



Native Sons

Equipping Native Pastors to reach Native Americans

WHO ARE THE LUMBEES?

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- We are now at app. 45% of our monthly support
- Info from this article comes from: The Only Land I Know by Adolph Dial & David Eliades and The Lumbee Problem by Karen Blu.
- You can visit the Lumbee website at: www.lumbeetribe.com

PRAYER POINTS

- Raising prayer & financial support
- Safe travel
- Healing for Theresa who has a bulging disk in her back

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The largest tribe east of the Mississippi and almost no one in the Northeast knows who they are!

Lumbee oral tradition claims and historical indicators confirm, that the Lumbees are descendants of the Lost Colony of Roanoke (1590) and the Hatteras Indians—a friendly tribe on Croatoan island. This joined group appears to have moved inland to the swamps of what is now Robeson County, NC and in all likelihood combined with the remnants of other Eastern Siouan tribes who were being decimated by the march of small pox up the eastern seaboard. In 1607 two men from the Jamestown colony searching for the Lost Colony returned telling of an Indian tribe living in the Chowan-Roanoke River area who dressed like Englishmen. Captain John Smith (who established the Roanoke colony) confirmed this in his *True Relation*. Similar reports were made by other explorers again in 1660 and 1670. In 1709, John Lawson in his *History of Carolina*, again affirmed that he had run into Native Americans in what is now Robeson County, NC who were familiar with white ways, could read, many of whom had grey eyes (unlike other Native Americans), claimed to be descendants of the Roanoke colony and bore some of the family names from it. Between 1703 and 1750 white settlers began to en-

croach on the area and records indicate they found “a large tribe of Indians, speaking English, tilling the soil, owning slaves and practicing many of the arts of civilized life... They held their land in common and land titles only became known on the approach of white men. The first grant of land to any of this tribe, of which there is written evidence... was made by King George the second in 1732, to Henry Berry & James Lowrie,



River Portal—Lumbee website picture
Notice the group on the left, the Lumbee logo on the right and the swamp location

two leading men of this tribe.” (Blu, p. 37). Additionally, they lived in stone homes and spoke an obsolete dialect of English.

The Lumbees have been known by a number of names over the years, including the Eastern Cherokee, Croatan and

the Siouan Indians of the Lumber River. They adopted the name Lumbee formally in 1953. At that time, D.F. Lowry explained the reason, “The first white settlers found a large tribe of Indians living on the Lumbee River in what is now Robeson County—a mixture of colonial blood with Indian blood, not only of White’s colony (Roanoke); but with other colonies following and with many tribes of Indians; hence, we haven’t any right to be called any one of the various tribal names; but, should take the geographical name, which is Lumbee Indians, because we were discovered on the Lumbee River.” (Blu, p.87)

The Lumbees number app. 50,000, are the ninth largest tribe in the nation and the largest tribe east of the Mississippi. Robeson County, is their historic homeland. Unlike other tribes they were not moved about, because they had ceased to live “tribally” at an early time. They are proud to be Native Americans, proud of their history, and truly first Americans, both as Native Americans and as descendants of one of the first colonies attempted here.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

We are all doing well. Levi & Alicia are settling into married life, Caleb has started school again, Theresa is working and I am traveling — constantly.

This past year, it has been my privilege to witness how God uses many different people in many different ways to build His Kingdom! **You folks serving in these churches are my heroes!**

I have worshipped in large congregations and small, with those in the city, the suburbs and the country. It has been my privilege to get to know pastors who labor in every conceivable way with very

different talents. Some work full-time secular jobs while pastoring. Others are finding innovative ways to reach their community: one is considering sending paid staff out to get secular jobs in order to witness in the community, another hangs out on the streets in a predominately Catholic community wearing black and a clergy collar in order to connect with the people, still another by driving a school bus has become his community’s pastor; the list goes on and on.

Traveling so much is tough, but it is also a privilege and joy to see that God

has truly made many parts to the body; each is unique, necessary and uniquely suited to the place God has planted them. **Thank you all!**



Theresa & Caleb love it when John has to travel!