

NORTH CAROLINA'S LUMBEE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE: THE BATTLE AT HAYES POND IN MAXTON, NC



Power Point to accompany Carolina K-12's lesson "North Carolina's Lumbee Fight for Justice," available in the Database of K-12 Resources

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**NORTH CAROLINA
KNIGHTS OF THE
KU KLUX
KLAN**

Will Hold A Klan Rally and Cross Burning

Maxton, N. C.

Between P.J.C. and HAYES POND

Sat. Nite Jan. 18
8:00 P. M.

HEAR THE KLAN KLUDS SPEAK ON

"Why I Believe In Segregation"

If Interested In Our Constitutional Rights, Write
P. O. Box 281, Chadwick Station, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

AUTHORIZED BY THE GRAND WIZARD

MAXTON, NC



The Battle of Hayes Pond



- On January 18th, 1958, a Klan rally was held near Hayes Pond in Maxton, NC.
- Throughout 1957-1958, many similar events were organized around the same area, which held an almost evenly divided population of Lumbee Indians, African Americans, and Whites.
- Many of the Klan events, including the January 18th rally, were organized by South Carolina Grand Dragon James “Catfish” Cole.
- In fact, five days before the rally on January 13th, 1958, Klansmen burned a cross at the home of a Lumbee woman who was rumored to have a relationship with a white man.
- James “Catfish” Cole claimed that the January 18th rally would be attended by 5,000 heavily armed Klansmen, and that the purpose of the rally was to remind the Lumbee Indians of “their place” in the racial order.



“The caravans rolled, like clockwork, every Saturday just after nightfall. Seven, sometimes eight cars. Sedans mostly, long and low, forming an unsettling parade that rolled up US 74 from the south into Maxton. Inside, the dome lights burned, casting the faces of passengers in an eerie, harsh glare. The Ku Klux Klan wasn't known for subtlety. But it was known in this part of North Carolina.

‘You saw those cars coming, and you knew who those men were,’ said Lillie McKoy, a former mayor of Maxton who grew up watching the caravan from her uncle's store just outside town. ‘They wanted you to see them. They wanted you to be afraid of them. ’ And a lot of people were afraid.... **Until the Klan picked a fight with people who fought back.’”**



WHO ARE THE LUMBEE?

- The Lumbee have continuously existed in and around Robeson County, NC since the early part of the eighteenth century.
- In 1885, the tribe was recognized as Indian by North Carolina. At the same time the Lumbee were recognized by the state, they established a separate school system that would benefit tribal members. In 1887, the state established the **Croatan Normal Indian School**, which is today the **University of North Carolina at Pembroke.**
- The tribe has sought full federal recognition from the United States Government since 1888. In 1956, Congress passed the **Lumbee Act**, which recognized the tribe as Indian. However, the Act withheld the full benefits of federal recognition from the tribe. Efforts are currently underway to pass federal legislation that grants full recognition to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.
- The 55,000+ members of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina reside primarily in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland and Scotland counties.
- The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe in North Carolina, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River and the ninth largest in the nation.
- The Lumbee take their name from the Lumbee River which winds its way through Robeson County.
- Pembroke, North Carolina is the economic, cultural and political center of the tribe.



THE NIGHT THE KLAN MET IT'S MATCH





**Lumbee Men Simeon Oxedine [left] and
Charlie Warriax with Captured KKK Flag**



**Lumbee Men Simeon Oxedine [left] and
Charlie Warriax with Captured KKK Flag**

“THE BATTLE OF MAXTON POND”

**WRITTEN BY MALVINA REYNOLDS AND
PERFORMED BY PETE SEEGER**



"We want to take the time to honor these heroes who fought against the injustice and bigotry of the KKK ... They stood not just for the Lumbees, but for all minorities."

~Tribal Chairman Jimmy Goins

"It is important for the tribe to remember the service of its forefathers...We should never forget their contributions that impact us today. It is because of them, people like me and others don't have to feel the hatred of the KKK."

~Alex Baker, Public Relations



Create the “Outstanding Community Member Award”

“ordinary people...standing up to bigotry and hatred”

Congratulations! You have been selected to serve on a committee that will design an award to honor the Lumbee who stood up for themselves and their community members at the January 18th, 1958 Klan rally at Hayes Pond, NC.

- Consider the actions of the Lumbee, what they risked, and what their actions meant for other minorities who had been harassed by the Klan. Then, **design an award that you feel appropriately honors their actions.**
- The award you design can take any format you choose
 - *classic award types* - certificate, plaque, metal, etc.
 - *unique or abstract awards* - a statue, a physical shape symbolic of the Lumbee and their actions, creation and dedication of a memorial or space, etc.

The purpose is to be creative and show why the Lumbee are being honored with the design of your award.

- In addition, prepare a short speech that would be delivered upon presenting this award to the participating Lumbee. Your speech should be at least a paragraph or more, and would be read to the ceremony attendees as the award is presented. The speech should explain why the award is being presented, what it symbolizes, and why it is important. This short passage should be informative and inspirational.