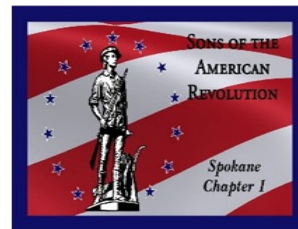




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## AMERICAN INDIANS AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Oneida Tribe was one of the 5 Native American Tribes of the Iroquois League during the American Rev. The Oneida Tribe was one of the first allies of the Colonist.

The Red on the flag represents the blood spilled before the union of the five nations. The trunk of the tree is white and represents purity while the four roots spread to the four directions of mother earth. The tree is the great tree of the Oneida and bears the three clans of the Oneida tribe, wolf, bear & turtle.

The Bear taught us gentleness and strength. It takes more strength not to raise your hand than it does to strike someone.

The Turtle taught us patience, never give up. Seen as strength and solidarity, old wise and well respected.

The Wolf taught us to use our eyes and be watchful. Strong sense of family.

The tree is topped with an eagle with wings outstretched. The Eagle will warn of any impending danger.

Famous Oneida Chief- Chief Skenandoah (1710-1816) known as "The Deer"

Samuel Kirkland an American Missionary converted Chief Skenandoah to Christianity. The Oneida Tribe supported the colonist and as a result the British burned their villages. Chief Skenandoah fought with General Herkimer at the Battle of Oriskany. In 1777 upon hearing word of the starving men at Valley Forge Chief Skenandoah sent 40 warriors and one Oneida woman (Polly Cooper) to Valley Forge to deliver 700 pounds of corn for the soldiers. The Mohawks captured Chief Skenandoah in 1780 and held him captive till 1784. He died in 1816 at the age of 110 and is buried at Hamilton College, Clinton N.Y. next to his friend Samuel Kirkland. When Polly Cooper arrived at Valley Forge she taught the men how to cook the corn. If they had eaten the raw corn it would have swelled up in their stomachs and killed them. Martha Washington was so grateful to Polly Cooper that she took her into town and bought her a black shawl. The shawl is still in the possession of the Oneida Tribe and is only put out on display on special occasions.

In Oct 1776 John Hancock President of the Centennial Congress issued a pass to the Iroquois Nation of Five (later Six Nations). This was to be a Council of the Indian Nations to see where they stood on the war with England held at Philadelphia . Most tribes were split. They wanted to side with whoever won.

"All whom it may concern: Permit the following Indian Sachems & Warriors... To return to Pittsburgh with the commissioners of Indian Affairs in the Middle Department, without hindrance or molestation and all committee and other persons of the said United States are hereby required to be aiding and assisting them during this said journey to Pittsburgh"

Iroquois Nations Chiefs

Cayeshuta

Jenontow

Waytaw

Shaw

Tegawshaingoyne

Delaware Nations

Captain Pipe

Captain White Eyes

Captain Killbuck

Shawnee nations

Nimina

Kohitha

The delegation of native Americans were so impressed with John Hancock and George Washington who introduced John Hancock to the delegates that John Hancock was named "The Great Tree".

The Iroquois League of Five Nations (People of the Longhouse) consisted of;

Mohawk-Keeper of the Eastern Door

Onondaga-Keeper of the Council Fire

Seneca-Keeper of the Western Door

Cayuga-Keeper of the Swamp

Oneida-People of Upright Stone

When a council was held the Mohawk & Seneca set to the east, the Oneida & Cayuga set to the west, Onondaga set to the north (presided over the council meeting),

The Iroquois League had a standing government with 51 delegates with a deciding vote by the council leader (Onondaga as called the Peacekeeper), women had an equal vote and appointed the chiefs , freedom of Religion, No slavery, each tribe was allowed to travel across any tribes land. No council member could be a War Chief. All votes conducted had to be unanimous. Much of the United States government was molded from the Iroquois League and Cherokee Nation.

Reference: "If you lived with the Iroquois" Scholastic by Ellen Levine & "American Indians and African Americans of the American Revolution by John Micklos

This is the question asked in last months Patriot Press: **"Can you name one Native American Tribal Chief from the Rev War?"**

And this is the answer:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LIFE</u>	<u>TRIBE OF ORIGIN</u>
Cornstock	c.1720-1777	Shawnee
Crazy Horse	c.1840-1877	Lakota
Geronimo	1829-1909	Apache
Chief Joseph	1840-1904	NezPerce

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR CHAPTER #1

- 1 Feb -Cub Scout Pack 420 Awards ceremony-Post Colors and man booth-6:00 p.m.  
Redeemer Church, Dishman Hills
- 4 Feb- Cub Scout tour of Flag Museum 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Feb- New Citizens at Tom Foley court house 11:00 a.m.
- 11 Feb-Girl Scout award scholarship presentation 11:30 GSA office on Maple
- 12 Feb New Citizens ceremony at Tom Foley court house 11:00 a.m.
- 16 Feb Sea Cadets award ceremony 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Feb Moran Prairie home school class living history presentation 1:00 p.m.
- 26 Feb New Citizens ceremony at Tom Foley court house 11:00 a.m.

**Our next Chapter #1 SAR meeting will be held on Saturday Febraury 9th at 9:00 AM at Timber Creek Buffett.**

I saw this quote by Thomas Jefferson and, if you will forgive me, had to include it in our newsletter—

***Those who don't read the newspapers are better off than those who do insofar as those who know nothing are better off than those whose heads are filled with half-truths and lies.***