

ALONG THE ROBESON TRAIL

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

As the Lumbee continue their century-old struggle for federal acknowledgment, it is sometimes easy here along the Robeson trail to forget that other Indian nations are experiencing similar difficulties. It has been estimated that there are approximately one hundred and fifty Indian tribes or nations in the United States which seek, but have not attained, federal acknowledgment. One such group is the Nipmuc Nation.

The present-day Nipmuc are descendants of a relatively small Algonkian-speaking nation whose traditional homeland is what is now known as southern Massachusetts and northern parts of Rhode Island and Connecticut. Like the Lumbee and most of the Indian people of the Eastern Woodlands, the ancestors of the Nipmuc lived in permanent farming villages. They grew corn, beans, squash and other vegetables, and hunted and fished along the rivers and streams of their home. According to Swanton, the name Nipmuc means "people of the freshwater fishing place." In many ways their cultural life was similar to their perhaps better-known Algonkian kinsmen, the Narragansett, Massachusetts and

Mohegan.

The experience of the Nipmuc during early colonial times was also similar to most other Indian people in the East. With Europeans came epidemics, population decimation, warfare and loss of tribal lands. Nipmuc warriors fought fiercely (in 1675) against the colonists during what the English called "King Philip's War." But in October of 1675 approximately five hundred Nipmucs (virtually all who remained alive by that time) were surrounded and captured. They were taken in chains by horse-drawn carts to the colonial settlement at Watertown, and from there by canoe to Deer Island. They were imprisoned at Deer Island for eighteen months, during which time about half of them perished from starvation and disease. Afterward, the remaining two hundred were taken to "plantations" in Natick, Wamesit and Punkapoag, where they were confined for ten more years. But some survived.

In modern times the Nipmuc have reorganized themselves in thirty-nine bands, and have formed the Nipmuc Nation Council with representatives from each of the bands. Their petition for federal recognition was "tabled"

(delayed indefinitely) by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1988. But as with the Lumbee, life goes on for the Nipmuc with or without federal recognition. They just celebrated their forty-first annual powwow, and each year they commemorate the day when their ancestors were removed to Deer Island.

After one of their Nation Council members, Pam Ellis, visited here in the land of the Lumbee, she returned to speak with her people about the Lumbee. She writes: "I spoke with other Council members and with the Elders about my time in Pembroke, North Carolina and about the struggles of the Lumbee regarding acknowledgment. Many of them remarked at the striking similarity between the struggles of the Lumbee and of the tribal nations in Massachusetts engaged in the petition process. They asked me to send their best wishes and agreed to remember the Lumbee in their thoughts and prayers."

For more information about the Nipmuc people of yesterday and today, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

Searching for Indian Identity

John L. Marshall of Rocky Mount, N.C., adopted at the age of 6, from his biological family (Calhoun/Morgan) in 1930, is searching for his Native American roots and genealogical background of ancestors related to the Kenneth T. Morgan family of Robeson County, N.C. and Dillon County, S.C.

It is believed that K.T.'s father's name was Isaac, Isaiah or perhaps Elisha Morgan. His wife's name was Mary Ann. Her last name is believed to have been Dubose. However, no records have been found to date to verify her last name. K.T. and Mary Ann would have been born around 1805. There is no clue as to what their parents names were, but they would have possibly been born in the 1770's.

The unsolved link that can prove the identity of my Native American heritage is information about my great, great grandpa Dolly Sparkman of Robeson County (1833-1921). It is said by many Morgan Family members that Dolly was the daughter (Princess) of a Cherokee Chief. Any leads or information on how I could contact my Sparkman descendants would be deeply appreciated.

Having documented ancestral beginning in Robeson, Dillon and Marion Counties, many Morgans have all the physical characteristics of the Native Americans.

According to historians, the Cheraw, Keyauwee, Catawba, Eno, Occaneechi, Tutelo, Pedee, Waccamaw, Cape Fear, Coharie, Wateree, Congaree, Santee, and Tuscarora all frequented or settled in

the Robeson/Dillon County area. Unfortunately, many of these tribes have been drastically reduced to a population of just a few hundred, while several North Carolina tribes have become extinct. Thus, my search has been long, extremely slow, and frustrating.

Other factors that have created genealogical roadblocks to access records during this period of history were the many tragedies of the Civil War, enslavement and the transporting of American Indians from their homelands, and the burning down of the Lumberton County Courthouse with all its genealogical history and records. I have discovered that searching for and finding the records I need are virtually next to impossible. However, I continue my struggle.

