



This is NewsLetter Issue No. Three ~ For the year 2023

## The Genesis of the Haudenosaunee Part 2

The Susquehannocks were affected by the destruction of the Huron tribe. They lost a powerful ally. They made up for that loss, though, by entering into an alliance with the English in the Delaware River valley. A treaty was negotiated circa 1652 between the English settlers of the Maryland Colony and the Susquehannocks. The treaty ended a ten year war between the two peoples. The colony of Maryland had declared war on the Susquehannocks on 13 September, 1642. The reason for the declaration of war is believed to have been aimed at halting incursions into Maryland territory by the Susquehannocks. The region was inhabited by the tribes of the Patuxents, Piscataways and Yoamacoes who were friendly to the Maryland colonists. After a single victory by the Susquehannocks in the summer of 1644, the war fizzled out and was practically forgotten as the attention of just about everyone in the region was focused on the Beaver Wars

(as the French/Huron Iroquois War was known). The treaty of 1652 freed the Susquehannocks from having to worry about agitation from the English colonists.

In 1660 a war party of Oneida Indians killed five Piscataways simply for being friendly to the Susquehannocks and the colonists of Maryland. The authorities in Maryland declared war on the Five Nations. Their motives might have been more than simply the defense of the Piscataway tribe. They wanted to force the Dutch



out of the Delaware Valley. The Iroquois, as allies to the Dutch, were the target of Maryland's anger. The Iroquois, in turn, aimed their anger at the Susquehannocks because of their recent alliance with the colony of Maryland. As the new kids on the block, the Iroquois wanted nothing more than to rid the region of the Susquehannocks, the resident warrior nation.

The Iroquois made their move against the

Susquehannocks in the year 1663. A force of nearly eight hundred Seneca, Cayuga and Onondaga warriors made an attack on Sasquesahanough, the principle village of the Susquehannock, but were repulsed. The Iroquois found the palisaded village defended by Susquehannocks and Delawares armed with weapons and ammunition supplied by the colonists of New Sweden. The Delaware and the Shawnee tribes soon thereafter sided with the Susquehannocks despite their differing linguistic traditions and military viewpoints. (It should be remembered that the Susquehannocks were much more inclined toward warfare than the Delaware.) For roughly twelve years the war dragged on. The Susquehannocks had the upper hand throughout the war. Following the repulse of the Iroquois invasion in 1663 the Susquehannocks conducted numerous raids into the Seneca lands to the north.

In the summer of 1675 an incident occurred which sparked what has become known as The Indian War of 1675/6. A group of Nanticoke Indians had a misunderstanding with a Virginia colonist named Thomas Mathew over the failure of Mathew to pay for goods they had traded to him. The Indians stole some of Mathew's hogs and the white settlers responded by killing some of the Indians. The Indians repaid the settlers by killing three of them. The Nanticoke tribe resided in the territory claimed by Maryland, so a group of about thirty Virginian militia crossed over the provincial boundary and surrounded and attacked a Nanticoke settlement. An Indian cabin within the settlement was surrounded and when the Indians emerged, the Virginian militiamen initiated a fight. In the melee that followed, eleven Nanticoke were killed. The militiamen then shot and killed fourteen other Indians who had emerged from another nearby cabin when they were aroused by the sounds of fighting. Suddenly the leader of the militia realized that the Indians who had come out of the second cabin were not Nanticoke, but Susquehannock. The error could not be rectified in time. The Susquehannocks, Nanticoke and a few other allied tribes residing throughout Maryland and Virginia began to raid the surrounding region.

The governor of the Virginia Colony called upon Colonel John Washington and Major Isaac Allerton to conduct an investigation into the cause of the continuing Indian unrest. Washington, the great-grandfather of the president, was instructed simply to investigate the matter and use force to punish

the Indians only if just cause could be found. Apparently the militia officers misconstrued the orders for their own interests and immediately raised a militia. Seven hundred and fifty men marched from the Virginia colony toward a Susquehannock settlement which the Maryland authorities identified as their main village in the region. The Virginian men were joined by two hundred and fifty cavalry troops from Maryland under the command of Major Thomas Trueman.

The provincial force of nearly one thousand men surrounded the village at the junction of the Piscataway Creek and the Potomac River. The palisaded village was inhabited by about one hundred Indian warriors and their families. The sachems (*i.e.* chiefs) of the tribe were invited out for a counsel. They emerged from the safety of the village under a flag of truce and, following an exchange of angry words, were led away and killed. The Susquehannocks held the village against the onslaught of the militia for more than six weeks. After that period of time, the Indian warriors and their families were able to escape from the besieged village. A period of general raiding and murdering was undertaken by the Indians. Thirty-six white settlers were killed and then the Susquehannocks sent a message to Virginia's Governor Berkeley which stated that, with approximately ten Englishmen killed for each of their chiefs who were murdered, they were ready to negotiate a peace treaty. The offer was rejected and the war continued.

