

Joel Lane Museum House Lesson Plan for:  
How the artistic expressions of various groups represents the cultural heritage of  
North Carolina. Common Core Curriculum Standard, 4 C.1.2

Objective : to learn how the people who settled in N. C. created the culture of our state.

Clarifying Objectives

4.C.1.1 Explain how the settlement of people from various cultures affected the development of regions in North Carolina (languages, food, and traditions). Traditions in this lesson are limited to the craft traditions of pottery and basket making. Cultural groups listed in the lesson plan.

4.C.1.2. Explain how the artistic expressions of various groups represent the cultural heritage of North Carolina.

Objectives for baskets:

1. Is this basket woven or coiled?
2. What is it made of? Reed, wicker, woodsplits, pine straw or other?
3. Where did these materials come from?
4. How different or the same are handmade baskets from carrying objects today?
5. Were your objects handmade or machine made?

Objectives for pottery:

1. Which piece of pottery is unglazed earthenware, glazed, salt glazed, redware, creamware, or a face jug?
2. Are these items utilitarian or decorative?
3. What areas in NC are noted for pottery making? Old Salem and Seagrove.
4. How are handmade and machine-made objects different?
5. Why didn't people living in the backcountry during Joel Lane's era have machine made objects?
6. How has NC culture changed since Joel Lane's time?
7. What traditions from Lane's time are still practiced today?

What do you think is NC's most interesting craft heritage?

Notes for Introduction to Common Core 4.C.1 on Pottery

**Native Americans or American Indians were the first inhabitants.**

**Joel Lane** was of English origin. Lane was important because he sold land to NC on which Raleigh is sited. He was a justice of the peace, legislator, and leading citizen of state and county. When Lane came to this area, it was called the backcountry. The inhabitants were mostly small farmers who grew or made most of the items they used and lived on farms

scattered about the county. There were few craftsmen who made items for daily life until Raleigh was well established in 1800's. Ordinary people had few belongings which were expensive to import and there were few stores.

Joel Lane had an "ordinary," and when Raleigh was established he ran a tavern. We know some of the pottery items he had from a store keeper's ledger, Nathaniel Jones, Lane's inventory and estate sale after his death, and an invoice for pottery. (Look at these items.)

**Moravians** of Salem were of German origin. They lived in an organized community run by the Moravian church with craftsmen actively producing items they used. Their pottery shop was very famous and run by Augustus Aust. He was a professional potter who learned potting in Germany and Philadelphia and carried on those traditions. The Moravians began to sell to people living in the area once they had sufficient pottery for their community. This pottery was "utilitarian" or pottery that would be used in cooking, milk production, tobacco pipes, mugs for the "Love Feast," and chamber pots, and animal shaped jugs. In the late 1700's Moravian potters began to make "creamware, or queensware." That was white earthen ware with a white glaze made to look like expensive imported Chinese dishes. Queen Charlotte was pleased with the ware and allowed it to be named for her. (Show pictures.) Red ware, cream ware, "dirt dishes."

Definitions:

Culture - Culture consists of beliefs, customs, arts and crafts, ways of thinking and working of a group in a specific time and place. (Webster's Dictionary). Crafts have contributed to our cultural heritage.

Heritage - Any aspect of culture that is handed down from the past by right of birth. Do not have to earn heritage. (Word Reference.com )

Craft object - An object, large or small, simple or complex, made by an individual for a useful purpose is a craft object.

Traditions - A tradition is a cultural practice handed down from one generation to another. North Carolina has strong craft traditions in ceramics and basket making.

Homespun- Fabric that was produced in a home from natural fibers grown on the farm, processed, spun and then woven into material that could be used for clothing.

Handmade - Any object that is made by a person as opposed to being made by a machine.

Farmer/Potter or Bluebirds - The original potters at Seagrove, NC were farmers who made pottery after the crops were in; they are also referred to as folk potters.

Moravian potters were considered professional potters, not folk potters.

