In Our Word - The Royal Flush

David Mowat -

William Johnson was smart enough to know that we will never win a war against the Great Lakes tribes, so we will have to appease them in another way. It was William Johnson who helped to orchestrate Jeffery Amherst's removal back to Britain. Because he was a land speculator, William Johnson, he was big time... he was married into the Six Nations, talk about a conflict of interest. And, he reversed Amherst's policy of no alcohol. We don't hear about that, we don't hear about what that did. Go back to your communities, and unleash the chaos against yourselves, murder yourselves because we don't care. The whole British concept of being able to gain a foothold in eastern North America would be accomplished if the people could destroy themselves.

Bomgiizhik -

So at the time, when Sir William Johnson was the authority for the British dealing with Indians, the native people were getting big barrels of whisky that was just full of poison and they were dying from this poisoned whiskey. And it was Sir William Johnson that turned those policies around so that the indigenous people could be traded whisky for lands and for furs.

So, they say that we're a nation in that particular document, I don't care. Our lands were claimed by the British and stolen, and that's the founding document. The French and the British fought. It was the British that defeated the French. And, then they came up with the Royal Proclamation and said "this is Crown Land, you are a nation, do not sell you land to the French."

Dave Mowat -

The Royal Proclamation established a line, it was really the British were concerned about the American colonists. There was nothing happening here, right, pre-1763, nothing. So, they struck a line along the crest Appalachians. They said there can be no settlement west of the Appalachians. It was happening in the 1750's and the 1740's that settlement was pushing west. And you had these land companies that would be struck, and they were speculating they were doing their own treaties with the Six Nations, and so it was doomed for failure

Bomgiizhik -

So, our people had ways of knowing and predicting what was going to happen in the future. And, they used the spirit of this land to interpret certain agreements and certain things that were going to take place. And, of course, during the Treaty of Niagara they say a turtle help them in foreseeing the future of the British. And, how they were going to come across the ocean and through the rivers and into the territory. And, so that's why our people went to Niagara with an open mind. It was because this turtle seen that they were going to come and they were never going to stop coming.

Sir William Johnson gave Pontiac medals, and actually gave everybody medals at the Treaty of Niagara, lots of Chiefs got medals. And on the medals, they had fires, and piles of wood on there, and also a sun to represent that the indigenous peoples' fire were always going to burn bright and that there was always going to be lots of wood to be put in there. And that, for as long as the sun shines and the grass grows we would never be molested by the British, and that our homelands would always be ours. So, "as long as the sun shines and the grass grows" is the terminology that the British came up with because they believed that the sun would never set on the British empire. And so, this was part of their theme of world domination, and of course it is coded right into the medals, it's coded right into the Royal Proclamation, and of course later on, it's symbolic in every agreement after, until of course they lost their power to democracy.

Dave Mowat -

The Royal Proclamation said that wherever we need land for settlement we will treat with the First Nations that are affected. So, the royal proclamation establishes the modern treaty process.

Bomgiizhik -

So, the Royal Proclamation was used as an agreement so the Indians at the time, or the so-called "Indians" wouldn't sell their land to the French. It was actually a Doctrine of Discovery Proclamation to secure stolen lands. So, the Royal Proclamation is the grandfather document of – it is the beginning of the paper trail of how our lands got stolen.

Dave Mowat -

Even though it was doomed, the Royal Proclamation still has that important piece in there, about how land has to be taken up, and where it is not taken up it remains the Indian hunting ground. So that's the key right. It's critical.

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