

Washington Square Park: A Native Space?

24 April 2016

- Welikia
- Mannahatta
- Lenape (Unami and Munsee dialects)
- Mohegans, Mahicans, Montauks, Shinnecooks, Raritans, Matinacooks, Canarsees, Wappingers, Ramapoughs
- To the North, Haudenosaunee





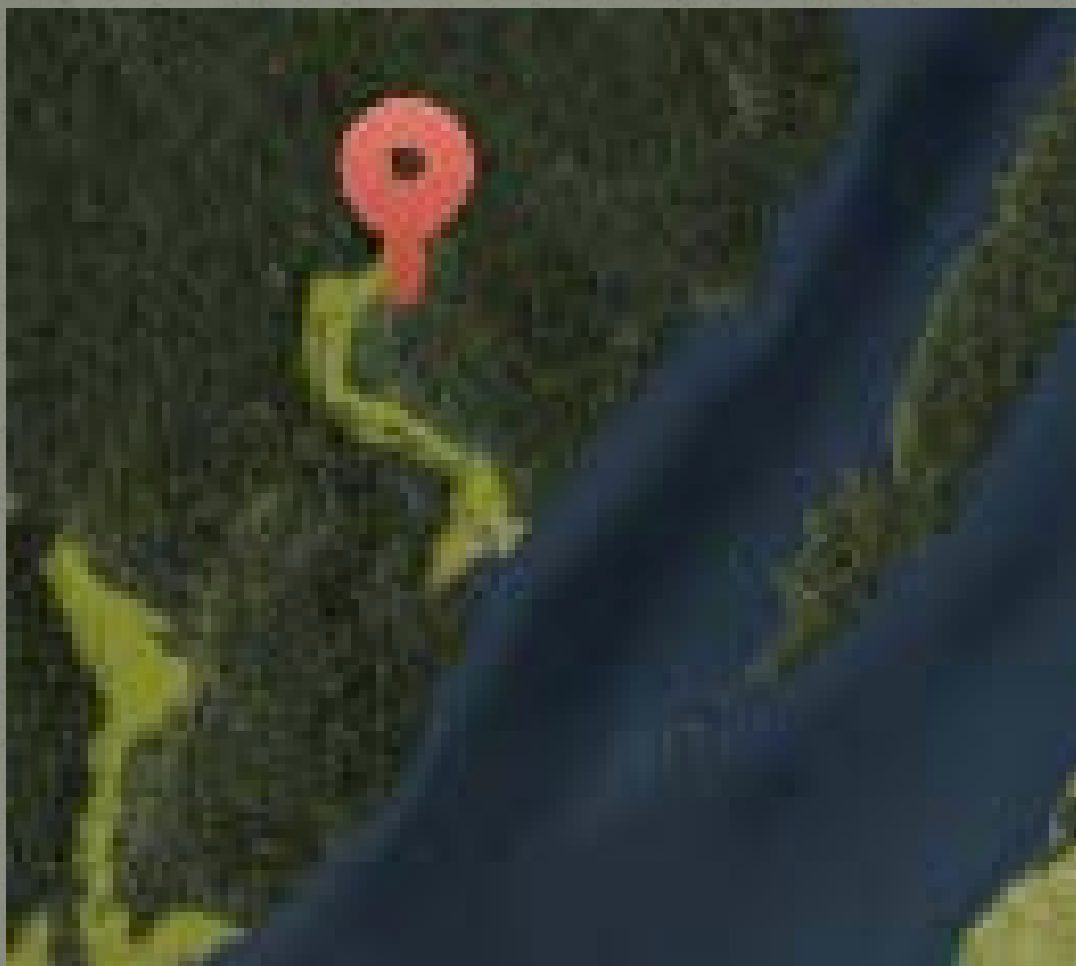
Welikia





