

**RETIREE MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014.
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich, CT.**

MISSY WOLFE

THE GREAT MUNSEE MASSACRE OF 1644



Was there an Indian "battle of Strickland Plains" in Cos Cob? Why were these Indians killed, where did it happen, and who did the deed? Were Greenwich founders involved in what has been called the largest genocide of native Americans in the northeast? In our earliest colonial era, present-day Greenwich was property of the Dutch West India Company, situated within New Netherland, and the town line between Greenwich and Stamford marked the southwestern border between New England and New Netherland.

In the early 1640s, the Dutch on Manhattan commissioned forces to eliminate regional Munsee groups who inhabited Westchester County and southwestern Connecticut in a campaign we now call Kieft's War. The Native Americans who lived in Greenwich were called the Wiechquaesqueck (weck-as-queek), and it has now been shown by scholars that the Siwanoy never lived here. In a bitterly cold February of 1644, a force of 130 mercenary soldiers, under orders from Governor Kieft of New Amsterdam, arrived at Tomac Cove and began their fateful march in a northwesterly direction. This foray through Greenwich resulted in the deaths of approximately 700 men women and children who were burned alive in one evening. Ms. Wolfe reports the four historically proposed locations of this enormous event, though the actual location has never been verified, and the deaths and lives of these native people, who lived in our region for over 10,000 years, has never been truly acknowledged.

This is the second visit of Missy Wolfe to the RMA. A Greenwich native, she is a lifelong student of history, particularly Connecticut in the 1600's, when its southwestern border changed multiple times until English sovereignty was finalized in 1665. Her book, *Insubordinate Spirit, A True Story of Life and Loss in Earliest America 1610-1665* is a unique exploration into the life of Elizabeth Winthrop (daughter-in-law of John Winthrop) who emigrated to the rough untouched wilderness of present-day Greenwich and is one of its 13 founders. An imperfect new American, she watched as the Dutch, the English and the Indians cultures combusted simultaneously in and near Greenwich. Ms. Wolfe's new research has been called "An important contribution to the literature of New Netherland," by the President of the New Netherland Research Center in Albany, NY, and it is well received by academic historians. She received an MBA from Columbia and, after an early career in advertising, she pursued her interests in history, design and fine and decorative arts with an Associate's degree in Design and a certificate from NYU's program for Appraisal Studies in Fine and Decorative Arts.

Our business meetings begin at 10, and our speakers are scheduled for 10:30. No Charge and No Reservations are required. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com. Additional information about the RMA and its speakers can be found on our web site, greenwichrma.org.