

by Lew Barton, Third Century Artist
HAMILTON MCMILLAN: FATHER OF PSU

Hamilton McMillan, the undisputed father of Pembroke State University, is still now. I understand that his whole generation has passed away, in fact. But the labors of his heart, head and hand are still very much in evidence and are likely to remain for the blessing of countless generations to come. Why, then, is there no suitable memorial for him on the campus which now would be non-existent but for him?

I really want to know. I want to know so much, I am going to boldly ask these searching questions:

1) Is it because McMillan is generally recognized as a true friend of local Indians, the man who established education for them and thus a memorial to him would be but a painful reminder of the present institution's Indian past and origin?

2) Or is it because he was White and there are objections to such a memorial to him for this reason? Why?

As the old saying goes, "It has got to be this or that." After all, what other reasons could there possibly be for denying true affection and adequate recognition by the very institution to which he gave birth?

Oh, I know he's mentioned in the university catalogue, thanks to now-retired history professor Clifton Oxendine who first penned the historical sketch. And I know that profs Dial and Eliades made passing reference to McMillan as I also did before them. But there is there a token of sincere appreciation for the man who braved indescribable opposition to bring education to Indian people and after them, higher education for all races for many miles around?

Can anyone deny that he originated PSU or that the institution was chartered by Indian people?

Can anyone deny that he is entitled to whatever historical recognition is correctly attributable to his efforts?

Many others have been memorialized. Why not the man to whose efforts and daring the institution owes its very existence?

So he was White.

So the institution was originally Indian.

So what?

What is truly important here is neither White, nor Indian, nor Black, but simply a matter of truth and justice. After all, the most important race is none of these but the HUMAN race. And I believe in giving credit where credit is due, be the individual concerned White, Black, Indian or polka dot.

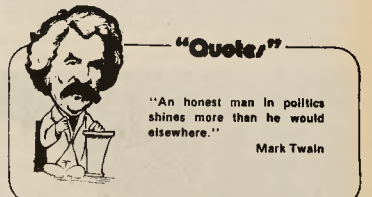
Have you any idea how much courage and integrity it took for him to stand boldly upright in his day and declare unflinchingly "These people pay taxes—they are entitled to an education too!"

Hamilton McMillan! The singular man who went to bat for Indian people at the most crucial time in the county's history! How can anyone do less than admire such a historical figure?

There are those who will claim, "Oh, he just wanted Indian votes." To them I would reply that the Indians, like the Blacks, were not even allowed to vote at the time (1864) when McMillan began to act on behalf of the Indians. It began at the very outset at the career of Henry Berry Lowry!

And what happened on the very night it began?

The story of Lumbee Indian historical investigation begins with stark tragedy, and helps to explain why there are more than one theory as to the origin of our people. Honorable Hamilton McMillan, an eminent Robeson County lawyer and statesman, was led to investigate Lumbee Indian history by the death of three Indians at the hands of a Confederate soldier; and Mrs. Mary C. Normont undoubtedly was inspired to write her history of the Henry Berry Lowry Outlaw Gang by the fact that the Indian outlaws were responsible for the death of her husband. Both these people lived during the harrowing days of the Civil War, and the troubled days which produced the outlaws. Both wrote at approximately the same time; but each held opposite viewpoints. While Mr. McMillan concentrated primarily upon the origin of the Lumbee Indians, Mrs. Normont concerned herself, as one can well understand, with the outlaws who, doubtless, represented everything diabolical and evil to her. Her notes on Lumbee origin were added as an appendix to a later edition of her pamphlet. But McMillan's account is the one with heart and understanding and depth.



"Quote"
"An honest man in politics shines more than he would elsewhere."
Mark Twain

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE
Published Each Week By
THE LUMBEE PUBLISHING CO., INC.
P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372
Telephone No. (919) 521-2826

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THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE desires to be notified promptly of a change of address. Send your address change to: THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE, P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, N.C. Second Class Postage Paid at Pembroke, N.C. 28372.



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MT. AIRY NEWS
By Violet Locklear

Rev. Welton Lowry delivered the message on Sunday morning at Mt. Airy Church. A huge crowd from Mt. Airy Church attended Tabernacle Baptist Church on Sunday morning for worship service. Rev. Kelly Sanderson was guest speaker.

Robeson Technical Institute is sponsoring a Bible course at Mt Airy Church which began Wednesday night, Sept. 14. The length of the course will be 42 hours beginning each Wednesday night at 7 and lasting until 10. Miss I. Ruth Martin will be the teacher. She will teach studies in Luke's Gospel. About 25 members enrolled the first night. Anyone else who would like to join may do so. The registration fee is \$5.00. The course will last until November 30, 1977.

Dinner guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brooks Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Locklear and children.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Tyner and daughter spent the week end in Kinston, NC visiting relatives and friends.

Mrs. Rockie Jane Locklear returned home Saturday from McCain Hospital. Visiting her family in your prayers.

Mrs. Cora Macy Jones was able to be back in church Sunday for the first time in a long time. We are certainly glad she is doing well.

A joint birthday celebration was held Saturday, Sept. 17th, for Miss Zina Sampson, 14 years old, and Miss Loria Ann Dial, 8 years old, in the home of Mrs. Darlene Carter. Zina is the daughter of the late Dean Sampson and Mrs. Darlene Carter. Her grand parents are Libby Lowry and Violet Locklear. Loria Ann is the daughter of Patricia Bullard and the granddaughter of Mrs. Maudie Bullard and Mr. and Mrs. Noah Dial. There were some forty relatives and friends gathered with them to help them enjoy their day. They served a variety of food and drink. They each received many beautiful gifts and donations of money. Everyone wished them many happy returns of the day.

Mrs. Violet Locklear was a dinner guest on Tuesday, in the home of Mrs. Lucy Jane Harris of the Prospect community.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Grey Jones are the proud parents of a baby son, James Riley Jones, who weighed 7 pounds and 15 ounces when born September 20th at 10:45 a. m. at Southeastern General Hospital. Paternal grandparents are the late Bell and Mrs. Nancy Jones. Maternal grand parents are Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Locklear. The Jones have another son, Bruce Bell, age 6. Congratulations.

Mrs. Stella Locklear, a patient in Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville, under went surgery Tuesday where they amputated her right leg. Her condition is serious. Please remember her and her

evil, threats, and corruption in our church brought to a grinding halt whatever the cause. Mt. Airy, Mt. Airy!! May God have mercy on us!



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