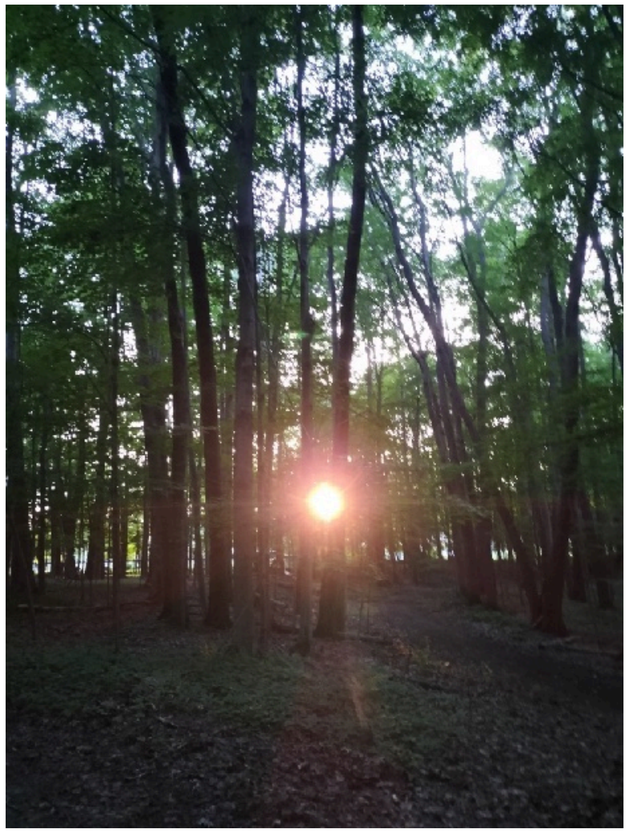
Sacred Geography: Exploring Lily Dale






Dr. Jack Hunter

Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre,
Sophia Centre for the Study of Cosmology in Culture,
University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

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PARAPSYCHOLOGY Foundation, Inc

Sophia Centre
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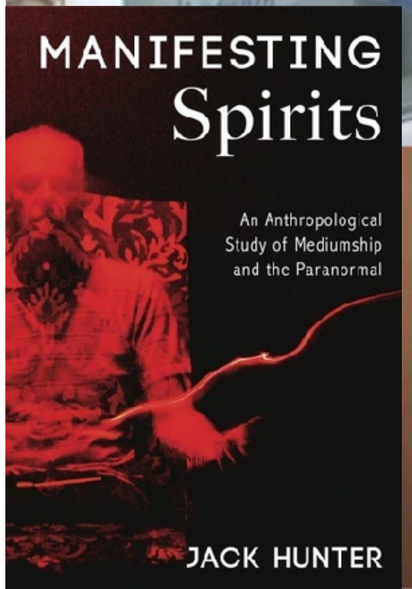







Bristol Spirit Lodge Circle




MANIFESTING
Spirits
An Anthropological Study of Mediumship and the Paranormal
JACK HUNTER






