

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 10th.

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 10th:

Council House

Present as before.

The Acting Deputy Superintendent General spoke as follows:

Brothers - We are now met again and I wish to say a few words. We have not yet, as usual, made use of wampum, but I shall this day speak on wampum - that what I say may be remembered. It has always been observed as long as we have known the Indians, or they us, that whenever white men have been suffered among them, they have uniformly been the cause of all disputes and difficulties which arise among them. And I must observe to you, there are people now here of that description who have no Indian Blood in them. And I now strongly recommend to you all not to suffer them to be present, or at all to interfere in any of your transactions. Ye may rest assured that the moment I hear of their interfering in the least, they shall be ordered away. The people I allude to are no strangers to me; I know them of old. There is this old man, Paulus, the family of the Mircles and a man of the name of Fun who left the Grand River. Now the moment I hear of any of them interfering in Indian Affairs, that moment they shall be removed. There is also another think I wish to mention about the poor Widow Laurence. I mean to leave directions to have the farm let for her benefit and whoever takes the farm will be also subject to be turned off as the other white people who behave improperly. It appears to me that the Wolfe Tribe have named their Chiefs in haste and anger and I have already mentioned to you that Capt. John must still be considered the Head Chief. I never wish to leave any thing on my mind and therefore, again desire that no more disturbances may happen among you. I also strongly recommend it to you, to take care of your religion, for when that is laid aside, you are a lost people. Think seriously, therefore, of what I have now said to you and suffer not the

young men to behave in any way improperly.

Delivered 6 strings of Bk.& Wh. Wampum to Capt. John.

Now Captain Isaac, you promised to repeat, when we met again, what you said the other day that both parties may hear and be satisfied; and as you recollect what you then said it will be unnecessary to have it taken down again.

After Captain Isaac had repeated what he said the day before yesterday,

He spoke thus on two Belts:

This is our old custom, to settle all matters of great consequence, as this is. "I now present to you (speaking to Capt. John) with these Belts; one to wipe away the Blood and the other to level the Graves of those who were killed, tis true it is but a trifle, there being only 4,000 Wampum to cover the dead and wash away the Blood".

Capt. John then desired, that he and his people might retire for a few minutes. He soon returned & spoke as follows:

Brother - It gives me pain to have given you so much trouble by attending here so long about this bad affair. We were acquainted yesterday with regard to this settlement & were told it was to be finally settled this day. When I heard that it gave me great ease, particularly as you have in writing all the Capt. Isaac said. We now have heard what he has said and that it came from his Heart. It has given me great ease, tho' with a hard struggle with myself what to do. He has talked of the old Custom in such cases, but he has not gone thro' them by any means. It is not proper, Brother, to give you so much trouble as I have done in regard to our affairs. I am very happy to see that Capt. Isaac has wiped away the Blood as it is the Custom of our ancestors and you, Brother, are the cause of settling this sad affair, which but for you would probably have gone worse and worse. We are not hard to please and have been ready to give way to have it settled on good terms. Capt. Isaac mentioned there were three Tribes, and that they should always be consulted in all matters. Capt. Isaac has no right to say that himself. I understood yesterday Capt. Isaac was to lay his head down and have nothing more to say[or?] do in the Village and if he will sat that, I will take him by the hand, if he will do that everything shall be settled and nothing more said about it. And if will not consent to it, there may be very probably more Blood spilt. I am not hard to please, and would be ready to Comply with anything that was just. In 1786, Lord Dorchester said that no white person should stay among us and as you are now here, I wish that you would take your people away at once, that there may be peace among us in future; and we leave it to you to be settled, how to have them removed. Capt. Isaac has said the Loffs have some Indian Blood in them, but as they so not belong to the Nation, I do not think it proper they should stay among us.

After the Acting Deputy Superintendent General had expressed a doubt whether Isaac was a Village Chief or only a War Chief and telling him that no Village Chief can be made without the Consent of the Principle Officer of the Indian Department, Capt. Isaac requested to retire with his party for a little time.

