

GROWING UP IN ROBESON COUNTY

by Ronald H. Lowry

It was a pleasure to meet with a group of Lowry progenies, whose elders grew up in Robeson County, in Myrtle Beach the latter part of July. It has been our custom to have a little get-together every other year to renew and update our relationships, and become informed of any deletions or additions to the clan. This year's reunion was originally scheduled to be held in California with C.B. Lowry serving as the host, but Reaganomics made it necessary for him to revamp his plans. The frugal nature of C.B. Lowry came to the forefront, and he changed the location for this year's reunion to the Carolinas. The rest of us were quite appreciative for this move, as it reduced our traveling expenses considerably. It is good to know that one of us will still sacrifice personal convenience and expense so as to benefit the majority. Even though this action saved us some money, our Dad would have been able to bed us down for a year and go a long way toward paying a year's food bill with the money we left behind in Myrtle Beach, when we were growing up in Robeson County.

Our host, C.B. Lowry and part of his family, traveled to Myrtle Beach from California to unite with the rest of "the Marvin Lowry Family", who came from five other states to meet for some fun and relaxation in the sun. Our uncle, Telford A. Lowry, drove over from Tennessee to join us in some "down home" fellowship at the Swamp Fox Motel, which served as our headquarters for the week's

activities. On Friday July 30th, a group of us drove over to Pembroke for a cookout on cousin Tryon Lowry's back lawn and visitation with some of our close relatives, which included our uncle, Eimer T. Lowry and family, and Mrs. Delton H. Lowry. Some of us made a brief visit to the campus of PSU, before partaking of some delicious Robeson County prepared food by some of our ladies, which included some freshly picked corn. Our very able host was on top of his job all day, and he can still cook up a pretty good tasting hamburger on an outdoor grill.

Several of us attended the Friday night's performance of SATW for the first time, and we enjoyed the drama even though we sat under the threatening skies all evening. Luckily we didn't get a downpour, and the lightning dancing across the clouds and thunder in the background added more realism to the performance. I especially enjoyed the backstage melodies being rendered by the Lumber River bullfrogs throughout the night's performance. My mind couldn't help but wander to life on the farm, and the numerous times we were caught in a similar situation of trying to finish out a string of catfish after dark from the banks of the Lumber River, while a thunder storm threatened in the distance. Those Lumber River frogs can still stir up a pretty good chorus in rainy weather, as they did when I was growing up in Robeson County.

We had 30 people attending our reunion, representing four generations from our branch of the Lowry family



Enjoying some easy living. First row: Barbara, C.B., Curliss; second row: Tolbert, Marvin, Murrill, and Ronald.

tree. Grandpa Curliss, brought his grand-daughter, Lauren Ashley Lowry, who was born on his birthday last May 21st in Atlanta, Ga. She represents the first of the 9th generation on our branch of the Lowry family tree from the Robeson County lineage, beginning with James Lowry back in the 18th century. For the past few years, I have been doing a little research in some of the local genealogical reference libraries trying to pick up bits and pieces concerning early Lowry settlers in colonial Virginia. I have included some of my findings in this article.

SURNAMES
Today many minority groups are interested in tracing their names back into time. The popularity "Roots" got a few years ago probably increased the pride in ones heritage among minorities. The Lumbee Indians are very unique in that they have maintained many of their indian names along with their European names. Some of the European names have been used to link them with the Lost Colony from Roanoke. James Lowry, introduced the Lowry name into Robeson County with the original Lowry family consisting of some five children, 3 boys and 2 girls. A son, William, married into the Locklear family, and

this union began a line of decent which continues today in Robeson County, and throughout America. Lowry, which is derived from Laurel, an evergreen shrub of South Europe with fragrant lance-shaped leaves used by the ancients to make wreaths for their heroes. This derivation could account for the different spellings this name has today. The name, Locklear, is said to be of Indian origin, and has been spelled a variety of ways down through the ages.

The first census of the United States, taken in 1790, lists only the James Lowry household in Robeson County, and some six, Locklear households. The 1800 census lists 2 Lowery households, and 9 Locklear households. The 1840 census lists some 9 Lowery, Lowry and Lowrey households, and one-half page of Locklier, Locklar households. The 1850 census lists some 12 Lowrie households in Robeson County. The different spellings of these two names appear to be the result of individual preferences down through the ages. The surname, Lowry is spelled various ways in Virginia today similar to that in Robeson County. The Lowrie spelling is found today in the



That Proud Look
Grandpa Curliss with baby girl Lauren.

