Introduction

Native Americans have lived in this region for over seven thousand years.
The indigenous peoples to this area are the Mohican Nation who numbered about 20,000 people, and flourished in the Hudson River valley and Housatonic River valley. They used the upland woodlands including Monterey for their hunting grounds. The Native American displays at the Bidwell House Museum generally illustrate the pre-contact period prior to the 1600s. In the carriage barn, you will find a brief history of the Mohicans - the Muh-he-con-neok - “the People of the Waters That Are Never Still” - who became known as the Stockbridge-Munsee after living in Stockbridge in the 1700s. The self-guided walk takes you back in time with displays about medicinal herbs, farming practices and a wigwam hunting village. Although the Stockbridge Indians were forced to relocate westward in the 1780s, this area remains their sacred homeland and the tribe maintains a strong connection here.

The Native American Woodland and Hunting Grounds Interpretive Trail at the Bidwell House Museum was developed in collaboration with the Upper Housatonic Valley Heritage Area and with the input and consent of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Nation. This is part of a regional Native American Interpretive Trail focusing on the Mohican Nation in Western Massachusetts and Northwest Connecticut. This trail tells one part of the Mohican story. You can find other parts of the story at the Mission House in Stockbridge, Monument Mountain in Great Barrington, and other locations.

For links to other sites, visit the websites of Housatonic Heritage: housatonicheritage.org
Stockbridge-Munsee band: mohican.com

The Bidwell House Museum in July.

School Children explore the wigwam on the Museum grounds.
The heritage garden in the summer.