



SIX NATIONS INDIAN MUSEUM

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The Museum's History

Ray, Christine, and John Fadden opened the Museum for its first season during the summer of 1954. The wood that went into the lumber of the initial structure was milled at a local saw mill from trees felled by Ray Fadden.

The museum, originally two rooms large, expanded to four rooms producing a building approximately 80' x 20'. The Museum's design reflects the architecture of a traditional Haudenosaunee (Six Iroquois Nations Confederacy) bark house. The long bark house is a metaphor for the Six Nations Confederacy, symbolically stretching from East to West across ancestral territory.

The Six Nations are: The Mohawks are the Keepers of the Eastern Door, the Senecas are the Keepers of the Western Door, the Onondagas are the Fire Keepers and the Oneidas, Cayugas, and Tuscaroras (admitted into the Confederation in the early 18th century) are the Younger Brothers.

The Museum houses a myriad of pre-contact, and post-contact artifacts, contemporary arts and crafts, diagrammatic charts, posters, and other items of Haudenosaunee culture. The objects within the Museum are primarily representative of the Haudenosaunee, but there are representations of other Native American cultures as well.

There are many objects within the museum. The floors are decorated with Haudenosaunee symbol & motif, and within the rooms are cases exhibiting artifacts. The walls are laden with informative charts, beaded belts, paintings and other indigenous items of interest. Up into the peaked ceiling of each room are representations of Native America as they are covered with artifacts including canoes, baskets, tools, beadwork, feathered headgear, Native clothing, and posters.



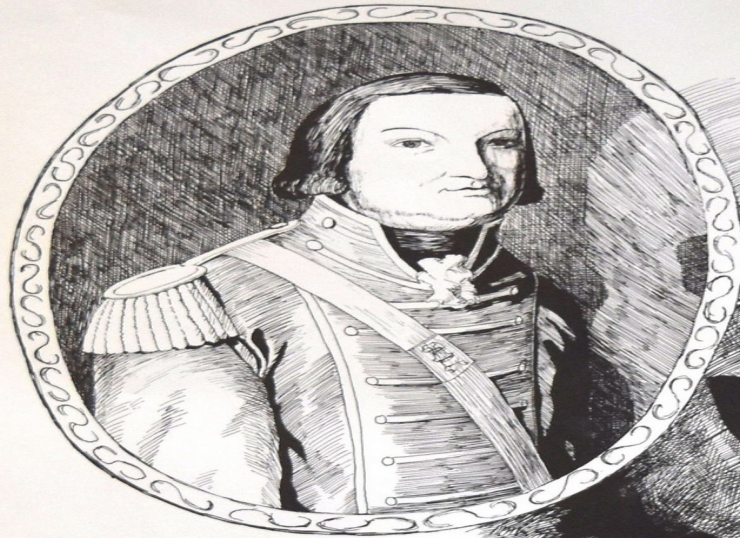
Six Nations Indian Museum history



6NIM exterior



John Don Dave



"I will try to inoculate them with some blankets, and take care not to get the disease (small-pox) myself. As it is a pity to expose good men against them, I wish we could use the Spanish method, to hunt them with English dogs who would, I think, effectually extirpate or remove that vermin."

Col. Henry Bouquet

THIS SHAMEFUL PLAN OF INFECTING THE INDIANS WITH SMALL-POX HAD SAD RESULTS. A FEW MONTHS AFTER AMHERST'S SUGGESTION, THIS DISEASE MADE GREAT HAYOC AMONG THE INDIANS OF THE OHIO.

