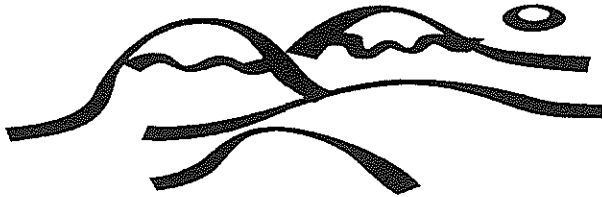


Haliwa-Saponi Tribe

The Haliwa-Saponi is one of the eight state-recognized tribes of North Carolina. Currently, there are approximately 3,800 members of this tribe. The members of The Haliwa-Saponi tribe are descendents of the Saponi, Nansemond, Tuscarora, Occaneechi and Tutelo tribes.



Approximately three quarters of the Haliwa-Saponi tribe live within a six mile radius of the town of Hollister, North Carolina located in Halifax and Warren counties.

Location

To some, this region is known as "The Meadows". Because of the large concentration of tribe members in this area, the Haliwa-Saponi developed its name from the tribe location. Haliwa is a combination of the words Halifax and Warren. However, not all of the Haliwa-Saponi live here. Some reside in the adjacent counties of Nash and Franklin.

The Saponi Indians originally came from Ohio and crossed the Appalachian Mountains to settle in the Piedmont of North Carolina. The Haliwa Indians were established in North Carolina in the 1700s.

History

According to historical documentation, the first recorded sight of the Haliwa-Saponi (then known as Saponi) was by Virginia traders along the Roanoke (Staunton) River in southern Virginia around 1670.



***Haliwa-
Saponi***

The name Saponi means "red earth people." The Saponi was a large and powerful group with several allies, such as the Tottero Indians. Together these tribes were known as the Nassaw Nation. However, the Saponi had a terrible and menacing enemy, the Iroquois Five Nations (Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga and Seneca).

Because of the frequent attacks from the Iroquois Five Nations, the Saponi were forced to travel around what is now Virginia and North Carolina to form economic and military alliances with other groups.

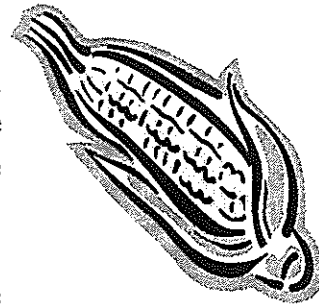


However, the Saponi ultimately could not escape the Iroquois Five Nations. By 1709, only approximately 750 members of the Saponi were still living. The rest of the once large and powerful tribe died in war with the Iroquois Five Nations or from disease. At this time, the Saponi people migrated to northeastern North Carolina with the Tottero and the Occaneechee Indians.

In 1711, war broke out between Carolina colonists and the Tuscarora tribe. As a result of this war, a peace and trade treaty was signed on February 27, 1714 with the Virginia Governor Alexander Spotswood. This treaty formed the Saponi Nation, which consisted of the Saponi, Tottero, Occaneechee, Keyauwee, Enoke, and Shakori.

After the treaty was signed, Governor Alexander Spotswood petitioned the colonial Board of Trade to establish a fort called Fort Christanna. This fort was located between the Roanoke and Meherrin Rivers near current day Lynchburg, Virginia.

The area was also known for the Great Trading Path where all the trades with the Europeans were made. The Saponi people were the middlemen of trades that came into the continent.



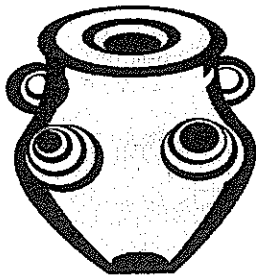
The Native Americans traded leathers and furs to the Europeans in exchange for small trinkets, cloth and knives. As well as a major trading post for the Virginia Indian Company, Fort Christanna also provided protection for Virginia colonists and Christian education for the Saponi.



Around 1717, the Virginia Indian Company was disbanded. After this breakup, the Saponi Nation began to separate. A portion of the tribe stayed in the Fort Christanna area until 1929. Other members of the Saponi Nation migrated to northern Virginia.

Some groups even moved to Albany, New York in 1722 and made peace with their long-time enemies, the Iroquois. Another group from the Saponi Nation moved south to live with the Catawbas in what is now northeastern South Carolina until 1732.

In 1733, this last group from the Saponi Nation returned to the Fort Christanna area. Upon their arrival, they found that the colonists had occupied their land. Since their land was seized, the Saponi formed an alliance with the Tuscarora Indians and moved to the Tuscarora Reservation.



The Tuscarora Reservation is located in Bertie County, North Carolina, which is approximately 30 miles east of the current Haliwa-Saponi population.

After the American Revolution in 1783, the ancestors of the Haliwa-Saponi tribe settled in the North Carolina counties of Halifax and Warren.

In 1957, the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School was opened for children in grades first through twelfth. This was the only tribally influenced school recognized by North Carolina that was not on a reservation.



In 1969 the state had to close the school due to desegregation laws. In 1999, however, the tribe opened a charter school in the same building.

It was not until 1979 that the Haliwa tribe was officially recognized by the state of North Carolina, and at this time the Saponi name was added to the tribe.

