

I am a woman, a mother of four, a wife of many years. A step-mother to one; a sister, a daughter, a granddaughter.

My ancestors came from Scotland with a brief stop over in Ireland en route the colonies of North America. After winning the war of Independence my relatives moved into the Indian Territories of Kentucky and Tennessee.

My parents share a common ancestor. Some of the children of this Joseph McConnell stayed in Tennessee; one son moved west into other Indian lands to raise his family in Kansas. Some of my ancestors built wealth through owning other people.

After my parents finished graduate degrees, living poor in order to contribute differently later, we moved to Santa Fe NM for my father's job when I was four. In school, I looked like the children in the books. My parents spoke English with the accent of my teachers. When the scissors went missing no one suggested I might have taken them.

My parents were educators. I am an educator. I've had the privilege of many years and kinds of education: public, private, formal, experiential. I've also had the privilege of good health.

I've spent a portion of my adult life living in other countries on five continents. . My families and I have traveled, lived and worked in unfamiliar cultural settings, speaking new languages and enjoying privileges based on skin color, passport and accent.

When the weather is warm I sleep on the ground. I'm lucky to live where the greatest danger I face at night, outside and alone is a curious bear or hungry mountain line. I take solace and feel most myself with no roof over my head.