

Obituary

Fairmont-Mrs. Novella Hunt Strickland, 85, a resident of the NC Cancer Institute, Lumberton, and formerly of route 1, Fairmont, died at the Institute Friday morning, November 13, 1998.

She was born in Robeson County, NC July 5, 1913, a daughter of the late Hose and Betsy Ann "Betty" Hunt Jacobs.

Mrs. Strickland was a member of the Pleasant View Baptist Church and a home maker.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Monday, November 16, from the Pleasant View Baptist Church with the Reverends Johnnie Chavis and Prather Sampson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery under the direction of Prevatte Funeral Home in Fairmont.

Surviving are a son, Hal "Boot" Hunt of Baltimore, MD; a brother, J.D. "Buddy" Oxendine of Fairmont; two sisters, Dorothy Frost of Greensboro; and Ann Chavis of Lumberton; seventeen grandchildren; forty-six great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son Calvin Hunt, her husbands, Luther Allen "Coot" Hutn and Jimmy "Pop" Strickland; two sisters, Christine Lewis and Corina Oxendine and a brother, James Hunt.

Mr. James Fred Sampson

Mr. James Fred Sampson, 90, a resident of 2224 Deep Branch Rd., Lumberton, N.C. died at his residence early Thursday morning, November 5, 1998. He was born in Robeson County, North Carolina, February 2, 1908; a son of the late James and Edna Hammonds Sampson.

Mr. Sampson was a member of the Deep Branch Baptist Church where he was active in the Adult Men Class of the church Sunday school. He was a retired Correction Officer with the Robeson County Correction Center and former owner of Sampson's Lunch located on Fourth St.

Funeral services were conducted at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 8, 1998 from Deep Branch Baptist Church with the Reverends Layton Sampson, nephew, Harvey L. Locklear and Sanford Chavis, Rev. Prather Sampson, brother, James A. Hunt officiating. Interment followed in the Lumbee Memorial Gardens.

Surviving are a foster son, Willie Scott Chavis of Lumberton, NC; three daughters, Deborah Lowry and Letecia Hardin both of Lumberton, NC and Brenda and her husband, T.A. Acquard of the home; three brothers, Carl Sampson of Laurel Hill, Garfield Sampson of New Jersey and Reverend Prather Sampson of Lumberton, NC; four sisters, Pearl Young of Andrews, SC, Atelia Chavis of Lumberton, NC, Reitha Locklear of Hamlet, NC and Rosie Freeman of Pembroke, NC; three grandchildren, Julie R. Lowry and Dakota Lowry both of Lumberton, NC and Tiffany Chavis of Shannon, NC; and a host of other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Alfonso Sampson, Grady Sampson, and William B. Sampson and his wife, Mrs. Ruby Scott Sampson.

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Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stanley Knick, Director, Native American Resource Center, UNCP

The things we know and believe can be powerful. But when we know them — when we came to believe them — can also have an important effect. The precise timing of any search for an answer to a particular question often shapes the answer we get.

This kind of perspective — where the history or development of an idea or perception is traced — is sometimes referred to as "historiography." It is, in a way, the history of history. It provides a fruitful view of a great many historical notions and personalities, and the case of Henry Berry Lowry is no exception. One's perspective of who the real Henry Berry was could be shaped by when one asked about him.

Ask the *New York Times* on 22 July 1871. Here you would read that Henry was a "robber baron..., a chivalric cut-throat," and that his gang was a "motley crew" including "runaway slaves..., deserted soldiers of both armies [Union and Confederate], and miscellaneous outlaws..." (Starr 1994:136).

Ask Mary Norment in 1875. In her book we find a catalogue of the crimes Henry committed — a list of the people he robbed and killed. Norment calls Henry "a blood-stained, crime-hardened wretch," although she grudgingly concedes that he "makes a handsome personal appearance when dressed up" (Norment 1875:12, 142).

Ask Frank Triplett in 1884 in his book *History, Romance and Philosophy of Great American Crimes and Criminals*. Triplett calls Henry and his gang "mongrel outlaws, to whom murder was a pleasant excitement" (Starr 1994:137).

Ask *The Argus* newspaper on 14 June 1904. This paper's editor made the (as it turns out, profound) prediction that "The days of the Lowrie Gang will possibly furnish themes for poetry and romance... — how long hence (Starr 1994:138)?"

