

## **Keyauwee Indians** <sup>[1]</sup>

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by Michael D. Green, 2006



"Indians Dancing Around a Circle of Posts," watercolor by John White, created 1585-86." Image courtesy of the Trustees of the London Museum.

<sup>[2]</sup> The Keyauwee Indians, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, were living in a town surrounded by palisades located near the Uwharrie River in present-day [Randolph County](#) <sup>[3]</sup>. Nestled in a valley surrounded by cornfields, their village was vulnerable to attack, and their numbers, according to the chronicles of [John Lawson](#) <sup>[4]</sup>, were minimal. Shortly after Lawson's 1701 visit, the Keyauwee relocated. Joining with the Tutelo [Saponi](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, [Occaneechi](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, and others in 1714, they briefly found shelter at Fort Christanna, an outpost and reservation established by Virginia's governor Alexander Spotswood. After a few years the Keyauwee left to join with the [Saura](#) <sup>[7]</sup> (Cheraw) and the Peedee on the Pee Dee River in South Carolina, where they carried on a trade in deerskins with Charleston traders. The Keyauwee allied with their Indian neighbors in the 1715 [Yamassee War](#) <sup>[8]</sup> against South Carolina, after which they joined other Siouan-speaking people in the Catawba Nation.

### **References:**

James H. Merrell, *The Indians' New World: Catawbas and Their Neighbors from European Contact through the Era of Removal* (1989).

Douglas L. Rights, *The American Indian in North Carolina* (1947).

### **Image Credit:**

"Indians Dancing Around a Circle of Posts," watercolor by John White, created 1585-86." Image courtesy of the Trustees of the London Museum accessed via the Nation Park Service. Available from <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/jamesriver/colonization.HTM> <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed May 23, 2012).

### **Subjects:**

[American Indians](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

### **Authors:**

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### **Origin - location:**

[Randolph County](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

### **From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

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