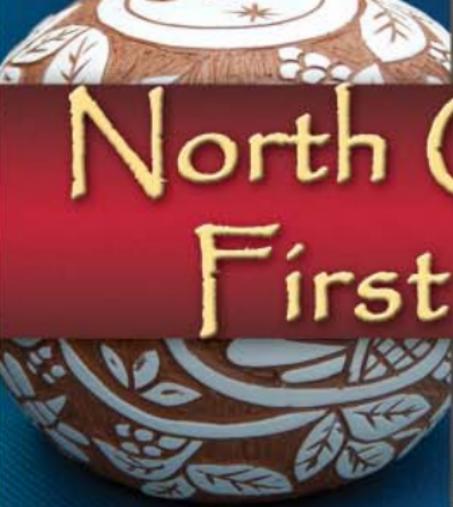


North Carolina's First People



North Carolina
Commission of Indian Affairs



The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs invites you to explore the lives of the people who settled in North Carolina nearly 12,000 years ago!

The NC Commission of Indian Affairs was established in 1971 for the purpose of securing resources, cultural and historic preservation, to provide educational and economic opportunities, to provide aid and protection and to serve as a voice for North Carolina's American Indian population (NCGS143-405).

North Carolina Tribes of Yesteryear

Archaeological evidence indicates that Indians were living in the area now called North Carolina at least 12,000 years ago. Indians of what is now the Virginia and North Carolina coast were hosts to the first English-speaking explorers and settlers.

Overall, Indians of North Carolina numbered in the tens of thousands, including more than 30 tribes geographically separated by three linguistic families. Along the northeastern and central coast were the Algonquians. On the northern and southern coastal plain and throughout the Piedmont resided communities of Siouan lineage. Two distinct groups of Iroquoian-speaking peoples lived along the central coastal plain and in the mountains of western North Carolina.

Tribes that lived in the area now called North Carolina included: the Chowanoke, Croatoan, Hatteras, Moratoc, Secotan, Weapemeoc, Machapunga, Pamlico, Coree, Neusiok, Tuscarora, Meherrin, Cherokee, Cape Fear, Catawba, Shakori, Sissipahaw, Sugeree, Waccamaw, Waxhaw, Woccon, Cheraw, Eno, Keyauwee, Occaneechi, Saponi, Wateree, Yeopim, Pasquotank, Perquiman, Poteskeet and Tutelo.



North Carolina Tribes Today

By the mid-1800s, European settlements had spread across the Central Piedmont. Small tribes fled before the invasion and most joined kinsmen in eastern and southern North Carolina, southern Virginia or South Carolina. It is from these last surviving groups that the present-day, state-recognized tribes of North Carolina – the Coharie, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Sappony and Waccamaw Siouan – trace their ancestry.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, North Carolina's American Indian population totals more than 122,110, giving the state the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi and the eighth largest in the nation.

American Indians live in each of the state's 100 counties. Approximately 77 percent of the American Indian population resides in 15 counties – Columbus, Cumberland, Guilford, Halifax, Hoke, Jackson, Mecklenburg, Robeson, Scotland, Swain, Wake, Durham, Forsyth, Harnett and Sampson. Approximately 42 percent of the American Indian population in North Carolina lives in Robeson County, accounting for 38 percent of that county's total population.

The Coharie



Headquartered in Clinton, the Coharie Indian Tribe descends from the aboriginal Neusiok Indian Tribe on the Coharie River in Harnett and Sampson counties. The community consists of four settlements: Holly Grove, New Bethel, Shiloh and Antioch. The Coharie have approximately 2,700 members with about 20 percent residing outside the tribal communities. Early records indicate the tribe sought refuge from hostilities from both English colonists and native peoples, moving to this area between 1729 and 1746 from the northern and northeastern part of the state.

CONTACT

The Coharie Intra-Tribal Council
7531 N. U.S. Hwy 421
Clinton, N.C. 28328
910-564-6909
www.coharietribe.org

Miss N.C. Indian Senior Citizen
Coalition Princess



Coharie Elder demonstrates quilt making to a youth

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians



The Cherokee people believe the Creator brought them to their home in the Mountains of western North Carolina. Their first village site is the Kituwah Mound in Swain County. It was there that the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians formed a government to oppose the removal of the Cherokee Nation from the east, known as the Trail of Tears. Members of the Eastern Band remained in North Carolina after their kinsmen were forced west to Oklahoma.

