Abenaki Bibliography

This bibliography encompasses sources integral to understanding Western Abenaki people as well as sources that provide context to the area of the Northeast that may only briefly touch upon Abenaki people. Peripheral sources can be invaluable to understanding the world of the Abenaki throughout history. Sources integral to the history of the people contain a notation.

Primary Sources of the Northeast:


Colin Calloway provides excerpts from sources directly related to the area from first encounters to the late eighteenth century.


Calloway provides an invaluable resource of the genre of captivity narratives from within Western Abenaki territory.


Samuel de Champlain touched upon the shores of Lake Champlain and dealt directly with what author Frederick Wiseman terms the “pilots,” local people that guided the expedition through Abenaki territory.


This account provides some important glimpses into the contact period world of New Hampshire and Vermont Western Abenakis.


This account mentions Western Abenaki people during the French and Indian War. This is an important first-hand account.


Robert Rogers’ raid on Odanak provides a continual source of mourning for Western Abenaki people. However, his journals provide an important insight into the world of the eighteenth century in Western Abenaki territory amongst the people.

These sources are invaluable to understanding the spirit of the Northeast and the interconnections between villages.

**Secondary Sources**:


This is perhaps one of the most important histories on Western Abenaki people and is a staple in understanding their history. As new information has become available, there are a few tweaks that should be made to the structure of society but this remains an essential work.


Compiled by Melody Walker Brook, Elnu Abenaki Tribe


Gordon Day is often seen as one of the most important scholars of the region.


Nancy Gallagher wrote the book on Eugenics in Vermont and is integral to understanding the twentieth century and the wounds of the period still lingering in contemporary society.


This work was completed by Jeanne Kent, a renowned Abenaki artist specializing in gourd work. The value in this is especially the understanding of art within the contemporary Abenaki world.


   This is an essential work in understanding indigenous identity and the relationship to government policy. While much of O’Brien’s work focuses on Southern New England, the implications revolve around all indigenous people of the Northeast.


   Trudy Parker’s book is an important view from within the community. As a descendent of Abenaki people, her work provides an inside glimpse into the history of the area.


   Phillips created an impressive account of souvenir art of the Northeast and the much deeper implications of contemporary pieces and their historical value as it translates to modern indigenous identity.


Richard White’s concept of the middle ground is essential to conceptualizing the social and political atmosphere of first contacts and the colonial period. He dispels the idea of the frontier and viewing the colonial world through fresh eyes with the lens of the middle ground changes the understanding of the world they lived in.


Frederick Wiseman is a scholar from within the Abenaki community and his books are an invaluable resource to Abenaki history. In particular, regarding the pieces of contemporary struggles with recognition he provides an insider’s perspective as he was an active participant. He provides much information to fill in the gaps on the contemporary experience and experience post-1800.

**Archaeological Sources:**


William Haviland and Marjory Power created an essential work for the understanding of Abenaki people from an archaeological context. Reexamination of sites has occurred but this work is still integral to the field. Calloway continues this history from the contact period and Wiseman continues Calloway’s work into the modern experience.


**Language Sources:**


**Abenaki Storytelling Resources:**


**Multimedia Sources:**


The Echo Center has four films shown only at the Echo Center in Burlington Vermont – Ash to Baskets, Circle of Courage, Melody of Language, and Walking in Two Worlds. Descriptions can be found at the following website: http://www.echovermont.org/exhibits/ef.html