

### HIDEAWAY VALLEY

### a handbook to Lumbee History

BY LEW BARTON  
Knight of Mark Twain

#### ROANOKE IN VIRGINIA: HERE WE CAME FROM

Virtually all my life, I've heard aged Robeson Indians swear when asked where we came from that our ancestors were originally from "Roanoke in Virginia." Hamilton McMillan heard the same thing about 1864, or even earlier.

What do our people mean that? I once asked the late Robert Lowry, then past 70. Lowry, despite the loss of an arm in a sawmill accident as a young man, served for more than 30 years as a law-enforcement officer in Robeson County. He was one of the county's most-respected citizens and was present at the White-Black-Indian riot at Moss Neck Pond in 1913. As a neighbor of his for quite a few years, I had many occasions to interview him. This I often did,

sometimes without actually telling him that was what I was doing. That way, I figured, he would talk more freely and more openly.

Not that he ever objected to anything I happened to write about him from time to time. "Do you think our people might possibly be alluding to the city of Roanoke, Virginia or some place like that, Mr. Lowry?" I once asked.

Mr. Lowry assured me that our people mean and have always meant the vicinity of Roanoke Island, in North Carolina when they pass on that ancient tradition of ours.

"Then why don't they say Roanoke Island, North Carolina?" I wanted to know.

"Well, sonny," drawled Mr. Lowry in his customary slow, careful and deliberate manner,

"Roanoke Island was still in Virginia when our people left there."

"Oh, I see. In other words, Roanoke Island is in the part of Virginia cut off to form North Carolina. Right?"

"That's right. Some of our old-timey Indians still think of it as being in Virginia. Like I say, it was still in Virginia when their ancestors left there."

The older Indians of Robeson told Hamilton McMillan when he began his investigation in 1864 that their ancestors came from "Roanoke in Virginia." McMillan tried to pin-point the area whence we came, interviewing numerous elderly Indians on the subject and getting as many specifics about it as possible. McMillan wrote that our people applied this name to the section

around Pamlico Sound, including Tyrrell, Dare, Carteret, Craven and Jones Counties, of the Outer Banks area of North Carolina. It is in this general area that Roanoke Island is located. (For continuous reading, see ROANOKE ISLAND, this Handbook).

#### ROANOKE ISLAND

Roanoke Island is located off the northeastern coast of North Carolina and was the site of the first two English colonies in North America (1585 and 1587). It was also the site of the Amadas-Barlowe English expedition of 1584 when the first white people of what was to evolve into the present United States of America first encountered the Hatteras (also called Croatan) Indians and were befriended by them. Roanoke Island is situated in Croatan Sound between Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds.

This historic island is approximately 12 miles long and has an average of 3 miles in length. It connects with the main-land by causeway and also by bridges. Its most prominent town is Manteo, named for the Croatan Indian

leader who was knighted because of his friendly services to the English. Manteo is the county seat of Dare County which was named for Virginia Dare, the most famous baby in American history.

Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition, led by Amadas and Barlowe, explored Roanoke Island in 1584. In 1585 Raleigh sent 108 male colonists under Ralph Lane to the island. There they established the "Cite of Raleigh," or "the new Fort in Virginia" for which the present state capitol was named.

These Englishmen comprised the first English settlement on the continent. But after a sojourn of just 10 months in the New World, the discouraged colonists hitch-hiked (more or less) a ride back to England with the visiting fleet of Sir Frances Drake. Only 15 men were left to hold possession of the fort. (See Lost Colony for continuous reading; see Roanoke, Virginia as well.)

#### ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, CITY OF

The City of Roanoke, Virginia

was not incorporated as such until 1884. It should not be confused with Roanoke Island, North Carolina, once in Virginia, nor with the Robeson Indian tradition as to "Roanoke in Virginia." The Algonquian word Roan-ke means "money." The Robeson Indians of Hamilton McMillan's day, almost illiterate because schools for them were not established until 1885, were still not generally aware of the fact that Roanoke Island was no longer located in Virginia. Some of the oldest Indians still refer to the region as "Virginia" to the present day.

#### LOST COLONISTS

Raleigh sent out still another group of English settlers in 1587. This time, the colony included women and children as well as men, and numbered 117. These, added to the 15 men from Lane's colony, left to keep the fort, would have brought the number of English colonists now in America to 132. But the skeleton of one man was found. The other 14 were not found when the 1587 colony arrived.

