

Program: Enigmatic Earthworks, Witch-Hunts, and the People from the Dawn: Indigenous History in East-Central Indiana

Speaker: Chris Flook, President, Delaware County Historical Society; Lecturer, Ball State University

Introduced by: Alison Brown

Attendance: 132

Guests: Grace Conyers, Julie Ferguson, David Hood, Jack Miteubuler, Robert Stoelting

Scribe: Gonz Chua

Editor: Carl Warner

Chris Flook is a Lecturer of Telecommunications at Ball State University, award winning film producer, author, and current president of the Delaware County Historical Society. The speaker is a life-long resident of Muncie, Indiana. Mr. Flook is an honors graduate from Ball State University with a major in production and minors in film studies and history as well as a master's in digital storytelling. Today's lecture is based on a documentary video exploring the story of the Delaware/Lenape Native Americans during their time in Indiana at the end of the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Flook emphasized the long cultural history of Native Americans in this country prior to the arrival of the Europeans. He discussed the settler colonialism that occurred including genocide, and ethnic cleansing and dishonest appraisal of the past. He told us of the removal of natives from their land by coercion, bribery, and even leaving "trails of death".

Archeological evidences found in central Indiana confirmed native culture as early as many thousands of years ago. The natives of the Paleo-Indian Period, named as Clovis Culture here in Central Indiana, existed around 18000 BCE. They were hunters and gatherers. The next came the Archaic Period's Glacial Kame culture between 8000-1000 BCE during which the natives started to domesticate plants. This was followed by the Woodland Period, 1000 BCE -1000 CE. The natives had begun tool making and used bows and arrows. The New Castle phase followed and mounds and earthworks were built.

European contact started in the 1670s with the French. There were multiple distinct groups of natives in Indiana. The Lenape were originally from Delaware but were pushed into Indiana from 1796-1821. The Lenape were later forced to move even further west in 1821. They were maltreated with treaties and inundated with alcohol. Descendants of the Lenape today appear to be thriving in different parts of the country.



Chris Flook