Isabelle George Interview

March 22, 1983; Interviewer: Dr. Thomas John Blumer; Interviewee: Isabelle George; Transcriber: Dr. Thomas John Blumer

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TB: [00:00:04:000] Your name?

IG: [00:00:04:000] You got my name. I was born in 1904.

TB: [00:00:15:000] And you're the daughter of?

IG: [00:00:15:000] David Adam Harris and what else you want me to tell you [*laughs*]?

TB: [00:00:29:000] Well, what are some of the earliest things you remember as a little girl?

IG: [00:00:29:000] Carrying water up the hill from the spring [*laughs*].

TB: [00:00:38:000] Oh, was that your chore?

IG: [00:00:38:000] Yes [*laughs*].

TB: [00:00:38:000] That was your job?

IG: [00:00:38:000] Well, I went with the older ones, you know, down to the spring and carried a little half gallon bucket and carried it up the hill, just to be going I guess. Just to be doing something.

TB: [00:00:57:000] Who were the older ones that you went with?

IG: [00:00:57:000] Well my sister Artemis and my mama and—

TB: [00:01:08:000] Can you tell me anything about your mama?

IG: [00:01:08:000] Well, I –

TB: [00:01:08:000] Do you remember her much?

IG: [00:01:08:000] Well, I guess I remember pretty good because I was fourteen when she died. She was, I don't know how old she was when she died, but –

TB: [00:01:35:000] Can you remember anything that she did or said?

IG: [00:01:35:000] Well, I don't remember anything, only cooking and working out in the fields and tending to the kids. Because after I got older I had to tend to the kids while she done her work in the house and cook and so –

TB: [00:01:55:000] She put you to work?

IG: [00:01:55:000] Yes tending to the babies while she did – had one, well the rest of them was big enough to walk around and play, and I tended to Raymond. He was the little baby. He couldn't walk. He was crawling, so I tended to him and played with him.

TB: [00:02:17:000] What kind of crops did she have? That she had to tend?

IG: [00:02:17:000] Oh, my daddy was a farmer, and so she helped him to work out in the field hoeing cotton, hoeing corn and worked a garden. I'll catch you! [to child she is watching].

TB: [00:02:46:000] Did she ever spank you?

IG: [00:02:46:000] Never spank me, she'd whip me.

TB: [00:02:46:000] Did she whip you.

IG: [00:02:46:000] She never would spank us. She'd always use a switch. She'd always get one of us to go out and get a switch, but I’d never stand still for the switch. I'd run, but she'd catch me [*laughs*].

TB: [00:03:06:000] Oh, would she?

IG: [00:03:06:000] Yes.

TB: [00:03:06:000] What are some of the things you did to deserve that?

IG: [00:03:06:000] I guess fight with the rest of the kids and didn't do what she asked me to do.

TB: [00:03:17:000] She demanded that you be obedient?

IG: [00:03:17:000] Yes, had to mind. Had to listen at what she said. If I didn't I'd get a switching.

TB: [00:03:34:000] Who was your mama?

IG: [00:03:34:000] Emily George. Well, I think she was a Cobb before she married Taylor George.

TB: [00:03:47:000] Do you remember Emily?

IG: [00:03:47:000] Yes, I remember her well cause I was about I guess 20 years old when she died and—

TB: [00:03:58:000] Can you tell me any stories about her?

IG: [00:03:58:000] Well, I don't know any stories on her. She was just an old lady and went from place to place to stay with her granddaughters. Because I wasn't married at the time, so she stayed with some of the rest of her daughters and her grandson.

TB: [00:04:18:000] Was she anything like Dovie?

IG: [00:04:18:000] Oh, I think she was a little bit like Dovie [Harris].

TB: [00:04:18:000] Did she tell those stories that Dovie told?

IG: [00:04:29:000] Dovie [*laughs*] would tell them wouldn't she?

TB: [00:04:29:000] She could, sure could.

IG: [00:04:29:000] Grady can tell them too.

TB: [00:04:29:000] Oh can he? Is that Grady there?

IG: [00:04:38:000] Yes, that's Grady [Harris].

TB: [00:04:38:000] Maybe he can tell me some Dovie stories. I'd like to hear those. Tell me some Dovie stories.

IG: [00:04:38:000] I don't even know them.

TB: [00:04:38:000] You don't know about those snakes?

IG: [00:04:50:000] No, there's not much I can tell you.

TB: [00:04:50:000] What do you remember about your daddy?

IG: [00:05:01:000] Well, I remember when he farmed and after we got older we had to work in the field just like my mama did, and, but he was a good father as far as I know to us. He was a real good father.

TB: [00:05:18:000] He worked hard?

IG: [00:05:18:000] Yes, on the farm and kept up his farms.

TB: [00:05:18:000] How much—did he have bottom land?

IG: [00:05:28:000] Yes, he had some bottom land down on the river. He worked them and then whenever he'd lay his crop by, what they call lay your crop by in July they would cut wood, fire wood for fireplaces and pine for the stove, and they'd pen them up, and that was for [the] winter. They didn't have to get out. They'd let the pine dry, for the stove wood, and they'd have all the wood dry for the winter.

TB: [00:06:15:000] How big was his house?

IG: [00:06:15:000] Ah, let me see. He had about 1, 2, 3—he had four bedrooms. I meant four beds, four rooms: the kitchen and then two bedrooms. We used another room, we'd use it for a bedroom too, but it wasn't called the bedroom. Grady, come and get her and see if she's got this phone?

TB: [00:06:47:000] She doesn't have the phone. Can you tell me about the day you got baptized?

IG: [00:06:58:000] Well, it was a warm day, and I was nine years old when I went to get baptized. So it was—

TB: [00:07:15:000] Was it in the river?

IG: [00:07:15:000] Yes, it was in the river, but it wasn't in cold weather. I wouldn't be baptized when I was eight, so I had to wait until I was nine years old.

TB: [00:07:27:000] How come?

IG: [00:07:27:000] I just was scared and mama said “if you don't want to get baptized, you don't have to”, and so I didn't until I was nine years old.

TB: [00:07:44:000] But you were raised a Mormon.

IG: [00:07:44:000] Yes.

TB: [00:07:44:000] Did your mama belong to the Relief Society?

IG: [00:07:44:000] I don't remember whether she did or not, but she went to church some.

TB: [00:07:59:000] She took you all to church?

IG: [00:07:59:000] Sometimes she would and sometimes she just sent us. So that was that.

TB: [00:07:59:000] Somebody told me that your daddy had a little commissary down by the ferry?

IG: [00:08:15:000] Down on the river where they had the flats they put people across on cars. Yes, he had one there, and then he—after he quit that, he made a place up at the house where we lived at and he had one there for a while.

TB: [00:08:44:000] And what did he sell?

IG: [00:08:44:000] He sold candy and crackers and drinks and things like that. I think he sold a few canned goods as far as I can remember.

TB: [00:08:58:000] Did you ever work in there?

IG: [00:08:58:000] No, I never did work in there.

TB: [00:08:58:000] You were too little?

IG: [00:08:58:000] Yes.

TB: [00:09:10:000] Now you were married. Who did you marry the first time?

IG: [00:09:10:000] Robert Harris.

TB: [00:09:10:000] Now can you tell me about him? When did he ask you to marry him? Can you tell me about that?

IG: [00:09:22:000] It was in November. Well, he asked me in November about the first of November and it was about 1925 when we got married.

TB: [00:09:39:000] Did he have to ask your daddy?

IG: [00:09:39:000] No.

TB: [00:09:39:000] How come?

IG: [00:09:39:000] I was 21.

