

## Confederacy cont'd from pg. 7

Iroquois, Schuyler took his small army through Lake Champlain. Facing him were less than 1,000 English regulars supported by an ambiguous and undetermined number of Indian allies.

At St. John's in Quebec the Americans had expected to easily overrun the small fort there. To their surprise Guy Johnson, now a colonel in the British army, had ordered the fort reinforced just before the American arrival. Johnson had sent his Mohawk friends along with a few other Iroquois to assist the garrison. On September 6 over 1,000 Americans landed near St. John's only to be met by 90 Iroquois rushing down from the fort. While the fight itself was a draw the Iroquois did force the Americans to halt their advance. Montgomery, now in command, withdrew from St. John's to await additional supplies, giving Carleton critical time to reinforce Quebec. The Iroquois left the area because they felt the commander of St. John's, Major Charles Preston, had failed to come to their aid.

Against a superior force St. John's fell on November 2, opening the way to the taking of Montreal on November 13. Meanwhile, Benedict Arnold struggled through the Maine wilderness, his men starving before dying of disease and exhaustion. The season had turned to bitter cold before Arnold and Montgomery were able to reach the walls of Quebec on November 18. There was little chance an attack would succeed, so after a token demand for surrender the Americans retreated. Another attack was launched in December, but this too failed. The Americans would stay in Canada through the winter before returning to Albany in July of 1776.

Also in the autumn of 1775 the Senecas, Shawnee, Lenni Lenape and Wyandots met at Ft. Pitt with the Americans. Guyasuta of the Seneca Nation assured the rebels his people would remain neutral while White Eyes of the Lenni Lenape proclaimed the independence of his nation. Old Smoke, Complanter, Handsome Lake and Blacksnake were part of the Seneca delegation.

Now that the Iroquois had drawn blood neutrality was proving to be an impossible position. While Col. Guy Johnson left for England in November of 1775 accompanied by Joseph Brant, Little Abraham was left with managing an increasingly unstable position in the Mohawk Valley. Brant and Johnson went to London to protest the mismanagement of Indian Affairs by Major John Campbell who had replaced their friend Daniel Claus. The battle for Quebec had all but confirmed American independence. In the Mohawk Valley, more than any other region, families and friends were divided in their loyalties. It was a region where intrigues ran strong; Mary Brant was busy at the bear clan village of Canajoharie supplying the loyalists with information as to the activities of the rebels while the pro-independence Tryon County Committee of Safety acted as an intelligence network for American Gen. Schuyler. In particular they were concerned about the activities of Sir John Johnson, Sir William's loyalist son, and the reports he was storing arms at Johnson Hall. Schuyler took the information serious enough to order 700 troops in January to enter Mohawk territory and investigate the activities at Johnson Hall. By the time the force reached their destination it had grown to 3,000, most of whom were militia from the area.

The Mohawk Council was greatly alarmed at the approach of the Americans. They protested vigorously against this violation of the September 1775 peace treaty but to no avail. Little Abraham in particular argued the military expedition was a provocation, advising mediation rather than force. The army instead marched on to Johnson Hall where Johnson was ordered to surrender his arms and select six (6) hostages to guarantee his good conduct. Having no choice Johnson agreed to the terms but this threat against Sir William's son and the breach of Iroquois sovereignty served only to drive the Mohawks towards actively supporting the British.

At a Grand Council held in Onondaga in March of 1776, a renewed treaty was made with the Americans at Albany the previous September. A wampum belt was sent to Albany as acknowledgement of one received from the rebels when the treaty was agreed to. John Butler, deputy superintendent of Indian Affairs under Guy Johnson, sent messengers to the council in an attempt to sway the Iroquois to actively supporting the crown but the Confederacy refused. A delegation from Kahnawake attended the council but had met secretly with the Oneida Nation, promising them they would support the Americans in the war. This assurance was given despite the Kahnawake's battle with Schuyler's Quebec expedition the previous September. Louis Cook - Atayathronghtia, a black-Abenaki living at Kahnawake, was working as an American agent to wean the Mohawks along the St. Lawrence River away from the British. He was supported in his efforts by the American spy James Dean. Cook was later commissioned a colonel in the American army.

Sir John Johnson continued his recruitment of Mohawk Valley loyalists to fight for the crown. His efforts were uncovered by James Dean, who reported to Gen. Schuyler that Johnson was using Mohawk messengers to stay in contact with his agents. Since Schuyler felt this was a violation of Johnson's probation, he ordered him to Albany in March but an investigation failed to substantiate the charges.

