

INDIAN LEAP NEWSLETTER

Message from the Tribal Leader of the Native American Mohegan Tribe

Dear Tribal Members,

Aquai to everyone! I hope that all is well with you all. I just wanted to say tabut ne' for all the support you have given me and the tribe. I want you all to know that letters and phone calls have been pouring into the tribal office every day with tribal members wishing to check their files and dues payments. Tabut ne' to all of you! Our tribe is on track with our goals and if it wasn't for the support of the tribal members these great things would not be happening. Also, the people that have working with me to achieve our goals must be thanked as well. Without them and our tribal members, we would never be as far as we are right now. I would also like to take the time to welcome back some of our members that have not been involved for a long time due to various reasons, such as, the Eldridge family and more of the Fowler family. Welcome back we are very happy to have you. I would also like to announce that we are adding members. For instance, we have added many members of the Robert Henry Jackson Sr. families, descendants of Mohegan ancestor, Absalom Congdon. As always, if you have any questions, suggestions and just wish to talk or visit, please feel free to do so. I value your input. One thing I ask is that you call the Tribal Office before stopping by. As I said before we are very busy and I would hate for you to come in when I couldn't be available to see you. If you do have questions and I am unavailable, you may speak with Elizabeth Corey and she can answer any questions you may have, if not, she will take a message and I will call you back as soon as I possibly can. In closing, I hope everyone had a great time at our last social. We had well over 100 people and were happy to have other nations there with us. May the Creator bless you and your family.

Good Health and Happiness,
Darlene "Eyes of the Wolf" Currier
Tribal Leader

RESEARCH IS NEVER ENDING

Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler
October 29, 1823 – November 21, 1889
by
Antoinette Cook and Nelson Carey

Did you ever wonder what a genealogist does when he or she goes on vacation or when they take a new job in a new state? What else, they do research. Such was the case of Nelson Carey and Toni Cook. After many years of searching and speculation on what happened to Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler after the death of Oliver Wolcott Fowler the question was finally resolved this past month by Toni Cook and Nelson Carey.

Toni and Nelson were already in possession of the death certificate of Mary Hannah (Fowler) Tubbs, one of the daughters of Mary and Oliver, which indicated that she died in Fort Pierce, Florida. They also knew that Mary Tubbs of Florida signed an affidavit for the Civil War pension of her sister, Elizabeth

(Fowler) Cook, and that Mary Hannah and William Tubbs removed from Norwich, CT, in 1886. The 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 census indicated that the Tubbs lived in Miami and Fort Pierce, Florida.

Nelson Carey was contracted to work in the Miami and Fort Pierce, Florida, areas for a few months. With all information in hand he picked up the phone book and began contacting Tubbs in the Miami area. After many attempts he finally found a Tubbs family who actually knew the names of the persons



Antoinette Cook and Nelson Carey doing research on the beach in Florida!??

for whom he was searching. Stephen Schaurer, a great-great-grandson of Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler, was in the Miami area helping his mother and her sister, who recently had a stroke, get settled. Stephen was at the Aunt's house when Nelson called. Ironically, Stephen had warned his Aunt not to answer and give any info on the phone because of salesman, fraud etc. This good advice was probably the reason why previous attempts at reaching them were unsuccessful. So, if Stephen was not helping his mother and aunt at the time Nelson called, this mystery would never have been solved. Stephen told Nelson that he was going through his Aunt's trunks and was getting ready to throw things out over the next few days. He invited Nelson to go through the papers with him and shed light if possible on the identities of these people. Nelson called Toni and told her about what had happened. As a result, Nelson made the introductions and Stephen and Toni had many conversations over the phone and exchanged emails. Nelson also made frequent visits with the family. Stephen's mother and Aunt did not know very much about the Fowler family, so they were delighted with information they learned about the Fowler family and vice versa.

One of the more disturbing facts that was uncovered was that almost everything was washed away in a flood in 1920. However, some pictures were saved, along with the obituary of Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler, which indicated that she was buried in Sanford, Florida.

