THE GROWTH OF BRITISH INFLUENCE AMONG THE SENeca TO 1768

John R. Sahli

The eighteenth century saw the British gain the trade and political advantages formerly held by the French over the powerful Seneca in what is now western New York. The strategic position of Niagara in French hands, the influence of Chabert de Joncaire,¹ and the distance between the Seneca nation and the centers of British influence were removed by the French and Indian War. At its end the possession of Niagara, the influence of Sir William Johnson,² and the aroused Indian anger against the westward expansion of the Americans gave the British those advantages formerly held by the French. The unhampered British position enabled them to increase their influence and the Seneca finally entered the Revolution against the Americans.

To understand the reasons for this change-over, one must recognize the factors responsible for the French influence and the methods used by the British in winning the loyalty of the Seneca. This analysis must begin with the French occupation of the Seneca country.

The Spread of French Influence among the Seneca

In the latter part of the seventeenth century, the Iroquois Confederacy, in an imperialistic struggle for the rich fur trade that gave it not only a commodity that insured it desirable trade advantages with

¹ Louis Thomas de Joncaire, seigneur of Chabert, commandant at Niagara, 1720-30, came to Canada in 1687 and was shortly afterwards taken prisoner by the Seneca. He became one of the most trusted and successful of French officials in dealing with the Indians. Most of his service was on the Niagara frontier.

² Sir William Johnson, 1715-74, was born in County Meath, Ireland; settled in the Mohawk Valley; entered the fur trade and gained great power among the Mohawk and other Iroquois. A key figure in the French and Indian War, he helped formulate British Indian policy at the Albany Congress (1754), and was made General Superintendent of Iroquois Affairs. In 1756, he was made General Superintendent of Indian Affairs north of the Ohio. Somewhat restricted by British economy measures and Pontiac’s Conspiracy in centralizing control over both Indians and fur traders, he achieved much and presided at the Council of Fort Stanwix (1768) where the Indians made important land cessions.
the British but also military power, fought a series of wars. The Huron, Andaste, Neutral, and Erie nations were reduced in turn, and the Confederacy asserted a complete supremacy over the northeastern tribes. True to their ancient traditions, the Seneca adopted many of the Huron captives and others, filling the man-power gap caused by the losses in the wars. In the adopted Huron, the western Iroquoian nation found on its hands a host of people who had been strongly influenced by the French since their arrival in the New World.

These Huron were settled along the banks of the Genesee on the lands that formerly belonged to the Neutral nation. By this conquest of the land from the Genesee River westward to the Niagara River, the Seneca nation found not only room for colonization of its captives, but a strategic position on the portage of Niagara.

The French were not slow to realize the importance of the Niagara region. The fur trade was the lifeblood of their small colony that had been settled above the British fringe facing the Atlantic. For the security of the westward communications, in which direction lay the bulk of the French and Indian trade, the possession of Niagara was vital. As early as 1673, Frontenac, the governor of New France, had explained to the French minister, Jean Colbert, that the French could control the upper lakes with a fort at Niagara and a boat on Lake Erie.

The French constructed in 1678 a storehouse at the present site of Lewiston, emphasizing the strategic value of Niagara. Permission was then given by the Seneca to La Salle to build a fort. That he was successful might, in part, be attributed to the fact that he came in contact with Seneca-adopted Huron on the Genesee. They still had respect for their old French friends.

Of the fort that was constructed and its strategic position, Hennepen said:


4 Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac (1620-98) was appointed governor of New France in 1672. Although curbed in his powers by Louis XIV and his minister, Colbert, he dealt wisely and successfully with the Indians; forwarded the explorations of Joliet, Marquette, and LaSalle, and aided in the establishment of French forts and posts in the new French territory. Recalled to France in 1682, he was sent back in 1689 because of the distress in the colony and the havoc worked by the Iroquois. In this work he was successful.


