

## North Carolina's Lumbee Fight for Justice: The Battle at Hayes Pond in Maxton, NC

### Overview

Little known about our state's history is the brave confrontation North Carolina's Lumbee staged to protest a KKK rally near Maxton, NC on the night of January 18, 1958. In this lesson, students learn about North Carolina's Lumbee and their heroic resistance to hatred and bigotry on this night, known as "The Battle of Hayes Pond." Students will explore the night's events as well as design an active citizenship award to honor the Lumbee for their vigilance in fighting for their rights.

### Grade

8

### Essential Questions

- Who are the Lumbee and what is their history in North Carolina?
- In what ways did the KKK strive to terrorize minorities during the 1950s?
- What took place between the KKK and the Lumbee in Maxton, NC on January 18, 1958?
- Who were James "Catfish" Cole and Simeon Oxendine? How would you characterize these men?
- Why is it important to remember and honor the brave actions of the Lumbee in standing up to the Klan?

### Materials

- Power Point accompaniment, "North Carolina's Lumbee Fight for Justice," available in the Database of K-12 Resources (in PDF version) at <http://k12database.unc.edu/files/2012/05/LumbeeFightforJusticePPT.pdf>
  - To view this PDF as a projectable presentation, save the file, click "View" in the top menu bar of the file, and select "Full Screen Mode"
  - To request an editable PPT version of this presentation, send a request to [CarolinaK12@unc.edu](mailto:CarolinaK12@unc.edu)
- Klan Rally Advertisement, image attached (also available in PPT)
- [SOHP](#) Oral History Excerpts:
  - Beatrice Thompson (10:13 - 11:45): <https://soundcloud.com/sohp/beatrice-thompson?in=sohp/sets/2017-carolina-oral-history-teaching-fellows>
  - Daniel Blue (8:40 – 17:58): <https://soundcloud.com/sohp/daniel-t-blue?in=sohp/sets/2017-carolina-oral-history-teaching-fellows>
- Map showing location of Maxton, NC, image attached (also available in PPT)
- *The Battle of Hayes Pond*, article and discussion questions attached  
"The Battle of Maxton Field," song lyrics attached; recording can be purchased (typically for 99cents) via various online music sources, such as Amazon.com
- Lumbee Men Holding KKK Flag, images attached (also available in PPT)
- Lumbee Award, image attached (also available in PPT)
- Image of Battle of Hayes Pond historical marker, attached (optional)
- "Lumbee's KKK rout gets historical marker" article, attached (optional)
  - <https://www.robsonian.com/news/112760/lumbees-kkk-rout-gets-historical-marker>

### Duration

60 minutes

### Student Preparation

Students should have a basic knowledge of hate groups such as the KKK, which are important subjects to address within the atmosphere of a respectful and safe classroom. Without prior knowledge and examination of such subject matter, the warm-up image may be interpreted as offensive rather than a discussion topic.

