



Native Sons

Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

HENRY BERRY LOWRIE

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- We are at app. 99% of our monthly support. PTL!
- Many Native Americans call their home "the Rez", but since the Lumbee do not have a reservation, many call Robeson Co. "the House." Although still not fully recognized by the federal government, the Lumbee continue to work towards full recognition.
- Read more about Henry Berry and Southeastern Indian history in [The Only Land I Know](#) by Adolph Dial and David Eliades. Also in [Living Indian Histories](#) by Gerald Sider.

PRAYER POINTS

- Theresa's father and step-father.
- Safe travel & effective ministry for John.
- God's guidance and provision for NABC

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Each tribe had its great leaders. One revered hero among the Lumbee and Tuscarora of North Carolina is Henry Berry Lowrie. He was an Indian Robin Hood among the Native people of this area, although a few, even among the Lumbee and Tuscarora, consider him nothing but an outlaw and rogue.

Henry Berry Lowrie was a young man during the time of the Civil War. The Whites of Robeson County sought to enslave all free non-whites at this time, conscripting the Indians to forced labor. It was common practice among Whites to plant "stolen goods" on Indian property, accuse the land-owner of stealing and take them to court where non-whites were not allowed to testify, thereby virtually guaranteeing jail time and the loss of possessions. Many Indians would settle out of court by giving up land to their accusers.

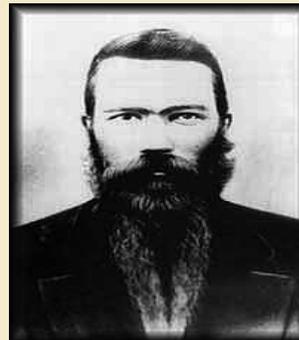
Allen Lowrie was among the wealthiest of the Indians in the area and a prominent man among all people. The Home Guard planted stolen goods on his property and accused him of harboring Union soldiers. After the family had endured a harrowing day of harassment, a kangaroo court was convened, Mr. Lowrie and one of his sons were forced to dig their own grave, were shot, and immediately buried in it. Henry Berry watched these proceedings from the woods and swore revenge.

School is out for the summer for all of us. Theresa is enjoying some much deserved down-time from teaching. Caleb is currently taking drivers education and we will soon be teaching him to drive. PRAY FOR US!!!

Theresa had been struggling with digestive problems since our move. The doctor finally determined that it was her gall bladder and removed it in May. She seems to be doing better now.

Although NABC is out for the summer, my work has not stopped and I am busier

Henry Berry was a crack shot and a fierce fighter. He was know as a man of his word and deep honor. After killing the first of those who had harmed his family he hid in the swamps and a band of men gathered about him that included other Indians,



Henry Berry Lowrie

blacks and whites.

Known for his hospitality, Henry would break into the homes of rich Whites, have a meal with and often play the fiddle for his hosts, and then rob them. Afterwards, he distributed food and money to those in need. He slowly and methodically set out to kill all those who had harassed and killed his family, but did not harm others. When the Home Guard was unable to apprehend him, bounty hunters and the army were brought in. After a time, Henry Berry warned that any who sought his life would have their lives taken in return.

Once, when boating down the river he

came upon a group of about 100 Home Guard who immediately began firing at him. He calmly rolled his boat over, grabbed his rifle, began driving the capsized boat toward his opponents, taking aim and killing them one at a time. The Home Guard fled in panic.

Twice he turned himself in to the local jail in an attempt to end the violence under the promise of protection and a fair trial. On both occasions a lynch mob formed. He is the only man to ever escape from the jail he was in and he escaped not once, but twice!

On one occasion, the Whites rounded up Indian women threatening to kill them if Henry Berry did not turn himself in. He sent a letter in return stating that if the women were not let go immediately there would be a bloodbath such as had never been seen before. A few days later the women were released.

Extremely popular among the common people, he alluded all attempts to capture him for ten years and then simply disappeared in 1872. Some stories claim he accidentally killed himself, others that he fled west with the help of an army officer. Today, his story is kept alive in print, oral tradition, a movie, and an annually held outdoor drama entitled, "Strike at the Wind."

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

I will be heading north in July for one month to begin touching bases with those who have made us a part of their ministry outreach. Since US Missionaries do not get furloughed I am hoping to head north for two months each summer to revisit those who desire this. It should take about 6 years to do a full circuit. I appreciate the patience and understanding of those who want to see us again as we slowly work through such a rotation.

We appreciate your continued prayers for Theresa's family, especially her step-

father, Mike, who has pancreatic cancer and her father, Dick, who is struggling with health issues also.

