

This is a continuation of the Minutes of 1800. In September 1800 there was a Council Meeting held in the community that spanned 8 days. This meeting was held to try to come to some resolution of the troubles that had been dividing the community at that time.

Reprinted in this edition of the newsletter is the proceeding of the meeting held on September 9th.

If anyone has any questions regarding these minutes please contact Amy Cowie in the Research Department.

Proceedings of a Council held at the Bay of Quinte beginning on the 2nd and ending on the 10th of September 1800, in the Mohawk Village

September 9th:

The Council held at Capt. John's House.

Present as before.

Capt. Claus informed Capt. John & his people the same as he had done to Capt. Isaac's party yesterday.

Captain John then spoke as follows:

Now, Brother, the Great Spirit has allowed us to assemble here in a very good cause. You have been greatly fatigued to make up this sad business between us; nor did we expect you should ever have had so much trouble or to come this great distance to reconcile our differences, and I hope it never will happen again. I am very happy to hear the good things that passed in Council yesterday after we left it, and if you will allow us a few minutes we will consult on the business among ourselves. We will go out and endeavour for the best and return immediately.

They then withdrew.

On their return:

Captain John said:

Now, Brother, you have called upon us for our opinion on this business and to know our minds. When you first came here, we were at a loss what you meant to do, as you spoke to Capt. Isaac first as soon as you arrived and also yesterday when we were desired to withdraw. I think, Brother, you was[sic] rather too mild with Capt. Isaac and

his party, and I think also that Mr. Stuart said too much in Capt. Isaac's favor; and it does not appear to me that Mr. Stuart's advice would correspond with the General's intention. Mr. Stuart is very ignorant of the situation of this place as he only comes here once a year, and as his business is of a different kind I never wish to trouble him with what concerns the Village. Now Brother, we find the reason of you having seperated[sic] us yesterday was from a good cause, and we are very happy to find it so. We have very little more to say as everything seems to be settled and I shall say but a few words more.

You heard, Brother, what Capt. Isaac said to you, that he would not in future stir up any more disturbances, and I suppose he is now very happy, as he was very fearful before the business came to be heard. He studies nothing, and knows nothing and is very obstinate and knows not what honesty is. He will make fair promises and never will be as good as his word. We shall never credit him but upon proof of his future good behaviour. Sir John Johnson & Col. Claus always instructed me to keep in the strait[sic] path and I have always followed their advice: and what can I say more? I know the Great Spirit is ever looking at us and that is the reason I strive to do for the best. We, therefore, cannot think of shaking hands until we see whether he will stick to his promises. For the crime has been so great I cannot think of making up the matter in this manner, and General Hunter said that those who were in the fault should be sent out of the place.

Now, Brother, you have heared[sic] what I have said and the Village will never be in peace until those people who've made this disturbance are sent out of this place. When that is done the Village will be peaceable, and in future when they are gone, every person who misbehaves as they have done will be served in the same manner. But before anything more can be done these people must be sent out of this place. Now, Brother, you will take this into consideration. Which do you think, Bror. would be the best; To send me and my people from off this Land, or those who have been guilty of so great a crime? We would not think it a great hardship to set off and leave the King's land if required, because we know we have behaved well, but by being with bad people for some time it causes a great deal of trouble. You may depend that Capt. Isaac will never keep his promises, and when your backs are turned he will go on as before, as he is possessed with a Devil. Capt. Isaac, Paulus, the Frenchman, and Thomas, the fidler[sic], are the men who make all the disturbances. Isaac says he will never be guilty of such conduct again; let him Pay all the Deceased's debts and go through the Custom of covering the Dead, and then we may expect he will abide by his Promises.

We shall now let the matter rest as it is until we hear General Hunter's opinion of the matter. I hope we shall never be guilty of such a Crime a Capt. Isaac' party have, as I always give good advice to my people. You see, Brother, when the white people come among us there is always mischief and misunderstanding. Sir Wm Johnson told me in the year 1760 to let all the prisoners go or they would ruin the Indians, particularly the french people for they are bad Birds, and that after they were all sent away we would have peace and quietness. These thoughts struck me when our disturbances began

here. You white people made Christians of us on which account you have been applied to, to do us justice.

Now, Brother, this is all I have to say. You have the whole in writing before you and we hope you will do us all the service that lays in your power. As to taking Isaac and his party by the Hand, that is out of the question at present; time and experience of his future good Conduct may make us friends.

In the meantime, I shall conduct myself with quietness and regularity to all his party.

After some conversation with Capt. John and the Widow Laurence, and after Capt. John's consulting his people again, he returned and spoke as follows.

Brother, there is one thing still which you request. You wish all these disturbances and everything which has passed to be put under ground. We see clearly you wish us will[sic]. We are Christians and as such are not hard to be persuaded. Therefore, we agree to your request, as we must all die some time or other. When Capt. Isaac repeats before us what he has said to you, that he will have nothing more to say in the Village, we will be satisfied; and it is expected that Thomas, the fidler[sic], Little Peter, Nicholas Crawford and Ab. Hill will also come forward and make the same declaration, and also all those who were concerned in the Murder. I will then take Isaac by the Hand, and I hope, Brother, you will not be bashfull[sic], but speak sharply to them, as it may have a good Effect. I heartily thank all the Gentlemen forfor their long attendance and attention to this unhappy business.

Adjourned till tomorrow noon.