## Procedure

### The KKK Target the Lumbee

1. As a warm-up, project slide 2 of the accompanying PPT, which contains an image of a KKK rally advertisement. (Also attached, should teachers choose to print and distribute.) Discuss with students:
  - What do you see here? What do you notice first when looking at this? (Encourage students to simply point out what information is contained in the image, what text first strikes them, etc.)
  - What information does this give us?
  - What do you think the purpose of this document was and why?
  - What do you already know about the KKK? What comes to mind when you think of this hate group?
  - Why do you think they are holding a “rally and cross burning” in Maxton, NC?
  - The date is noted as January 18<sup>th</sup>. What year would you guess that this took place? What evidence makes you think this? (As students infer various dates, many most likely provided past years, it is worth discussing that the KKK is still active in modern society and not just a hate group of the past.)
  - Where is Maxton, NC?
    - Project the attached image of North Carolina, which has a red dot pinpointing the location of Maxton. Ask students to try and identify the counties in which Maxton is located. (Robeson and Scotland)
  - Does anyone have a guess as to why the rally may have been held in this location? Who was the Klan targeting?
2. Tell students that you are going to play a brief oral history clip from the Southern Oral History Program for them that will offer some clues regarding the target of the Klan’s hate. Let students know that you are going to play a minute and a half excerpt from an interview with Beatrice Thompson, an African American from Charlotte, North Carolina who was born in 1955. Tell students that they should listen closely and write down any images that stick with them as they hear her story. Start the clip at 10:13 and stop it at 11:45: <https://soundcloud.com/sohp/beatrice-thompson?in=sohp/sets/2017-carolina-oral-history-teaching-fellows>. Afterwards discuss:
  - What event does Beatrice Thompson describe?
  - Why was the man targeted by the Klan?
  - What struck you about what you heard? What images in particular stuck out for you as you listened? (Discuss images such as the fire from the cross mistaken as the sun; the image of a man weeping with a gun in his lap; etc. Teachers might also highlight the juxtaposition of the innocent aspect of children going for ice cream on the same summer day that an innocent man is the victim of a hate crime.)
  - What typically comes to mind when you consider who the KKK targeted/targets? (Students are sometimes familiar with the fact that the KKK targeted African Americans, but generally less familiar with other minority groups also targeted, such as the Lumbee Indians.)
3. Point out to students that while the account they heard took place in Charlotte, NC, the reason behind the cross burning was very similar to what was going on in Maxton, NC.
4. Project slide 3 and explain to students that the rally the document refers to was held on January 18, 1958 near Hayes Pond in Maxton, NC. During 1957 and 1958, many similar events were organized around the same area, which held an almost evenly divided population of Lumbee Indians, African Americans, and Whites. Many of the Klan events, including the January 18<sup>th</sup> rally, were organized by South Carolina Grand Dragon James “Catfish” Cole. In fact, five days before the rally on January 13, 1958, Klansmen burned a cross at the home of a Lumbee woman who was rumored to have a relationship with a white man. James “Catfish” Cole claimed that the January 18<sup>th</sup> rally would be attended by 5,000 heavily armed Klansmen, and that the purpose of the rally was to remind the Lumbee Indians of “their place” in the racial order. Discuss:

- What emotions do you imagine Lumbees would feel when they saw an advertisement like this? (Ensure students discuss emotions such as fear, anger, intimidation, anxiety, etc. Students, given their modern perspectives and lack of historical perspective, often jump to the conclusion that they would be angered by the advertisement and would immediately fight back. However, in truth, to fight back in the 1950s was often taking quite a risk. During the Jim Crow era, the Klan often got by with not only public hate speech, but also acts of violence such as beatings and lynching. To stand up to them then often meant risking your life or the lives of those close to you.)
  - Cole had predicted that 5,000 heavily armed KKK members would participate at the rally. What do you predict took place on that night?
5. After students have shared their predictions, project the excerpt on slide 5 and read it out loud to peak their curiosity about the January 18<sup>th</sup> event:
- “The caravans rolled, like clockwork, every Saturday just after nightfall. Seven, sometimes eight cars. Sedans mostly, long and low, forming an unsettling parade that rolled up U.S. 74 from the south into Maxton. Inside, the dome lights burned, casting the faces of passengers in an eerie, harsh glare. The Ku Klux Klan wasn't known for subtlety. But it was known in this part of North Carolina. "You saw those cars coming, and you knew who those men were," said Lillie McKoy, a former mayor of Maxton who grew up watching the caravan from her uncle's store just outside town. "They wanted you to see them. They wanted you to be afraid of them." And a lot of people were afraid....Until the Klan picked a fight with people who fought back.” (Source: [http://fayobserver.com/app/shared\\_images/battle\\_of\\_maxton\\_field/](http://fayobserver.com/app/shared_images/battle_of_maxton_field/))