The city of Boston was abandoned by the British military on March 20, an event the rebels celebrated as a great victory. The news was quickly spread throughout the Confederacy by Schuyler and Kirkland as evidence of the weakness of England. A meeting was called for by the Confederacy with the Americans to be held at Albany on April 29. The Confederate leaders, led by Little Abraham, presented the wampum belt authorized at the March Grand Council. The belt was to assure the Americans the Confederacy was committed to peace. The Americans responded with presents of gunpowder and lead, stating they were certain they would defeat the British in battle. The Iroquois were invited to send a delegation to meet Gen. Washington in New York to meet with the Congressional leaders, the Iroquois agreed to send 21 men.

Before the council had ended Gen. Schuyler decided to put an end to the intrigues of Sir John Johnson. He ordered Col. Elias Dayton and 300 troops to arrest Johnson and bring him back to Albany. Johnson heard of the impending action and sent Mohawk spies to watch the Americans. On May 19, the Americans sent a representative to meet with the Mohawks and explain to them why they would be moving through Indian territory. Without the authorization of the Mohawk Council, a group of Mohawk men confronted Dayton's troops, stating they would defend Johnson using force if necessary. Dayton elected to negotiate rather than fight. Little Abraham assured the Americans the Mohawk would yet abide by the 1775 peace treaty and encouraged his people to remain calm. The standoff was resolved when Dayton promised the Mohawks that Johnson would not be harmed before he reached Johnson Hall. Sir John had taken advantage of the delay and fled the area. With him were 170 Mohawks and loyalists (now called Tories). They began a difficult journey through the heart of the rugged Adirondacks, almost starving before arriving at Akwesasne on the St. Lawrence, May 30.

On May 19, part of Schuyler's Quebec expedition fought with, and were defeated by a British-Iroquois (mainly Mohawk) force at the Battle of the Cedars on the St. Lawrence. The 390 American troops surrendered to the British, followed by another 120 the next day. The engagement was notable because of the stories spread throughout the colonies about the supposed Mohawk atrocities committed before and after the battle. The English were severely criticized for using the Mohawks as fighters even as the Congress passed a resolution on May 25 to recruit and pay Indians as auxiliaries to the Continental Army. Both Americans and British would begin to actively recruit the Iroquois, breaching their promises to abide by the Confederacy's neutrality.

In May the Iroquois nations met at Ft. Niagara with John Butler. The Confederate leaders, led by the Seneca Guyasuta, affirmed their neutrality despite intense pressure exerted upon them by Butler to pledge for the

crown. Butler criticized the Confederacy for its signing of the peace treaty with the Americans in 1775. Butler said the rebels would be defeated since the English controlled all the American seaports, a claim the Iroquois knew to be false. Butler failed to sway the Confederacy from its commitment to peace although a few individuals agreed to go to Montreal.

Also in May, the Iroquois delegation were sent to Washington then on to Philadelphia where they were welcomed by the Continental Congress. While they were there, Congress authorized Washington to recruit Indians but the Iroquois were not told of this. On May 29, Rev. Kirkland informed Schuyler at Ft. George, north of Albany, the Oneidas and Tuscaroras that some Kahnawake's had promised to fight for the Americans even if the other Confederate nations supported the British. With these assurances Schuyler sent a message to Congress requesting permission to rebuild Ft. Stanwix in Oneida territory, permission was granted.

Another Grand Council was held at Onondaga in June. Simon Girty, an agent for Indian agent George Morgan brought a wampum belt from the Americans to affirm the peace made in 1775. The chiefs sent word to Butler they wanted the small war party he had recruited a month before returned to Iroquois territory. Girty was told the Confederacy would remain at peace despite the designs of Butler. Messengers were also sent to the west to the Iroquois allies to refrain from becoming involved in the war. Those Iroquois camped next to Ft. Niagara and hence under the influence of Butler, were told to return home. On June 7, Mohawks from Kahnawake and Kanehsatake met with Benedict Arnold, still in Montreal, pledging their neutrality. On July 2, the rebels proclaimed their independence from Britain creating, as of July 4, the United States of America.

Gen. Schuyler called for a meeting with the Confederacy in July but the Iroquois were slow in coming. The meeting, which began on August 7, began badly when the Iroquois sought to perform a condolence ceremony for a chief killed at the Battle of Cedars, an act the Americans thought was intended as an insult. Schuyler warned the Iroquois not to fight against the Americans while praising their efforts to remain neutral. The Iroquois left assured they would not be dragged into the fight.