By the time McKee Evans wrote *To Die Game* in 1971, D. F. Lowry (Henry's nephew) would write in the book's foreword about "the pride we [Lumbees] take in the brave acts of the Lowrys..." Lowry went on to say how pleased he was that a person with Evans' qualifications had produced a book about his uncle's life and about "the wonderful record of the Lowry band during the time when we Lumbee Indians were going through our worst oppression (Evans 1971:v)." Evans wrote that Henry "had made it imprudent for men who had property and white skin to speak in any disrespectful way of himself or his followers." Evans went on to say that Henry's "talent for acting out ideas had considerable importance.... It seems doubtful whether, with a river of ink, Radical newspaper editors could have challenged the social distinctions that the Conservatives were laboring to perpetuate any more sharply than Henry Berry did when he led a band of armed men, black, white, and brown, into a plantation dining room, where they sat with calm dignity while their proud enemy cooked breakfast for them, and while the militia combed distant swamps searching for them (Evans 1971:243-44)." This is obviously a view of Henry which is quite different from the opinion expressed earlier by Norment and Triplett.

In 1975 Adolph Dial and David Eliades would write that Henry: "was known as the King of Scuffletown. While the name meant lawlessness and terror to the white community, it meant more truly a man who fought oppression, to the Indians. The 'King' became a folk hero to his people, a symbol of pride and manhood (Dial and Eliades 1975:86)." Dial would write in poetical form: "Henry Berry Lowry where are you? Sleeping in an unknown grave. Does the grass grow above your breast, or do dark waters flow with secret sounds through your bones that will confuse mankind until the end of time? From everlasting to everlasting you are the hero of a people. Keep your secrets as you sleep — that is part of your greatness (Dial and Eliades 1975:42)." Also written in the 1970s, Randolph Umlberger's play *Strike At The Wind!* forever immortalized the legendary romantic and heroic view of Henry. Here Henry appears as an entirely good historical character, one who says: "Tell them we did not what we ought to have done but what we were able." In the course of time Henry would be referred to as a rebel with a cause (Cooper 1985), and would be listed in *Who Was Who in Native American History* (Waldman 1990).

Who was Henry Berry Lowry really? Why did perceptions of him change through time? The answer just might depend on when you ask the question. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Robeson Native Receives National Institutes of Health Grant to Study Health of Native Americans in State

Winston-Salem, North Carolina—Dr. Ronny Bell, Research Assistant Professor at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, has received a one year, \$50,000 grant to study the health of Native Americans in North Carolina. This grant will be used to supplement on-going work by Dr. Bell among Lumbee Indians in Robeson County. "This is exciting news for me, and hopefully, for Native Americans across the state," said Bell. The study involves conducting 20-30 minute telephone surveys in three Native American communities across the state. The survey includes information on chronic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, and heart disease, as well as diet and life-style behaviors that increase risk of developing disease. The sites for the study have not been selected yet, according to Bell, but will selection of those sites for the study have not been

selected yet, according to Bell, but will selection of those sites will involve input from the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs. To date, Dr. Bell has complete about 200 surveys in a preliminary study among Lumbees in Robeson County. "We have had a great response to the survey that is currently being done," said Bell. Local Lumbee interviewers are conducting the surveys, which may help survey respondents feel more comfortable answering questions. "I feel very strongly that having someone administer the survey is important to the acceptance of such a project as this. For some people, getting a phone call at home is an invasion of privacy, so hearing a familiar voice on the other end of the phone can be a great advantage," said Bell. Bell hopes that the information

collected in his projects will benefit Native Americans across the state. "We don't know a whole lot about the health of Native Americans in North Carolina, except for the information we get from mortality figures. What this study will do is help gather information on diseases and risk factors for diseases that will ultimately lead to prevention programs specific to Native Americans." Bell is currently on the faculty in the Department of Public Health Science at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He is a Lumbee from Pembroke, North Carolina. He and his wife, Natalie, live in Greensboro with their three children, Stephen, Benjamin and Jonathan. Dr. Bell is also working on two other research projects in Robeson County, the Rural Nutrition and Health Study (RUN) and the Robeson Outreach, Screening, and Education (ROSE) Project.



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Ol' Hussein's a liar, folk

Ranting and Raving



Garry Lewis Barton

(Note: Some folk apparently were offended by some remarks in a recent column about me being separated from wife #3. Y'all need to bear in mind the old saying about believing only half of what you read. Sometimes, I like to poke fun at life in general, folk. And I oftentimes use satire, humor, or anything else imaginable (and some things not) to do so. So read these columns in the light-hearted spirit in which they are written, folk. Remember that the views and sentiments expressed herein are mine, not necessarily shared by anyone else. Heck! They're not necessarily my views and sentiments - just my personal "rantings and ravings.")

