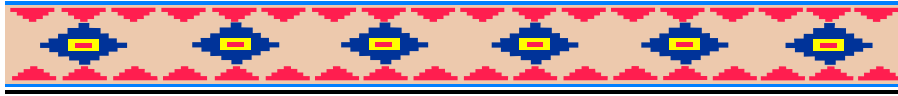


ReThinking the Notion of Waccamaw Indians



Introduction

Since I have been teaching Cultural Anthropology at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Chief Buster Hatcher of the Waccamaw Indian People Tribe and his wife Susan Haynes-Hatcher have discussed with many of my anthropology classes their cultural traditions, unique customs, and compelling history. Students have experienced the taste of buffalo, sat in tipis, danced at the annual PauPaws, prayed at the Fire Circles, and witnessed various other cultural expressions of the Waccamaw Indian People.

Students have learned first-hand what it means to be Waccamaw Indians and the trials and tribulations that the Tribal members are facing in modern times as they strive to maintain their sense of humanity. In the pages that follow, students are sharing their reflections about Waccamaw Indian People Tribe. I believe that their essays are a sincere effort to understand the plight of the Waccamaw Indians and to encourage strength and hope as they continue to fight against racial discrimination. My students' writings are created from their own cultural sensibilities and within their social context and practices, which makes each essay authentic. ✨

Special thanks to the Waccamaw Indian People Tribe for allowing the anthropology students at Horry-Georgetown Technical College to publish their essays on this website. Additionally, I want to thank English, Professor Kim Shegog from Horry-Georgetown Technical College for all of her editorial contributions in making this project a success.

Thank you,

Tracey Graham, Professor of Anthropology



Tabatha H. Williamson

The Right Remains

Federal laws will not allow Waccamaw Indians to receive their ancestral remains so that they can rebury them. Do you think the Waccamaw Indians as well as other tribes deserve a proper burial for their ancestors?

Everyone in this world wants to give proper burials to loved ones. People want to do this out of respect and as a way of coming to closure. What if it were against the law for you to bury your ancestors' remains? It is a fact that federal laws will not allow Waccamaw Indians to receive their ancestors' remains so they can be buried. I strongly disagree with this for several reasons. I believe the Waccamaw Indians should be given the remains of their ancestors. I believe this because it would be respectful. They contribute to society as much as anyone else and it is unnecessary to take this right away from them.

To begin with, I think that giving the Waccamaw Indians their ancestors' remains would be respectful. I believe this because everyone else gets this right, and to forbid them from that right seems evil. I could not imagine myself in their shoes. I would feel so empty not being able to properly bury my loved ones. I think it is purely disrespectful for the government to take this away from the Indians. This is one reason why I think the Waccamaw Indians should be given the remains of their ancestors.

Second, I believe that the Waccamaw Indians contribute to society as much as anyone else, and that makes me feel like they should be able to properly bury their ancestors' remains. For example, Buster Hatcher is the chief of the Waccamaw Indians, and he is a Vietnam Veteran and retired from the Military. He fought for our country, but he cannot have the privilege of a proper burial of his ancestors. This is horrible after all he has done for our country, and his service is not even taken into consideration. This is another reason why I think this law is unfair.

A third reason why I believe this law is not just is because it is unnecessary to take this right away from them. There is absolutely no reason any person, not just Indians, should have to deal with fighting as hard as they do to be able to give their ancestors a proper burial. They have struggled for so long, and I cannot think of one reason why they should not be given the remains of their ancestors. They fight and struggle to get this right that is given to everyone else! Why are the rest of the people in this world not fighting for the same right? I believe this is because it is simply a right.. This is a third reason I believe they should be able to properly bury their own ancestors' remains.

Thus, these are all legitimate reasons why I believe the Waccamaw Indians should be given this right. I think this law should be done away with. I believe they have fought it for long enough. They do enough to help our country, and they should be returned the favor. Like every individual in this world, they are human beings. We all are. I believe it should be intolerable, and they should be allowed some closure. The rest of the world is allowed closure. Why exclude them? I believe they should be given the remains of their

ancestors out of respect because they do contribute to our society and because it is not necessary to take this right away from the Waccamaw Indians.



Carsen Cagle

Question: Federal law will not allow Waccamaw Indians to receive their ancestral remains so that they can rebury them. Do you think that the Waccamaw Indians as well as other tribes deserve a proper burial for their ancestors?

The Waccamaw Indian tribe as well as other local and national tribes are working together to get the Federal Government to release over 600 sets of Indian remains stored in cardboard boxes in state museums. There are laws that are enforced and will not allow them to be returned to their people for a proper burial. In my opinion, I do not see this as fair. These remains or “artifacts” that are now in the museums were dug up. This is simply a disgrace. All White and Black graveyards are protected from such actions as these. I think it is very important to respect the dead. People, as a whole, do not want anyone messing with the remains of a family member. The Indians want to rebury their dead and do not find a cardboard box as a reasonable answer.

