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# The Carolina Indian Voice

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Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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## Publishes Book on Lumbee Indians



Mrs. Jane Smith and son, Michael Smith, co-authors of the Lumbee Methodists: Getting to Know Them.

A new book, *The Lumbee Methodists: Getting to Know Them* has been published by the Commission on Archives and History of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. It includes stories about the

struggles, ministries, missions service, and victories of the Lumbee Indians in the Robeson County area and beyond. In episodes, vignettes, descriptions, pictures, and graphics, the book describes the life, work and culture of a remarkable group of people over a 100-year period.

The book deals with the mystery of the Lumbee Indians' origin, their relationship with other Indian groups, and their struggle for social and political acceptance. Highlights include individual histories of the 14 Native American United Methodist Churches in the North Carolina Conference and stories about special Lumbee people whose unique contributions and service produced remarkable achievement.

The mother-son team of Jane and Michael Smith, both of Cary, were the editor and researcher-writer of this book. Mrs. Smith is a Native American Lumbee from the Saddletree community. Married to Joseph Walter Smith, himself the son of a Native American Methodist minister, Mrs. Smith is a retired high school teacher. The son is a graduate of the University of Virginia and has an M.A. in English and a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The contributing writers include Dr. Adolph Dial, professor and resident consultant of the Department of American Indian Studies at Pembroke State University and a member of the N.C. House of Representatives; the Rev. Frank Grill, N.C. Conference historian; the Rev. Robert Mangum, pastor of Prospect United Methodist Church near Maxton; and the Rev. Simeon Cummings, a retired United Methodist pastor.

*The Lumbee Methodists: Getting to Know Them* may be purchased by writing or calling the Commission on Archives and History, North Carolina Conference-United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 10955, Raleigh, NC 27605, telephone 1-800-621-5487 or 919-852-9569. The cost is \$8.95 for soft cover and \$14.95 for hard cover.

## Whatever Happened to ... Sally Johnson Brooks



Sally Johnson Brooks

By Barbara Braveboy-Locklear  
SPECIAL TO THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Adventure has followed Mrs. Sally Margaret Johnson Brooks all the 85 years of her life.

"If I wanted to do something I'd do it," the great grandmother laughs remembering the past eight and half decades of her life living primarily in Robeson and adjoining counties.

Ten children of Sherman Johnson and Lucy Revels Johnson grew into adulthood. Mrs. Brooks was the couple's oldest one. She was born in Dillon County, SC right across the North Carolina state line.

She remembers the big house her parents lived in near Rowland when she was a very young child when her father was working with Carolina Lumber Company as a "woods boss."

"Where the living and sleeping quarters were located was situated on the South Carolina line, while the kitchen part was located on the North Carolina line. Because the big part of the house was in South Carolina, that state claimed us as residents," she recalls.

Mrs. Brooks also remembers her family's move to a rural area called "The Swamps" near Beard, a town between Wade and Fayetteville in Cumberland County.

"Whenever the wood mill moved, we followed it because that's how my daddy made a living.

"The lumber company would build little houses for the workers and their families to live in. And there were happy times back then when my sister and I would go to a nearby commissary where we'd buy candy and cookies," she smiles.

Mrs. Brooks had become of school age by now and the

area had no schools where she could attend. She was turning six years old and arrangements were finalized for her to live with her maternal grandparents in the Red Banks community of Robeson County where she could attend school.

So it was on one Sunday in the fall that Mrs. Brooks' mother packed the family trunk with "pretty clothes" and some wheat flour for making bread for Sally's school lunches and loaded her on a mule-drawn tram to catch a train at Beard which took her to Pembroke where she boarded another train which took her to Red Banks.

She enrolled in Prospect School where Gaston Revels served as principal. At Christmastime Mrs. Brooks would greet her mother who had traveled by train to Red Banks to see her young school child. At the school year's end Mrs. Brooks would rejoin her family near Fayetteville until the next school term.

The following school year, Mrs. Brooks was joined at Prospect School by her younger sister, Caro Mae. During school months the young Indian children lived with their grandparents.

Three years later the young Johnson daughters transferred to a school in Pembroke when their grandparents moved near the small town. A few years later their father, Sherman Johnson left the lumber company to operate a blacksmith shop he'd bought in Fairmont.

When the family relocated to Robeson County, the Sally and Caro Mae rejoined their parents in Fairmont. They became weeklong boarders at the Indian Normal School in Pembroke where Mrs. Pattie and Ladie Locklear served as dormitory mothers. A brother, Blue Johnson, was later to join his sisters at the all-Indian school. The Lumbee children would return to their Fairmont home on Friday afternoons on the family-owned automobile which stayed parked during school days at their grandparents' house.

