



Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

Origins and Migrations



The swamps and dark waters of the Lumbee River have sustained our people for thousands of years. There, in the comfort of a land seen by outsiders as impenetrable and without merit, the Lumbee people made a place called Home.

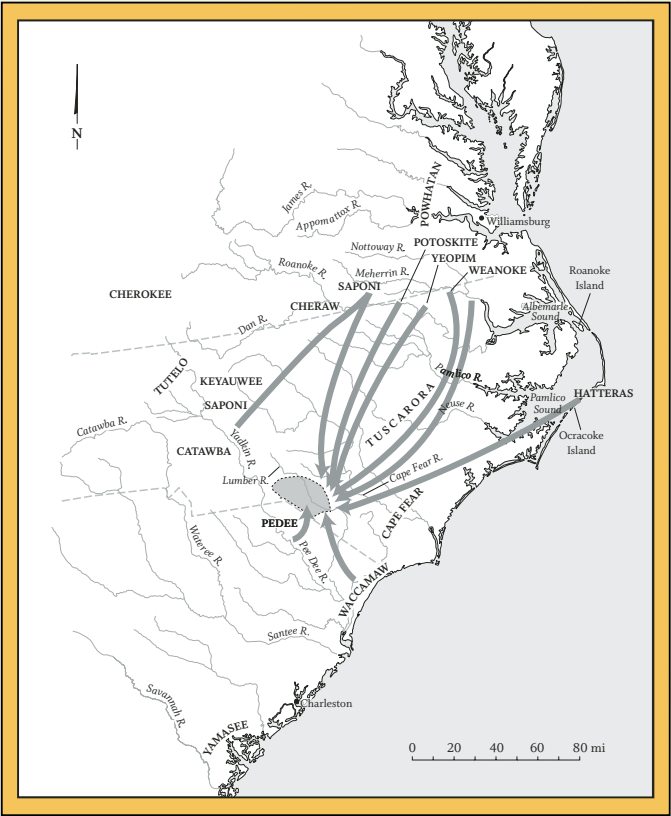


Photograph of the Lumbee River by James Bass

- Disease Epidemics ~ Smallpox, Malaria, Influenza
- War ~ Tuscarora War: 1711 - 1715
Yamasee War: 1715 - 1717
- Oppression ~ Indian Slavery and
Loss of Traditional Lands

Those who survived these dangers sought shelter from a world that had made it perilous to be Indian. The Lumbee River offered such protection. It was geographically isolated and lay between the oft-contested borders of North and South Carolina for decades.⁴ The Indians migrating to this area joined those who already called it home. These are the ancestors of the Lumbee people. They belong to three language families:

⌘ EASTERN SIOUAN ⌘ ALGONQUIAN ⌘ IROQUOIAN



Map from *Lumbee Indians in the Jim Crow South: Race, Identity, and the Making of a Nation*. Copyright (c) 2010 by Malinda Maynor Lowery. Used by permission of the University of North Carolina Press. www.uncpress.org

These migrations were not isolated movements of individuals, but were collective progressions of Indian peoples that “maintained contact with kinsfolk and allies, and recreated their communities as much as possible in new territory.”⁵ ~ C Woods

**THE LUMBEE ARE THE SURVIVORS OF CENTURIES OF DECIMATION AND CONFLICT.
WE ARE THE ONES WHO REMAIN.**



The Lumbee River