In 1994, there was a store opened that sold Indian artifacts. They sold several Indian items such as buckskin dresses and leggings. One of the shelves had a pair of moccasins that still had the skeletal feet inside. Obviously these items were taken, but nothing was done to stop it. The Waccamaw Indians finally fought for their rights and the store eventually had to close down.

In the United States, we believe in our rights. If we really stand for that belief, then we need to allow the Indian people to have the same rights. I can't even comprehend us allowing any grave to be dug up. Those are the remains of family members to some. I know I would have a fit if someone dug up the graves of my family members, especially if it was my two little girls. I feel that this is a lack of respect. All people who dig up the remains of the dead deserve for someone to dig up the remains of their family. The Indians are not asking much. All they want is for the government to release the remains so they can bury them properly. This is not much to ask for. I believe that we should try to help them in any way possible. It's simply the right thing to do.



John Mason

Why do you think the Waccamaw Indians are not federally recognized in the United States?

I grew up in Bryson City, North Carolina, which is located about 10 from the Cherokee Indian Reservation. So, I feel like I have a little insight into the lives of Native Americans. According to my research, there are 564 federally recognized Indian tribes. (Why aren't all Indian tribes recognized?) You may ask. To answer that question we need to look at what it is to be recognized by the federal government.

As federally recognized Indian tribes, the United States recognizes the right of these tribes to a self-government, tribal sovereignty and self-determination. These tribes possess the right to establish the legal requirements for membership. They may form their

own government, enforce laws (both civil and criminal), regulate activities, zoning, and exclude persons from their tribal territories. Limitations on tribal powers of self-government include the same limitations applicable to states; for example, neither tribes nor states have the power to make war, engage in foreign relations, or coin money.

I personally feel that the reason that the Federal government doesn't recognize all Native American tribes is this action would allow the government to lose power over the land. If Indians have the right to govern themselves, then why would we need the United States government? Also, what if enough Indian tribes banded together and decided that they were going to take back all their land? This would start another type of civil war. I call it a civil war because now we are all American citizens. Everyone's voice is heard. The government may not listen to us but voices are heard. These rights were given to us by our forefathers so that everyone would have a chance at freedom. In a perfect world, every Indian tribe would be federally recognized and everyone would be happy, but this isn't a perfect world. So, do we give up? No, we continue to fight for the rights we deserve and one day the federal government will see the error of its ways. SO DON'T GIVE UP!!!



Chelsie Singletary

In your own words, describe what a Waccamaw Indian look like.

Whenever people look at others the first thing they tend to determine is their race. This is a major problem as the color of someone's skin does not always determine a person's heritage. Native Americans, such as the Waccamaw Indians, are all too often denied as being Native Americans only because they do not fit the visual perception most have ideally created in their minds. But, who is to say what Native Americans look like and exactly who has the right to deny someone of their heritage. Native Americans are the only race in this country that has to prove who they are. This concept of an "ideal Native American" has affected opinions of them from the very beginning. Whenever Christopher Columbus came to the America's he encountered these people who were of a race he had not encountered before. They were not black nor were they white. Not only did he not understand what they looked like, he also did not understand how they communicated. He attempted to talk to them through sign language, but some of the things he pointed at had totally different meanings to them. Because they did not communicate like he did, Columbus automatically assumed that they were ignorant, as this was not the case; they were simply misunderstood.

Although it is not necessary, most Native Americans do possess some of the same characteristics. An automatic visual characteristic that is easily seen would be the common high cheek bones that almost all Native Americans have. They also tend to have shovel shaped incisors and are usually flat footed. Native Americans can have brown or blonde hair but whatever the case may be, their hair usually turns grey early. As far as the color of their skin, many are tan or dark skinned, but this does vary. Back in the segregated days, rather than provide a whole different school, the government would decide what they looked more like and that would be the school Native Americans

would attend. In one case, a brother went to a colored school while his sister attended a white school. So as you can see, skin color is not a good way to determine if someone is Native American or not. There may be many ways to tell what a Native American looks like, but I think I would have to pose a different question; "Should it matter what a Native American looks like?" I really don't think it should. I don't have to show my genealogy just to be able to prove my heritage. Why should anyone else?



William Golden

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like?

