

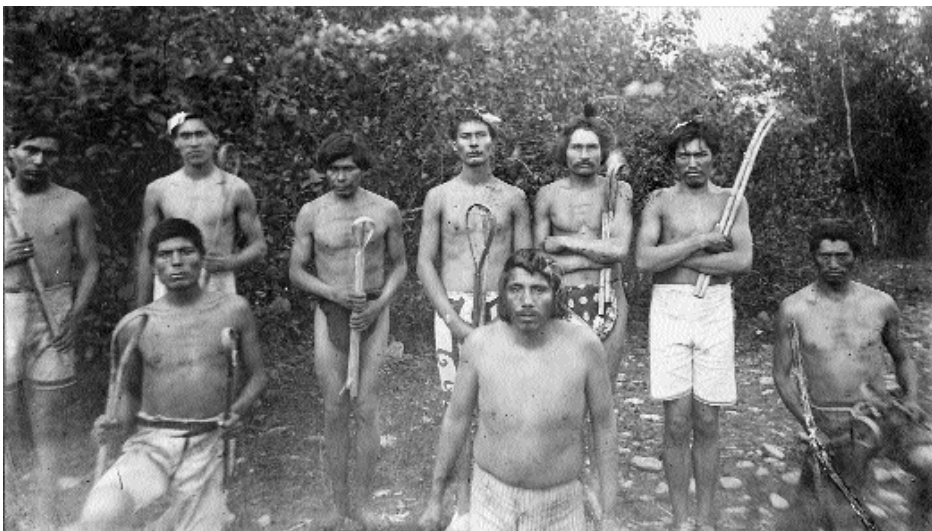
A Look at Stickball

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Stickball has been played by many American Indian groups in the Southeast. A precursor to lacrosse, the sport traditionally was played with two sticks (made of wood, with nets made of textiles or animal hair) and a small ball (often made of animal hide and stuffed with animal hair). Usually two communities within a tribe faced off in a game, with the number of players varying. The Cherokee played by a creek or a river because several rituals involved in the game required the players to go to water. Often, ceremonies and dances took place the evening before a game.



Stickball sticks made of split oak and woven wire. Written on them are the names of Soco team members and the user, Robert Crow, along with the date August 25, 1916.



These men were on the Wolftown stickball team, on the Qualla Boundary, in 1888. Images courtesy of the N.C. Museum of History.