

Editorial and Opinion Page

Visiting burial grounds is a spiritual experience

I knew it was there I had read about it I had talked to people who had visited it, cleaned it and wrote about it I knew it was there, but I had never taken the time to visit it myself That all challenged on Easter Sunday, April 7th, 1996 I went there

I was working in Georgia and was not going to be able to make it home for the Easter weekend. I got up late and decided that this was the time for me to visit it. It was the Croatan Indian Memorial Cemetery located between Statesboro and Claxton, Georgia. I had heard all my life about the Indian people who had gone down to Georgia to try and find a better life for themselves and their families.

The work they found there was either tenant farming or turpentine industry. My grandfather was one who went. He did not succeed in finding a better life and returned to Pembroke, Robeson County and HOME.

I thought of my grandmother Nancy Caroline Lowry Revels, my grandfather Luther H. Revels and their children who accompanied them on the journey to Georgia as I drove the 50 or so miles to the

cemetery. As I drove, the whisper of an idea entered my mind. Why did they stop in this area? This thought was to grow and enlarge as I drove the final miles.

As I followed the directions given to me by a friend, I began to look for a sign that I was nearing the Cemetery. My last turn was made and a Red Tailed Hawk rose from the ground cover and began to lead me to the direction to the cemetery. I parked and approached the cemetery on foot as it sat in the middle field. I approached it in the quiet, respectful manner that my people do when we are nearing the place of the dead. I read the plaque that had been placed at the entrance and opened the gate for entry. I read each and every gravestone noting the names Oxendine Jacobs, Emanuel, Locklear and Bell. These names evoked mental images of people I know with those names, some alive and some departed. It was a spiritual moment in my life that will be with me forever.

The question that began on my drive returned fully matured. Why did they stop in this area? Was it because there was a town nearby named Pembroke? Did the river on

the outskirts of Claxton remind them of the Lumber River? Did they see a sign from the Great Spirit such as a turtle, deer, hawk or eagle? Did the pine trees make them feel comfortable enough to decide that this had to be the place? These questions I cannot answer. I can only draw from the overwhelming evidence that I saw and felt as I concluded that this place did remind me of Robeson County, North Carolina.

As I was about to depart, I noticed one last piece of evidence that did the spiritual heart some good. All of the graves were facing East, awaiting the dawn of each new day. It was good!

I called my friend and thanked her for sharing this place of my ancestors who paved the way for me even in Georgia. It felt right to share this moment with a friend.

You have heard about it, read about it, talked about it and said that one day you would like to go down to Georgia and spend a moment with your people who lived and died there. Do it now or face the possibility that you never will!

Cate Ioca (Red Turtle)

Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director
PSU Native American Resource Center

In the last two segments we have been looking at music and musical instruments of traditional Native America. We began with a brief general discussion of the importance of music in Native American culture, and moved on to two types of instruments — rattles and flutes. This week we turn to the class of traditional musical instruments which is perhaps most often associated with Native America — drums.

Use of percussion instruments such as drums in traditional cultures is older than anyone knows. This behavior must have come rather naturally to human beings, because almost all cultures on every populated continent developed some kind of drum. It probably began with rhythmic striking of natural objects such as fallen trees and hollow logs, and progressed toward constructed objects such as the many types of drums seen around the world.

In Native America there are several distinct types. The so-called "foot-drum" (see Harold Driver's *Indians of North America*) was (and still is) used in the Northwest Coast, Southwest and California culture areas. This is a form made by placing

a plank over a small pit in the ground, and played by stamping the foot (or feet) on the plank. The pit acts as a resonating chamber, amplifying the sound. The foot drum is used in ceremonial dances and songs.

The hand-held single-headed drum, sometimes called "hoop drum" (and sometimes mistakenly called "tambourine"), was very widely used. In the Arctic culture area, Native Americans and Native Alaskans made (still make) large single-headed drums. These hoop drums are used not only in religious ceremonies, but sometimes in dispute resolution as well. Two Inuit or Aleut men who have a disagreement may choose to compete with each other using drums and songs instead of fighting. In the songs they make fun of each other, and the gathered community decides who wins the dispute on the basis of which man drums and sings (and ridicules) better. Hoop drums, often in somewhat smaller forms, also occur in other culture areas of Native America, including the Great Basin, California, Plains and Eastern Woodlands.

