

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Frederick Lee Lectures Examine Connecticut's First Peoples

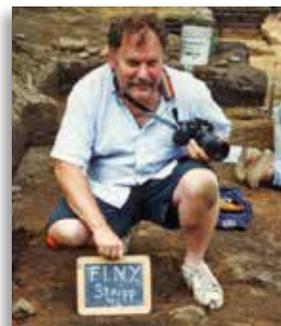
On January 16, the MHS opened the fifteenth annual Frederick Lee Lectures with a fascinating presentation by Dr. Lucianne Lavin, director of research and collections at the Institute for American Indian Studies. Her lecture traced 10,000 years of native American history and examined the archaeological discoveries that have challenged old theories and reshaped traditional interpretations of tribal people.



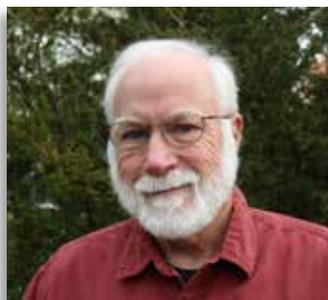
The Frederick Lee Lectures are typically three presentations. This year, the Society is pleased to offer four presentations over three months that will expand our knowledge of the history of Connecticut's indigenous people. Despite the disease, wars, land losses, poverty, and discrimination suffered by this region's earliest inhabitants, the descendants of those peoples remain a vibrant part of Connecticut life today.

disintegration resulting in marginalization and even genocide?" The story of the Quinnipiac experience is also told at the Quinnipiac Dawnland Museum at the Dudley Farm Museum in Guilford, where Powers serves on the board of directors and is a founding member.

The Society will welcome retired archaeologist Dr. John Pfeiffer on February 20 for his program entitled, "Coloring Nehantic." His presentation will trace the history of the Nehantic People from their earliest days as a thriving group of villages spanning the Connecticut and Rhode Island coastlines to being declared "extinct" in the 1870s when their reservation was sold. As the official historian for the Nehantic Nation, Pfeiffer has dedicated his life to understanding the group's cultural identity and unique history. His research identified Nehantic descendants living across the country and led to their reforming and reclaiming their history. Pfeiffer will tell how the Nehantics thrived despite significant challenges and how their adaptability has been their key to survival.



On January 30, historian, archaeologist, author, and teacher James Powers will share the story of the Quinnipiac people and the catastrophic



and transformative events that followed their first contact with Europeans. Within two years of British colonization, this local Indigenous tribe, which includes the Hammonassets, faced a devastating epidemic followed by war, ecological collapse, and economic ruin that threatened their way of life. His presentation will attempt to answer the question, "How does a culture survive in the face of relentless and devastating cultural

Nakai Clearwater Northrup, a member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, will conclude the series on March 13 with his presentation on indigenous and environmental activism and the preservation of Native American history. As an educator at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, Northrup works to increase understanding of his People's culture and promotes stewardship of land in line with their traditional lifeways. Northrup is an empowering voice for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council and Native Americans throughout the country. His talk will also focus on the importance of historic preservation in Indian Country, food sovereignty, and teaching traditional Eastern Woodland histories and lifeways.



Due to concerns about COVID-19 and for the safety of all, the 2022 lectures will be offered on Zoom. Presentations begin at 4 PM followed by a brief Q & A session. Registration is required to receive the Zoom meeting details. A suggested donation of \$5 is greatly appreciated. We encourage you to support our mission by making your donation at www.madisonhistory.org.

The MHS is grateful for the generous financial support provided by the John Brady and Roberta Isleib Fund, a component fund of The Madison Foundation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREDERICK LEE LECTURES

MADISON'S FIRST PEOPLES

January 30/ February 20 /
March 13 @ 4 PM

MHS will explore Madison's First Peoples in these annual winter lectures. Now in its fifteenth year, the series will look at the history and culture of local and regional indigenous people. Please check our website and future editions of this publication for additional details on featured speakers and topics.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link for the presentations.

www.madisonhistory.org

MHS WINS GRANT FUNDING

December was an exciting month at the MHS. We learned that we were successful in our bids for two significant grants totaling \$22,100. The grant funding from Connecticut Humanities (CTH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will provide general operating support, capacity building, and new technology.



