



# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-racial Setting."

ROBESON COUNTY

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## Historical Robeson County Begins Its 200th Birthday Celebration Jan. 6

by Gene Warren

Founded on Jan. 6, 1787, and named after Col. Thomas Robeson, the hero of the Battle of Elizabethtown during the Revolutionary War period, Robeson County begins a year-long celebration of its 200th birthday Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Often called the "State of Robeson" because of its size, Robeson County is the largest North Carolina county, according to the N.C. Data Center in Raleigh. Robeson County covers 949 square miles whereas second place Sampson County has 947 square miles.

With an almost equal number of Indians, Blacks and whites in the county, Robeson County's tri-racial population is one of its unique characteristics.

And so beginning with a choral performance at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 6 in front of the Robeson County Courthouse in Lumberton, and followed by speeches, a 21-gun salute, music, etc., the celebration starts. Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan is among the dignitaries who have confirmed that they will be present plus the past and present commanding generals of Ft. Bragg: Lt. Gen. James L. Lindsay and Lt. Gen. John W. Foss. Balloons will be launched during this time at public libraries in the county.

When Col. Robeson led 69 Whigs crossed the Cape Fear River and routed 400 Tories at Elizabethtown, he little dreamed that an entire county would be later named after him. Ironically enough, Col. Robeson died two years before the county's name became official and never resided in Robeson. Col. Robeson's old home place, Walnut Grove, was a plantation-like home at Tar Heel, just across the line from Robeson County in Bladen County. His home there was burned by the British, and two homes have occupied that land since then. The present Walnut Grove is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Averette. Mrs. Averette is a descendant of Col. Robeson and grew up in Walnut Grove.

Retired Superior Court Judge Henry McKinnon, chairman of the Heritage Committee for the Robeson County Bicentennial, says that Robeson was created from Bladen County.

"Bladen has been called the 'Mother of Counties,'" says McKinnon. "Its creation included the entire southern half of what is North Carolina. Bladen extended from what is New Hanover County to at least the Tennessee line, possibly to the Mississippi River, and some people claim to the Pacific Ocean."

Why this claim? "Because," says McKinnon, "the act which created Bladen County said it 'extended to the bounds of the government. As far as the British crown's having any rights or claims in this document of North America, it extended to the Pacific. Certainly we can say it extended to Tennessee.'"

The first bill that was introduced in the North Carolina legislature to divide Robeson County from Bladen County was Nov. 25, 1785. After subsequent discussions on the measure, the final passage of the bill did not take place until Jan. 6, 1787, said McKinnon.

Later in 1787, the town of Lumberton came into being and became the county seat of Robeson. A publication in the Robeson County Public Library entitled "Towns of Robeson County" says: "At a Court of Pleas and Quarter Session held on May 12, 1787, Gen. (John) Willis (considered the founder of Lumberton) submitted to the court a proposition for laying out on his lands a town to be called 'Lumberton.' He proposed to give the town a square upon which to locate its public buildings, together with a town 'common,' and suggested that the other lots be sold through a lottery to be conducted by managers under the supervision of the court. The lottery was conducted with much ceremony and many formalities in the presence of the court, beginning on August 16, 1787."

"So," said McKinnon, "the Town of Lumberton came into being on August 16, 1787."

