

# Three Hundred Years of Indian Woods, 1717-2017: Tuscarora's Reservation in North Carolina

Tercentenary Conference, October 7-9, 2017—Hope Plantation, Windsor, NC



Indian Woods in Bertie County—detail from Jonathan Price-John Strother Map of North Carolina, 1808 (courtesy of Library of Congress)

Exploring Tuscarora's Historic Homeland

Understanding North Carolina's Indian Heritage



# Memoranda

# Three Hundred Years of Indian Woods, 1717-2017: Tuscarora's Reservation in North Carolina

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The organizers of Neyuheruke 300 and Beyond ([Neyuheruke.org](http://Neyuheruke.org)) and Hope Plantation, Windsor, N.C., with the assistance of residents of Indian Woods and members of the Tuscarora Nation have organized this three day conference and festival to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the creation of Tuscarora's Indian Reservation in North Carolina in 1717. The event coincides appropriately on 7-9 October 2017 during Indigenous People's (Columbus) Day weekend. Established by treaty between the Tuscarora Nation and the colonial government of North Carolina, the Indian Woods Reservation in Bertie County served as a land base for those Tuscarora who remained in North Carolina following the Tuscarora War of 1711-15.

Three Hundred Years of Indian Woods features a wide range of scholarly, commemorative, and family activities over the three day holiday weekend. No place could be more suitable for the conference as Hope Plantation was the home of North Carolina's governor David Stone, who along with his father Zedekiah served as commissioners for the adjacent Tuscarora Indian Woods Reservation. The conference goal is to explore the history, archaeology, and cultural life of Indian Woods reservation from its creation in 1717 through 1804 when it was leased to the State of North Carolina; and with further memories of the reservation through the 20th and 21st centuries.

# Program

(\* included in general registration; \*\*additional charge for these events)

**7 October, Saturday**—at Hope Plantation

## **History Conference: *Three Hundred Years of Indian Woods, 1717-2017***

8 a.m. Conference Registration at Visitor Center Museum

**Note: \*Tours of Hope Plantation buildings available with registration or by separate ticket purchase; Tuscarora heritage arts demonstrations and vendors available all day.**

**\*Conference Session I** (Visitor Center Museum)

8:30 *Ha? kan?herath?h?reh*: Chief Leo Henry--Tuscarora Nation

Larry E. Tise, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC  
Welcome and “Searching for Tuscarora’s North Carolina Homeland”

Turner Bond Sutton, President, Historic Hope Foundation

Patrick Suarez, Director, Meherrin Tribe Annual Powwow

9:00 Troy A. Richardson, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
“Resisting Assimilation; Tuscarora, Saponi and Tutelo Students at William & Mary and Fort Christanna, 1690-1715”

9:30 David La Vere, University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
“King Tom Blount of the Tuscaroras: Skillful Defender and Political Opportunist”

10:00 Q&A and Discussion of Troy Richardson and La Vere Presentations

10:20 Break

10:40 Stephen Feeley, McDaniel College, Baltimore, MD  
“Reservation, Outpost, or Homeland? Indian Woods in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century”

11:10 Buck Woodard, American University, Washington, D.C.  
“*Take up the Hatchet...and go to War with us*’: The Tuscarora of Indian Woods during the French and Indian War”

11:40 Q&A and Discussion of Feeley and Woodard Presentations

12:00 **\*\*Lunch** (Visitor Center—separate registration required; limited onsite purchase)

12:30 Vincent Schiffert, Tuscarora Nation  
“Traditional Iroquoia Agriculture and the Hope Plantation Experiment”

1 pm David Serxner, Historic Hope Plantation  
“North Carolina’s Two Tuscarora Glengarry Caps: Provenance and Future”

1:15 Break (to visit museum and outdoor programs)

**\*Conference Session II (Visitor Center Museum)**

1:45 Joshua Irvin, McDaniel College, Baltimore, MD  
“Ties to Home: Tuscarora Autonomy and the Sale of Indian Woods 1801-1831”

