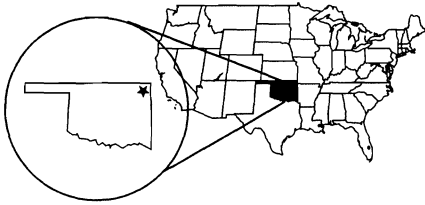


SENECA-CAYUGA



The Seneca-Cayuga are descendants of those members of the two westernmost nations of the Iroquois League that were removed to Oklahoma. The Seneca are still an important tribe in New York [see Seneca]. The Cayuga originally lived in the Finger Lakes region of western New York;

while still in New York they no longer hold any tribal lands there.

Of the five original members of the Iroquois League, the Cayuga Nation controlled the smallest territory (ENAT, 40-41). During the American Revolution, most Cayugas sided with the British, their longtime ally. After the American victory, many Cayuga migrated to Ontario where today they live on the Oshweken reserve [see Iroquois Confederacy].

The Seneca-Cayuga of Oklahoma use a light blue flag. Centered on this flag is a large white disk with "SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE" in black across the top, and "OF OKLAHOMA" below that, all in black. At the center of the disk is the "great tree", a symbol sacred to all Iroquois (Annin & Co.).

Surrounding this is a bear claw necklace, a symbol of strength and power. Ringing the necklace are thirteen animal shapes in black outline, yellow, or tan. These totems, representing certain admirable and desirable traits, symbolize thirteen tribal clans. Counter-clockwise from the upper left are: Wolf, Squirrel, Hawk, Eel, Heron, Beaver, Bear, Hare, Porcupine, Snake, Snipe, Turtle, and Deer. These represent all eight New York Seneca clans and five Cayuga clans. ☞