Williamsburg area. An uncle, on my Dad's side of the family, used this spelling form, and took it with him to settle in Ohio early in the 20th century.

Even though the original Lowry-Locklear union began a chain of productivity which is still flourishing today in Robeson County, the Lowry name could never keep pace with the Locklear name in the numbers game. Former Pembroke State College had a football team in the late Forties, when I was a member of the student body at that institution. They played a night game in Tabor City late in the fall of the year, shortly after a brother had purchased his first car, and we drove down to watch the game. It was one of those cold fall nights and we decided to watch the game from inside the car parked along the sidelines. A local radio station was broadcasting the game and we were listening to the play-by-play description on the car radio. On a Pembroke ball possession early in the game, the announcer described a play in which he said; "Locklear takes a snap from Locklear, rolls out to his right and arches a pass over to Locklear near the sidelines for ten yards and a first down. Folks I don't mean to mis-lead you into thinking there is a

one man football team playing out here tonight, but about one-half of this team from Pembroke is composed of Locklears."

THE LOWRYS OF COLONIAL VIRGINIA

The Scotch-Irish influence was absorbed by the Lumbee Indians in Robeson County primarily from those who merged into their culture. James Lowry brought the clever, frugal and industrious nature of the Scotch-Irish character with him into Robeson County in the 1760s. Blessed with the ability to make do with what lay at hand, skills in agriculture, animal husbandry, woodworking, leather-working, metal working, and many other skills were passed on to the original settlers on the banks of the Lumber River. The Scotch-Irish were probably the best educated migrants of the colonists, and were independent and freedom-minded. These characteristics were imbedded into Indian personalities and fortified their determination to obtain an education, the freedom to pursue their skills, and enjoy life in general on the same basis as other inhabitants of their native land.

James Lowry, whom some say settled in Robeson County in the 1760s, could be a descendant of William Lowry who may have come to Va-

between 1650 and 1659 with many hundreds of Scotch Royalists and settled among the Colonists. William Lowry's will proved 14 March 1686, and part of Norfolk County records for the period 1686-1695, records as being of the kingdom of Scotland. He requested that all his personal estate be equally divided between his wife and children. His will named only one of his children as follows: "My eldest son, James, all my wearing apparel either woolen or linen to be kept for him by my exor if he appear in this country within a twelve month, otherwise my exor to sell them and, elvery the produce thereof to my son, James, when he arrives here in this country to demand it." Even though no records of confirmation are available, James Lowry probably came to this country to claim his inheritance, and continue the Lowry lineage which produced the James Lowry, who settled in Robeson County. In the past, Lowry tradition has attached much importance to the claiming of ones inheritance. My dad gave up a good job in Richmond, Virginia, as a street car motorman, and returned to Robeson County to claim an inheritance in 1923.

The fact that William and James were names for two of the members of the original Lowry family in Robeson County would tend to substantiate an ancestral line of descent beginning with William Lowry in Virginia around the middle of the 17th century. Another William Lowry, probably a son of William Lowry of Scotland, was quite active in the Virginia colony. He was a land surveyor, Justice of the Peace, and served as a colonial style lawyer during the early part of the 18th century in the Virginia colony. He acquired several hundred acres of land.

and records indicate that he helped settle several estates here in Virginia during the Colonial Period. His will, proved in 1724, named the beneficiaries. He had two sons, William and John, several daughters, and a grandson with the name of William, were mentioned in his will. These Lowrys could very well be kinfolk James Lowry left behind in Virginia when he migrated to Robeson County.

One good reason why James Lowry came to Robeson County could have been to claim another Lowry inheritance. Oral tradition tells us that a Lowry from Virginia received a land grant from the King of England in the 1730s in what is now Robeson County. Ownerships of lands surrounding Hopewell Methodist Church have been in Lowry hands for centuries.

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FACTS & FIGURES

Nearly one out of five replacement passenger car tires sold is a retread. 98 percent of the world's airlines use retreaded tires. So do nearly 100 percent of off-the-road, heavy-duty vehicles. Retreads are used on everything from federal and military vehicles to school buses and race cars.



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LRDA IN ACTION

by Garry Lewis Barton
LRDA Public Relations Officer

SPAIC CONVENTION HELD IN LUMBERTON

The Society for the Preservation of American Indian Culture (SPAIC), with headquarters in Mountain Brook, Alabama, held its 1982 Annual Convention at the Ramada Inn in Lumberton, N.C., August 6-8, 1982.

According to H.L. "Lindy" Martin, SPAIC Chief Executive, the purpose of the Convention was to explore the Indian World of Eastern Carolina.