6 Louis Hennepen (1640-1701?) was a Franciscan friar and chaplain of LaSalle's westward expedition in 1678. He explored the upper Mississippi Valley; was captured by the Sioux and rescued by Duluth. On his return
It is at the mouth of Lake Frontenac that a fort was began, which might have been able to keep the Iroquois in check and especially the Tsounontouans (Seneca), the most numerous and most powerful of all, and prevent the trade which they carry on with the English and Dutch, for quantities of furs which they obliged to seek in western countries, and pass by Niagara going and coming, where they might be stopped in a friendly way in time of peace, and by force in time of war.\(^7\)

The establishment of the French was followed by the arrival in that region of a personality destined to be extremely important in creating additional French influence among the Seneca. Chabert de Joncaire had found his captivity among the Seneca fruitful and, upon his release, was an adopted member of the nation and a welcome guest in its villages. His influence was profitably used by the French. At various times he was sent to the Seneca villages to further French trade and hinder British who were seeking a foothold on the shore of Lake Ontario.\(^8\)

Joncaire secured from the Seneca in 1718 consent for the erection of a magazine and stockaded houses at Niagara. This success was followed by the construction of a better palisaded house in 1723, and the building of a permanent fort in 1726. The closer ties of friendship with the Seneca and the increased military strength of the French added to the latter's morale. When Lawrence Claesson, a messenger of the New York governor, Burnet, found a French blacksmith on the Genesee to whose presence he objected, he was informed, "When we keep our house and people at Niagara we can stop the Senecas and Western Indians too from trading with you . . ." \(^9\)

**The Spread of British Influence among the Seneca**

The British had not quietly accepted the French foothold at the Niagara portage. Governor Thomas Dongan\(^10\) of New York, in 1685, had licensed men to trade in the west. Two years later a party of men under the leadership of Johannes Rooseboom was captured in

\(^7\) Severance, I, 41-42.

\(^8\) Ibid., I, 162.

\(^9\) Ibid., I, 195. A good general account of developing Indian-British relations in the eighteenth century is found in Chap. XVII, Herbert L. Osgood's The American Colonies in the Eighteenth Century (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1958), III.

\(^10\) Thomas Dongan (1634-1715) succeeded Sir Edmund Andros as governor of New York in 1682. He secured a permanent charter in 1686 for New York City, but it was chiefly to Dongan that the English owed their protectorate over the Iroquois, which the French recognized in 1713.
the Niagara region by the French, who greatly feared the British threat to their fur trade.

The English, increasingly, realized the importance of Niagara. The French King was informed in 1707 that they intended to seize the post at that place. If successful, the Indian trade and the security of Canada would be endangered. But it was not until 1721 that the Lords of Trade authorized the building of a fort in the Seneca country to offset the influence of the French at the portage. The result was the erection of Oswego in 1725-1727. To this center of influence, Irondequoit Bay was added in 1740. These posts and their attractive trade led 220 canoes to by-pass Niagara in 1750, indicative of the slow but successful British penetration into the Seneca country.

Also aiding the English had been the lack of a uniform policy on the part of the Seneca nation. The Indian bargained with both the English and the French, excusing his actions to both of his white neighbors, but maintaining a position in the center between them. As the most western nation of the Confederacy, the Seneca were well able to assume a neutral position through no organized efforts on their own behalf. The Huron-Seneca of the Genesee allowed French penetration into that section, but the cheaper and better made British trade goods were most welcome to the eastern Seneca who were closely tied to the other members of the Confederacy. There the British maintained their strong influence.

Although the English had established themselves in the Seneca country, it was not until the final French and English struggle for the control of North America that Niagara was taken. In the instructions to General Edward Braddock were the provisions that he was to drive the French from the Ohio Valley, then proceed to the capture of Niagara. His failure and defeat in 1755, plus the impossibility of crossing a wilderness for a distance of several hundred miles, left the fort at Niagara secure to the French until 1759.

During this period the star of Sir William Johnson began its brilliant rise. In his letter to the Lords of Trade in 1756, Governor

11 Severance, I, 100.
12 Ibid., I, 164.
13 Ibid., I, 217.
15 Severance, I, 338.
16 Ibid., I, 374.
18 Severance, I, 95.
Charles Hardy\textsuperscript{19} of New York recommended the appointment of Major General Johnson as Superintendent over the northern Indians for the purpose of cultivating the Indian interests and to counteract the French Indian policy. In the same letter, linked with the name of the man who was to be instrumental in its capture, was this appraisal of the strategic value of the key French post:

Niagara is most certainly a Post of the utmost consequence and I must beg leave to offer it as my opinion that this Fort should without loss of time be secured to His Majesty it is the great pass from Lake Ontario, to the Lake Erie, and opens a very extensive communication with many tribes of Indians, who might soon be drawn into Friendship with the English by the advantages of Their Trade with us . . . .\textsuperscript{20}

