March 11, 2026

Interview with Sherry White
Tribal Liaison, Stockbridge-Munsee Community

What would you like Copake residents to know about the Tribe's history?
The Mohicans historically lived along the Hudson River, where the abundant wildlife, fertile soil for planting crops, and reliable water source for cooking and drinking supported our communities. The river also served as an important travel route connecting our people to other parts of the region. Our homelands include the Hudson River Valley in New York and the Housatonic River Valley in Massachusetts, and the town of Copake lies within these traditional Mohican homelands.

The tribe appreciates the town's interest in the history of our people in your area. We are always grateful for individuals and communities who look out for our interests and keep us informed about activities taking place within the region.

What has been your role in advancing the interests of the tribe?
Since 1856, the Mohican people have lived on our current reservation in Wisconsin. As you can imagine, protecting our ancestral homelands while living so far away is a significant undertaking. To help carry out this work, the tribe maintains a Historic Preservation Office located at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. This office works diligently to protect Mohican historic sites, burial grounds, and other locations of cultural importance.

In addition to this office, the tribe has a Tribal Liaison—myself—who helps maintain communication between the Tribal Council and individuals, organizations, and agencies interested in working with or communicating with the tribe. Although I work out of Wisconsin, I travel to our homelands often. My responsibilities include coordinating requests for speakers at events, assisting libraries and organizations that wish to develop displays or educational programs, helping people notify the tribe of projects that could potentially disturb Mohican sites, and responding to questions about the tribe. These are just a few examples of the work I do in this role.

I have served as the Tribal Liaison for three years. Prior to that, I directed the Historic Preservation Office for twenty-one years. I am also an enrolled member of the tribe and a tribal elder.

My commitment to this work comes from a deep responsibility to protect the interests, heritage, and history of the Mohican people.

What would you most like Copake residents to know about the present day tribe?
It is important for people to understand that the Mohicans are not simply "the last of the Mohicans." We are very much alive today. Our tribe takes its history seriously and works diligently to preserve and protect it for future generations.

Thank you for your continued interest in and respect for Mohican history and heritage.

SMC External Public Media Policy
Resolutions Opposing/Eliminating Race-Based Indian Logos, Mascots, and Names
Land Acknowledgements and FAQs
Donating to the New Tribal Cultural Center

Educational Resources:
The Mohican Peoples: Their Lives and Their Lands Curriculum
A Brief History of The Stockbridge-Munsee Community
Mohican Miles Exhibit
Words of our Ancestors
Stockbridge Walking Tour
Long Journey Home: The Return of Papscanee Island
Native American Tourism of Wisconsin: Stockbridge-Munsee