



Pontiac before 1763

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I think that there is more information to be obtained by reference to this passage as it relates to the earlier period.

In the Journal of Occurrences in Canada for 1746 and 1747, we learn that the Ottawa of Mackinac and Saginaw were unsettled in their affections for the French and had even taken part in some unfriendly acts toward the French.⁵ Some of the Detroit Ottawa had actually allied themselves with the British.⁶ In conjunction with this unrest, the Iroquois wrote George R. Thomas, deputy governor of the British province of Pennsylvania, May 16, 1747, saying they had killed five Frenchmen near the fort at Detroit and that the Mississauga and Ottawa were "all one with us."⁷

Under the date of October 9, 1747, the Journal of Occurrences reads,

We are in receipt of letters from the Forts Frontenac and Niagara, from Detroit, from Sieur de Joncaire and Fort de Chartres, whereby we are informed that all the Nations in general continue to be very ill disposed towards the French. Chevalier de Longueuil writes, the 14th of July, that those of the Lake [St. Clair?], Sauteurs [Chippewa] and Outaouas [Ottawa], are on the eve of attacking Detroit...that he [Nicolas, anti-French, Huron chief] is in correspondence with the people of Saguinaw [Saginaw Bay] and the Sauteurs to come and surprise Detroit; that, should that happen, Miquinac [Mikinaac], an Outaouas chief, will declare against us... The tribe of Quinousaki [Kuinousakis], an Outaouas, is the only one that remains faithful.⁸

Both of the Ottawa chiefs named, Mikinaac and Kuinousakis, lived near Detroit, but they were chiefs of separate groups and lived in different villages.⁹ Since Kuinousakis was the only Ottawa chief who remained loyal to the French at that time, 1747, it is logical to assume that he was the chief of the group to which Pontiac referred in his speech to the

unfailing ally of the French. Pontiac succeeded him in 1752 and in the next few years gained prestige in numerous engagements supporting the French against the British. In 1763, after the French had quit the struggle, he rallied the Indians in a united effort to remove the British and restore the old life under the French.

Notes

* This paper is in part the result of research done on the Ottawa Indians of Michigan for the Great Lakes-Ohio Valley Research Project at Indiana University.

1. In that month British officers assumed command of all the French forts in Michigan (Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, ser. 4, vol. 9, pp. 362-363, 377).

2. The village of the Mackinac Ottawa was located at L'Arbre Croche (the present Goodhart, Emmet County) near the north end of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan (Blackbird, History, pp. 9-10).

3. The story of the Siege of Detroit as recorded in French by an eye witness appears in English in Schoolcraft, Information, pt. 2, p. 271.

4. Peckham, Pontiac, pp. 34-35.

5. Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York, vol. 10, pp. 119, 123, 183.

6. *Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 386; Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, vol. 29, pp. 43-45.

7. Pennsylvania Archives, vol. 1, p. 741.

8. Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York, vol. 10, p. 128.

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