

*Soft Gold ~
A Fur Trade Empire*

The single largest industry in New France in the 18th century was the fur trade. The fur trade had always played a large role in the development of the North American colonies, and as European fashion changed in the 1620s wide brimmed beaver felt hats came into vogue. This meant that the demand for pelts increased exponentially. With increased demand came increased prices. The best pelts came from the northern climate where the fur was both heavy and thick. From the very earliest contact between the European and Native American peoples there was trade. European fishing vessels had frequented the coasts of North America for centuries before there were any attempts to colonize the land of North America. These vessels had long profited through trading for furs from the Native Americans. There are in fact surviving accounts of the Viking explorers doing exactly that. Trade was mutually beneficial for both sides. The Native Americans now had access to goods that they could not otherwise obtain; while their European counterparts could supply the European fur market and make a good profit. Metal goods such as knives, pots, axes and muskets were all highly desired by the Native American people. Wool blankets were also highly desired by the Native Americans as they provided better protection from the elements than the leather and fur garments that they had traditionally worn.



Iron Pot-Old Fort Niagara Collection-
On display in the Visitor Center

Understanding the Fur Trade

By the 1750's the French and the English had developed a number of trading posts through most of Eastern North America. The traders bartered for many different types of pelts, many of which were used for trim on hoods, hand muffs and many other types of clothing in Europe. Raccoon, mink, bear, fox, beaver, deer, lynx, and otter were all considered to have value on the European market. The most valuable of these furs was otter. So why is so much emphasis placed on the beaver in the fur trade? The reason: Fashion. In Europe wide brimmed beaver felt hats came into fashion in the early 1600's. Due to this increased demand and loss of habitat the European



Beaver hide stretched on a willow hoop

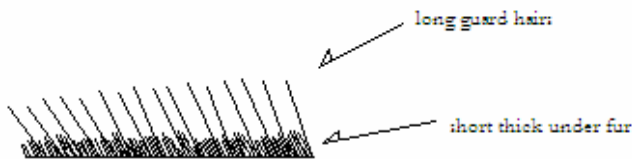
beaver (Castor Fiber) came near to extinction. Realizing of the vast number of beaver in North America (Castor

Canadensis) Samuel de Champlain was sent to Canada to develop the fledgling fur trade in North America.



Beaver Fur Felt
Cocked hat

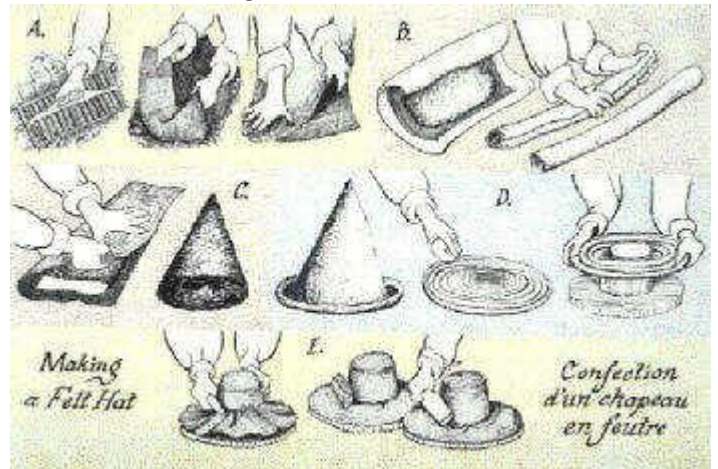
Enlarged Diagram of the Cross Section of a Beaver Pelt



Many of the Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands had long used beaver fur to make heavy robes. These robes were made by cutting the beaver pelts into rectangles and sewing several of them together. The fur was then worn on the inside of the cloak against the skin. The oils from the skin of the person wearing the cloak would then

enrich the fur and make the hide more supple. The long guard hairs would be worn off and only the soft downy under fur would remain. These robes were highly desired by the European traders. The French referred to these coats as *castor gras* which translates into *fat* or *greasy beaver*, whereas the English referred to these robes as *coat beaver*.

This raises the question "Why would the Europeans want someone's old coat?" The reason for this is quite simple: *castor gras* was more valuable. Why then was it more valuable? To understand this you must know something of the fur felt making process. See the vignette to the right. The first, and one of the most labor intensive parts of the felt making process involved using a type of bow to separate out all of the long guard hairs from the



short downy under fur as only the under fur is used in the felt making process. Because of this the Castor Gras with the guard hairs already worn off, meant less work for the European hatters, and it was therefore more valuable. This is not to say that the traders did not also desire pelts that had not been worn as a coat as the demand for beaver was so high that they were eager to trade for these hides as well. The French referred to these as *castor sec* and English referred to these as *parchment beaver*.

For much of the fur trade era the value of a beaver hide in trade goods varied from post to post. During the French Regime there were two types for officially sanctioned trading posts. These were the “*poste a la commerce*” and the “*poste du la roi*” A Poste a la commerce was a private trading post that was licensed by the government and was

allowed to carry on trade for the profit of the owner of the contract. A Poste de la Roi or “King’s Post” was a post at which a trader or “*commis*” was an employee who traded on behalf of the king. There was no set price list during this period. The European and Native American traders would simply barter and attempt to make the best deal possible. The result of this there was a great deal of competition for the furs brought in by the Native Americans between French and British traders and some times even between traders of the same country. Over the years many of the commandants here at Niagara were accused of attempting to steer trade to the private fur trading post across the lake at what is now Toronto.

One day I heard an Indian say that Beaver makes all thing perfectly well, that it makes kettles, axes, swords, knives, bread, in brief, everything. He mocks Europeans who are passioned for the skin of this animal. My Indian host told me one day, showing me a very handy knife: the English do not think right; they give us 20 knives like this for one beaver skin.” Jesuit Paul LeJeune -from The Jesuit Relations, vol. 6 pgs 296-98



Trade beads-Fort Niagara Collection- On display in the visitor center

Trade Beads?