On their return, Captain Isaac spoke as follows:

Brother - Now we are happy our business is almost at an end. I told you the other day I would have nothing to do with any bad thing whatever. Capt. John does not seem satisfied with the manner in which he understood what I said. Capt. John said I was to have my head down and have nothing to do in the Village. I am fully satisfied to my hearts content with what Capt. John has said. I have been 45 years in the Service & have done the best in my power, but from what has been said I am quite satisfied and give it up & I shall in future just look about my own Affairs, which concern myself only. I am very sorry we have given my Father and you so much trouble. I have nothing more to do than to mind my own business and am just going to Erect a mill which I hope to compleat, as that will be the means of getting my livelihood.

Now, Brother, that is all I have to say.

Captain John then said, "this is all I wanted to hear, but as to his building a mill, I object to it".

After much altercation between the parties, about building a Mill, it was at length agreed that neither party should build a mill until General Hunter shall decide whether they or either of them shall build a mill or not.

Captain John then desired to perform his promise to shake hands and answered, he expected Isaac to get up and offer him his Hand. Isaac being desired to do so said he could not, nor would not, but that he would faithfully perform all he promised.

The Acting Deputy Superintendent General then informed them, that it was with the greatest pain he should return to tell the General, that all the trouble which had been taken by his Order had been of no use, for the parties would not be reconciled in the usual manner according to our expectations. Isaac then said, "whatever I say you may rely on me and you shall find I shall keep my promise".

The Acting Deputy Superintendent General spoke again and said he felt it impossible to go away without making them friends; that little things should be thrown on one side, and they must meet on the terms proposed. Tis true we have been here a long time, but if I remain as much longer, I will not go away without seeing you friends.

Capt. Isaac answered:

"A person who has been guilty of a great crime and repents and does everything in his power to give satisfaction can do no more. We hoped to have a different termination of

this business and are sorry it has turned out otherwise. I have submitted to everything and am now just like a Dog and have nothing more to do”.

Captain John said, “Now, Brother, you see, he will not get up and shake hands with me”.

After a great deal of persuasion by the friends of both parties Capt. Isaac got up, Capt. John also standing opposite to him, when they shook hands and afterwards all the parties shook hands alternatively. The following words were spoken by the parties, Capt. John & Capt. Isaac to each other.

Capt. Isaac “I confirm all I have said before and am resolved to do all I have said”.

Captain John: “Since you have made so full a declaration, I am satisfied”; and then addressing himself to Capt. Claus said, “Now, Brother, the particular point you wanted is now settled and we thank you very much for all the Trouble you have taken and hope you will find no obstacles in your road home, and that you will remember us kindly to General Hunter. Everything is now done. I shall, therefore, ask for the Tomahawk they have of ours (Delivered to Captain Claus)”.

The Acting Deputy Superintendent General then spoke as follows: “I feel myself extremely happy at the Termination of this business and I shall, according to Custom, confirm it with Wampum. I consider this and always shall consider it as the happiest day of my life. I consider myself as having performed a singular service to God & you and am satisfied General Hunter will be well pleased with what we have done”.

“I now wish to conform as much as possible to your ancient customs, with that View I have brought this Belt with me (being fully persuaded this unfortunate affair would be made up) for the purpose of covering everything that is past, and I now hand it over to you for that purpose that your uneasiness may never more be thought of”.

Delivered to Capt. John a Belt with 8,000 wampum.

Capt. John:

“I thank you very much, Brother. You have now covered everything that was bad, if anything bad should happen in future, I will take this belt & shew it, that they may know what was done at this Council”.

The Acting Deputy Superintendent General:

Brother - There is yet one Ceremony to be gone thro'. It has been done already by Capt. Isaac, but I have to do it in the Name of their Father, that is the Condolence for the death of those who were killed. He then delivered 6 strings to Capt. John desiring him to go thro' the ceremony of wiping away their Tears &ca; And afterwards delivered a Belt of 2,000 Wampum with six strings attached to it to Cover the graves of the Dead;

and Capt. John went thro' the Ceremony as usual on such occasions.

Capt. Claus added:

“For some days we have been under a heavy Cloud, but now our Hearts are at rest and I hope all here will remember the proceedings of this day”.

All the Indians present got up and shook hands with Capt. Claus and the officers with him and returned thanks at the same time.

Capt. John:

“Brother - Everything is now done, in case any further disturbances happen, we shall acquaint you; and these Young men (pointing to Isaac and Peter Smarts sons) will be our Messengers”.

Montreal 24th October 1800

A True Copy

John Shew
Secy. I. A.