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Dedication Ceremony Held for Croatan Indian Community Historical Marker in Georgia

"In 1870 a group of Croatan Indians migrated from their homes in Robeson County North Carolina, following the turpentine industry to southeast Georgia. Eventually many of the Croatans became tenant farmers for the Adabelle Trading Company, growing cotton and tobacco. The Croatan community established the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Adabelle, as well as a school and a nearby cemetery. After the collapse of the Adabelle Trading Company, the Croatans faced both economic hardship and social injustice. As a result, most members of the community returned to North Carolina by 1920. The tribe to which these families belonged became known as the Lumbee in the early 1950s."

The above words are inscribed on a historical road marker sponsored by the Georgia Historical Society and the Bulloch County Historical Society with donations from members of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

This historical marker was dedicated in a special ceremony on Saturday, June 26, 2004 at 12:00 noon on US Highway 301 and Adabelle Road in Bulloch County, Georgia.

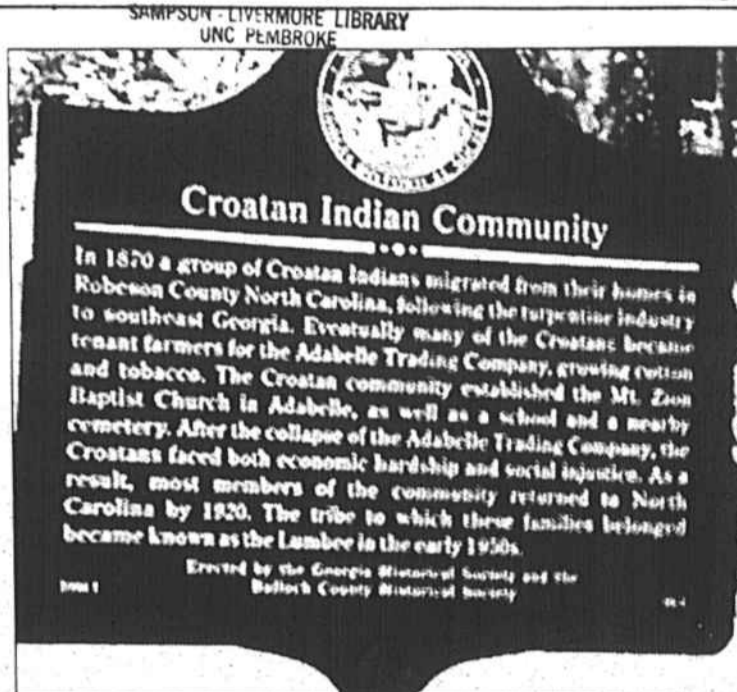
The historical marker was dedicated to the memory of those Croatan men and women who established a community Adabelle, Georgia in the 1870s. The Croatans pioneered the naval stores industry in the area," read the program for the occasion.

It also stated "Today we stand proud of the legacy they left us and it is our honor to remember them as we unveil this marker in their memory." Participating in the ceremony were approximately 100 people, most of them descendants of those pioneers and members of the Lumbee Tribe. Arrangements for the visit to Adabelle, GA for the event were coordinated by Barbara Braveboy Locklear who was also responsible for the program brochure.

The marker heralds the "Croatan Indian Community." Special guests were Frank and Dorothy Simmons of Wiregrass Plantation, where the Croatan Cemetery is located. They are Guardians of the Croatan Cemetery.

Remarks were made by Dan Good, Historical Marker Chairman, Bulloch County Historical Society, Kemp Mabry, Executive Director, Bulloch County Historical Society, Christy M. Crisp, Program Coordinator, Georgia Historical Society and Johnny Parrish, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Rodney Harville, President, of the Bulloch County Historical Society, offered the benediction.

Barbara Braveboy Locklear gave the history of the Croatan in Adabelle, Loretta and Herman Oxendine carried water and dirt from Robeson County and mixed it with soil and water from the site in a symbolic gesture to remind us of the close ties between the two communities. Blessing of the Grounds was by Hays Allen Locklear.



The road marker denoting the Croatan Indian Community established in Adabelle, Georgia

