

Save the Date! May 22nd

(Postponed from March 27th) 2 to 4 PM, via Zoom.

A joint event brought to you by the Schaghticoke First Nations, United Confederation of Taino People, Harlem Valley Historic Pathways and Dutchess County Genealogical Society.

Register here <https://forms.gle/ay5Dh2mfvBUqPHXu9>

A Panel Discussion: What can you do when your history has been erased?

Sachem HawkStorm and Roberto Mukaro Borrero share stories of their journeys as they struggled to document their culture and revive their languages. Uncovering the history and lineage requires persistence, as traditional documentation is often lacking, and one must research historical collections for obscure documents and critically analyze clues found in fragments. You will hear about the tools used for this very difficult research process.



Sachem HawkStorm is the hereditary chief of the Schaghticoke First Nation, one of the three remaining tribes of the indigenous Schaghticoke Nation. He serves as the President of the Tribe's non-profit, Schaghticoke First Nations, Inc. Sachem Hawk Storm (Robert Alan Birch) is a direct descendant of the great Chief Gideon Mawehu and Sassucus. His life's journey has been one of reclamation, re-indigenization, and reconnection to the land. Since 2012, Hawk Storm has actively advocated for the implementation of the United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is the Schaghticoke's main representative at United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Under the leadership of Sachem Hawk Storm, Schaghticoke First Nations works in close partnership with local indigenous communities throughout the northeastern U.S., as well as with other Indigenous Peoples from around the world.

Roberto Múkaró Borrero has a distinguished and diverse background in policy & program development and human rights advocacy, including in specialization on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. He retains over 20 years of experience actively engaging the United Nations system in thematic areas such as Sustainable Development; Climate Change; the Information Society; and the Organization of American States; among others. He has served on the staff of the International Indian Treaty Council and the American Museum of Natural History, as well as an independent contracting consultant for UNESCO, PBS, and other notable institutions. A published writer, an accomplished artist and musician, Borrero is a member of the Taíno Tribal Nation, an Indigenous Peoples whose traditional homelands extend through the Greater Antilles to the Southern tip of Florida in the U.S. In 2012, he was traditionally sanctioned a kasike (chief) of the Guainía Taíno tribal community. He has an educational background in communications and cultural studies. In 2013, Borrero was awarded an honorary Doctorate Degree, Philosophy in Humanities, from Kayiwa International University, Kampala, Uganda.



Valerie LaRobardier is a third-generation family historian, professional genealogist who serves as Genealogist to the Schaghticoke First Nations. She also serves as Town of Dover Co-Historian; Board Member, webmaster, and newsletter editor to Town of Dover Historical Society; Founder of Harlem Valley Historic Pathways; Dover Vice President to the Dutchess County Historical Society; President of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society; Founder and Director of Shane's Path; researcher and webmaster for Agards in America. Valerie is also a member of several regional historical societies and writes a genealogy column for the Highlands Current. She has been researching Schaghticoke history since 2006 using local and Connecticut sources as well as documents of the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, PA.