A few weeks later Frank and Toni Cook went to Florida for a vacation. They followed up on the information that was recently discovered and went to the Lakeview Cemetery in Sanford, Florida, where they found the gravesite of Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler, Mary Hannah and William Tubbs, and Charles Pronger, a great-grandson of Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler. They also visited with Grace Stinacipher who wrote the History of the First Baptist Church of Sanford, Florida, where Mary Fowler and the Tubbs Family were members.

Later in the week Frank and Toni Cook traveled to Fort Pierce and met with Nelson to compare notes and conduct additional research.

It appears that many residents of Connecticut moved to Sanford, Florida, late in the 19th century to work on the railroads. When Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler died, she was buried in a family plot in Sanford,

Florida. As the railroads moved south, so did those working on the railroad. Mary Hannah and William Tubbs died in Fort Pierce but were buried in Sanford next to their mother, Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler.

We now know the date when Mary was born and also where and when Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler died but the research continues. The next piece of this puzzle is to determine the parents of Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler. Stephen Schaurer shipped the material that was earmarked for the trash back to New York where he is cataloging the documents. New answers may indeed emerge from the material saved as part of Nelson's and Toni's timely contact with Stephen Schaurer.

Obituary of Mary Ann (Dennis) Fowler

When I was visiting the church at Sanford last November, I called to see sick sisters who were expecting soon to go and be with Jesus—Sister Calpepper, whose obituary appeared in the Witness some time ago, and Sister Fowler. When death came each one was calm and ready to go.

Sister Fowler was a member of our church here, and Sister Calpepper a member of the church at Oviedo; but she attended our church as regularly as her health would permit.

Sister Fowler departed this life November 21st, 1889, in her sixty-eighth year. She was born in New London, Conn., and moved to Florida with one of her daughters a few years ago, in whose house she died a very triumphant and happy death. She believed as an Episcopalian until

about eight years ago, when her convictions led her to come over to the Baptists. Her life was always consistent and faithful and she loved the Master's work.

She leaves six children, four sons and two daughters to mourn her loss, but they sorrow not as those without hope.

Her body was laid peacefully to rest in the.....spirit, like unto the spirits of Sister Calpepper and Bro. Hicks is nowimmediate presence of our blessed Lord.

May abundant grace and comfort be meted out to the surviving members of the different families represented by these deaths, and may we all take heed.

Paul Willis,
Sanford, Fla.,
Feb. 14, 1890

NAM PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The NAM Prescription Drug Discount Program was initiated in 2002. Since then we have had many members who have taken advantage of the program. Since 2002 many members' personal situations have changed and the Tribe has recently added a number of new members to the roll who may not be aware of the program. In an attempt to rectify these situations, Tribal Council has requested that this announcement be added to the newsletter.

The NAM Prescription Drug Discount Program is a partnership between the Native American Mohegans and the Mashantucket Pequot Pharmaceutical Network® (PRxN). PRxN is able to offer eligible NAM members a special discount on prescription medications through their Mail Order facility. You may be able to realize significant savings – **up to 25%** - off the cost of your medications. Both brand name and generic products, as well as diabetic supplies, are available.

PRxN has been serving customers in Connecticut, New England, and across the country for more than 14 years – which means we have full confidence in getting the quality products and excellent service you expect.

Pequot Pharmaceutical Network offers the following special services for members:

- Special DISCOUNT PRICING on all prescription orders
- Toll-free Customer Service number 8:30am – 8pm Monday – Friday and 9am – Noon on Saturday (Eastern Standard Time)
- A pharmacist available to speak with 8:30a – 5p EST Monday - Friday
- Every prescription screened and filled by a licensed pharmacist
- Prompt Serviceand delivery right to your home at no added cost
- A Computerized Medication Prescription Profile for your safety
- Express Delivery available for a minimal fee

To become eligible for this program, simply fill out and return the attached form, along with a one-time maintenance fee of \$2.00 (cash, check, or money order). Make checks or money order out to Native American Mohegans, Inc. This one-time enrollment fee is PER HOUSEHOLD.