This sage advice by the New York governor was followed by real efforts by the English to win the confidence of the Seneca nation. Johnson promised, in the same year, to erect in their country a fort for their protection. At the same time, Mydert Wemp was sent to repair Seneca utensils. These “assists” were not enough to secure an active English-Seneca alliance against the French. But, coupled with the Indian council at Onondaga, in 1756, and some pressure from other members of the Confederacy, they helped to maintain among the Seneca a semblance of neutrality.\textsuperscript{21}

This success of the British in their influence with the Six Nations induced Johnson to hope that the Seneca would help in the capture of the Niagara fortress. Like Governor Hardy, he was well aware of the task before him and the prize that was Niagara. This was the key connecting link between the Seneca and the French. Its fall would remove many of the Indian dangers, so Johnson wrote in his letter of May 17, 1759:

The Reduction of Niagara, and if well conducted I think we cannot fail of success, will be in the light I view it a point of inestimable advantage to the security and welfare of these His Majesty’s Dominions, and if the conquest is rightly improved, will throw such an extensive Indian Trade and Interest, (for they are inseparable) into our hands, as will in my humble opinion oversett all those ambitions and lucrative schemes which the French have projected and in pursuit of which they were interrupted by the present war in this part of the world.\textsuperscript{22}

That same year the fortress fell to the English. With it, as fore-

\textsuperscript{19} Sir Charles Hardy (1716?-1780) was appointed governor of New York in 1755. After an unsuccessful attack on Louisbourg in 1756, he resigned and returned to England. However, his naval fortunes were revived at the successful reduction of the fortress.


\textsuperscript{21} Ibid., 227.

\textsuperscript{22} Ibid., 376.
cast by Hardy and Johnson, went the material influence that the French had over the Seneca. Conquest through war had brought an end to the French influence at Niagara. The power that held the portage could control the Indian nation to the eastward that was so dependent upon it for its trade.

*The Conspiracy of Pontiac and the Increase of British Prestige*

Despite the elimination of French power in North America, there still was considerable respect for those people by the western Seneca. Defeated yes, but the Indian could not easily forget his past associations with the French. The revolt of Pontiac was a rising of the Indian nations friendly to the French and fearful of English expansion. At its conclusion the English would be the complete masters of North America.

An important cause of this war was the condition of the fur trade under English rule. Because this trade was so essential to the prosperity of New France, it was basic that the loyalty of the French traders and Indians be assured. Control was exercised by the French through the issuance of the license. The trader, a more important figure in the development of Canada than the priest, was controlled by its mandate. As early as the time of Frontenac, the death penalty was promised to those persons who went into the west without permission. Twenty-five licenses were issued each year. The congé, as it was called, permitted the holder to send one canoeload of goods to the west. Although the cost of the journey was great, the profit in trade and goodwill among the Indian tribes made the venture well worthwhile. “By the license system the colonial authorities obtained reputable traders, who gave bonds for their conduct and that of their employees, who were expected to treat the Indians justly and obey all the edicts concerning the trade.”

Although many French would “free lance” it into the wilderness, without a license for the sake of the enormous profits, in contrast, the English could not create a system as consistent for the needs of the Indians. The English fur trade had never been well regulated, and after the long disruptive period of the French and Indian War it was in very bad condition. Many of the traders and the men in their employ were men of the coarsest stamp who vied with each other for dipping deep into all of the human vices. They cheated, cursed, and

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plundered the Indians, and outraged their families. Even the officers and soldiers of the English garrisons often excited the resentment of the “savages” who came to trade or counsel, whereas the French had welcomed them with salutes and gifts.

Of course another reason for trouble between the Indians and the whites was the ever increasing power of the English. The “push” of the English colonists for new lands created fears in the hearts of the warriors and led to retaliation. At Sir William Johnson’s treaty with the Indians in May 1765, an Onondaga chief said:

The chief cause of all the late wars was about Lands, we saw the English coming towards us from all Parts, and they have cheated us so often, that we could not think well of it. We were afraid, that in a little time, you would be at our very Castles...

The Delaware and the Shawnee anger was fever hot because of their forced migration from their eastern lands in Pennsylvania to new homes along the Ohio. The plight of these nations struck a responsive chord, whether in sympathy or fear, in the hearts of the western Seneca, but Sir William Johnson was able to control the other members of the Confederacy.

