



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ
HISTORY CENTER
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



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Fort Pitt Museum to Host Historian and Author Dr. Timothy Shannon
-Part of the Fort Pitt Museum's speaker series, Dr. Shannon will discuss Peter Williamson's 18th century odyssey-

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 13, 2018 – The Fort Pitt Museum, part of the Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center museum system, will host historian and author Dr. Timothy Shannon for a presentation entitled **Indian Captive, Indian King: Peter Williamson's American Odyssey** on Saturday, Aug. 25 at 11 a.m.

In June 1758, Peter Williamson appeared in Aberdeen, Scotland in the dress of an American Indian and told a fantastic tale. He claimed he had been kidnapped from the city as a child, sold into slavery in North America, taken captive by Delaware Indians, and eventually repatriated to Britain as a prisoner of war. Aberdeen's magistrates arrested and exiled him, but Williamson used the courts and press to expose Aberdeen's "kidnapping trade." He later settled in Edinburgh, where he cultivated a local reputation as "king of the Indians."

Presented as part of the Fort Pitt Museum's speaker series, Dr. Shannon will unravel fact from fiction in Williamson's odyssey and use it to illustrate how working people in 18th century Britain exploited an empire that was built on exploiting them.

A noted historian, Shannon is the author of books including "Indian Captive, Indian King: Peter Williamson in America and Britain," "Iroquois Diplomacy on the Early American Frontier," and "Indians and Colonists at the Crossroads of Empire: The Albany Congress of 1754."

Following the presentation, visitors can explore Western Pennsylvania history through two floors of interactive displays and award-winning exhibitions, including ***From Maps to Mermaids: Carved Powder Horns in Early America***, which showcases delicately carved powder horns and the stories behind them.

Admission for this presentation is \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students and History Center members. Register online at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events.

For more information on the Fort Pitt Museum's exhibits and public programs, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/fort-pitt.

The **Fort Pitt Museum**, built in a recreated bastion of the British fort originally constructed in 1759, focuses on the critical role that Western Pennsylvania played during the French & Indian War, the American Revolution, and the founding of Pittsburgh. The Fort Pitt Museum is located in Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh. The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, operates the Fort Pitt Museum in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/fort-pitt.



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