“From Lightning was Born a Man: Myth, Reality and Chief Pushmataha”

“Of all the chiefs of the Choctaw Nation in Mississippi, Pushmataha remains the most revered. His life was shrouded in mystery, his legacy has persisted through legend, but were the man’s greatness and contributions as significant as legend and traditional myths state?

Dr. Cole Cheek, Professor of History and Anthropology at Spartanburg Methodist College and specialist in Choctaw history during the Early Republic era of the United States, argues yes. His political and social ideas straddled two worlds, one “Red” and the other “White”, a combination of tradition and drastic change. Although Pushmataha did not embody the supernatural tails of legend, he became a beacon of hope and visionary for the future, serving as a foundation for Choctaw survival in an age of revolutionary changes.”

Please direct any questions or comments regarding the series to Brent Burgin at 803-313-7063 or wbburgin@sc.edu. Mr. Burgin welcomes suggestions and ideas for future talks and speakers.