An additional \$2000 grant from the John Brady and Roberta Isleib Fund of the Madison Foundation will support the Frederick Lee Lectures, specifically covering our speaker honorariums and publicity efforts. These grants further our mission of bringing history to life through exhibitions, educational programming, and events.



The CTH Cultural Operating Support grant will fund an additional staff member, provide greater access to our collection, and forge deeper bonds with our members and with local and regional community groups. The NEH funding is earmarked for a museum consultant to design, brand, and implement the opening of the Madison Center for History and Culture (MCHC) in the newly restored and renovated lower level of Lee's Academy. This dynamic learning center will offer engaging displays, an inviting meeting space, and innovative research facilities accessible to people of all abilities. The MCHC will be a multipurpose community center that reflects the changing dynamics of a small museum.



More than 600 Connecticut organizations received CT Cultural Fund support totaling \$16M from CT Humanities. Over the next two years, the CT General Assembly has committed more than \$30.7M in support of arts, humanities, and cultural nonprofits. The NEH grant award was more selective. Only sixty-nine state organizations received support for humanities-based projects. The federal funding was part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.



Following two stressful years of canceled programs and fundraising events, the MHS is especially grateful for the local, state, and federal support for nonprofit organizations like ours.

Polson Teachers Visit AB House

Educators from the Polson Middle School History Department took a private tour of the Allis-Bushnell House in late November. Organized by Youth Education chair Maryanne Harmuth, the visit helped teachers better understand the work we do at the MHS and the ways in which we can support learning for Madison students.



Most of the educators had never before visited the house and were impressed with the number of artifacts we preserve as well as the stories we tell about pivotal events from Madison's past. The social studies curriculum for middle school students explores such topics as how human hunters and gatherers developed agricultural methods and how U. S. social, political, and economic reforms relate to industrialization and

immigration in the early twentieth century. The tour provided examples of events in Madison during critical moments in our nation's history.

Maryanne told the teachers about the local spinning parties organized during the Revolutionary War to boycott British goods. She spoke about the antisuffragette who ran a tea room at the house in the early 1900s. Longtime volunteer and Dolley Madison reenactor Linda Giuliani told teachers about the abolitionist meeting held at the house in the run-up to the Civil War. Executive Director Jenny Simpson spoke about Captain Frederick Lee and his role in the incorporation of the town in 1826 and how, in 1862, Madison men avoided the draft through 100% voluntary enlistment—a source of town pride for generations.



Reenactor Linda Giuliani at an MHS educational program.

The visit opened the teachers' eyes to the possibilities of working with the MHS to bring history to life for young learners.

Two New Exhibits at Scranton Library

A new MHS display on important Madison women was set up in the Henry Bacon Room of the Scranton Library in early January. MHS Research Associate Marissa Petruzzelli organized the exhibit, which features works from Clarissa Munger Badger, Grace Miner Lippincott, and Dale Carson. Please visit the Library's mezzanine level to learn more about the artful and educational contributions of these impressive women.



On the Library's lower level, in the display case near the front entrance, you will find an exhibit on Madison's First Peoples, set up by Exhibits chair Tricia Royston. Along with an impressive map of Connecticut's Indian Trails, Villages, and Sachemdoms, the display features a collection of Native American tools and arrowheads and calls attention to our Frederick Lee Lectures on this theme. The MHS board of trustees offers its gratitude to Marissa and Tricia for mounting these engaging and informative mini-exhibits.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - ANNIE ROWLENSON



Rare book dealer and librarian Annie Rowleson joined the MHS as a volunteer in November. Spending fifteen hours a week describing, documenting, organizing, and preserving our manuscripts, rare books, ephemera,

enclosures to address preservation concerns. Additionally, she spent significant time piecing together elements of Daniel Hand's personal library on display in the lower level of the house.



Over time, Annie hopes to have all of the printed materials cataloged, digitized, and uploaded to the online archive so that they will be discoverable to students and researchers around the world. Aside from her appreciation for its inherent research value, Rowleson sees the "Society's book collection offering the town of Madison some

exciting teaching and outreach opportunities in the future as well."

Rowleson plans to return to her work as a dealer on a full-time basis this month but hopes to continue volunteering at the MHS in her spare time. As we hoped she might, Annie wants to continue working toward making the Society's print collection fully curated

and accessible. Annie will launch her online store, Rowleson Rare Books, this spring. She is presently working with private clients. Check back for updates on her work and the opening of her business later this year.



photographs, and audiovisual materials, Rowleson has quickly become an essential member of the collections team.