GEF!
THE STRANGE TALE
OF AN EXTRA-SPECIAL
TALKING MONGOOSE
CHRISTOPHER JOSIFFE


UC

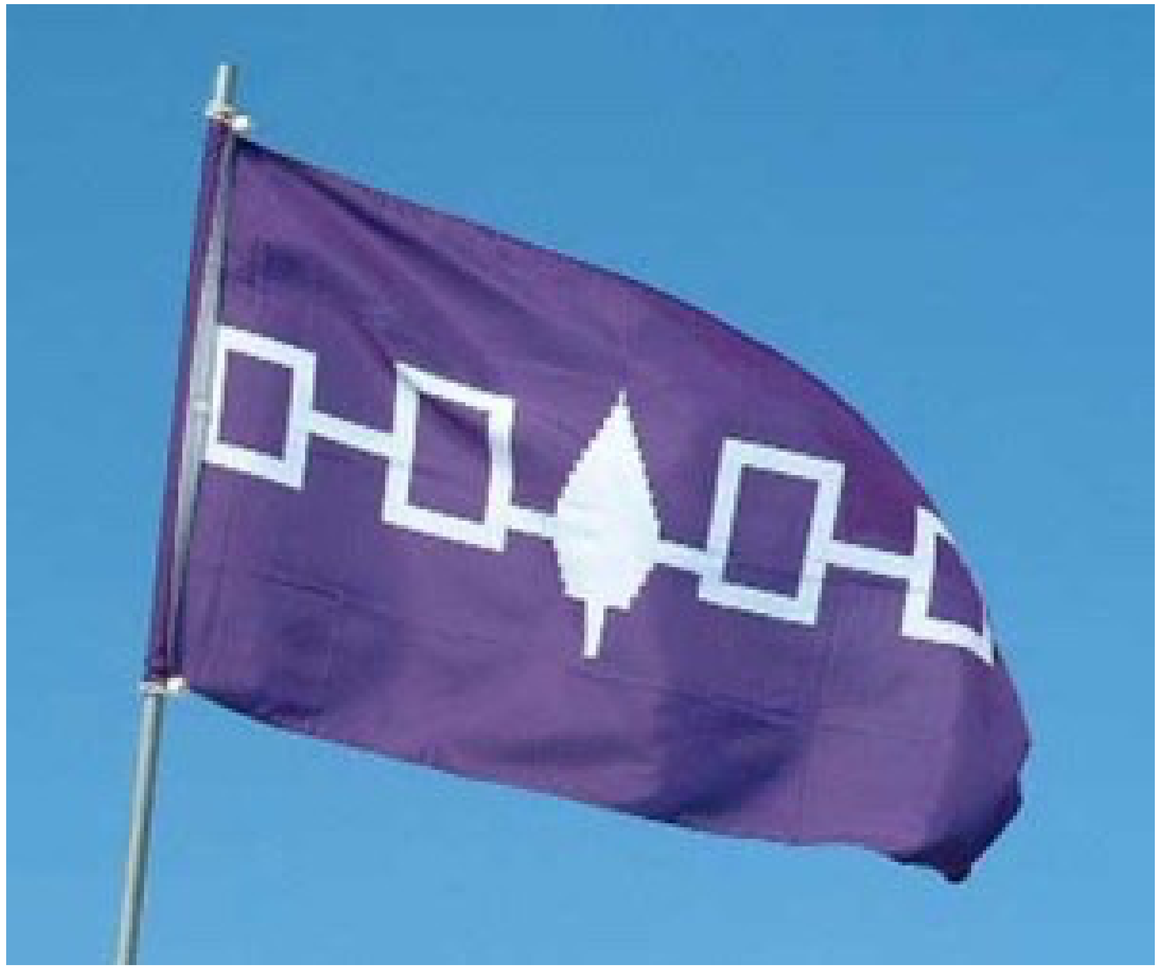
The Land

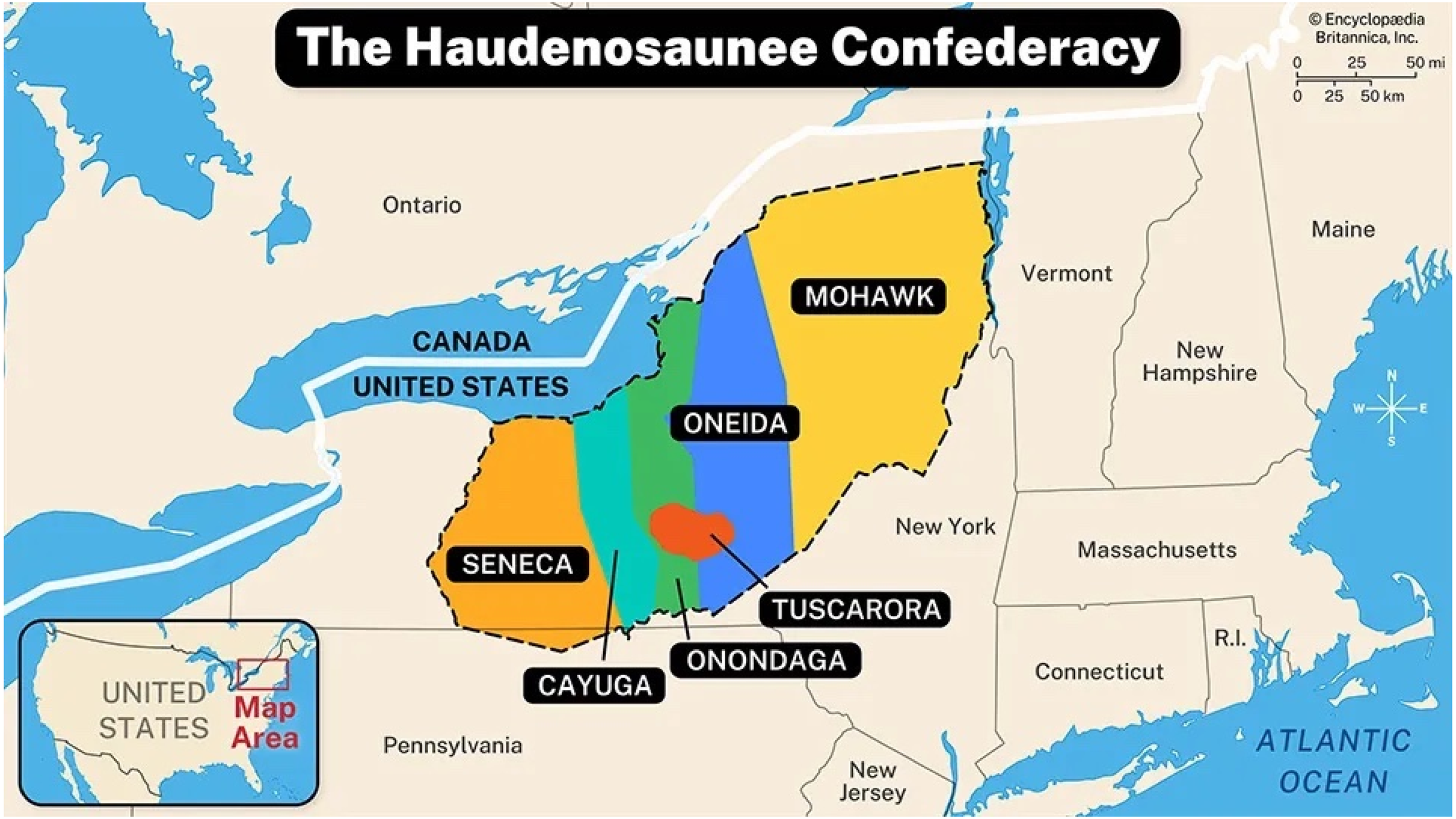



CANADA
U.S.
NEW YORK
Albany
Lily Dale
VT.
N.H.
MASS.
CONN.
N.J.
PENNSYLVANIA
100 MILES
THE WASHINGTON POST

Indigenous People

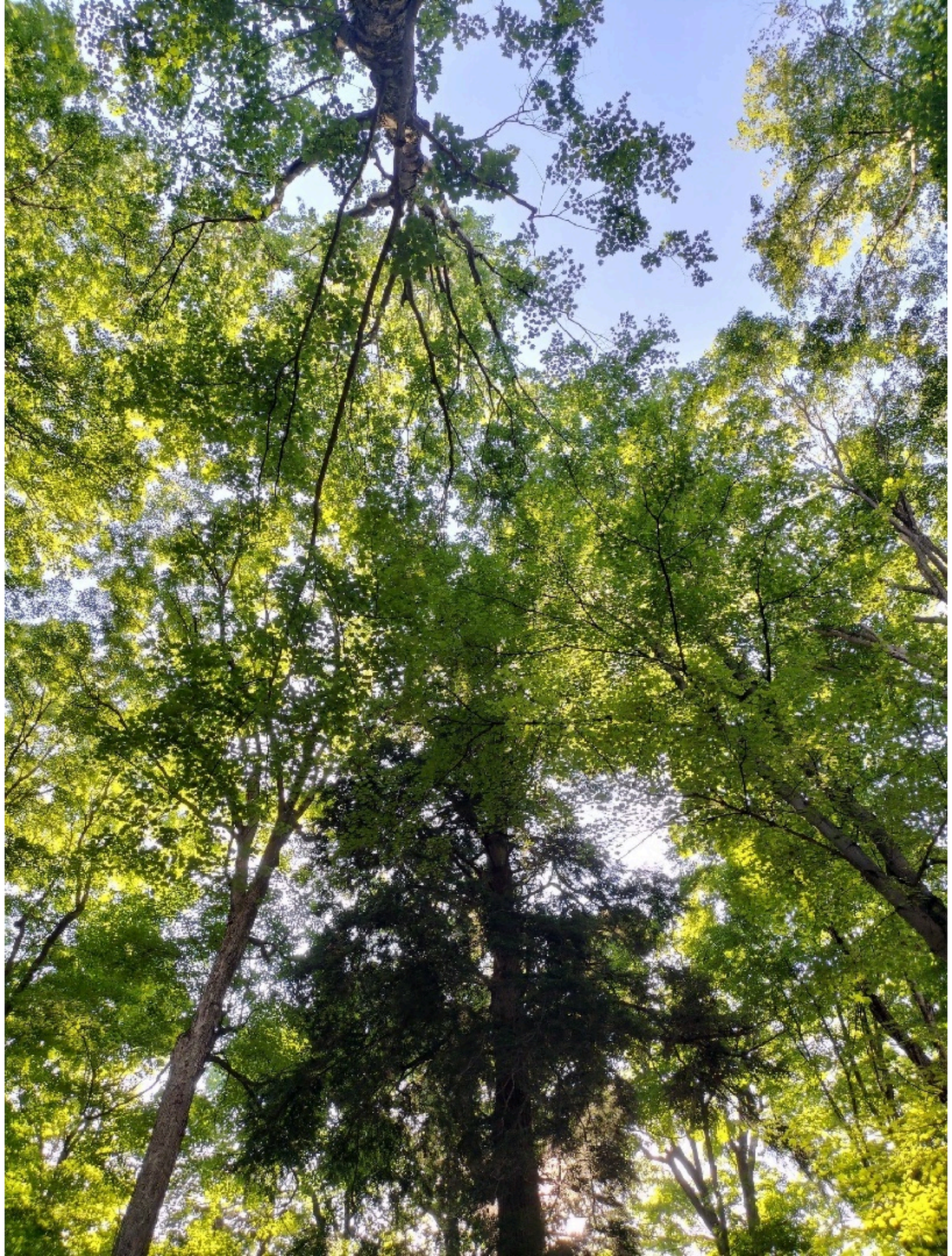
- Part of the traditional homelands of the Ho-de-no-sau-nee-ga (Haudenosaunee) and Erie peoples.
- An alliance of six Indigenous nations—the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora.
- Also known as the Iroquois Confederacy.

