

//  
1st

# Gladys Denetclaw Daniel

Laikyn Davis

Nathalie Davis

435-592-2621

## GG

My great grandma Gladys Denetclaw Daniel was born on February 12, 1926. She was born in Sheep Springs, New Mexico which is where the Navajo reservation is. She married Ernest Daniel in 1943. My grandma got married to him when she was 17 years old. Together they had 8 kids.

My great grandma was the second oldest child in her family. In the Navajo culture the oldest girl is in charge. My grandma got her nickname GG from some of her grandkids. When she was 5 she was in charge of 1,000 sheep. She spent most of the day outside taking care of the sheep. After she took care of the sheep she would build a fire in their Hogan and help her mom cook dinner. My grandma also learned how to butcher sheep when she was very young.

During the summers she went up to the Chuska Mountains with her family and her sheep. During the winters they would bring the sheep down to the flats which is the high desert. During the summer months she would have to bring the sheep down to the flats so the sheep would get salt minerals that are good for them. In summer she would also grow a garden and she would grow pumpkin, squash, beans, wheat and corn. She would dry the food

and save it for the winters. She would pack the wheat around with a stone to grind it to make tortillas.

When my great grandma was almost 11 she went to dutch reform school and she had to live at the school. She did not know how to speak English and she had to learn it fast because the teachers did not like different cultures. The matrons of the school said to the Navajo children that they were not allowed to speak Navajo when they were on break and went home but she still spoke Navajo at home. The school wanted the Navajo kids to forget their culture but my grandma never did.

Once my grandma was finished with school she was sixteen and was at a sixth grade level. She had to learn everything after sixth grade by herself. She left the reservation when she was 17 and moved to Albuquerque and started working at a dry cleaners. She wanted to make her own money for herself. She met my grandpa there and married him at 17 years old. They had 8 kids and she ended up being a single mom with 5 kids at home. Then she decided to go to hair school to make money for her family. Some people thought that she needed a better education for hair school but she made it through hair school and opened a hair salon in her house. She had a lot of people coming to her house for haircuts. She even got a hair license for Arizona along with a New Mexico one. She liked to weave rugs for people in the family.

Every time we went to go see her she would have her big loom set up in the living room. My Grandma Gladys also went to the reservation a few times a year to take care of her sheep and cattle and to represent her family at tribal councils. She was very respected in her community. She died July 24, 2018

My Grandma was a very hard worker from the beginning and never gave up. She always tried to learn new things to make herself better. My great grandma used to tell my grandma that you should never leave your house without your hair done and your clothes clean and ironed and your jewelry on and she taught her grandkids that too.

My great grandma never got to be a little kid because she was given so much responsibility at a very young age and never complained about it. She always made the most out of anything that was hard for her and always helped people when they needed it. Her family came first and that was why she tried so hard. When I think about my grandma and her life it makes me want to try harder so she will always be proud of me. She was kind and a very hard worker. I love my great grandma Gladys Denetclaw Daniel.

Ayó'ó'ó'ó' da'a

Ahéno'ni'