An Exclusive interview with Rickey Medlocke of LYNRYD SKYNYRD

Kenny Buffalo, well known for his work in Japanese martial arts, had the rare opportunity of meeting with Rickey Medlocke of Lynryd Skynyrd recently before a sold out performance in Norfolk, Virginia. Rickey Medlocke is the Guitarist and Vocalist of the popular Southern Rock band LYNRYD SKYNYRD. He is an original member of LYNRYD SKYNYRD since before the non-released version of "Skynyrd's First and Last" in 1971, which was subsequently released in 1973 by MCA Records. He left LYNRYD SKYNYRD to front his own band, BLACKFOOT, which produced such hit songs as "Train, Train" and "Highway Song." After BLACKFOOT disbanded, Medlocke returned to LYNRYD SKYNYRD as one of three lead guitarists and vocalists. Rickey Medlocke is Native American and spoke at length on not only his musical career, but his Indian heritage and culture as well. LYNRYD SKYNYRD's new album "Vicious Cycle" released last year, is their best work since "Street Survivors". In support of this album, they hit the road with their "Vicious Cycle Tour" which is still in progress. LYNRYD SKYNYRD released a new DVD of a show from Nashville, Tennessee on that tour last Summer that was released as a double-live CD on June 22, 2004 by Sanctuary Records. LYNRYD SKYNYRD, along with the ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND will perform in October at the ALLTEL Pavilion in Raleigh, N.C., marking the first time these two historic bands will play together on the same bill in a series of concerts. In addition to interviewing Medlocke, Kenny Buffalo was also given special permission to take photos up close of LYNRYD SKYNYRD during this performance. The following is an exclusive interview with Rickey Medlocke of Lynryd Skynyrd.

BUFFALOE: It is an honor and pleasure to meet you. Thank you for consenting to this exclusive interview with me for the "Carolina Indian Voice" newspaper.

MEDLOCKE: Michelle, who does our publicity and handles our staff at the management office, asked if I would like to do an interview for a Native American Publication. I said, "Absolutely! I've done a lot of articles with Native American Magazines and newspapers. I am very pro-active in Native American things, as you can tell. (He then shows me several tattoos, which include Crazy Horse, whom he says is his spirit guide.) My father lives in Northeastern Wyoming in the Big Horn mountains.

He was born on the Rose Bud Reservation in South Dakota. My mother and all her people were from the mountains of Northern Georgia. I was raised by her father and his wife. My mother's mother (my grandfather's first wife) was full blood Creek.

BUFFALOE: In addition to your late grandfather, the legendary Shorty Medlocke, who were some of your musical influences and how did they inspire you?

MEDLOCKE: Growing up, I played in my grandfather's bands all the time. Elvis Presley was an early musical influence in that era that I first began to play guitar. As a teenager, the Beatles became popular and I was heavily into them. Then, there was European English music like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck were a huge influence on me. Those three guitar players were my heroes. I have been playing guitar now for 45 years. Paul Rodgers, Robert Plant and Rod Stewart were vocal influences in my old days. My granddaddy had that Mississippi Delta Bluegrass music I grew up listening to. For me, you're taking someone else's influence and developing your own style.

BUFFALOE: It's a great honor for me to do this interview with you. A lot of Native Americans know about you from the years BLACKFOOT was a band, hearing songs like "Train, Train" and "Highway Song" in particular. Did you have a Native American Theme in mind when you formed this band?

MEDLOCKE: We had two other Native American guys in BLACKFOOT. Jackson Spires, who is Cherokee, Cheyenne, French and is the one who made reference to call the band BLACKFOOT. Greg Walker who is half Choctaw Indian. The name BLACKFOOT was picked because of the Native American blood as well as what the band sounded like. The music was very heavy, in your face. It was more than Southern Rock. It was heavy rock with a Blues influence. The Europeans really took to our heavy rock style, although it took us a while to get noticed over here.

BUFFALOE: The song "After the Reign", a song about Native Americans taking a stand against injustices, that you recorded with BLACKFOOT. This song is very special to a lot of our people (including myself). Can you tell me how this song came about and the circumstances involved when you wrote it?

MEDLOCKE: A friend of mine, Mark Woerpel played on that record. We wrote "After the Reign" together. Mark's family owns a trading post in the upper part of Michigan. Mark was very heavily into the

Indian culture. I have always been outspoken when it comes to Native American rights, like my father. I have been able to do that since I have the podium. So Mark says to me "Look, we're making a new record. Let's have our say in this." The song, "After the Reign" was pretty well written as a political stand. I was an A.I.M. member for many years back in the seventies. The American people, in general, do not know the things that have happened and then swept under the rug, right under their noses. I am a very spiritual person and believe in my heart that the spirit of Crazy Horse walks around with me all the time. (He shows me his Crazy Horse tattoo on his left arm)

I have an actual tattoo of Crazy Horse's War Shield on my back, that he used in battle. The actual War Shield is hanging in the National Archives in Denver, Colorado. I have been a very spiritual person in the sense that, what you do, good or bad, is going to come back to you tenfold. And, if that is true, this Earth is going to get a serious ass whipping before it is over. Our forefathers believed in this land. That this land fed you, took care of you, clothed you, put a roof over your head. Everything was right here that you needed. A natural order of life. The Great Spirit was the one who did it all. I know there's a storm coming. I feel it in my heart. I'm a pretty radical Native. I'm a volunteer Law Officer in Florida. I have an inter-state Peace Permit that allows me to carry a gun at all times. I carry it. I know how to use it. My grandparents always told me that part of you is a reflection of all your blood before you.