TB: [00:09:39:000] Oh I see. So he didn't feel compelled—

IG: [00:09:50:000] No.

TB: [00:09:50:000] to ask that.

IG: [00:09:50:000] No, I was 21.

TB: [00:09:50:000] And how old was he?

IG: [00:09:50:000] He was—he must have been 28. He was 28 or 29, somewhere in there. He was seven years older than I was.

TB: [00:10:06:000] What kind of work did he do?

IG: [00:10:06:000] He worked or worked in the Mill, Cotton Mill in textiles.

Child: [00:10:06:000] Granny.

TB: [00:10:16:000] Was he a good worker?

IG: [00:10:16:000] Yes, he was a good worker. He worked until he couldn't work.

TB: [00:10:16:000] He worked right straight through?

IG: [00:10:27:000] Yes. He got sick and got in the hospital and had to quit.

TB: [00:10:27:000] What was wrong with him?

IG: [00:10:27:000] Cancer.

TB: [00:10:27:000] Oh really. That's bad.

IG: [00:10:27:000] Yes.

TB: [00:10:43:000] Where did you get married?

IG: [00:10:43:000] York.

TB: [00:10:43:000] And how'd you get there?

IG: [00:10:43:000] Ah, his boss man took us in their car.

TB: [00:10:54:000] And the judge married you?

IG: [00:10:54:000] No, we just went up there and got a license and come back and went to a Baptist church and got married.

TB: [00:10:54:000] Oh, which one?

IG: [00:11:05:000] I don't remember the name of the Baptist, somewhere in town.

TB: [00:11:05:000] Was he a Baptist?

IG: [00:11:15:000] No, he was a Mormon.

TB: [00:11:15:000] He was a Mormon too, so you just got a preacher?

IG: [00:11:15:000] Yes, we went and got a preacher.

TB: [00:11:15:000] For heaven's sakes.

Child: [00:11:15:000] Hi

TB: [00:11:29:000] What kind of work did he do in the mill?

IG: [00:11:29:000] Run cards and strip cards, like that. He worked in the card room. That's where he worked ever since he started to work.

TB: [00:11:42:000] So he stayed right in that?

IG: [00:11:42:000] And if he’d change jobs, got to another mill, that’s where he worked at.

TB: [00:11:42:000] Oh, so he didn't stay in the same mill?

IG: [00:11:52:000] No, because he worked up there what they call the Card Mill for a while and then he worked at the Industrial for a while. They called it Blue Buckle then and he worked there and I think, I don't remember whether he worked at Aragon or not but I guess he did.

TB: [00:12:19:000] Did you make pottery at that time?

IG: [00:12:19:000] No I didn't.

TB: [00:12:19:000] So he didn't sell your pottery for you?

IG: [00:12:19:000] No.

Child: [00:12:19:000] Let's go.

IG: [00:12:28:000] What?

Child: [00:12:28:000] [inaudible]

TB: [00:12:28:000] How much schooling did you get down there?

IG: [00:12:28:000] Third.

TB: [00:12:38:000] You went to the third grade?

IG: [00:12:38:000] Yes.

TB: [00:12:38:000] Why did you stop??

IG: [00:12:38:000] Ah, you'll have to take this mike off.

TB: [00:12:50:000] Okay, now you quit school in the third grade?

IG: [00:12:50:000] Yes, I quit school in the third grade because we moved off the reservation. He moved up to the dam where there was a ferry he had to run, and they didn't allow Indian kids to go to school outside the reservation. So I didn't get to go to school any more. So my mama died when were up there, and well I didn't get to go to school. And then when my daddy moved us back to the reservation, we stayed about a month and then we moved back up there. So I didn't get to go to school until, oh I guess I must have been 15 years old then, and I didn't go very much then. I just had to go a few hours cause I had my two brothers to tend to, Raymond and Dennis. We stayed by ourselves and daddy worked in town, and he worked at night so he had to stay in town. He couldn't come back and forth. So me and my brothers stayed by ourselves.

TB: [00:14:15:000] In the house on the reservation?

IG: [00:14:15:000] Yes, up on the hill, right.

TB: [00:14:15:000] Were you afraid?

IG: [00:14:15:000] No, and so the teacher would let me out about 2:00 to go home to do my work before it got dark, and so that's the way I got it done, and I didn't finish the fourth [grade]. I started with the fourth and I didn't finish. So I just say I stopped at the third.

TB: [00:14:42:000] So you really raised Dennis and Raymond?

IG: [00:14:42:000] Just about.

TB: [00:14:42:000] You were like their second mother?

IG: [00:14:42:000] Yes.

TB: [00:14:42:000] Can you tell me anything about Raymond? What kind of a little boy was he?

IG: [00:14:54:000] Well, he was a good little boy. He didn't give me any trouble and he'd stay at home with me. Course he wasn't very old either. He was about three years old when mama died, and so he wasn't no bad boy.

TB: [00:15:10:000] Never got into anything?

IG: [00:15:10:000] No.

TB: [00:15:10:000] Now Dennis was another story though?

IG: [00:15:10:000] Yes, he was. After he got up bigger, well he, he must have been 13, 14 years old, he'd get out and go, you know, when he got ready. But he couldn't do like other boys. He was not able because he was deformed, but he'd get out and go.

TB: [00:15:40:000] He did the best he could?

IG: [00:15:40:000] Yes.

TB: [00:15:40:000] Can you tell me about him falling off the trestle?

IG: [00:15:40:000] I really don't know because I wasn't down that way, and I just—

TB: [00:15:50:000] Oh, you were married?

IG: [00:15:50:000] No, I wasn't married then, but I was staying in Rock Hill babysitting for some people. So I wasn't down there. When I heard it, he was in the hospital. They brought him and put him in the hospital. So I—yes I went to see him. I went to see him every day.

TB: [00:16:15:000] He was lucky to be alive.

IG: [00:16:15:000] Yes, he was.

TB: [00:16:15:000] Who did you babysit for?

IG: [00:16:15:000] Ah, Sallie Wade. I know you know her.

TB: [00:16:27:000] Sure enough. You watched Rella and Gary?

IG: [00:16:27:000] Yes, Rella and I stayed over there with them while she was working in the mill.

TB: [00:16:42:000] Which mill did she work in?

IG: [00:16:42:000] She worked over at the Industrial.

TB: [00:16:42:000] Did she pay you?

IG: [00:16:42:000] What?

TB: [00:16:42:000] Did she pay you?

IG: [00:16:42:000] Uh-huh.

TB: [00:16:52:000] So you got a little bit of money.

IG: [00:16:52:000] Yes, not much cause back then you didn't get nothing hardly, maybe 50 cents a day or something like that.

TB: [00:17:03:000] How long did you stay?

IG: [00:17:03:000] I didn't stay but about a week after Dennis got hurt because after he got hurt I went back and forth and she moved to Chester so I didn't go down with them. And so I moved back to the reservation. I think with one of my sisters. I don't remember which one it was, but it was not one of them.

TB: [00:17:36:000] How long was he sick for?

IG: [00:17:36:000] Well, until he got where he could walk.

TB: [00:17:36:000] Oh, he broke his leg.

IG: [00:17:36:000] Yes, he had it broke.

TB: [00:17:48:000] How come Sallie went to Chester?

IG: [00:17:48:000] She got a job here and went to work.

TB: [00:17:48:000] Is that where she met Will Wade?

IG: [00:17:48:000] No, I think she met him somewhere in Rock Hill. I don't know.

TB: [00:18:00:000] I thought he was from Chester. I guess he died in Chester.

IG: [00:18:00:000] Yes, that's what they say. That's where he died at.

