

## Keyauwee Indians <sup>[1]</sup>

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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.

<sup>[2]</sup>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](#) <sup>[3]</sup>. Nestled in a valley surrounded by cornfields, their village was vulnerable to attack, and their numbers, according to the chronicles of [John Lawson](#) <sup>[4]</sup>, were minimal. Shortly after Lawson's 1701 visit, the Keyauwee relocated. Joining with the Tutelo, [Saponi](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, [Occaneechi](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, 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](#) <sup>[7]</sup> (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](#) <sup>[8]</sup> 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).

### Image Credit:

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### Subjects:

[American Indians](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

[UNC Press](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

### Authors:

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### Origin - location:

[Randolph County](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#)<sup>[13]</sup>

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<sup>[3]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/randolph>

- [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/lawson-john-0>
- [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/saponi-indians>
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