The First General Session began at 7 p.m. Friday, August 6, 1982, with a welcome by Ms. Ruth Dial Woods of the Title IV, Indian Education Project. Afterwards, Ms. Woods introduced Mr. Martin who chaired the session.

Mr. Martin introduced Mr. Kenneth R. Maynor, Execu-

tive Director of Lumbee Regional Development Association who made a brief presentation before presenting a slide presentation entitled "LRDA In Action."

After Mr. Maynor's presentation on how LRDA works, Mr. A. Bruce Jones, Executive Director of the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs, presented a slide show about how the N.C. Commission on Indian Affairs works.

Afterwards, Mr. James B. Chavis, Pembroke State University's Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, presented the Conference Orientation.

The Second General Session got underway at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, August 7, with an overview of the Indians of Robeson County by Adolph Dial, author, historian, and head of PSU's Native Ameri-

can Studies department. Then, the participants were given "A Look at Title IV, Indian Education," by Ms. Ruth Dial Woods, Ms. Betty O. Mangum and Ms. Rosa Winfree.

After lunch, the Conference participants were given a tour of PSU's Old Main building, LRDA, and other places of interest. Tour guide was Ed Chavis, Director of LRDA's Lumbee Enrollment Project.

Later that night, the Conference participants attended the ever-popular and exciting "Strike at the Wind!", Robeson County's very own outdoor drama that is centered around the exploits of local hero of Civil War and Reconstruction days, Henry Berry Lowry.

The Conference was very informative and proved to be extremely successful.

CHILDREN ENJOY THE EXCITEMENT OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS

In a coordinated effort, Helen Maynor Schierbeck, Director of LRDA's Indian Information Project in Alexandria, Va., and Rev. John A. Robinson, Jr., Director of the Pembroke Area Presbyterian Ministry, hosted a week-long Camp for Indian children, August 9-13, 1982. The Camp, held on the beautiful and well-kept grounds of Camp Monroe in Laurel Hill, N.C., catered to approximately 70 students in grades four through six, with children represented from the Chickahominy, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Coharie, Santees, Waccamaw-Siouian, Pee Dees, and Edisto tribes.

The idea for the Camp became a reality when Ms. Schierbeck contacted Rev. Robinson about securing the use of the facilities of Camp Monroe, owned by the Fayetteville Presbytery.

The Camp was deemed a tremendous success, allowing the children the opportunity to learn more about themselves and nature through such avenues as canoeing on the beautiful lake, camping, swimming, recreation, arts and crafts classes, singing, dancing, and much much more.



Lumbee Indian children from Lumbee Regional Development Association pose for photograph after enjoying a fun-filled week in the great outdoors at Camp Monroe. [GARRY BARTON PHOTO]



Herman Hunt (shown tasting the delicious venison chili he prepared for lunch Friday) was in charge of the recreational activities of the children at the week-long Camp. [GARRY BARTON PHOTO]

The first iron printing press to be used was the Stanhope press, invented by Charles, the third Earl of Stanhope in 1786.

DAV TO MEET
The DAV will hold its monthly meeting Aug. 30, 1982 at 7:30 p.m. at the Locklear-Lowry VFW Post, Union Chapel Road, Pembroke. All members are urged to attend by Post Commander, Rudy Locklear.



Recently, Rhonda Flanagan (center), Miss Lumbee 1982-83, was presented a \$1,000 Miss Lumbee Educational Scholarship check. The award was presented by Mr. Kenneth R. Maynor (right), LRDA's Executive Director, and Ms. Florence Ransom (left), the Miss Lumbee Business Manager. This was the second year in a row LRDA has presented a scholarship to the reigning Miss Lumbee, enabling her to pursue her educational aspirations.

Miss Flanagan plans to enroll at Pembroke State University for the fall semester. She is the daughter of Mrs. Magnolia Flanagan and resides in the Prospect area. She is a graduate of Prospect

High School and a member of Prospect United Methodist Church.

She was crowned Miss Lumbee during the annual Lumbee Homecoming activities held in July of this year. Sponsoring her entry in the preliminary pageant to the Miss North Carolina Pageant held in June were: Dobb's Motors, Mr. Herbie Oxendine's Car Company, Eula's Fabrics, Moore's Chain Saw, and the Sunshine House. [ELMER HUNT PHOTO]

"Old wine and an old friend are good provisions."
George Herbert
"Golf is a good walk spoiled."
Mark Twain
"Ruling is easy, governing difficult."
Goethe

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