

“Our Identity, Our History: 1916 Installation of Chiefs”

On the 21st of September, 1916, according to the rules of the Six Nation Confederacy, 9 men of the community were named to be installed as Chiefs, and 11 men of the community were named as sub-chiefs. In the documentation it was called an “Installation of Life Chiefs”. On the document naming the men, there are also the names of 2 women who would have been instrumental in the installation.

This month we will hold an event to commemorate the centennial of the “Installation of Life Chiefs” as described above. It was also featured with more detail in the previous newsletter. Below is a transcription of the document prepared in 1916 with a listing, by clan, of the Chiefs for the community.

In this newsletter we will also take a look at the families of these men and women in a bit more detail with the hopes that you will recognize one of your ancestors.

The following information on the ancestry of the men and women is taken from MBQ Records. In some cases, the men on the list cannot be confirmed without question. In these cases, we have provided the information for the most likely candidates, which is based on our own reasoning and records to date.

Also, where we have indicated that some of the men belonged to a different clan than the title they were given, this is supported by references to the letters that appear beside their names and in tracing their maternal lineage. This is customary to Haudenosaunee culture in that men who were qualified to fill that title would be borrowed from another clan until such time as a man of the proper clan could be selected.

Document: Installation of Life Chiefs on the Tyendinaga Reserve took Place on Sep. 21. 1916

Date of the Document: not known

Source: MBQ Records, found among papers of Solomon J. Brant, passed on to Leah Mae (Brant) Leween

(The below document has been edited in form only for the ease of reading.)

Sep. 21, 1916

Installation of Life Chiefs on the Tyendinaga Reserve took place on Sep. 21. 1916

The following names below are the Chiefs and sub-Chiefs:

(T.) J.J. Brant	Ahyonhawatha	Sub. John W. Maracle
(T.) Well Green	Deharihoken	Sub. R. J. Barnhart
		F. Sero
(T.) Wm. Doreen	Sadekariwadeh	Sub. Herby S. Brant (B.)
		<i>(this "B." could possibly mean "Bear" as an actual clan)</i>
(W.) Wm. J. Sero	Sarenhhowaneh	Sub. Andrew Sero
(W.) Ab. Maracle	Deyonhehkon	Sub. Peter Doreen
(W.) Jake Maracle	Onrenhrehkowah	Sub. Joe Sero (A.C.B.)
		<i>(this "A.C.B." could mean "actual clan Bear")</i>

(B.) S. Brant	Dehenaskhereneh	Sub. John J. Smart
(B.) G. Hill	Ahstahwehsehronrontha	Sub. Johnson Lewis J. Sero
(B.) P. Buck	Sohskoharohwaneh	Sub. John A. Maracle (W.) <i>(this "W." could mean "Wolf" as an actual clan)</i>

On the back of this paper was found the name of two women, and a set of initials.

Mrs. K. Hill, Bear S.B
Mrs. Jayn D

Below are the women noted on the 1916 document.

Mrs. K. Hill
Bear Clan

Mrs. Catherine (Brant) Hill, wife of Solomon Hill
Daughter of Michael & Catherine (John) Brant
Born: 16th of August, 1866
Died: 7th of March, 1949

Children:

William Gussie	who married Maud Sero
George	who married Ethel Edna Bannister
Isaac	who married Aletha Mae Green
Mary	who married Frederick Sero
Harry Solomon	who married Geraldine Georgia Scero
Herman Wesley	who married Blanche Maracle
Jasper	who died as an infant
Amarylla	who married Mr. Yorke
Norma	who died at about 22 years of age

Catherine's mother, Catherine John, was the daughter of John & Esther (Claus) John

Catherine's maternal grandmother was Esther Claus, daughter of Dow Aronharha & Catherine (Penn) Claus

We believe that Catherine (Brant) Hill is in a group photo surrounding Thunderwater, but we would like to confirm that with a family photo. This photo will be on display at the September event

Mrs. Jayn D.

Turtle Clan

Mrs. Jane (Maracle) Doreen, wife of Peter Doreen Jr.