Today, their home is the 56,000-acre Qualla Boundary, adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. There are more than 15,000 enrolled members with more than 60 percent living on the Boundary. The Qualla Boundary includes the town of Cherokee, as well as several other communities. Cherokee is home to Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Hotel, one of Cherokee's largest employers.

CONTACT

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, N.C. 28719
828-497-7000
www.nc-cherokee.com



Cherokee potter Joel Queen works in his studio

Haliwa-Saponi



The Haliwa-Saponi tribal members are direct descendents of the Saponi, Tuscarora, Tutelo and Nansemond Indians. At 3,800 enrolled members, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe is the third-largest tribe in the state. The tribe resides primarily in the area traditionally known by the elders as "The Meadows," which encompasses most of the southwestern part of rural Halifax County and the southeastern part of rural Warren County. Tribal members also reside in the adjoining counties of Nash and Franklin. The Haliwa-Saponi Powwow is the oldest powwow in the state, typically held in April.

CONTACT

Haliwa ~ Saponi Indian Tribe
39021 Hwy. 561
Hollister, N.C. 27844
252-586-4017
www.haliwa-saponi.com

"The Gift," a mosaic by Haliwa ~ Saponi artist Senora Lynch, is located at UNC-Chapel Hill in the courtyard between the old and new Student Union buildings.

Haliwa-Saponi Grass Dancer

Lumbee



The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe in North Carolina, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River and the eighth largest in the nation. The Lumbee take their name from the Lumber River originally known as the Lumbee, which winds its way through Robeson County. The more than 59,948 members of the Lumbee Tribe reside primarily in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland and Scotland counties. Pembroke is the economic, cultural and political center of the tribe.

The ancestors of the Lumbee were mainly Cheraw and related Siouan-speaking Indians who were first observed in 1724 on the Drowning Creek (Lumbee River) in present-day Robeson County. In 1887, the state established the Croatan Normal Indian School, which is today the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. A variety of enterprises including an industrial park, farming, small businesses and the University contribute to the economy.

CONTACT

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
P.O. Box 2709
Pembroke, N.C. 23872
910-521-7861
www.lumbee Tribe.com

A Pinecone dress worn by Miss Lumbee





PEOPLE OF THE WATER

Meherrin



Meherrin refer to themselves as Kauwets'a:ka, "People of the Water." They share language, traditions and culture with the Tuscarora, Nottoway, Cherokee and other Haudenosaunee Nations. In 1677, all Nations in Virginia signed the Middle Plantation Treaty. However, Meherrin Chief Ununtequero and Next Chief Horehannah were the last two to sign the Treaty in 1680. Shortly thereafter, the Meherrin Nation left their ancient villages of Cowinchahawkron and Unote and eventually moved into present day Conway, NC. The last known village, "Old

Town Maharinneck," was on "Meherrin Creek" known today as Potecasi Creek, is within walking distance of the present day Meherrin Tribal grounds where the annual pow-wows are held. The Meherrin are the only non-reservation Indians in NC who still live on their original Reservation lands.

CONTACT

Meherrin Nation Of North Carolina
P.O. Box 274
Ahoskie, N.C. 27910
252-209-0934
www.meherrinnation.org

Physical Address: 852 HWY 11 North
Ahoskie, NC 27910

Meherrin woman giving thanks to the creator.

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation is located in Alamance and Orange counties, in the old "Texas" Community. Its 1,100 enrolled members are active in their community and in statewide Indian events. The Occaneechi descend from several small Siouan speaking tribes who were living in the Piedmont of North Carolina and Virginia when the first European explorers arrived in the 1600s.

CONTACT

Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation
P.O. Box 356
Mebane, N.C. 27302
336-227-4610
www.obsn.org



Occaneechi Elder

Sappony



HIGH PLAINS SCHOOL

Established in 1888 for the Indians of Person County. First one room school was built on Green Martin's land 1 mile east. The second and third schools were built on land donated by Dittrion W. & Mary M. Epps in 1903. The school was unique in that it was financed by North Carolina and Virginia. In 1962, the school was closed and the student body transferred to Bethel Hill and Allensville Schools.

