

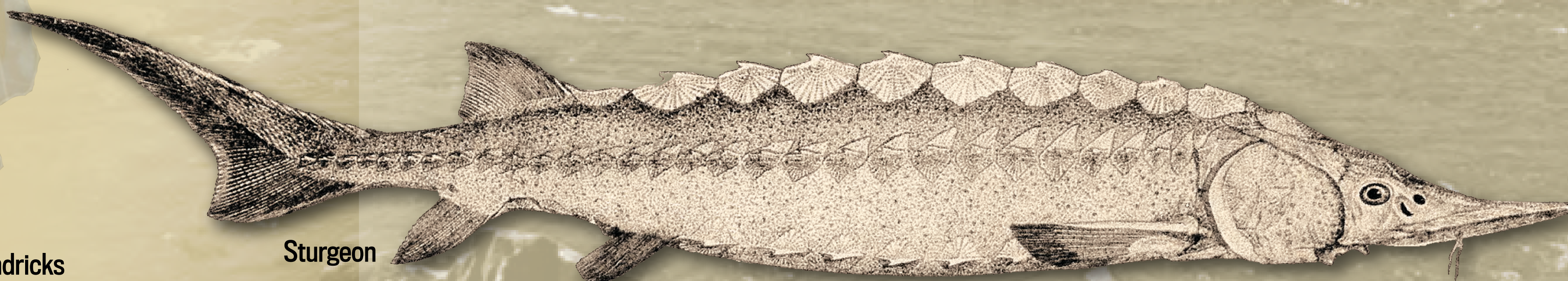
If you were here 400 years ago or more

The Lenape at the Falls of the Delaware

Native peoples gathered at the Falls of the Delaware River for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. The Falls are a half-mile stretch of rocky rapids barely a stone's throw from the Trent House.



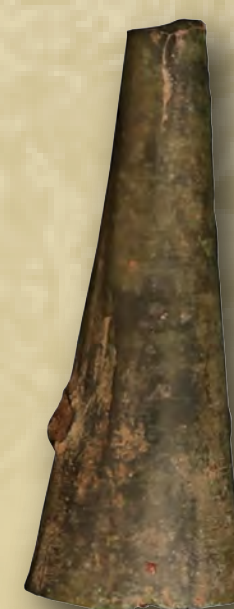
Dutch explorer Cornelius Hendricks sketched the Falls in 1616. The oblong shapes denote longhouses. "Stanke kans," translated from Algonquian, means "rocks at the head of tide."



Sturgeon

Each spring, the Falls became a rich spawning ground swollen with sturgeon, shad, and alewife. The native peoples harvested the fish with nets and spears. As generation after generation came to the Falls, the riverbanks developed into an important place for socializing and trade.

Archaeologists investigating the Trent House grounds unearthed evidence for the presence of native cultures from at least 6,000 years ago. In addition to stone tools and ceramics, they uncovered European-made trade goods such as glass beads, a copper bell, and a carved shell pendant, likely dating from the 1600s.



Tinkler
(copper bell)



Trade Bead



Shell Pendant



Spear points and arrowheads

Potsherd



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The 1719 William Trent House Museum respectfully acknowledges its location within the ancestral homeland of the Lenape, or Delaware as they are now commonly known, and their forebears.