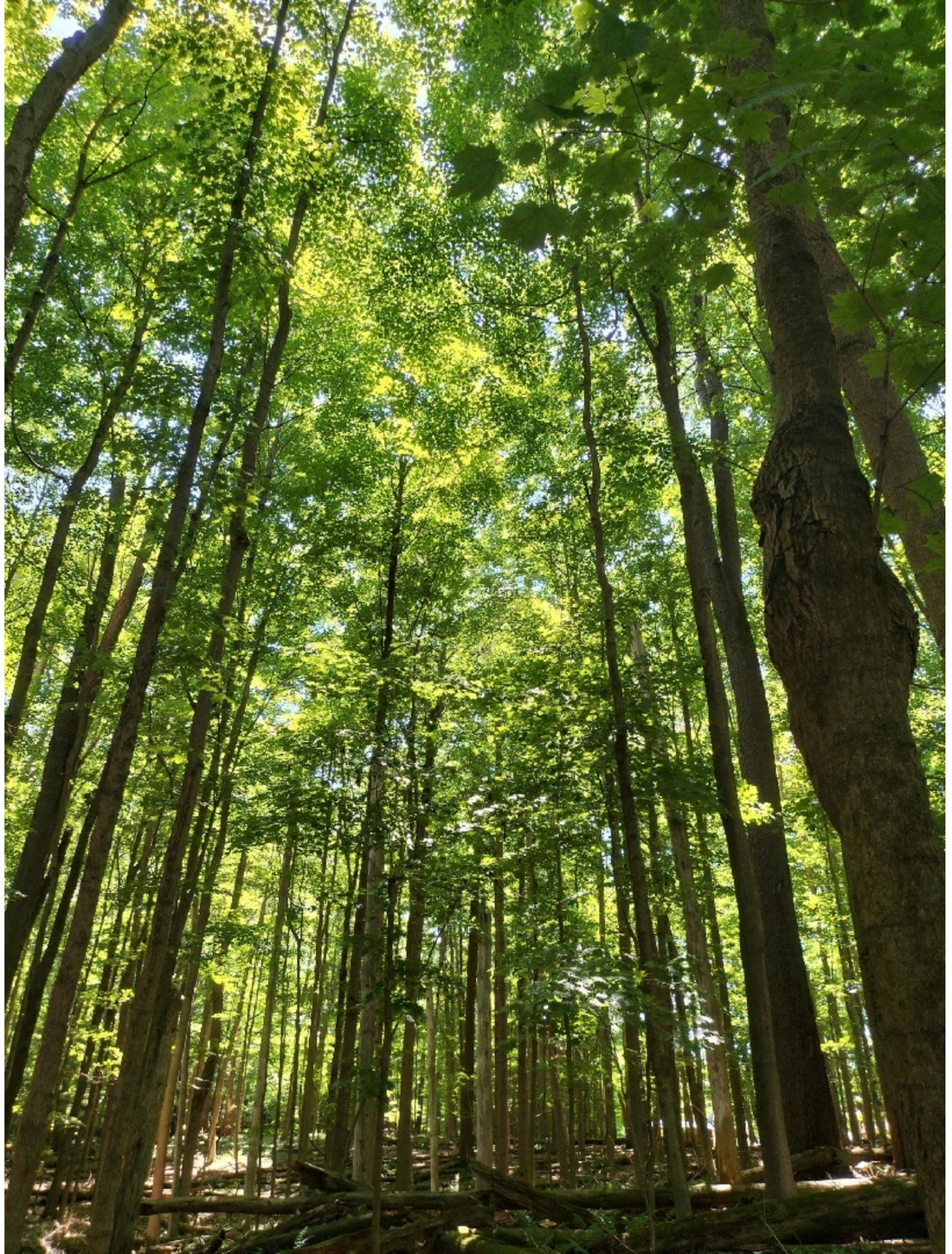



The Haudenosaunee Confederacy
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0 25 50 mi
0 25 50 km
Ontario
Maine
Vermont
MOHAWK
CANADA
UNITED STATES
New Hampshire
ONEIDA
N
W
E
S
New York
Massachusetts
SENECA
TUSCARORA
R.I.
ONONDAGA
Connecticut
CAYUGA
UNITED STATES
Map Area
Pennsylvania
New Jersey
ATLANTIC OCEAN



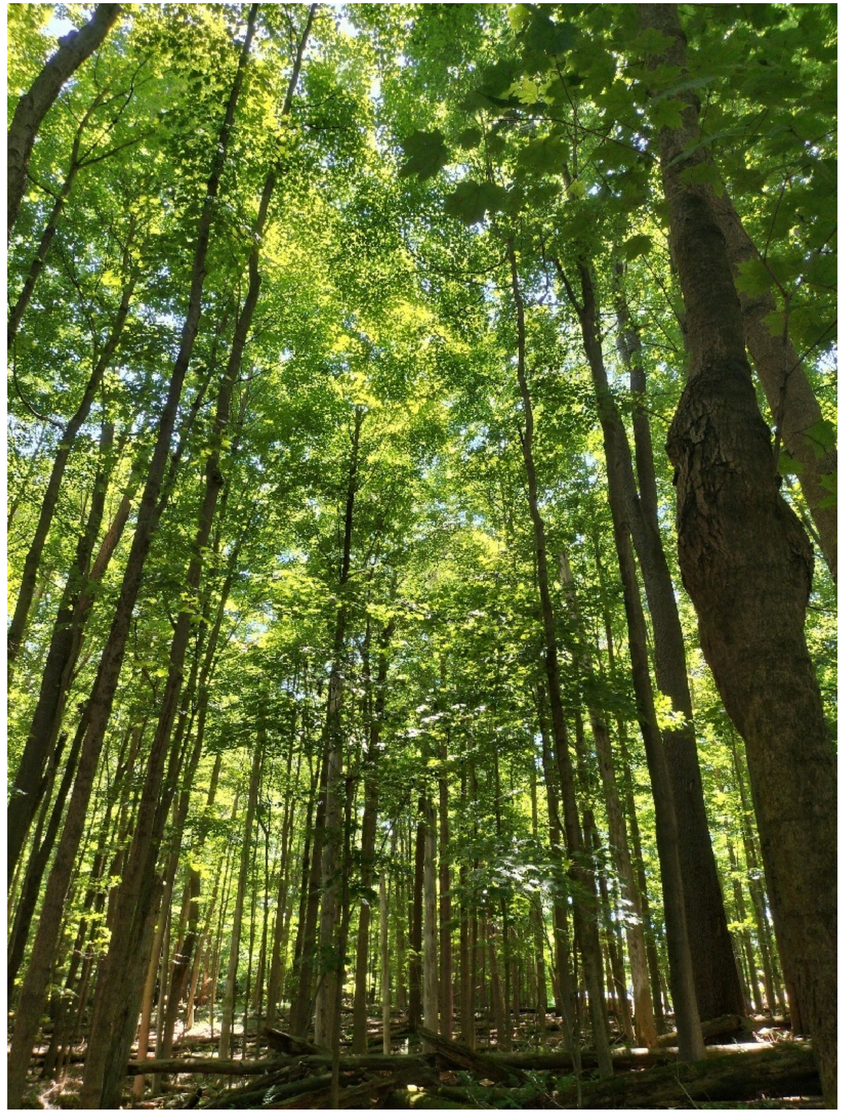






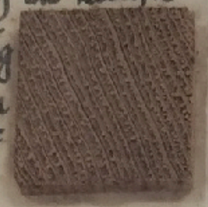
Leolyn Woods

- A 10-acre tract of old growth forest on the grounds of the community of Lily Dale.
- Contains some of the most accessible very old, large trees in the region, including eastern white pine standing 135 feet tall.
- Other species of big trees include northern red oak, eastern hemlock, red maple, sugar maple, cucumber magnolia, and black cherry.
- Some trees are estimated to range in age from 200 to 400 years.



the Legend of Lily Dale's Healing Tree

Down the majestic tree lined path in the famous virgin forest of the Leolyn woods in Lily Dale, N.Y. stood the stately Healing Tree.



This tree was taller than the others and was about 250 years old. Legend has it that if anyone touched this grand old tree they would be healed. But then there were those who felt that a piece of its bark would be a nice souvenir to take home with them for healing.

Unfortunately, too many had the same idea, and the loss of so much bark necessitated the trees removal in 1971.

So now our great tree is down but its legend lives on.



You may have a piece from the original Healing Tree as a reminder of its legendary powers and as a real tangible souvenir and memento from the grounds of Lily Dale.

Knowing this, may the Great Spirit bless you and bring you healing.