TB: [00:18:11:000] Did your mother sew?

IG: [00:18:11:000] Yes. Um-huh.

TB: [00:18:11:000] Did she teach you how to sew?

IG: [00:18:11:000] No [to the child] get away from there. You’re going to get burnt.

Child: [00:18:11:000] [inaudible]

TB: [00:18:38:000] Did she teach you how to sew?

IG: [00:18:38:000] Grady, get her. Get away from there, baby. You’re gonna get burnt. No, she didn't. She'd let me stand at the sewing machine. She had a pedal, one you pedal, and she'd let me stand and pedal the sewing machine. So I'd get to where I'd learn how to pedal it, but she never did let me sew on it. But after I got old and got married I bought one of my own, I learned myself.

TB: [00:19:15:000] So she didn't.

IG: [00:19:15:000] She showed me how to pedal and then I—after I got married I bought one of my own.

TB: [00:19:26:000] You pedaled while she sewed.

IG: [00:19:26:000] Yes.

TB: [00:19:26:000] Was that the idea?

IG: [00:19:26:000] Yes.

TB: [00:19:26:000] So you were making it an automatic machine I guess.

IG: [00:19:26:000] I guess so. She made all of my dresses.

TB: [00:19:41:000] Oh, did she? She sewed for her girls.

IG: [00:19:41:000] For me. I don't know about the other girls.

TB: [00:19:52:000] Tell me, when you were married, did you get serenaded?

IG: [00:19:52:000] No.

TB: [00:19:52:000] Have you ever seen a serenade?

IG: [00:19:52:000] I've heard tell of them. I ain't never seen one, but I heard tell of them.

TB: [00:20:04:000] What is it?

IG: [00:20:04:000] Well they say they take [inaudible] and buckets and all kinds of things. Run around the house and make all kinds of racket with them, hit on them or something or other, cow bells and things like that, but I never did see one.

TB: [00:20:26:000] You never were in the house when it happened for somebody else?

IG: [00:20:26:000] No.

TB: [00:20:26:000] When did Robert die?

IG: [00:20:35:000] He died in 19—I think it was 1955 or 1956, I forget which.

TB: [00:20:47:000] And then did you remarry?

IG: [00:20:47:000] Yes.

TB: [00:20:47:000] And who did you marry the second time?

IG: [00:20:47:000] Ephraim George, Landrum George's brother.

TB: [00:20:47:000] What kind of a fellow was he?

IG: [00:20:56:000] Well, he was a nice fella because we got along good. We really enjoyed each other and everybody told me I was lucky. When I married Robert, I got a good husband. So they said the second time, well I guess I did.

TB: [00:21:19:000] They were both good to you?

IG: [00:21:19:000] Yes, both of them were good to me.

TB: [00:21:19:000] Now was it Ephraim didn't have a hand?

IG: [00:21:19:000] Yes.

TB: [00:21:29:000] How did he lose that hand? Were you there?

IG: [00:21:29:000] No, I wasn't married to him then.

TB: [00:21:29:000] Do you know how he lost it?

IG: [00:21:38:000] I really don't know how it happened.

TB: [00:21:38:000] Somebody shot it off.

IG: [00:21:38:000] Yes.

TB: [00:21:38:000] Or was it amputated?

IG: [00:21:49:000] No, I think they shot it off.

TB: [00:22:01:000] Did you ever work out in the public?

IG: [00:22:01:000] Yes, I worked a while in the mill.

TB: [00:22:01:000] And tell me about that.

IG: [00:22:14:000] I worked up here in—

TB: [00:22:14:000] Oops!

IG: [00:22:25:000] I forget what you call that mill now, Carhartt—no it wasn't Carhartt, it was Cutters. I worked up there for about a year.

TB: [00:22:39:000] About what year was that?

IG: [00:22:39:000] I can't remember, it's been so long.

TB: [00:22:39:000] Were you married to Robert?

IG: [00:22:39:000] Yes.

TB: [00:22:39:000] While you were married?

IG: [00:22:39:000] Yes.

TB: [00:22:49:000] How'd you get the job?

IG: [00:22:49:000] He, Robert, helped me to get it. He got it for me.

TB: [00:22:49:000] Oh, he was working there too?

IG: [00:22:49:000] Yes.

TB: [00:22:59:000] But you only stayed a year?

IG: [00:22:59:000] Yes, a year, a year and a half. I just did. I worked.

TB: [00:22:59:000] Then what did you do after that?

IG: [00:22:59:000] Quit and stayed home.

TB: [00:23:12:000] Is that the only job you had out in the public?

IG: [00:23:12:000] Yes.

TB: [00:23:12:000] Only that one time?

IG: [00:23:12:000] Yes.

TB: [00:23:12:000] Well, that's what you were talking about, you having good husbands.

IG: [00:23:12:000] I guess so.

TB: [00:23:23:000] They took good care of you.

IG: [00:23:23:000] Yes, I had a good provider.

TB: [00:23:23:000] Which mill did your daddy work in when he went to the mill to work?

IG: [00:23:23:000] Over here at Highland Park.

TB: [00:23:36:000] And what kind of work did he do?

IG: [00:23:36:000] I don't remember. I think they said he worked in the dye department where they dyed the, what do you call it?

TB: [00:23:46:000] The cloth?

IG: [00:23:46:000] The threads, you know, you dye whenever you're fixing—

TB: [00:23:46:000] How did he get back and forth?

IG: [00:23:57:000] He stayed in town. He didn't have no way to get backwards and forwards.

TB: [00:23:57:000] Do you know who he stayed with?

IG: [00:23:57:000] No.

TB: [00:23:57:000] Probably a rooming house?

IG: [00:24:08:000] Just a little ole house he stayed in.

TB: [00:24:18:000] Do you know anything about people treating the Indians bad?

IG: [00:24:18:000] No I don't.

TB: [00:24:18:000] Was anybody ever mean to you because you're an Indian?

IG: [00:24:18:000] No.

TB: [00:24:29:000] You never had any problems like that.

TB: [00:24:29:000] When did you start making pottery? You make beautiful pottery today don't you?

IG: [00:24:40:000] I don't make any now. I don't have any clay. Oh, I don't know I guess I must have been in my teens when I stayed with my sister and made them.

TB: [00:24:57:000] Was that Edith?

IG: [00:24:57:000] No, Artemis.

TB: [00:24:57:000] Oh, did she teach you?

IG: [00:24:57:000] Yes, I guess she did or either I just sat down and fooled with the clay till I learned it.

TB: [00:25:09:000] What, you lived with her for a time?

IG: [00:25:09:000] Yes.

TB: Were you there to help her with her work?

IG: [00:25:09:000] No, just stayed with here.

TB: [00:25:21:000] So is your pottery something like Artemis's?

IG: [00:25:21:000] No, I don’t think they are.

TB: [00:25:30:000] Then when did you start making all the time and selling it?

IG: [00:25:30:000] I don't know. I can't think of what year it was now.

TB: [00:25:30:000] But have you made off and on since that time?

IG: [00:25:42:000] Yes.

TB: [00:25:42:000] Did Robert take your pottery to Cherokee to sell it?

IG: [00:25:42:000] No, I went with some of the other ones that went to Cherokee.

TB: [00:25:55:000] He didn't have anything to do with that?

IG: [00:25:55:000] No, he'd help me to get the wood and burn them.

TB: [00:25:55:000] He'd help you burn them. Could he rub?

IG: [00:25:55:000] No, he wouldn't do that.

TB: [00:26:09:000] Who dug your clay?

IG: [00:26:09:000] Ah, well, he went and dug it one time. And so if I'd go with anybody they'd dig it, some of the women be going and take some of the men and they dug it.

