

CAROLINA Indian Voice

"Promoting Communications Between Indians and Nations"

Pembroke, NC
Robeson County



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Native American Architect, J. Michael Clark Treads Softly on Mother Earth



youth who are going into architecture as a profession. His dreams include innovative ideas which he believes will lead to development of cultural architectural styles.

The architect is cognizant of the Native American influence in architecture. He says he was the first in-house person for the U.S. Navy to design a building utilizing passive solar energy in the shipyard at Portsmouth, Virginia.

"Knowing our cultural past as American Indian people, this can happen," he comments.

J. Michael Clark treads lightly upon Mother Earth. He is no longer underground.

He's come home.

Indian Heritage Festival to be held at Town Creek Indian Mound

Town Creek Indian Mound Indian Heritage Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6, 1994 from 1 until 5 p.m.

Town Creek Indian Mound is located on State Historic Site, 5 1/2 miles east of Mt. Gilead between NC 731 and NC 73.

There will be a drawing for \$1,000 in cash each day for registered dancers. There will be intertribal dancing both days; survival skills demonstrations; and story telling for all ages. Indian arts and crafts will be on display and there will be plenty of food.

This will be a family event. The public is invited to attend. No alcohol/drugs allow. There is no admission fee. The site will be open from 9 until 5 each day. The event is being sponsored by Town Creek Indian Mound, Inc. and Richmond Community College Native American Club.

Marker Placed at Grave of First Indian Physician by Family

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear
Dr. Governor Worth Locklear died on November 28, 1921. He was finally put to rest on Tuesday, October 4, 1994 when family members laid a proper headstone at his grave.

On the chilly fall day surviving relatives gathered at Preston Cemetery near Long Swamp to pay final tribute to the first Lumbee Indian physician. His daughter, Eva Harris Brayboy, was there along with the late

physician's granddaughter and his cousins, Lestelle Deese Oxendine and Louise Deese Oxendine. Lestelle's husband, Henry, stood observing the installation of the granite stone as it was placed on a concrete foundation he built weeks earlier. Descendants of Preston Locklear, the family patriarch, spearheaded the efforts in getting the marker.

Dr. Locklear was born in Robeson County in 1870 to Preston Locklear

and Emmaline Lowry Locklear. He was one of 11 sons born to the couple. The family also included two daughters.

Except for oral history, little is known of Dr. Locklear's early childhood education because the Constitution of 1868 provided for a public school term of four months for all children, regardless of race, it said nothing about segregated schools. Not until 1875 when Reconstruction ended at the state level and the Constitution was revised, did North Carolina begin in earnest to establish schools for its citizens. In 1885 the state recognized the Lumbees as Croatan and established a separate school system.

A brother of young Governor was born with a physical handicap. The child's father, Preston, employed Mrs. Plummer, an Irish woman, to teach his handicapped son to read and write.

Preston, a landowner, needed his sons for farm labor and could ill-afford to have them all attend "reading and writing" classes together. Therefore, he arranged for an individual son to physically transport the handicapped son to daily study sessions with the teacher.

The father consequently enlisted a different son to tote the brother several miles to his study site. In so doing, each of the Locklear sons sat in on the study sessions; thus learning to read and write.

As a young man, Governor befriended a Caucasian "country" physician who enlisted young Locklear as a driver of his horse-drawn buggy used in making house calls on patients in rural Robeson County. Elderly family members say that Locklear became so skilled at delivering babies that the physician wrote a letter of recommendation to Baltimore University School of Medicine (now John Hopkins Medical

University) on behalf of Locklear's application to the school's medicine program.

According to records listed in THE EXTINCT MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND (1969), on March 29, 1893, G.W. Locklear was awarded a Medical Degree from the Baltimore University School of Medicine. Thus, Dr. Locklear became the first Lumbee Indian to formally study medicine and earn a medical degree.

North Carolina state records show that G.W. Locklear was granted a medical license (#2599) on June 15, 1914. That year he opened his medical office and apothecary in the rural community of Prospect, a few miles from his birthplace.

Dr. Governor married Adeline Lowry and the couple had one son, Adnell, who served in World War I. The son contracted pneumonia and died in New York and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Later, because of a North Carolina state law prohibiting racially-mixed marriages, Dr. Locklear, a widower, was forced to leave Robeson County after he married a white woman. After his departure he practiced medicine in Atlanta, Georgia and in Wildwood, Florida before returning to his native Robeson County in 1916 where he re-established a practice in the town of Pembroke. His wife, unable to legally live with him, remained in Georgia. His medical practice ended with his death in 1921. Though an inquest was deemed unnecessary, it was thought that his death resulted from the use of chloroform. He was survived by his wife, Mercer Locklear of Atlanta, Ga.; a daughter, Eva Harris; one sister and nine brothers.

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