Ray Fadden illustration (British smallpox / Col. Bouquet)

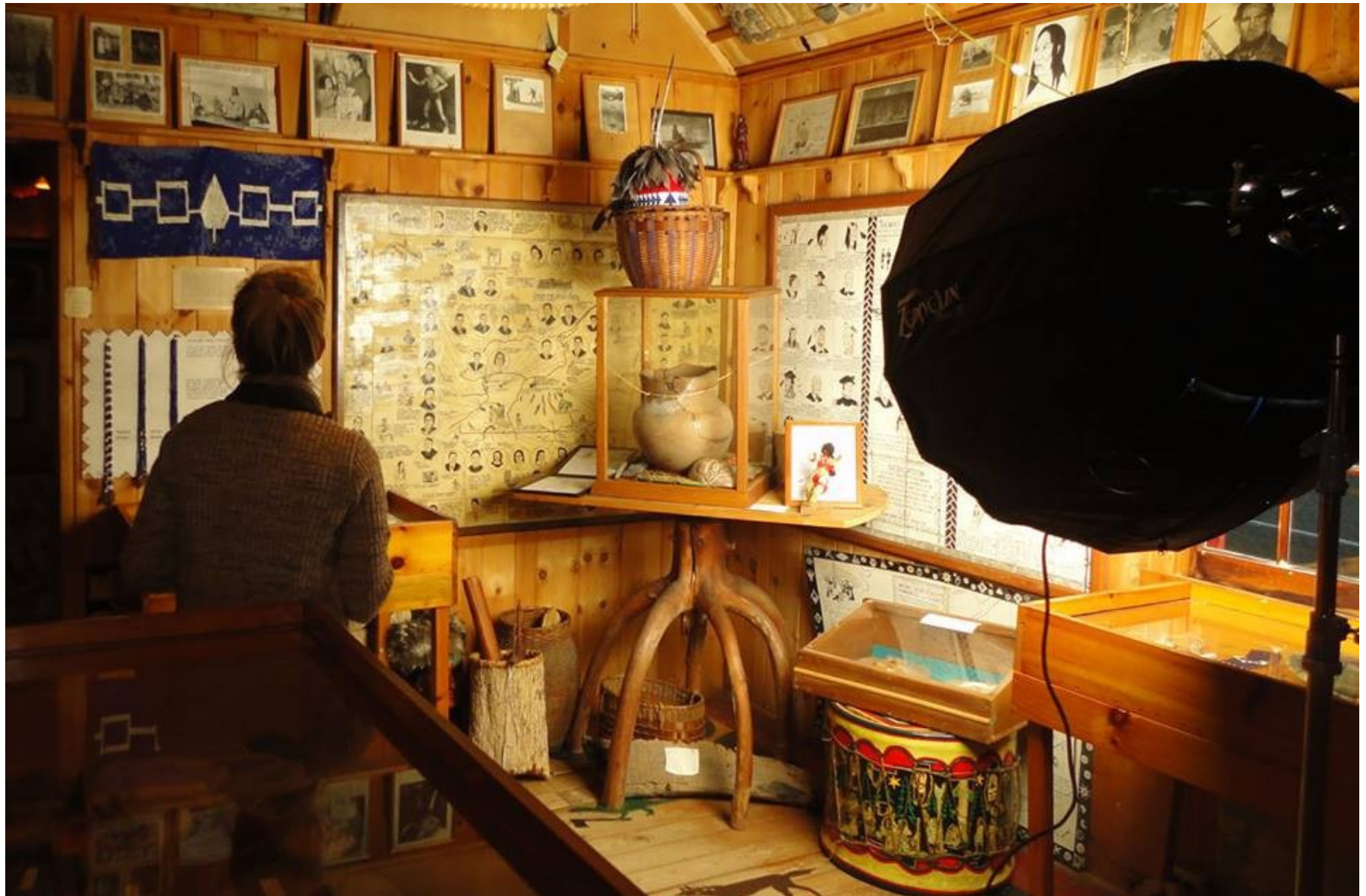


RAY FADDEN AND FRIEND

Ray Fadden with friend "Needles"



*Eva Fadden bead work for Wolf Clan
(Six Nations is matriarchy; Eva is Wolf Clan head)*



Wolf wampum belt & major Adirondacks Iroquois archaeology find + drums, drums ...