

EARLY FRED SANDERS COLLECTION



Fred Sanders with great grandson Anthony
(photo by Chris Judge)

Fred Sanders was Vice-Chief of the Catawba Nation for nearly twenty years and a very large part of the struggle to regain federal recognition. Sanders is a consummate politician and an advocate of Native American rights.

The Early Fred Sanders Collection contains a variety of materials – legal, federal, state and tribal documents, photographs, slides, audio tapes, extensive clipping files and various ephemera—collected by Sanders over a forty year period. This is South Carolina’s largest grouping of archival materials created by a Native American.

- Container List (29 pages) [\[PDF\]](#) [\[DOC\]](#)

Location:	Archive, The Native American Studies Center, The University of South Carolina Lancaster
Volume:	18.75 Linear Feet
Processed:	Brent Burgin, Archivist (2012-2013), Jamie Williams, Intern (2011)
Provenance:	The E. Fred Sanders Collection was transferred to the Native American Studies Archive in 2007-2008
Citation Format:	E. Fred Sanders Collection, Native American Studies Archive, The University of South Carolina Lancaster
Copyright:	Information concerning copyright must be secured in writing from the archivist.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



Early Fred Sanders (1926 - 2013)
Vice Chief Catawba Indian Nation (1974-1993)

Sanders' autobiography was first published in a Catawba Tribal Newsletter, 7th Generation Catawba News, April, 1999.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This Collection consists of 18.75 linear feet of materials documenting Fred Sander’s tenure as Vice-Chief of the Catawba Nation. It is divided into four major series: E. Fred Sanders Correspondence, Catawba Indian Nation Legal and Administrative, Native American Materials, and Media and Ephemera.

Series I, E. Fred Sanders Correspondence, 1970-2006

Correspondences in this series are prolific and wide-ranging. Sanders’ correspondents include Native American Organizations, Federal and State Government officials, Tribal leaders and other Native Americans throughout the United States. Correspondence have been divided into two major subsets, EFS Correspondence, 1981-2007 and Dr. Thomas J Blumer Correspondence, 1986-2001.

Fred Sanders maintained a long and comprehensive correspondence with Dr. Blumer and their letters provide insight to ongoing Catawba lawsuits, tribal politics and historical research.

Series II, Catawba Indian Nation Administrative and Legal Materials, 1677-2006

This series is divided into two major components, Catawba Indian Nation Administrative and Catawba Indian Legal. Lawsuits, treaties, tribal correspondence, legislative bills, and extensive copies from the National Archives and other depositories (notably the Interior Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs). Correspondence from government agencies, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and extensive clippings files are also included. .

Administrative Materials refer to various documents dealing with the governance of the Catawba Indian Nation such as tribal constitutions, correspondence, real estate transactions, census information, and Bureau of Indian Affairs Correspondence. Materials are grouped by the following headings: Catawba Indian Nation, State of South Carolina, and United States.

Legal materials document the exhaustive legal battles waged by the Catawba's against the State of South Carolina and the United States Government (1887-2006). Court cases, legal correspondence, hearings and resolutions, reports, statutes and treaties are included. Materials are grouped by the following headings: Catawba Indian Nation, State of South Carolina, and United States.



Fred Sanders with grandchildren Calvin George and Shana George and great-grandchild Eddie George.
(Photo by Gene Crediford)

Series III, Native American Materials – Topical

This series contains a variety of Native American Materials. Much of Sanders' work involved planning for a new system of tribal government. Various materials were acquired from Federally Recognized tribes nationwide and in many cases used as templates for the Catawba Nation. Sanders was also a strong proponent of Native American Rights and travelled to conferences in many different locations. This series contains topical materials such as biographical information, conference proceedings, DNA/Genetics testing, correspondence from tribal associations and museums along with lists of tribal leaders. Arranged alphabetically by topic.



Series IV, Media and Ephemera

Photographs, slides, audiotapes and various ephemeral objects comprise this series. Historic Catawba photographs taken by the University of Pennsylvania in 1941 are included along with photographs taken by legendary North Carolina archaeologist Joffre L Coe. Fred's family movies from the 1950s are also included. All VHS tapes and 16 millimeter tapes have been remastered to a DVD format. Recorded proceedings of several Catawba planning

conferences are also included.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series List

- I - EFS Correspondence, 1970-2006 (1.75 linear feet)
- II – Catawba Indian Nation Administrative and Legal Materials, 1677-2006 (14.5 linear feet)
- III – Native American Materials, Topical (1.25 linear feet)

IV – Media and Ephemera (1.25 linear feet)