

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF INDIANS OF ROBESON COUNTY

By A. W. McLean.

[The following interesting historical sketch of the Indians of Robeson county was prepared by Mr. A. W. McLean of Lumberton and printed as a part of the recent hearing before the Committee on Indian Affairs of the House of Congress on the bill introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Simmons to appropriate \$50,000 to purchase a site and erect buildings for a school at or near Pembroke for the Indians of Robeson county and to provide \$10,000 for the maintenance of the school. It will be recalled by Robesonian readers that a committee of Indians from Robeson went to Washington when this hearing before the committee was held and that Senator Simmons, Congressman Godwin and Mr. A. W. McLean appeared before the committee with the Indians in the interest of this bill. Besides his remarks before the committee, Mr. McLean obtained permission to print as a part of the hearing the following historical sketch, which will be found to be exceedingly interesting reading to any who are interested in the Indians of Robeson county. Their name has been changed since this sketch was written to "Cherokee Indians."—Editor's Note.]

(Continued from Thursday's paper.)
The war breaking out again, South Carolina sent another force under Col. James Moore, 33 white and 1,000 Indians. Col. Moore pursued the same route to the Pee Dee, and then turned to the northeast and crossed the Cape Fear at the junction of the Haw and Deep, and then went to Torhunte. He arrived December 1, 1712. His brother, Maj. Morris Moore, quickly followed him with another large force of Indians. His route lay still farther west by Trading Ford (near Salisbury), and after crossing the Deep came east by Oconeechee, where Hillsboro is and eastward to Torhunte. All these routes were Indian trails. It is to be noted that Barnwell alone passed through what is now Robeson county, and as until recently there was never any publication of his route, it may be affirmed that the tradition stated is remarkable and noteworthy.

Although many other Indians from South Carolina accompanied Col. James Moore to the Albemarle the following winter, and a few weeks later still others accompanied Col. Maurice Moore, these expeditions did not pass through the Robeson region, and the local traditions are connected only with Barnwell. It is safe to say that these people could have known nothing of these matters except from actual tradition.

In 1756 a similar force of Indians from South Carolina accompanied Col. Hugh Waddell in his expedition north for the relief of the more northern colonies in the French and Indian War. While there is no particular record of the fact yet as small numbers of Indians from almost every settlement composed this force, doubtless some belonged to these tribes that finally made up the population in Robson county.

Gregg says that most of these smaller tribes eventually united with the Catawbas, and about 1743 the language of the Catawbas is said to have consisted of twenty different dialects.

The remaining Indians, in the course of settlement, passed from view, although "brief allusions are found in our early period to the several tribes in the acts of the assembly passed for the regulation and support of the Indian trade."

As the Indian element in the present population of Robeson county is certainly derived from the former Indians of that region, these people are entitled to share in any feeling of appreciation we may have of the general conduct of all these friendly tribes during the period of settlement and in colonial times.

During the Revolution some of these Indians served in the Continental ranks, as well as in the more local organizations raised by the State of North Carolina.

The territory embraced in Robeson county was much divided in sentiment and toward close of the Revolution it was the scene of murderous civil warfare of unparalleled atrocity.

The tradition of these people that some of their leaders fought on the side of the Colonies, seems to be corroborated by certain circumstances. Giles Leitch says that during the Revolution some of these families acquired a considerable number of slaves. Had they acquired them from the North Carolinians these slaves would have been recovered on the return of peace. Such slaves as the British captured they sent either to Florida or Nova Scotia. It is therefore probable that these slaves held by these Robeson county Indians were acquired from South Carolina. Marion raised his celebrated band largely in that part of North Carolina, and as an inducement for serving with him he

offered as pay to his North Carolina troopers slaves taken from South Carolina Loyalists. So many of his slaves were thus taken and held by his North Carolina troopers that after the war the question of their return became a matter of State legislation.

After the war, feeling against the local Tories ran so high they were discriminated against and severe tests of loyalty were applied. There seems to have been no feeling against these Indians, for although not white they were allowed to vote as "freemen," without any change being made in the law to include them, although only whites had earlier been allowed to vote. They voted until 1835, when the Constitution was changed by the insertion of the word "white."