2:15 Gerald W. Thomas, U.S. Government Senior Executive (retired) & Author, Laurel, MD  
“Indian Woods: A Lost Reservation”

2:45 E. Thomson Shields, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC  
"The Indian Gallows: A Poem, by William H. Rhodes (1846): Folk Tradition to Literature,  
Literature to Folk Tradition in North Carolina"

3:15 Q&A and Discussion of Irvin, Thomas, and Shields Presentations

3:45 Break

4 pm Warren Milteer, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC  
"Race and Ancestral Ambiguity in North Carolina: Finding Indigenous People in Bertie County  
Records"

4:30 Marvin "Marty" Richardson, Haliwa-Saponi Legacy Project,  
“From Indian to Colored: The 1835 North Carolina Constitutional Convention and Its Impact on  
Meadows Indian Identity and Sovereignty”

5 pm Q&A and Discussion of Milteer and Marty Richardson Presentations

5:30 Afternoon session concludes

**\*Indian Woods Community Event at Blue Jay Recreation Center, Indian Woods  
Reservation/Township** (sponsored by the Spring Hill, Kings, Indian Woods, Saint Francis, and Beacon  
Light communities)

6:30 pm Conference guests arrive at Indian Woods Community Event

8:30 pm Conference guests depart Indian Woods Community Event

**8 October, Sunday**—at Hope Plantation

**Family Day: *Tuscarora Heritage, Memories, and Corn Husking Bee***

**Tuscarora Heritage Session** (Visitor Center; free and open to the public)

10:30 Tuscarora Heritage Talks: Tuscarora Historical Society, moderated by Vince Schiffert, Tuscarora Nation

12:00 **\*\*Lunch** (Visitor Center—box lunch; separate registration; limited onsite purchase)

12:30 Arwin Smallwood, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, NC  
“Life at Indian Woods”

**Note: \*Tours of Hope Plantation buildings available with registration or by separate ticket purchase; Tuscarora heritage arts demonstrations and vendors available all day.**

**Tuscarora Corn Husking Bee** (on the grounds; free and public presentation invited)

2 to 5 p.m. Tuscarora Corn Husking Bee

Traditional Tuscarora Arts & Crafts

**\*\*Tuscarora Cornbread and Corn Soup Dinner** (on grounds; by registration or ticket purchase onsite)

6 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner

7 p.m. Tuscarora Social, Music, and Songs

8:30 Dinner ends

**9 October, Monday—Indigenous People’s Day**

Historic Hope Plantation is open all day for visitation and tours by families and individuals. Visits and tours are included in registration for the Indian Woods Conference.



## Notes

The conference also features an authentic “Three Sisters” garden planted with heirloom corn, beans, and squash seeds grown yearly and saved until today by Tuscarora farmers on their Tuscarora Reservation near Niagara Falls, NY. The garden will be harvested during the conference by visiting Tuscarora demonstrating the many uses of corn products and other native plants. Traditional Tuscarora crafts, arts, and music as well a traditional “social” will enliven the conference. Historic Hope Plantation is open for tours during the conference.

This conference was designed to focus research on early Indian history in North Carolina and to communicate this story to the general public and the thousands of Indian descendants living in North Carolina today. Outcomes and future programs can be accessed on the website [Neyuheruke.org](http://Neyuheruke.org). Comments on this conference and suggestions for future programs should be directed to Dr. Larry E. Tise, Conference Organizer, Department of History, East Carolina University at [tisel@ecu.edu](mailto:tisel@ecu.edu).

We are grateful to several sponsors who have donated time, services, and funds to support this program. The driving forces in organizing this conference have been Larry E. Tise with the assistance of Laurie Godwin and Aleshia Hunt, East Carolina University; Vince Schiffert, Tuscarora Nation; Turner Sutton, Bobby Williams, and David Serxner of Historic Hope Foundation; and Arwin Smallwood of both Indian Woods, Bertie County, and North Carolina A&T State University. We are also grateful for financial support from Dominion Energy, North Carolina A&T State University, and especially its Department of History, chaired by Dr. Arwin Smallwood.