Daughter of William & Susan (Brant) Maracle

Born: about 1855

Died: 29th of July, 1935

Children:

Susan who married James Nicholas Barnhart

Sarah who married Edward Toppings

Margaret who married Alex Miller

Catherine who died young

William who 1st married Susan Bennett; and 2nd married Una Pearson

Jane's mother, Susan Brant, was the daughter of Chief Brant Brant & Margaret Brant

Below are the Chiefs and sub-Chiefs, in order as they are listed on the document.

J. J. Brant

Turtle Clan

Joseph Joshua Brant (aka Joshua Joseph or Joseph Josiah Brant)

Son of Joshua J. & Mary (Hill) Brant

Born: 3rd of September, 1867

Died: 25th of January, 1930

Joseph Joshua Brant married Rachel Maracle on the 27th of October, 1887

Rachel Maracle, daughter of W.A.S. & Margaret (Sero) Maracle
Born: 8th of December, 1874
Died: 19th of October, 1906

Children:

Harold who married Helena Laughlin
Clarence (aka "Nick") who married Florence Lavender
Delia who married Andrew Loft

Joseph Joshua's mother, Mary Hill, was possibly the daughter of William I. & Catherine (Maracle) Hill

John W. Maracle

Turtle Clan (in 1916 but Wolf Clan in 1919)

John Willard Maracle
Son of Edward G. & Lucy (Claus) Maracle
Born: 1st of July, 1880
Died: March, 1947

John W. Maracle married Ida Louise Green on the 9th of August, 1905

Ida Louise Green, daughter of William & Elizabeth (Brant) Green Sr.
Born: 5th of July, 1885
Died: 14th of April, 1946

Children:

Donald Vincent who died young

John's mother, Lucy Claus, was the daughter of Peter & Mary/Margaret (Leween) Claus

It is possible that later on this John W. Maracle was elected to Council. There is a photograph of a John W. Maracle in the collection of pictures of past Chiefs.

Well. Green

Turtle Clan

Wellington Green

Son of William & Elizabeth (Brant) Green Sr.

Born: 17th of October, 1874

Died: 15th of April, 1952

Wellington Green married Susan Sero on the 28th of September, 1898

Susan Sero, daughter of John & Sarah Ann (Brant) Moses Jr.

Born: 20th of July, 1882

Died: 25th of September, 1960

Children:

Hugh Perry

who died at about 15 years of age

Nellie May

who 1st married Thomas Green; and 2nd married James Doreen

Nelson Clarence "Teck"

who 1st married Lena Maracle; and 2nd married Laura Frances Godfrey

Sarah Ann Celia

who died at about 12 years of age

Nora Mildred

who married Mr. Tinney

Grace Lillian or Irene

who married Mr. Pritchard

We do not know Wellington's mother's parents or grandparents.

R. J. Barnhart

Turtle Clan

Robert John Barnhart

Son of Charles & Susan (Maracle) Barnhart

Born: 12th of November, 1868

Died: 29th of March, 1953

Robert John Barnhart married Annie Moses on the 11th of February, 1886

Annie Moses, daughter of Peter & Mary Ann (Barnhart) Moses

Born: about 1866

Died: ?

Children:

George	who 1 st married Isabella Green; and 2 nd married Elizabeth Hill
Rosie Rebecca	who 1 st married George D. Green; and 2 nd married George Pringle
Ann Elizabeth	who married Solomon Maracle
Hiram	who 1 st married Martha Maracle; and 2 nd married (unconfirmed) Alice Bardy
Mary Eliza	who died at about 18 years of age
Sarah Ellen	who married Peter Jaynes
Effie Thelma	who married Alex Maracle
Mabel Amelia	who 1 st married Wm. H. Barnhart; and 2 nd married (unconfirmed) W.R. Horsnell; and 3 rd married Charles Parkinson
Emmaline	who married Randall Brant
Charles	who married Eldie Bant

Robert John's mother, Susan Maracle, was the daughter of Henry & Therese Maracle

Robert John's maternal grandmother was Therese Kayyongweenghson from St. Regis

**F. Sero
Turtle Clan**

Frederick Sero (or Moses)
Son of John & Sarah Ann (Brant) Moses Jr.
Born: 28th of March, 1886
Died: 25th of October, 1953

Frederick Sero married Mary Hill on the 22nd of June, 1911

Mary Hill, daughter of Solomon & Catherine (Brant) Hill
Born: 23rd of October, 1892
Died: ?