Yet another variation on the drumming theme is the kettledrum (sometimes called "water-drum").

This is a form made by stretching an animal hide over a pottery (or sometimes wooden) vessel which has been partially filled with water. Because of the water in the body of the drum, the kettledrum has a very distinctive sound. This type of drum is often associated with The Native American Church (the so-called "peyote religion") which developed in the nineteenth century and spread around the Southwest, Plains, California and elsewhere. However, kettledrums have also been used in the Eastern Woodlands (for example, among the Iroquois) independently of The Native American Church's ceremonies.

The drum, like much of traditional Native American music, is considered by many to have sacred or ceremonial qualities. In the traditional way, the drum must be respected and treated with care.

In the next segment, we will look at other types (and the best-known single type) of traditional Native American drums. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

Triangle 2nd Annual Pow-Wow

Raleigh-The Triangle Native American Society will be hosting its second annual Pow-Wow June 1st and the 2nd, 1996 at the North Carolina's Farmers Market, Lake Wheeler Road, Raleigh. Admission is free. Grand Entry will begin at 12PM on Saturday, June 1 and at 1 PM on Sunday, June 2nd.

Come out and enjoy traditional and fancy style Indian dancing. Featured drums are Redwolf and Southern Suns. The featured female head dancer will be Christy Strickland (Lumbee) and the featured head dancer is Joel Moore (Waccamaw Siouan). Invited Indian princesses include Ms. Indian North Carolina, Ms. North Carolina Senior Citizen Indian Queen and Ms. Indian USA.

Come join with us on June 1 and 2 and learn more about North Carolina's Native American cultural by visiting cultural information and demonstration booths, and trading with Indian artists and craftspeople. Proceeds will go toward the Mark Ulmer Indian Education Scholarship Fund, a state-wide scholarship fund to help North Carolina Native American students attend a college or university in North Carolina.

McIntyre begins mud-slinging in run off election

To my Editor and Friends: The mud slinging has now begun. Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend has stood there patiently and proudly while Mike McIntyre and his staff seems to have gone to any means possible to formulate a picturesque, choreographic, toxic illustration of the quality of the character of his opponent. The McIntyre staff, in my opinion, refuses to accept the facts that they were beaten by 1) a woman and 2) a Native American!

Excuse me while I clear my throat!

Apparently McIntyre resents the fact that Lowry-Townsend has friends all over the fifty states who will assist her in the campaign for Congress. Is McIntyre upset? From local news coverage, I would say "yes sir, Buddy!" McIntyre obviously has seen the plain fact that Lowry-Townsend didn't need Robeson County to win! And obviously McIntyre needed more than his existing support in Robeson. Nothing fundamental has occurred in our County since

the late Julian Pierce whipped Joe Freeman Britt from his grace!

I think it is a shame and a disgrace that McIntyre attempted to use Lowry-Townsend's NCAE office in Raleigh against her. If his staff had bothered to check, they would have realized that Lowry-Townsend was ELECTED to this office by her fellow teachers and administrators. Well, I believe McIntyre should have kept his mouth shut. He only embarrassed himself, not to mention his supporters! It has been rumored that one attorney's office in Lumberton called its former associates and business contacts to vote for McIntyre. I've also heard that influences were spread on the south-side and other places.

Let everyone of every race speak THEIR choice on June 4, 1996.

After the election, folks will ask you "Where were you when Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend was elected to Congress?"

A Proud Supporter!
*Vinita Maynor Clark
Pembroke, NC*

Sutton explains PSU name change stalling

This is in response to my many constituents and the general public that are understandably confused over the headlines and articles of the past weekend concerning the proposed name change for Pembroke State University. The confusion appears to be related to the PSU name change becoming stalled in the General Assembly as reported in the area newspapers last weekend.