Everyone's definition of a Waccamaw Indian may be different. Before they walked into our classroom for their presentation, I thought they would be wearing bearskins and bones with feathers and no shoes. I also thought that the reason why they were late was because they were walking; I didn't know that they actually drove cars. Even though this might seem bad and very stereotypical, this was the way I perceived, visually, the Waccamaw Indians. I saw them this way because growing up I was taught that they live in tipis and huts and all they did was hunt animals. In today's society, they do the same things that we do such as drive, work, text, and hang out with friends. Listening to the chief and his wife speak in class made me realize that they had struggles just like other Americans. I always knew this, but I didn't actually believe this was true until they talked about it during their presentation. Sometimes this is what it takes in order to get something through until you understand. Listening to them speak helped me

learn about them and what they went through. This was hard for them, and some of the rights we have today they still don't have, such as the right to practice their own religion. To me, this seems to be unfair. Living in America, you should be able to practice the religion of your choice, but when you're not able to do that it shows a form of disrespect of one's background and religion. Waccamaw Indians went through a lot and are still going through adversity in modern times. Now that I have met them, I look at them very differently because they have shown me that just because you don't get what you want don't stop fighting for it. A Waccamaw Indian does not actually look like an Indian. His/her pride is a part of their cultural background. Indians are perceived in a different way, and Waccamaw Indians don't necessarily look like actual Indians. Their outer appearance is not what makes them an Indian but their pride!



Stephanie Wedgeworth

Public Law 101 – 644

Public law 10- 644 bars Indian artists from advertising for sale any craft as “Indian Art” unless that person is recognized by either the Federal or state government as an Indian Artist. In South Carolina, there is no state recognition; therefore, Indian artists cannot even earn a living – marketing their craft. However, the Waccamaw Indians investigated other ethnic groups in the state of South Carolina and found out that they are NOT restricted to this law. What are your thoughts on this situation?

Public law 101 – 644 says that it is against the law for Indian Artists to advertise for sale any craft as “Indian Art” unless that person is recognized by either state or government as an Indian Artist. This law stands against everything the United States

stands for. How can we as a country say that everyone is free, then turn around and tell one specific culture it can't claim its arts and crafts as being "Indian Art"? This Law is not right by any means, and it takes rights away from people who are clearly American citizens.

As a person who has grown up in the United States, I have always believed that America is a wonderful place because people are free to express themselves as they please. Public law 101 – 644 destroys that whole image I had created in my mind. Are we, as Americans, going to start telling Latin Americans they can't sell their arts and crafts as "Latin American Art" unless the government recognizes them as such? Or, how about if an African American wants to sell their arts and crafts as "African Art"? How about Irish Americans? Will they have a law too, telling them they can't sell "Irish Art" due to not being recognized as an Irishmen? As a country that prides ourselves on allowing people the rights to express themselves however they please, whenever they please, how are we going to tell one specific group of people they can't do that unless the government recognizes them as being Native American? This law clearly violates their rights as American citizens. In school, with friends and family, I've always been taught that we, as Americans, have the right to freedom of speech, religion, expression, and press. The United States Constitution clearly states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Now, what I can't seem to understand is where in that little chunk of the Constitution it states that Native

Americans can't lay claim to their pieces of work and art unless the government recognizes them as such.

There is no justice within Public law 101 – 644, and so many violations have been made by the US government towards Native Americans. This law is not only unfair and unjust, but it makes no sense whatsoever. Yes, I understand that in past history the new settler that came from England and from other parts of the world thought it was okay to take from Native Americans. During that time in history the Natives had something those settlers wanted. Are we so much like those settlers long ago that we would be so selfish and so unfair to take from the Native Americans their sense of pride and their identity? Whether the US Government wants to admit it or not, it is wrong and this injustice needs to be righted. Public Law 101 – 644 makes no sense and has so many violations within it that it is crucial for Americans to stand together and help Native Americans right this wrong done to them.



Lauren Eaddy

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like?

The Waccamaw Indians are from Conway, South Carolina. They are descendants of a group of people who lived and farmed in the area of South Carolina now known as Dog Bluff. European contact nearly wiped out the Waccamaw. They were used and forced into slavery. The king ordered that all Indian slaves had to be freed. So the people

on the plantations tried to turn them black. People in America tried to identify people either being black or white and the Native Americans did not fit this profile, so they divided in their own group. This caused them to maintain the Native look for the most part. They dressed their own way, used their resources that they were taught, and it just made them visually different in the eyes of everyone else.

When the Waccamaw Indians visited our anthropology class, the chief looked like an Indian, but his wife looked more like a Caucasian woman. This does not mean she was not a true Waccamaw Indian. Because of the mixing of the cultures when the Europeans arrived, this is a result of why the Natives have this mix of visual appearances. They dress like normal and everyday people. That really surprised me because I thought they would be dressed in Indian clothes such as Pocahontas. With our modern technology and clothing, they also converted to the normal way of life just like the rest of us. Some people, such as myself, thought they still wore all those long homemade dresses and outfits like we see in movies, but they really don't. The chief said you can sometimes visually tell when someone is an Indian. They have flat feet, an indentation in the back of their head, and darker tan skin. I have flat feet and I have tan skin. This comes from my great grandfather being an Indian. I love how they make everything they wear in their community events from scratch. The chief's wife said she made everything she wore by herself. This makes what they wear even more special.

