



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Essex Heritage Explorers Kickoff Fall Native American Program

Life of Masconomet celebrated at burial site on top of Sagamore Hill, Hamilton

September 17, 2008 (Salem, MA) . . . Essex Heritage (Essex National Heritage Commission), in its tradition of celebrating our region's unique cultural heritage, launched its fall Explorers program by partnering with Glenn Mairo of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society for a tribute to Masconomet. The event took place on Saturday, September 13th at the top of Sagamore Hill in Hamilton, a beautiful and powerful place known as the only burial site of a 17th century Sachem in Massachusetts. This moving program included Mairo speaking on the life, legacy and leadership of Masconomet, and a performance by the Essex Harmony, an a cappella choral ensemble that specializes in historic American music.

This exploration of Masconomet's life will be the first of several Native American programs offered this fall by Essex Heritage. On Wednesday, October 29, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Emerson Baker, Professor of History at Salem State College will lecture on "Witchcraft, Warfare and Native Americans in Essex County" at the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology on the Phillips Academy campus (corner of Main Street/Rte 28 and Phillips Street), Andover, MA. Baker is the author of the recently published book *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England*. Set in 1692, at the time when Massachusetts was losing a war to the Native Americans of New England and their French allies, the frontier settlements in Essex County were in a state of panic. Many participants in the witchcraft outbreak had been involved in the war as captives, war

refugees, or soldiers, and their suffering is reflected in their actions during the witchcraft outbreak. This event is open to the public, and admission is free to Explorers, \$15 to the general public.

As part of the Essex Heritage TRAILS & SAILS program , Salem 1630: Pioneer Village will offer a program entitled, “Native American Experience” in Forest River Park, Salem, on Saturday, September 27, at 10:00 am. Feather on the Moon, Sachem of the Massachusetts Ponkapoag Tribal Council will give a lecture on the building a Native American fish weir at this site, with other activities relating to Native American flint-knapping and atlatl. On Saturday, Sept. 27, 2:30 PM or Sunday, Sept. 28, 2:00 pm, the Cuvilly Arts & Earth Center in Ipswich, MA will offer a walking tour of their campus which includes a "Nushwetü"-- an authentic native dwelling demonstrating local living through the wisdom of the indigenous people of this region, and several acres of land that include woodlands, trails, fields, an organic garden, a pond and an orchard. The walking tour will showcase the campus as well as provide information about the various programs they host. Admission to both events is free and open to the public.

Come and learn about the rich Native American culture and traditions that are embedded into the history of our county. For additional information on joining Essex Heritage Explorers, please visit: <http://essexheritage.org/explorers>

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About Essex Heritage Explorers

The Essex Heritage Explorers program provides members with opportunities to go behind-the-scenes at many of the Essex National Heritage Area’s historic, cultural and natural resource sites. As an Explorer, you may: attend exclusive events free-of-charge; receive a quarterly newsletter, *The Explorers Guide*, filled with information about unique heritage destinations throughout the Heritage Area; gain new perspectives on some of the Area’s most popular points of interest; be entitled to 10% off our products and events, and receive discounts at select businesses and sites. For additional information on joining Essex Heritage Explorers, please visit:

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About the Essex National Heritage Area and Essex Heritage

Designated by the US Congress in recognition of the important role that this region played in American history and its significant heritage sites still remaining, the Essex National Heritage Area is comprised of the 34 communities of Essex County, MA. Essex Heritage is a non profit agency that manages the Heritage Area, and works in collaboration with the National Park Service to promote public/private partnerships, and develop programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the Area’s unique historic, cultural and natural resources. For more information, visit Essex Heritage at www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.



About TRAILS & SAILS

TRAILS & SAILS: A Weekend to Go! Experience Essex Heritage is the premier partnership event of the Essex National Heritage Commission celebrating the historic, cultural and natural treasures of the Essex National Heritage Area. Coordinated by Essex Heritage as an integral part of our mission, TRAILS & SAILS raises regional awareness of the Area's unique history and promotes the preservation of its heritage sites.

Learn more at: trailsandsails.org