Historical marker for the High Plains School for youth founded 1888

The Sappony have made the Piedmont Highlands their home for countless generations. In 2012, the tribe's 850 enrolled members comprise seven core families, or clans, and live along the border of North Carolina and Virginia

known as the High Plains. In the early 1700s, when the

Sappony children were attending school at Fort Christanna and the tribe was guarding the frontier for the colonies, they also were helping to mark the North Carolina-Virginia border. As a result, part of High Plains is located in Person County, N.C., and part is located in Halifax County, Va. The tribe is actively pursuing initiatives in the areas of economic development, education and cultural preservation.

CONTACT

Sappony Tribal Center
4218 Virgilina Road
Virgilina, Va. 24598
434-585-3352
www.sappony.org



Lake Waccamaw

Waccamaw Siouan



The Waccamaw, historically known as the Waccamassus, were formerly located 100 miles northeast of Charleston, S.C. After the Waccamaw and South Carolina War in 1749, the Waccamaw sought refuge in the swamplands of North Carolina. The present day Waccamaw Siouan Tribal Office is located in Columbus and Bladen counties. The community, consisting of more than 2,594 citizens, is situated on the edge of the Green Swamp about 37 miles west of Wilmington, seven miles east of Lake Waccamaw and four miles north of Bolton.

CONTACT

Waccamaw Siouan Tribe
P.O. Box 69
Bolton, N.C. 28423
910-655-8778
www.waccamaw-siouan.com



The Sappony Annual Fall Heritage Celebration



Waccamaw Siouan Princess in buckskin regalia



Attractions

American Indian Center, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- The Center is a campus-wide facility that advances the University's overall mission of research, teaching and public service by creating an environment where quality research, scholarship and engagement related to American Indians is strengthened, nurtured and coordinated.

<http://americanindiancenter.unc.edu>
919-843-4189

Guilford Native American Art Gallery, Greensboro

- Established in 1990, the Guilford Native American Art Gallery is a fine art gallery dedicated to promoting, exhibiting and selling traditional and contemporary Native American art.

<http://www.guilfordnative.org/pages/gnnagallery.html>
336-273-6605

The Museum of the Native American Resource Center, Pembroke

- The Museum is located in the Old Main Building on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The mission of the Native American Resource Center is to educate the public about the prehistory, history, culture, art and contemporary issues of American Indians, with special emphasis on the Robeson County American Indian community.

<http://www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum>
910-521-6282

Town Creek Indian Mound, Mt. Giliead

- This National Historic Landmark site preserves a ceremonial mound built by the Pee Dee, a group of Mississippian mound builders that lived in the Pee Dee region of North and South Carolina during the Pre-Columbian era (about 1100 AD–1400 A.D.).

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/town>
910-439-6802

“The Lost Colony,” Manteo

- America's longest running outdoor drama is performed each summer on Roanoke Island on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Since its debut in 1937, “The Lost Colony” has served as the training ground for thousands of actors and technicians, including actor Andy Griffith, director Terrance Mann and costume designer William Ivey Long.

<http://www.thelostcolony.org>
252-473-3414

The Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Cherokee

- The Museum provides an educational and interactive experience where concise, chronological stories retrace the 11,000-year documented history of the Cherokees and their life in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

<http://www.cherokeemuseum.org>
1-800-438-1601

Oconaluftee Indian Village, Cherokee

- This replica of an 18th century Cherokee community is staffed by Cherokee guides, who explain the history, culture and lifestyle of their ancestors. Watch Cherokee craftsmen demonstrate their skill in making arrowheads, baskets, blowguns, beaded belts, ceremonial masks, dugout canoes, pottery and wood carvings.

www.cherokee-nc.com
1-800-438-1601

Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual Inc., Cherokee

- Founded in 1946 with the purpose of preserving and advancing Cherokee arts and crafts, the Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual Inc. is the oldest and leading Native American Arts Cooperative in the United States.

www.cherokee-nc.com
1-800-438-1601

Roanoke Island Festival Park, Manteo

- The on-site art gallery, fossil pit, museum store and marsh-side boardwalks are free and open to the public. The site offers a wide variety of activities, including building a dug-out canoe, working a fish trap and planting and harvesting crops.