TB: [00:26:28:000] Where did you go to dig your clay?

IG: [00:26:28:000] Across the river at Nesbits.

TB: [00:26:28:000] Johnson's Bottoms?

IG: [00:26:28:000] Yes. Um-huh.

TB: [00:26:28:000] Do you have pipe molds?

IG: [00:26:39:000] I have some somewhere but I don't know where they're at.

TB: [00:26:39:000] Who made them?

IG: [00:26:39:000] I don't know who made these I really don't.

TB: [00:26:49:000] Not from Martha Jane Harris?

IG: [00:26:49:000] No.

TB: [00:26:49:000] Do you know any ghost stories?

IG: [00:26:49:000] No, he's the one [Grady] that can tell the ghost stories.

TB: [00:27:03:000] From the reservation?

IG: [00:27:03:000] Yes.

TB: [00:27:15:000] How'd you get along with Dorothy after she married your daddy?

IG: [00:27:15:000] That's why I had to leave home. We didn't get along.

TB: [00:27:15:000] Oh really. Is that why you went to Artemis?

IG: [00:27:29:000] Um-hm.

TB: [00:27:29:000] And then what happened to Raymond and Dennis?

IG: [00:27:29:000] They stayed there until they got big enough to leave.

TB: [00:27:29:000] And then they left?

IG: [00:27:29:000] Yes.

TB: [00:27:29:000] Well, what did she do to you?

IG: [00:27:40:000] Nothing—only just—you know how grouchy people are and wanting you to do everything and they do nothing.

TB: [00:27:50:000] So you had to do all the work?

IG: [00:27:50:000] Yes.

TB: [00:27:50:000] And that bothered you?

IG: [00:27:50:000] Yes.

TB: [00:27:50:000] Well, that's not hard to—was she hard to get along with? Was she a difficult woman?

IG: [00:28:01:000] I guess she was.

TB: [00:28:01:000] Now she had a bunch of children by your daddy?

IG: [00:28:01:000] Had four is it?

TB: [00:28:14:000] Do you know much about them?

IG: [00:28:14:000] No, I don't visit around with them. I just speak and talk to them when I see them.

TB: [00:28:14:000] But you didn't grow up with them?

IG: [00:28:25:000] No, I didn't grow up with them.

TB: [00:28:25:000] Now is Hoyt one of them?

IG: [00:28:25:000] No, he's my brother.

TB: [00:28:25:000] Oh, he's your full brother?

IG: [00:28:25:000] Yes.

TB: [00:28:25:000] Can you tell me anything about Hoyt?

IG: [00:28:38:000] I can't tell you nothing about him. Yes, he was the black sheep.

TB: [00:28:38:000] He was the black sheep?

IG: [00:28:38:000] I don't know.

TB: [00:28:49:000] Well, I guess every family's got one.

IG: [00:28:49:000] Yes.

TB: [00:29:02:000] How about Emeline. Did you know Emeline?

IG: [00:29:02:000] Yes, I knowed her well.

TB: [00:29:02:000] Not well.

IG: [00:29:02:000] Yes, I knowed her well.

TB: [00:29:02:000] Now, she was married to Hoyt.

IG: [00:29:15:000] Yes, he had four wives.

TB: [00:29:15:000] Oh did he, tell me who they are?

IG: [00:29:15:000] I don't know. Let's see, Emmaline was the first one and Mary Massey was his second one.

TB: [00:29:27:000] She was white?

IG: [00:29:27:000] Yes, and—

TB: [00:29:27:000] Ruthie?

IG: [00:29:27:000] Oh yeah, Ruthie was his third and Geneva Sweat was his fourth.

TB: [00:29:44:000] Now, Emmaline, what happened to her? She died.

IG: [00:29:44:000] I don't know whether childbirth, though I think when she had her child.

TB: [00:29:56:000] And what happened to Massey?

IG: [00:29:56:000] Oh, she left. I bet she's still living somewhere.

TB: [00:29:56:000] Oh, is that right?

IG: [00:29:56:000] I guess so.

TB: [00:30:08:000] So she left him and then what happened with Ruthie?

IG: [00:30:08:000] She died.

TB: [00:30:08:000] The same, with childbirth, something to do with childbirth.

TB: [00:30:18:000] And then what about the fourth one?

IG: [00:30:18:000] She left him.

TB: [00:30:18:000] So what did he do after he was alone for the fourth time?

IG: [00:30:18:000] He didn't try to marry. He stayed with me and Robert until he died.

TB: [00:30:31:000] Oh, so he actually lived with you?

IG: [00:30:31:000] Yes.

TB: [00:30:31:000] Well, by that time—was he ready to settle down?

IG: [00:30:31:000] Yeah.

TB: [00:30:42:000] Did he work?

IG: [00:30:42:000] Sometimes he’d, you know, work, but—

TB: [00:30:42:000] But not like Robert?

IG: [00:30:42:000] No.

TB: [00:30:50:000] Not steady like Robert did? Did Robert have a car?

IG: [00:31:00:000] Well, once in a while he had one, he had a car. He had a little ole truck.

TB: [00:31:00:000] Can you tell me about that car?

IG: [00:31:00:000] It's been so long I can't.

TB: [00:31:15:000] So he had a regular job and it was no problem for him to buy a truck or a car?

IG: [00:31:15:000] Well, he had a regular job, but he didn't use his truck for going back and forwards. He rode with other people. Then whenever he couldn't get a ride he'd just get him a boarding place in town. And then whenever he thought it was too much for him, he rented a house and we moved up town. We all moved in town then.

TB: [00:31:49:000] I see, whereabouts in town did you live? In the Mill Village?

IG: [00:31:49:000] No, yes we stayed in the Mill Village right over here in Industrial and then we stayed in an apartment back across the highway, I mean across town.

TB: [00:32:08:000] Did you share with other people or was it just you and Robert?

IG: [00:32:08:000] No, there was about two more families in the house.

TB: [00:32:08:000] Who were they?

IG: [00:32:20:000] I think a Fuller was one family and I forget the other.

TB: [00:32:20:000] They weren't Catawbas?

IG: [00:32:20:000] No, they weren't Indians.

TB: [00:32:31:000] I see. What can you tell me about Lucy Starnes?

IG: [00:32:44:000] I don't know much about Lucy, only she stayed here a while with us. She stayed around with her other kids, Landrum and Eva.

TB: [00:32:59:000] Now she was with you when she died?

IG: [00:32:59:000] Yes.

TB: [00:32:59:000] Can you tell me what happened?

IG: [00:32:59:000] Well, she was sitting here one day and she was just talking. She said, “I got to set up and go in my room and light my heater.” It was a little ole heater, it was not like that one, but it was a little portable heater, something, it turned over easy. She went in there and I didn't know she went in to light it, so I got up and went and fixed her lunch. And when I went to call her, I seen the smoke coming out. She closed the door when she went in and I saw the smoke coming out. And I opened the door, and it just blast[ed] out, and she was laying across the bed. She must have knocked over the kerosene just when she struck the match, and it must have caught, and just set the bed and everything on fire.

TB: [00:34:00:000] It happened right in this house?

IG: [00:34:00:000] Back there in one of those rooms.

TB: [00:34:00:000] One of those back rooms.

IG: [00:34:00:000] Yes.

TB: [00:34:11:000] I bet that tore you up.

IG: [00:34:11:000] It did. I liked to never did get over it.

TB: [00:34:11:000] Oh, that's a terrible way, and it must have hurt Ephraim bad.

IG: [00:34:11:000] Yes.