Trees

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast:

A tree that looks to God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray:

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair:

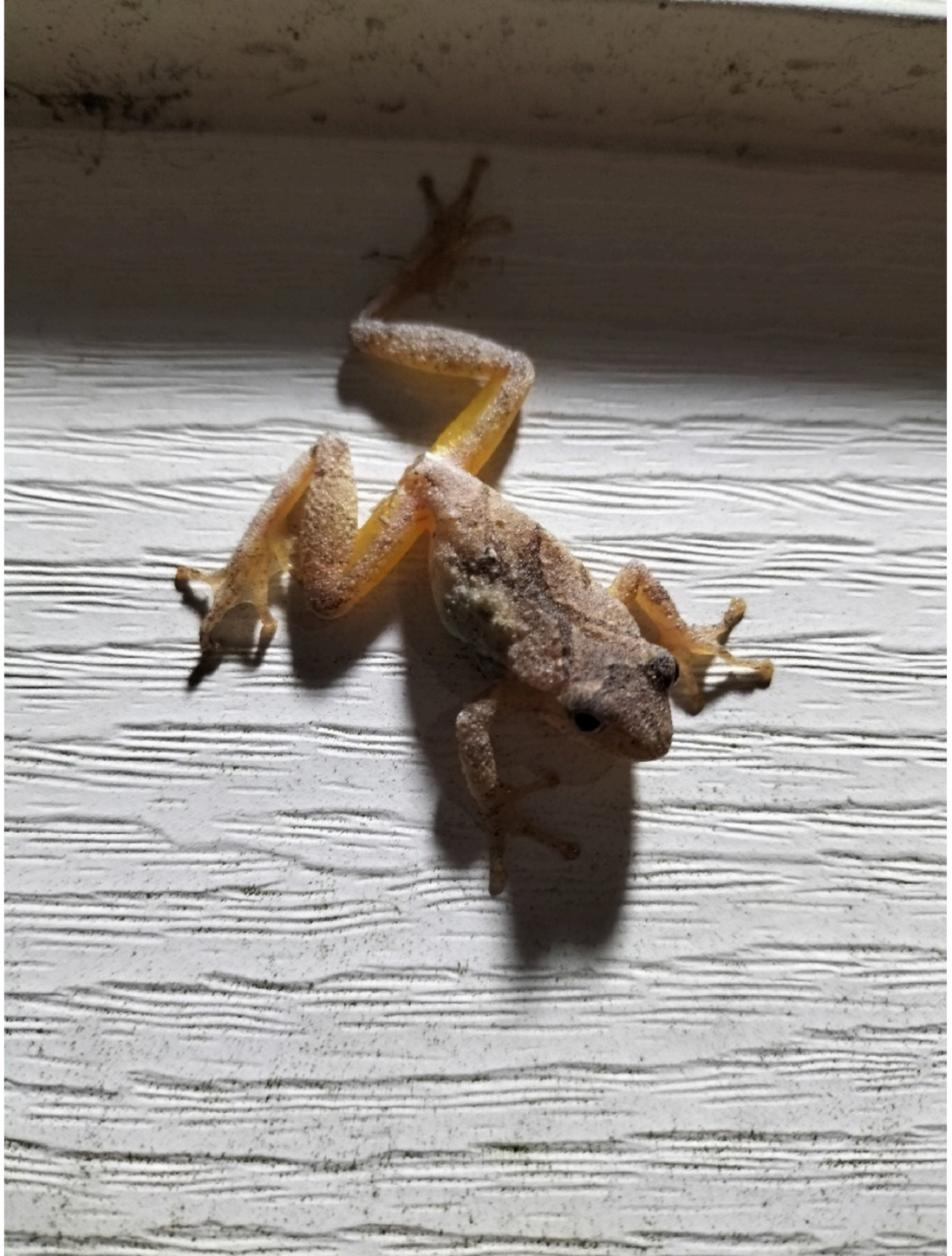
Upon whose bosom snow has lain:
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Joyce Kilmer









Biodiversity = Psychodiversity

- We had a number of extraordinary wildlife encounters - with Cicadas and their ethereal sounds, small frogs known as ‘Peepers,’ Black Squirrels, Rabbits, Chipmunks, a Blue Heron, a toad, a snake, Hummingbird Hawk Moths, countless varieties of butterflies, and even Fireflies, which glowed in golden bursts as we sat out and chatted into the night.

- Suggestion that high levels of bio/ psychodiversity might also be associated with extraordinary experiences, as our consciousness interacts with the abundance of other forms of mind around us (see Hunter, 2019, 2023).





The Town

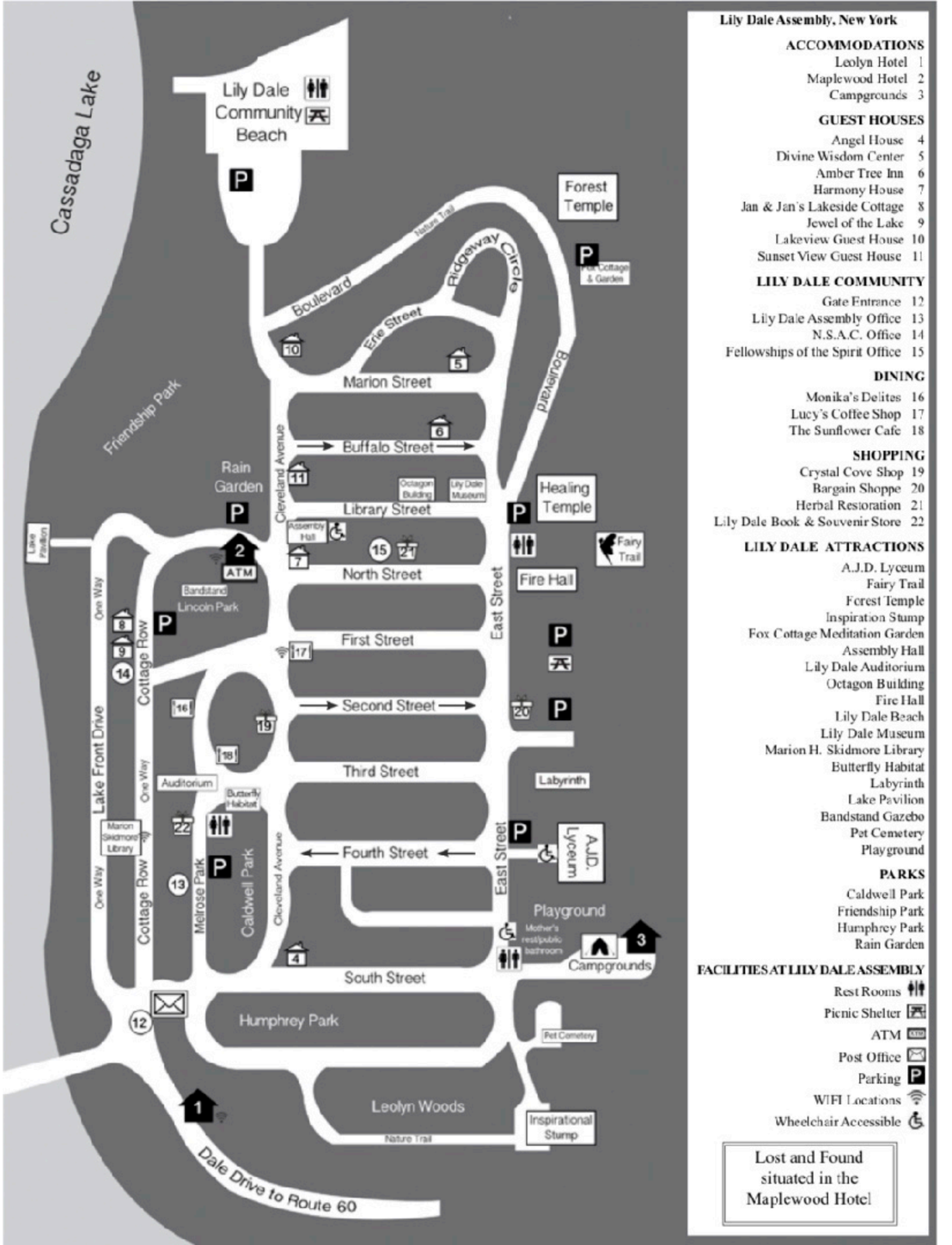

LILY DALE ASSEMBLY
LILY DALE
ASSEMBLY
World's Largest Center for the
Religion of Spiritualism

Founding

- Lily Dale was incorporated in 1879 as Cassadaga Lake Free Association, a camp and meeting place for Spiritualists and Freethinkers.

- Women’s suffrage campaigner Susan B. Anthony made the first of her several public appearances in Lily Dale in 1891.

- She spoke to an audience of 3,000 people in the amphitheater on that day.




WOMAN SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT
SUSAN B. ANTHONY — IN LILY DALE
ELIZABETH PURPLE
MAGGIE WAITE
MARY WEBB BAKER
ABBY LOUISE PETTENGILL
Votes for Women




FOREST TEMPLE

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PROGRAM OF THE ASSEMBLY.

George H. Brooks, Chairman.