It is often assumed that the items most desired by the Native Americans were glass trade beads. This is simply not the case. Beads were one of many items traded for by the Native American people. Beads had long been made by the Native Americans. Stone, and shell beads were very common among the Native Americans. This being the case, beads were not nearly as important as textiles, and metal goods such as knives, pots, muskets etc.

W^orth his weigh in W^ompum?

Another common misconception concerning a type of bead is that wampum, a type of bead made by the Native Americans from shell, was used by the Native Americans as currency. Again this is not true. Wampum was a prized commodity that was often woven in designs woven into these belts were a device used to help remember treaties and tribal histories. The most famous of the belts is known as the Hiawatha belt remembering the Great Peace among the Five Nations of the Iroquois. The design on this belt is used to this day as the National Flag of the Iroquois.



Quahog highly pneumatic belts. The

~ The Fur Trade at Niagara

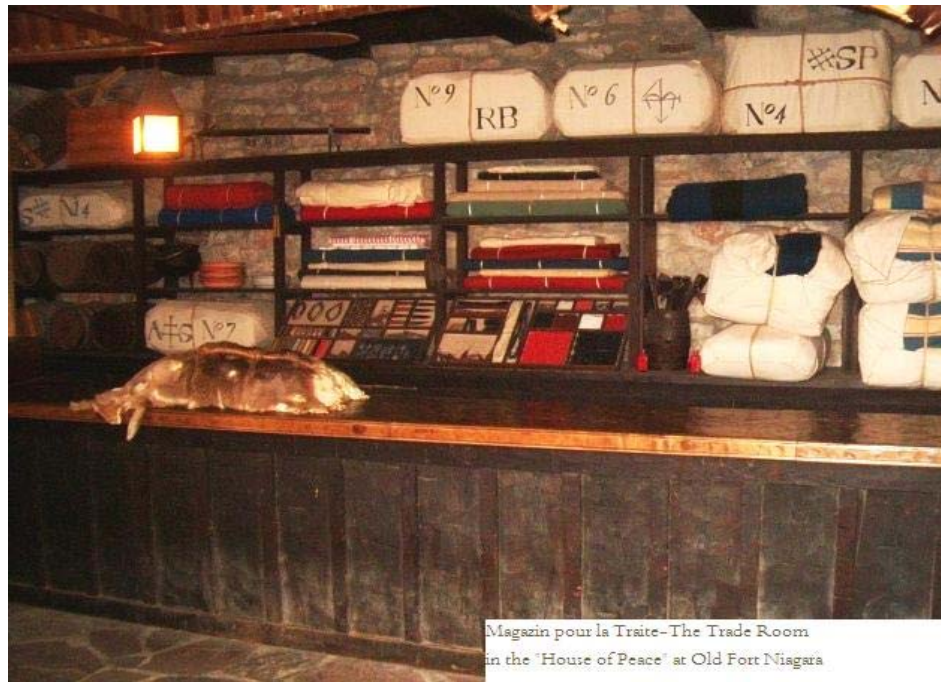
The first long-term fur trading site in the Niagara region was established not at the present site of Fort Niagara, but seven miles up river at the base of the Niagara escarpment in present day Lewiston, NY. This post was built by Louis-Thomas Chabert de Joncaire. Joncaire had been captured by the Iroquois in the 1680s as a young soldier. He was to be put to death but was granted a reprieve by the Seneca, who subsequently adopted him into

the tribe. Joncaire learned the language and culture of the Iroquois and used this to become a successful translator, trader and diplomat between the French and the Five Nations. In the 1720's Joncaire built what came to be known as Magasin Royale or Fort Joncaire where he carried out trade with the Native Americans for the King of France. At the behest of the King, Joncaire asked for and was granted the permission by the Iroquois to build a stone house at the mouth of the Niagara River. The French wanted to gain control over the Niagara River by building a fort at the mouth of the river. The strategic importance of the Niagara River is discussed further in the Geography section. Joncaire gained permission to build his fort by telling the Seneca that he wished to build a "House of Peace" where the Native Americans and the French could come together and trade and build the friendship. The Seneca realized quickly that the structure that had been built by the French was anything but a house of peace. The "House of Peace" was heavily fortified and surrounded by a stockade. Despite having been misled as to the actual intentions of the French the relationship between the French and the Iroquois continued to grow, largely due to the diplomacy of Joncaire.

Several European nations attempted North American fur trade ventures, however by the 1750's the only remaining European nations involved in the fur trade in North America

were France and England. Both the French and English established trading posts. The French concentrated most of their fur trading posts in the Great Lakes Region and the Mississippi Valley with the major trading post being Montreal. The British established trading posts along the eastern side of the Appalachian Mountains, with the major British trading post being at Albany. As the competition for the fur trade increased, both the French and the British established posts

deeper into the Ohio country establishing their respective posts closer and closer to one



French Trade Axe- Old Fort Niagara Collections- On display in the Visitor Center

and other. Trade at Fort Niagara was never very profitable for the French. The more important purpose served by the Trading post at Fort Niagara was to discourage the Native Americans from trading with the English at Oswego and Albany. The King subsidized the fur trade at Fort Niagara in order to keep the prices artificially low. Other measures were taken by the French to attempt to keep Native American groups from

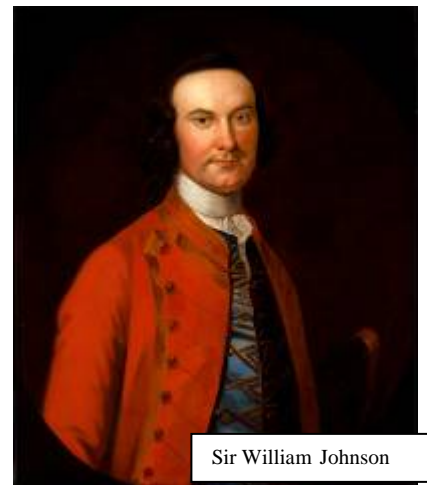
trading with the English. In 1751 Daniel Chabert de Joncaire de Clausson, the son of Louis Thomas Chabert de Joncaire, was given the task of starting a post near the present day site of Niagara Falls. The fort was known as Fort Du Portage as it was located at the opposite end of the Niagara Portage from Fort Niagara. From here Chabert Joncaire the younger was to be able to trade with the Native American groups coming from the west. Joncaire the Younger had been sent by his father to live among and travel with the Seneca as a boy and therefore knew several Native Languages and was even considered a sachem among the Seneca. Chabert Joncaire the Younger was required to give gifts, and further develop strong ties with the different Native American nations and especially the Five Nations of the Iroquois.