Another factor, and, of course, one that was completely different from any that had been present in the previous French wars, was the absence of the French nation from the conflict. The Indians missed these enemies of the English. It meant to them a loss of position and welcome bounties. In January 1764, Colonel George Croghan wrote to the Lords of Trade:

The Indians before the late war, or conquest of Quebec considered us in the light of a Counterpoize to the power of the French, their ancient Enemies, and were steady Friends to the English on that account; but since the reduction of Canada, they consider us in a very different and less favourable light, as they are now become exceeding jealous of our growing power in that Country.

26 George Croghan (d. 1782) was born in Ireland but as early as 1746 he was engaged as a fur trader among the Indians of the Ohio Valley. Although Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia described the traders as “abandoned wretches,” Croghan was one of the better ones and his eloquence in the Indian tongue secured the Indian confidence and led to his employment by the government. He served as captain in Braddock’s expedition; was made deputy-agent with the Pennsylvania and Ohio Indians in November 1756, and in 1763 was sent to England by Sir William Johnson to communicate with the government respecting the Indian boundary line. Helping to pacify the Illinois Indians in 1765, he continued his valuable services in Indian negotiations until the War of Independence.
27 *New York Colonial Documents*, VII, 603.
An immediate cause of Pontiac's Revolt was the garrisoning of the French posts by the British, and the establishment of new ones in the Indian country. When these had been built during the French and Indian War, the English had promised that they would be razed at the close of hostilities. They were not. This source of irritation to the Indians, and to the Six Nations in particular, was illustrated in the letter of Sir William Johnson to the Lords of Trade in November 1763:

... the grand matter of concern to all the Six Nations (Mohawks excepted) is the occupying of a chain of small Posts on the communication through their country to Lake Ontario, not to mention Fort Stanwix, exclusive of which there were erected in 1759 Fort Schuyler on the Mohawk River, and the Royal Block House at the East end of Oneida Lake, in the Country of the Oneidas, Fort Brewerton, and a post at Oswego Falls in the Onondagaes Country; in order to obtain permission for erecting these Posts, they were promised they should be demolished at the end of the War.28

The British had sufficient warning of the impending Indian trouble. In August 1762, Johnson had informed the Lords of Trade of stirrings among the Indian nations, that the Seneca were inciting the western Indians to revolt. He declared that the growing British power and the military posts were the chief points of trouble. His opinions were strengthened by those of Major Henry Gladwin29 at Detroit. In a letter to Sir Jeffrey Amherst,30 the British commander in chief in America, dated April 20, 1763, Gladwin explained:

I Enclose your Excellency a Letter, and a Belt from the Officer Commanding at Miamis; and I have only to Add, that I am pretty well Informed by Other Hands, that the Six Nations, Shawnees, & Delawares Indians are Ill Disposed, and that they have been Tampering with the Indians this Way, but I Believe without Effect: They say We mean to make Slaves of them, by Taking so many Posts in their Country, and that they had better Attempt Something now, to Recover their Liberty, than Wait till We were better Established ... 31

Despite all this, the English were unprepared. The details of the uprising are given in Parkman's *Conspiracy of Pontiac*. They are not

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28 Ibid., 577.
29 Henry Gladwin (1729-91), a British army officer, served in the disastrous campaign of Edward Braddock and other actions in the French and Indian War, but is best remembered for his defense of Detroit in Pontiac's Rebellion.
30 Lord Jeffrey Amherst (1717-97) entered the Guards in 1731 and prospered. Pitt, in 1758, had him promoted to Major-General with the intent of leading the expedition against the French in North America. The operations against Fort Niagara, Quebec, and Ticonderoga were successful. Montreal fell in 1760. Amherst was appointed governor-general of British North America. Although many honors would come his way, his greatest glory was the conquest of Canada.
pertinent here, but the Seneca attitude is important. Dissatisfied, their "hatchets" were the first raised. Although Pontiac, the great chief of the Ottawa, carried the brunt of the fighting, the clever strategy so evident at the capture of Presqu’ Isle, forts Le Boeuf and Venango, and at the siege at Fort Pitt revealed their adeptness in the Indian tactics of war.

Startling as these victories were, they did not turn the tide of the Confederacy against the English. While the Seneca were on the warpath, Sir William Johnson had been adroitly working for the neutrality of the bulk of the Confederacy. Skilled in the art of Indian persuasion, he gathered the Six Nations to a council by threats, reasoning, and promises, and he hoped to win them to the British side.

