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## **HISTORIC DEERFIELD LAUNCHES FREE MOBILE APP WITH WALKING TOUR OF DEERFIELD'S INDIGENOUS HISTORY**

**Deerfield, Mass. (February 8, 2023)**—Historic Deerfield has launched a mobile app that takes you on a walk through Deerfield's Indigenous history. The app features a tour titled "Encountering Pocumtuck," which offers a guided experience with 16 stops in the village of Old Deerfield where visitors can explore Pocumtuck life, culture, and history in the local landscape.

The app, available for Apple or Android devices, was developed with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Historic Deerfield worked with Indigenous scholars Marge Bruchac and Lisa Brooks, and local archaeologist Peter Thomas to create the content, which includes audio narration, an interactive map, and images to help tour-takers orient themselves and know where to look as they listen to the narration.

The lead scholar for the project was Dr. Margaret Bruchac, an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Coordinator of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also a Consulting Scholar for the Penn Museum and the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research at the American Philosophical Society. She specializes in museum anthropology, oral traditions, material culture, and ethnohistory, and directs two restorative research projects--"On the Wampum Trail" and "The Speck Connection"--that endeavor to reconnect objects and data in museums with living Indigenous people and traditions.

Bruchac says, "When we consider the history of this place, it is important to acknowledge that the town we now call Deerfield is situated within the ancestral homeland of the Indigenous Pocumtuck people. In recognition of that fact, Historic Deerfield worked with a team of museum staff, Indigenous advisors, and local historians to design this free, mobile app. Like so many locations in the Northeast, Deerfield is a place where Indigenous histories are inextricably entangled with colonial settler histories. Despite the imposing presence of 18th and 19th century English architecture and monuments, this is still an Indigenous landscape. We can still hear the stories, we can still see the evidence of Native homelands, and we can better

understand the legacies of the past in Native memories today, if we take time to stop and listen."

The landscape of Deerfield has much evidence of indigenous presence, but people don't always know where to look. Historic Deerfield hopes that this resource will help visitors see past the beautifully preserved houses and streetscape and learn about earlier histories.

Users can visit [historic-deerfield.org/mobile-app](https://historic-deerfield.org/mobile-app) to download the app.

### **About Historic Deerfield, Inc.**

Historic Deerfield is a museum of early American life situated in an authentic 18th-century New England village in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts. Its historic houses and world-famous collection of early American decorative arts open doors to new perspectives that inspire people to seek a deeper understanding of themselves, their communities, and the world.