Some **cultural groups** who influenced North Carolina's heritage.

1. Colonists descended from Irish, English and Scottish emigrants. Joel Lane lived in this area from 1769 until 1795 and was of English descent.
2. Moravians and German emigrants lived in the area around Old Salem.
3. Native Americans: Saponi, Cherokee, Lumbee, and Catawba.
4. English and German emigrants settled in Randolph County around Seagrove.

5. African-Americans, free and in bondage or enslaved (term African-American not applicable until after 1810) lived in North and South Carolina.

- I. Supply of raw materials, demands of the people and scarcity of goods had an impact on crafts and culture. Early craft objects tended to be utilitarian, useful objects. Where groups lived affected their crafts. Raleigh and Wake County, the pottery centers at Seagrove, and Salem were in the “backcountry.”
- II. There were few merchants in the area but Nathaniel Jones had a store somewhere on what is now Old Wake Forest Road near Six Forks Road on Crabtree Creek. This area was isolated from the larger towns on the coast where imported goods were available. Joel Lane bought goods that had to be “waggoned” from Fayetteville. Lane and other people in the area bought small amounts of fabrics and pottery from Jones, but most fabric produced at this time was for home use. Joel Lane had six spinning wheels and a loom with which to make cloth. Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century N.C. became a big manufacturer of fabrics.
- III. Groups in the 1700’s used natural materials that could be raised, grown or dug near where they lived in making their crafts.
  - Seagrove pottery is made from local clay. The tradition of making pottery developed when potters emigrated from England and Germany to the area and found clay appropriate for pottery. They were considered folk potters and sold mostly to their neighbors. They had no formal training programs for learning potting, but handed down the traditions in the family. The area around Seagrove is the only area in the United States that has had a community of potters that began making pottery in the late 1700’s and has continued until today. They are known for their salt glazed ware. Other 18<sup>th</sup> century potters were put out of business when manufactured pottery became popular.
  - The **Moravian pottery tradition** in North Carolina began with Gottfried Aust when he emigrated from Germany to Philadelphia and then to Bethabara. He later founded a pottery shop in Salem, N.C. That shop is re-created in the Brother’s House in Old Salem.

Clay suitable for making earthenware pottery was available locally; it produced ware that also called “dirt dishes.” The early pottery items were utilitarian such as milk pans, simple dishes and chamber pots. Other items made were pipe bowls, small jugs and figures of animals, fish and doll heads. A visiting potter from Charlestown S. C. introduced a new European style of pottery known as Queen’s ware or creamware to the Salem potters that they began to make. The potters of Old Salem “bartered” goods for their pottery and sold to the larger community.

Moravian potters made pottery for sale, and merchants like Jones would send wagons to Salem for pottery. The Moravians had a formal apprentice program for training new potters.
- IV. N. C. **Native Americans** traded with the settlers for crafts that they did not make, especially iron objects.

The Native Americans were the first to discover the clay deposits around Seagrove. They made both utilitarian and ceremonial pottery. Their pottery was always coil made and

fired in open fires. Native Americans did not fire in a kiln. Hand-coiled pots were made by Native Americans; wheel-thrown pots were made by others. The Native Americans did not glaze their pottery but relied on the smoke from the fire to make their pots nonporous (waterproof).