To understand the politics and actions of the past week it is necessary to understand the background of the proposed name change. Also, one needs to understand the "rules" of the short session.

First, I would like to emphatically state that every member of the delegation serving Robeson and surrounding counties enthusiastically supports the proposed name change. Most delegation members have been involved in the process for many

months. The purpose of the short session of the General Assembly is primarily to "tighten up" the budget. Consequently, a Bill sponsored by any member or members, House or Senate, without an appropriation in it, would require a suspension of the rules to be considered. To avoid that, the decision was made to have the Joint Education Oversight Committee, consisting of the House and Senate, to hear the Bill and if favorably approved, the committee would bring the bill before both legislative bodies. Normally, under such circumstances, the committee co-chairs sponsor and handle the Bill in their respective body.

In this case, Representative Frances Cummings, a member of the committee, wanted her name listed first on the Bill and be allowed to handle the Bill in the House. Obviously politics played a major role in this request.

*Rep. Ron Sutton,
District 85*



Rep. Ron Sutton

A nice thank you note

Dear Ms. Connee: I want to thank you and all those who make the Carolina Indian Voice possible. For the first time in my seventy years of life, someone is making a difference. The truth about our Indian people in Eastern North Carolina has never been told until your paper began some years ago. I really enjoy how you call a "Spade a Spade" when dealing with issues affecting our Indian people. Especially the way you deal with the Robesonian's lack of responsibility in reporting the truth about issues relative to Indians in general. They have been doing this for sixty years, to my knowledge, and I do not expect them to change.

My only hope is that our Indian people learn to get along with each other in a more responsible way. There is no future in taking pot shots at each other when a kind word would serve much better. We have too much to offer each other goes a long way in our efforts to help each other. Life is too short for anything else.

Ms. Connee, keep up the good work and if I can be of help to you in any way, please call on me.

By the way, what happened to Dr. Dean Chavers' article?

Otto A. Lockee



Cummings: The People's Right-to-Know---Democratic Legislators Practiced Unethical, Tail-Gate Politics



State Representative Frances M. Cummings said, "the people of Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland Counties should 'Know the Truth' of the methods put forward by the Democratic Legislators and community leaders to achieve their goals by Unfair Strategies. Therefore, Rep. Cummings has provided a scenario taken from committee meetings, notes, tapes, and the House Chamber Session of how House Bill 1072 set into motion the idea of changing the name of Pembroke State University to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and was passed by the House Chamber on Friday, May 17, 1996.

The Study Commission known as The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, of which Rep. Frances Cummings is a member, has been meeting since the fall of 1995 studying education issues and budgetary matters in preparation for the Short Session.

The State Board of Governors, acting on the request of Pembroke State University after several hearings and meetings, approved the name change and made its recommendation to the Study Committee. Rep. Cummings requested of

committee staff that a draft bill be prepared and placed on the agenda for discussion and approval. Rep. Cummings invited Chancellor Dr. Joseph Oxendine to speak before the committee granting her

approval, at his request, to bring other individuals whom he wished, Chancellor Dr. Joseph Oxendine spoke to the committee bringing with him Senator David Parnell, Rep. Ron Sutton and PSU Trustee Chairman David Weinstein.

QUESTIONS: Did Senator David Parnell plan to introduce a Senate Bill after witnessing Rep. Cummings' Bill being approved in committee? "Why did he (Parnell) accompany Chancellor Oxendine, together with Rep. Sutton and Chairman David Weinstein?" "Why didn't Senator Parnell invite Chancellor Oxendine to a Senate meeting?"

ANSWER: Senator David Parnell is NOT a member of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. It seems rather strange that Sen. Parnell introduced a companion bill to Rep. Frances Cummings' House Bill which was unnecessary. Sen. Parnell's "unexpected action" has caused a delay for the PSU name change to become law.

