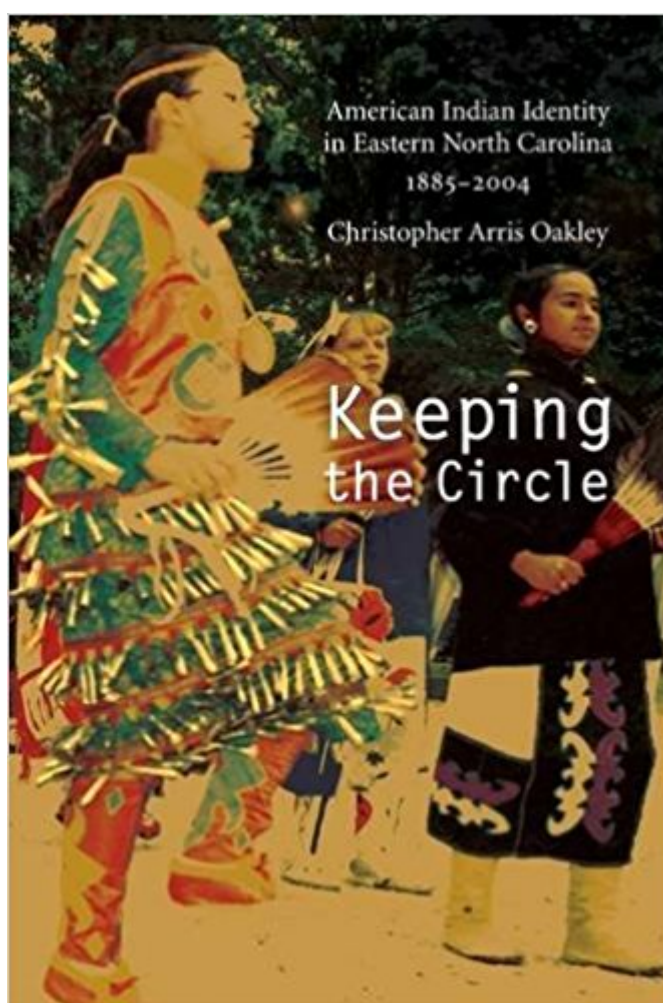


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Keeping The Circle: American Indian Identity In Eastern North Carolina, 1885-2004 (Indians Of The Southeast)



Synopsis

Keeping the Circle presents an overview of the modern history and identity of the Native peoples in twentieth-century North Carolina, including the Lumbees, the Tuscaroras, the Waccamaw Sioux, the Occaneechis, the Meherrins, the Haliwa-Saponis, and the Coharies. From the late 1800s until the 1930s, Native peoples in the eastern part of the state lived and farmed in small isolated communities. Although relatively insulated, they were acculturated, and few fit the traditional stereotype of an Indian. They spoke English, practiced Christianity, and in general lived and worked like other North Carolinians. Nonetheless, Indians in the state maintained a strong sense of "Indianness." The political, social, and economic changes effected by the New Deal and World War II forced Native Americans in eastern North Carolina to alter their definition of Indianness. The paths for gaining recognition of their Native identity in recent decades have varied: for some, identity has been achieved and expressed on a local stage; for others, sense of self is linked inextricably to national issues and concerns. Using a combination of oral history and archival research, Christopher Arris Oakley traces the strategic response of these Native groups in North Carolina to postwar society and draws broader conclusions about Native American identity in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century.

Book Information

Series: Indians of the Southeast

Paperback: 196 pages

Publisher: University of Nebraska Press (September 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080322253X

ISBN-13: 978-0803222533

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #268,297 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in Books > History > Americas > Canada > First Nations #628 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies #835 in Books > History > Americas > Native American

Customer Reviews

"Well written, informative, and important. Part of the University of Nebraska Press"

fine series on "Indians of the Southeast" . . . Such work has been neglected in larger studies of southern race relations, just as Native Americans have been neglected in narratives of twentieth-century American history. "American Historical Review (American Historical Review)" "Oakley's bonus is a lucid, eloquent discussion of how federal policies and changes in US culture affected the course of Indian history, particularly in North Carolina. G. Gagnon, "Choice (Choice)" "Everyone interested in southern or Native American history should pick up this eminently readable book. . . . The book's accessible prose and straightforward organization make it ideal for use in undergraduate courses. . . . By telling the story of Indians in postbellum North Carolina, Keeping the Circle represents an important step toward a more inclusive narrative of Southern history. Helpfully, Oakley concludes his book with a bibliographic essay for those who wish to further develop this rich, but often ignored, aspect of the region's past." "H-Net Book Reviews, H-North Carolina (H-Net Book Reviews, H-North Carolina 2008-06-09)

Christopher Arris Oakley is an assistant professor of history at East Carolina University.

I read this for my North Carolina Indians Class. Before I read this text, I had no knowledge of any Indians in NC besides a vague notion about the Cherokees in the mountains. Needless to say, this was illuminating and I'm very happy that I was able to learn so much about the many different groups of Indians that inhabit North Carolina. Especially enjoyed the legend of Henry Berry Lowry and the "Battle" (or utter beatdown) of Maxton Field

Dr. Oakley presents a book that is comprehensive in nature including research and historical accounts of what is passed down orally in the Eastern Band Tribes. Having lived there for only a bit of time, he recounted some of the same stories that I had heard of Henry B. Lowry. I am soon to teach @ UNC-Pembroke and feel this is a must read for anyone inside and outside the Native American culture in Eastern North Carolina and throughout the Carolinas.

I was really excited to get to read this book, and though it is mostly well written and readability is good, the basics of research have not been held. There are several areas that should have been sourced, or more clearly sourced. A total shame and maybe if there are future editions these errors will be corrected.

This is an excellent book for anyone searching their geneology for connections to American Indian Nations in North Carolina. It is a well written history book that is interesting to read. I have trouble putting it down and wait anxiously to pick it up again.

While Oakley's text is moderately engaging and provides an interesting approach to the identity issue among Indians in the specific topics, the text, in places, is not particularly well researched. The background information contains numerous errors and misleading statements, and the citations are lacking. That is to say, some of the information discussed in the general narrative does not have a proper source. Oakley misses facts that could be easily verified, which makes the rest of the text questionable. The text does not lack value and does offer a very relevant discussion on the topic, but it is important to read it with a critical eye.

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