In July, Joseph Brant and Guy Johnson returned to America by way of New York. Prevented from returning to Iroquois territory Brant joined Gen. Williams Howe's army. He fought at the British victory in the Battle of Long Island, then witnessed Washington's retreat from Brooklyn. Afterwards, he was sent by Howe and Johnson in November on a secret mission to enlist the aid of the Iroquois. Brant went first to the Susquehanna River area where there were several Iroquois villages. Brant carried with him news of Washington's defeat which resulted in many Iroquois deciding to side with the King. Brant then went to Ft. Niagara where he met with Butler then moved on throughout Iroquois territory advocating for the English. His message was rejected by the Oneidas, who reminded him of the peace treaty the Confederacy had with the Americans.

In the early part of January the Confederacy met at Onondaga. It was a particularly important time for Iroquois, since the Midwinter Ceremonies were observed at this time. This winter was marked by tragedy for the Onondagas suffered a plague which killed 90 people including 3 chiefs. The deaths occurred at a time when the Confederacy needed the chiefs to control the pro-war elements within the nations. Both Americans and British attempted to take advantage of the weakened condition of the Confederacy to enlist Iroquois fighters. The Americans called for a conference at Albany on July 15, but the British had moved quicker, getting the Iroquois to agree to meet at the Irondequoit before they went to Albany.

Joseph Brant continued his pro-British activities throughout the spring of 1777. He was active in the Susquehanna region, enlisting support, providing intelligence to Butler in Niagara, attempting to persuade the Oneidas and Tuscaroras to leave Kirkland and the Americans. The British were meanwhile planning a three prong attack which, if successful, would divide New York in half and cut-off the New England states from the rest of the country. Gen. Howe was to head north from New York, Gen. Burgoyne would march south from Quebec and Col. Barry St. Leger would be in the command of an army to go east from Ft. Oswego. All three expeditions would meet in Albany by August of early September. Since both Burgoyne and St. Leger would be invading Iroquois territory it was essential to secure the support of the Confederacy. No measures would be spared to get the Iroquois to fight.

In July the Iroquois met at Irondequoit, half way between Forts Niagara and Oswego. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras were not formerly represented, although individuals from those nations were present. Since the meeting was in Seneca territory, elders, women and children from that nation were in attendance. Old Smoke, Blacksnake and Complanter were there but Brant was at Oswego. Butler came from Niagara, his ship loaded with presents from the Iroquois. He spoke of the King's unending wealth of the British victory at Long Island, of Washington's humiliating retreat. He said the Iroquois would not have to fight but merely accompany the British army now at Oswego to watch as the Americans were crushed. Still, the Senecas, as led by Old Smoke, refused to commit to fighting anyone. They agreed to follow the British on its march to Albany but had no plans to get involved. Accordingly, they brought with them to Oswego many families. They would honor the 1775 treaty with the Americans. Butler reminded the council of the Confederacy's covenant chain of friendship with the crown, an agreement which bound them to defending the British.

On July 24, the Butler arrived at Oswego to be met by Brant with 300 Iroquois fighters. All were given supplies by St. Leger. The Senecas were nearing Oswego but before they could reach Fort, Daniel Claus and Brant were sent to intercept them. They were to direct the Senecas east, to meet St. Leger's expedition which had marched from Oswego on July 26. At a place where the Seneca, Oswego and Oneida rivers meet another conference was held. Brant and Claus were with St. Leger some distance away but there were upwards of 500 Iroquois, including Old Smoke, at the session. After many hours of heated debate, it was decided to accompany St. Leger, believing the option to withdraw before battle was still open. While most families turned back at this time a large number of women elected to follow their sons, brothers and husbands. The Confederate chiefs had been carried along by the excitement of the moment. Within a few days they would become involved in a battle which would finally have Iroquois fighting Iroquois in brutal hand to hand combat. At the eve of the Battle of Oriskany the Haudenosaunee Confederacy had at last been dragged into a war from which they would emerge as victims rather than victors.

## [Recycling Saves Energy]

THE WASTE DISPOSAL SOLUTION OF THE FUTURE: PERSONAL IN-HOME LAND-FILLS



## Support Group Meeting

Salmon River Central School's next Parent Teacher Support Group meeting is April 8, in the elementary teachers lounge. Due to last month's snow day cancellation we will have two speakers this month. Mrs. Prue, a fourth grade teacher at S.R.C.S., will speak at 6:30 p.m. on how children learn and what parents can do to help. At 7:30 p.m. Mrs. FitzRandolph, Director of Instruction, will be speaking on curriculum. Next year's goals, state mandates, and where S.R.C.S. fits in. Join Us....

