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ECU Remembers Pivotal Battle that Changed American History
Nooherooka 300: Commemoration of Tuscarora War

GREENVILLE, N.C. (March 6, 2013) — This month, East Carolina University will remember the causes and consequences of a colonial era battle that redefined North Carolina and modified the direction of American history. “Nooherooka (Neyuheruke) 300” is the official commemoration of the tragic battle at Fort Nooherooka, ending the three-year Tuscarora War, that occurred on March 21-23, 1713, just 30 miles from the site of East Carolina University. The commemoration is a collaborative venture between ECU and the sovereign Tuscarora Nation now located in the State of New York. For 1,000 years, the Tuscarora homeland was located on 70 miles surrounding what is now the East Carolina campus.

According to the commemoration’s director Dr. Larry Tise, Wilbur & Orville Wright Distinguished Professor of History at ECU, the goals of the symposium are to celebrate the 1,000-year period prior to 1713 when the Tuscarora peoples lived on the lands that are now eastern North Carolina; to lament the consequences of a battle that drove the Tuscarora Nation out of North Carolina; to meditate with current Tuscarora peoples on the history, traditions and memory of the Tuscarora homeland; and to commemorate this time with peace and mutual understanding.

"This is probably the most solemn commemoration of the deep and complex history of eastern North Carolina we could undertake--right alongside meditating upon the meanings of the American Revolution and the American Civil War," said Tise. “They were two great wars that gave shape and meaning to the America we know, but neither of those did as much to shape the character and heritage of eastern North Carolina as did the Tuscarora War of 1711-1713."

Thursday, March 21, the commemoration begins in the Mendenhall Student Center on the campus of East Carolina University at 2 p.m. with a “Cultural Conclave” of traditional arts and crafts exhibits of the Tuscarora peoples. At 3:30 p.m. a presentation of “The Tuscarora Nation Today,” will be held in the MSC Great Rooms. Following, at 5 p.m., attendees can view “The Nooherooka 300 Exhibit,” in Joyner Library, which includes maps and exhibits of the Tuscarora homeland and the Tuscarora War. The evening concludes at 7 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre with the Voyages of Discovery Lecture given by Dr. Daniel K. Richter, who will discuss “The Tuscarora War: Trade, Land, and Power,” followed by a Q&A session with the audience. In a special addition to Richter’s presentation, The Iroquois Indian Band will perform a musical prelude to the lecture at 6:30 p.m. in Hendrix Theatre.
Friday, March 22, individuals may attend a day-long symposium and a communal dinner, from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. in ECU’s Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms. Major areas of discussion will include “The Tuscarora Homeland,” “The Tuscarora War in Perspective,” “The Tuscarora Nation in North Carolina: Archaeology and Anthropology,” “Conserving the Cultural Treasures of the Tuscarora Heritage” and “The Nooherooka Map and Fort Artifacts.” Registration is required for Friday’s events.

Saturday, March 23, the three-day commemoration concludes in Snow Hill, N.C., from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. with events that include arts and crafts exhibits, dedication of a monument on the site of the Nooherooka Fort, lunch and music at the Greene County Farmers Market and an afternoon lacrosse game (Tuscarora men’s team vs. ECU Club Lacrosse). The concluding event will be a diner and social at 6:30 p.m. in ECU’s Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms.

For additional information about the Nooherooka 300, or to register for the March 22 symposium and communal dinner, visit www.neyuheruke.org or http://blog.ecu.edu/sites/nooherooka/. For questions about the symposium, contact Tise at 252-328-1026, or via email at tisel@ecu.edu. More information about the Voyages lecture presented by Richter may be found at www.ecu.ecu/voyages. Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the events.

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**Photo Notes:**
These artifacts were excavated by the ECU Anthropology Department from the Nooherooka site between 1990 and 2001. The artifacts were photographed by Christina Lugo, ECU history major, with assistance from Dr. Charles Ewen, ECU professor of anthropology and director of the Phelps Archaeology Laboratory at ECU.

“Pottery Piece” – Partially Reconstructed Pottery Fragment

“Pipe” – Smoking pipe

“Pipe with Snake” – Smoking pipe with an eel or snake design on the side

“Liquor Bottle” – A reconstructed liquor bottle

“Broken Pottery Pieces” – Partially reconstructed fragments of pottery

“Fragment” – Stove fragment

“Handles” – Handles from a drawer or stove

“Map” and “Map_bk_web” – The Colonel James Moore map of Fort Nooherooka is the focal point of the exhibition at Joyner Library, and is the property of the South Carolina Historical Society.

