

Dear Georgina Transcript

[PASSAMAQUODDY DRUMMING AND SINGING] ANNOUNCER: How about these shawl dancers, huh? Huntley Brook singers and the shawl dancers. How about that? Little Eagles you've got the rabbit dance. Are we ready?

[PASSAMAQUODDY DRUMMING AND SINGING]

[LAUGHS] She's just learning it.

GEORGINA SAPIER-RICHARDSON: When I was growing up, I knew I was different. I could tell by the skin that I was different. But they had to put it in my head, brown means it's not good. My foster parents told us about run if you see an Indian, and we did it.

When I was 30 years old and I went back to the reservation, this Indian lady told me, Georgina, you look exactly like your mother when she was a young person. So that made me feel pretty special, made me feel real.

Here's mom right here, God rest her soul. Right there she was. And I kind of favor her. Look at that. She always got into the dancing and stuff like that, and I love the dancing. Here she is right here. There I am when I was graduating from high school. I don't have one when I was a little girl. They're saying that the State should have had pictures of us when they took us, but I've never seen anything. No one ever said anything to me about it.

The other night I was fooling around, and I was trying to draw a small girl, but I can't get the cheeks on the baby, little kids. You know how they have chubby cheeks? And so I try to do this picture here to make it a little girl. And then the caption is-- and here's the moccasins down here-- "All ready to go." And then I put, "Where? To the dance!" And "Passamaquoddy."

And so when I get depressed, I get upset, I go to one of my books here and I journal. And then I walk and go down the lake down here. We got a lake, and I walk around the lake because that's what my doctor said I should do.

In my spirit, I take me out of here. That's the way the Indians used to do it when they didn't like where they were at, they had a way of removing their spirit. They call it spacing. [LAUGHS]

There's so much you can do out here in the woods. I see little fishes in there. Wherever you see them coming up, they're coming up for breath. I just love this. Look at his little tail. Isn't that sweet. It's a raccoon. Where's your mama?

Oh, no. Where's his mama? I've got to learn to forgive myself for going through all the hell I went through. My counselor says, Georgina, get a picture of a baby. 'Cause see, I never could tell you what I looked like or anything. Get a picture of a baby and forgive yourself for what you've

let your little Georgina go through.

When a counselor talks about that little girl, forgive yourself for what she went through, I tried, and I couldn't protect her. Couldn't protect her. That pain is still in me. I could see that all now. I could see us standing in that shed and him there. And we had to call him Dad whether he abused us or not. We had to call him Dad.

And it was when we were so small that we figured that's the norm. And I'd try to do things to try to wipe it out, you know, kind of put it over here, and it just keeps coming back. So when he tells me to get over it and forget about it and forgive the people that have done that, you just can't. I try.

GEORGINA'S HUSBAND: It's one thing you're letting past you here. It's the burden that you're carrying. And it's pushing you down all the time. If you let it go, you don't carry that burden no more. You don't go back and hang around and hang around and hang around. You keep moving ahead.

- But there's no--

- That's just the way I was taught.

- Yeah, that's the way you were taught. Your brothers and sisters have been taught like that, but you don't inflict that on somebody else.

- It's not being inflicted. Try it. Maybe it's better than what you're doing.

GEORGINA: Can you pull over there?

GEORGINA'S HUSBAND: Right here?

GEORGINA: Yeah.

GEORGINA'S HUSBAND: How old were you guys? What, 10, 12 years old?

- Yeah, we used to--

- But it's all rock.

- Yeah, but we used to kick and splash in there. This here is Fort Street. That's Boynton right there, the street we lived on.

WOMAN: Come on up on the porch here.

GEORGINA Well, I'll be right there. I remember I used to come in here and go right in there and go up. I can't remember how it is now.

WOMAN: There was stair there.

GEORGINA: --go upstairs and go to bed.

WOMAN: I can remember my mother-in-law talking about the folks that lived there and having all the foster kids and that they had you there more to work and for the money they were getting

GEORGINA: Yeah, such a shame.

WOMAN: than because they really cared about you.

GEORGINA: [SCOFFS]

WOMAN: Which is is a shame.

GEORGINA: God bless you. Thank you for letting us come in here.

WOMAN: You're very welcome.

- I'm trying to get all the memories I can.

- I don't blame you.

LIBRARIAN These are some measurements, some of your physical measurements at the time. Your height.

GEORGINA: Well, I'll be.

RECORD KEEPER: Would you like to look at some of your testing?

GEORGINA'S HUSBAND: Yeah, let's look at some of her tests.

- The butcher sells-- 1 beef, 2 cedar, 3 pencils, and 4 glasses. He sold number one, beef. Right?

- You had it right back them too.

- Oh, my lord. Oh, my gosh.

GEORGINA'S HUSBAND: Did you find yourself?

- Yes, I found me. Oh, my gosh!

GEORGINA: Oh, Georgie. Oh, isn't she pretty. Look at that. They've got pictures of me right there. I don't believe it. We found her. I got it right there. I got it.

It's like she wants to tell me something. And if I study her long enough, her little eyes might bring something to me, you know?

[MUSIC PLAYING]