TB: [00:34:30:000] Do you know anything about ministering to the sick?

IG: [00:34:30:000] I don't know what I can tell you about that.

TB: [00:34:41:000] Did Chief Blue ever come and do that?

IG: [00:34:41:000] Uh-huh.

TB: [00:34:41:000] To your people, to your family?

IG: [00:34:41:000] Yes, anybody.

TB: [00:34:41:000] Can you think of a time that he came to minister to somebody?

IG: [00:34:53:000] Well, when I was a kid, as far as I can remember, mama would always have him to minister to us, and whenever I got old enough, and remembered who gave you the blessings. That’s what they call them now, the blessing. But when he'd come to minister to me, every time I got sick, that's who I wanted was Uncle Sam. On up till he died he'd be the one that always—

TB: [00:35:23:000] But your mother called him in?

IG: [00:35:23:000] She called him the first time. She called him when I was little and then I didn't know it. But after I got older and I knew who was ministering to me, every time I'd get sick I'd want him. So he was the one.

TB: [00:35:44:000] He was a good man?

IG: [00:35:44:000] I thought he was.

TB: [00:35:44:000] You know anything about snuff?

IG: [00:35:54:000] Yes, I've seen people use it.

TB: [00:35:54:000] Have you ever taken it?

IG: [00:35:54:000] I tried it several times, but I couldn't make a go of it. It was nasty.

TB: [00:36:09:000] What happened? You get sick?

IG: [00:36:09:000] No, it didn't make me sick, but I just couldn't stand the smell of it.

TB: [00:36:09:000] Was this when you were a girl?

IG: [00:36:18:000] Yes, about 15 or 16 years old.

TB: [00:36:18:000] Now mostly women took that?

IG: [00:36:18:000] Um-huh.

TB: [00:36:18:000] Men very seldom did that sort of thing?

IG: [00:36:30:000] No, I didn't see any.

TB: [00:36:30:000] Did your mama take snuff?

IG: [00:36:30:000] No.

TB: [00:36:30:000] Did she smoke?

IG: [00:36:30:000] No.

TB: [00:36:43:000] Dorothy must have taken snuff though?

IG: [00:36:43:000] She did.

TB: [00:36:43:000] It's pretty messy. Did your daddy?

IG: [00:36:54:000] No, I never did see him smoke or either chew tobacco or dip snuff.

TB: [00:36:54:000] Oh, was that right, he was a very—well he was a hard worker. He worked pretty hard. Was he stern with you all?

IG: [00:37:15:000] Well, he'd seem like he—well he wasn't mean with us. He just told us what we had to do and that would be it. He wasn't—

TB: [00:37:27:000] You didn't give him a bad time?

IG: [00:37:27:000] Unh-uh.

TB: [00:37:27:000] Never got fresh?

IG: [00:37:27:000] No, we knew not to.

TB: [00:37:41:000] You know anything about mad dogs?

IG: [00:37:41:000] No I don't.

TB: [00:37:41:000] Have you ever see one?

IG: [00:37:41:000] No, no I never did see. I'd just hear people talk about them, that's all.

TB: [00:37:54:000] Did Robert keep dogs?

IG: [00:37:54:000] Yes, we kept dogs.

TB: [00:37:54:000] What for?

IG: [00:37:54:000] Just to keep around the house all I know.

TB: [00:38:03:000] He didn't hunt?

IG: [00:38:03:000] No, well he'd hunt, but he'd never really get a hunting dog cause he didn't go out that much.

TB: [00:38:03:000] What did he hunt?

IG: [00:38:15:000] Rabbits.

TB: [00:38:15:000] How do you prepare a rabbit? Now you had to cook them?

IG: [00:38:15:000] Yes, I'd just cook them.

TB: [00:38:15:000] Did he dress them for you?

IG: [00:38:25:000] Yeah. I didn't fool with that part.

TB: [00:38:25:000] How would you cook it?

IG: [00:38:25:000] I'd cut them up and parboil them and then fry them.

TB: [00:38:25:000] Oh you fried it. Like you fry chicken? About the same way?

IG: [00:38:38:000] Yes.

TB: [00:38:38:000] What else would he hunt?

IG: [00:38:38:000] That's all I remember him hunting.

TB: [00:38:38:000] Possums?

IG: [00:38:38:000] No.

TB: [00:38:48:000] Have you ever eaten possum?

IG: [00:38:48:000] No, and I don't like possum. I wouldn't eat one.

TB: [00:38:48:000] Why?

IG: [00:38:48:000] Because the looks of them makes me sick.

TB: [00:38:57:000] Looks like a rat. Looks kind of nasty.

IG: [00:38:57:000] Yes.

TB: [00:38:57:000] You're right. Who was Wade Harris?

IG: [00:39:09:000] Wade?

TB: [00:39:09:000] Did you have a brother named Wade?

IG: [00:39:09:000] Unh-uh.

TB: [00:39:09:000] Half- brother from Lizzie [Patterson]?

IG: [00:39:09:000] Unh-uh.

TB: [00:39:19:000] Your father's first wife?

IG: [00:39:19:000] No.

TB: [00:39:19:000] Never knew him? Might have been Richard's full brother. I don't know.

IG: [00:39:30:000] I don't remember a Wade.

TB: [00:39:30:000] You never knew him? He must have died before. Can you tell me about the influenza?

IG: [00:39:30:000] Unh-uh.

TB: [00:39:30:000] You don't remember it?

IG: [00:39:30:000] No.

TB: [00:39:45:000] Did they ever tell you what happened?

IG: [00:39:45:000] Un-huh.

TB: [00:39:55:000] Now somebody told me your daddy used to make Locust Beer?

IG: [00:39:55:000] Well, I wouldn't know if he did or not, if he did.

TB: [00:39:55:000] You've never made it?

IG: [00:39:55:000] No, I wouldn't know what to do.

TB: [00:40:07:000] Okay, do you know how to cook in the fireplace?

IG: [00:40:07:000] Yes.

TB: [00:40:07:000] Now how'd you learn how to do that, from your mom?

IG: [00:40:07:000] Yes or maybe my sister, I don’t know, I just learned.

TB: [00:40:20:000] Artemis?

IG: [00:40:20:000] Yes.

TB: [00:40:20:000] How do you handle a situation like that?

IG: [00:40:20:000] You set your skillet on a bed of coals and then put your—

TB: [00:40:20:000] Do you control the heat?

IG: [00:40:33:000] Yes, you just put your bed of coals right up under there, under the skillet and you don't have them too hot and it will cook.

TB: [00:40:33:000] And you made cornbread that way?

IG: [00:40:44:000] Yes.

TB: [00:40:44:000] You ever cook an ash cake?

IG: [00:40:44:000] No. No, cause I didn't like them.

TB: [00:40:44:000] Oh, how come?

IG: [00:40:44:000] I don't know.

TB: [00:40:54:000] You didn't like that ash taste?

IG: [00:40:54:000] No.

TB: [00:40:54:000] I see, I see. Did you ever know somebody named Lucy Lee?

IG: [00:41:08:000] No.

TB: [00:41:08:000] That name doesn't ring a bell with you?

IG: [00:41:08:000] No.

TB: [00:41:20:000] How about dogs taking fits. You ever see a dog take a fit?

IG: [00:41:30:000] I don't know whether I have or not.

TB: [00:41:30:000] Your dogs never did that?

IG: [00:41:30:000] If they did they were out doors by their selves and had a fit.

TB: [00:41:30:000] You never paid them any mind? Now you sold your pottery in Cherokee?

IG: [00:41:53:000] Yes.

TB: [00:41:53:000] But you never went up there with it?