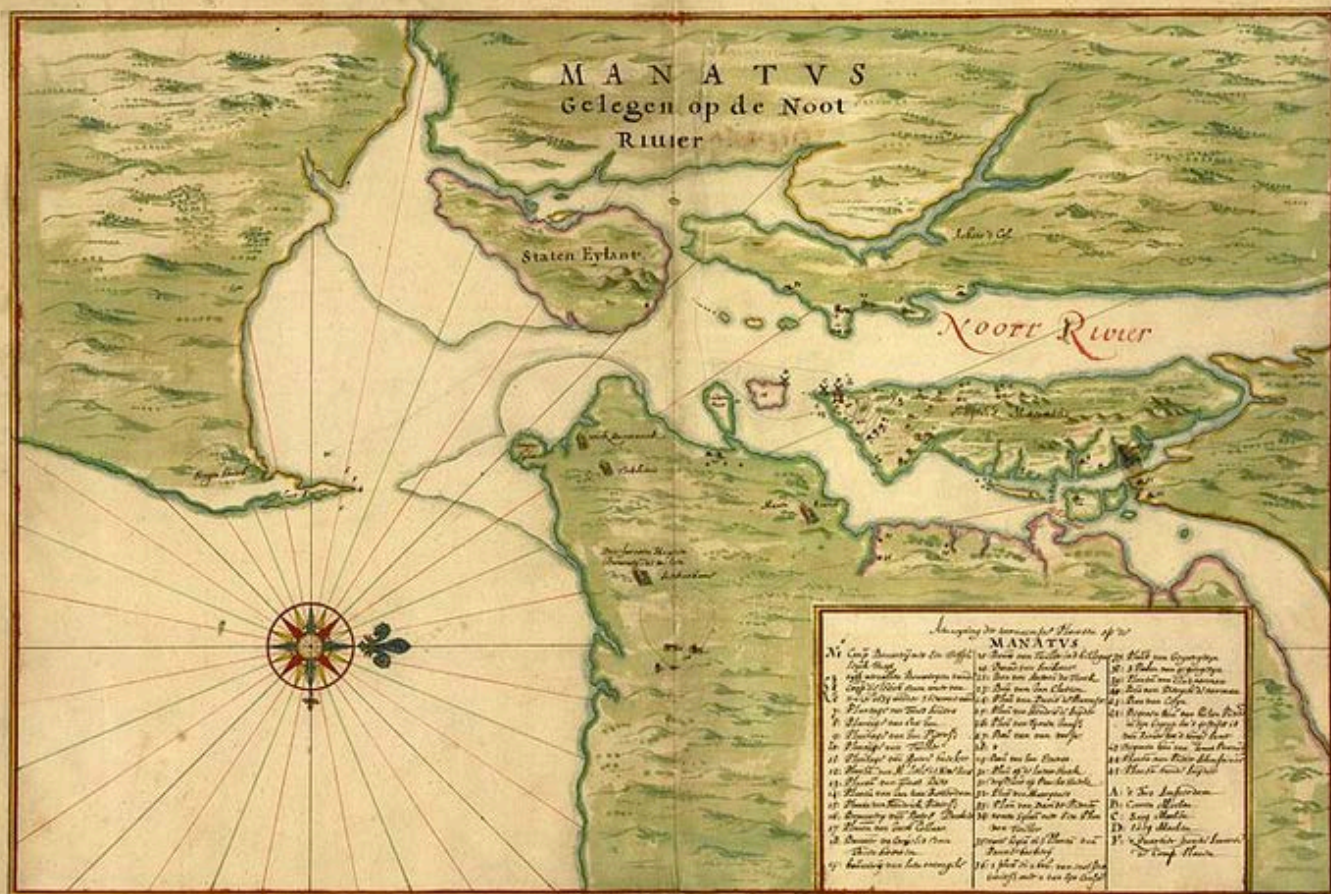
Kieft's War

- Pequot War
- Strain on Algonkian polities, post-Pequot War
- Refugees on Long Island, Staten Island, Lower Hudson Valley
- Tensions with the Mohawk (past Fort Orange)
- Willem Kieft, governor April 1638-1647
- Tribute payments
- A controversy over pigs
- Murder of Claes Swits, 1641