"We couldn't use it any during the week," Mrs. Brooks explains.

During her last year at the high school which offered eleven grades, Mrs. Brooks says she boarded in the private home of Melissa and Riley Locklear.

In 1927 she graduated from the Indian Normal School where she'd befriended her school principal who was a former math teacher at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She'd told the principal her dream of one day becoming a librarian, and he'd arranged for her to take a 12-weeks course at UNC the summer of 1927. She ultimately became one of the first Lumbee Indians to attend college study at the school. That fall she entered her post secondary study at the Indian Normal School in Pembroke and registered for two courses of study. And upon doing so, she enlisted the assistance of a Mary Davis from Raleigh to help her in establishing the school's first academic library.

"We began with 500 books, mostly encyclopedias," she recalls.

While Mrs. Brooks attended her classes, someone would watch the library she says. So it was, in the school year of 1927-28, Sally Johnson Brooks became the first librarian of what is now Pembroke State University.

The college freshman's role as librarian was short-lived. For in the summer of 1928 she decided to visit a newlywed sister in Michigan. While in Michigan she rekindled a romantic relationship with Joe Brooks, a

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

The Upward Bound Project at Pembroke State University will participate in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Summer Food Service Program for Children, along with its regular activities. The Food Program is sponsored by the North Carolina State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, and provides nutritional meals for children through age 18 or younger who are determined to be eligible. All students will be served the same meals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or handicap. Students who are members of food stamp households or AFDC assistance units are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits.

The Summer Food Service Program for the Upward Bound participants will begin June 16th and end July 26, 1991.

For further information, please contact Larry L. McCallum, Upward Bound Coordinator at 919-521-4214.

### THE TUSCARORA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PLANNED FOR SATURDAY JUNE 15

The Tuscarora Nation has rescheduled their Strawberry Festival for Saturday, June 15 at the Tuscarora Land Base, between Red Springs & Maxton. The festivities begin at 9 a.m. & the public is invited to attend. Kever Locklear is chief.

### 4-H SUMMER CAMP OPEN TO ALL ROBESON COUNTY YOUTH

Whether your love is swimming, canoeing, wildlife, horsemanship, or just having a great time with friends, you will find 4-H Summer Camp the place to be. Dates are Sunday-Friday, July 7-12, at Mill-stone 4-H Camp near Elerbe, NC. Camp is not limited to 4-H club members and is open to both boys and girls. This year's camp program is for 8-12 year olds.

The fee is \$115 per camper which covers all expenses: transportation, camp rental, food, craft materials, insurance, T-shirts, and camp store money. A \$25 non-refundable deposit will reserve a space for camp; spaces are limited. Campers will also be able to participate in a variety of other activities including entomology, natural resources, embryology, shooting sports, crafts, and water quality.

For more information and an application form contact the Robeson County Extension Service at 671-3276.

### 4-H COMPUTER WORKSHOP

The Robeson County Extension Service will conduct a 4-H computer workshop at the O.P. Owens Agriculture Center on Wednesday, July 3, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Youth between the ages of 9-12 are encouraged to participate. There is no charge for the workshop.

Those wishing to participate should call the Extension Service at 671-3276 by Friday, July 28, to register. All participants should bring a bag lunch or money to purchase lunch. Space is limited to 20, so call early to register!

## Monument erected at Drowning Creek Reservation

Chief Wise Owl and the Drowning Creek Reservation has erected a monument to Katie Lee Barton. She was the mother of Chief Wise Owl and the Tuscarora Indian Medicine Woman.

"Miss Katie" as she was affectionately known, was born November 12, 1918 and died August 10, 1990. The monument is erected at the Drowning Creek Reservation, Maxton and her grave site is located next to the Clark's Family Cemetery.

Chief Wise Owl said that his mother was the "most knowledgeable woman I ever knew about herbs. She taught me the herbs." She taught him, he says that there are over 4000 herbs mentioned in the Bible and all of them have some healing and medicinal purposes. The Chief said that his mother learned the herbs from her aunt whom he only knew as "Aunt Took."

Not everyone is gifted to work with the herbs, according to the Chief. He considers himself fortunate to have been the son of Katie Lee Barton who was dedicated to him as only a mother can be. He spoke at some length about the legacy his mother left. "My goal is not to let the knowledge of the herbs die out." He is teaching the herbs now to Chief Little Owl, his foster grandson, who is two years old. The Chief says that the same power that the herbs had in Biblical days are still there. There was an herb, he said that John the Baptist made his belt from. The Chief believes in a correlation between the Mother Earth, The Spirit and the Herbs. This he said, was learned from his mother. This knowledge he wishes to preserve and share with others.