- V. The Cherokee Native Americans have become known for their baskets, although all tribes would have made baskets.
- VI. **African-Americans** living in a pottery community in South Carolina are thought to have started the tradition of putting faces on jugs. Africans had a tradition of associating the face with the soul or spirit of a person, but it was in America that Negro [period term, not necessarily appropriate for today's parlance] potters started making face jugs. Sometimes they were placed on graves as markers. In 1900 white potters continued the tradition of putting faces on jugs.
- VII. Crafts to be discussed:
- The craft of pottery making included digging and processing clay, shaping the clay and firing the clay. Different traditions of making and decorating pottery are associated with English, Moravian and Native American pottery.
  - There was a continuing pottery tradition in what became Seagrove, N. C. from the mid 1700's.
  - Hand-coiled pots were made by Native Americans; wheel-thrown pots were made by others. Earthenware, redware, and stoneware are names given to pottery made of different clays and fired to different temperatures. Clay is made nonporous by firing in a kiln and adding a glaze.
  - Basket making traditions were found in all the groups. Baskets were made by coiling and weaving locally found natural materials. Willow branches from a small shrub-like tree that grew along creek banks and thin slices of wood such as white oak were prominently used materials. The Cherokees added color to the splits with dye made from the bloodroot and butternut root of trees and vines. Basket making techniques used here were a continuation of the basket making craft practiced in England.
  - Candle making was generally carried out on all farms and plantations in the fall. Tallow (animal fat) and beeswax were used to make candles. Moravians evolved the tradition of putting a candle in window as a friendly greeting to visitors. In Salem those living on the main street were required to keep a candle in the window to light the way. Children received a lighted beeswax candle on Christmas Eve as they left church. Beeswax candles burn cleaner and smell better than tallow candles, so they were selected by the Moravians for their purity. Candles were made by dipping wick into a vat of fat or wax or formed in molds.

Hands-on-items:

butter churn, water bottle (salt glaze), grease lamp (glazed red clay or redware), creamware plate and ornaments, crayfish bottle, pictures of potter's wheel kilns and potters at work  
candle mold, candles

baskets of different styles and materials: wooden strips, willow, vines, coiled and woven. African basket. S.C. African American made basket of sweet grass and pine straw. Baskets of various materials.

Joel Lane's purchases from Nathaniel Jones's store - January, 1790 through February 1792

Col Lane to Nath Jones Co.

1790

Dec. 18	(?) 10 yards of <b>Negro Cotton</b> @ 6/	3 lb
	(?) 8 lb of sugar @2/h (?)1 quire of paper 3/per order	1 lb 1sh 8pence

1791

Jan 24	1 Girt 4/9 - one felt hat 6/6	11sh 3p
	<b>1/2 dozen coffee cups w/ saucers</b> 7/	7sh
	<b>1 small mug</b> 3/ - 1Thimble 1/ - 1 paper pines (?) 3/	7sh
	55 lb sugar @ 2/ - <b>4 (or 1?) Dozen Earthen plates @12/</b>	6 lb 9sh
Feb. 19	1 Quire writing paper 4/6 pr (by) son	4sh 6p
March 16	2 Quire writing paper @ 4/6 per son John	9sh
Aprile 7	<b>2 Stone dishes</b> @ 7/3 - 1/4 yd velvet at 16/	18sh 6 p
	1 Thimble 9d 1 skain Silk 1/6 - 1 mug 2/6	4sh 9p
	3 Quarts of Rum @ 15/6	10sh 1p 1/2
	29 20 Gallons west indian Rum @ 13/6	13 lb 10sh
June 17	1 Quire paper 3/ per son John	3sh
August 26	2 lb Chocalet @ 4/ 1 Quire paper 4/6 1 quart Wine 5/	17sh 6p
Sept 1	32 gallons Rum @ 9/ Barrel for Do [ditto]10/	14 lb 18sh
	<b>1 Waggoning</b> 300 lb from Fayttv @ 4/	12sh
October 4	1000 -10 d Nails per order 25/	1 lb 5sh
	22 1 quire of paper per order 4/6 . 1/4 lb. powder 1/6	6sh
Febr. 26	1 lb green Tea from Fayettev @ 16/	16sh
[Total]		46 lb 2sh 2p 1/2
	1 Gibbs Trunk for Miss Bryant /22/ & 1 do for Self 15/	4 lb 10sh 3p 1/2

Notes on account: a quire of paper is 40 sheets; girt is a leather strap that is on the girth for a horse; Do means ditto.

It is possible that Nathaniel Jones sent wagons up to Salem to purchase pottery, but it is not documented.