I have yet to research the ancestors of my dad's side of the family (William W. Calhoun). However, I firmly believe that the Calhoun Family will also prove to be mixed with Native American ancestry.

Perhaps your knowledge or someone you know can help me. Anything, regardless how insignificant you think it may be could be the missing link I need.

I would additionally like to add that I hope this public inquiry will not offend any of my members. I seek only the truth, and reclamation to my lost heritage.

Your help will be greatly appreciated. Contact me by mailing all correspondences to: John L. Marshall 809 Edwards St. Rocky Mount, NC 27803.

Red Cross to Sponsor Blood Drives this month

The Red Cross will be sponsoring blood drives at the following locations:

Harper's Ferry Baptist Church on Wednesday, December 28, 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Mt. Airy Baptist Church, January 7, 1995, 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

For more information please call Patricia Brayboy at the Robeson County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 738-3057.

Pembroke Kiwanis

by Dr. Ken Johnson

The weekly meeting was held at the Town and Country Restaurant with President Grady Hunt presiding.

Program Chairman Brian Brooks introduced Col. John Atkinson of the North Carolina National Guard who explained the work of the National Guard in time of peace and war. Kiwanian Brian Brooks himself is a lieutenant officer in the North Carolina National Guard. Col. Atkinson has 27 years of service in the armed forces, including Viet Nam, and a graduate of the Citadel and East Carolina.

Members of the National Guard are traditional civilian soldiers in support of regular soldiers. They function in many capacities, including national disasters of floods, hurricanes, tsunamis. They assist local law enforcement officers such as in the Los Angeles riots. They have been called upon to serve in the Gulf area and in Europe.

There are 12,000 Guardsmen serving with the armed force in North Carolina. Many live right here in Robeson County. All are volunteers, and serve because they want to. The 30th Brigade serves in the Tank Corp. They are ready to serve actively in 90 days. Two years ago they built a road across Panama. They also do drug enforcement duty, medical assistance to the homeless. All these services add value to the communities. Educational scholarships are available to members. The Guard provides excellent role models as responsible citizens. Economic benefits are great for the communities. The payroll in Robeson County is \$1,766,000. Retirement is after 20 years at the age of 60 years. The maturity level is very high in the National Guard, thus making them very valuable for security work. North Carolina is very supportive of their National Guard.

Song leader-Ed ZTeets; Invocation-Clay Maynor; Reporter-Ken Johnson.

Hospice Volunteers Attend Conference

Seven Hospice of Robeson volunteers recently returned from the Galaxy of Loving Stars National Volunteer Conference hosted by the Hospice of Central Florida in Orlando. These volunteers who include representatives from throughout Robeson County are: Lois Lowery, St. Pauls; Connie Oxendine, Pembroke; Timma Locklear, Lumberton; Cynthia Locklear, Lumberton; Robert and Burnell Moore, Fairmont; and Bobbie Ann Oxendine, Pembroke. Anne Crain, Hospice of Robeson volunteer coordinator, also attended.

While at the three-day conference, volunteers participated in workshops designed to enhance their communications skills and understanding of the needs of terminally ill patients and their families. They also brought back new ideas to incorporate into the local Hospice program and to share with fellow volunteers.

Locklear to Serve as Chairman of State Advisory Council



A Robeson County native had been appointed by Gov. Jim Hunt to serve as chairman of the North Carolina Head Start Collaboration Project Advisory Council.

Dr. Eddie Locklear, a 4-H specialist with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at North Carolina State University, serves on the national Extension School-Age Child Care Consortium. He also serves on various state committees and chairs the 4-H International Committee and the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Youth At Risk Committee.

Locklear, who lives in Raleigh, has worked for Extension for nearly 20 years, including 12 years as a 4-H agent in Robeson County.

Locklear's term runs from September 9 until June 30, 1998.

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Pediatric Pointers

By JOSEPH T. BELL, MD

One of the more common infections that strike fear into the hearts of parents is pneumonia. Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs that cause fluid and pus to collect in the air sacs. It is usually a complication of a cold that spreads downward from the nose and throat. Unlike the cold, pneumonia is usually not contagious. About 80% of all pneumonia are caused by viruses and about 20% by bacterial germs.