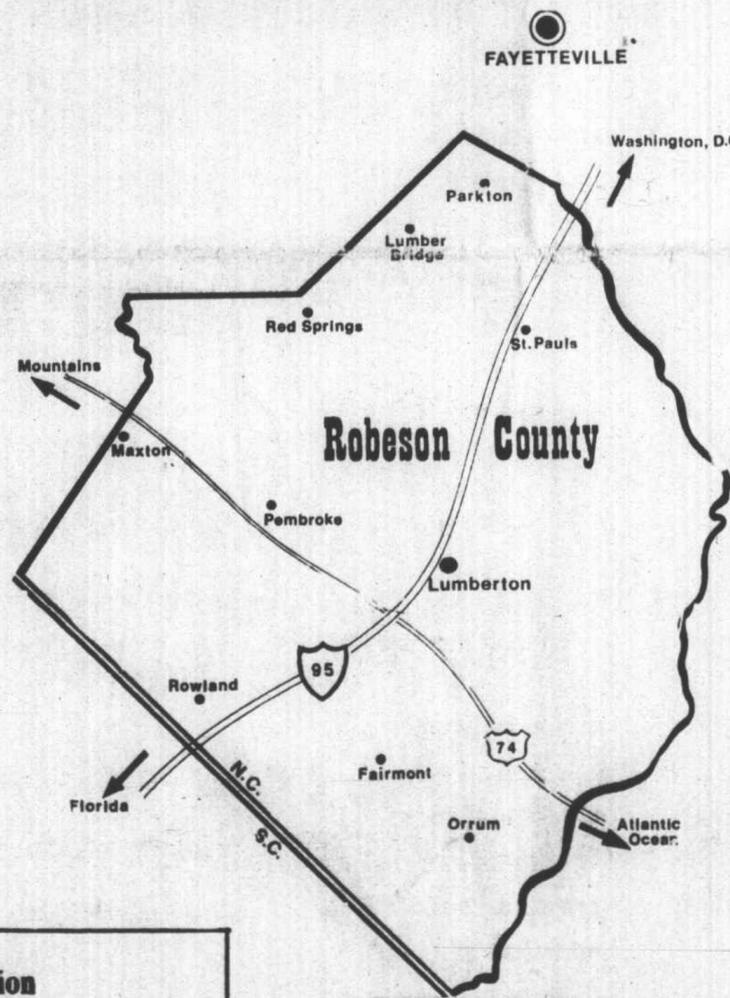
Therefore, 1987 will not only be Robeson County's bicentennial, but also Lumberton's bicentennial. And March 7, 1987, is also the centennial of Pembroke State University. Therefore, three birthdays will be celebrated at the same time in 1987.

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This sign marks one of the North Carolina's 100 counties. Robeson County celebrates its 200th birthday, beginning January 6, 1987.



### West Robeson Student Among Morehead Finalists

James Cedric Woods of West Robeson High School has been chosen among seven high school seniors chosen as district finalists to compete for the 1987 Morehead Awards to study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Finalists and alternates were chosen from 23 nominees picked earlier by county committee. Interviews were conducted by the district selection committee recently.

Other finalists include Elizabeth Anne Elaine Allen of E.E. Smith High School, Fayetteville; Keith Lyndon McCormick of Fayetteville Academy; Christopher Scott Throckmorton of Westover High, Fayetteville; Brian Thomas Nicholson of White-

ville High; William Howard Petty of Clinton High; and Frances Cherry Woodbury of Cape Fear Academy. Alternates are Brian Mark Buroker of Seventy-First High and Locke Craig Raper of Terry Sanford High.

The finalists will be interviewed by the Morehead Foundation's selection committee in Chapel Hill Feb. 28-March 3. The Morehead Award is an all-expense paid undergraduate education at UNC-CH worth more than \$30,000 for a North Carolina resident.

Woods is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James-Harold Woods of Pine Street, Pembroke. He serves as state chairman of the North Carolina Native

American and is president of the National Honor Society at West Robeson. Active in church activities, Woods has also received awards in English, biology, economics, American history, and chemistry. He was the district winner of the Voice of Democracy speechwriting contest and has served as a Governor's Page and as a Congressional Page. Woods plans a career as a lawyer, lobbyist or administrator.

Morehead Awards are presented to public and private high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional qualities of leadership, academic standing, character and physical vigor.

### TUSCARORA TRIBE OF N.C.

Native American Non-Profit Organization

#### Longhouses and Villages to the Tuscarora

There were approximately 5,000 to 6,000 Tuscaroras in North Carolina at the outbreak of the Tuscarora War in 1711. Most of them lived in plantation communities rather than towns. One of these plantation communities was Narhontes, which is, in present day, Wayne County.

The houses of this village were scattered for several miles, no five houses together.

Narhontes and 4 other Tuscarora towns had 374 dwellings, an average of 75 houses per town. Some Tuscaroras would live in remote areas away from the villages. There were also hunting lodges that were built in distant parts of the forest. Sometimes they could accommodate large numbers of people.

An explorer named John Lawson came across a Tuscarora town that had streets of houses. This town accommodated about 500 Indians men women and children.

One of the most important villages of the Tuscaroras was the village of Paski, which was fortified with palisades (a fence forming a defence barrier). The houses in this village were covered with the bark of trees and they stood in a circle. The middle of the village was used for council meetings and other business.