IG: [00:41:53:000] Yes, but I went with other people. Robert didn't take me.

TB: [00:41:53:000] He never took an interest in that?

IG: [00:41:53:000] No.

TB: [00:42:04:000] Like who would you go with?

IG: [00:42:04:000] Well, I went with his brother Grady several times, Martin [Harris]. And then I went let's see, David Harris, a nephew. David Harris that was Artemis's son. I went with him once or twice, and then I went with I think Alonzo Canty and Helen Beck and Frances [Wade] I think once.

TB: [00:42:49:000] Can you tell me about the Canty brothers?

IG: [00:42:49:000] I really don't know nothing about them.

TB: [00:42:49:000] Frank and Henry.

IG: [00:42:49:000] No.

TB: [00:42:59:000] Do you know how they died? I guess it was Henry that burned to death?

IG: [00:42:59:000] Yes, that's the onliest one.

TB: [00:42:59:000] Were you there?

IG: [00:42:59:000] No, I wasn't there.

TB: [00:42:59:000] You weren't down on the reservation?

IG: [00:42:59:000] No.

TB: [00:43:12:000] So you don't know that whole story?

IG: [00:43:12:000] No.

TB: [00:43:26:000] Can you tell me anything about Raymond? Can you tell me anything about his life, now he married Nola?

IG: [00:43:26:000] Yes, that's Nola's son—that’s Raymond's son Grady.

TB: [00:43:42:000] [Speaking to Grady]. You look like your mama. I am going to talk to her tonight. She's been helping me a lot with this project. She's a nice lady, a real nice lady. What kind of a chap was he?

IG: [00:44:00:000] Well, he was just a good chap, all I know. I'd say he's good because he's my brother.

TB: [00:44:10:000] Sure, now you took care of him until he was old enough to go to work.

IG: [00:44:19:000] No, see I took care of him until daddy and Dorothy come back and stayed in the house there. I don't know how old he was, but then I left and he stayed with my daddy until he got big. Or either he stayed with my daddy until he died I guess.

TB: [00:44:52:000] What was Theodore like? Now you lived with them.

IG: [00:44:52:000] Yes, I stayed with them a lot. Well, I guess, I don't know what to say about him.

TB: [00:45:09:000] How he worked in the mill'?

IG: [00:45:09:000] Yes, he worked in the mill and worked out on farms and things. He worked mostly on farms for people.

TB: [00:45:20:000] Halvers [sharecropping]?

IG: [00:45:20:000] Yes, halvers either by the day or something or other like that and that's the way he always done.

TB: [00:45:30:000] Yes, do you remember floods coming down in those river bottoms?

IG: [00:45:39:000] No, I remember when that dam broke [Lake Wylie] and, you know, it was all over the bottoms and the reservation. That was 1916.

IG: [00:45:53:000] Wasn't it?

TB: [00:45:53:000] Yes, that was 1916.

IG: [00:45:53:000] I thought it was.

TB: [00:45:53:000] Can you describe what you saw?

IG: [00:45:53:000] I didn't see nothing but a lot of water and a whole lot of trees going down the river and that's all I can remember. Tell Grady to give you some water [to the child].

TB: [00:46:15:000] But now that never came up near your house?

IG: [00:46:15:000] No.

TB: [00:46:15:000] Where was it located?

IG: [00:46:23:000] Do you know where Lillie Beck lives? Ah, Lula Beck? You know where she stays? Well, we stayed right on top of the hill up there. That's where my daddy had that, where the Community Building is.

TB: [00:46:39:000] Oh, right in there?

IG: [00:46:39:000] Yes, that's where he's, he had a—

TB: [00:46:50:000] Right where the Civic Center is, that community house, that community building?

IG: [00:46:50:000] Yes.

TN: [00:46:50:000] Right underneath that?

IG: [00:46:50:000] Yes.

TB: [00:46:50:000] Well then, where did Epp and Martha Jane Harris live? Were they right up the street from there?

IG: [00:47:02:000] They lived right down below there, down towards the river.

TB: [00:47:02:000] Do you remember them?

IG: [00:47:02:000] Um-hm.

TB: [00:47:15:000] Can you tell me anything about them?

IG: [00:47:15:000] Do [*baby crying*] you mean, Aunt Martha Jane, Rhett's [Georgia Henrietta Harris] grandmother?

TB: [00:47:15:000] Yes.

IG: [00:47:24:000] Well, I don't know a lot. I know after her husband died, she stayed in that little log house by herself, and she used to cook. Cook her dinner on a Saturday, and she'd ask me to go home with her on Sunday, and I'd go with her and eat dinner. And she'd have her dinner already cooked, and I went down there several times and spent the night on Sunday nights, and she didn't have but one bed, and she'd—there was two little rooms, front room where she slept and a kitchen. That’s all she had.

TB: [00:48:14:000] So she had just those two little rooms?

IG: [00:48:14:000] Yes, but it was a log house.

TB: [00:48:14:000] About how big was it? A little bigger than this room?

IG: [00:48:26:000] Yes, I know, maybe where she slept at and had her bed might have been as big as this and then the kitchen, it was a small kitchen.

TB: [00:48:41:000] Did you ever watch her make pottery?

IG: [00:48:41:000] No, I didn't.

TB: [00:48:41:000] She made beautiful pots.

IG: [00:48:41:000] Yeah. No, I never did watch her.

TB: [00:48:41:000] Now she didn't make you pipe molds?

IG: [00:48:54:000] No, I don't know who made these pipe molds. They're not good ones that's how I know she didn't make them.

TB: [00:49:11:000] Can you tell me anything about your mama? How did she do her work, or did she to it that you went to school?

IG: [00:49:21:000] Yes, sent me to school every day as far as I can remember.

TB: [00:49:32:000] You ever get in scraps in school? You behaved.

IG: [00:49:32:000] No. I must have did. I didn't get in none.

TB: [00:49:32:000] Do you remember your teachers?

IG: [00:49:43:000] Yeah. Ben Harris and Rosie Wheelock, those [are] the only two I remember.

TB: [00:49:43:000] Oh, so you went to Ben Harris?

IG: [00:49:53:000] Yes.

TB: [00:49:53:000] What kind of a fellow was he?

IG: [00:49:53:000] I thought he was a right nice fella.

TB: [00:49:53:000] Was he a good teacher?

IG: [00:49:53:000] Yes.

TB: [00:49:53:000] Was he strict?

IG: [00:50:04:000] I guess he was strict with some of them but I don't remember him being rough with them. He might have been. I don't know. But those [are] the only two I can remember right now.

TB: [00:50:20:000] Now he was Robert's daddy?

IG: [00:50:20:000] Yes.

TB: [00:50:20:000] Now they had a big family did they?

IG: [00:50:20:000] Um-hm.

TB: [00:50:38:000] Do you know anything about a ghost chasing Theodore?

IG: [00:50:38:000] No, he does [*points to Grady*].

TB: [00:50:38:000] Do you know that story?

GH: [00:50:38:000] No, she can tell it.

TB: [00:50:51:000] Tell me the story?

IG: [00:50:51:000] I don't know it. I can't tell it.

TB: [00:50:51:000] You can't tell it?

IG: [00:50:51:000] Cause he told me and Evelyn about it.

GH: [00:50:51:000] Mama will tell you about it tonight.

TB: [00:51:03:000] She's already told me, but I wanted to hear—

IG: [00:51:03:000] He wanted to hear it again.

TB: [00:51:03:000] I wanted to hear it again.

GH: [00:51:03:000] She'll give it to you.

TB: [00:51:03:000] Do you know any Dovie stories?

IG: [00:51:03:000] He remembers them.