This council opened on September 7, 1763, with chiefs and warriors from the Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, and Tuscarora villages. So successful was the Baron, that he not only secured peace for the English, but even intervention against the hostile tribes. Several war parties were “fitted-out” and some scalps were brought in. Though these actions were small in a military way, the influence of the Six Nations was felt by the tribes that looked toward them with fear and respect. Then, with confidence, the Indian agent wrote to the Lords of Trade in November 1763:

By the measures I have taken the Six Nations (Senecas excepted) are still our friends ... As the Six Nations are the barrier of this province in particular, and can easily cut off the important Communication to Lake Ontario either way, their attachment can not I conceive be too much cultivated ... Of the Seneca villages, two remain still our friends, viz. Kanadasegey and Kanadaraygo, and the fidelity of the rest of the Confederacy, hath hitherto preserved the frontiers of this Province and the communication of Lake Ontario . . . .

A further note of cheer was added by the fact that the Indians under Pontiac were unable to reduce Detroit. This failure marked the end of the greatest Indian effort in history to stop the English advance. Its discouraging effect was felt by the Seneca who had already incurred the dissatisfaction of the Confederacy, and the other members of the league were confirmed in their friendship toward the British.

In his letter of April 14, 1764, General Thomas Gage explained

33 Thomas Gage (1721-87) came to America in 1754 and commanded the advance column from the Monongahela to Fort Duquesne on July 9, 1755. Subsequently he was employed with the 44th (now the 1st Essex) at Oswego. In May 1758 he was appointed to raise a provincial regiment — the 80th or "lightarmed" foot which he led in Abercromby's expedition against Ticonderoga. After the fall of Niagara in July 1759, Gage, as a brigadier-general, was detached from Crown Point. He was appointed governor of Montreal in 1760. His actions during the War for Independence are familiar to most people.
to Lord Halifax, the King's Secretary for the Colonies, the final submission of the Seneca:

Since closing the Mail, I have received letters from Sir William Johnson to acquaint me that the Chenusios and Enemy Senecas had been with him several days, and after considering the terms of Peace demanded, they had at length agreed to them, beyond his expectation. — For his Majesty's particular information, I transmit your Lordship herewith a copy of the preliminary Articles, forwarded to me by Sir Wm Johnson, who also adds, that they shew an apparent eagerness, as do all the rest of the Five Nations who were present, to go against our Enemies.34

Disturbed at the outlook for the Indian war, the Seneca Nation had agreed to the following preliminary terms of peace:

That the Seneca Nation do immediately stop all hostilities, and solemnly engage never more to make War upon the English or suffer any of their people to commit any act of violence on the persons or property of any of His Britanic Majesty's subjects.35

The land bordering the Niagara portage, with its timber and transportation rights, was ceded to the British. In return the Seneca were left in the full possession of their rights, a pardon for past transgressions, and the promise of a more definite treaty. This took place at a council held in May 1764.

With the completion of this 1764 treaty, the English acquired complete control over the portage at Niagara.36 In succession, the French had been driven from North America and the Seneca, on the banks of the Niagara, were forced to recognize English power. It was evident that the British would not relinquish their possessions and that Indian arms would be unsuccessful unless aided by a third power. Left to themselves, as proven by Pontiac's defeat, the Seneca would find it difficult indeed to maintain their former political position.

The Boundary Line of 1768

Since the opening of the French war, the British crown had tried to centralize its dealings with the Indian nations and had taken the management of Indian affairs into its own hands. A part of this effort was an attempt to control the emigration to the West by regulating the colonial advance and, thereby, reduce the causes for Indian discontent. The visible means of this control would be a line separating the two races. This boundary would remain intact until the crown decided to buy more land. This plan had received the endorsement of

34 New York Colonial Documents, VII, 620.
35 Ibid., 621.
36 Ibid., 621.
those experienced men who knew the Indian and the frontier. In November 1763 Johnson had written to the Lords of Trade:

... I humbly conceive, that a certain line should be run at the back of the Northern Colonies, beyond which no settlement should be made, until the whole Six Nations should think proper of selling part thereof. This would encourage the thick settlement of the Frontiers, oblige the Proprietors to large grants to get them Inhabited, and secure the Indians from being further deceived by many who make a practice of imposing on a few Indians with liquor and fair promises to sign Deeds, which are generally disavowed by the Nation....