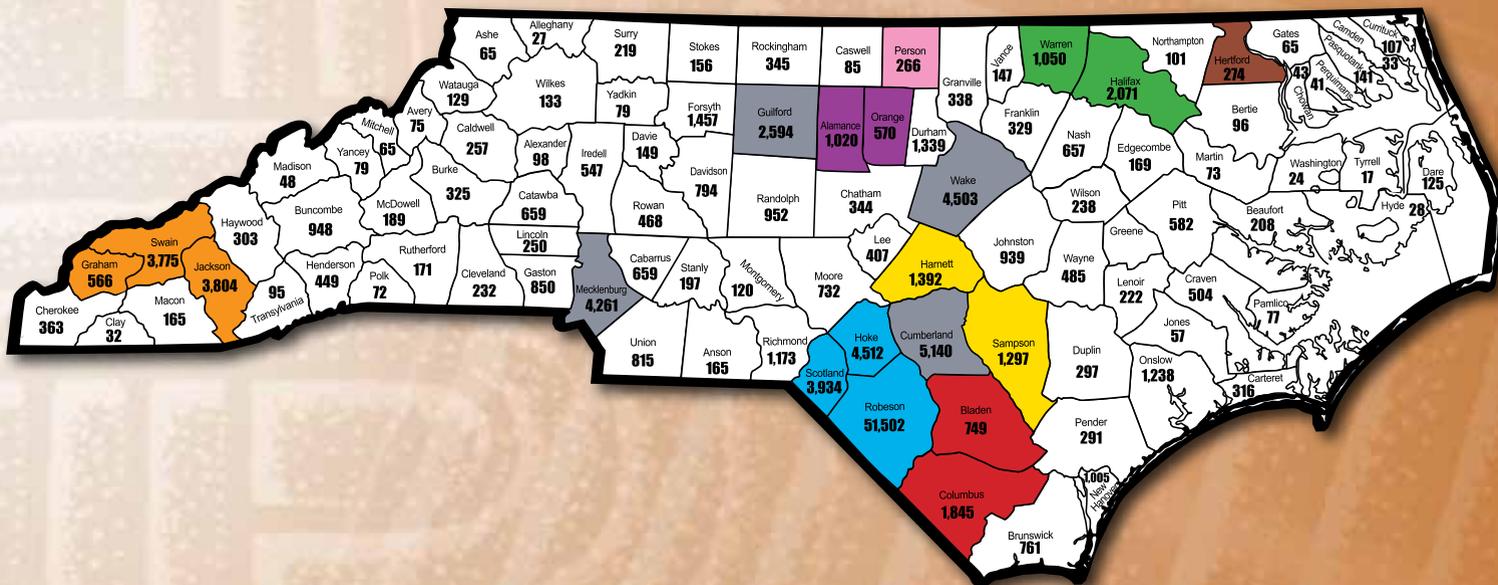
<http://www.roanokeisland.com>
252-475-1500

