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The Albany Plan of Union - I

Lead: In 1754 a little-remembered gathering of delegates in Albany, N.Y, called to address an Indian dispute, put together a bold colonial plan of union. It might have prevented the Revolution.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: The fur trade was one of the foundations of colonial economic enterprise in North America. Management was by Dutch traders, but supply came by way of Native Americans, most importantly

Mohawk, Seneca, and the Iroquois League. These eastern tribal groupings were allied with the British. As English settlers gradually moved into the Ohio Valley, western tribes and their French Canadian allies began to attack the English and the eastern alliance. Indians felt abandoned by the English and threatened to break their long lasting economic and military covenant.

Disturbed by this development, the Board of Trade in London firmly instructed the Governor of New York to summon delegates from the other colonies and address favorably the grievances of the Indians, calm them down and “bury the hatchet.” Some of those chosen to attend had a much

more ambitious agenda, most especially Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania. He thought that the best way to deal with the French threat and Indian dissatisfaction was colonial unity.

\ After weeks of arduous travel the delegates assembled in Albany on June 19, 1754 and awaited their Indian allies led by the physically impressive and intellectually acute Chief Tiyanoga known by his Dutch name, Hendrick. Next time: a double agenda.

From Richmond, Virginia this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

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