JULY

8—Carrie E. S. Twing.
9—Elbert Hubbard.
10—J. Clegg Wright.
11—Seven Days' Grove Meeting.
12—Carrie E. S. Twing; J. Clegg Wright.
13—Conference.
14—J. Clegg Wright.
15—Open Day—Willard J. Hull.
16—W. J. Colville.
17—Willard J. Hull.
18—Reception Day—Semi-public—J. M. Dennis, Chairman.
19—Willard J. Hull; W. J. Colville.
20—Conference.
21—Miss Susie C. Clark.
22—New York State Day—H. W. Richardson, Chairman.
23—Miss Susie C. Clark.
24—Mrs. Tillie U. Reynolds.
25—Miss Susie C. Clark.
26—Mrs. Tillie U. Reynolds; F. A. Wiggin.
27—Conference.
28—F. A. Wiggin.
29—Peace Day.
30—Baha Ullah and Bahai.
31—Daguerreotype Day—W. J. Colville.

AUGUST

1—Baha Ullah and Bahai.
2—Rev. Morgan Ward; Pigeon Hippo Mason.
3—Conference.
4—Rev. Morgan Ward.
5—Women's Congress—Anna B. Shaw; Susan B. Anthony; Charlotte Perkins Gilman.
6—Charlotte Perkins Gilman.
7—Anna Shaw.
8—Charlotte Perkins Gilman.
9—Francis Edgar Mason; Anna Shaw.
10—Conference.
11—Mrs. Elizabeth Mason.
12—Lizzie Doty.
13—G. H. Brooks.
14—W. M. Lockwood.
15—Chas. Beadle Patterson; W. M. Lockwood.
16—Chas. Beadle Patterson; W. M. Lockwood.
17—Conference.
18—W. M. Lockwood.
19—Canadian Day—Hon. H. J. Morgan, Chairman; Dr. Neil McArthur.
20—W. F. Jamieson.
21—Will J. Ernest.
22—Canal Day.
23—H. D. Barrett; Dr. Annie.
24—Conference.
25—Mrs. Alice D. Le Plongeon.
26—K. P. A. Day—W. J. Colville; Harper.
27—Mrs. Alice D. Le Plongeon.
28—Pennsylvania Day—J. L. Stevens, Chairman; Mrs. C. L. Stevens.
29—Farmer's Day.
30—Will J. Ernest.
31—Conference.

SEPTEMBER

1—Will J. Ernest.
2—Farewell Session.

TEST MEDIUMS.

July 5-15, Harper Albanese.
July 19-25—P. Gordon White.
July 26-Aug. 1—Jennie Lore Edson.
Aug. 2-15—P. Gordon White.
Aug. 19 to end of season, Margaret Guile.

HOTEL RATES.

The Maplewood—$2.00 to $2.50 per day.
The Park—$1.50 to $2.00 per day.
The Elmhurst—$1.50 to $2.00 per day.
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Lakeside Cottages—$1.00 per day.
Lakeview Cottages—Month of July and $5 more.
Where Restaurant—$1.00 to $2.00 per day.
Hygeian Home—$1.50 to $2.00 per day.
Sanatorium—$2.50 and up.
Special rates by the week at some of the above.

RAILROAD TIME TABLE.

Going North.
9.52 a. m. and 9.58 p. m.
Going South.
9.54 a. m. and 6.06 p. m.
SUNDAY TRAINS
Going North.
10.52 a. m. and 12.00 and 6.40 p. m.
Going South.
10.57 a. m. and 3.51 and 6.29 p. m.

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- Healing Temple - dedicated July 3rd 1955 by the movie star Mae Wet.