Had they been of the Tory element probably they would not have been allowed the right of suffrage, because the feeling against the Tories was very bitter, especially in that region where they lived.

During the war of 1812 they were enrolled in the militia; and among others Charles Oxendine, Thomas Lockier, John Drinkwater, Hugh Locklear, William Bullard, Elias Bullard, Richard Bullard and Stephen Cumboe were in the companies of militia detached from the Robeson regiments for service in that war. (See Muster Rolls Troops of 1812, State Library at Raleigh.)

Up until 1835 these Indians were entitled to vote and some of them owned slaves. A number of them appear as heads of families in the United States census of 1790.

After 1835 these people could not vote, nor were they prior to the Civil War admitted to the public schools when they were established.

In 1867 they were allowed to vote under the reconstruction acts, and under the constitution adopted in 1868, and were entitled to attend the negro schools, but not the schools for the whites. But they refused absolutely to attend the negro schools, and thus were debarred from school privileges.

Attention was drawn to their peculiar social status, and as they were undoubtedly of Indian extraction Hon. Hamilton McMillan, who inquired into their history reached the conclusion that they were descended from the Indians on Coatan Sound and derived their white blood from the lost colony of 1587. This idea was based on their partly civilized condition when first observed by the early settlers of that region about 1730. Under that impression, the legislature of 1885 provided separate common schools for them under the name of the "Croatan Indians."

The word "Croatan" is not a generic or tribal name, but was purely local, and this appellation was given to these Indians in the act of the Legislature in 1885 at the instance of Hon. Hamilton McMillan. The name having been suggested by the word "Croatan" which was found on a tree after the disappearance of Gov. John White's lost colony. In 1911 the Legislature changed the name to "Indians of Robeson County."

But whatever the origin of the Indians of this community was, it is certain that from the first settlement they have been separated from the other inhabitants of that region, and are of Indian descent, with Indian characteristics, with complexion, features and hair of the Indian race, and are now borne on the census rolls as Indians.

Need of Better School Facilities.
While they have the ordinary common schools and a small normal school, they cannot attend the high institutions provided on the one hand for the whites and on the other hand for the negroes, their educational facilities are limited.

It is very desirable therefore that additional educational facilities should be afforded them, especially in the way of higher academic and industrial education.

It appears that they have a capacity for agriculture and the mechanic arts, and readily become skilled in them when trained. A mechanical and industrial school would be of great benefit to them.

In like manner the training of the girls in domestic arts and economics would be of great benefit.

These people never had a reservation set apart for them as the Catawbas had, not far to the west of them.

The bill under consideration which has passed the Senate, provided for an appropriation of \$50,000 to erect buildings for a school for these Indians at or near Pembroke, in Robeson county.

According to the census of 1910 the number of these Indians in Robeson county was 5,895. There are also about 1590 to 2000 in adjoining counties in North and South Carolina, making a settlement in all of about 8,000 persons. In 1909 there were enrolled in the ordinary common free

Grow 1 1/2 Bales Cotton Where Only 1 Grew Before

One to one-and-a-half and even two bales of cotton, or 60 to 90 bushels of corn per acre, require little more labor than smaller yields. Simply use liberally the right fertilizer or plant food to the acreage you plant, and cultivate the crop more thoroughly and oftener. You cannot be too careful in selecting fertilizers and seeds. Your soil deserves the best plant foods which are

Virginia-Carolina High-Grade Fertilizers

They are made to give Available Phosphoric Acid, Ammonia or Nitrogen, and Potash in the right combination for greatest yields. These fertilizers produce big crops of COTTON, CORN, RICE, TOBACCO, FRUITS, PEANUTS and TRUCK.



Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co.