#### **Who Are the Lumbee?**

6. Tell students that they will be learning about what actually took place on January 18, 1958 at the rally by Hayes Pond in Maxton, NC. However, leave students with their curiosities peaked for a brief moment and explain that before finding out what occurred at the rally, you first want them to learn a bit more about the Lumbee. Ask students to share what they already know regarding the Lumbee and list their comments on chart paper. Further discuss the history and culture of the Lumbee, sharing information such as (also included on slide 6):
- “The Lumbee are the present-day descendants of the Cheraw Tribe and have continuously existed in and around Robeson County, NC since the early part of the eighteenth century. In 1885, the tribe was recognized as Indian by the State of North Carolina. The tribe has sought full federal recognition from the United States Government since 1888. In 1956, Congress passed the Lumbee Act, which recognized the tribe as Indian. However, the Act withheld the full benefits of federal recognition from the tribe. Efforts are currently underway to pass federal legislation that grants full recognition to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.
- The 40,000+ members of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina reside primarily in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland, and Scotland counties. The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe in North Carolina, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River and the ninth largest in the nation. The Lumbee take their name from the Lumbee River which winds its way through Robeson County. Pembroke, North Carolina is the economic, cultural and political center of the tribe. At the same time the Lumbee were recognized by the state of North Carolina in 1885, they established a separate school system that would benefit tribal members. In 1887, the state established the Croatan Normal Indian School, which is today The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.” (Source: [http://www.lumbeetribe.com/History\\_Culture/History\\_Culture%20Index.html](http://www.lumbeetribe.com/History_Culture/History_Culture%20Index.html))
- Teacher Note: If your textbook does not contain information about the Lumbee to go over with students, additional information for teacher reference can be found at <http://www.lumbeetribe.com/> and <http://lumbee.web.unc.edu>.

### The Night the Klan Met Its Match

7. Pass out the attached article, *The Battle at Hayes Pond*, and instruct students to read it individually or in partners. After reading the article, discuss:
- Why were Klan members terrorizing the Lumbee in the 1950s? Why were the Klan so concerned about people of differing races and ethnicities having relationships?
    - Teachers may want to remind students of Jim Crow laws, many of which dealt with “miscegenation” in North Carolina, meaning, people of different races marrying. For example, a 1953 Jim Crow statute stated that “marriage between white and Negroes or Indians void. Penalty: Infamous crime, four months to ten years imprisonment, fine discretion of court.”
  - Cole predicted 5,000 Klansmen would show up to the rally. In actuality, how many Klansmen came? How many Lumbee came?
  - How would you characterize the Lumbee who showed up at the rally to fight for their civil rights and let the Klan know their message of hate was unwelcome?
  - Why do you think so many Lumbee showed up to defend themselves? (It is important to discuss with students how it took active citizens who valued their rights to stand together and fight back. Had only a few Lumbee showed up, things may have turned out differently. Explain to students that situations like this don’t just happen accidentally; they require engaged citizens and thoughtful planning. For example, Simeon Oxendine was a Lumbee who had heard of Cole’s plans to host a rally and remind Indians of “their place in the racial order.” Oxendine reportedly replied, “He said that, did he? We’ll just wait and see.” Oxendine and others then organized to ensure there were many Lumbee there to let the Klan know exactly how they felt about their message of hate. As one of the “elder statesmen” at the rally, Oxendine was one of several veterans who led the Lumbees.)
  - Once the Klan was outnumbered, how did they respond? How would you characterize their response? What happened to Cole’s wife?
    - As the Klansmen dropped their guns and KKK paraphernalia, they scrambled into the woods so fast that many didn’t even notice what they left behind. Catfish Cole even left his wife behind! When the Lumbee showed up she panicked and drove into a ditch. It was the Lumbee who helped push her car out and get her on her way while her husband hid out in the swamps,
    - Project slides 8 and/or 9 (also attached) of Lumbee holding a captured KKK flag from the rally and ask students to respond to what they see. Explain to them that as the Klan retreated in such haste they left behind all of the materials for their rally. Simeon Oxendine retrieved the blanket-sized KKK banner that was left behind and marched back to Maxton with it wrapped around his body. His photo was taken and made the cover of Life magazine.
  - How does the image in your mind of the Klan retreating in this way differ than many of the images we generally envision of the Klan? (The Klan is often portrayed as terrorizing, strong, powerful, dangerous, etc. – which are fair categorizations in the way they tormented innocent people, often without punishment. However, in this instance we see a cowardly side to the Klan.)
  - Why is this event such a victory for all people who were targeted by the Klan? (Explain to students that the Klan did not make another appearance in Robeson County until 1984, when a rally was held at a private farm. There were no incidents since there was visible law enforcement present.)
7. Teachers may also want to layer in the oral history interview with Daniel T. Blue (born 1949), who is an African-American who grew up in Robeson County, North Carolina, went to Duke Law School, and served as the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives in the early 1990s and a NC senator in 2009. From 8:40 to 14:17, he shares his experiences growing up in a tri-racial Robeson county, discussing segregation and his defiance of Jim Crow. From 15:01 – 17:58, he shares memories of the confrontation between Lumbee Indians and the Ku Klux Klan in the late 1950s. <https://soundcloud.com/sohp/daniel-t-blue?in=sohp/sets/2017-carolina-oral-history-teaching-fellows>.
- Questions to discuss if utilizing this clip:
- How does he describe segregation in Robeson County? Did anything he share surprise you? Explain.
  - Where was the one place things weren’t segregated and why do you think this was the case? (The farm)

