

COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Discovering, Collecting & Preserving

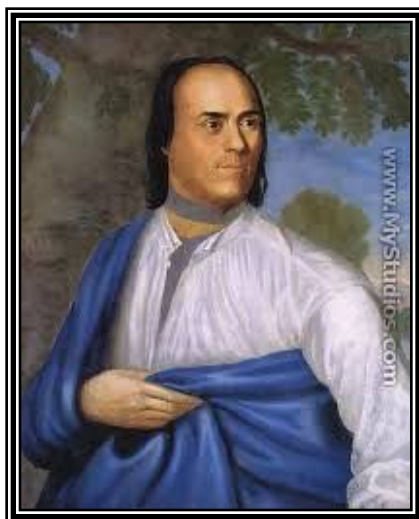
The History of Columbia

Volume 52, Issue 1

March 2019

*"Discovering History, Pride
of Place and Community"*

Samson Occom, Connecticut Native American Preacher



Please join us on March 31 at 2:00 at Yeomans Hall where Tom Berrill will discuss how Samson Occom helped to make Columbia what it is today.

This eloquent Minister preached Christianity to thousands in New England and New York, as well as England. He was a member of the Mohegan nation and was exemplar in his loving attitude towards all including his prejudicial detractors.

Samson Occom (1723-1792) was a member of the Mohegan Nation and was descended from Sachem Uncas. At the young age of 19, in 1742, he converted to Christianity while working with Reverend James Davenport. Feeling a need to learn more about the Great Awakening, he then asked Reverend Eleazar Wheelock, of Lebanon Crank, if he could attend the Latin School in order to get a well-rounded education. After being accepted into this School, he lived with Mr. Wheelock and his wife Sarah for 4 years from 1743-1747. Mr. Occom's academic success inspired Mr. Wheelock to establish the Indian Charity School in Lebanon Crank. After completing the education in the Latin School, Mr. Occom studied with Reverend Benjamin Pomeroy in Hebron and in 1749 established a school Montauk, L.I.

Mr. Occom accomplished a lot in his life. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister on 8/29/1759 at Montauk, LI and was a missionary to the Oneida Nation in New York. He was also a preacher at the Mohegan Nation and travelled to England with Reverend Nathaniel Whitaker to solicit funds for the Indian Charity school. His persuasive skills served him well and was instrumental in securing enough funds from the Earl of Dartmouth to establish Dartmouth College. After composing many hymns, sermons and narratives, he became the first Native American to publish a hymnal and his most famous work is "A Sermon, Preached at the Execution of Moses Paul, An Indian" published in 1772. In addition to this, he established the Christian Indian community of Brothertown, N.Y.

The event is free to the public with a good will donation of your choice.

Historical Society Mission

To encourage historical research.
To hold meetings on historical subjects for members & the public.
To discover, collect & preserve whatever pertains to Columbia's History.



Future Programs 2019

Samson Occom, CT Native American
Preacher
March 31 at 2:00, Yeomans Hall
Columbia



Columbia Historical Society's
Annual Pot Luck Supper
Program – Library of Congress Veterans
History Project.
May 3 at 6:00 pm
Columbia Congregational Church Parish
Hall



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VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE www.columbia-history.org

Two Early Native American Educational Outcomes in New England

By Ingrid Wood, Town Historian, Columbia, Connecticut

The Wheelock experiment with Native American education at his Latin School and at Moor's Indian Charity School (1755 - 1769) in Lebanon Crank is often cited as the most enduring, "benign" educational effort involving Native Americans in the 18th century American Colonies. Wheelock's efforts culminated in his founding of Dartmouth College in 1769.

In contrast to the Wheelock experiment, yet perhaps some *initial* inspiration for it was the work of contemporary Reverend John Sergeant (1710 - 1749) a 1729 Yale valedictorian, who earned a second degree in theology in 1732. In 1734 he began missionizing among the "River Indians" in the upper Housatonic with the urging of Stephen Williams and Nehemiah Bull of Yale. In 1735 Sergeant was ordained in Deerfield, and in 1736 he helped organize a nearby mission township community called "Indian Town" in western Massachusetts. The idea was to create an Indian community with dedicated English schooling, and English cultural and religious conversion for all families, adults, and children.

After 1749 and for the following 30 years the "River Indians", known as the Mohicans of Stockbridge gradually sold their lands to raise money. The proprietors who bought the largest 4,000 acre tract were familiar "New Light" ministers: Stephen Williams, Samuel Hopkins, Timothy Woodbridge, Ephraim Williams, and Jonathan Edwards. The intervening French and Indian War (1754 - 1763) and American Revolution (1765 - 1783) created hardships for all, and especially for frontier acculturated Native Americans who sided with the patriot cause.

James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans: Narrative of 1757* published in 1826, captures the essence of these Native Americans' plight in the in the famous quote "pale-faces are masters of the earth and the time of the red-men had not yet come again". In 1780 the few remaining Mohican families of Stockbridge accepted an invitation to settle among the Oneidas in upstate New York. There they were joined by Samson Occom and the Mohegans and Pequots of Connecticut and Rhode Island. Together they chartered a new civil community, the Brothertown Indian Nation. Today their descendants live in Brothertown, Wisconsin.

Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

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Annual Columbia Historical Society Pot Luck Supper

You are invited to the Columbia Historical Society's Annual Pot Luck Supper

Friday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM

in the Columbia Congregational Church Parish Hall.

Please bring a dish to share, visit with friends and meet Colonel Morton Katz (ret) while supporting the Columbia Historical Society. Colonel Katz, a WWII veteran, will introduce us to the **Library of**



Congress Veterans History Project. This project collects, preserves and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations will better understand the realities of war. Morton is an engaging, passionate speaker. You won't want to miss his talk. Please spread the word and invite friends who are veterans of any war or conflict since WW I.

Please RSVP by April 30th to Millie Ramsey at 860 734-1046 or millieramz@gmail.com

Around Town

On April 27th, members of the Mohegan Nation will present a program of dancing and drumming at HW Porter School at 2:30 pm

Upcoming

Over the summer, the Historical Society will open exhibits in two locations in town with much more information on Occom, Wheelock's Indian School, and life in Colonial Lebanon Crank (Columbia). These events are free and open to the public with a free will donation.



Columbia Historical Society Inc.
P.O. Box 551
Columbia, CT 06237

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
Columbia Historical Society
Membership April 2019 - March 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

City or Town & Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

Type of Membership: Individual (\$10.00/Yr. Family (\$20.00) Life (\$100.00

In addition to membership fee, I would like to make a donation (optional) to support the projects and programs of the Columbia Historical Society, Inc.

A payment for membership \$_____ and a donation of \$_____ is included on an endorsed check
For a total of \$_____

Please make your check payable to: Columbia Historical Society, Inc.

Please mail to: Columbia Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 551, Columbia, CT. 06237

Your gift is deductible as a charitable contribution only to the extent that it exceeds the value of goods and/or services you received in exchange for your gift. The above information should serve as a receipt in accordance with the Internal Revenue Services Guidelines.