Annie moved to Madison in early 2020, after a three-year stint in London where she worked as an editor and rare books dealer. She knew there were many important book repositories in Manhattan and at Yale's Beinecke Library, but she had no idea of the many printed treasures preserved in the MHS collection at the Allis-Bushnell House.

Some of the ephemeral gems she has recently examined include an 1866 copy of *Life of James Mars*, in original wrappers; a special inscribed copy of Lydia Bushnell Smith's *Napoleon's Elba*; and the original 1859 proof copy of Clarissa Munger Badger's *Wild Flowers Drawn and Colored from Nature*. Descriptions of these books and others can be viewed on our online database at ctcollections.org. Rowleson also addressed the rehousing of some of our more delicate books, placing them in custom, archivally sound

In Memoriam: Joan Morton O'Neill



With deepest condolences to Joan's beloved family, the MHS wishes to acknowledge the passing of our member and honoree, Joan Morton O'Neill. One of Madison's local treasures, Joan was an ardent and active member and trustee of the Madison Land Conservation Trust. She

also served on the town Conservation Commission, was a past president of the Scranton Library Friends, and offered her expertise as an advisor on other

town planning committees. In everything she did, Joan brought her own special brand of rigorous and joyful enthusiasm to bear on the projects that were her passion. She had a profound understanding of the beauty, diversity, and value of the natural environment, and she was committed to the care and preservation of Madison's unique historic trails, ruins, and remnants. For that role, she received the MHS's **Jane R. Kuhl Award for Historic Preservation** as well as the Public Service award from the Connecticut Secretary of State. On a walk in the woods, Joan was the finest of companions, and her knowledge, her gentle exuberance, and her wisdom will be deeply missed. Donations in memory of Joan may be made to the Madison Land Conservation Trust.

MHS MONTHLY HISTORY BOOK GROUP

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Books are often available at the Scranton Library. Call 203-245-7365 to inquire.

To register, please call 203-245-4567 or e-mail office@madisonhistory.org. Walk-ins are always welcome!

Meetings are every third Tuesday at 7 PM via Zoom and are led by Lucy Van Liew. (ljstewartvanliew@gmail.com)

For more information about the books, please go to the Adult Education page at www.madisonhistory.org.

FEBRUARY 15

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents
Isabel Wilkerson

MARCH

Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom
David W. Blight

APRIL

Gladius: The World of the Roman Soldier
Guy de la Bédoyère

MAY

The Anarchy: The East India Company, Corporate Violence, and the Pillage of an Empire
William Dalrymple

JUNE

Thaddeus Stevens: Civil War Revolutionary, Fighter for Racial Justice
Bruce Levine

AUGUST

The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine
Janice P. Nimura

The Frederick Lee Lectures

✚ Connecticut's First Peoples ✚

Our state's earliest inhabitants established a complex and vibrant culture that, against all odds, remains a vital part of Connecticut life today. Discover more about their tragedies and triumphs through our four expert presenters.



Jim Powers

Historian, archaeologist, author, and teacher

January 30 @ 4 PM

The Quinnipiac people and the events that followed their first contact with Europeans.



Dr. John Pfeiffer

Former President / Archaeological Society of CT

February 20 @ 4 PM

The history of the Nehantic People from their earliest days, thriving in coastal villages in Connecticut and Rhode Island, to their supposed extinction in the 1870s.



Nakai Clearwater Northrup

Member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and educator at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum

March 13 @ 4 PM

Indigenous and environmental activism and the preservation of Native American history.



The John Brady and Robert a Isleib Fund, a component fund of The Madison Foundation provided generous financial support. We appreciate YOUR support. Suggested donation \$5.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link for the presentations. www.madisonhistory.org.



Madison Historical Society

Founded in 1917

P.O. Box 17

Madison, CT 06443

203-245-4567

www.madisonhistory.org

MHS offices are open in the c. 1821 Lee's Academy at 14 Meetinghouse Lane on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM. Due to COVID-19, visitors are welcome but are required to wear a mask until further notice.

For a tour of the Allis-Bushnell House, the MHS c. 1785 National Historic Register property, call 203-245-4567.

The MHS newsletter is published quarterly.



Post Office Box 17 Madison, Connecticut 06443 203.245.4567

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