Not all of the colonists were in agreement with the governor's policy of handling the Indian War. A group of colonists formed a vigilante militia led by Nathaniel Bacon. Bacon led his group to enlist the aid of the Occaneechi tribe in May, 1676. The Occaneechi agreed to fight the Susquehannocks and promptly engaged the Susquehannocks in war. Bacon's new allies returned from their first raid with a number of Susquehannock prisoners and some furs. When Bacon attempted to take possession of the furs and proposed making slaves of the prisoners, many of whom were actually from the Manikin tribe, the Occaneechi warriors were outraged. Because they refused to give up their captives or the furs, Bacon's men attacked the Indians.

While Nathaniel Bacon was waging his own private war in the Virginian province, New York's Governor Edmund Andros made a proposal to the Susquehannock sachems that they take refuge in New York lands. A few of the tribe took the New York

governor up on his proposal and quietly moved northward. But not all them wanted to move back into the region held by the Iroquois Mohawks. The Susquehannocks who remained within the bounds of the Maryland colony entreated with the authorities to make a peace treaty. At first it appeared that the Maryland authorities would accept the proposal, but the Piscataway and Mattawoman tribes wanted to see the Susquehannocks defeated and they convinced the Maryland authorities to deny the peace treaty. All the while, Governor Andros continued to attempt to remove the Susquehannocks into his province.

In March of 1677 a conference was held at Shackamaxon, which was located within what is today Philadelphia. A treaty was signed which provided that the Susquehannocks remove from the Delaware Valley and become adopted into the Iroquois Confederacy. Many of them accepted this proposal while twenty-six families chose to remain in the Delaware Valley to be adopted into the Delaware tribe. The Susquehannock tribe, per se, was effectively nonexistent from that point in time. The Iroquois exploited the Susquehannocks' hatred for the tribes such as the Piscataway and Mattawomans by including them in their wars against those tribes.

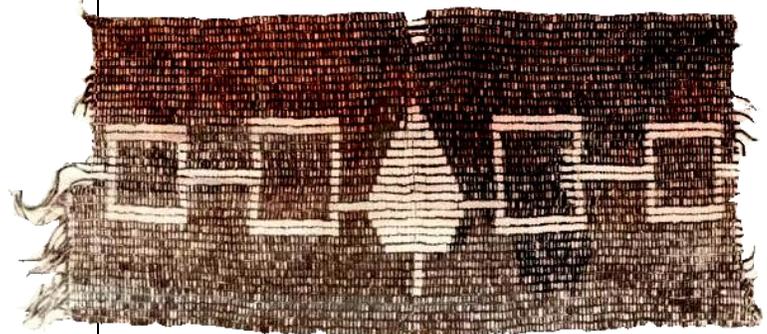
By the time that William Penn received a charter from the King of England on 26 February 1681 for the right to establish a colony in the western hemisphere, the so-called 'Indian Wars' were effectively over. And the dominant Amerindian nation was the Haudenosaunee.

A group of Susquehannocks who had remained in the Delaware Valley eventually, in the mid-1700s, came to be known by the name of the *Conestoga Mission Indians*. They were converted to the Christian faith and lived peaceably in the vicinity of Lancaster County until the Paxton Riots brought about their end. Frontier Indian / settler problems were contributing to a general prejudice against any and all Indians. A group of about seventy-five Paxton residents were frustrated by the Quaker-dominated Pennsylvania Assembly's lack of interest in engaging in an all-out war against the Indians within its provincial boundaries and decided to take matters into their own hands. They attacked the village of the Conestoga Mission Indians and killed six members of the tribe. In order to shield the remaining fourteen members of the tribe against the vigilante mentality of the Paxton settlers, the people of Lancaster

offered them refuge in their county jail. The Paxton Boys, as the vigilantes became known, broke into the jail on 27 December 1763 and massacred all fourteen of the Indians, which included a few children. The massacred Conestoga tribe is generally considered to have been the last of the Susquehannock nation.

The period of the century stretching between the late-1600s to the Revolutionary War was a period of continual warfare on the New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia frontier. The generic name *French And Indian War* has been applied to this period of warfare. It included *King William's War* (in Europe known as the *War Of The League Of Augsburg*) 1689-1697, *Queen Anne's War* (in Europe known as the *War Of The Spanish Succession*) 1702-1713, the *Fox Resistance / King George's War* (in Europe known as the *War Of The Austrian Succession*) 1740-1748, and the actual *French And Indian War* (in Europe known as the *Seven Years War*) 1749-1763.

