Pamlico Indians [1]

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by Ruth Y. Wetmore, 2006


[2] The Pamlico Indians lived south of the Pamlico River in present-day Beaufort [3] and Pamlico Counties and were known as the Pomouik by members of the 1585-86 Raleigh expeditions. A smallpox epidemic in 1696 nearly destroyed the tribe. By 1709 John Lawson [5] found the survivors living in a single village with 15 "fighting men." Lawson recorded a small vocabulary from their language, which confirms their Algonquian affiliation.

During the Tuscarora War [6] (1711-13), the Pamlico were one of the smaller tribes that joined the Tuscarora faction. After the Barnwell expedition [7] against Tuscarora strongholds in 1712, the smaller tribes (Coree, Bay River, and Pamlico) continued to attack settlers along the Neuse [8] and Pamlico Rivers. In the treaty that ended the war, the Tuscarora agreed to destroy their former allies, including the Pamlicos, whom the colonists still considered dangerous. Any Pamlico Indians who survived were probably enslaved or incorporated into the Tuscarora tribe.

References:


Image Credit:


Subjects:
American Indians [9]

Authors:
Wetmore, Ruth Y. [10]

Origin - location:
Beaufort County [11]
Pamlico County [12]

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