Drawing by Joe Lee-Depicts a French Officer and a Seneca Warrior-Old Fort Niagara Collection

Combating the influence of the French over the Native American nations the British had the Indian Department. The specific task given to the Indian department was to win over the support of the Native Americans. In the New York area the most prominent Native American group was the Five Nations Confederacy. William Johnson was the head of the Indian Department. He, along with his many agents, learned and used the Iroquois system of diplomacy to build the relationship between the British and the Iroquois. Johnson gained a good deal of influence among the Iroquois and more specifically among the Mohawks. Johnson used diplomacy and gift giving to cement these bonds. He even went so far as to marry Molly Brant the sister of Joseph Brant. Joseph became a constant companion to Sir William Johnson.

Joseph Brant at the age of fourteen was with Johnson at the siege of Fort Niagara in 1759.



Sir William Johnson

Who was involved?

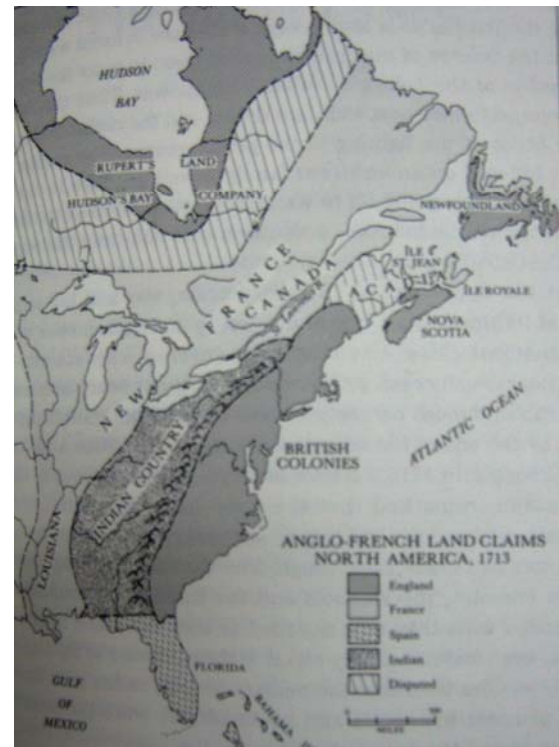
The term French and Indian war can be a bit confusing at first glance. There were three groups of people involved in the French and Indian War, the British, the French and the Native Americans. Native Americans fought on both sides of the conflict. The following section describes the three North American participants in greater detail.

The French

The French claimed the lands of present day Quebec based on the explorations of Jacques Cartier (1530's) and the Settlements established by Samuel de Champlain and Pierre de Gua, Sieur de Monts at Montreal (1640), and Quebec (1608). The French claims were extended to include much of present day Ontario, the great lakes basin and the Mississippi River all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico based on the explorations of Rene Cavalier Sieur de LaSalle. (See map below). The French settlements in Quebec relied heavily on the development of agricultural land, the



missionary work of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), and the development of the fur trade. The latter of which was by far the most profitable. Early on the fur trade conducted by the French was conducted for the most part between the French at Montreal and the Hurons. The Huron Confederacy was a group of tribes that controlled most of the trade in Ontario and parts of Quebec. The Huron trading empire was brought to a crashing halt when the Hurons and their allies were attacked and largely destroyed by the 5 Nations of the Iroquois of present day New York in 1649. The fall of the Hurons opened the Pays en Haut (translation: High country referring present day Ontario and beyond) to the French fur traders who had been previously kept out by the Hurons. In the late 1600's the French began to expand with a series of trading posts throughout the Great Lakes, including the site on which Fort Niagara now stands. The French worked with the Native Americans and treated them as valued trade partners and intermarried to strengthen these bonds. This genteel treatment, however, was not enough in and of itself to cement the relationship between the French and Native Americans. French claims on the Ohio Country were being challenged by many British colonial traders, land companies, and long hunters who were moving into the Ohio country at an increasing rate by the 1750's. The French patrols did their best to discourage these interlopers. It was finally decided at about this



time the only way to secure French claims to these areas was to increase the French military presence. New Forts were built by the French in the Ohio country including several in what is now Western Pennsylvania.

French Military



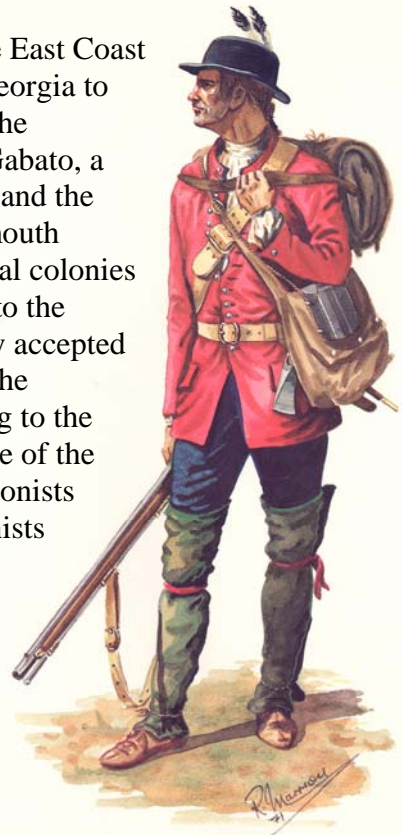
By the mid 1700s French military forces included three general type of soldiers. The “Troupe de Terre,” Troupe de Marine” and the Milice.