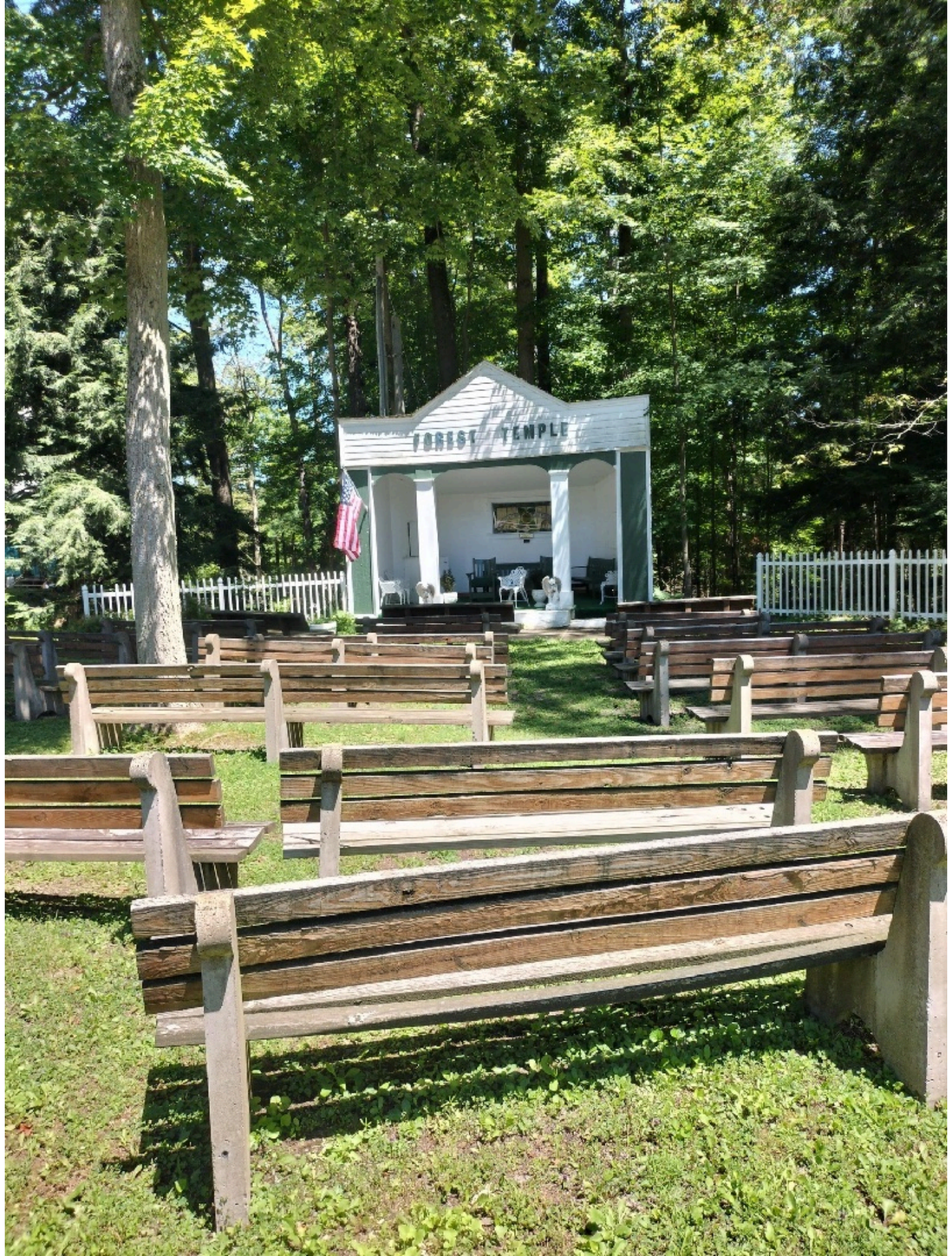
Chief Oskenonton

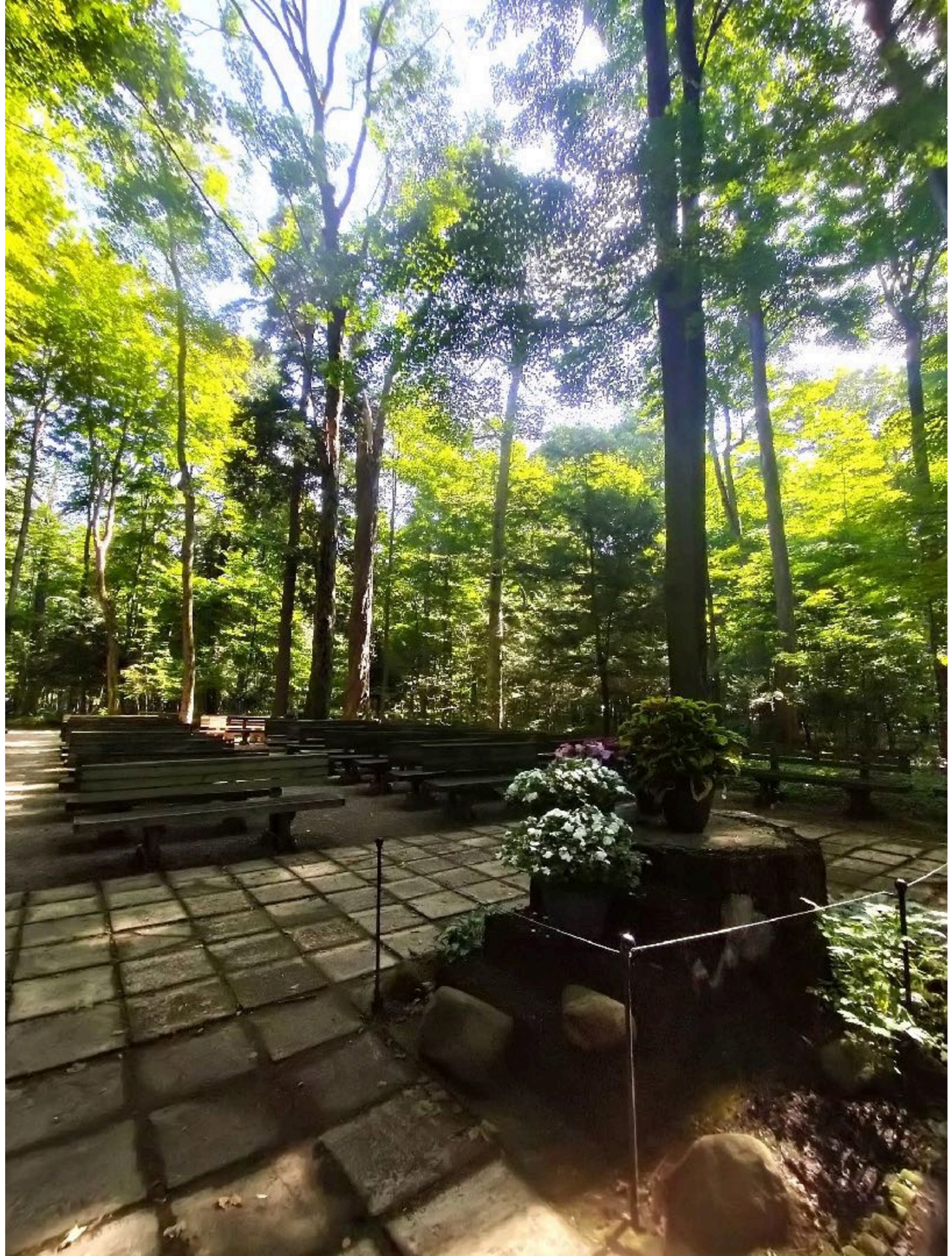
- Os-Ke-Non-Ton (also written Oskenonton, meaning deer in the Mohawk language, also known as “Running Deer”), baritone, actor, spiritual leader (né Louie Deer c. 1888 in Caughnawaga [now Kahnawá:ke], QC; died c. 1955 in Lily Dale, NY).

- Os-Ke-Non-Ton was a celebrated singer and performer who showcased his culture across the globe.

- He also worked as a healer at a spiritual centre in Lily Dale until his death.