Send completed form and fee to the office:

Antoinette Cook, Health Services Coordinator
Native American Mohegans, Inc.
77 East Town Street
Norwich, CT 06360

You must specify your Social Security Number to become eligible. The Pequot Pharmaceutical Network® (PRxN) uses your Social Security Number as an identifier, but please be assured that your privacy is protected.

Once you are enrolled, you can call **1-800-342-5779** for your SPECIAL NAM DISCOUNT PRICING quote on your medications. When calling, please indicate the name of your group name (**NAM, Inc.**) and group number (**PCMD/0238**) to one of the PRxN Customer Service Representatives. PRxN accepts checks, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover Card.

If you have any questions, call Antoinette Cook at 781 944-3580.

POSITION OPEN ON TRIBAL COUNCIL

There is an open Councilor position on the Tribal Council. If you are interested in investing your time and energy in helping govern the Tribe, you should send a letter and resume to the Tribal Office indicating your interest. The commitment is significant so do not apply if you are not willing to make this commitment. The Council meets a minimum of once a month for approximately 3 hours. All Council members are also asked to chair committees and other activities that will also demand time and energy. You must be a Tribal Member in good standing. After your letter of interest is reviewed by Council and you meet the basic criteria, you will be sent a questionnaire, which you are expected to fill out and return to the office. Upon receipt and review of the questionnaire, you will be contacted in order that personal one-on-one interviews can be scheduled. These interviews will be conducted by one or more Tribal Councilors. After all interested candidates have been thoroughly vetted, one will be selected by unanimous vote to fill the currently vacant seat.

NATIVE AMERICAN MOHEGAN COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

As a result of the Native American Mohegans Needs Assessment Survey and in an attempt to address some of the issues raised in the survey, we are continuing a regular column in the newsletter of health related programs for those who live in the greater Norwich, CT, area. This column is written and provided by our health services partner, United Community and Family Services. As we have said in the past, if you are interested in finding out more about similar programs in your area contact the office.

SENIOR INDEPENDENCE

The freedom to remain active members of society is a benefit senior citizens can enjoy throughout our community. United Community & Family Services' Eldercare programs promote and encourage self-reliance among seniors. Two important programs are available to enhance independence.

Adult Day Services are available in Norwich and in Waterford to encourage socialization and health management while allowing the senior to remain at home. Clients who attend these adult day programs benefit from the following: medical management, assistance with personal care, hot home-style meals, chair exercise, and many therapeutic activities. The frail or isolated senior can also use van transportation to access this service.

Sheltering Arms is a residential care home that promotes independence for men and women over the age of 60. Ambulatory seniors can reside in private rooms and be assured that caring staff members will provide regular

meals, personal laundry, housekeeping, and medication administration. Seniors can exercise, participate in activities, and go on outings to enhance their daily living routine. The community rooms include beautiful sun porches, the TV room and a well appointed parlor to add to the experience.

Seniors living in Southeastern Connecticut can gain independence from these and other supportive services in the community. The result is less social isolation, more mental stimulation, freedom, health and security. Please call Cinde at Sheltering Arms- 887-5005; Amy @ Ross Adult Day Center- 889-1252; or Michele at Shoreline Adult Day Center- 442-5873, for additional information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Here are the dates for the remainder of this year's social events.

***Spring Social
June 11, 2006***

Our annual Spring Social will be held at the Mohegan Park in Norwich on June 11, 2006, from 12:00-4:00pm. As usual, we will meet at the picnic area adjacent to the dog pond.

Please bring a dish to share.

***Native American Mohegans' Annual Intertribal Powwow
September 16/17, 2006***

Lebanon Fairgrounds, Mack Road, Lebanon, CT

We need volunteers to help with the preparations. If you would like to volunteer, call the office at (860) 892-1039, or send email to info@nativeamericanmohegans.com.

