

Keyauwee Indians ^[1]

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by Michael D. Green, 2006



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

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

References:

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

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

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Origin - location:

[Randolph County](#) ^[12]

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[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#)^[13]

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