“Unto These Hills,” Cherokee

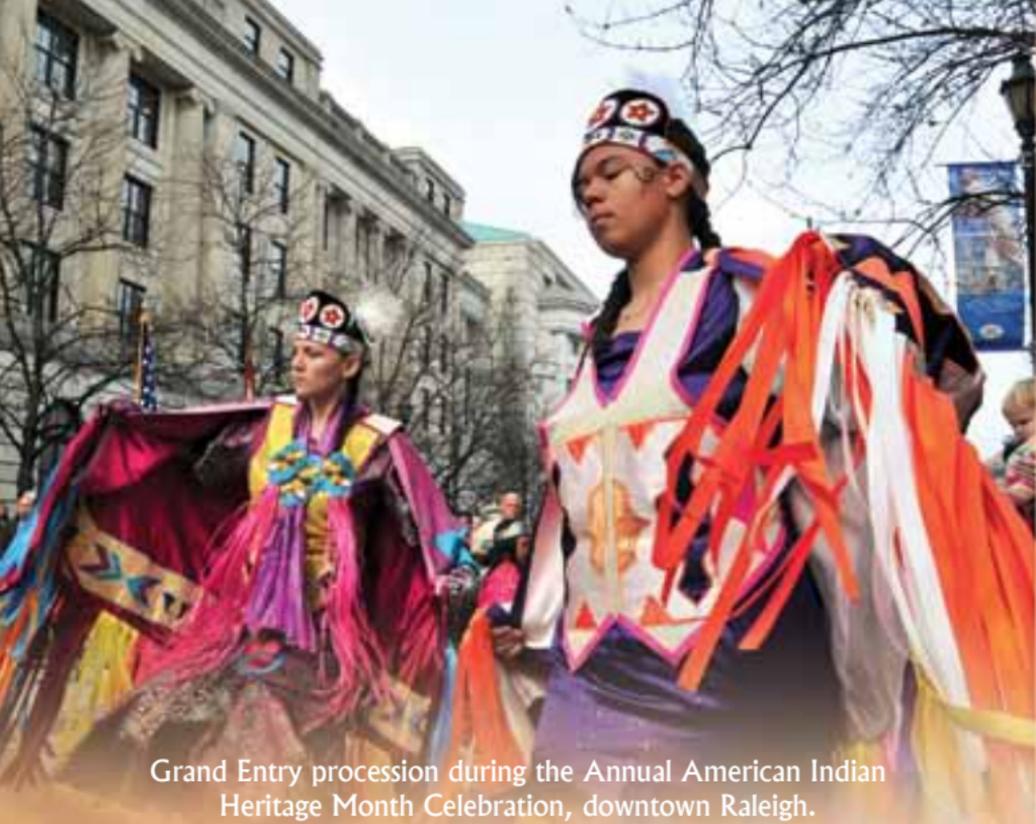
- The outdoor drama debuted on July 1, 1950, and is approaching its 59th season with a reconstructed production. The new play traces the Cherokee peoples' experience in North Carolina, from the Trail of Tears through the present day.

www.cherokee-nc.com
1-800-438-1601

2010 American Indian Population by County in North Carolina, with Tribal Areas Highlighted



- **Coharie** (Harnett and Sampson)
- **Eastern Band Of Cherokee Indians** (Graham, Jackson and Swain)
- **Haliwa-Saponi** (Halifax and Warren)
- **Lumbee** (Hoke, Robeson and Scotland)
- **Meherrin** (Hertford)
- **Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation** (Alamance and Orange)
- **Sappony** (Person)
- **Waccamaw Siouan** (Bladen and Columbus)
- **Organizations:**
 - Cumberland County Association for Indian People (Fayetteville)
 - Guilford Native American Association (Greensboro)
 - Metrolina Native American Association (Charlotte)
 - Triangle Native American Society (Raleigh)



Grand Entry procession during the Annual American Indian Heritage Month Celebration, downtown Raleigh.

Cover Art Credits:

Seed Pot by Senora Lynch (Haliwa-Saponi) • Miss North Carolina 2007
Jessica Jacobs (Lumbee) • Red Medallion - Kara Stewart (Sappony)
Aaron Winston, powwow dancer

Photographer Credits:

The Miss America Pageant • Pamela Graham DeRensis (Lumbee)
Renee Jane Jacobs (Waccamaw Siouan) • James V. Locklear (Lumbee)
Kelly Queen • Consuela Richardson (Haliwa-Saponi)
Mark Durlak • Sue Vaughan • Shelia Wilson (Sappony) • Lumbee Tribe
N.C. Museum of History • Jayce Williams

Featured Artists:

Senora Lynch (Haliwa-Saponi) • James Malcolm (Lumbee) • Joel Queen
(Eastern Band of the Cherokee) • Kara Stewart (Sappony) • Peter Wolf Toth



North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

Mailing Address:

1317 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1317 • 919-807-4440
www.doa.state.nc.us/CIA

The North Carolina Commission Of Indian Affairs is a Division of
the North Carolina Department of Administration

This online public document was produced in October 2013.