



Pocono Record
When you need to know!



- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Pocono Life](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Marketplace](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Opinions & Columns](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Contact](#)

- [Top Story](#)
- [Local](#)
- [World](#)
- [Pocono Life](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Internet Directory](#)

- [Find A Car](#)
- [Find A Job](#)
- [Find A Home](#)
- [Go Golfing](#)

Subscriber Services

Today's News

Local/Regional

Sports

Pocono Life

Special Reports

Classifieds

Editorial

Columnists

Letters

Obituaries

Archives

Marketplace

Weather

Education

Site Map



18360



Contact Us

Coming Tomorrow:

Tom Quick's legend: Maybe myth, definitely a mystery

- [Print this page](#)
- [E-Mail this page to a friend](#)
- [View Tomorrow's News...](#)

By AARON APPLGATE
 Pocono Record Writer
aaplegate@poconorecord.com

Debate about the propriety of the Tom Quick monument is intertwined with debate over the truth of the story on which the monument is based.

Very little is actually known about Tom Quick. He was a real person. He was born in 1734; he saw his father, Tom Quick Sr., killed and scalped by Indians in 1756, when he was 22. He died of natural causes in 1795 or 1796. He probably killed some Indians.

That's really all historians can agree on. The rest is speculation based on a proliferation of fanciful books in the 1800s by authors who admired Quick's supposed exploits.

Even details about the event that changed his life forever — the murder of his father — are sketchy.

For example, where was Tom Sr. killed, on a frozen river or a farm? Was he carrying grist or cutting saplings to make barrels? Who was with him — just his son or others? Was he killed with a gun or a poisoned arrow?

The most noted aspect of Tom Quick's life, his apparent appetite for killing Delaware or Lenape Indians, is itself disputed. Depending on which legends you read, Quick killed anywhere from one to 99 Lenape.

The most extreme story says he killed 99 Indians and wished on his deathbed he could kill one more to make it an even 100. So fearful of Quick were the Lenape, the story goes, that they dug up his corpse to make sure it was really dead, a mistake that allowed Quick his dying wish. His small-pox-ravaged body infected the exhumers and then their families.

At the other extreme, is the story that Quick killed one Lenape. That Indian, shot in a bar fight, was supposed to have been the one who killed his father.

Perhaps well aware of all this uncertainty, the author of the four explanatory tablets put on the monument in 1889 avoids estimating how many Lenape Quick is supposed to have killed.

"Maddened by the death of his father at the hands of the savages, Tom Quick never abated his hostility to them until the day of his death ..."

The monument's plaques are generally recognized by scholars and historians as historically incorrect in several other places.

Pocono Property Showcase
 Jayne Albert Realty Inc.
 159900
[See this listing](#) | [PPS Site](#)

[poconojobsearch](#)
 CARPENTERS TRIMAX, INC. is... [more info](#)
 EXXON across from Flea... [more info](#)
 MEDICAL OFFICE STAFF FT... [more info](#)
 Part-time \$ 6 WEEK... [more info](#)
 ROOFING SIDING MECHANICS... [more info](#)

Stroudsmoor COUNTRY INN



www.stroudsmoor.com



Pocono Record
Bridal Guide - A
directory of
the best
services in
town.

FREE!
Coupons
[\[CLICK HERE\]](#)
Custom Coupon

Now the Poconos can
find the ideal car...

RECORDAUTOS.COM

 Find out
who's
online
now!

Vernon Leslie, the author of the 1977 book "Tom Quick Legends," the only scholarly work on Quick that attempted to separate truth from legend, challenges statements that the monument site rests on Quick's birthplace and that Quick was the first white child born to the first white settler of Milford. Leslie, who researched property records, also questions the supposed location of Tom Quick Sr.'s mill and details about his death.

"If anything, the monument stands as a memorial to doubtful historical scholarship as well as to Tom and his father," Leslie concludes in his book.

Leslie's claims don't sit well with defenders of the monument.

"It's a monument to what it's a monument to," said George Fluhr, Pike County's official historian. "There are inaccuracies on the monument, but one of the things we are trying to get across is that it was a product of its time, just as Tom Quick was a product of his time. It's very hard to make judgments about the things people did in the past when there were totally different circumstances. It's too much to explain in one plaque. The bottom line is it's been a tourist attraction in Milford for over 100 years."

Milford Borough Councilman William Kiger was more blunt.

"If you don't believe what's on a public monument, what do you believe?" he said.

Copyright © March 14, 2004, Pocono Record
Return to www.poconorecord.com

Related Advertising Links

[AidCamps International](#)

Volunteer Overseas! Work on Third World Development Aid Projects.
www.AidCamps.org

[Meal Exchange](#)

All donations mobilize hundreds of students who help local hunger.
www.mealexchange.com


Home Equity Lines

The Fleet
Home
Equity Line.

Get smarter
with
your money.

- Lowest rate in decades
- Tax-deductible interest[†]
- No application fee
- No closing costs

[Click here](#)



[Help](#) | [Advertiser Info](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Jobs @ Pocono Record](#) | [Email Webmaster](#) | [Breaking News](#)

This site built by [PROSite Designs](#), Copyright © 2004, *Pocono Record*.

The Pocono Record is a division of [Ottaway Newspapers of Pa., L.P.](#), the community newspaper subsidiary of [Dow Jones & Co. Inc.](#)

The Pocono Record Online is updated daily.

For more Pocono news, pick up the print edition of the *Pocono Record*.