The historical record of the American Revolution includes a note allegedly written on parchment made of human skin. Dated 1779, it is signed by Luke Swetland, a Patriot soldier in the American Revolution who spent time as an adopted captive among the Seneca. The note tells the torturous tale of the “whit[e] man” whose skin it says it is and offers details about Sullivan’s Campaign in Iroquoia. This lecture investigates the historical possibilities of this source whether it is real or fake, while also discussing the undeniably real material culture of violence attached to Sullivan’s Campaign in what is now New York State.


Monday, March 16, 2015
2:15 to 3:30 p.m.
Woody Tanger Auditorium
Brooklyn College Library

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