: How do you get to school?

RW: I walk.

FW: Is it very far?

RW: Well, my next-door neighbor says it's too far for me to walk.

FW: Can you not ride the bus?

RW: No.

FW: The bus doesn't come—

RW: It doesn't come by my house.

FW: What subjects do you take in school?

RW: You mean like gymnastics and things?

FW: Well, no—well, yes, you can talk about that too, but what—do you take English?

RW: Yeah, I take English language and—

FW: English is your language, right?

RW: Uh-huh.

FW: All right, I didn't know.

RW: And spelling, and math, and science, and social studies.

FW: And what grade are you in?

RW: Fourth.

FW: What subjects do you like best? Which of your subjects that you take at school do you like best? Do you like math best, or English, or—

RW: Oh, I like science the best because we get to do experiments.

FW: You probably gonna have to talk louder if you wanna be taken on the tape.

RW: I like to take experiments.

FW: What kind of experiments do you do?

RW: Well, the last experiment we had was we took a tin can, we filled it up with water, and got a hot plate. Then we got some ice from the lunchroom, and we rubbed it on the tin can and it started goin' in. **At the** top, steam started coming out.

FW: What grade are you in?

RW: Fourth.

FW: The fourth grade. Do you like to go to school?

RW: Yes.

[Break in recording]

FW: Rhonda, do the students and the teachers know you're an Indian?

RW: Yes, but they don't believe me.

FW: Wonder why they don't believe you?

RW: I don't know.

FW: I'll tell you, Rhonda doesn't look too much like an Indian. She has high cheekbones, but she has fair skin and blue eyes and brown hair.

[Break in recording]

FW: Rhonda, do you have lots of Black friends as well as White friends?

RW: Yes, one of my Black friends, she is my best friend.

FW: And you get along well with her?

RW: Uh-huh.

FW: Have you ever lived on the reservation, Rhonda?

RW: Yes, I lived right at the woods where you live.

FW: That's been a long time ago, hasn't it?

RW: Uh-huh.

FW: Are you proud you're an Indian?

RW: Yes, I am.

FW: Why are you proud you're an Indian?

RW: Well, our teacher asks us all kinds of questions and the other children don't know the questions and I do.

[Break in recording]

FW: Rhonda, your grandmother makes Indian pottery. Are you going to try to learn?

RW: Yes.

FW: What have you done already in the pottery?

RW: You helped me make a canoe and I rubbed it with the rubbing rock.

FW: And what else has to be done to it?

RW: You have to burn it and—

FW: Well, that's all you have to do to it. As you can see, Rhonda, even though she doesn't look too much like an Indian, she is beginning to want to learn the culture of the Indians and this makes me very proud.

[End of interview]

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