The visit from the Waccamaw Indians was a great learning experience for me. I learned that you can't judge a book by its cover, such as the chief's wife not looking so much like an Indian as he did. Also I learned that Indians do wear and do things such as what we do today. They are not stuck in living in Teepees and wearing those long dresses

and clothes like we see in movies. They wear exactly what we wear on an everyday basis. They had so much pride in how they live life and that is how we should start being. They loved the way they dressed and how they looked. All we do is worry about what other people think of us and changing styles. I really learned a lot from the Waccamaw Indians, such as what they visually looked like and so much more.



Jacobea M. Garrett

Waccamaw Indians

When I think about the Waccamaw Indians, the first word that comes to my mind to describe them is dedicated. I chose the word dedicated because it describes the Waccamaw Indians to me. The Waccamaw Indians are dedicated to their culture and their beliefs. The Waccamaw Indians have always been unrecognized by the federal government, even though they are the most regulated people in America today. They had to fight in order to have their voices heard and now, finally, their persistence has paid off because they are recognized by the federal government as a Indian tribe. If they were not dedicated, they would still be unrecognized. When the Waccamaw Indians visited our classroom to discuss their culture with us, I was amazed by their knowledge and their insight about where they came from. Even though they have had a very difficult time with society and the government accepting them, they have not allowed that to change their perception of who they are. Even though they have been prohibited from practicing their religious beliefs, they still have faith. They have not given up on their religion, but instead they are fighting to have a law passed that will allow them to practice their

religion and also be able to receive the remains of their ancestor that are being kept in museums. In reality, the average person would have given up or switched his religious beliefs. It is amazing how they hunted for their food many years ago. When they passed around the crafts, it was amazing to learn how they use all the parts of the animal for clothes, utensils, and other means. Even though it was many years ago, the tradition is still kept alive today. Even though they live in normal homes like all other human beings, they have not forgotten how their ancestors lived in earlier years. They still own teepees and have them on their property to remind them of their heritage. The Waccamaw Indians demonstrated a lot of pride in their heritage. Even though they have not had an easy journey when it comes to equal rights they have not given up. Instead, they are constantly fighting to receive equal rights that they deserve like everyone else. This type of courage shows dedication at the highest level.



Caroline May

Waccamaw Indians

When I think of Native American culture, many things come to mind. I envision dark, long haired men running through the open plains with a spear in their hand chasing after buffalo. I imagine a community of people sitting around a fire telling the stories of their ancestors. While these perceptions are true for some cultures and tribes of Indians, there are vast arrays of different characteristics for each group of Indian people. There are various Indian tribes all over the Unites States, each possessing a unique culture. Each

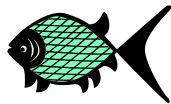
tribe does share certain aspects, but there are great differences in culture, dress, and language.

When the Waccamaw Indians made an appearance in class, they spoke of their culture how it is today and, generally, how it has been for centuries. While there are some differences today, such as living in a brick home rather than a tipi or a mud hut, they have carried out the same traditions that their forefathers did. Their dress, fashioned from animal hide, is strong and durable. Susan, the chief's wife, made her own regalia from animal hide and dyed it red. She also wore another important piece of Indian culture, jewelry. All tribes across the nation wear jewelry. Their jewelry is usually embellished with turquoise, red coral, or other natural stones that are accessible to them. Not only is their jewelry beautiful to the eye, it also has spiritual purposes that vary from tribe to tribe. Heishi jewelry from the Pueblo Indians was very intricate, while the fetish necklaces of the Zuni Indians were thought to be able to channel the power of the animal totems. The Indians also once used their jewelry as a form of currency to trade for goods, and it is still sold across the nation by nationally recognized tribes.

The Indians also made their own weapons from animal claws, bones, and anything else they were able to use. Culturally, these weapons and tools were very important to their well-being. Tools and weapons were used to hunt, gather, and construct shelters for their tribes. A major part of any Indian tribe's animal hunting and killing process is to use everything from the animal that they can. They see it as unethical to let an animal die in vain without using everything imaginable. Skin is dried to make hide to fashion clothes, fur is used for rugs and blankets, and even turtle shells are used to make rattles. Lastly, the Indians are very big on purity and their religion. The Waccamaw

Indians burn sage during many of their celebrations. They believe it is respectful to their God and allows the room and the soul to become pure. When the class witnessed this act, the Indian People used the same handmade, wooden bowl and bird of prey's feather that they have been using for years.

