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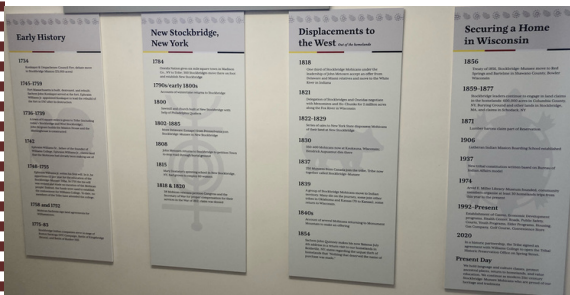
A new exhibition is now open at the Williamstown Historical Museum that shares a fuller story about the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, the Indigenous people of this region. In Williamstown, the Tribe—a federally recognized sovereign nation—maintains its Historic Preservation Office through a partnership with Williams College, while the remainder of the Tribal Government offices are on the reservation. The Stockbridge-Munsee Community holds a robust history filled with hardships and triumphs, and visitors to the Williamstown Historical Museum can now learn more about these experiences.

The process of developing this new exhibition reflects ongoing work of interpretation and education. In the summer of 2022, this earlier exhibit was replaced with an interim display, consisting of printed educational resources crafted by and in consultation with the Tribe. Williams College students and faculty, working in collaboration with Stockbridge-Munsee's Cultural Affairs Department, crafted a new exhibit that more accurately represents the Tribe's history and present-day activity in Williamstown and beyond. On February 16, the new exhibit was installed, supported by funding from the Williams College Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community's history and presence in Williamstown is long and rich. Although this history can only begin to be touched upon through a museum exhibit, the exhibit's overhaul is of great importance as it combats the telling of historically inaccurate, minimizing, and colonialist narratives surrounding Indigenous peoples.

Land Acknowledgement

It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking, and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.



Dolan-Jenks Barn Restoration Project

By Linda Conway

In spite of winter weather, Babcock Brothers Restoration has been able to continue working on the Dolan-Jenks Barn, dodging snow and cold since December. We now have a snug building complete with siding, roof, doors and windows, thanks to a successful year-end campaign. We greatly appreciate the generosity of neighbors and friends.



The entire disassembly, restoration, and reassembly process has had the goal of retaining as many original materials as possible. That is particularly evident inside the structure, where original beams, rafters, and joints appear throughout. David Babcock estimates some of the boards, taken from older buildings, were milled as early as the 1770s. The iconic outside boards of the barn could not be reused, since they had rotted from the bottom and thus were too short to match the important interior structure. A stain applied to the exterior when weather permits will temper the new pine boards.



A number of details need to be taken care of before we can open this exciting new space to visitors. These include installing a rough hemlock floor in the interior, staining the outside boards of the building, running electricity out to the barn, adding a stone facing to the foundation, preparing a pollinator garden to mitigate site disturbance. General site cleanup and signage as well as preparing and moving in objects for display will come last. We expect to need most of the summer for these tasks.



Volunteers are needed to get us to opening day. If you have a talent and/or a desire to rehabilitate interesting items stored in a 19th century barn over the years; an ability to write descriptive labels; past experience doing museum work; or can lend a hand with leveling dirt and doing simple planting, please let us know. Send an email to Michael Nixon, michael@williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org or call the museum at 413-458-2160. There is no substitute for the adage “many hands make light work.”

The Stuff of History

By Cassie Peltier

There is always a great deal of work to do behind the scenes in a museum, and that includes organizing and caring for the objects in the collection. The WHM frequently receives donations from local residents, town organizations, and even from folks on the other side of the country who find little pieces of Williamstown history in attics or at flea markets.

Since the summer, we've been working with renewed energy to catalog recent donations. We have long-term plans to update our storage area and improve our digital catalog, and we also want to inventory our collection to account for the many objects that have been moved on and off display and in and out of storage since the museum migrated from its previous location at the Milne Library. This will make it easier for researchers to explore all the great pieces of town history here at the museum and open up exciting new opportunities for student field trips and exhibits highlighting untold stories from Williamstown history.