- How many bathrooms were at the tobacco warehouses and why?
- How does Mr. Blue answer when asked if segregation influenced him?
- How did his attitude towards segregation change as he became a teenager? Even though he describes his defiance with a chuckle, what was potentially dangerous about this disregard?
- What does Mr. Blue remember about the Battle of Hayes Pond? How does he describe the event and its aftermath?

### Putting the Battle into Words

8. Explain to students that when word of the KKK being defeated by the Lumbee spread, a folk singer chose to honor the event by writing a song about the occurrence. "Malvina Reynolds, a social activist and prolific songwriter, had had a personal encounter with what she called the 'bedsheet boys.' According to her daughter, Nancy Schimmel, Klan members broke into the Reynolds home in the early 1930s. They punched Reynolds and beat her husband and father. When she heard about the Klan's setback, Reynolds gleefully wrote a song, 'The Battle of Maxton Field,' which became a modest hit for folk singer Pete Seeger. In it, she pokes fun at the Klan's notion that the Indians 'aren't real Americans' and they took off in fear when confronted." (Source: [www.lumbeetribe.com](http://www.lumbeetribe.com))
9. Provide students with the attached copy of the song lyrics for students to read as they listen to the song. (Free recordings can typically be found by doing an internet search of "The Battle of Maxton Field, Pete Seger," or a copy of the song can be purchased via an internet search for \$0.99.)
10. After students listen to the song, discuss:
  - What is the mood of this song? How does it make you feel?
  - What do you think Malvina's purpose was in writing this song?
  - What commentary does the song make regarding the Klan? Note specific lines to back up your answers.
  - What does Malvina mean when she says that Klansmen get their "courage from a spigot?"
  - Who is the lonely KKK member left at the end of the song? Why does the song reference his wife beating him?
  - If you were to re-title this song, what would you call it and why?
  - Why is it important to remember the Battle of Hayes Pond and to honor the Lumbee for such a brave response to hate?
  - Consider the various ways we ensure that a particular history that we deem monumental or important is not forgotten and is honored/celebrated. What are some other ways (such as in song) the Battle of Hayes Pond can be remembered? (Chart student thoughts on the board.)

### Award for Outstanding Community Member

11. Project [slide11](#) and explain to students that since the Battle of Hayes Pond, the Lumbee have made remembering the event a priority. In fact, in January of 2008, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and the Indian Honor Association celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the routing of the Ku Klux Klan from Maxton. The festivities were held at the Indian Resource Center in Pembroke. Tribal Chairman Jimmy Goins commented, "This is just fantastic, to be able to honor our elders for their contributions and actions, while educating our youth on this historic battle". The tribe and Honor Association believe it is important to honor the ordinary people who stood up against bigotry and hatred, and to continue recognizing the brave Lumbee who fought back that night. Project the attached image of the Lumbee award and share the following with students:
  - "The tribe actually started paying tribute to those who stood up to the Klan in July 2004. The tribe honored 146 Lumbee men and women during its annual homecoming celebration. Each received a medallion engraved with 'Lumbee Warrior' and '1958' surrounding the tribe's logo. Their names were recently read in a January 2008 ceremony. "We want to take the time to honor these heroes who fought against the injustice and bigotry of the KKK," said Tribal Chairman Jimmy Goins. 'They stood not just for the Lumbees, but for all minorities.' It is important for the tribe to remember the service of its

forefathers,' Alex Baker, the tribe's public relations manager said. 'We should never forget their contributions that impact us today,' he said. 'It is because of them, people like me and others don't have to feel the hatred of the KKK.'"