While the culture of Indians varies for tribe to tribe across the nation, they are all very strong, driven, and faithful souls. This is especially true in regards to the Waccamaw Indians because they have had to fight for what little they do have today.

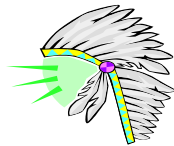


Katherine Small

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like?

Before we studied or even mentioned Native Americans in class, I always believed what Hollywood made them out to be. That is dark/medium complexion, long black thick hair, tribal tattoos, not much clothing, living in tee pees, and hunting for their food: Pretty much what the movie Pocahontas made them out to be. Now, take the Waccamaw Indians, specifically. Well, I figured the exact same. Yes, it is stupid to believe that in today's American society anything like that could be going on, but it was all I knew about Native Americans growing up. I wasn't told any different then what the movies showed about Native Americans. During the time of talking about the Waccamaw Indians, I got the chance to interact with them twice. One time was when two married Waccamaw Indians came to talk to our class. The husband looked like a so-called "typical Indian." He had the dark complexion, dark hair, and dark eyes. However, his wife was kind of a disappointment (not trying to be mean) because I

expected a dark skinned woman with long black braids, but she had more of a white skinned complexion, reddish/brown hair, and light eyes. She was not what I expected any Native American to look like at all! My second encounter with Native Americans was at an Indian PauWau. Many of them were as I expected them to look, but a few were not. For example, some had more of an African American complexion and some had more of a Caucasian complexion. So to answer the question: visually, what does a Waccamaw Indian look like? Well, there isn't a specific description. They are who they are, and whether they are black, medium, or white complexion they are unified as a tribe. They are there for each other like a big family. They are also very proud of their heritage; they show pride in what they represent, and I like that. I did learn, however, they do live in houses, drive cars, use technology, and shop at stores while wearing regular clothes! That would be a description of a Waccamaw Indian to me!



Lauren Cribb

Waccamaw Indians

Many people ask what does a Waccamaw Indian or an Indian in general actually look like? As children, we grow up watching the movie Pocahontas where we see how Indians dress in that children's movie. They wear only enough to cover themselves up and normally use animals to make their clothing attire. We also believe that they have a dark skin tone, sleep in teepees, and hunt in the woods. As we get older, the visual of what we saw as children continues to stick with us.

I discovered recently that all of those things are not true. A Waccamaw Indian looks just like an ordinary person. They have all different skin tones and live in a house just like us. On an everyday basis, they wear jeans and a t-shirt. Only on special days, such as festive gatherings, do they wear their Indian dresses and head dresses. Their outfits are handmade by the people who wear them. They also wear pretty jewelry that is handmade and, normally for the gatherings, have their hair braided.

Waccamaw Indians farmed on the area of Dog Bluff in South Carolina many years ago. Now they reside in Conway, South Carolina. Over the years, I am sure the dress code for the Waccamaw Indians has changed, but the Waccamaw Indians in present day look just like any average person looks today.

Although hard to believe, Waccamaw Indians are just like us. If we walked into a grocery store we wouldn't be able to pick them out of a group of people. Today, it is hard to say who has Indian ancestry and who does not. There are people who have some Indian ancestry but are not full blooded, but they still look exactly like we do on a regular basis when they are not going to a festive event to celebrate their heritage.



Nerfetiti Kinloch

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like?

Before my anthropology class had our presentation on the Waccamaw Indians of South Carolina, the only images of a Native American Indians were the images depicted on television. They were overly made up with painted red skins, feathers, loin clothes, and face paint. The visitors that came to our class were Buster and his wife Susan. They

are members of the Waccamaw Indian tribe of South Carolina.

Buster fits some of what I had imagined an Indian would look like. He was tall, broad-shouldered, his skin was bronze- like, and he also had the chiseled cheek bones that I assumed most Indians possessed. If I saw Buster walking down the street, I would immediately assume that he was of Indian descent. His wife Susan, on the other hand, didn't look anything like I thought she would.

If I saw Susan walking down the street I would assume that she didn't have a drop of Indian blood in her. Susan has long blonde hair. I've never seen a blonde haired Indian woman on television or in any pictures. As I looked at Susan, I began to see some of the same features I saw in Buster. She might have had blonde hair but she had the same chiseled features as Buster. I recently went to the annual Waccamaw Indian Pauwau, and I saw a lot of different types of Native Indians that looked like Buster. I saw some that resembled Susan. I also saw some that looked like me. I was totally amazed at the differences among the group of Indians. If Buster and Susan hadn't come to talk to our class, I would still have the images of the painted face red skinned Indian shown on television. Now I know that Indians come in all skin and hair colors just like any other race.