With your help we can have another successful Powwow!

***Annual Harvest Gathering
November 19, 2006***

Location to be determined.

**BUSH WANTS TO ELIMINATE FUNDING
TO INDIAN CLINICS**

Associated Press, March 24, 2006, (excerpt)

When Jennifer Carter moved from her reservation to Pierre, S.D., a few years ago, she went from seeing Indians like her every day to barely seeing any. But the first time she visited the South Dakota Urban Indian Health clinic, she knew she had found her place. There, she met Indians just like her, people she could relate to and who made her feel comfortable. They were from various tribes. They no longer, or never did, live on a reservation.

To urban Indians, that connection to their culture often means as much as the medicine

they are prescribed. But now that relationship is threatened by President Bush's 2007 budget proposal to zero out the \$33 million allocation for urban Indian health clinics. At least 17 of the 34 clinics across the country may have to close their doors, while the rest would be forced to cut services.

Urban Indian health care clinics, located in 21 states, are funded by the Indian Health Service, but operate as private clinics under contract with the government. Clinics differ in their services but most have programs vital to Indians. Many offer comprehensive medical care ranging from dental and vision to mental health. Most have alcohol addiction and

diabetes programs, because of the prevalence of those diseases among Indians.

At the Hunter Health Clinic in Wichita, Kan., outreach workers who help diabetics with exercise, diet and foot care would lose their jobs, and mental health and alcohol and substance abuse programs would be cut, said Susette Schwartz, clinic chief executive officer.

In Bush's 2007 budget proposal, it is suggested that urban Indians can go to community health centers instead, since those centers are slated to receive a \$181 million increase that would build or expand 300 sites.

But clinic directors and urban Indians say increasing community health center funding doesn't solve the problem. Urban Indians may be reluctant to seek care from a non-Indian clinic. Instead, those patients will likely wait to receive medical attention until their condition deteriorates, and then they will fill emergency rooms. Many urban Indians are too far away from reservations to return there for medical care through the Indian Health Service.

"They just won't get primary care because they're not going to drive those kinds of miles," Schwartz said. "They don't have money for gas. A lot of them are disabled and unable to get around."

"We have so many people who don't know exactly why they're so messed up and out drinking and abusing until they talk to someone who understands Indian history. There's generations of anger that only someone who understands can connect the dots," Schwartz said.

"All these urban clinics, they belong to the Indians," said [Cynthia] Jurosek, a Crow Indian. "It's where they can go and feel good about themselves. They're treated with respect. And that's what I will lose here. "I will lose people who are truly interested in helping me get well."

BOOK REVIEW

UNCAS, FIRST OF THE MOHEGANS by Michael Leroy Oberg

Many know the name "Uncas" only from James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans*, but the historical Uncas flourished as an important leader of the Mohegan people in seventeenth-century Connecticut. In *Uncas: First of the Mohegans*, Michael Leroy Oberg integrates the life story of an important Native American sachem into the broader story of European settlement in America. The arrival of the English in Connecticut in the 1630s upset the established balance among the region's native groups and brought rapid economic and social change. Oberg argues that Uncas' methodical and sustained strategies for adapting to these changes made him the most influential Native American leader in colonial New England.

Emerging from the damage wrought by epidemic disease and English violence, Uncas transformed the Mohegans from a small community along the banks of the Thames River in Connecticut into a regional power in southern New England. Uncas learned quickly how to negotiate between cultures in the conflicts that developed as natives and newcomers, Indians and English, maneuvered for access to and control of frontier resources. With English assistance, Uncas survived numerous assaults and plots hatched by his native rivals.

Unique among Indian leaders in early America, Uncas maintained his power over large numbers of tributary and other native communities in the region, lived a long life, and died a peaceful death (without converting to Christianity) in his people's traditional homeland. Oberg finds that although the colonists considered Uncas "a friend to the English," he was first and foremost an assertive guardian of Mohegan interests.

TRADITION !