**Background Notes:**
Dr. Larry E. Tise, director of the Nooherooka 300 and Wilbur & Orville Wright Distinguished Professor of History at ECU, provided the following notes on the Battle of Fort Nooherooka and the Tuscarora War.

**The Battle of Fort Nooherooka (Neyuheruke) March 21-23, 1713**
On March 21-23, 1713--on a level patch of land just 30 miles from Greenville, NC--a bloody battle intended to eliminate the Tuscarora Indian Nation from North Carolina raged for three days. On this spot savvy Tuscarora warriors had, over a period of four months, built a sturdy fortress known as Fort Nooherooka (Neyuheruke) to protect 900 men, women, and children. Consisting of bastions, blockhouses, and underground bunkers with a wooden palisade, the fort was a marvel of ingenuity and bitter experience. The fort was placed under siege for several weeks while colonial officers planned a final attack. For three days, the Tuscarora defenders withstood a barrage of withering cannon and musket fire, burrowed explosives, and human assaults rendered by a combined
force of North and South Carolina colonials and hundreds of allied Cherokee and Yamasee Indians. On the third
day, the proud fort was taken and burned to the ground.

The commander of the colonial army, Colonel James Moore of South Carolina reported four days later, "Ye
Enemies Destroyed as follows--Prisoners 392, Scolps [scalps] 192, out of ye sd: fort--& att Least 200 Kill'd &
Burnt in ye fort--166 Kill'd & taken out of ye fort." Most of those who were captured were hustled by collaborating
Indian commanders to Charleston, SC, where they were sold into slavery.

The battle at Fort Nooherooka was the concluding military encounter of the Tuscarora War in North Carolina. And
it also was the culminating event of a thousand years of Tuscarora habitation on the Carolina coastal plain.

The Tuscarora War, 1711-1713
The Tuscarora War--a littlenoticed and largely-overlooked episode in North Carolina history--was actually a
defining moment in America's colonial history. From the first permanent English settlements at Jamestown,
Plymouth, Charleston, and Philadelphia, colonial merchants vied for control of trade with Indian nations. Colonial
leaders, meanwhile, attempted to wrest ever-larger parcels of land from native Indian nations for the expansion of
European settlements into the North American interior from Massachusetts to South Carolina.

By 1710 the most powerful, independent Indian nation still in control of its own lands were the Tuscarora Nation
who occupied the coastal region of what is now North Carolina. When a large company of Swiss and German
Palatine settlers arrived in 1710 to occupy their lands and to build a town called "New Bern" on top of a Tuscarora
village known as Chatoeka, the Tuscarora Nation responded. Believing their homeland under siege, the Tuscarora
sought to repel the European intruders--first through negotiations--and then by force. In September 1711 Tuscarora
warriors killed North Carolina's impetuous Surveyor General John Lawson and ransacked the homes of Swiss and
English colonists in and around New Bern.

The Tuscarora probably did not know that their attacks came amidst a vast campaign being waged by colonial
leaders from the Carolina coast to the Mississippi River and from the Gulf coast across the Appalachian Mountains
to subdue every Indian nation in the region--and, at the same time, to capture as many Indians as possible to be sold
into slavery. Operated mainly by slave traders and allied Indian warriors based in and near Charleston, S.C., they
were ever ready to leap into virtually any fray that might result in new captives for what was a very lucrative
business.

North Carolina's fragile and largely ineffectual government reached out to the governors of both Virginia and South
Carolina for assistance in quelling the Tuscarora insurgency following their attack on New Bern. Virginia leaders
were reluctant to become involved. But South Carolina's most renowned Indian warriors (and slave traders) were
eager and ready to respond. It was not mere chance that Colonel John ("Tuscarora Jack") Barnwell and Colonel
James Moore (son of South Carolina's greatest Indian slave trader) got the call to march one after the other into
North Carolina to quash the Tuscarora Nation, to take as many Tuscarora as possible into slavery, and to "liberate"
Tuscarora lands for the use of English and Swiss settlers. The process of subjugation ended with the battle at Fort
Nooherooka in March 1713.

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