The Troupes de Terre, were land troops from France. The units are identified by the region in which the regiment had been raised (ex. Bearn Regiment). The troupe de Marine or “Le Compagnie Franche de la Marine”, were troops raised mostly from the France and the officers were selected from those would had been in the colony for the longest period of time. The milice were militia (citizen soldiers) forces that were raised from the local colonies as well but were not formally counted as regular soldiers.

The British

The British claimed the land along the East Coast of North America from present day Georgia to the Island of Newfoundland based on the explorations of John Cabot (Giovanni Gabato, a Spaniard sailing under the British flag) and the settlements of Jamestown and the Plymouth colony. Although the charters of several colonies would later claim the land all the way to the “islands of California” it was generally accepted British crown to extend to the foot of the

Appalachian Mountains. The rate at which settlers were coming to the British colonies was far greater then in New France. At the time of the French and Indian War there was approximately 1.5 million colonists in the British colonies compared to approximately 75,000 colonists in New France. Therefore the industry was far more varied; however it still relied heavily on agriculture and the fur trade. So great was the population that the areas available to new farmers and traders continued to dwindle and the colonies continued to expand further and further into the interior. This led to an increasing number of conflicts as settlers pushed further into traditional Native American and French territories.



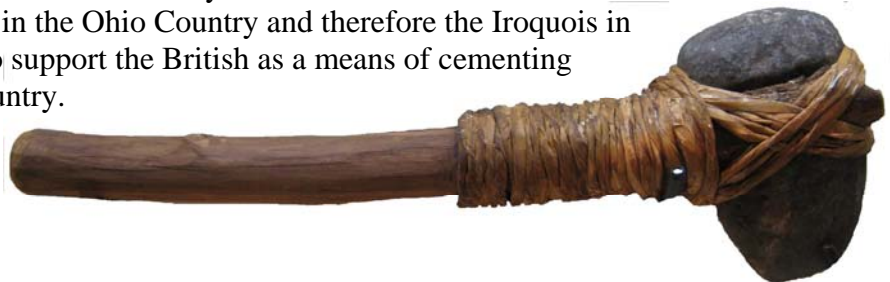
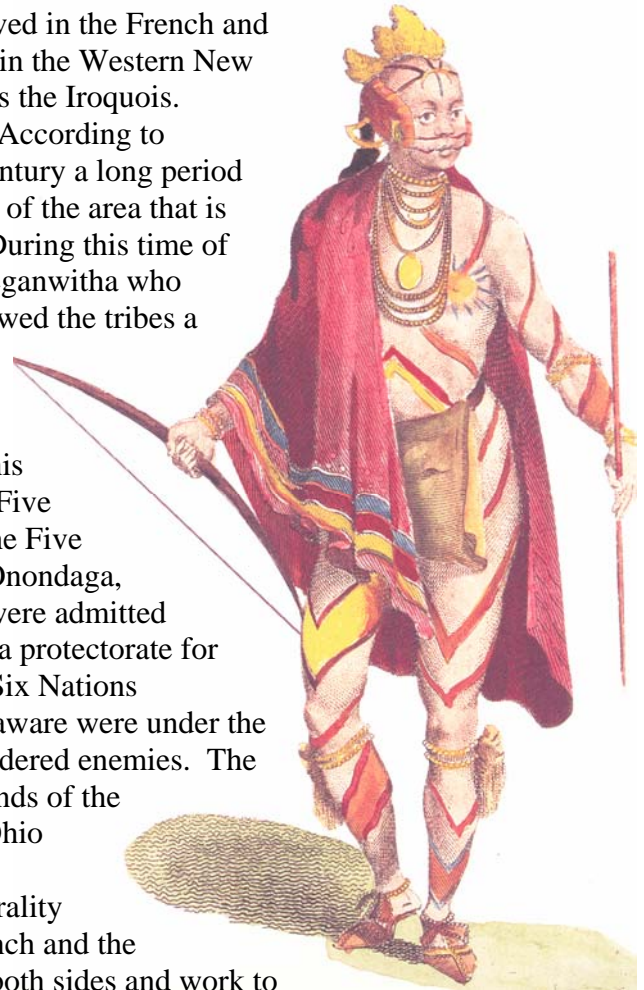
The British Military

Until the outbreak of the French and Indian War the defense of the colonies was left largely to the colonies themselves. The French and Indian War was the first war in which large numbers of British troops came to fight in North America. At the time of the French and Indian War (which was by no means the first conflict between the British and the French), the British forces were comprised of both British and American Regiments. The British regiments were identified both by number and by the commanding officer (ex. Murray’s 46th Regiment of Foot) The British forces that saw action here at Fort

Niagara were the Murray's 46th Regiment of Foot, Abercrombie's 44th regiment of foot (who had also seen action with Braddock in his ill fated attempt to take Fort Duquesne), and the Royal American's 4/60th Regiment of Foot. Each colony was required to raise its' own Provincial Regiment and many men on the New York Provincial regiment saw action here at Fort Niagara. In addition to these regular forces there were many local county militia groups.

