

Pre-history of Warren Township (p. 10-11, 17 map, 31-3, 428)

At the time of the first European contacts, the Iroquois territory extended through central New York from the Hudson River to the Genesee, and comprised five distinct nations confederated together. West of them were the Hurons, the Neutral Nations and the Eries. To the east were the various Algonquin tribes, which inhabited New England. The area now known as Bradford County was inhabited by the Andastes along the Susquehanna River, while the Delawares occupied the area along the river that bears their name and the area west to the Susquehanna Valley.

The Andastes were the inhabitants of the Susquehanna Valley by at least 1620, when the first European explorers discovered them there. Archaeological information is still scant to provide collaboration with the oral history. The Andastes were spoken of by early explorers as the Andastes, Andastracronnons, Andastaguez, Antastoui, Minquas (by the Dutch), Susquehannocks (by the English), Conestogas and Conessetagoes.

In 1750, a Cayuga chieftain informed the Moravian missionary David Zeisberger that a strange Indian tribe whom the Cayugas called Tehotachse (according to German spelling) formerly inhabited this valley, and were driven out by the Cayugas. They were neither Iroquois nor Delaware. A letter dated 30 December 1794, by Captain Joseph Brant to Colonel Timothy Pickering collaborates that the Five Nations had driven out another nation from this region. In both instances, this other nation was in all likelihood the Andastes of the Susquehanna Valley.

The Andastes had been one of the most populous and powerful of all the Algonquin tribes. They were thickly settled in towns and villages from Tioga (modern Athens, Pennsylvania) to Virginia. At Sheshequin, Wysox, Wyalusing (Gohontato) and Mehoopany (Onochsae) the names of the Andaste towns have been preserved in modern place names. Little is known of their occupation of the mountainous hinterland, such as the area of Warren Township, but it is likely that they had small villages along the Wappusening (Mapachsinnink) Creek and hunting grounds in the hills. As the Five Nations pressed the Andastes southward in the last half of the 18th Century it is likely that these villages were abandoned.

Another factor in the abandonment of this region during this period of tribal warfare was that the Iroquois from time to time sold the lands of their dependencies to the Europeans. Sometimes the Iroquois sold the same tracts of land to different Europeans. This was the cause of the conflict between Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

The former Andaste settlement of Tioga (near modern day Athens) or as it is more frequently recorded in Pennsylvania records, Diahoga, was strategically located in the Iroquois territory, and was later to be used strategically by General Sullivan in 1779. Its name means the meeting of waters and is the Iroquois word for "gate" or "place of entrance". Thus, it was immediately resettled by the Iroquois after its conquest. But southward from there to Shamokin the Iroquois left the former Andaste country almost entirely unoccupied for a hundred years, when they forcibly colonized it with refugees whose possessions they had sold to the Europeans.

Once having conquered this area formerly held by the Andastes, the Iroquois systematically opened the Susquehanna Valley as an asylum where any people, whom they had deprived of their ancestral homes, and over whom they exercised the rights of protection and command, might settle. Through this policy of family resettlement of different Native American nations, strangers were forced to live together in the same settlements and even in the same wigwam. It was thus quite common to find Nanticokes, Mohicans, Monseys and Wampanoags living together without any tribal distinctions in this region. Such peoples had no claim on the land where they were settled by the Iroquois and could be easily removed whenever their Iroquois overlords desired it.

The famous October 1736 deed of pre-emption established the children of William Penn, or persons appointed by them, as the sole persons authorized to negotiate treaties and land purchases in territory south of that which was governed by New York and Albany. The Provincial Council of Pennsylvania met with the Native Americans at least four times to establish a lasting peace in the region in 1728, 1748, 1752 and 1762 (http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/archives/dockett_317/317_58a.html). In each agreement, the Native Americans lost more territory due to their misunderstanding of English laws of male inheritance and primogenitor. The transcripts of these meetings provide a fascinating account of land for peace diplomacy.

Meanwhile, Connecticut also claimed this territory of northern Pennsylvania based on a royal deed dated 19 March 1631. By the mid 18th century, the territory of Connecticut, east of New York, was largely settled. Many bold settlers began turning their eyes westward to favorable locations within Connecticut's chartered limits. Rumors of the wondrous beauty and fertility of the Susquehanna Valley circulated throughout Connecticut and a few prominent men sent an expedition. They were particularly charmed with the Wyoming Valley. Its broad plains, rich soil and beautiful situation made it a paradise when compared to the sterile, rock-bound New England. The report was so favorable that they formed a Susquehanna Company on 8 July 1753, for the purpose of securing the purchase and effecting settlement of the Susquehanna lands. The ultimate design was to establish a new separate colony by royal charter. By September there were 350 proprietary members and by January 1754, 500 members. Rules were adopted for new members and at its peak there were 1200 members in the Susquehanna Company.