"Skain of silk" possibly used in fancy needle work may have come from Fayetteville or Hillsborough.

Notes.

Sapponi Indians lived near Hollister. Siouan tribes moved north to Penn. in 1740's.

Cherokees removed in 1838. Small group stayed in NC but depleted by smallpox.

Native American games associated with adult skills.

Corn husk dolls, races, hide and seek, blind man's bluff, buzz tops, running games, ring a pin (similar to cup and ball), laughing game, silence game.

Seagrove - Had plank road by 1849 which provided better transportation for goods and services. Founded by English and German immigrants the area who produced glazed earthenware. The Great Wagon Road from Penn to Ga. ran through this area. Is now known as the Handmade Pottery Capital of the world.  
Early pieces were butter pots and milk pans. Community of "Why Not" made "dirt dishes."

Moravian - Gottfried Aust started pottery making in 1756 or 1759 at Bethabara, later moved to Salem in 1766. He brought pipe molds with him from Philadelphia. Moravians came from Bohemia, Czechoslovakia, to Saxony, land of Count Zinzendorf, before migrating to Pennsylvania. The church organized its members into "Choirs." Pottery was made to be sold to "outsiders." Salem was a "tradedtown" selling tools, ceramics, furniture, metal goods as well as guns. Moravians had a formal apprentice training program for young men. Seagrove potters were informally trained by fathers or members in the community.

Salisbury had 4 to 8 potters 1759-1770. Johannes Adams was a trained potter but he relied on local markets to sell his pottery. Redware was the pottery of choice after the Revolution.

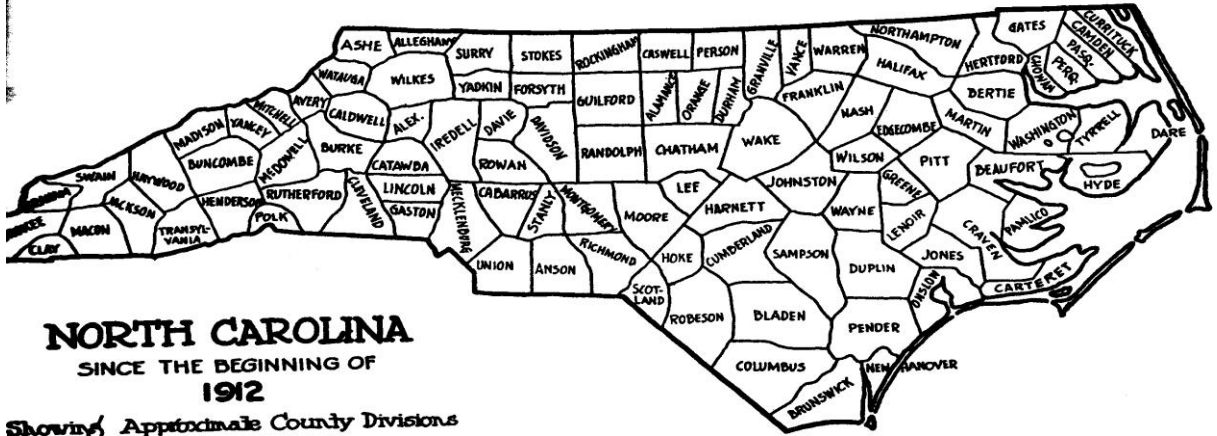
Types of clay bodies: stoneware - gray or tan, high fire; Koalin - pure white and much desired; Sagger clay - fine grained, light, good for salt glaze; earthenware - low fire, found in creek beds. Local clays are still important today. Redware glaze was one part clay, one red lead and seven silica. Blue or gray alluvial clay used in red ware.

Minerals important in ceramics: feldspar, flint - sedimentary mineral; quartz - found with chalk and limestone.

Sources:

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**NORTH CAROLINA**  
 SINCE THE BEGINNING OF  
 1912

Showing Approximate County Divisions  
 within Present State Boundaries.

Map by  
 L. Polk Bennett.