Azhanay Grant

When you think of Native American culture, what comes to your mind?

When most people hear the word Indians or Native Americans, their old traditions usually come to mind. These traditions include living in teepees, hunting wild animals,

piercings, and clothing made out of skin from animals. People usually get that stereotypical idea from the history books and how Indians may have been portrayed in some movies. Indians, as a whole, just like any other culture, have grown and evolved from what people may know about in the history books. In fact, they are much like you and me. However, when I think of the Native American culture, I'm reminded of their creativity, their determination, and their past and how much they've grown from it.

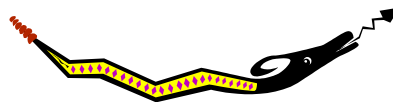
The Native Americans have always amazed me with their creativity. When I think about it, I'm reminded of how they used to, and some still do, make clothing from different animal skin and hides. I also remember how they used to make different utensils such as bowls, spoons, knives; they also made weapons for the use of hunting and protecting themselves. Both the utensils and weapons were made from trees, animal bones, or teeth from animals. They also used the hides from sheep, buffalo, and etc. to make blankets and sweaters whenever it got cold. They also made their homes from animal hides and other materials from their surroundings. I find their way of living then to be very efficient. I would call it survival of the fittest. They never spent money when it came to things like that. I find their creativity to very ingenious and resourceful. Who knows, we might have to start doing that. You never know.

The determination of these people surpasses the usual; I guess a person can say. When I think of their determination, I'm reminded of how they fought and are still fighting to get things the way they want it. This reminds me of when we had the Indian couple visit the Anthropology class; they were discussing with the class how they have certain rituals and different things to do when it comes to religion, which they are allowed to do because of "the law of the land" so to speak. They also told us how they

fought for the rights to perform traditional marriages, and that they did win that case. However, they are still fighting the government for the remains of their ancestors; this has been a battle going on for a while now. The way the Indians put up such a strong fight for what they believe in and what they stand for helps me to see that their culture and beliefs are something very important to them. I think it is outstanding that they never seem to lose sight of where they came from.

The Indians' past was very rough; they had to go through many things. Back when they were first discovered as being the first people to reside in America, they were treated unfairly. They were separated from the tribes and had contracted diseases from the Europeans. Many were killed in battles over land and authority. However, today they seem to be very strong people who didn't let anything bring them down. They still fight for what they feel is right for their people, which I see nothing wrong with. I feel they should do what they feel what is by all means necessary. I see their determination is very strong.

In conclusion, the way I view Indians is the same way I view anyone else that is from a different culture, race, or country. I view everyone as equal; I do not discriminate against anyone. I feel that everyone should be able to do what his or her culture or religion consists of as long as it doesn't affect or harm anyone else. Nevertheless, the Indians creativity, determination, and how much they've grown from their past, I feel, has pretty much made them and evolved them into the people they are today.



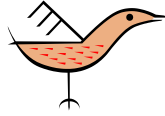
Dezariea J Cooper--Young

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like?

As Americans, we view different races of people as all of them looking alike, which is never true. Everyone is individually different and every race has distinct features, variation in ways and in speech depending on where you were raised, that set them apart from their race or family. In viewing the Pauwau of all the different multitude of Indians that was presented, I saw the faces of Indians that were different in color, dialect and size. As they sang and danced, they were proud to be who they are and to represent a nation of people that once lived and roamed freely on land they called home.

I thought all Indians looked alike and had tanned skin and black hair braided on both sides of their heads and jet black eyes, but clearly this was not the case at all. Instead, I saw Indians of all colors that ranged from the darkest skin one could find to the lightest skin tone one could possibly be. By seeing this wide assortment of distinction in skin color, they reminded me of everyday American people. As they embraced their heritage of years past, they seem to have accustomed themselves into the American style of living.

As I was walking around on the grounds, I heard different dialects of the Indian people. Whether they were speaking in English or in their native tongue, I could hear the distinction. I was amazed at how well the children were able to converse with their families and friends using the bi-lingual languages as well. I even witnessed a man using sign language to communicate to a child. A few minutes later, I saw the child appear with a blanket in hand and gave it to the man. The gentleman said “thank-you” and the child said “you are welcome.” As the Indians are preserving their history, they are teaching and preparing the next generation of Indians to come and be a part of change, success, and history.



Waccamaw Indians

Jacob Tucker

Native Americans are a group of people with a strong sense of morals that are very important and prevalent in their lives. They are a people group that is very connected with their heritage and their way of life. This trait comes with many distinguished cultures all around the world, but it seems to be much more ubiquitous with American Indians. This very well may be because of the ties they hold with their ancestry. Their connection to their history and heritage is displayed in their qualities of life.