Back in February of this year, President "Sad-damn" Hussein of Iraq ceased cooperation between his country and the UN weapons inspectors stationed there as a term of his surrender during the Persian Gulf War. After the US spent \$1 billion of our taxpayer money building up a military presence in the area, Hussein once again caved in at the last minute and promised full cooperation with the UN weapons inspectors. And yet another military attack on his country was averted. Since then, the insane Hussein has impeded the work of the weapons inspectors so much, they have only been allowed to inspect Iraq's weapons four months out of the last 12. Still, with Hussein's proven track record of lying, last weekend President Clinton once again believed the crafty liar at the last minute and halted the impending attack from US and British forces. And once again, this occurred after the US spent more than another \$1 billion of our taxpayer money to prepare for the ever-elusive attack. Folk, I don't know much. But I know someone doesn't have to tell but one lie to earn the dubious distinction of being labeled a liar. Wonder how many times Hussein will have to lie at the last minute to avert an attack, and how much more money will have to be wasted preparing for an attack that never materializes because Hussein backs down at the last minute, before Hussein will be recognized as the liar he really is? The entire spectacle would be funny if it wasn't so serious. It reminds me of the phenomenon whereby a cat oftentimes plays with a mouse before ultimately killing it. Only this time, the mouse (Hussein), plays with the cat (the US). The fact is that if they could, a lot of the dictators of these little rinky-dinky countries like Iraq and Iran would blow the US off the face of the earth if they had the capability and opportunity. And if allowed to acquire the capability, President "Sad-damn" Hussein would become our most deadly and fiercest enemy and wouldn't stop until he found the opportunity to destroy us. So, the work of the UN weapons inspectors in Iraq is crucial to the safety and survival of this country in particular, and world peace in general. Hussein is a madman. And he shouldn't be handled with kid gloves like Clinton continues to do by halting attacks on Iraq each and every time Hussein capitulates at the last minute to avert a tragedy. Too, Clinton talked about supporting opposition groups in Iraq wishing to overthrow the Hussein government. But every time he allows Hussein to toy with him, Hussein emerges from the confrontation as the hero in his people's eyes. And he gains a little more credibility and respect, no matter how begrudgingly, in the eyes of the rest of the world. There are certain things in the Universe one doesn't do, folk. And if you're a mouse, like Hussein, one of them is you don't toy with the mightiest cat (the US) in the world. The next time Hussein ceases cooperation with the UN weapons inspectors, the US needs to either go over there (which would cost another \$1 billion or so) and declare a full-scale war on Iraq which could only end by the overthrow of Hussein's government, or leave them alone altogether. Even if we have to do it without the blessings of our allies. The mistake folk have made in the past has been trying to reason with "Sad-damn" Hussein. And any right-thinking person ought to know you can't reason with a madman. If we're not serious about dealing decisively with the threat to world peace Hussein poses, we ought to start attacking other world problems such as hunger. The billions of dollars Clinton's administration has already wasted flexing our US military muscles in the Persian Gulf could have bought enough rice to significantly help alleviate world hunger. We need to show Hussein that recess time and the playing of games is over with. It's now time to return to the classroom so we can teach him what "the consequences of one's actions" really means. We need to wake up and smell the crude oil, folk. The truth of the matter is that no matter how tragic it might be if we are ultimately forced to attack Iraq, it would be a tragedy of Hussein's own making. We'll talk again folk.

20th Annual Conference of the AISES Planned

The 20th Anniversary conference of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) will be held December 3-5, 1998 at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver. The mission of AISES, a private, non-profit corporation, is "Building community by bridging traditional Native values with science and technology." The American Indian College and university students, professors, K-12 instructors, and professionals will be present to encourage, nurture and celebrate American Indian participation in the sciences and engineering. Stephen Covey, founder of The Covey Leadership Center and author of the best-seller "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," will keynote the Opening Ceremony. For more than 25 years, Dr. Covey has taught millions of people in business, government and education the transforming power of principles rooted in natural laws that govern human and organizational effectiveness. Invited guests include U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, NASA Astronaut John Herrington and Bill Yellowtail, regional director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Other speakers, 36 workshops, educational sessions and exhibits will address topics that include Indian leadership, Indian entrepreneurship, natural resource management, community-based education, and research and work opportunities. AISES Scholarship recipients, sponsors and donors will be recognized at the Traditional Honors Banquet. This year AISES will award \$600,000 in scholarships to undergraduate and graduate college and university students. Other conference highlights include the Annual Career Fair, a pre-conference teacher education day and Annual Pow Wow. Conference sponsors include 3M, Amoco, IBM, Sandia National Labs and US West. For more information contact: George Thomas, Conference Coordinator American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) 5661 Airport Boulevard Boulder, CO 80301-2239 Telephone: 303-939-0023, extension #25 Fax: 303-939-8150 E-mail: george@aises.org AISES website: www.aises.org

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Carolina Indian Voice is published every Thursday by First American Publications - 304 Normal St. - College Plaza Post Office Box 1075 Pembroke, North Carolina 28372 Phone (910) 521-2826 Fax (910) 521-1975 Connie Brayboy, Editor Subscriptions: One year in NC, \$20.00 Out of State, \$25.00 Second Class Postage Paid at Pembroke, NC