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**HISTORIC DEERFIELD ACQUIRES RARE PRINT OF  
KANIEN:KEHA'KA  
(MOHAWK) SACHEM HENDRICK THEYANOQUIN**

**Deerfield, Mass. (August 26, 2022)**—Historic Deerfield is pleased to announce an exciting new addition to the collection: a rare eighteenth-century portrait of a Native American statesman and warrior, Hendrick Peters Theyanoguin.

Born about 1690 in Woronoco territory in Westfield, Massachusetts, Hendrick identified through his mother, Canastasi Koaroni, as Kanien:keha'ka (Mohawk), a member of the Bear clan. He married a Turtle clan woman named Mary and rose to prominence in New York's Mohawk River Valley as an orator, strategist, and warrior. His homesite in Canajoharie, NY was described by Timothy Dwight as a "handsome elevation, commanding a considerable prospect of the neighboring country." Through his close ties with Sir William Johnson (1715-1774), the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the northern colonies, Hendrick learned to navigate both Native and English worlds.

Hendrick (often called "King Hendrick" in colonial records) was highly influential in airing grievances and negotiating alliances with colonial leaders. At the Albany congress in June of 1754, he led a delegation of 200 Haudenosaunee confronting New York Governor George Clinton, stating: "Brethren, the Governor of Virginia and the Governor of Canada are both quarrelling about lands which belong to us, and such a quarrel as this may end in our destruction; they fight who shall have the land." In January of 1755, he traveled to Philadelphia to meet with John Penn (grandson of William Penn) and the Provincial Council, in an effort to settle disputes over the sale of Haudenosaunee and Lenape lands to Connecticut speculators. During that visit, Philadelphia artist William Williams painted a portrait of Hendrick that may have served as the model for this print.

Allied with the British during the French and Indian War (1755-1763), Kanien:keha'ka warriors under Hendrick accompanied Sir William Johnson and provincial troops from New England and New York in the summer of 1755. Among the Massachusetts provincials were Dr. Thomas

Williams of Deerfield (1718-1775), who acted as surgeon; his brother, Colonel Ephraim Williams Jr. (1715-1755), who commanded Massachusetts troops; and the Reverend Stephen Williams (1693-1782), the former "Boy Captive" of the 1704 raid on Deerfield, as chaplain.

Under Johnson's overall command, the combined force moved north from Albany to Lake George, planning to attack the French force assembled by Baron Dieskau at Crown Point. Johnson ordered a fortification erected at the south end of the lake and sent Ephraim Williams, Hendrick, and a combined force of 1200 men to reinforce Fort Edward. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Williams and many others were killed in a devastating ambush by French soldiers and their Native allies that became known as the "Bloody Morning Scout." Hendrick was forced off his horse and killed by Canadian Kanien:keha'ka warriors and women. Provincial forces later beat back the French force, allowing Johnson to claim victory as the hero of Lake George.

With news of the battle circulating in the British press, Hendrick's name and the news of his death came before the public. Given his fame (taverns and sailing ships were named for him), printed likenesses were in demand. Titled *The Brave old Hendrick the great Sachem or Chief of the Mohawk Indians*, this unattributed and undated engraving (which was widely copied and circulated) is believed to be based on the lost Williams painting. Hendrick is pictured in European clothing, holding a small halberd tomahawk in his right hand and what appears to be a metal chain in his left hand, objects that highlight his dual role as warrior and diplomat. His face, tattooed with marks that record his identity and exploits, is that of a dignified elder statesman. Johnson reputedly provided Hendrick with the English attire that he wore when making public appearances, including the ruffled shirt, tricorn hat, and fine woolen coat seen in this portrait.

The print's English publisher, Elizabeth Bakewell (active 1749-1770), and her partner, Henry Parker, in the Cornhill section of London, issued the print after Hendrick's death near Lake George. This remarkable acquisition (bought at auction from the private collection of William Reese) joins Historic Deerfield's copy of *A Prospective View of the Battle fought near Lake George September 1755* (London, 1756) as an important example of the visual culture of the French and Indian War with direct ties to Western Massachusetts.

The print is on view on the second floor of the Flynt Center of Early New England Life.

For more information about Historic Deerfield's collections, please contact Amanda Lange at [lange@historic-deerfield.org](mailto:lange@historic-deerfield.org).

### **About Historic Deerfield, Inc.**

Historic Deerfield is a museum of early American life situated in an authentic 18th-century New England village in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts. Its historic houses and world-famous collection of early American decorative arts open doors to new perspectives that inspire people to seek a deeper understanding of themselves, their communities, and the world.

**Caption for illustration:**

Print: Hendrick Peters Theyanoguin (c. 1691-1755), sold by Elizabeth Bakewell, London, England, c. 1755. Inscribed: "The brave old Hendrick the great SACHEM or Chief of the Mohawk Indians, one of the Six Nations now in Alliance with, & Subject to the King of Great Britain." Engraving on laid paper, ink. Museum Collections Fund with generous support from Tom and Tania Evans and John and Nancy Barnard, 2022.14. Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, Massachusetts. Photography by Penny Leveritt.

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