GH: [00:51:03:000] [inaudible]

TB: [00:51:19:000] Oh, you didn't know Dovie.

TB: [00:51:19:000] How about—they tell me that black people were afraid to go down there [to the Catawba Reservation]. Why is that?

IG: [00:51:35:000] I don't know. I guess they was scared of the Indians.

TB: [00:51:35:000] You think that was necessary or—

IG: [00:51:35:000] No, I don't think so.

TB: [00:51:48:000] What was Artemis like?

IG: [00:51:48:000] Well, I guess she was just like everybody else.

TB: [00:51:48:000] Can you remember you doing anything with her or going anywhere with her. What did you do together when you lived with her?

IG: [00:52:03:000] Well, we didn't do nothing together, only just keep house and wash and carry water. I tended her kids or cooked for her whenever she had to wash.

TB: [00:52:20:000] How did you all handle that washing? That must have been a job?

IG: [00:52:20:000] Well, I let her do it and I'd do the cooking.

TB: [00:52:20:000] Oh, is that right? Well, did you ever go down to the spring and do the wash?

IG: [00:52:20:000] Unh-uh.

TB: [00:52:32:000] How did you do it?

IG: [00:52:32:000] Take my tubs down there and set them on the big old long bench and rub my clothes on a washboard.

IG: [00:52:32:000] Yes.

TB: [00:52:44:000] Did you boil the clothes?

IG: [00:52:44:000] Um-hm.

TB: [00:52:44:000] So you had a fire down there.

IG: [00:52:44:000] Yeah, and a big old wash pot.

TB: [00:52:44:000] Which spring did you use?

IG: [00:52:54:000] Where ever I stayed at, the spring.

TB: [00:52:54:000] Every spring had a place where you burned a fire?

IG: [00:52:54:000] Um-hm.

TB: [00:53:04:000] There was always a place like that near the spring. Did you go down there with anybody, so you’d have company?

IG: [00:53:04:000] No, what I did, I stayed close to the spring. I didn't, stay too far from it.

TB: [00:53:21:000] How did you manage that in the winter time?

IG: [00:53:21:000] I'd stay at the house.

TB: [00:53:21:000] You'd carry the water up?

IG: [00:53:21:000] Yes.

TB: [00:53:21:000] Well, that must have been a chore. Took a lot of water to wash clothes didn’t it?

IG: [00:53:35:000] Yeah.

TB: [00:53:35:000] You know anything about a fellow named Chester Harris?

IG: [00:53:45:000] That was my brother.

TB: [00:53:45:000] Can you give me a biography of Chester? Now I understand that he was a minister?

IG: [00:53:45:000] Yes, he was a preacher, an elder or something.

TB: [00:54:06:000] Can you tell me about him or? How did he get to be an elder?

IG: [00:54:06:000] I can't explain all that.

TB: [00:54:24:000] But he was with the Mormons?

TB: [00:54:24:000] Did he go on a mission?

IG: [00:54:24:000] Um-hm. Yeah, I think he went on six months.

TB: [00:54:24:000] Do you know where he went?

IG: [00:54:39:000] I can't think of the little old place where he went, somewhere in North Carolina, but I can't think of the place that it was.

TB: [00:54:39:000] Did he go to some Indians in North Carolina?

IG: [00:54:50:000] I don't guess it was in North Carolina either. Should have been in South Carolina. I don't remember. It's been so long.

TB: [00:54:50:000] Now that was a long time ago. We're talking about the 20s?

IG: [00:54:50:000] I imagine we is.

TB: [00:55:03:000] He was older than you?

IG: [00:55:03:000] No, I'm older than him.

TB: [00:55:15:000] Oh, you were the oldest of that bunch of children. You were the oldest of Della's children?

IG: [00:55:15:000] No.

TB: [00:55:15:000] Who was the oldest? Grady can tell you?

GH: [00:55:15:000] Was Carrie the oldest?

IG: [00:55:15:000] Yes, Carrie was the oldest and Artemis was older than Hoyt. Hoyt was older than me, and I'm older than Dennis and Dennis is older than Chester and Chester is older than Raymond.

TB: [00:55:50:000] I see. That’s how it goes. Who was Carrie?

IG: [00:55:50:000] That was our baby sister that died when she was about two years old.

TB: [00:55:50:000] Oh, she only lived about two years?

IG: [00:55:50:000] I didn’t even know her.

TB: [00:56:03:000] Colitis or something?

IG: [00:56:03:000] I guess so. I don't know.

TB: [00:56:03:000] A lot of children died with that.

IG: [00:56:03:000] I guess they did.

TB: [00:56:03:000] They were bad to get that. So this Carrie only lived a very short time.

IG: [00:56:18:000] Um-hm.

TB: [00:56:18:000] What do you know about Douglas Harris?

IG: [00:56:30:000] No, I don't know nothing. I just know him.

TB: [00:56:30:000] You just knew him, never stayed around his people at all.

IG: [00:56:30:000] No.

TB: [00:56:44:000] Did you know Georgia's mama?

IG: [00:56:44:000] Yes, I knowed her.

TB: [00:56:44:000] Can you tell me anything about her?

IG: [00:56:55:000] There's nothing I can tell you about her, only she was a nice old lady, that's all I know. Whenever I'd go around her, she'd treated—looked looked like she treated everybody good. I liked her.

TB: [00:57:12:000] What about Joseph [Harris]?

IG: [00:57:12:000] Joseph?

TB: [00:57:12:000] Robert's brother?

IG: [00:57:12:000] Yes.

TB: [00:57:12:000] Do you know anything about him?

IG: [00:57:22:000] Well, I don't know what to tell you about him.

TB: [00:57:22:000] Well, anything.

IG: [00:57:34:000] I know he had two kids and we raised his two kids.

TB: [00:57:34:000] Oh really?

IG: [00:57:34:000] Yes.

TB: [00:57:34:000] And who—

IG: [00:57:34:000] Joseph, Jewell. Jewell's in Illinois. She's married and went out there and Joseph, well we called him Buddy. We called him Buddy from a baby. He was 2 ½ months old when we got him. Jewell was four years old. So we raised them.

TB: [00:58:03:000] Oh, so you're his mama.

IG: [00:58:03:000] Well that's what they said.

TB: [00:58:03:000] Called you that?

IG: [00:58:03:000] He did until he got up big old boy, and so now he calls me by my name, both of them does.

TB: [00:58:20:000] Well, how come you ended up raising those children?

IG: [00:58:20:000] Well, when their mama died, well his grandma, I mean my husband's mama [Dovie Harris] had the babies and she wasn't able to take care of them, and so they asked would Robert take the baby and take care of it. Robert told them he'd take them both. He said he didn't want to take one unless he had both of them. So they gave him both of them. So we raised both of them. We didn't adopt them. We just raised them.

TB: [00:58:59:000] Well, those were his brother's children.

IG: [00:58:59:000] Raised them until they got married.

TB: [00:58:59:000] Who was Joseph's wife?

IG: [00:58:59:000] Ah, Bessy Bone. She was in Columbia. All her people was in Columbia.

TB: [00:59:13:000] Oh, but she was white?

IG: [00:59:13:000] Yes.

TB: [00:59:13:000] What happened to her?

IG: [00:59:13:000] I don't know. Buddy was, he must have been about seven days old when she died. She died, you know.

TB: [00:59:34:000] Infection?

IG: [00:59:34:000] Yes.

TB: [00:59:34:000] Right after childbirth?

IG: [00:59:34:000] Yeah.

TB: [00:59:34:000] Now that happened a lot too didn't it?