Native Americans display many qualities that are common to their culture. The one quality that is exemplified more than others is pride. The pride they show is not a one of arrogance, but a pride of dignity. They show this pride because it was handed down through the generations. They were taught to be appreciative of their lifestyle and the values they carry within themselves. Also they are very humble about the way they portray this value.

I have seen these values in my grandfather whose grandmother was a full blooded Cherokee. Whenever he spoke of his heritage, he was always very glad to have this lineage in his bloodline. There seems to be something about the way Native Americans carry themselves that leads them to be a better person than most people would care to be. This comes because of their pride; their pride is also rooted in the way they conduct their lives.

Just as war veterans are proud of the service they gave to their country, most Native Americans are proud in the exact same way. This pride is not one that would make them feel superior to anyone; instead, it is one that brings humility and virtue. The attributes they show are some that anyone could afford to have.



Shanavia Dennison

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like?

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like? I posed this question to myself a few days ago and could only come up with one answer. Stop whatever you are doing and walk to the closest mirror and tell me what you see. Is it the reflection of a Waccamaw Indian? Well, it could be.

I recently had the opportunity to meet the beautiful blue eyed, fair skinned, blond haired Susan Hatcher, wife to Chief of the Waccamaw Indians, Mr. Buster Hatcher, who is almost the complete opposite when it come to visual looks. I thought to myself, well she is Indian through marriage, but I was wrong. I later learned that Mrs. Susan, herself, was also a Waccamaw Indian.

Traditionally, we have been trained through the media and the school system and aged text books that Indians were to look a certain way; dark tanned leathery skin, long dark black hair, full lips, pot bellies, moccasins, and tipis were what we were exposed to. The chief had the traditional look, but his wife had the normal look of an everyday Caucasian mom.

Waccamaw Indians do not test their blood lines for authentication. I believe the Chief said, “You had to prove your roots,” meaning your ancestors had to have a tie with his tribe in order to be declared a member. I am so in love with the idea of that because it doesn't take blood to make a true family. They have the right idea. A Waccamaw Indian does not have to be blood to be family; therefore, he or she can be of any hue of the rainbow, short or tall, skinny or fat, hair of all colors. I could walk into a ceremony with a head full of my braided weave and my beautiful black face and stand tall and say “I am a Waccamaw Indian.”



Sheila Moultrie

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like?

As a little girl growing up watching shows like Happy Rain and Cowboys and Indians shows, I've always pictured Indians as having tan skin, clothing made from sheep skin, long black curly hair, long noses and a band tied around their heads with chicken feathers sticking all over. I also thought that they lived in Tipis and lived in the western part of the world. My perception of how the Waccamaw Indians looked and lived is not what I expected. After spending time with the Waccamaw Indians, I've had an opportunity to ask questions and learn about their way of living. Their way of living is not too different from me or any other person. Everyone has different customs and cultures. The Waccamaw Indians live their lives just as everyone else does. I never imagined that Indians were soldiers fighting to protect our country. The chief and his

wife are both retired military officials that dedicated their lives to our country. When I first meet the Chief's wife, I thought she was a Caucasian woman because of her light skin color. I always envisioned Indians wearing moccasin shoes and living in Tipis.

The Waccamaw Indians live in beautiful homes and wear regular clothes and shoes just like every other American. I thought the Chief was informative. He gave us a lot of knowledge about their heritage. The Waccamaw Indians are proud people. They have fought to declare their land and culture. The Waccamaw Indians have gained approval from Governor's Minority Affairs Ad Hoc and Sub-Committee on Indian Recognition as an Indian Tribe. There are several different members of Indian Affairs in South Carolina. The Waccamaw Indians celebrate their Cultural Arts Festival and Pauwau every year located in Conway, South Carolina. They have visitors from all over to join them in their celebration of fun, food and cultural dances.

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like to me: a man, a woman, a person, human being, an individual of different ethnicity or just as I see myself?



April A. Pope

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like?