Sources: [http://fayobserver.com/app/shared\\_images/battle\\_of\\_maxton\\_field/](http://fayobserver.com/app/shared_images/battle_of_maxton_field/);  
[http://www.lumbeetribe.com/single-post/2016/1/18/Tribe-Commemorates-58th-anniversary-of-Battle-of-Hayes-Pond?Itemid=27&id=172&option=com\\_content&view=article](http://www.lumbeetribe.com/single-post/2016/1/18/Tribe-Commemorates-58th-anniversary-of-Battle-of-Hayes-Pond?Itemid=27&id=172&option=com_content&view=article)

12. Discuss:

- What did the Tribal Chairman mean when he said, "We want to take the time to honor these heroes who fought against the injustice and bigotry of the KKK. They stood not just for the Lumbees, but for all minorities..."?
- According to Alex Baker, why is the tribe presenting awards for something that took place in the 1950s? Do you agree or disagree with his comment that "It is important for the tribe to remember the service of its forefathers. We should never forget their contributions that impact us today"? Explain.
- What do you notice about the award that was designed for the Lumbee who participated? (Encourage students to examine the attached image of the award and comment on the text, colors, etc. and to make comments regarding what the award might stand for and mean to the people it was presented to.)

13. Project slide 12 and tell students that they will spend some time considering the importance of the actions of the Lumbee. Tell them to imagine that there will be an awards ceremony this year to again honor those "ordinary people...standing up to bigotry and hatred," and that they have been selected to design the award that will be presented to the Lumbee. Project and/or explain the following assignment:

**Create the "Outstanding Community Member Award"**

Congratulations! You have been selected to serve on a committee that will design an award to honor the Lumbee who stood up for themselves and their community members at the January 18, 1958 Klan rally at Hayes Pond, NC. Being an active and engaged member of your community and fighting for justice are special traits, and it is important to recognize those who dedicate themselves to such.

Consider why the Lumbee did what they did, what they risked in taking such actions, and what their actions meant for other minorities who had been harassed by the Klan. Then, design an award that you feel appropriately represents their contribution and honors what the Lumbee did on January 18, 1958. The award you design can be a common award type (a certificate, a plaque, etc.) or can be more creative and abstract (a statue, a physical shape symbolic of the Lumbee and their actions, etc.) The purpose is to be creative and show why the Lumbee are being honored with the design of your award.

14. Students can complete this culminating activity in class or for homework. Teachers are encouraged to display the student created awards and allow the class time to view and discuss the various award designs once they are turned in.

**Optional Activity**

15. On July 5, 2018, a historical marker honoring the Battle of Hayes pond was dedicated by the NC Department of Cultural Resources and the Office of Archives and History. Distribute the attached article and have students read it aloud as a class. Discuss the following questions:

- What is the process for erecting a historical marker?
- Why do you think it was an easy decision for the historical commission to dedicate a marker to the Battle of Hayes Pond?
- Why do you think it took almost 60 years for a marker to be erected?
- Share the attached image. Ask students, what does the historical marker say?

16. Assign one of the following or both activities to students:

a. **Design your own historical marker.**

You have been asked by the NC Department of Cultural Resources to design a historical marker for the Battle of Hayes Pond. Unlike most historical markers, which are only one sentence, this one will be 3-4 sentences. Use the following question to help guide your thinking when designing the marker: What do you think people should know about the Battle of Hayes Pond in 3 sentences?

b. **Write a dedication speech.**

You have been asked by the NC Department of Cultural Resources to give a speech at the dedication ceremony for the Battle of Hayes Pond historical marker. Ask students to write a 3-5 minute speech that explains the events of the Battle of Hayes Pond, explains why we should remember this event, and how it can relate to our lives today.