The Tuscarora houses themselves were called Longhouses. They were built

oblong in shape. The Longhouses of the Tuscaroras were built like their Northern Iroquois relatives: Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca, but not nearly so large. They were still sufficient enough to accommodate several families. Other houses were built to store grains, skins and trade goods.

First the framework of the longhouses were made. This was done by heating long poles of pine, cedar, and hickory and bending the poles to the desired shape and bracing these with other poles. Moss or bark was used to bind the poles together. Then the frame was covered with sheets of bark on the top and sides. The bark of the cypress or white cedar was used. Sometimes the bark of the pine was used. An opening was left for a smoke hole in the top of the longhouse.

Benches were built around the inside of the longhouses. They served also as beds and were covered with animal skins or woven reed mats.

The Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina has great interest and desire in bringing forth the truth to Indians and non-Indians alike. The true history, culture, and traditions of the Indians of Robeson and adjoining counties is very important and must come forth.

The Tuscarora Tribe is now in the process of researching, designing, and eventually building a replica of a palisaded Tuscarora Village. This

village is going to be as authentic and traditional as possible. It will be used to educate people in the culture, history, and traditions of the Tuscaroras. Also, it will be used to promote tourism for the Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina.

The proposed site for this village is on I-95 near the new Tuscarora Tribal Offices, which is located between Yogi Bear Campground and the Water Department/School Bus Garage. The number of the Tuscarora Tribal Office is 739-1116.

#### Tribal Enrollment

Tribal enrollment is very important, no one wants to be left out on benefits that they, their children, and grandchildren, could receive.

The Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina is enrolling at the new Tuscarora Tribal Office off 74, I-95 Service Road, between Yogi Bear Campground and the Water Department/School Bus Garage. The number at the tribal office is 739-1116. Ask for Della Sanderson, who is in charge of tribal enrollment. Della is very experienced and knowledgeable in the enrollment process. She is strict and goes by the guidelines set by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The Tuscarora Tribe is seeking federal recognition and only those who are enrolled will be entitled to benefits. So don't be left out.

### Cape Fear Brotherhood Hosts Banquet

The Brotherhood of Cape Fear Baptist Church sponsored a banquet on Saturday night, December 20, at the

Four Flames Restaurant in Fayetteville. The men here hosts to their wives. Sixty-four persons attended and enjoyed a buffet style dinner.

Rev. James D. Dial is the pastor of Cape Fear Baptist Church, Fayetteville and Bro. Cornelius Emanuel is the Brotherhood Director.

### Bicentennial Proclamation For Robeson County

WHEREAS, Robeson County, also known as "The Great State of Robeson," will celebrate its two-hundredth birthday during the year 1987;

WHEREAS, the two hundredth anniversary of the Constitutional Convention's adoption of the Constitution of the United States also occurs in the year 1987;

WHEREAS, the maintenance of the common principles that sustain our county and our nation depends upon a knowledge and understanding of our rich heritage, cultural and educational resources, environmental concerns, industrial and economic development and spiritual commitment;

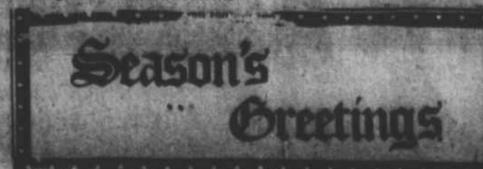
NOW, THEREFORE, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim that the Robeson County Bicentennial Commission be authorized to plan and administer a meaningful celebration of the bicentennial of Robeson County and of the United States Constitution;

AND, FURTHERMORE, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners do hereby urge all schools, churches, civic clubs and organizations, veterans' groups, historical societies, businesses, industries and all citizens of our tri-cultural county to participate in this great event by adopting a bicentennial program that will enrich and enhance the quality of life in our county.

In witness whereof, we set the hand of our County Commissioner Chairman and the Seal of Robeson County, this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighty-six.



This is the historical marker in front of the former home of Col. Thomas Robeson, in whose honor Robeson County was named. The home



Advertisement for 'THE CHEMISTRY IS RIGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR' featuring a cartoon of a scientist and names: Bruce Barton, Louise Hayes, Connes Brayboy, Stephanie D. Locklear.