Office of State Archaeology Lecture Series

Archaeology of the Catawba Nation after the Treaty of Pine Tree Hill

Presented by Dr. R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr. of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Tuesday, October 10th, 2017, at 6:30 pm in the auditorium, North Carolina Museum of History, 5 East Edenton, Raleigh Free and open to the public



In 1760, following a devastating smallpox epidemic that destroyed more than half the nation, the Catawbas signed a treaty with South Carolina that provided a secure reservation, 15 miles square, in return for relinquishing claim to a much larger tract spread across much of Piedmont North Carolina and South Carolina. Having abandoned their earlier towns in the vicinity of Nation Ford, within a few years the tribe resettled along the Catawba River near the reservation's southern boundary. This talk discusses the archaeological and documentary record for three of the newly-established settlements – Old Town, Ayers Town, and New Town – that date between the early 1760s and 1820. This was a period during which the Catawbas negotiated rapidly changing social, political, and economic conditions, and the successful strategies they employed are reflected in the archaeological record.