

## 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 ~

War

Oppression

In the lands that are home to the modern day Lumbee people, archaeological data demonstrates a continuous Indian presence dating back to 12,000 years BC.1 The area had been a 'cultural crossroads' for thousands of years.<sup>2</sup> Some ancestors of the Lumbee have always been on these swamps and rivers. Others migrated from various parts of the Carolinas and southern Virginia.3

The Lumbee River provided an ideal location for Indian peoples who sought to escape the ever-encroaching colonial forces in a postcontact world. Several factors created a perfect storm to propel our ancestors to either journey to or hunker down around the Lumbee

River. These factors include:

Smallpox, Malaria, Influenza

Tuscarora War: 1711 - 1715 Yamassee War: 1715 - 1717

Indian Slavery and

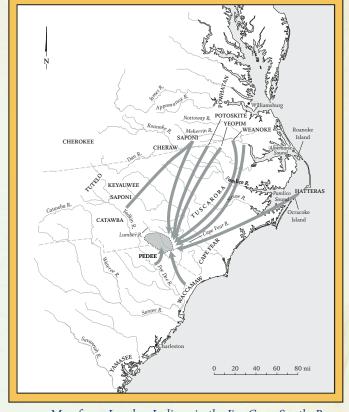
Loss of Traditional Lands

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.<sup>4</sup> 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.