**NORTH CAROLINA  
KNIGHTS OF THE  
KU KLUX  
KLAN**

Will Hold A Klan Rally and Cross Burning  
*Maxton, N. C.*  
Between P.J.C. and HAYES POND

**Sat. Nite Jan. 18**  
**8:00 P. M.**

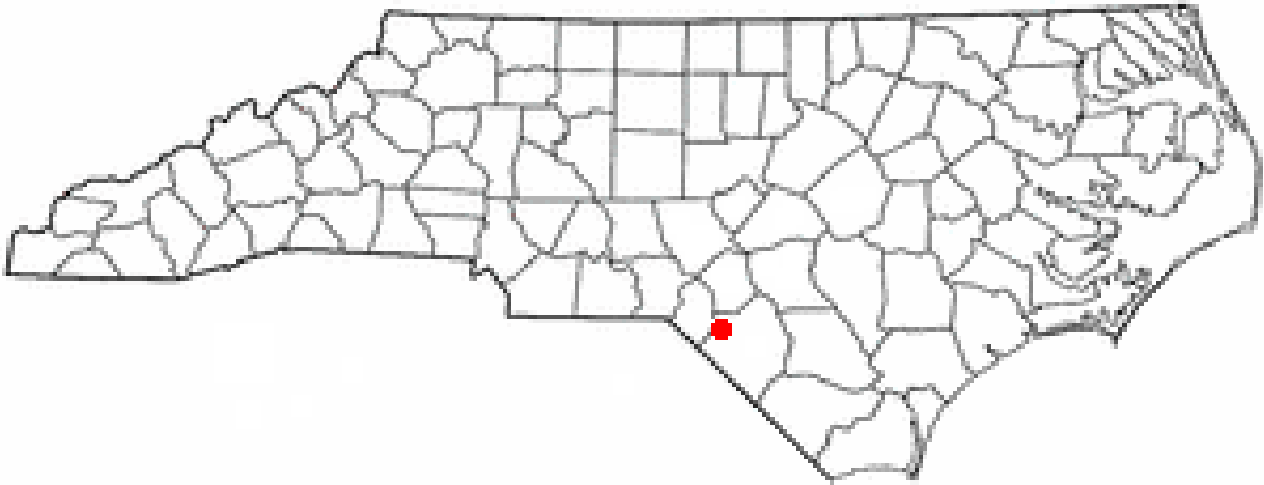
HEAR THE KLAN KLUDD SPEAK ON  
**"Why I Believe In Segregation"**

If Interested In Our Constitutional Rights, Write  
P. O. Box 261, Chadwick Station, CHARLOTTE, N. C.  
APPROVED BY THE GRAND WIZARD

Source: [http://www.fayobserver.com/special/battle\\_of\\_maxton\\_field/#](http://www.fayobserver.com/special/battle_of_maxton_field/#)



Location of Maxton, NC



## The Battle of Hayes Pond

The Battle of Hayes Pond refers to an armed confrontation between the Ku Klux Klan and Lumbee Native Americans near Maxton, North Carolina on the night of January 18, 1958.

During the 1950s, the Ku Klux Klan waged a campaign of terror throughout the American South. In 1957, Klan Wizard James W. "Catfish" Cole of South Carolina began a campaign of harassment against his neighbors to the north, the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County, North Carolina. Declaring the Lumbee to be "mongrels," Cole told newspapers: "There's about 30,000 half-breeds up in Robeson County and we are going to have some cross burnings and scare them up."

The new year began with a wave of Klan terror. On January 13, 1958, a group of Klansmen burned a cross on the lawn of a Lumbee woman in the town of St. Pauls, North Carolina as "a warning" because she was "having an affair" with a white man. The Klan held still more cross burnings while Cole traveled throughout the county speaking out against the "mongrelization" of the races.

Pleased with the Klan's campaign of terror directed against the Lumbees, Cole planned a massive Klan rally to be held on January 18, 1958, near the small town of Maxton, North Carolina. Cole predicted that 5,000 rallying Klansmen would remind the Lumbees of "their place." Cole hoped that his efforts at cowing the Lumbee into submission would consolidate his control over the Klan in the Carolinas.

"He said that, did he?" asked Simeon Oxendine, who headed the Lumbee chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Oxendine has flown more than thirty missions against the Germans in World War II. "Well, we'll just wait and see."

Not surprisingly, Cole's speeches, particularly his inflammatory references to the "loose morals" of Lumbee women, provoked anger among the Lumbees. Robeson County Sheriff Malcolm McLeod went to see Cole and told him that "his life would be in danger if he came to Maxton and made the same speech he'd been making." Cole proceeded with his plans undeterred. He was convinced that a strong show of force would prove an unequivocal demonstration of white supremacy and put an end to what he perceived to be rampant "race mixing" in Robeson County.

