

## **Documenting History**

February 25, 2008

Photojournalist and professor Jim Brown speaks about capturing the history of the Delaware Indian Tribe.

### **Duration**

2:07

### **Transcript**

[ Narrator ] Conner Prairie in Noblesville, Indiana, was the site of a recent program where members of the Delaware tribe presented their history to schoolchildren. Photojournalist and professor Jim Brown was on hand in advance of his book, "Long Journey Home", which features the oral histories of the tribe.

[ Prof. Jim Brown ] I've worked on it for about 8-years or so. I started on another Indian project which really didn't come to fruition. But, at the beginning of that, I got interested in the Delawares, and started focusing entirely on the Delawares, or Lenape, as they call themselves. And, that has now come to fruition in a book due to come out in November (2007) from IU Press.

We have another book planned, which is a distillation of quotes. For example, there's some forty interviews in this book. And, in every one of them, there's some really good nugget of how to live your life, in a sentence or short paragraph. We got the idea to pull these nuggets out and put them in a tiny reader, a small book, that we might call "Woods Wisdom", or something of the sort.

I've done many, many projects over my career. I used to have a media production company in Minneapolis. So, I've done lots of media projects. Normally, when you do a project, you get to know people and you become friendly. But, in this case, these people are now family friends. They come to my house for dinner, I go to their house for dinner. They sort of expect me to show up and photograph wherever they go, because I've been doing it so long. And, I have noticed that, over time, after I showed a long-term commitment, they began to open up and ignore me and allow me to photograph things that before they told me could not be photographed.