The effect that the line could have upon the Indians was voiced by Colonel George Croghan in 1764:

The Indians have discernment enough, if they see a Tract of Country secured to them under the Sovereignty protection and Dominion of His Majy for their hunting and planting grounds, and a Trade and Commerce carried on with them with such necessaries as they want from time to time, to see their own interest in living in friendship with His Majy's subjects in America.

These opinions endorsed the Proclamation of 1763. Under its terms traders were licensed and a temporary line was drawn along the course of the Alleghenies. Johnson had suggested a line to the Indians, but it had not been ratified by the crown because it was felt that it should have ended where the Kanawha enters the Ohio instead of the Cherokee River to the south. The objection was that the Six Nations were ceding land over which they had no control. For an interval of three years negotiations were suspended, until 1768, when a definite boundary was agreed upon.

At the instigation of the Lords of Trade and its president, the Earl of Shelburne, the Indian agents were notified to conclude their negotiations with the Indian tribes. But Sir William Johnson could not immediately call a meeting with the northern Indians. First, he had to bring the Cherokee and the Six Nations who had been at war to some sort of a peace. At the same time he had to control the Seneca, who were believed to be at the bottom of another western confederacy. Not until the autumn of 1768 did the nations make their way to the council at Fort Stanwix, near the present site of Rome, New York. Then, with typical hospitality, and before the council began, Johnson was feeding 600 of the tribesmen, with the expectation that 3,000 would attend the meeting.

37 Ibid., 578.
38 Ibid., 603.
39 Ibid., VIII, 22.
40 Ibid., 23.
41 The Correspondence of General Thomas Gage, edited by Clarence Edwin Carter (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1933), I, 158.
After many delays the council began on October 24, with Johnson recalling for his guests, “You all remember that three years ago I signified to you His Maty’s desire to establish a Boundary Line between his people and yours and that we then agreed together how some part of that Line should run, whenever, the same came to be settled . . .” Then he explained the reasons for the congress — the need for a definite boundary to assure the Indians that the whites would not fraudulently convert their heritage, that the line would remove the cause for war.

On the afternoon of October 28, the council again met. The Indians brought their answer this time:

We have been for some time deliberating on what you said concerning a Line between the English and us, & we are sensible it would be for our mutual advantage if it were not transgressed, but dayl[ly] experience teaches us that we cannot have any great dependence on the white People, and that they will forget their agreements for the sake of our Lands — However you have said so much to us upon it that we are willing to beleive more favorably in this case.

With this, the council went forward. As a concession to the governor of Pennsylvania, Johnson wished the boundary to begin at Fort Pitt, and after following the east branch of the Susquehanna and other streams, to end at the Delaware. This proposal was countered by an Indian willingness to sign away more land than Sir William had bargained for. The Six Nations felt that it was better to give more land to the south, which would take years to fill and over which they did not have firm control, than to sacrifice the land in their own immediate region. Promoting this viewpoint, they favored a line starting at the Cherokee or Tennessee River, extending northward along the Ohio, and eastward along an irregular line until it came to rest at the mouth of Canada Creek, on Wood Creek.

The Line of 1768 was drawn and with the completion of discussions, the Indians decamped on November 4. To the future was left the practical use of the line and the difficulties for enforcing it. Could an effort “to control the westward expansion by marking a definite and continuous line beyond which no settlements were to be established until the pressure of population upon the frontiers made it necessary to open up more territory” be acceptable to the land-hungry Americans?

42 Idem., New York Colonial Documents, VIII, 118.
43 Ibid., 120.
44 Ibid., VIII, 110.
45 Ibid., 110.
The Seneca had played an important part in formulating this treaty. Guastrax, a leader of the western Seneca, had signed it. Their people would be greatly affected. The straining against and breaking of this line would greatly influence the thinking of nations that had taken a part in the treaty’s signing. The Seneca nation would become increasingly fearful of the advancing frontiersmen. The Proclamation Line of 1768 had possibilities for solving the land troubles between the whites and Indians; but its failure to hold, because it would be broken, increased the animosity between the two races instead of removing the sources of contention. Here would be the main roots for the intervention of the Seneca on the side of the British in the War for Independence that was but a few short years away.