On the night of the battle, only 50 Klansmen out of the planned 5,000 arrived at the designated rally point, gathering in a dark field alongside the road, lit only by a single bulb powered by a portable generator. However, before Cole could begin the rally, over 500 well armed Lumbee appeared, fanned out across the highway and encircled the assembled Klansmen. When Cole began to speak, a Lumbee smashed the light bulb with his rifle and the hundreds of Lumbee gathered began making whooping noises and shot their rifles into the air.

Panicked, the Klansmen scattered, abandoning their unlit cross and leaving their public address system and Klan regalia behind. Four Klansmen were wounded in the first volley fired by the Lumbee, but none were seriously injured. James W. "Catfish" Cole reportedly fled so fast that he left his wife behind and escaped through a nearby swamp. The Lumbees then helped Mrs. Cole push her car out of the ditch where she had gotten it stuck during the panic.

After the battle, the Lumbee held a "victory party", burned the Klan's abandoned regalia, and danced around an open fire. The Battle of Hayes Pond is remembered as one of the most significant events in Lumbee history and is celebrated annually as a Lumbee holiday. Moreover, the Battle of Hayes Pond received national attention. Newspapers mocked the Klan and praised the Lumbee. In fact, the cover of Life magazine featured a photograph of a proud Simeon Oxendine wrapped in a KKK banner he had confiscated during the event. North Carolina Governor Luther H. Hodges denounced the Klan in a press statement and the embarrassed James W. "Catfish" Cole was prosecuted, convicted, and served a two-year sentence for inciting a riot.

Sources: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Hayes\\_Pond](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Hayes_Pond) ;  
<http://www.lumbeetribe.com/Press%20Room/50th%20Celebration%20of%20Battle%20at%20Hayes%20Pond.html>;  
[http://fayobserver.com/app/shared\\_images/battle\\_of\\_maxton\\_field/](http://fayobserver.com/app/shared_images/battle_of_maxton_field/)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Battle of Hayes Pond Discussion Questions

1. Why were Klan members terrorizing the Lumbee in the 1950s?
2. Cole predicted 5,000 Klansmen would show up to the rally. In actuality, how many Klansmen came? How many Lumbee came? Why do you think the numbers turned out this way?
3. How would you characterize the Lumbee who showed up at the rally?
4. Why do you think so many Lumbee showed up to defend themselves? How might this rally have turned out differently had not so many Lumbee attended?
5. Once the Klan was outnumbered, how did they respond? How would you characterize their response?
6. How does the image in your mind of the Klan retreating in this way differ than many of the images we generally envision of the Klan?
7. Why is this event such a victory for all people who were (and are) targeted by the Klan?
8. Why is it important to remember the Battle of Hayes Pond and to honor the Lumbee for such a brave response to hate?
9. Consider the various ways we ensure particular history that we deem monumental or important is not forgotten and is honored/celebrated. What are some specific ways The Battle of Hayes Pond can be remembered?

Lumbee Men (Simeon Oxedine [left] and Charlie Warriax with Captured KKK Flag





Source: [http://www.fayobserver.com/special/battle\\_of\\_maxton\\_field/#](http://www.fayobserver.com/special/battle_of_maxton_field/#)

## Lumbee Award



Source: [http://www.fayobserver.com/special/battle\\_of\\_maxton\\_field/#](http://www.fayobserver.com/special/battle_of_maxton_field/#)

## The Battle of Maxton Field

by Malvina Reynolds

**Notes:** In the Notes to her songbook *Little Boxes and Other Handmade Songs* Malvina writes: "In the town of Maxton, N. C., in March 1958, the Ku Klux Klan planned a rally to take down the Lumbee Indians of the area who seemed to think they had some rights--they had their own mayor of their own town, and lived on good terms with the people thereabouts."

Oh have you seen the bedsheet boys  
The terrors of the night  
They rallied here at Maxton  
Just honin' for a fight.  
Oh, rally round, you Klansmen boys  
But do not show your face.  
We'll burn the fiery cross tonight  
And save the Nordic race.

CHORUS:

Oh the Klan,  
Oh the Klan,  
It calls on ev'ry red blood fighting man  
Who is free and white and bigot,  
Gets his courage from a spigot,  
They be needing reinforcements  
For the fight

The Indians, the Indians,  
They are our natural foe,  
They lure our girls with coke and pie  
And take them to the show,  
They wear blue jeans and leather coats,  
But anyone can see,  
They are not real Americans  
The like of you and me.