The usual tipoff symptoms of this infection include coughing, fever and breathing difficulties. Rattly breathing is not a sign of pneumonia, but rather comes from mucus in the windpipe. Viral pneumonia is usually milder than bacterial pneumonia; the latter tends to come on more suddenly and produces higher fever and chills. A chest x-ray shows an abnormal patch of fluid on the lungs.

Most children with pneumonia can be cared for at home. Fewer than 10% of patients need to be admitted for IV fluids or oxygen. Those admitted are usually young infants or children with large areas of lung infected.

Here are a few basic suggestions for taking care of the child with pneumonia who does not need to be admitted. 1) Make sure the child is given the antibiotics as prescribed by the

doctor. Remember that antibiotics only work against bacterial pneumonia; because it is sometimes hard to distinguish bacterial from viral pneumonia, some while with viral infection will be given antibiotics as a precaution. Most pneumonia respond to the antibiotics within 24 to 48 hours, but don't forget to give the whole dosage. 2) Don't forget to give Tylenol for fever or chest pain if needed. 3) Give warm fluids for coughing spells. Warm lemonade, apple juice, hot soup or broth help loosen up thick secretions on the child can cough them up better. 4) Use a humidifier in the child's room at night. Dry air tends to worsen a cough, and moist air helps quieten the cough. 5) Keep the child away from cigarette smoke. We all know that tobacco smoke aggravates a cough and makes coughs last longer.

If the child's condition worsens after being on antibiotics for 48 hours, make sure you check with a doctor; he may deserve a re-evaluation.

Continue to support our tribal council and tribal chairman. And if you get a chance, drop by our grand opening at Julian T. Pierce Health Center on Sunday, December 18 from 2-5 p.m. See you next week!

REFLECTIONS

by Alta Nye Oxendine

Azaleas in December
The azalea sprig I brought in the house last week is still blooming away. Just like it's spring!

But those who've been complaining that it's too warm to get in the mood for Christmas should be happier now.

The chill in the air hits harder after a spell of warm weather, doesn't it!
Snow in Montana

There were several light snowfalls while I was visiting Mother. Then the day I was scheduled to leave several inches covered the ground. My cousin Betty's husband, Lee, drove Mother's 1978 Skylark over some slick roads on our way to the airport at Butte. What a wonderful wintry send-off, I thought. Everything we passed was frosted in white. And the snow kept falling, as we crossed the Continental Divide, reaching the airport a half hour before take-off time.

I put on my OLD tennis shoes to wade through the snow. (Butte got 12 inches that day.)

Just as I was about to show my

ticket at the counter, Betty said: "I heard them say the plane couldn't land. You can't go today". Visibility was only one mile, and there was no way for pilots to see beacons on the mountains. So we three ate dinner and went back home.

By the time I left on Wednesday, the highway was almost clear of snow, and driving was a whole lot easier.

But the trip I'll always remember is the winter wonderland on the Saturday before!

Singles Meeting
As usual, we had some good fellowship at our Tuesday night Singles Meeting. Annie Pearl Cummings was in charge of the program and refreshments.

She asked us to share our most memorable Christmas with the group. After the business meeting, we sang Christmas carols in the church sanctuary. Then we went to the kitchen to enjoy chili and homemade cake.

Our ten-year reunion get-together will be held on (or near) Valentine's Day.

In the Armed Forces

Toby Locklear
Navy Seaman Recruit Toby Locklear, son of Larry D. and Deborah B. Locklear of Route 1, Shannon, NC, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Grand Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Locklear completed a variety of training which included classroom study, practical hands-on instruction, and an emphasis on physical fitness. In particular, Locklear learned naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and a variety of safety skills required for working around ships and aircraft.

Locklear and other recruits also received instruction on the Navy's core values-honor, courage, and commitment; and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct. Locklear joins 65,000 men

and women who will enter the Navy this year from all over the country.

Men and women train together from their first day in the Navy just as they do aboard ships and at shore bases around the world. To reinforce the team concept, Locklear and other recruits also were trained in preventing sexual harassment and ensuring equal opportunity.

Even as the naval service gets smaller over the next few years, highly motivated young people like Locklear are still finding an opportunity to improve their knowledge and education as they become part of the most highly technical naval force in history. This year alone the Navy will have more than 57,000 job openings and opportunities, most of which include guaranteed training.

He is a 1994 graduate of St. Pauls High School of St. Pauls, NC.

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