The 250th anniversary of what has long been known as “Pontiac’s War” offers scholars an opportunity to reexamine the conflict and its impact on the history of North America. The role of the Odowa leader Pontiac and the widespread scope and the varying aims of other Native participants in the conflicts of the mid-1760s defy easy categorization, a problem well summed up by historian Francis Jennings’s phrase, “The War Called ‘Pontiac’s.’” Many contemporary British observers and combatants sought some conceptual clarity by casting the blame on French-inspired treachery. Many Native people located the treachery among the British. In the mid-nineteenth-century, Francis Parkman constructed an epic tale of a single charismatic Indian leader and the last gasp of a doomed people. More recent work offers a much more complex interpretation of an inter-Native movement grounded in Native spirituality and aiming to regain status as well as land for its Native participants in the new geopolitical world after the Seven Years War.

Accordingly, this conference, sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies with co-sponsorship from the Penn Center for Native American Studies and cooperation from the Arthur Ross Gallery, offers reexaminations of the War Called “Pontiac’s” from a variety of disciplinary and geographical perspectives. To foster the widest possible dialogue, papers will be pre-circulated to those in attendance and, in most cases, will not be read at the conference sessions. Instead, for each panel a senior scholar will comment on the papers and outline themes that will provide a springboard for general discussion among those in attendance.

The conference is free and open to the public, but preregistration is required for on-line access to the pre-circulated papers. To register electronically, and for additional information, please visit www.mceas.org/pontiac.

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 4 APRIL 2013

3:00–4:45 p.m. Registration
   McNeil Center Foyer, 3355 Woodland Walk (34th and Sansom Streets)

3:30–4:30 p.m. Refreshments and Exhibition Tour of “Creating: Quilts of the Lakota”
   Arthur Ross Gallery, 220 S. 34th Street

4:45–5:00 p.m. Welcomes
   Stephanie Grauman Wolf Room, McNeil Center, 3355 Woodland Walk
   Daniel K. Richter, McNeil Center for Early American Studies
   Margaret M. Bruchac, University of Pennsylvania

5:00–6:30 p.m. Representations
   Chair: Margaret M. Bruchac, University of Pennsylvania
   Eric Hemenway, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
   Keith Widder, Mackinac State Historic Parks, retired
   Craig Wilson, Mackinac State Historic Parks
“Presenting Pontiac at Michilimackinac: Interpreting the Anglo-Indian War of 1763”
Comment: Peter Jemison, Ganondagan State Historic Site

6:30–7:30 p.m. Reception, McNeil Center Foyer

FRIDAY, 5 APRIL 2013
All Friday events will take place at the McNeil Center, 3355 Woodland Walk

8:30–9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee

9:00–10:30 a.m. Upper Countries
Chair: Christopher Parsons, McNeil Center for Early American Studies
Christian Crouch, Bard College
“The Black City: Detroit and the Northeast Borderlands through African Eyes in the Era of ‘Pontiac’s War’”
Michael McDonnell, University of Sydney
“Maintaining a Balance of Power: Michilimackinac, the Anishinaabe, and the Anglo-Indian War”
Keith Widder, Mackinac State Historic Parks, retired
“To Reinstate there Brothers’: Michilimackinac and the Anglo-Indian War of 1763”
Comment: Eric Hinderaker, University of Utah

10:30–10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Circulations
Chair: Laura Keenan Spero, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
Georgia Carley, Queens University
“Cost, Commodity, and Gift: The Board of Trade’s Conceptualization of British-Native American Gift-Giving during Pontiac’s War”
Michael Goode, University of Chicago
“Dangerous Spirits: Alcohol, Native Revivalism, and Quaker Reform”
Jeffrey Kaja, California State University, Northridge
“The Conflict over Spatial Mobility During ‘The War Called Pontiac’s’”
Comment: Timothy Shannon, Gettysburg College

12:15–1:30 p.m. Lunch (on own)

1:30–2:15 p.m. Archaeology
Chair: Daniel K. Richter, McNeil Center for Early American Studies
Michael S. Nassaney, Western Michigan University
“Prelude at Fort St. Joseph”
Comment: The Audience

2:15–3:30 p.m. Stories
Chair: Jane T. Merritt, Old Dominion University
Karen Marrero, Independent Scholar
“‘Carry’d on by Their Women’: Catherine, Angelique, and the Forgotten Story of Pontiac’s War”
Andrew Newman, Stony Brook University

“A Singular Gift from a Savage’: The Presentation of Books in Ohio Country Captivity Narratives”
Comment: Lisa Brooks, Amherst College

3:30–4:00 p.m. Refreshments

4:00–5:15 p.m. Fears
Chair: Patrick Spero, Williams College
Elizabeth Hornor, MidAmerica Nazarine University
“Intimate Enemies: Captivity and Colonial Fear of Indians in Pontiac’s War”
Richard Newman, Rochester Institute of Technology
“‘Dupes and Slaves to Indians’: Bondage, Servility and Empire in Pontiac’s World”
Comment: James H. Merrell, Vassar College

5:15–5:30 p.m. Break

5:30–6:30 p.m. Closing Roundtable
Chair: Alyssa Mt. Pleasant, Yale University
Panelists: Colin G. Calloway, Dartmouth College
Gregory Evans Dowd, University of Michigan
Richard Middleton, Independent Scholar
Comment: The Audience

6:30–8:00 p.m. Buffet Supper