While collection management may seem straightforward, there is a lot of time and careful planning that goes into making sure each garment, photograph, cannonball, and dollhouse is kept safe and protected from the elements so it will last for generations to come. It takes a great deal of work, and funding as well! During the spring semester we have the pleasure of working with Jamie Torres, an intern from MCLA, who is a wonderful asset to the WHM team! We recently inventoried a collection from Hubert Dana Goodale, a well-known geneticist who worked at Mount Hope Farm beginning in the 1920s. His collection includes many publications about cattle and poultry farming, some translated into Dutch, French, and other languages, as well as field journals reflecting his interest in birds and insects and his notes from undergraduate courses from 1901-1903.

President's Remarks

By Mike Goodwin



Have you had a chance to visit the museum lately? We've been busy this past fall and winter. Driving by the Little Red School House, I'm sure you've seen the ongoing progress of the Dolan-Jenks Barn restoration. Don't be fooled by the shiny pine exterior and new roof. These serve to protect our latest artifact in the Williamstown Historical Museum's collection. We continue this spring with finishing touches and look forward to celebrating this special project with all of you in the coming summer months.

In addition, we have replaced and updated our Native-American exhibit. This display follows the Mohican people as their story unfolds alongside the history of Williamstown. On behalf of the WHM Board, I would like to thank Bonnie Hartley, Tribal Historic Preservation Manager for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community; Mirabai Dyson, Williams class of '22; and Christine DeLucia, Williams History faculty and WHM board member for their time and commitment to this display.

We are excited to share upcoming presentations the museum plans to offer our members. Our first, on Saturday, March 25, at 11:00 AM at the Milne Library, features Twink Williams Burns, Strategic Advisor for Admissions and Student Financial Services at Williams. She will share her research and discuss the history of Black student acceptance – and non-acceptance - through the complex and storied lens of history from the institution's beginnings.

Now is the time to check in with your local house of history. A lot is happening at the Williamstown Historical Museum. Thank you all for your ongoing support, and I hope you can join us soon.

Upcoming Talk

Saturday March 25th 11am

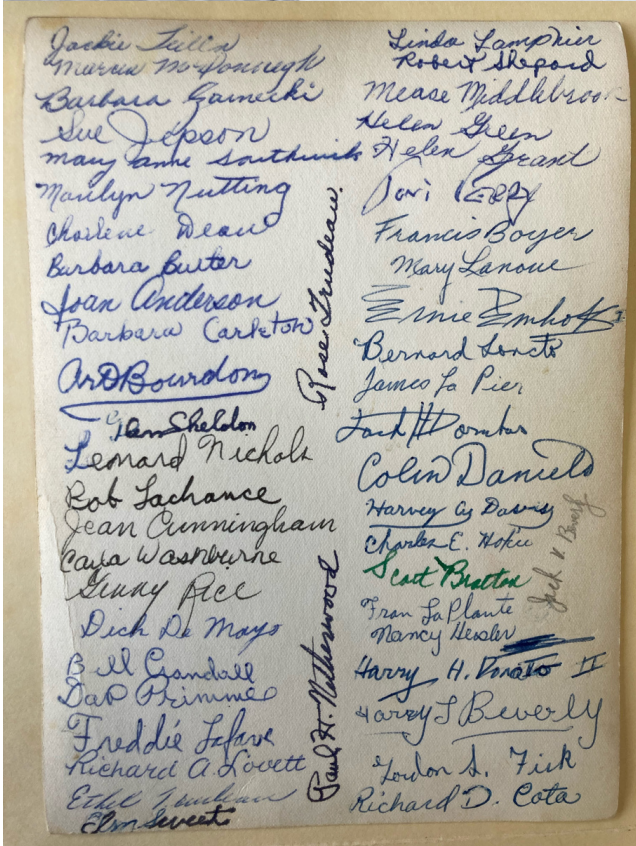
Milne Public Library

“The History of Black Student Admission at Williams College”

by Twink Williams Burns

who serves as the Strategic Adviser for Admission and Student Financial Services Community Engagement at Williams College, is excited to present her findings to date.

Williamstown High School "Who's who?"



Can you recognize anyone?

What year is this class?

Can you match the face with the name on the list?

We would like to create a page that identifies people.

Email us at the museum and tell us.

michael@williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org

Upcoming Talk in May

Saturday May 20th 11am

Milne Public Library

Berkshire Patriots in Wars

Dennis Pregent, an author and native of the Berkshires, will share with us stories from his latest book *Berkshire Patriots-Stories of Sacrifice*. His book takes readers on a thrilling journey across time from the French and Indian War to Afghanistan with men and women from the Berkshires who valiantly served their country.