IG: [00:59:34:000] Yeah. I think that was how old he was. Seven days or something and she died.

TB: [00:59:51:000] Then her mother took this seven day old baby and she couldn't keep him.

IG: [00:59:51:000] No, cause she was an old lady too.

TB: [00:59:51:000] Too old.

IG: [00:59:51:000] Yes.

TB: [01:00:02:000] That must have changed your way of living?

IG: [01:00:02:000] Yeah. Because I had them to take care of, and so I took care of them cause we didn't have no children of our own.

TB: [01:00:14:000] You never had any children?

IG: [01:00:14:000] No.

TB: [01:00:14:000] Well, those are your children.

IG: [01:00:14:000] Um-hm. Yes, they think they are.

TB: [01:00:23:000] What are some of the things that happened while you were raising them? Can you tell me anything about raising those two boys, boy and a girl?

IG: [01:00:23:000] A boy and a girl. Well, they was pretty good kids, cause I didn't have any trouble with them, and they'd mind me pretty good, and after they got up big enough, about 12 and 13 years old, they would help me around the house and help me do things.

TB: [01:01:00:000] Did they go to school on the reservation?

IG: [01:01:00:000] Yes, they went to school on the reservation till we moved off the reservation. Then they would go on the outside then.

TB: [01:01:13:000] Go to white schools?

IG: [01:01:13:000] So when we moved out they went to school.

TB: [01:01:13:000] About what year did you get them?

IG: [01:01:30:000] I’m trying to think what year Buddy was born. I guess it was 32, 1932 I guess.

TB: [01:01:30:000] Where is Buddy today?

IG: [01:01:30:000] He stays here in Rock Hill. He works for the Highway Department.

TB: [01:01:45:000] He's married and has a family.

IG: [01:01:45:000] He's got two kids but one died. I think I got company or somebody's got company.

TB: [01:02:05:000] Oh my. Oh, can—I don't know if you want to talk about this. If you don't just tell me. Can you tell me how your mama died?

IG: [01:02:17:000] No, I don't want to talk about that.

TB: [01:02:17:000] Well, I don't blame you. That's okay. Can you tell me anything about Ben Harris?

IG: [01:02:29:000] I don't know nothing about him. I just knowed he was an elder too, a preacher, and he worked in the church.

TB: [01:02:45:000] Did he come around very much and visit you?

IG: [01:02:45:000] No, he'd come around, but we stayed with him a lot after we got married. We'd move out and then we'd move back, before, that was before Buddy and them was born.

TB: [01:03:07:000] So you lived with Ben?

IG: [01:03:07:000] Yes, off and on.

TB: [01:03:07:000] How did you get along with Dovie?

IG: [01:03:07:000] I got along with her good. I guess I get along with everybody.

TB: [01:03:07:000] What was she like? You're pretty even tempered.

IG: [01:03:27:000] Yes.

TB: [01:03:27:000] Well, what was she like to live with? Did she do a lot of joking?

IG: [01:03:27:000] Oh, she was all right to live with. I think her and my kids sometimes got in arguments or something or other. But me and her never did have any trouble, and she was all right to get along with.

TB: [01:03:58:000] How did Ephraim die?

IG: [01:03:58:000] Heart attack.

TB: [01:03:58:000] Did you know that he had a bad heart?

IG: [01:04:08:000] Yeah. Because the doctor told him and he was in the hospital for a while and then he came out and then we ran the little store next to the reservation, and he was sick all the time. Course I ran it most of the time and I had to because he'd show me what to do. But he just got sick one evening and we came home and the doctor came and he had a heart attack then, and the doctor told him to stay in bed and not to get out and he did. He got up anyway. I think he lived about a week or two before he had another one. I think if he'd took care of his self though he'd be still living.

TB: [01:05:05:000] He just didn't listen to the doctor?

IG: [01:05:05:000] No, not like ought to. I think if he'd stayed in the bed and listened to the doctor and did what he told him to do, he'd a got a long better.

TB: [01:05:19:000] It's hard to tell.

IG: [01:05:19:000] Yes.

TB: [01:05:19:000] Well, he was a strong man?

IG: [01:05:19:000] Yes.

TB: [01:05:19:000] He was a big man?

IG: [01:05:19:000] Yes.

TB: [01:05:25:000] Is that his picture up there?

IG: [01:05:25:000] Unh-uh. That ain't his picture.

TB: [01:05:25:000] I was thinking maybe that was him. If you went down to the old cemetery would you find your people's graves?

IG: [01:05:45:000] Not all of them.

TB: [01:05:45:000] Could you find your mama's?

IG: [01:05:45:000] I think I could find hers but I don't—its got no marker on it, but I—

TB: [01:05:57:000] Who is she buried by?

IG: [01:05:57:000] I think she was buried by Steven, Stevens or something.

TB: [01:05:57:000] Oh, Tom Stevens.

IG: [01:06:09:000] Yes, I think that's where she was buried. Yes, I believe that's where it's at.

TB: [01:06:09:000] Oh, do you know what happened to him?

IG: [01:06:09:000] Unh-uh.

TB: [01:06:09:000] You don't know his story?

IG: [01:06:09:000] No, I don't know what happened to him.

TB: [01:06:29:000] Okay, well this had been very helpful. You helped me a lot with your mother. I would like to know more about your mother. Not about her death but more about what kind of a lady she was. You've helped me a lot with that and that's been a big problem because she died so long ago. There's very few people who remember her.

IG: [01:06:54:000] Yes.

TB: [01:06:54:000] Really, can you remember anything about the kinds of food that she cooked?

IG: [01:07:04:000] No, just biscuits and corn bread and beans and peas and what do you call this, hominy out of corn.

TB: [01:07:19:000] Oh, your daddy liked that?

IG: [01:07:19:000] Yes, and she’d always cook a big old pot full in a big old wash pot outdoors. She'd cook that full.

TB: [01:07:31:000] That's good isn’t it? When it's done fresh like that.

IG: [01:07:31:000] Yes.

TB: [01:07:31:000] Was she a pretty good cook?

IG: [01:07:31:000] Yeah, I thought she was.

IG: [01:07:43:000] Well, just wait [to child].

TB: [01:07:43:000] Did she teach you your prayers at night?

IG: [01:07:43:000] Yes.

TB: [01:07:43:000] She sat down and said prayers with you all?

IG: [01:07:53:000] Yes, well wait and he'll get it. She's wanting water.

TB: [01:07:53:000] Oh, she wants a glass of water. Well we'll just quit now. Can you think of anything else about your mama?

IG: [01:07:53:000] No.

TB: [01:08:09:000] Do you have a picture of her?

IG: [01:08:09:000] No I don't. I wished I did.

TB: [01:08:09:000] Does anybody?

IG: [01:08:09:000] I don't remember unless Garfield has one that his mama had of her.

TB: [01:08:20:000] Okay, I'll have to ask Garfield. Can you tell me when you married Ephraim?

IG: [01:08:31:000] 1958, March 14th.

TB: [01:08:41:000] Did you get married in York, or in the church?

IG [01:08:41:000] No, we got married in Chester.

TB: [01:08:41:000] By a JP?

IG: [01:08:41:000] Wherever you buy your license from. It was a woman at the court house.

TB: [01:09:02:000] 1958 and then he died when?

IG: [01:09:02:000] I think in 65. I'm not sure.

TB: [01:09:02:000] You weren't married that long?

IG: [01:09:12:000] About 8 years.

TB: [01:09:12:000] Is it all right if I use this material for my book?

IG: [01:09:12:000] Okay.

TB: [01:09:25:000] That's okay.

NOTE: [01:09:25:000] END OF SESSION