The Native Americans

There were many Native American nations involved in the French and Indian war. The most prominent of these groups in the Western New York area were the Haudenosaunee also known as the Iroquois. Haudenosaunee means people of the longhouse. According to Haudenosaunee tradition, sometime in the 15th century a long period of continual warfare between the Iroquoian tribes of the area that is now New York State was depleting the people. During this time of great turmoil, there came a Huron man named Deganwitha who became known as the Great Peacemaker. He showed the tribes a new way of resolving the conflicts that arise through condoling and diplomacy. At this time a Great Council was formed to keep the sacred peace and oversee the nations of the Iroquois. This was the beginning of what became known as the Five Nations Confederacy. The original members of the Five Nations Confederacy were the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and the Mohawks. Later the Tuscarora were admitted into the Confederacy after having participated as a protectorate for many years, to form what we now known as the Six Nations Confederacy. The Shawnee, Mingo, and the Delaware were under the protection of the Five Nations and were not considered enemies. The Haudenosaunee claimed their traditional home lands of the State of New York. They also laid claim to the Ohio Valley based on the right of conquest. The Five Nations Confederacy maintained a stance of neutrality when it came to the wars fought between the French and the English. This allowed them to do business with both sides and work to their best advantage. However in the 1750's a movement was beginning among the tribes of the Ohio country to form a confederacy of their own. Many of the native peoples in the Ohio country believed that the Iroquois had been tainted by the long connection with the European people. The Iroquois saw this movement as a threat to the suzerainty they held over the Ohio Country. The Five Nations believed that the French may support such a move in the Ohio Country and therefore the Iroquois in 1758 made the decision to support the British as a means of cementing their grip on the Ohio Country.



America's First World War... A Prelude to The Siege of Fort Niagara

By the 1753 the French had begun to build a series of forts in the eastern part of the Ohio Valley in order to cement their claims to the land and gain more influence over and trade with the Native groups in the area. The Native Americans in the Ohio Country had long operated under the suzerainty of the Five Nations Confederacy. These groups were beginning to work toward building an alliance of their own. The British colonies found themselves with a rapidly growing population beginning to push further and further to the west toward the Ohio Country.

As the French began to build these new forts in the eastern part of the Ohio Country, The Government of Virginia believed the French were claiming lands that had previously belonged to Virginia. The Virginians in 1753 sent a young George Washington to deliver a letter to the French demanding that the French withdraw from the territory. Washington made this 900 mile trip in the winter time and, as could be expected, the French, upon receiving the letter simply refused and sent him on his way.

In the spring of 1754 the British began to construct Fort Prince George at the Forks of the Ohio. As the British soldiers were building the Fort, the French came down the river with 500 men and eight cannons. Ensign Edward Ward, the commander of the British soldiers quickly realized he was heavily out numbered and out gunned. Ward and his men simply left the fort to the French, who then greatly improved the defenses and renamed it Fort Duquesne. Later in 1754 Washington was again sent out to meet the French to retake the "Lands of the Ohio and the Waters thereof." Washington and his men set about building a road as they progressed into the Ohio Country toward the Forks of the Ohio. The French knowing that that Washington and his men were coming, sent out a group of emissaries commanded by Ensign Joseph Coulon de Villiers de Jumonville, to scout Washington's position and then deliver a summons informing Washington that he had entered French



Bronze statue of Washington and his guide Gutasuta located in Pittsburg, PA.

territory and insisting that he and his men leave. However a Seneca sachem known as Tanaghrisson or Half King (on account of his being sent to the Ohio nations to assert Iroquois control over the area) informed Washington that a French detachment was camped nearby. Washington then set out with his men and the Natives to surround the small French camp. Washington's men opened fire at 7am. The battle only lasted fifteen minutes when an injured Jumonville instructed his



Present day picture of Jumonville glen

translator to hail the English and let them know that he was there to deliver a message. Washington ordered a cease-fire. While the summons was being translated by Washington's men Half King walked calmly up to the injured Jumonville and said in French "Thou art not yet dead father," and then buried his tomahawk in Jumonville's head.

The death of Jumonville resulted in swift retaliation. Louis Coulon de Villiers the brother of Jumonville arrived at Fort Necessity and forced Washington to surrender the fort. Despite the fact that France and Britain were not yet officially at war, Major General Edward Braddock led an ill fated attack on Fort Duquesne and fell victim to a crushing ambush by the French, due to his unfamiliarity with the style of warfare typical in North America.

With the fall of Braddock, most of the Native American nations took up the French side of the conflict and for the next few years the French were able to win nearly all battles in which they engaged the British.

War was officially declared in 1756 and for the first several years the French managed to win nearly every battle. The tide of French success began to turn after Montcalm won at the siege of Fort William Henry at Lake George, New York. Montcalm allowed the British to leave the fort with all of their baggage and weapons and denied the Native allies the right to plunder. The Natives had left and fought on the basis that their was plunder and scalps to be had in the eventual victory. Montcalm had not consulted with his Native Allies before deciding to let the British go. The Natives then swooped down on the British and attacked them as they marched away from William Henry. The Native Americans became disenchanted with the French after this incident.

Shortly thereafter the British negotiated the Treaty of Easton in which the British acknowledged the Delaware as a nation with whom treaties could be made. The Iroquois had long considered the Delaware a protectorate over who they asserted control. The Iroquois saw that they were losing control over their protectorate nations in the Ohio Country and therefore called a council with Sir William Johnson to inform the British that they would support the British in the War with the French.

With the support of the Iroquois the British launched a three pronged attack on the French. Wolfe took Quebec, Forbes was instructed to take the Western Forts of the French and then, to march toward Niagara, General John Prideaux was given the task of taking Fort Niagara...



Siege at Fort Niagara

The great importance of this fort will sufficiently appear, when it is considered that by this pass alone the French can pass to the river Ohio, Fort Duquesne, Detroit, and the Mississippi... Thus by being masters of this pass, we may forever prevent any encroachments of the Fiends and confine them within the proper limits of Canada.

