

# **“The Avaricious Humour of Designing Englishmen”**

## ***Land Transactions Between the Tunxis and European Settlers of the Farmington Valley***

The Farmington Valley CT Heritage Network (<https://www.farmingtonvalleyctheritage.org/>) is pleased to offer a presentation with **Ken Feder**, archaeologist and retired Professor of Anthropology at Central Connecticut State University, on **Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** at the **Stanley-Whitman House**, 37 High Street, Farmington (<https://s-wh.org/>). Dr. Feder will discuss land transactions between the Tunxis and European settlers of the Farmington Valley. His talk will set the stage for the group’s April 29<sup>th</sup> bus tour, “*Lively Lore & Legend: Fact or Fiction?*”, part two of a three-part exploration of the Valley’s legends of ghosts, crimes, witches, war, and more, with a focus in part two on locations in Canton, Avon, and Unionville. Admission to Ken Feder’s presentation is \$5 per person for those not also joining the bus tour. Anyone interested in learning more about the bus tour can visit <https://www.farmingtonvalleyctheritage.org/>, email [nancy@farmingtonvalleyctheritage.org](mailto:nancy@farmingtonvalleyctheritage.org), or call 860.680.5298. (The \$50 bus tour fee includes tour, lunch, and Dr. Feder’s pre-tour lecture.) Parking for the lecture is available at the museum, on the street opposite the museum, and at the nearby Barney Library.

When English colonization began in the Farmington Valley, the Indigenous Tunxis community, one of a number of Indigenous communities in the lower Connecticut River Valley, was mainly settled on the Farmington River. Land transactions began in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century and led, by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, to petitions filed by the Tunxis regarding English encroachment on the Tunxis landholdings. The phrase, “The Avaricious Humour of Designing Englishmen” comes directly from a letter of complaint filed by the Tunxis in 1738. Dr. Feder’s lecture covers the story of the unsuccessful attempt by the Tunxis to use the English legal system to retain their ownership of the lands that comprise the Farmington Valley.

**Ken Feder** obtained his B.A. in anthropology in 1973 from Stony Brook University in New York, his M.A. in anthropology in 1975 from the University of Connecticut, and his Ph.D. from the latter in 1982. He recently retired from the Department of Anthropology at Central Connecticut State University, where he was a full professor starting in 1977. Feder’s primary research interests include the archaeology of the native peoples of New England and the analysis of public perceptions about the human past. He is the author and co-author of several books and has appeared as a talking head on numerous cable documentaries, including the National Geographic Channel, the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and others. Feder was the co-recipient of the first CCSU Excellence in Teaching Award.

Proceeds from the tour benefit **The Farmington Valley CT Heritage Network**, whose mission is to enhance appreciation of the rich history of Connecticut’s Farmington Valley by promoting collaboration and communication among heritage groups and raising cultural awareness through programming and tours. Learn more at <https://www.farmingtonvalleyctheritage.org/>.

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Archaeologist Ken Feder presents a lecture Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at The Stanley-Whitman House in Farmington on “The Avaricious Humour of Designing Englishmen: Land Transactions Between the Tunxis and European Settlers of the Farmington Valley.” The lecture and its related bus tour the following Saturday are offered by the Farmington Valley CT Heritage Network.