

# Annotated Bibliography

of Books Related to PA Native Americans

by David Minderhout



**Englebrecht, William. 2003. *Iroquoia: The Development of a Native World*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.**

Englebrecht spent his academic career at Buffalo State College working with the Iroquois nations, both past and present. This book is a summary of his life's work. In it he tries to recreate the mindset/cultures of the Iroquois as they were at the time of contact. Chapter 9, titled "The Present," looks at the Iroquois as they existed at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In it, Englebrecht presents a map detailing contemporary Iroquois communities in New York State and Ontario, Canada, and he reviews legislation in the United States from the 1990's which affected the legal rights of Indian nations generally, and the Iroquois specifically.

**Garbarino, Merwyn, and Robert Sasso. 1994. *Native American Heritage*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.**

This book is a well-organized and easy to read general introduction to Native Americans. While the book describes Native Americans across the continent, there is a section devoted to the cultures of the Northeast and specifically the Lenape and the League of the Iroquois. Part IV of the book is a good summary of the issues and controversies in which modern Native Americans are involved.

**Kent, Barry. 1984. (reissued 2001). *Susquehanna's Indians*. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.**

Kent's book is a comprehensive collection of everything known about the Susquehannocks of the Susquehanna River Valleys. Most of the book describes what has been found in various archaeological excavations of Susquehannock living sites since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but an opening chapter looks at little is known about the Susquehannocks from historical accounts. The last of the Susquehannocks were supposedly killed in a massacre in Lancaster in 1763, but Kent reviews the possibility that some Susquehannocks survived and continued into the modern era. The book contains many photographs of Susquehannock artifacts taken from archaeological sites, as well as historic maps and word lists.

**Loewen, James W. 1995. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. New York: Touchstone books.**

In chapters 3 and 4, Loewen reviews the ways most American history textbooks misrepresent Native Americans. Loewen describes the things the history books leave out or the ways words are used to suggest that Native Americans were less capable than Europeans. For example, European are portrayed as settlers, ignoring that fact that Native Americans in areas like Pennsylvania were settled farmers at the time of contact.

**Mann, Charles. 2005. *1491*. New York: Vintage Books.**

Though not about Pennsylvania's Native Americans specifically, this book by science writer Charles Mann reviews the current state of anthropological and historical knowledge with regards to Native Americans at the time of European contact. In particular, he argues that the Western Hemisphere was much more heavily populated at contact than was previously thought and that native communities throughout the hemisphere were more developed than they were once given credit for. Most of this information is not yet in K-12 textbooks.

**Messinger, Carla, with Susan Katz. 2007. *When the Shadbush Blooms*. Toronto: Tricycle Press.**

This book is a finalist for the Children's Choice Book Award and a recipient of the Skipping Stones Honor Award. This brightly illustrated children's book features contrasting two page picture spreads for each month of the year. In each case, the left hand picture is labeled with the Lenape phrase identifying the month and shows a traditional Lenape family engaging in various domestic activities, such as fishing or harvesting maize. The right hand picture gives the English translation of the Lenape month name and shows a contemporary Lenape family involved in the same activities. The emphasis is on the continuity of Lenape culture from the past to the present. A brief narrative is presented with each paired picture to explain the scenes. Messinger, who has Lenape heritage, is the former director of the Museum of Indian Culture in Allentown, PA.

**Minderhout, David, and Andrea Frantz. 2008 *Invisible Indians: Native Americans in Pennsylvania*. New York: Cambria Press.**

Based on surveys and interviews with contemporary Native Americans in Pennsylvania; this book is intended to raise the public's awareness of native groups and organizations in the state. The book looks at important historical events in the state with regards to native peoples, examines common myths and stereotypes about them, looks at questions of personal identity and spirituality, and looks at issues of concern to Pennsylvanian native peoples. The focus of the book is on what it means to be a Native American living in PA today.

**Nagel, Joane. 1995. *American Indian Ethnic Renewal*. *American Sociological Review*. 60(6): 947-965.**

Many books have been written about the rise of the Red Consciousness Movement in the United States during the 1960's and 70's and the corresponding rise in ethnic identity and ethnic pride for Native Americans. This article summarizes the key events of this time period by a sociologist who is herself a Native American. It is a good summary of this period of Native American life.

**Richter, Daniel. 2005. *Native Americans' Pennsylvania*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania History Studies Series.**

This short book is an excellent introduction to the history of Native Americans in Pennsylvania. Brief descriptions are given of all the important events of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, such as the Walking Purchase of 1737 and the French & Indian War. In addition, Richter describes in detail in the Carlisle Indian Industrial School with regards to the children who attended and the pros and cons of the boarding school experience. He also describes the controversy over the creation of the Kinzua Dam in 1996 and the flooding of the Cornplanter Tract in western PA and the adjoining Seneca Reservation in New York State. His final chapter looks at contemporary native issues in the state and notes the on-going existence of Native Americans in the state.

**Wallace, Paul. 1981. *Indians in Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.**

This book is a good introductory summary of Native American life in Pennsylvania in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The book examines the history of European/native interactions and conflicts and quotes extensively from historical colonial documents and diaries. Brief descriptive accounts of the lives of the Delawares/Lenapes, the Susquehannocks, the Iroquois and the Shawnees are presented. Included are descriptions of dress, food, technology and family life. Brief biographies are given of important Native Americans from the colonial era.

**Werkheiser, Frederick, & Donald Repsher. 2005. *Documentary Evidence of Aboriginal Stonework in the American Northeast*. Self-published/available from the authors.**

This is a collection of essays highlighting important historic figures in the history of Native Americans in Pennsylvania as well as documents and letters illustrated native life in Pennsylvania in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. A particular focus are the stoneworks found in eastern Pennsylvania which are believed to have been constructed by the Lenape. A series of color photographs of some of these stoneworks is included.

**Weslager, C.A. 1972. (Reprinted 2003) *The Delaware Indians: A History*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.**

This book is a comprehensive history of the Delawares/Lenapes, beginning with initial contacts with Europeans and continuing through the relocation of the Delawares to other parts of the United States and eventually to Oklahoma in 1867. Chapter 3 describes the lives of the Delawares at contact; chapter 8 details the policies of William Penn as they applied to native peoples. Weslager begins his book by describing a trip he made to the Oklahoma Delawares in 1970.

**Wilker, Josh. 1993. *The Lenape Indians*. New York: Chelsea House Publications.**

Designed for readers from ages 9 to 12, this children's book is a good introduction to Lenape culture. It is part of the Junior Library of American Indians, published by Chelsea House. It is beautifully illustrated with many pictures of Lenape life at the time of European contact.

**Witmer, Linda F. 1993 (2002). *The Indian Industrial School: Carlisle, Pennsylvania 1879-1918*. Carlisle, PA: Cumberland County Historical Society.**

Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was home to the most notorious of the Indian boarding schools that existed in the United States from the 1870's until the 1930's. The founder of the Carlisle School, Henry Pratt, is famously remembered among Native Americans for his phrase, "Kill the Indian to save the man." This phrase captures the intent of the boarding schools which was to "detrribalize" Native Americans. Witmer's book describes the history of the school and provides a biography of Pratt. It is generously illustrated with period photographs from throughout the 30 year history of the school.