FOREST TEMPLE







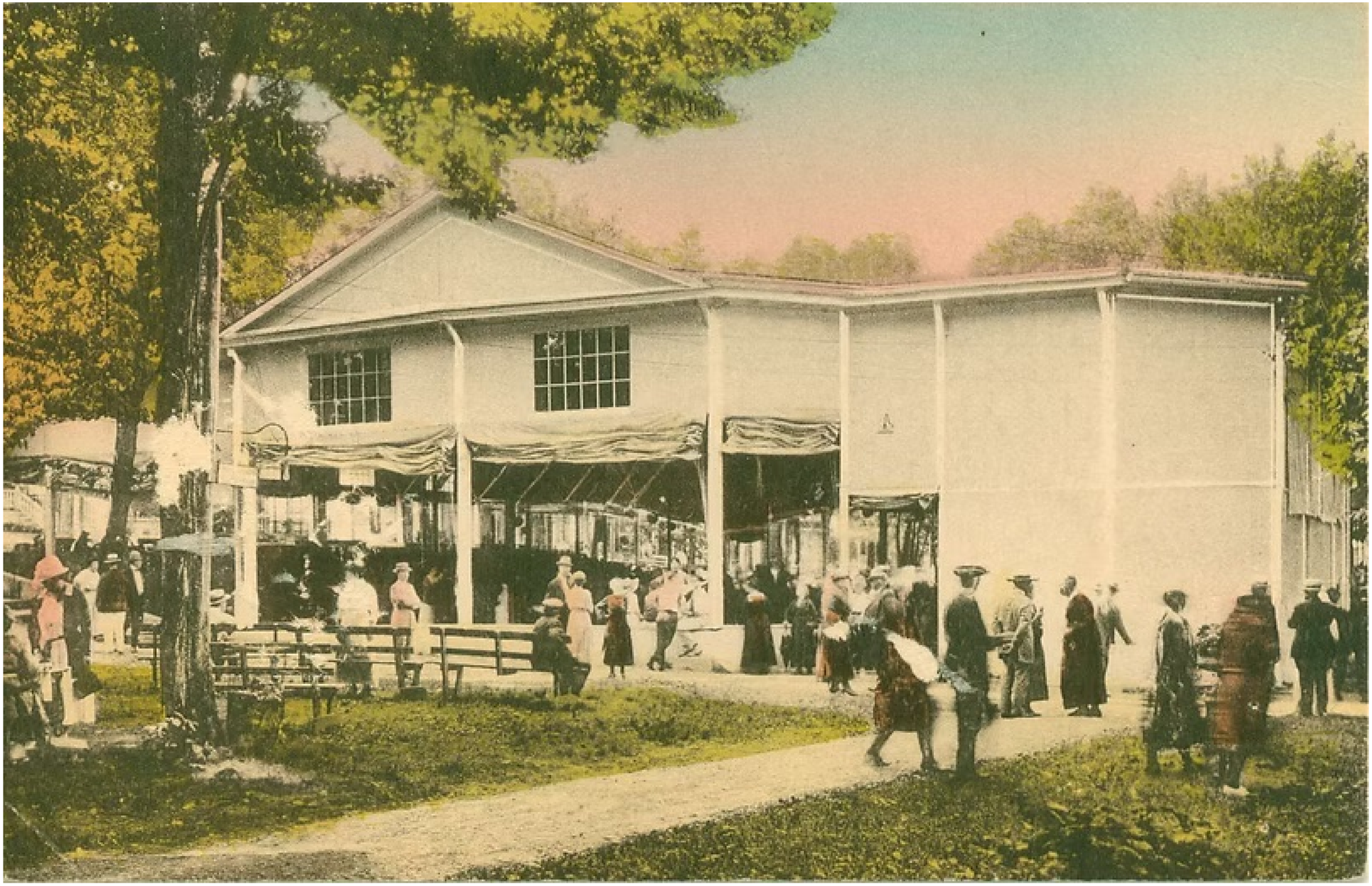
EST. 2023

Sacred Grounds

COFFEE HOUSE

LILY DALE, NY






The Paranormal Object
Dr. Jack Hunter
Prifysgol Cymru
University of Wales

Spiritualism

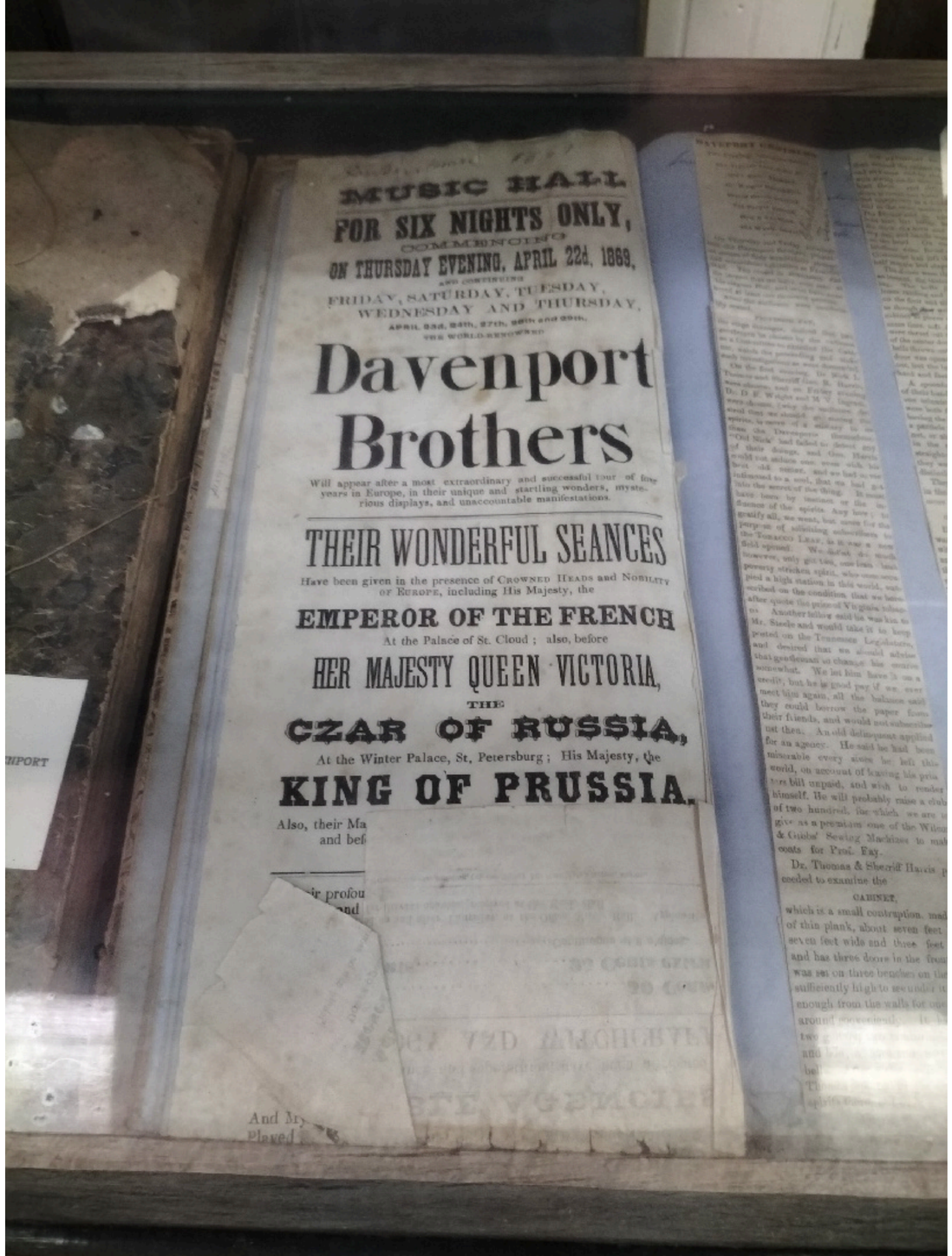
Spiritualism

- 31st of March 1848, Hydesville, New York State.
- The home of the Fox family became the locus of some unusual paranormal activity.
- Raps on the walls and ceiling of their house, and a simple code for communication.
- News spread rapidly - technological and media developments at the time.
- Became an international American new religious movement (NRM).




MEMORIAL
TO
THE FOX FAMILY
WHO LIVED IN THIS COTTAGE AT THE TIME
MARGARET AND KATIE FOX, AGED 9 AND 11 YEARS,
RECEIVED THE FIRST PROOF OF THE CONTINUITY
OF LIFE, WHICH WAS THE BEGINNING OF MODERN
SPIRITUALISM, MARCH 31, 1848.
THIS COTTAGE WAS BOUGHT AND MOVED
FROM HYDESVILLE, N. Y. ITS ORIGINAL SITE,
TO LILY DALE, N. Y. IN MAY 1916, BY
BENJAMIN F BARTLETT


FOX COTTAGE
TRANSPORTED TO LILY DALE IN 1915
DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1955
Charred wood Betty Pantato
Recovered from the Fox Cottage
SMALL STONE FROM THE ORIGINAL WALL OF THE FOX COTTAGE. TWO LARGER STONES ARE PIECES OF THE CELLER WALL THAT HID THE BODY OF CHARLES ROSNA.
DONATED BY STEPHANIE KNAPP - HISTORIAN, LYONS, N.Y.
This Kettle was rescued from the remains of the Fox Cottage after the fire in 1955 by Fire Chief Robert Beardsley. It was donated to the Lily Dale Museum by his granddaughter Kristy Chinchillo Kushmeider on July 19, 2018


MUSIC HALL
FOR SIX NIGHTS ONLY,
COMMENCING
ON THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 22d, 1869,
AND CONTINUING
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, TUESDAY,
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,
APRIL 23d, 24th, 27th, 28th and 29th,
THE WORLD-RENOWNED
Davenport Brothers
Will appear after a most extraordinary and successful tour of five years in Europe, in their unique and startling wonders, mysterious displays, and unaccountable manifestations.
THEIR WONDERFUL SEANCES
Have been given in the presence of CROWNED HEADS and NOBILITY OF EUROPE, including His Majesty, the
EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH
At the Palace of St. Cloud; also, before
HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA,
THE
CZAR OF RUSSIA,
At the Winter Palace, St. Petersburg; His Majesty, the
KING OF PRUSSIA.
Also, their Ma
and bef
ir profou
and
And M
Played


Andrew Jackson Davis


HYDESVILLE




Aura Goggles
Metaphysical Research Grou


ELIZABETH LOWE WATSON
GREY WOLF
Guide
To Hazel Ridley
ELIZABETH LOWE WATSON
FIRST SPEAKER AT LILY DALE
DEDICATION ADDRESS
JUNE 15th 1989
LILY DALE
COLLIERS


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NELLIE WHITCOMB





‘Fairies’











