

The Legend of Jenny Jump

The area around Jenny Jump State Forest was inhabited by the Minsi (Wolf) tribe of the Lenape (the People). These American Indians were hunter-gatherers who lived in a woodland culture. Though relatively peaceful compared to their Iroquois neighbors to the north, the Lenape were known to have conflicts with the European settlers. The conflicts were usually the result of perceived wrongs by either the settlers or the Lenape.

It is in the environment that the legend of the Jenny Jump grew. Perhaps entirely myth, perhaps based on some fact, the legend was recorded by Swedish missionary Sven Roseen in 1747. According to the legend, Jenny, who was gathering berries, jumped off the ridge when her father saw Indians approaching and yelled to her to jump.

Some versions say she died, others that she survived. However, it is also possible that the name "Jenny Jump" is the anglicized version of a Lenape name of the mountain and that the legend is sprung up to explain it afterwards.