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee had agreed that Rep. Frances M. Cummings was the Chief Sponsor of the House Bill with Reps. Sutton and Yongue as Co-sponsors along with other committee members. Rep. Cummings suggested the other Robeson House members be given an opportunity to list their names. Neither of the Robeson Representatives is a member of the Study Committee. Rep. Ron Sutton sought, through the help of Rep. Jim Black (D), Minority Whip and committee member, to have his (Sutton) name on the House Bill as the Chief Sponsor. Rep. Sutton's

request was not granted. Rep. Ron Sutton's action was as "coveting a deed" that he did not manifest.

Rep. Frances M. Cummings filed with the Principal Clerk her House Bill on Thursday, May 9, 1996 and introduced House Bill 1072, the second bill on the calendar, on Monday, May 13, 1996. The House Bill was then referred to the House Education Committee for discussion and was approved on Thursday, May 16, 1996. Reps. Sutton and Yongue were present. Democrat Rep. Lee asked Rep. Sutton these questions: "Do you live in Pembroke? Is Pembroke State not in your House District? Do the people support this bill?" Rep. Ron Sutton responded, "I live just outside of Pembroke. Pembroke State is in my District (85). The people support the bill and the name change."

On Friday, May 17, 1996, House Bill 1072 was passed by the House, not without political posturing. Democrat Rep. David Redwine made a compassionate speech inquiring of Speaker Brubaker why the House Chamber could not vote on the Senate Bill for the sake of speeding the process. Speaker

Brubaker informed the House Chamber that after consideration, the "House will pass the House Bill." Rep. Cummings said that Brubaker has shown the "strength of Courage" to do what is right.

Rep. Frances Cummings said, "What is further questionable is why Senator Parnell chose to take short cuts to have his Senate Bill approved." Senator Parnell introduced his bill after Rep. Cummings' bill. According to a reporting observer, Senator Parnell's bill was approved by the Senate Education Committee in the Senate Chamber and reported into the calendar and, then approved by the Senate on Thursday. This action

was taken with the intent that the Senate Bill would set aside the House Bill even though Rep. Cummings initiated, filed, and introduced her House Bill first. "Chancellor Joseph Oxendine totally agreed for my efforts to have the PSU name changed," said Rep. Cummings. The normal process is that committees meet on their regular scheduled time to hear House and Senate Bills.

Senator David Parnell practiced Unethical, Tail-gate Politics," Cummings said. "The unanswered question is, why did Senator David Parnell say in the Fayetteville Observer times (May 18, 1996), "I told the Chancellor that I did not have any selfish pride in this thing... that I wouldn't

jeopardize the name change...?" According to Rep. Cummings, "Senator Parnell reversed his statement by introducing a Senate companion bill." Rep. Frances Cummings said, "The action taken by Senator David Parnell is 'Morally Unfair' to the people who will benefit from the name change of Pembroke State University. It is my desire that Sen. Parnell recognize and honor the truth of the House Bill's origination and be expedient in his support of the PSU family and the people by moving the House bill's approval by the Senate for immediate ratification." Cummings said.

Rep. Cummings said, "All who are involved and should be accountable in the changing of the name of PSU should know that I am not going forward to have this name change accomplished to be re-evaluated because all WISE Democrats, Republicans and Independents will 'Shade the Oval' or 'Pull the Lever' next to the name Frances M. Cummings for the North Carolina House of Representatives---District 87. Since Rep. Ronnie Sutton did not have the privilege to introduce the

House Bill to change the name of PSU which is located in his House District 85. I decided to render my assistance to achieve this goal. Quality education and expanded opportunities to learn, achieve, and acquire are among my top legislative priorities.



CHOOSE TRADITION NOT ADDICTION
Know the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse
A message from United National Indian Tribal Youth

NOTICE OF DEADLINE EXTENSION APPLICATIONS FOR USE VALUE ASSESSMENT

The Robeson County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held May 20th, 1996 voted to extend N.C.G.S. 105-277.2-.7 to June 10th, 1996. Any individual which has not filed an Application for Use Value Assessment and Taxation of Agricultural, Horticultural or Forest Lands should do so on or before June 10th, 1996.

*J. Hal Kinlaw, Jr.
Robeson County Attorney*