

Tahgahjute of the Cayuga (c.1725-1780)

Chief of the Mingoes

Letter to Lord Dunmore (1774)

INTRODUCTION

Tahgahjute, called Logan, lived for many years in western Pennsylvania. Lord Dunmore was Governor of Virginia. Indians and whites were in conflict on the western frontier of Virginia, with sporadic killings and uprisings. In 1774, the family of Tahgahjute was murdered by some white men led by a liquor dealer named Greenhouse, resulting in another outbreak of fighting that prompted Tahgahjute to send the following letter to Governor Dunmore, through John Gibson, a white trader. Unfortunately, Tahgahjute mistakenly blamed Colonel Michael Cresap for the murders. The outbreak ended with the battle of Point Pleasant, in which Tahgahjute is said to have taken 30 scalps. Six years later, Tahgahjute was killed in a skirmish with Indians near Detroit, Michigan.

LETTER TO LORD DUNMORE

I appeal to any white man to say if ever he entered Logan's cabin hungry, and he gave him not meat; if ever he came cold and naked, and he clothed him not. During the course of the last long and bloody war Logan remained idle in his cabin, and advocated for peace. Such was my love for the whites that my countrymen pointed at me as they passed, and said, "Logan is the friend of white men."

I had even thought to have lived with you, but for the injuries of one man. Colonel Cresap, the last spring, in cold blood and unprovoked, murdered all the relations of Logan, not sparing even my women and children. There runs not a drop of my blood in the veins of any living creature.

This called on me for revenge. I have sought it. I have killed many. I have glutted my vengeance. For my country, I rejoice at the beams of peace. But do not think that mine is the joy of fear. Logan never felt fear. Logan will not turn on his heel to save his life. Who is there to mourn for Logan? Not one!