-Account of an English Prisoner

From the above quote it is easy to see the great importance that the British placed in taking the fort at Niagara. After three years of continued French success the British launched a three pronged attack on French possessions. The three pronged attack was to target Montreal, Niagara and the Western posts held by the French. On July 6th of 1759 British forces led by General John Prideaux laid siege to Fort Niagara. The French had long expected an attack by the British at Fort Niagara. Capitaine Pierre Pouchot had been sent to Niagara in 1755 to improve the defenses. When Pouchot took control over Fort Niagara the Fort consisted of buildings grouped around the French

castle, surrounded by a wooden stockade. Pouchot had his men expand the Fort and improve the fortifications by adding earthworks most of which can still be viewed at Fort Niagara today. Pouchot was recalled to Montreal in 1757 and despite having been sent back to Fort Niagara in 1759 he was unable to complete the modifications and improvements to the fortifications at Niagara before the British arrived.

Pouchot had been expecting an attack by the British; he had even received word that the Iroquois were now siding with the English. This was a very serious development as the French relied heavily on the Native Americans as scouts to obtain reliable information regarding British troop movements. Pouchot spoke to the Seneca in the area and was told that the French had their support. Pouchot took this at face value, believing that his Native allies would inform him of any threat by the British and give him plenty of time to react. Having received no report of any enemies in the area Pouchot sent 800 men to bolster the defenses of the French forts in the Ohio country. This proved to be a fateful mistake. Pouchot knew that the British would be advancing up the Mohawk River valley to Oswego before coming down Lake Ontario. For this reason on June 27 he had one of his ships carry some Mississauga (a Native American subgroup of the Ojibway) to Oswego. The Mississauga scouted for 12 miles up river and came back to the fort to report that there was no sign of the British. The British actually arrived at Oswego on July 1st. Once at Oswego the British split their force in half to leave half the force behind

to rebuild Fort Ontario which had been burned down by the French two years earlier. On June 6th The Iroquois the other sloop of war the French had on Lake Ontario reported to Pouchot that there was no sign of activity at Oswego. On the same day a pigeon hunting party sent out by the French was surprised by British advance troops and the Siege of Fort Niagara began.



Fascine knives for cutting sticks to length and shovel for digging sap-Old Fort Niagara Collection-on display in the visitor center

Brigadier General John Prideaux led the British troops attacking Fort Niagara. With him he brought approximately 3300 men. This besieging force faced a formidable fort in Niagara. Prideaux realized that his intelligence regarding the strength of Fort Niagara had vastly underrated defenses of Niagara. Unfortunately Pouchot had left himself between three and Five hundred men to defend the fort, after having sent so many of his men to help recapture Fort Duquesne. Prideaux immediately sent a messenger under a flag of truce to demand the surrender of the fort. Pouchot refused this offer in the face of vastly superior numbers and sent a messenger of his own to his men in the Ohio country to request their immediate return to Fort Niagara.

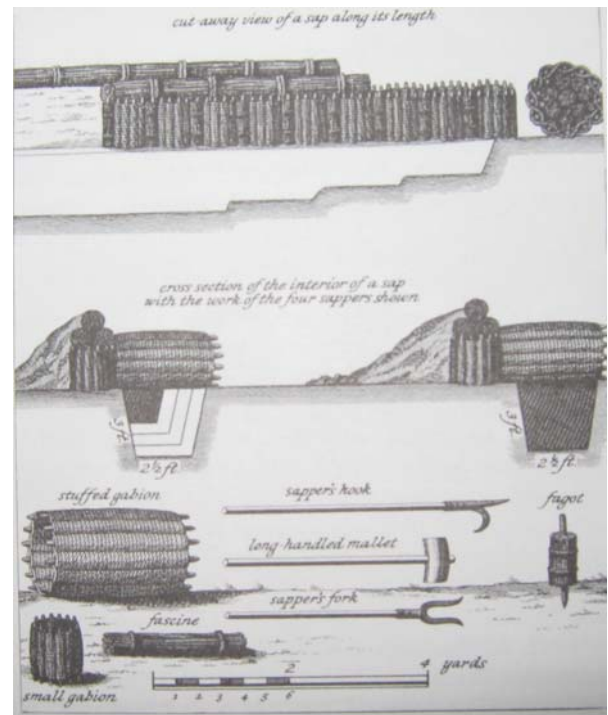
Prideaux then has his men begin to entrench. In order to get the cannons close enough to the fort to begin to do damage to the walls of

Fort Niagara the British dug a zigzagging trench so that

the French could not fire on the men while they advanced the trench. The men who dug these trenches were referred to as sappers. By zigzagging, the side of the trench always faced the fort and provided cover for the sappers. As you can see ##in the diagram to the right the sappers advanced the sap (trench) behind a mantle which was a rolling shield that protected them from musket fire. The sappers filled

gabions which were large woven baskets, with the earth from the sap to provide cover on the side of the trench that faced the fort. While the British were advancing the sap they began a barrage of mortar and howitzer fire. Mortars and howitzers were designed to fire exploding

bombs. These exploding bombs were designed to send metal fragments in all directions as they explode. To the left there are two mortar fragments recovered right here at Fort Niagara. Mortars had a very short barrel length and a very wide opening so that the bombs could be placed down the barrel with the fuse facing out ward so that the fuse would not be fired straight into the bomb causing it to explode right in the barrel putting the gun crew at risk. The British continued to advance the sap closer to the fort each day. As the British



advanced the French continued to return fire with both muskets and cannons in an attempt to slow the British forces and buy time for their men to return from the Ohio country.

On the 9th of July, the fourth day of the siege, the Seneca inside Fort Niagara requested a parley with the Natives from the British camp. After several meetings between the Native camps the Natives on both sides of the conflict decided to sit out the battle at a place about a mile south of the Fort called La Belle Famille. During the parley the British had continued to advance the sap toward the fort much to the dismay of Capitaine Pouchot. By July 12th The British trenches were within 200 yards of the fort. At this point the British began to pummel the Fort with cannons. At night the French would work tirelessly to repair the walls of the fort. The French soldiers were being quickly exhausted by being forced to work for several days and nights with very little sleep.