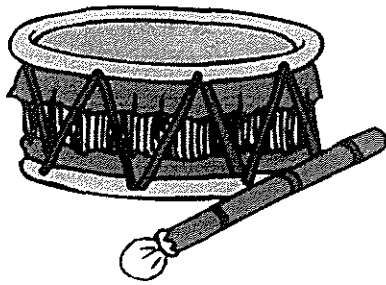
Culture



In 1965, an annual Haliwa-Saponi powwow, or tribal celebration, was founded. Powwows were traditionally known as celebrations that applied to great feasts, dances and public meetings before a grand hunt, a council meeting or war.

Powwows were later established as the tribal council where the problems of the people were discussed and worked out. The tribe is governed by eleven council members where the chief is the ruler of the tribe.



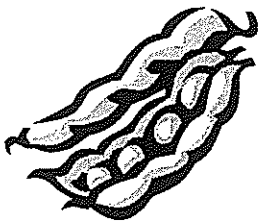


During the powwows the tribe also sings, dances and play instruments, such as the drums and flute. The drum music is essential to the powwow because it creates the rhythm and mood of the dance. The songs are based on issues of war, society, or religion.

Most of the clothing that Saponi people wore was made from animal skins and feathers. They wore leather moccasins with thick soles to protect their feet along with leather leggings and leather ponchos to protect against the cold. Most men wore shirts or animal skins that were beaded and painted to show honor towards their tribe. These shirts were only worn during battle.

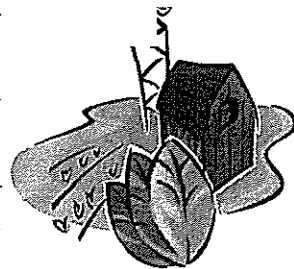
Woman normally wore skirts or dresses over their leather leggings. Their clothing included colorful beads that were strung together in decorative patterns. Both men and women wore jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. Jewelry was made from copper, bone, colorful beads, and shell.

Food



The Saponi nation has been recognized for their agricultural background. For many years, the community used the land to grow tobacco as their main crop. They also farmed corn, beans, squash and wheat crops. Tobacco was considered a sacred plant to the Native Americans and was used in ceremonies as an offering to the spirits. While the Haliwa-Saponi people also hunted game animals such as deer, their meat consumption lessened as they settled in North Carolina.

By the 1700s the Haliwa people had settled down into a permanent village where they built oven-shaped houses covered with dirt and small buildings made of stretched animal skins that were woven over wooden frames. This permanent settlement created a more vegetarian diet. A typical meal would include succotash, a mixture of corn and beans.

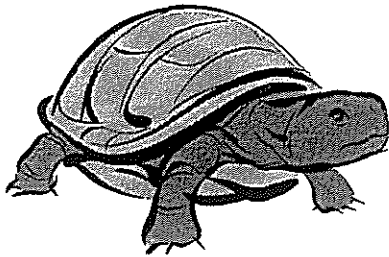


Art



The Haliwa-Saponi people still create traditional clay pottery. The pottery is made by hand coiling the red clay, which is abundant in the piedmont region.

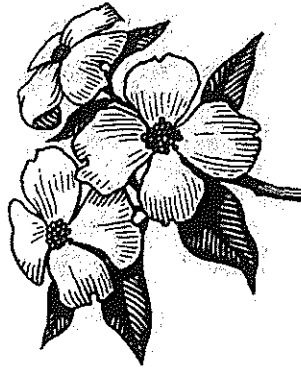
Language



The Haliwa-Saponi language was based on the Siouan language family. The name Saponi means “red earth people.” There are 17 different Siouan dialects. The Saponi spoke the Ohio Valley (Southeastern) Siouan dialect. Currently, only a few Haliwa-Saponi can speak a Siouan dialect.

A few Saponi Siouan words:

- Toke Kondik’ (To-kay Kon-deek): How are you
- Bi: Good
- ko-Lah: Friend
- Mi: Sun
- Minosa: Moon
- Mani: Water
- Wahtahka: Man
- Mahei: Woman



Haliwa-Saponi Review

Answer the following:

1. How did the Haliwa-Saponi tribe get its name?
2. Early in Saponi history, the Saponi people were forced to travel around what is now Virginia and North Carolina. Why?
3. Research the Iroquois Five Nations. Write a 1-2 page paper on the information you find. Include the tribes that make up the Iroquois Five Nations, population information, tribe location(s), and any other information of interest.
4. True or false: As a result of the Tuscarora war in 1711, a peace and trade treaty was signed on February 27, 1714, and this treaty also formed the Saponi Nation.
5. Around 1717, the Virginia Indian Company disbanded. What consequences did this have on the Saponi Nation?
6. The Saponi came to settle in North Carolina permanently because of an alliance formed with the _____ tribe.
 - a. Coharie
 - b. Cherokee
 - c. Tuscarora
 - d. Catawba
7. _____ was considered a sacred plant and used as an offering to the spirits.
8. True or false: By the 1700s, the Haliwa was mainly a hunting tribe.
9. True or false: The Haliwa-Saponis still create traditional clay pottery using red clay, which is abundant in the Piedmont region of North Carolina.
10. The Haliwa-Saponi is a Siouan-speaking tribe. In Siouan, how would you say, "How are you, good friend?"