As noted previously, the Iroquois called themselves the Aqanuschioni, meaning the 'united people'. The Iroquois was indeed a confederacy of many more tribes than just the six tribes from which the auxiliary name of the Six Nations arose. When the Iroquois Confederacy invited other tribes to migrate and settle in the central and southern regions of Pennsylvania and to take advantage of their protection



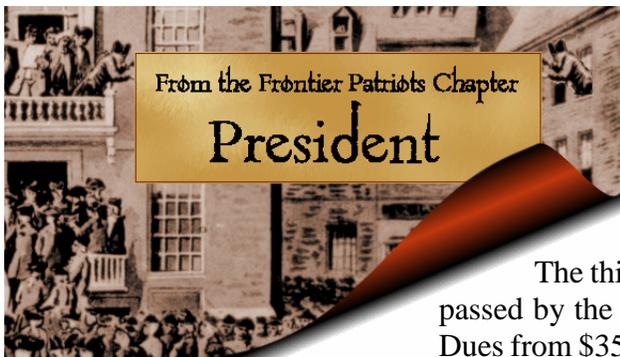
those other tribes became part of the confederacy in regard to 'political' loyalty and affiliation. Unlike the Susquehannocks, whose tribal/ national identity the Iroquois dissolved when they 'adopted' them into the Confederacy, these tribes would retain their own unique tribal identities while becoming part of the Iroquois Confederacy. The Delaware tribes already inhabited the Pennsylvania region and did not actually relocate; they simply came to be under the control of the Iroquois Confederacy. The tribes which relocated from their homelands included the Conoys (also known as the Ganawese or Piscataway) from the western shores of the Chesapeake Bay, the Nanticokes from the

region lying between the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, the Tuscaroras and the Tutelos from what became North Carolina. It might be noted that after the Susquehannocks had been defeated by the Iroquois, a number of the survivors had fled south rather than be adopted into the victors' tribe. They met and engaged the Tutelos, and in the end were defeated by that southern tribe. A few other, smaller tribes which were also in league with the Iroquois Confederacy included the Fox, Mahican and Wyandot. One other tribe, which would leave its mark on this region, responded to the Five Nations' request for immigrants to settle between them and the white settlers: the Shawanese or Shawnee tribe. The Shawnees, like the Senecas, were employed by the British and the Loyalists throughout the American Revolutionary War to harass the Patriots.

The Iroquois Confederacy, being a union of numerous Amerindian tribes, each of which retained its own customs and laws, was said to have been the model for the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America. Benjamin Franklin, in urging the Colonies to form a union in 1754, referred to the *Iroquois Great Law of Peace* (i.e. the Gayanashagowa) as an example upon which any union could be based.

The Articles were separated into sections

according to different aspects of the Law. The first thirty-five Articles related to identifying who the 'Lords' were and what their 'Rights, Duties and Qualifications' were. Articles #36 through #41 identified the 'Names, Duties and Rights of War Chiefs'. Articles #42 through #54 dealt with 'Clans and consanguinity'. Articles #55 through #65 dealt with 'Official Symbolism'. The 'Laws of Adoption' were expressed in Articles #66 to #70. Articles #71 and #72 comprised the 'Laws of Emigration'. Articles #73 through #78 identified the 'Rights of Foreign Nations'. The 'Rights and Powers of War' were elucidated in Articles #79 through #91. Article #92 was the only Article dealing with the subject of 'Treason or secession of a Nation'. The 'Rights of the People of the Five Nations' were expressed in Articles #93 through #98. Articles #99 through #104 described 'Religious Ceremonies Protected'. New Lords were installed with the singing of 'The Installation Song' as transcribed in Articles #105 and #106. The manner in which a house would be marked if the owner or occupant was absent was described in Article #107. 'Funeral Addresses' were identified in the final ten Articles.



The next meeting of the Frontier Patriots Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held at the Hoss's Restaurant at Business Route 220, Bedford, PA on Saturday, 9 September 2023 starting at 12 Noon.

The thing I mentioned in the last issue has, unfortunately, been passed by the National Society ~ they approved raising the National Dues from \$35 to \$50 (despite 'nay' votes cast by PASSAR delegates.

What that means is that the dues for the Frontier Patriots Chapter Compatriots will be \$79 (\$50 for NSSAR + \$25 for PASSAR + \$4 for Frontier Patriots Chapter). I hope that this does not cause each of you too much hardship.

For those of you that receive this newsletter by US mail, if you have an email address, we would appreciate you informing us of it to use for future newsletters. Printing and mailing these newsletters is not that expensive, but it is time consuming. Please send to our Secretary Larry Smith at [schmitt1775@proton.me](mailto:schmitt1775@proton.me)

Frontier Patriots Chapter website: <https://frontierpatriots.com>