Petition to the Connecticut General Assembly
from Phillip Cuish, circa 1780

The Great and Good, and the Supreme Spirit above, Made this Great World and divided it by the Great Waters, and this Boundless Continent he inclosed by it self, and he fill'd it with innumerable and all sorts of Creatures; - The Land was Stored with all manner of four footed Creatures both the Great and Small, and the Air was fill'ed full with verietie of Fowl of al Sizes and Colours, and our Wild Land was heavy Loded with all manner of Wild Fruit, and our Seas, Pond or Lakes, Rivers, and Books were Brim full of all Sorts of Fish of all bigness, even our Sand and Mud were well Stored with Shell fish, beside the Creeping Shell Fish. – And in this Rich and Well furnished World; The Good Governor of the Universe, he that orders all things and all Creatures, according to his Good Pleasure, Saw fit to plant our fore Fathers here first, and here we have liv'd and Spread over the Continent, none knows how Long. – And in Process of Time, it pleased him to Send Your fore Fathers, into this County, and here they found us a Wild People in a Wild Cuntry, Yet we immediately enter'd into Strong Friendship, and Sold your Fathers Land, for small matter, and gave them Some freely, and they reserved but very little Land for themselves, they though or had a notion to live always as they done - and here we have lived together like Brothers almost two Hundred Years; But hunting; fishing and Fowling We never have alienated, that our Fathers reserved for themselves and for their Children, and it is our Birth Right and that is now all gone, but little Fishing & Fowling and we never had Sold it, and we have enjoyed it but at this Time of the Day Some White people have presumed to forbid us of fishing in Certain Places Especially in Connecticut River; Which we take to be Very Unfriendly and wrong Usage. – You may forbid one another or make What Laws you please amongst Yourselves, that is none of our Business. – Yet We think it is Unnatural for Rational Creatures to forbid one another of that Priveledge, Which God has made Common for all mankind; - But be Pleased

to remember, that we are Indians, the Aboriginal Natives of this Country. – And therefore, Our most humble Petition and Request to this Most Benevolent Assembly is that we may have Protection, that we may not be molested or be deprived of those our Priviledges, by any Contentous People – This is the Petition & Request of your old true Friends

Mohegans and Nahanticks

We send this by our beloved Brother. –

Phillip Cuish (sic Occuish) ¹

Phillip Occuish was a Nehantic Indian. He was born in 1716 and was converted to Christianity in 1740. He was well educated and became a Baptist minister who conducted services in his own home. Phillip Occuish along with Samson Occom preached Christianity to Mohegan and other New England Tribes. He owned land in Lyme in 1764 (Lyme Land Records, XI, 253) and died on March 20, 1789 (Allen, American Biographical Dictionary). Like Samson Occom, Phillip Occuish was also a member of the Brothertown Indians of New York.

¹ General Assembly Papers, African Americans and Native Americans, 1822-1868, Rejected Bills, RG 2, box 2, folder 3, p. 28.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robin McCool would like to announce her upcoming wedding to Ronald Rivera. Robin and Ronald will be married on July 5th.

Christina and Scott Wheelis would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail aka Pumpkin Seed, born June 22, 2005.

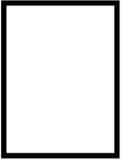
Danielle and Jon Schramm would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Lee, born on November 21, 2005.

Eugenia (Young) Carrico would like to announce the birth of her son, Eugene Wayne, born December 23, 2005.

(If you have any announcements you would like printed in the next newsletter, send them to the office at 77 East Town Street, Norwich, CT, 06360, or call (860) 892-1039 or email to:

info@nativeamericanmohegans.com.)

Native American Mohegans, Inc.
77 East Town Street
Norwich, CT, 06360



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Spring Social
Mohegan Park, June 11, 2006

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Please come and enjoy the Spring Social. Hope to see you there. Please bring a dish to share.

For more information call the office at 860/892-1039 or send email to info@nativeamericanmohegans.com.