DENTAL HEALTH MONTH '92

## A Celebration of the Smile



## Nutrition News

### Planning Menus

Many people would say they don't plan menus; at least they don't write them down in advance. But everyone plans, if only for how to stock the refrigerator. "Planning menus" means thinking about what foods to eat together for a meal, a day, or week. Food choices are influenced by habit, by the occasion, by time and food available, and by what you feel like eating, as well as by your concern for nutrition.

**Planning for Variety**  
Variety and balance are the keys to planning nutritious menus. Each day's menus should include foods from the five major food groups, breads, cereals, and grain products; fruits, vegetables, meats, poultry, fish and alternates, and milk, cheese and yogurt. Foods in these groups provide the protein, vitamins, minerals, starch and dietary fiber you need. Go easy on foods in the sixth group, fats, sweets and alcoholic beverages; these mainly supply calories and few vitamins and minerals. Also vary your choices of foods within each group because specific foods differ in the kinds and amounts of nutrients they provide. For example, include in a week's menu red meats, poultry and fish. Pick different breads, fruits and vegetables as well, especially dark-green leafy vegetables, dry beans and peas and whole-grain breads and cereals, foods that provide dietary fiber and nutrients that are low in many diets.

## Kitchen Corner

### Apple Bread Pudding

2 tbsp dry bread crumbs  
6 large slices firm white stale bread, preferably homemade style  
1/4 cup butter  
3 cups sliced, cored, peeled Ontario McIntosh apples  
2/3 cups granulated sugar  
2 eggs  
2 cups hot milk  
1 tsp vanilla  
1/2 tsp cinnamon  
Pinch - salt  
2 tbsp red currant jelly, melted

Sprinkle crumbs in well-buttered 8-inch square baking dish. Remove crusts from bread; spread bread with half of the butter and cut into quarters. Line dish with half of the bread, buttered side up.  
In large skillet, melt remaining

## Iakhisohttha News

Birthdays for the month of April

April 6 - Josephine Angus and Nancy Leaf  
April 10 - Agnes Jacques  
April 30 - Sarah Lazore  
Staff: Lionel Cook - Rita McDonald - Nancy Davis and Helen Jones.

Volunteers have welcomed Marty Bush and her daughter Ann for joining their group.

Volunteer hours for March was 303 hours. We have at this time 15 volunteers. We're always looking for more, if you have an hour or two in a week or month to spare. Why don't you spend it with your Tot's.

We're currently looking for donations of flowers or money for Spring planting. We have a lot of beds here for flowers that we have to fill. Also, if you'd like to bring us an Easter plant either for resident rooms, any other part of the facility and the altar for Easter Sunday mass. Send it down with somebody that's coming to the home. We have lots of people coming here every day or call us at: 575-2507.

Thank you for anything you can do.

## Reservation Business Help Food Distribution Effort

Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation (March 27, 1992) - Several reservation businesses generously made contributions to help with the delivery of the Desert Share food. Major contributions from the reservation included Fabian Hart, Paul Thompson, Best Buys, Wolf Clan Trucking and Rudy Hart. These local businessmen made available trucks, money, drivers and their valuable time to make the prompt delivery of food to the tribe a successful joint venture.

Other organizations that aided in the delivery of the food included Community Action Agency of Franklin County, Inc., and the Kiwanis Clubs of Massena and Malone.

The Desert Share food program is nearing completion but there is still a substantial quantity of food which must be picked up on time or be lost. Donations are still needed in order for this food to reach the reservation.

Through the efforts of Chief Norman J. Tarbell, approximately 22 tractor trailer loads have been delivered to the reservation since September 1991. Commodities delivered included things like tea, sugar, coffee, bread, cream style corn, grapefruit sections, peanut butter, margarine, oatmeal, cherry pie filling, oatmeal cookie mix, beef stew, mustard, red cabbage, crackers, chili, hot chocolate mix, strawberry jam, macaroni, fruit cocktail, coffee rich, assorted beverages, sugar cookie mix, and dry mix.

"An estimated 19,800 cases of food have been delivered to the Tribe" according to Sharon Thompson, Director of Food Distribution at the Tribe.