The purpose in erecting the monument, in addition to the love he has for his mother, the Chief said was to let future generations know about the traditions of herbal medicine and because there is a voley energy band at the Reservation and the burying of crystal at the monument works with this energy band to help people spiritually as they visit.

The Drowning Creek Reservation, according to the Chief, was an Indian ceremonial ground thousands of years before Columbus. For this reason it is significant to have a point of contact between people and the energy

band that surrounds the area. "The energy level is highest right next to the water (Lumber River)," the Chief said. "The monument serves as an energy connection with people who understand Mother Earth, Spirit and Herbs...it doesn't work for all people because all people are not spiritual," he continued. "There have been people who visited this monument and had great spiritual experiences," he said.

"You have to try and visualize how it was before Columbus...before the invasion, corruption and pollution of the land by non-Indians who had little or no understanding of spiritual matters. When Native people were in charge of the land, there was perfect peace, law and order." The monument to his mother, said the Chief, is to remind future generations of the traditions of the Native people of the earth.

When asked why he decided to build such an elaborate monument, the Chief responded: "As you travel across this country, there are monuments to all other races, but there is nothing to see that is Native American. This monument is a testament to the healing powers of the river and the herbs and the traditions of the Native people...I wanted something that would be visible for generations.

The monument itself is constructed, according to the chief of 50 tons of concrete and steel. The foundation is four feet underground to prevent destruction of the monument. There is a time capsule buried in the monument which contains eleven ingredients. Those ingredients, along with a crystal, he said, are secret.

The Chief is planning a ceremony and dedication service for the monument in the near future. In the meantime, however, the Drowning Creek Reservation is open to the public and in addition to the monument; there is access to the river for swimming and fishing as well as picnic grounds and a bait shop. There is adequate places for camping and overnight visitations.

The Barton family reunion will be held on the Reservation on Father's Day.

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young Lumbee Indian from Pembroke she'd dated off-and-on for nine years. They eloped into Toledo, Ohio and were married.

Mrs. Brooks sent the news by letter to her school principal telling him she would not return as school librarian that fall.

The couple settled down to housekeeping in Detroit where he worked in the auto industry. She was a homemaker. A year later Mrs. Brooks, three months with child, returned to the home of her parents in the Fairmont area.

"I didn't want to stay with my husband anymore," she explains of the separation. "I just didn't like being married."

She completed her final year of the two-year program at the Indian Normal School in 1933. She then was the mother of her first child, a daughter.

Her first teaching position was at Black Ankle School near Piney Grove Church where she commanded first through third grades in a two-room building. She then taught a White Hill School and Fairmont Indian School.

"Then I foolishly allowed my husband into sweet-talking me into living with him again after a five-year separation," she comments. She left her teaching profession for 11 years to raise her five children.

With a failed marriage, the single mother renewed her teacher's certificate and returned to teaching and pursued study towards a four-year teacher's certificate all the while.

In 1954 she earned the certificate from Pembroke State College. She took teaching assignments at Hawkeye School in Hoke County and later at Magnolia School. And from 1953-55, served as a librarian and teacher at New

Market Elementary School in Ashboro. She also worked in a government operated branch library in Washington, DC before returning to Pembroke. Her last five years of professional work were completed at Prospect School where she served as librarian. She gave 33 years to public education before retiring in 1972.

She has remained busy in retirement. For ten years friends and neighbors enlisted her talent to baking and decorating cakes for special events. For four years she belonged to a retired women's group who formed a kitchen band and toured area schools where they rendered musical entertainment for hundreds of school students.

She enjoys needle crafts and has crocheted numerous afghans and created cross stitch art for family and friends. She enjoys out of town visits to the homes of her children and visits two brothers and two sisters who reside in California.

She still drives an automobile and frequently visits a sister in Pembroke where she loves to dine on homemade biscuits. She says her appetite is good and her favorite foods are collards and cornbread.

She no longer works a vegetable garden, but spends many hours in her flower garden at her Cherokee Street home in Pembroke which she shares with a daughter. She belongs to the membership of Pembroke Gospel Chapel and meets weekly with a prayer group at a friend's house near the church. Her passion for reading, and love for books is unrelenting.

As adventurous as the 85-year-old former educator is, there is one thing she will no longer do - fly on airplanes. "I used to love to fly on airplanes until they started falling," she comments. "Now I won't get on one."