In the Treaty of Albany, 9 July 1754, the chiefs of the Six Nations endorsed the 1736 deed granting Pennsylvania sole treaty rights. However, two days later, the seventeen sachems of the Six Nations signed a treaty, which gave all except the northeast corner of Bradford County, now known as Warren Township, over to the Susquehanna Company of Connecticut. While the transaction was open and above-board, done in the full knowledge of the Pennsylvania delegates to the congress, every sort of objection was made to the transaction and the Indians were forced into repudiating it. The Susquehanna Company of Connecticut was branded as a band of desperate adventurers, acting without the knowledge or consent of their government. Their deed was declared both defective in form and fraudulent in execution. Still, the Susquehanna Company at once began to take measures for occupying their lands in Bradford County, and in the fall of 1754, a considerable number came to select favorable locations for settlement. The eight-year long French and Indian War of 1754 to 1767, dampened interest in settlement, but when it concluded two townships were established, each being ten miles square.

Perhaps the main lasting effect of this Susquehanna Company document of 11 July 1754, was that it provided the first defining moment in the history of Warren Township, for in it this area was excluded from the rest of Bradford County, due to the geographically based Native American concept of land divisions. As previously noted, Warren Township is physically divided from the rest of Bradford County by a mountain range, which in the mid 18th Century was also the boundary between the Iroquois and the Delaware. Thus, the area of Warren Township should not have been officially included in Iroquois treatise. This issue will be discussed later.

The Delaware comprised three major clans or totems in a confederation. These were the Unalachtigo (Turkey), Unami (Turtle) and the Munsee (Wolf). William Penn had made his charter for most of his four colonies with the friendly Munsee clan, who were then forced by European encroachment to resettle in Iroquois territory. The Delaware clans were originally divided into 30 or 40 autonomous communities, each with individual hunting territories of approximately 200 square miles each. Both the Nanticoke of Maryland and the Mahicans of the Hudson called them "grandfather" to indicate their long occupation of the eastern seaboard. Archaeological evidence indicates that the Delaware lived in the region since at least A.D. 1000. Their own migration legend, *Walam Olum*, details their prehistoric eastward journey.

During the French and Indian War of 1754 to 1767, after 60 years of humiliating displacement, a rekindled tribal fire beyond the Ohio inspired the Delaware to defeat the British General Edward Braddock. This began a 50-year period of victory and strength for the Delaware, divided into two groups on either side of the Iroquois. The east wing, which probably made the land deal with the Delaware Company, was under Chief Teedyuscung. The western group was pro-French in the French and Indian War and was under Chief Shingas. Even before the Delaware tribe sold this territory, several clans had moved westward in stages, stopping on the Susquehanna, the Allegheny, then the Muskingum in Ohio and the White River in Indiana. At first they supported the colonies in their revolution against England, but when settlers started encroaching on their Ohio hunting grounds the Delaware defected to the British.

Pennsylvania had also been very active in obtaining large tracts of land from the various Native American tribes. The previously mentioned Provincial Council of Pennsylvania had met with the various Native American leaders at least four times in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1728, 1748, 1752 and lastly in 1762 to establish a lasting peace in the region (http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/archives/dockett_317/317_58a.html). The record of those meetings provided an excellent insight into the tribal land politics and many cross-cultural miscommunications (see appended document transcripts). The area of Warren Township along with much of Bradford County was "officially" opened to European settlement through Pennsylvania after the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, in November of 1768. At that time, Pennsylvania purchased a tract of land from the Iroquois, beginning at Owego, New York, thence following the left bank of the Susquehanna as far as the mouth of the Towanda Creek, thence up the Towanda, along the Burnett Hills, down Pine Creek to the West Branch, and across to the Ohio. The Pennsylvania colony did not divide much of this land, prior to the Revolution. In Hartford, Connecticut, the Susquehanna Company upon learning that Native Americans had recently relinquished all claims on Susquehanna lands to Pennsylvania held a meeting, on 28 December 1768. There the former Susquehanna Company grants were rescinded and five new

townships, each five miles square, were drawn up and offered to the first 240 settlers. The race to settle Bradford County was on between Pennsylvania and the Susquehanna Company of Connecticut, but Warren Township was not yet involved in that race.