The headlights shone,  
the Klansmen stood  
In circle brave and fine,  
When suddenly a whoop was heard  
That curdled every spine,  
An Indian youth with steely eyes,  
He sauntered in alone,  
He calmly drew his shootin' iron  
And conked the microphone.

CHORUS

Another shot, the lights went out,  
There was a moment's hush,  
Then a hundred thousand Lumbee boys  
Came screaming from the brush.  
Well, maybe not a million quite,

But surely more than four,  
And the Klansmen shook from head to foot  
And headed for the door.

The coppers they were down the road,  
They did not lift a gun.  
They heard the noise, they said, "The boys  
Are having a little fun."  
But when they saw the nightshirt lads  
Trooping down the road,  
They knew that something went amiss,  
The wrong switch had been throwed.

One lonely Klansman in the brush  
The Coopers chance to find  
He ran away and left me here behind  
He staggered home that greenish morn to greet his loving wife  
She beat him with a rolling pin for losing her kitchen knife

CHORUS

*Recording available at:*

<http://new.music.yahoo.com/pete-seeger/tracks/battle-of-maxton-field--183429789>





## Lumbee's KKK rout gets historical marker

MAXTON — Hayes Pond near Maxton is sacred ground for the Lumbee, and on Thursday it got a historic highway marker near the place where the Lumbee drove the Ku Klux Klan from Robeson County a little more than 60 years ago.

It was fitting that the sign, located at N.C. 130 and Hayes Pond Road, was dedicated during the week of 50th Lumbee Homecoming. Woodrow Dial, who was 17 when he and several hundred Lumbee men confronted the Klan at their called meeting, helped unveil the marker.

"I didn't fire my gun," Dial said. "The KKK never did show themselves."

Ancel Maynor, who also was there, said, "They didn't even say goodbye."

When the Klan was gone, the news traveled around the world.

The sign reads: "The Battle of Hayes Pond: The Lumbee and other American Indians ousted the Ku Klux Klan from Maxton, January 18, 1958, at a rally one-half mile west."

It is the 16th historical roadside marker in Robeson County and the 1,601st for North Carolina, according to Keven Cherry, deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and director of the Office of Archives and History.

"The local community said 'no' to the Klan and 'no' to injustices and 'no' to hate," Cherry said. "That was a battle they fought for all of us."

Only a handful of Klansmen showed up for the rally that was called by a South Carolina KKK leader named Catfish Cole. Gunfire from the Lumbee prompted the outnumbered Klan to retreat quickly, with no casualties on either side.

"It's not easy to get a historical marker," Cherry said. "We get hundreds of applications each year for 10 markers."

A committee of 10 historians makes the decision with the only guidance that the event or person must be of statewide significance. The decision about Hayes Pond was an easy one, Cherry said.

A member of the selection committee was on hand. Jaime Martinez, who teaches history at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, also initiated the application as a history project.

"It was a class project that I hoped would connect my students outside the classroom," Martinez said. "It worked well."

Chapell Brock was in Martinez' class and helped write the proposal with seven classmates.

"It was eye-opening," Brock said. "We attended the final meeting of the selection committee, which went very quickly."

Brock and his classmates got the approval of the Lumbee Tribe before proceeding. It was a memorable history lesson, he said.

“This was extraordinary for 1958,” Brock said. “It influenced how the state would shut down the Klan’s future events.

“It was one of the earliest civil rights events in that era. For the Lumbee, it’s a huge matter of pride.”

A small gathering that included UNCP Chancellor Robin Cummings attended the unveiling and remembered many of the men who participated in the event. Almost all of them have passed away, Dial said.

“I was one of the youngest there,” Dial said. “I went with my father.”

“It was news that went around the world,” he added.

Lumbee Tribal Chairman Harvey Godwin Jr., who delivered the State of the Tribe Address earlier Thursday and dedicated a memorial to the Battle of Hayes Pond at tribal headquarters, called it “a good day.”

“This was a long time coming, but I’m glad it happened,” Godwin said.

By Scott Bigelow

Staff writer

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