Chief Guyasuta

Chief Guyasuta of the Seneca was one of the most significant American Indian leaders throughout the period of the French and Indian War, the subsequent rebellion of Pontiac and the Revolutionary War. He was born sometime around 1725 in New York but moved with his family to the Ohio area when he was still quite young. During his youth the Iroquois Confederacy was officially neutral in the colonial rivalry of Britain and France but the Senecas in the native land of Guyasuta tended to be more positive toward the French.

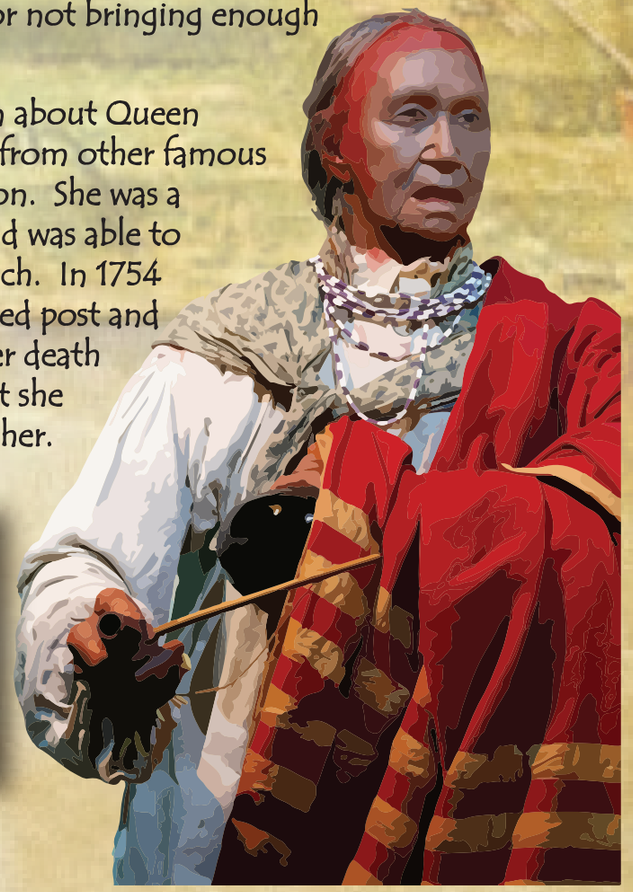
Their effort to fortify the area to stop British encroachments sparked the French and Indian War and, many years later, an elderly George Washington recalled Guyasuta being employed as a scout on his mission to the area. Later, Guyasuta was part of the French and Indian attack on the doomed expedition of General Edward Braddock who was marching on Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) only to be ambushed and decimated by a small Franco-Indian force. He later went to Montreal to negotiate the official alliance between the Senecas and the French with Governor Vaudreuil.

Go see this bronze sculpture, "Point of View," of Chief Guyasuta meeting George Washington in 1770 at Point of View Park near the Mt. Washington Overlook!

Queen Aliquippa

Queen Aliquippa was an influential Seneca Indian leader in the early 1700's. Recognizing her stature, the British soldiers were careful to honor her by visiting her village and offering her gifts when they traveled in her territory.

She was highly insulted when she was not shown what she thought was proper respect or notice. Conrad Weiser once wrote in his journal, that while travelling to Logstown, he bypassed her village. When she found out that he had gone to Logstown without first stopping at her village, she demanded he return and pay tribute to her. Furthermore, when he finally arrived, she scolded him for not bringing enough prized gun powder.

Truth be told not much is known about Queen Aliquippa, except journal entries from other famous people such as George Washington. She was a strong supporter of the British and was able to acquire much land from the French. In 1754 she moved to Aughwick, a fortified post and died later that year. Even with her death she was recognized for the respect she demanded from all that had met her.

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