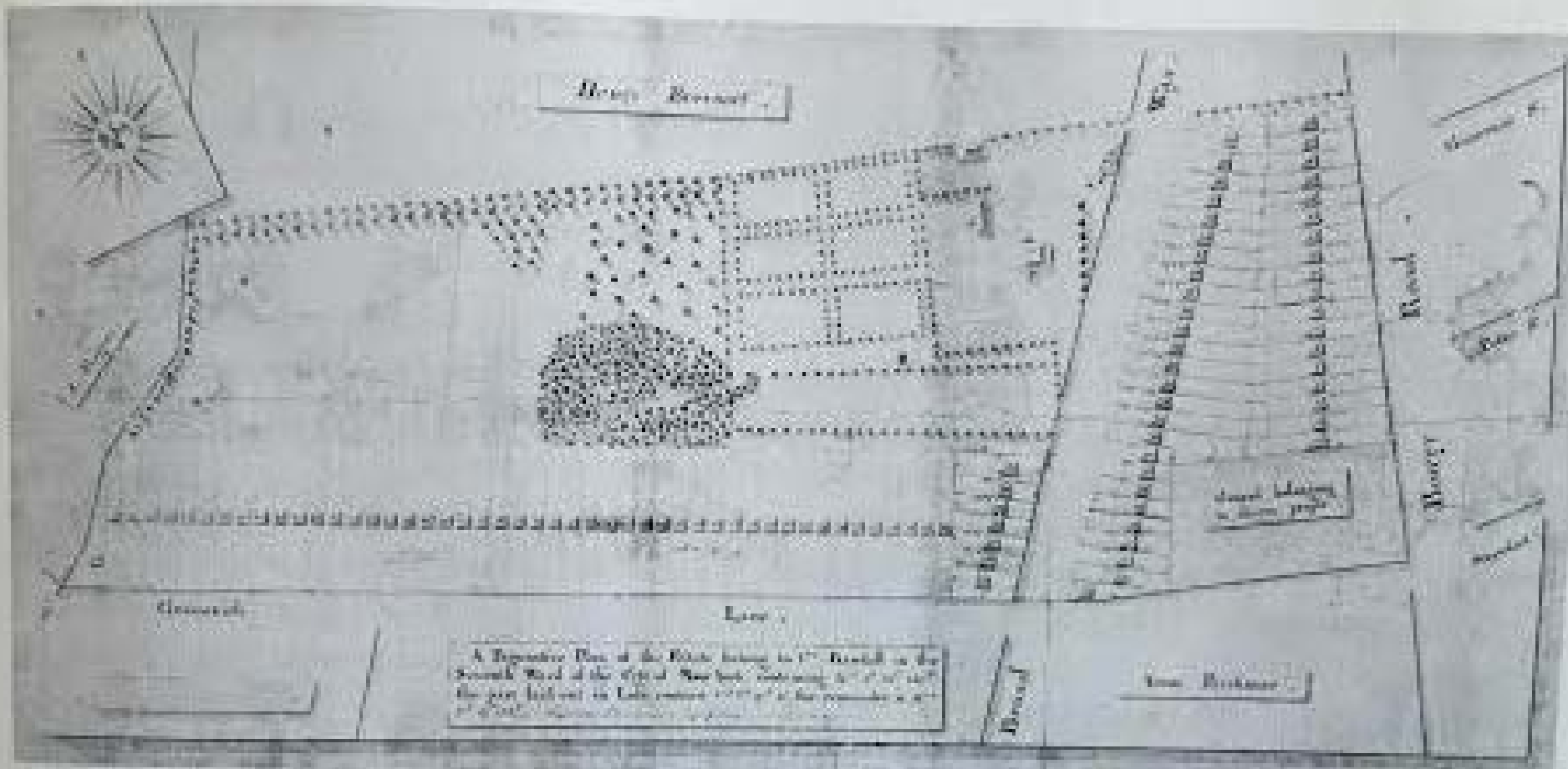
- The Pavonia Massacre, 1641 (150 Lenni Lenape)
- “Infants were torn from their mother's breasts, and hacked to pieces in the presence of their parents, and pieces thrown into the fire and in the water, and other sucklings, being bound to small boards, were cut, stuck, and pierced, and miserably massacred in a manner to move a heart of stone. Some were thrown into the river, and when the fathers and mothers endeavored to save them, the soldiers would not let them come on land but made both parents and children drown...”

- Full scale warfare by 1643
- Algonkian unity (Lenapes, Hudson River, Staten Island, Long Island) –as many as 1500 warriors in the field
- Winter massacres (1643-1644)
- Captain John Underhill and the Massacre at Pound Ridge, March 1644
- Truce, 1645



- By 1700, WSP was not “native space” at all
- Farmland and “country estates”

Randall's farm, 1797



- 1828—Minetta Creek gone, WSP has present shape and boundaries

Bohemian Greenwich Village

- A Native space?

- D'Arcy McNickle (1904-1977)
- Cree/Flathead
- Writer/poet/playwright/activist/anthropologist
- From 1933-1936, lived on West Fourth Street
- *The Surrounded* (1936)



Mabel Dodge Luhan

- Mabel Dodge Luhan (1879-1962)
- Salon at 28 Fifth Avenue
- Obsession with preserving Native cultures
- Friends with George Gustav Heye
- First use of peyote in NYC? 1912?
- Moved to Taos, where she married Tony Luhan



- Hanay Geiogamah (1945--)
- Kiowa/Lenape from Anadarko, OK
- Moved to Greenwich Village, 1971
- Founded the Native American Theater Ensemble, 1971
- 1972 *Body Indian*
- 1973 *Foghorn*
- 1975 49
- All performed at La MaMa on East Fourth



- Today?
- NYU's Native and American Indian student group
- Global Indigenous Studies

Bibliography

- Sanderson and Boyer, *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City* (2013)
- Romney, Susanah Shaw, *New Netherland Connections* (2014)
- Harris, *Around Washington Square: An Illustrated History of Greenwich Village* (2003)
- <https://welikia.org/>