Captain John White was

appointed Governor of the colony, soon after the colony arrived, and the Lumbee (also called Croatan) Indians continue to refer to him as Governor John White to the present time. White's daughter Eleanor, the wife of Ananias Dare, gave birth to Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the New World, soon afterwards. Too, Manteo was knighted under authority of Queen Elizabeth I and created Sir Manteo, Lord of Roanoke and Dasamonquepeuk.

Soon after that, White returned to England for additional supplies. But the attack on England by the Spanish Armada and other conditions prevented his return to Carolina, as that part of the country is now called, until 1591.

White found the fort abandoned but according to a prearranged plan agreed upon by him and the colonists, found also the name of the place to which they had gone. One the gatepost were the letters C R O A T O A N. The abbreviated word -- C R O -- was also found. White interpreted this as meaning that they had gone to Croatan (or Croatan). Wrote White who was disappointed "by the spoil" of his goods: "Yet on the other hand I greatly joyed that I had safely found a certain token of their safe being at Croatan which is the place where Manteo was born and the savages of the Island our friends." (For continuous reading, see CROATAN.)

#### CROATAN ISLAND

Croatan, as explained by White in his narrative, was "the place where Manteo was born and the savages (Indians) of the Island our friends." The original pronunciation of Croatan was Croa - toan, or Croato-Wan. Spoken, it is a three-syllable word, but is not pronounced Croi-toan as some have mistakenly suggested. Naturally, the Indians had no spelling for the word, having no written language, and the colonists had no standardized spelling as we have today. They simply spelled Indian words the way they sounded to the particular hearer. Thus it is that we often find Indian words spelled several ways during the colonial period. The Indians did not spell at all, as a rule, having no written language. Added to this is the tendency of the English to Anglicize everything Indian and to abbreviate. The result is a confusion of spellings that sometimes mystify the researcher.

Take the name Roanoke, for example. The earliest Whites in the area, hearing the Indians pronounce it Row-an-o-ack, spelled it Roanoak. But the English soon changed that through usage and the word evolved into what it is today, ie, Roanoke. But other Indian words must have completely confounded the colonists, words such as the Algonquian Dasamonquepeuk (Dasam - mon - quee - pe - uk). We must remember that Indian words were as strange to the English as English words were to the Indians, at that time.

#### ROANOKE RIVER

Roanoke River, also referred to by McMillan, flows through part of the present states of Virginia and North Carolina, generally in a southeasterly

direction, for about 380 miles. After cutting through northeastern North Carolina, it spills into Albemarle Sound. It is navigable only by small boats, for a distance of some 200 miles.

#### MY DAYS DOWN HERE

By Lew Barton

My days down here are numbered now - Much more now than before. It won't be long 'till I move off To other mystic shores. My days down here draw to an end. And what have I to show? I'd like to know before I go Just what my life portents Portents for all the days ahead Because of changes wrought. I'd like to know in some small way, I've some few blessings brought. I've played the maverick, that's true, I've called a spade a spade, I've had my say and paid the price For each mistake I've made. I've lived, I've loved, I've won, I've lost. I've dared to be just me. I've seldom paused to count the cost Of being right or free. Oh, yes, I've erred - I'm sure you know - But only dead men don't. I've done the things I had to do I've said, "I'll try," not "won't." My batting average? Not too bad! Though I've struck out at times, I've put my pen to paper when The pay was less than dimes I've touched some minds, I ask what more, then could I ask? Has not my God been good? I'd not retrace my steps down here. Again now if I could, I.B. Christmas Day 1980

#### A CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



The Mt. Airy Jaycees held their annual Christmas Raffle last Wednesday night, Dec. 17, 1980, at their regular weekly meeting. They would like to congratulate the three winners.

Pictured above is, from left to right, 1st place winner, Mr. Bobby Thompson of Prospect; 2nd place winner, Mrs. James Strickland of Pembroke, N.C.; Mrs. Strickland accepted for her husband. Our 3rd place winner was Mr. Michael Gavaghan of Lumberton, N.C.

Mr. James Fuller Locklear was chairman of our raffle. We would like to congratulate Mr. Locklear for a job well done. Thanks James. We also would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who bought tickets. Proceeds from the raffle will go for needy families at Christmas time, and to the Mt. Airy Jaycees Building Fund.

The Mt. Airy Jaycees and Jaycettes would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope they had a Merry Christmas.



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Nelson Locklear, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Locklear of Pembroke, was lucky enough to win a turkey in the latest turkey shoot held annually by the Pembroke Jaycees.

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