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FIRST

RIVERLINE

The Haudenosaunee lived in large villages of long houses which served as communal housing.
Known for their agricultural skill, the Haudenosaunee farmed corn, beans, and squash—known as the Three Sisters—which made up a large part of their diet, as well as fish and game obtained through hunting and fishing.

In 1784, the Treaty of Fort Stanwix forced the Haudenosaunee to cede all land west of New York State and Pennsylvania.

During the early nineteenth century, Haudenosaunee lived at Buffalo Creek and the surrounding reservations. Lying on both sides of Buffalo Creek, the reservation consisted of 130 square miles and encompassed parts of Buffalo and parts of the city's eastern and southern adjoining townships.

The 1838 Treaty of Buffalo Creek resulted in the loss of all remaining Seneca territory in Western New York.

The Haudenosaunee, or Six Nations, continue to live in New York today and are represented by federally recognized Nations. In Western New York State, there are the Seneca Nation of Indians, the Tonawanda Seneca Nation and the Tuscarora Nation.

Western New York and Erie
County in particular, are part of
the ancestral lands of the Seneca
Nation of the Haudenosaunee
Confederacy, which formed
during the late-fifteenth or earlysixteenth century.

After the Revolutionary
War, large numbers of
Haudenosaunee were forced
west and resettled along the
Niagara Frontier.

In 1797, the Treaty of Big Tree granted ownership of 3.3 million acres of Seneca land to the Ogden Land Company.

The treaty extinguished any remaining Seneca land claims and established 12 reservations for indigenous occupation, including the Buffalo Creek Reservation, within western New York.

In the 1826 Treaty of Buffalo Creek, the Seneca ceded all Genesee Valley reservations as well as thousands of acres from the Buffalo Creek, Tonawanda, and Cattaraugus Reservations to the Ogden Land Company.

On December 4, 1848, the Seneca Nation of Indians formed as an independent entity, and the Tonawanda Seneca formed as an independent band in 1857.

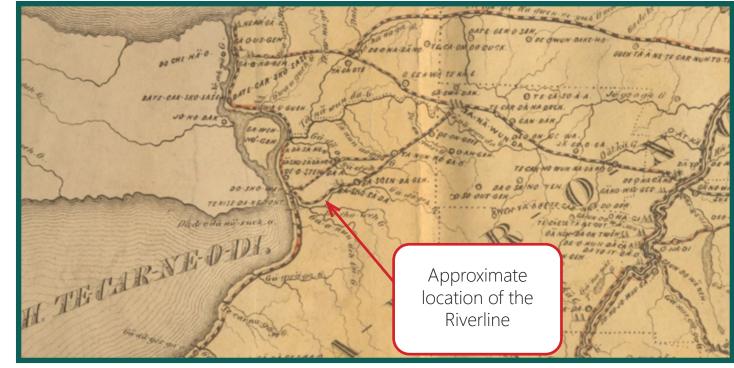


Figure 1. 1851 Lewis Henry Morgan's Map of Ho-De-No-Sau-Nee-Ga or the Territories of the People of the Long House in 1720. The area to the north of the Riverline contained Indigenous villages and trails, as well as Euro-American villages (collections of The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Garden).

