



JUDAH TO GAD

Identifying Your Tribe

I am sure that I'm not the only one when first finding the truth defaulted to just saying 'I am Judah'!

Now there is great pride in representing this tribe but there is something more satisfying truly understanding your roots.

As a child we knew our grandparents were so called Native Americans, but the confusion came in when this topic was brought up for discussion. My father would always say 'oh your granddaddy was considered a black man'. From there conversations lead to dead ends. It's crazy how that generation holds so much information, but they act like gatekeepers to their past. Be it shame or hate from where they came from, I will never know. Yet, this never stopped me from asking questions.

My family always got asked about our fair complexion when younger, the shape of our noses, and our stern faces with downward mouths. All to which I know now are characteristics of being Gad. However in the world things like dark long curly hair, lighter skin was contributed to having 'white' in your family. Now where I grew up is a small railroad town developed after slavery and being from the low country of SC this was not that farfetched. This was expected since most natives were pushed out of the land during early settlers towards the mid-state and upper state of SC.

My fathers answer about his father being just a black man who was Indian was confusing, but he was so sure in saying my grandmother was Indian and even confirming her tribe of a Cheraw Indian. This never stopped my inquiries about my grandfather. It wasn't until this year that I continued my research and homed in, and my dad finally said yes, your grandfather was Native American.



This made me understand a lot more of my childhood. The farming, the care of the land and horses. The foods we would eat like fry bread (elephant ears). It took away from me feeling I had to force a smile for other to not feel like I am frowning because of my downward mouth. I am extremely happy finally knowing the why behind so many of my questions from a youth in the world and in the truth. I can wholeheartedly say I am GAD, and proud to finally know it.

MHNCB