Experiences

Healing

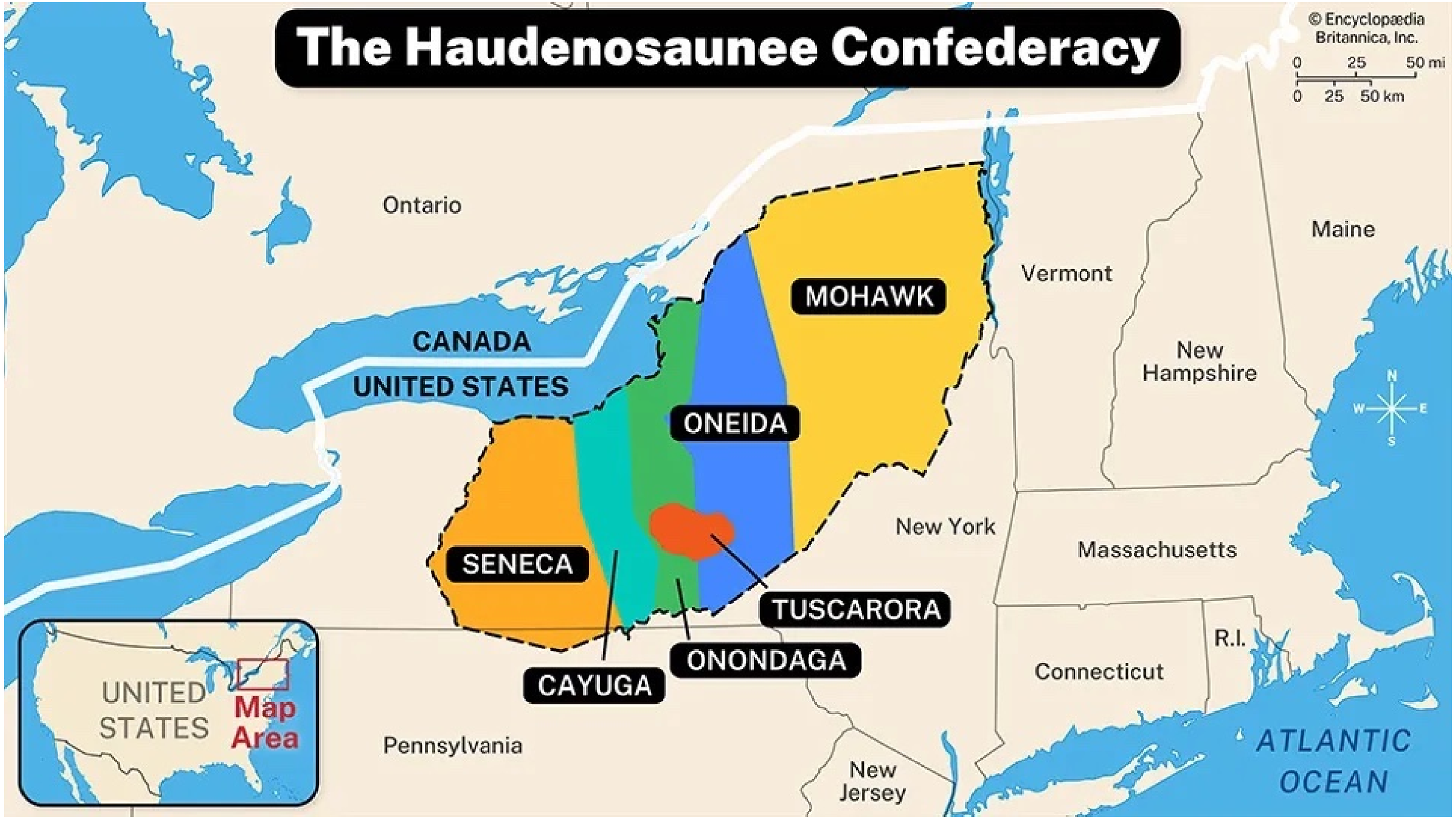
- We had a spiritual healing session in the Healing Temple on the first day.
- Left us both feeling good for days afterwards.
- This was immediately followed by a synchronistic encounter with strange mechanical buzzing sounds in the trees above the healing temple.
- Most likely insect noise - cicadas - but amazing to us.




ASSEMBLY HALL






The Haudenosaunee Confederacy
© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.
0 25 50 mi
0 25 50 km
Ontario
Maine
Vermont
MOHAWK
CANADA
UNITED STATES
New Hampshire
ONEIDA
N
W
E
S
New York
Massachusetts
SENECA
TUSCARORA
R.I.
ONONDAGA
Connecticut
CAYUGA
UNITED STATES
Map Area
Pennsylvania
New Jersey
ATLANTIC OCEAN

Fairies?

- An excursion into the Leolyn Woods with George Hansen, his partner Elizabeth, and Christopher Josiffe.

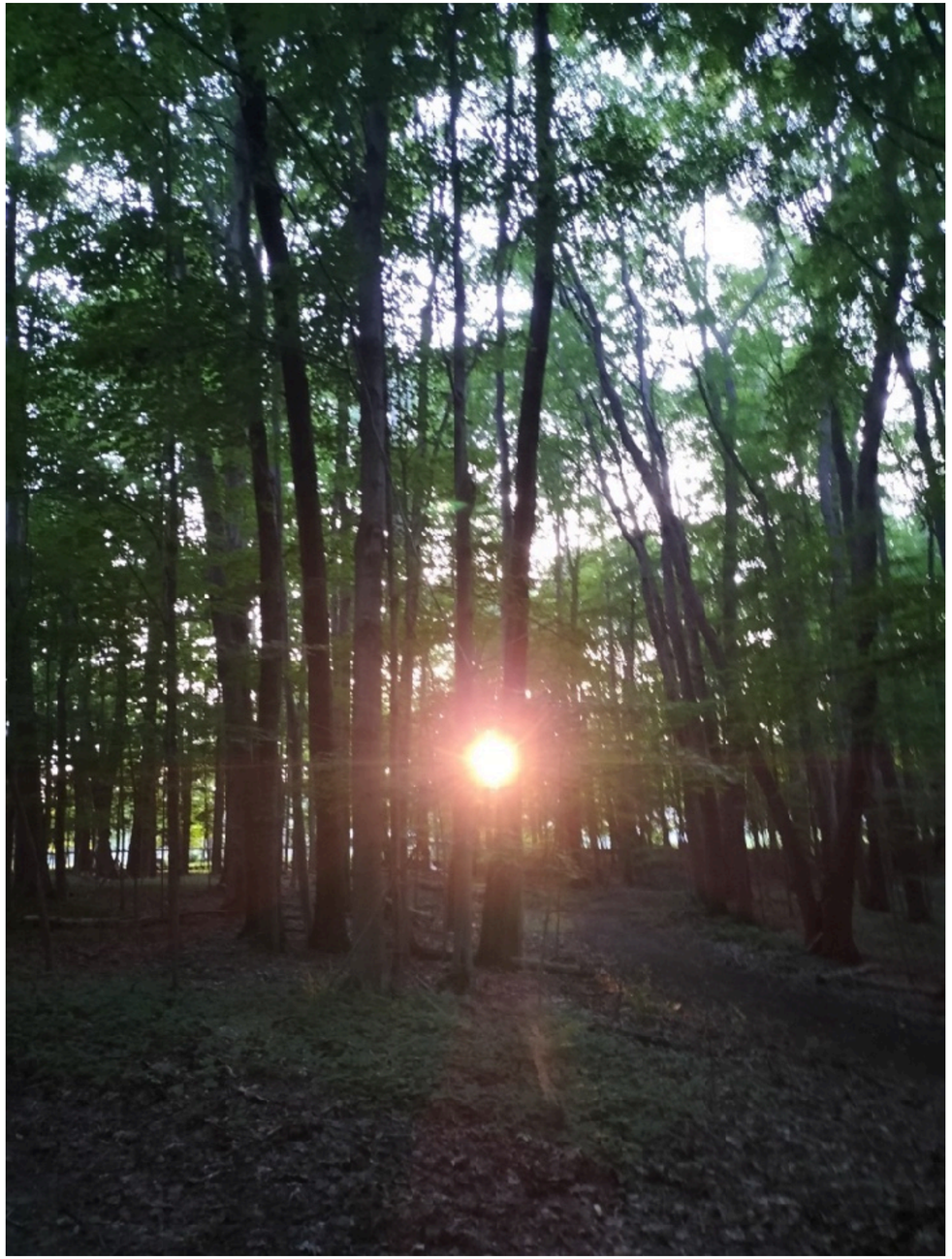
- I started to see small specks of light twinkling high up in the trees. At first I felt as though they were hallucinations, similar to the ‘spirit lights’ I had seen during séances at the Bristol Spirit Lodge.

- During a second rendition of ‘Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,’ which they seemed to prefer, that I saw two small blue-ish-white lights move in towards my right hand side (they almost seemed to leave faint trails behind them), and one of them came down low and hovered about a metre or so away from me.

- I tapped on Christopher’s shoulder and directed his attention towards the light, and he confirmed that he could see it too. They just seemed to fade away, and did not behave like the fireflies we had seen on previous nights.

- The colour was different, and their motion was peculiar. Their behaviour was inquisitive, and they seemed to be responding to the singing.

- When we were out of the woods I asked Elizabeth what she thought the lights were. She explained that ‘first of all, they don’t like the “F-word.”’ After a moment of perplexity, thinking that the lights didn’t like swearing, I realised that the ‘F-word’ referred to ‘fairies.’




Parallax
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THE TRICKSTER
and the
PARANORMAL
George P.
HANSEN

Conclusions

Conclusions

- Layers of activity - indigenous, free-thought, women's suffrage, spiritualism…
- Proximity to 'wilderness.'
- The land - and the role of biodiversity and psychodiversity.
- Cultivation of gardens.
- Recognition of spirits - human and non-human.
- Physical/material relics of spiritualism - providing a direct link - the agency of matter (the Fox house, moved to Lily Dale and burned down).
- Combination of social-construction (Durkheimian) and hierophany (Eliadean).
- Contested interpretations, e.g. Bender - are they fairies or not? What counts as 'spiritualism'?
- Experiences add new narratives.

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