



Painting by Edward Hicks, "Penn's Treaty with the Indians"



Lenapehoking as identified on map in Wikipedia

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December 4, 2017 • 7:30-9:00 pm • The Barn at Pendle

A "Holy Experiment" Incomplete: Early Friends and the Lenapes in the Delaware Valley

A First Monday Lecture by Nancy V. Webster

Before Quakers arrived to settle in the Delaware River valley, a flourishing nation had lived there for centuries on the land known as Lenapehoking, the lands inhabited by the Lenape people. John Fenwick, and later William Penn, hoped and planned that two such different cultures could and would live in peaceful community. What understandings did each group have of the treaties and of their new neighbors? What were the results of their differing expectations? Did later generations honor the agreements of their forebears? Where and what proved to be stress points?

Nancy V. Webster will explore the historical situation between Quakers and the Lenape from the time of Fenwick's Colony to the formation of the first standing committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the 1795 Indian Committee.

Nancy V. Webster is a well-known regional and Quaker historian, as well as a 14th generation Friend born and living in Lenapehoking. Having spent 32 years as the regional historical and cultural preservation planner, she has been using her professional planning expertise to assist indigenous nations with such problems as water rights, fishing rights, Superfund sites, and other intrusions. Her last work was at Standing Rock, and she is currently assisting First Nations on Athabaskan pipeline issues. A lifelong gardener, Nancy has long been growing seeds saved for generations in her family and is working with William W. Weaver and his Roughwood Collection of heirloom and indigenous seeds, believing these ever more important in these times of genetically modified organisms and climate change.

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