Then on the evening of the 20th of July Colonial John Johnston the second in command of the British forces was shot and killed by a French sniper. At approximately 10pm that evening tragedy again struck the British when General Prideaux was decapitated by accidently stepping in front of a mortar just as it was being fired. This left the British with out a leader. Into this vacuum stepped Sir William Johnson who then took over command and the assault on Fort Niagara continued. For the next four days both sides worked day and night in an attempt to gain the upper hand in the battle. Many of the French soldiers were dangerously close to mutiny having fought for several days with very little sleep. Pouchot continued to fight in the hope that a relief force would be able to

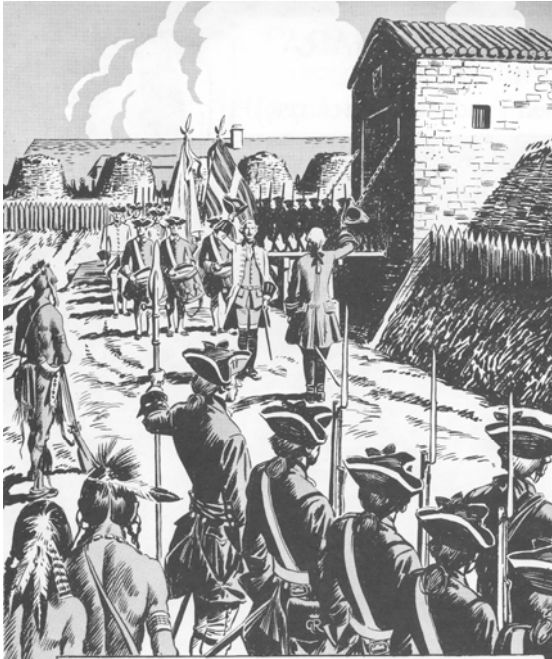
reach the fort.

That relief force of 800 men arrived on the morning of July 24th. The relief force, led by a Capt de Lignery, ignored Pouchot's advice to proceed up the west side of the Niagara River, based upon the information brought back by his Native scouts. Capt de Lignery walked right up the east side of the river believing his men could fight their way through the British lines and into the fort. Before the relief force had advanced as far as La Belle Famille the Natives camped at La Belle Famille approached the natives with the French relief force and convinced them to sit out the battle with the rest of the Native Americans.

The French relief force then met a waiting British force that had been sent out from the main camp. A first hand account by young Capt Christopher Yates of the New York Provincial Regiment stated that “[on]...the 24th when we were attacked by about 1500 of the enemy, under the command of Mushur Delanquay, about 10 o'clock in the morning. But we soon gave them their breakfast.” The battle was quick and decisive; the French relief force was resoundingly defeated. As the French began a retreat, many natives quickly joined the battle and took many scalps. The French force was routed and there were very few survivors. Twenty-one French officers were captured. The British quickly took these men into custody in order to protect them from their Native allies. The painting at the top of this section depicts Sir William Johnson saving one of the injured French officers. From the fort Pouchot could see the battle being fought. After the battle an Onondaga messenger was sent by the British to inform Pouchot of the British victory in



what would come to be known as the Battle of La Belle Famille. Pouchot is at first skeptical of the rout the British claimed they had made over the French relief force. Pouchot requested to have one of his officers go into the British camp to see and have



contact with the survivors. The French Capt. Servies went out to the British camp and spoke to the survivors and learned that the rout was as devastating as the British made it sound. Pouchot then returned to his fort and drafted the articles of capitulation after negotiating the terms with British Capt. William Hervey. Pouchot then held a dinner in honor of the British victors and turned over the fort to the British at 7am on July 25th. Capt. Pouchot was very concerned that his men be kept safe and treated properly during the surrender of the fort. In the articles of Capitulation there were several stipulations all of which were geared towards the well being of the people under his command and protection. On the following page you will find the Articles of Capitulation as they were drafted by Pouchot in 1759.

ARTICLES of CAPITULATION

granted to the Garrison of NIAGARA

Ist. The garrison shall march out with their arms and baggage, drum beating, and match lighted at both ends, and a small piece of cannon, to embark on board such vessels as the Commander of his Britannic Majesty's forces shall furnish to convey the to New York, by the shortest road, and in the shortest manner. -GRANTED.

II. The garrison shall lay down their arm, when they embark; but shall keep their baggage.-GRANTED

III. The Officers shall keep both their arms and their baggage. -GRANTED

IV. The French Ladies, with their children and other women, as well as the Chaplain, shall be sent to Montreal; and the Commander of his Britannic Majesty's troops shall furnish them with vessels and subsistence necessary for their voyage to the first French port; and this is to be executed, as soon as possible. Those women wishing to stay with their husbands are at liberty to do it.-GRANTED except with regard to those women who are his Britannic Majesty's subjects.

V. The sick and wounded, who are obliged to remain in the fort, shall have liberty to depart with everything that belongs to them, and shall be conducted in safety, as soon as able to support the fatigues of the voyage, to a place destined for the rest of the garrison, in the mean time, they are to be allowed a guard for their security.-GRANTED

VI. The Commanding officer, all the other officers and private men, who are in the service of his most Christian Majesty, shall quit the fort with out being subject to any reprisals whatsoever.-GRANTED

VII .An inventory shall be made of all the military stores in the magazine, which, with the artillery, shall be delivered up, bona fide, as well as all other effects which are property of his most Christian Majesty, and which are found in the magazine, at the time of capitulation.-GRANTED and the vessels and boats are included in this article.

VIII. The soldiers shall not be plundered nor separated from their Officers.-GRANTED

IX. The garrison shall be conducted under a proper escort to the place destined for their reception; the General shall expressly recommend to this escort to hinder the Indians from approaching and insulting and persons belonging to the garrison, and shall prevent their being pillaged by them, when they quit their arms for embarkation; and the same care is to be taken on every part of the route, where savages may be met with.-GRANTED

X. An exact list shall be made of the names and surnames of the different troops, as well as regulars and militia; and all of the others employed in his most Christian Majesty's service; and all those who are so employed shall be treated in the same manner as the rest of the garrison.-GRANTED in the first article.