BUFFALOE: Since you have been playing with Lynryd Skynyrd, you seem to be genuinely happy and having a good time. What is it like being a major part of this legendary band?

MEDLOCKE: I am very happy being in this band. I am very blessed by The Great One. You start out in this business to play and make a living playing music. You have no idea you are going to have hit records. I am proud of that. I love the people I am with. They are like family. It's a funny thing... Gary Rossington a lot of times will say, "There's too many chiefs and one Indian in the band." (Laughs) I love being a part of this band's history. I wrote two songs that were on the first Lynryd Skynyrd album, "White Dove" and "The Seasons."

(Talk about Spirit connections. Before I could ask the next question about his movie and T.V. career, he began telling me about it.)

I've been an actor for the last four years. I recently tried out for a part in an upcoming film, "Thou Shalt Not Kill." It's about a Native American guy who used to be an alcoholic, who straightens up, falls in love with this girl who is really messed up with alcohol. He tries to help her get straight. He's a hard guy with a softer side. I auditioned, but haven't heard anything yet.

I landed a role as a derelict rancher in a William Shatner Sci-Fi love story called "Groom Lake." I had a role on one of the last segments of the T.V. show "Nash Bridges." I was also in a major movie that will be coming out later this year called "Sweet Deadly Dreams."

BUFFALOE: This is amazing. My next questions was going to be about your acting career. You must have read my mind! (Laughs)

SEE EXCLUSIVE ON PAGE TWO Fund Raiser held for Church and Community Center

The Robeson County Church and Community Center held its annual fund-raising event at Sheff's Seafood Restaurant. Board chairperson, Yvonne Barnes Dial welcomed everyone and Sara Weir sang "Peace of Faith" for special music. After everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner, door prizes were presented to lucky winners. Executive director Pat Lykins and Yvonne Dial ended the program with closing remarks. RCCCC invites anyone to volunteer their service to the center some items needed to assist people and children in need include: food items, pampers, wipes, rice, flour, sugar, cooking oil, pasta, baby formula, canned or box liquid milk. Volunteers are needed for the following: rewiring of retreat house, working in clothing area, building a roof and making repairs at the Red Springs Office, and working with workteams. September 16, the center also invites those who wish to assist in building ramps, rails, and bars, and performing other work around the center and in the community. Yvonne Barnes-Dial is President of the RCC&CC.



Top left - Greg Maynor, Frances Thomas, Pat Lykins, Bridget Bass, Rev. Bob Mangum, and Rev. Jimmy Cummings. Middle - Tanya Underwood, Betty Powell, Barbara Caulder, Leslie Womack, Annie Fairley, Yvonne Dial, and Rev. Arnold Walker. Sitting - Mae Pridgen, Annie Hunt, and Rebecca Black.



Loretta and Herman Oxendine of Pembroke, NC are shown mixing Robeson County soil and water with soil and water in Adabelle, Georgia during a special ceremony commemorating the Indian community there in the late 1800s.



Renee Barton Knight traveled from Cullman, Alabama and met her brother, Bruce Barton of Pembroke, NC to be a part of the historic dedication of the road marker denoting the Lumbee Indian community that once thrived in Adabelle, Georgia.

Lumbee Elders Attended by Hundreds

by Vinita Clark

On Thursday July 1, 2004 the Lumbee Regional Development Association Inc. (LRDA) held its annual Lumbee Tribal Elders Dinner at the Southeastern Agriculture Center in Lumberton. Over 500 elders who came from all over the country attended this event as special part of their Lumbee Homecoming. First Bank and Healthkeepers of Pembroke sponsored the event. The buffet dinner included roast beef, baked chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, candied yams and other tasteful selections. Each table was elegantly decorated with balloons and formal burgundy folded napkins. Door prizes and special awards for the oldest elders attending were also given out. Mr. Dewey Locklear recognized Miss Shirley Locklear the originator of the Lumbee Elders Dinner. The theme for this year's Lumbee Homecoming was "Coming Together" and a sense for unity was evident at this dinner. Mr. Dewey Locklear, Executive Director of the LRDA shared the podium with Mr. Leon Jacobs, Tribal Administrator for Lumbee Tribe. Mr. Jacobs gave the Elders an update on Federal Recognition. Featured entertainment included the trio of Davita Carter, Brent Tyler and Latasha Freeman. The beauty queens of the Lumbee Tribe both past and present were in attendance along with Rebekah Revels our former Miss North Carolina who works in the Public Relations Department of the Lumbee Tribal Government Office. Many old friendships were rekindled at this event.