The Waccamaw Indians that visited the Anthropology class at HGTC had a normal day to day appearance as someone who was not Native American. The Chief had a darker color of skin than his wife, as she had fair skin. He wore a button down casual shirt that appeared to have a type of cloth material that swaged around his shoulders. His jeans were normal that could be purchased from a department store today, and he wore

black brogan shoes. His wife wore a red leather dress she handmade. She did not sew it on a sewing machine as the Native Indians did not have sewing machines. She hand stitched every piece of material together. Sewing leather by hand must have been time consuming and hard on the hands due to the toughness of the leather. She wore her hair long without accessories but her hair was blonde in color. Just because she did not have a dark skin tone or dark hair does not mean that she is not Native American. She wore moccasin type shoes that tied up her ankle. The shoes were closed toe and were very soft soled. She wore everyday American society jewelry, which included wedding rings and necklaces. At a Pauwau, the Native Americans, such as the chief, would wear leather attire and a headdress with many feathers. They make their own jewelry and their blankets are made from animal hide. If they kill a deer, they would tan the hide and use it for warmth and protection. In conclusion, the Waccamaw Indians live just the way normal Americans live. The way their ancestors used to live in Tipis and outside is a thing of past generations. Native Americans are just teaching the Americans how their ancestors live years ago.



Anna Grace Simerson

What does a Waccamaw Indian look like?

I remember this day like it was yesterday. I was seven years old, sitting on my grandma's couch eating a Moon Pie and watching cartoons. Suddenly, the front door opened, and a tall man entered. His skin was dark and worn, carrying a reddish tint with

it. This was the first thing I noticed about this man. He didn't notice me sitting on the couch, but I could tell this man had been in my grandmother's house before. He walked over to the refrigerator and grabbed the lemonade and poured himself a cup. It wasn't till after that did he realize he wasn't the only one in the room. When he saw me, his face lit up. He had the warmest deep brown eyes I had ever seen. The creases of his worn skin gathered together around his eyes when he smiled, revealing his big teeth. This was the second thing I noticed. When he spoke, his voice was strong and clear. He told me his name was Hank, and that he was my grandmother's neighbor and friend. After some awkward silence, mostly on my part since I didn't say anything to this man, he then informed me that he helped my grandmother with her yard work. I still fell silent. I didn't know whether to be scared or not. Not because of his appearance, but because this unknown man had just entered my grandmother's kitchen and interrupted my cartoon and Moon Pie eating time. I remember his big nose and high bone structure. He wore an old Jimmy Hendrix's t-shirt, dark denim jeans, and a hat. He has some unusual suede shoes, and his jet black hair was braided down his strong back. Later on, Hank and I became good buddies. Yes, he was 54 years old and a Native American, but whenever I would go visit my grandmother, I always helped Hank with my grandmother's yard work.

I've always known what a Native American looks like. A lot of my family have Indian heritage, my half brother has Navaho, while my dad has Seminole, and some other family members have Creek. One may think all Native Americans look the same, but this is not true. My dad carries deep red skin with brown hair while my brother has deep brown skin with black hair. But these differences do not make them any different than me and you. They still go to Blockbuster and rent movies. They eat steak and cookies. My

dad wears Hawaiian t-shirts, and my brother is labeled in surf logos. There is no significant difference between us other than their ancestry.

Even though I grew up surrounded by Native Americans, I always pictured a “real” Indian to look like the Hollywood Indian I grew up watching on television. I’m talking about Pocahontas, the Indians in Peter Pan, all the Indians in the old western films, and any other case where Indians were perceived. I never thought of my brother, dad, and Hank as Indians. Indians wore headdresses and feathers in their hair. They had on face paint and rode horses. They ate food of the earth and said “How” instead of hello. Most of the time, they wore little clothing and used animal skin as their blankets and shelter. They lived on the land and their house was a TiPi. It wasn’t until a couple years later that I realized that not all Indians look like that. In fact, most Indians today don’t look like that. They look like me. They look like you. They look like an everyday person. But just because they look “normal”, so to say, doesn’t make them any less Native American. Just because I don’t like country music doesn’t make me any less a Southerner. I think Hollywood has corrupted our thinking as to what a real Indian looks like. They are just like me and you, just with a different ancestry and story



Latisha Greene

What Does A Waccamaw Indian Look Like?

In my words and descriptions of a Waccamaw Indian, I would think they were from the Waccamaw. I would look for a person of darker color, long hair, glossy eyes,

tall and some may be short. An Indian would also have long dark hair in two braided pony tails with rubber bands on the ends. They would have on clothing of their culture and have feathers around a jacket that is of their culture. They also wear boots all through the year because it is a part of their everyday lifestyle.

Indians are pretty and unique people. I think that everyone is the same color because when we die we turn the same color. Indians are different from us because they look a little different in their own way. The Waccamaw Indians were just as American as us when we saw them. The chief's wife was an Indian, but she looked American or white. But, as she explained, she was really of Indian descent.

She had long brown hair, and also wore some of her clothing that an Indian would wear. They create their own clothing because most of them do not work. So, they have to create from scratch because they do not have the money to buy clothes that we purchase. Indians look more to me like Arab people, so I really cannot tell the difference in Indian, Arab, Mexican, Black, or White. There is "no such thing as color" because we all have been created equal in God's eyes.