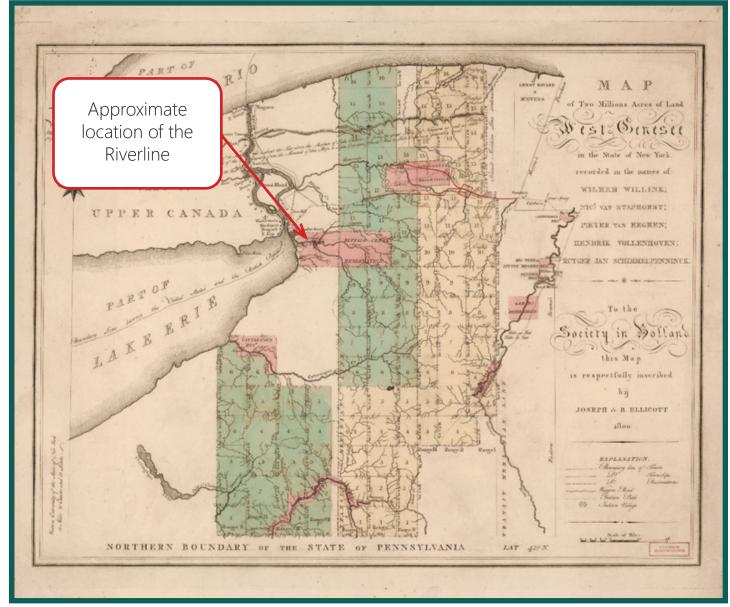


Figure 2. 1800 Ellicott and Ellicott's Map of two million acres of land, West Genesee, in the State of New York. In the late 18th century, the Treaty of Big Tree ceded 3.3 million acres of Seneca land to the Ogden Land Company resulting in the establishment of 12 reservations (depicted in pink). Buffalo Creek Reservation is located along the west of Lake Erie, within the present-day City of Buffalo (collections of the Library of Congress).

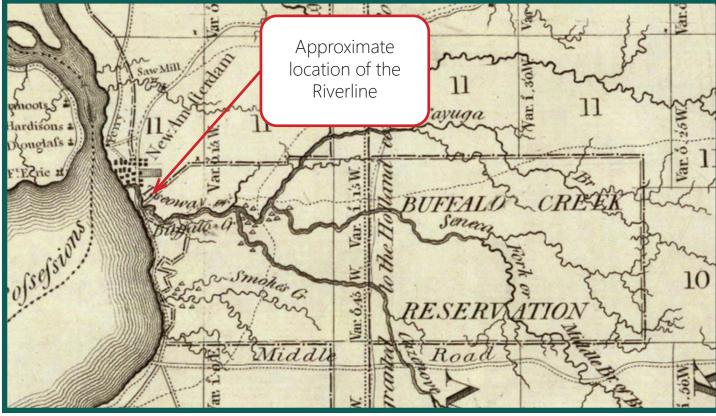
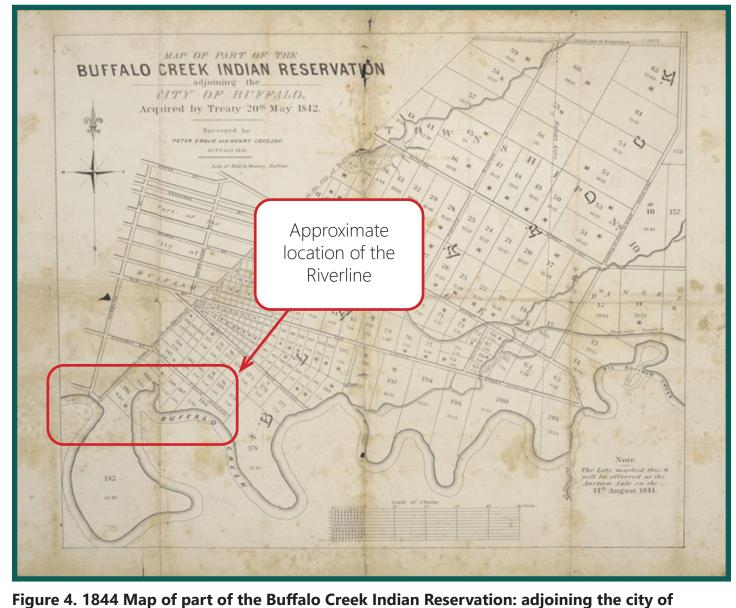


Figure 3. 1804 Map of Morris' Purchase or West Geneseo, in the State of New York showing limits of Buffalo Creek Reservation. In the early 19th century, the Buffalo Creek Reservation encompassed portions of the Riverline, and Buffalo River (identified here as "Buffalo Creek") (collections of David Rumsey)



Buffalo acquired by treaty 20th May 1842. In 1842, the Compromise Treaty renegotiated the terms outlined in the 1838 Treaty of Buffalo Creek, which resulted in some compensation for the loss of the Buffalo Creek Reservation. This map depicts planned sales of a portion of the Buffalo Creek Reservations in 1842 (collections of The Portal to Texas History).



Figure 5. Nineteenth Century Photograph of the Tonawanda Seneca (from the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, NY).