Box 1117 RICHMOND - VIRGINIA 1A

schools provided by the State 1,954 of these Indian children. The average length of the term of their school district was 82 days. The only school facilities enjoyed by them other than the ordinary common school above mentioned is a normal school for the training of teachers, provided for by the State at an annual cost of \$2,250. Under the laws of North Carolina which provides for an absolute separation of the races, they are not entitled to attend the university for men, the State Normal and Industrial College for women, or the Agricultural and Mechanical College for either the white or negro races. They are therefore entirely without the facilities for industrial or higher academic education. There has always been a feeling among these people and their white neighbors that the Federal Government should make some provision for them, for the reason that the government does expend large sums of money every year in providing schools for other nonreservation Indians in all sections of the country. The present Indian appropriation bill provides for more than a million dollars for this purpose, some of the provisions in that bill being as follows:
"For support and education of three hundred and seventy-five Indian pupils at the Indian school at Genoa, Nebraska, and for the pay of superintendent, \$62,300; for general repairs and improvements, \$4,500; in all, \$66,800."
"For support and education of one hundred and eighty Indian pupils at the Indian school at Cherokee, North Carolina, and for the pay of superintendent, \$30,000; for general repairs and improvements, \$6,000; in all, \$36,000."
"For support and education of one hundred Indian pupils at the Indian school, Bismarck, North Dakota, and for payment of superintendent, \$18,200; for general repairs and improvements, \$2,000; in all, \$20,200."
"For support and education of Indian pupils at the Indian school at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and for the payment of superintendent \$132,000; for general repairs and improvements, \$20,000; in all, \$152,000."
"For support and education of one hundred and seventy-five Indian pupils at the Indian school at Pierre, (Continued on page seven.)"

To Cure a Cold in One Day
Take LAXATIVE PROMO Quinine. It stops the Cough and Headache and works off the Cold. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature on each box. 25c.

Cures Old Sores, Other Remedies Won't Cure
The worst cases, no matter of how long standing, are cured by the wonderful, old reliable Dr. Porter's Antiseptic Healing Oil. It relieves Pain and Heals at the same time. 25c, 50c, \$1.00.

BUGGIES	
Six solid car loads in stock	
WAGONS	Many Different Makes.
	Any shape or color you like
	Every one Guaranteed
 Get our prices
C. M. Fuller & Son.	
Lumberton, N. C.	
HARNESSES	

A Philosopher Has Said

that He who knew was in himself Divine, and we have found out this from experience That he who knows knows Huyler's. We have also been impressed with class of folks who buy Huyler's. They are refined in taste, looks and manner. They are the most fastidious, the hardest to please. They choose HUYLER'S because of its superior quality, its difference in flavor and because it is made better, NOT JUST AS GOOD. Sold by

LUMBERTON DRUG CO.

The Store That Does Things for You. Never Too Busy to Oblige. PRESCRIPTIONS A SPECIALTY. PHONE 26. EASTMAN KODAKS

Last week more than one hundred men, women and children joined our

CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB

This week many more will join. Be one of the number and have money for Christmas Presents. You may join any time. One Cent starts you. Two Cents starts you. Five Cents starts you.

The Bank of Lumberton

"DEALERS"

Above is a picture of our new store at the foot of Chestnut Street, where we will be glad to have you call on us and see how well we are prepared to handle your business. Write for our prices and mail us your orders.

J. W. MURCHISON & CO.,
Wholesale Hardware Wilmington, N. C.

Thompson Hospital!

For the treatment of medical and surgical cases. Competent corps of trained nurses, steam heated building with electric lights, hot bath, etc - In fact, everything that is required to equip a modern hospital.

DR. N. A. THOMPSON, Supt.

Buggies, Wagons, Carriages and Harness

VALUE OUR MOTTO

Not hot air--We have the best for the least money. Our stock is complete. New styles, all guaranteed. Call and see us.

W. I. LINKHAW,
Home of the Hackney Buggy and Wagon.

THE SEVENTH SERIES OF STOCK

in the

Robeson Building and Loan Association

is now being sold. Have you bought yours? Take stock now and own your own home when you are old and no longer able to pay rent.

Any information about the Building and Loan plan cheerfully furnished.

Yours to serve,

C. V. BROWN, Sec. and Treas.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days
Your druggist will refund money if PIAZO OINTMENT fails to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives Ease and Rest. 50c.

For Weakness and Loss of Appetite
The old standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S TASTELESS CHERRY TONIC, drives out Malaria and builds up the system. A true tonic and sure Appetizer. For adults and children, 50c.

Subscribe for The Robesonian