XI. All the savages, of whatsoever nation they may be, who are found in the garrison, shall be protected from insult, and be allowed to go where they please.-GRANTED; but it is advisable or them to depart as privately as possible.

XII. These articles being accepted, the General of his Britannic Majesty's forces shall be put in possession of a gate; but this cannot be done until tomorrow.-GRANTED; to-morrow [July 25] at seven o'clock in the morning.

POUCHOT

Captain of the Regt de Bearn Commandant

VILAR

Capt of the Regt La Sarre

SERVIER

Capt in the Royal Roussillon

SIEUR DE la ROCHE VERNEY

Capt of the Troops of the Marine

BOUNNAFFONS

Officer of the Royal Corps of Artillery

COURNOYER

Lt of the Troops of the Marine

SOLVIGNAC

Officer in Bearn

Le Chle DE LARMINAC

Lt of the Marine

JONCAIRE

Capt of the Marine

MOREMBERT

Lt in Guienne

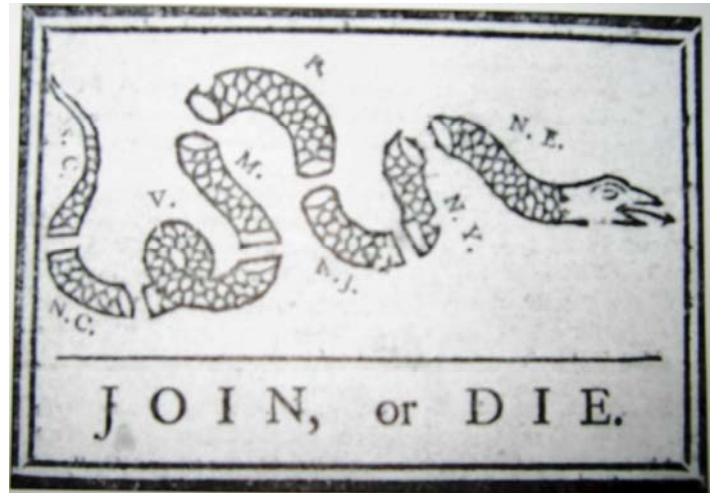
Chabert Joncaire

With the fall of Fort Niagara the British seized control over the Great Lakes and the Ohio country effectively eliminating the French from all of North America with the exception of Quebec.

Seeds of Discontent

~ The French and Indian War and the American Revolution

The French and Indian War provided a fertile ground in to which the seeds of discontent would be planted. Benjamin Franklin famous “Join or Die” political cartoon was created in 1754 at the very beginning of the French and Indian War. Franklin was referring to the need for the colonies to join together under the Albany Plan of Union. With the conflict that would come to be known as the French and Indian War looming, many administrators believed that the colonies must join together. The Albany Plan was officially adopted and then never ratified by the colonies. At first, the



colonists did not have a great deal of interest in aiding the British in the fight. After Braddock’s defeat the Colonists held very little faith in the British due to the lack of understanding, by the British, of warfare in North America. The colonists had attempted to warn Braddock of the dangers of forest warfare, but he had refused to listen and paid dearly. Early on the British had a very difficult time gaining the supplies and people necessary to wage war of the French and defend the colony. The British decided they would need to pay for the men and provisions that they needed from the colonists. This led to the crown absorbing huge expenses in defense of the North American colonies. One of the turning points of the French and Indian war was the fact that the British had managed to win the Native Americans over to their side. They did this by giving gifts and promising to halt the expansion of the North American colonies into Native American Territory. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 set the official boundary of the Colonies at the Appalachian Mountains and forbid the colonists from purchasing land in the Ohio Valley. This upset many Colonists who thought that once the French threat had been removed they would have access to the newly acquired territory. Many colonists simply ignored the Royal Proclamation and moved into the Ohio Country anyway. Jeffrey Amherst, the overall commander of the North American forces, at the end of the war stopped giving gifts to the Native Americans as the British always had before and limited the sale of lead and black powder to the Native Americans to five pounds at a time. This meant that the Native American groups often did not have enough powder to do their enough hunting to sustain them though the long winter months. This led directly to Pontiac’s Rebellion. Pontiac was an Ottawa chief who put together the first pan-Native American movement geared toward removing the British sanctions against the Native Americans and returning the French to the region. At the end of this war the British repealed all of these sanctions and renewed the practice of giving the Native Americans gifts as they had before. This combined with the fact that many Native Americans had fought on the side of the French and faced no sanctions for having done so, upset many Colonists. The view point of the colonists had long been friendly toward the Native

Americans, who many had previously viewed as neighbors and trade partners. Popular opinion of the American Indians changed drastically at this point in time and became considerably more hostile. The British had set a dangerous precedent by relenting to Pontiac's wishes.

Not only did the British forbid the colonies from expanding into the Ohio country, they began to pass legislation geared towards recovering some of the expenses they had incurred during the war. The Quartering act required the colonies to provide shelter for British soldiers. There were several new direct taxes imposed on the colonists as well. The Stamp act required that all paper documents and merchandise carry a stamp which had to be purchased from the crown. There was such public outcry that the Quartering act and the Stamp act are eventually repealed 1766. However by this point there had already developed much animosity between the colonists and the British Crown. The Crown still needed to raise money from the colonists and so it implemented both the Tea act and the Townshend acts in order to do so. The colonists again resisted the idea of being required to pay these taxes. Protests became common. A continental Congress was convened and the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776. It is at this time that Franklin's Join or Die cartoon takes on a very different meaning and was used to rally support for the newly formed United States of America.