Children:

Olivia "Leva" Mildred who married Mr. Grass

Frederick's mother, Sarah Ann Brant, was the daughter of Jacob Oak & Margaret (Williams) Brant

Frederick's maternal grandmother was Margaret Williams, daughter of George & Margaret (Green) Williams

Wm. Doreen

Turtle Clan

William Doreen

Son of Peter & Jane (Maracle) Doreen

Born: 25th of December, 1890

Died: ?

Wm. Doreen first married Susan Bennett, daughter of Joseph & Louise (Otter) Bennett.

They had no children.

Wm. Doreen then married Una Dorris Pearson, daughter of Frederick & Thea Maud (Cooper) Pearson

Children:

Jane Phyllis Maud

Viola May

Peter

Margaret Susannah

Gladys Rose

William Eldon

William's mother, Jane Maracle, was the daughter of William & Susan (Brant) Maracle

William's maternal grandmother was Susan Brant, daughter of Chief Brant Brant & Margaret Brant

***We do not have any further information on the children of William Doreen and*

*Una Pearson.***

Herby S. Brant

Turtle Clan (his name has a "B." beside it, which could mean Bear Clan)

We think this is Herbert Lewis Brant

Son of Johnson & Ellen (Brant) Brant

Born: 14th of November, 1879

Died: 7th of February, 1964

Herbert Brant married Mina or Minnie Moses on the 26th of March, 1904

Minnie Moses, daughter of John & Sarah (Brant) Moses Jr.

Born: 28th of May, 1884

Died: 15th of April, 1963

Children:

Johnson Clarence who married Muriel Evelyn Green

John Renford who married Marjorie Dwella Ward

Violet who died as an infant

Benjamin who married Nellie Gertrude Maracle

Annie May who married Lawrence Robert Maracle

Herbert's mother, Ellen Brant, was the daughter of Peter P. & Margaret (Maracle) Brant.

Wm. J. Sero

Wolf Clan

William J. Sero

Son of Alexander & Ester/Hester (Brant) Moses

Born: 15th of October, 1872

Died: June, 1941

William J. Sero married Susan Maracle on the 12th of June, 1894

Susan Maracle, daughter of Peter & Sarah (Claus) Maracle

Born: 15th of September, 1873

Died: 4th of February, 1936

Children:

Delia	who married Peter Joe Brant Jr.
Nathaniel	who married Sarah Rena Brant
Ethel Lena	who married Melvin Maracle
Susan	who died as a baby
Sarah Catherine "Sadie"	who married Lazarus Brant
Flossie	who died as an infant
Alex	who married Cynthia Eileen Brant
Jennie	who died as an infant
Mary	who died as an infant
Herbert	who died as an infant

William's mother, Ester/Hester Brant, was the daughter of Seth P. & Deborah (John) Brant

William's maternal grandmother was Deborah John, daughter of William & Catherine John

Andrew Sero

Wolf Clan

Andrew Sero

Son of Alexander & Ester/Hester (Brant) Moses

Born: 25th of September, 1883

Died: 10th of March, 1975

Andrew Sero married Ethel Culbertson on the 10th of September, 1902

Ethel Culbertson, daughter of John & Margaret Lavina (Powless) Culbertson Jr.

Born: 2nd of October, 1887

Died: 23rd of November, 1967

Peter Doreen
Wolf Clan

We think this is Peter Doreen Jr.
Son of Peter & Margaret (Brant) Doreen Sr.
Born: 10th of October, 1861
Died: 22nd of March, 1932

Peter Doreen Jr. married Jane Maracle on the 18th of January, 1882

Jane Maracle, daughter of William & Susan (Brant) Maracle
b. about 1855
d. 29th of July, 1935

Children:

Margaret who married Alex Miller
Catherine
William who married Una Doris Pearson from

Peter's mother, Margaret Brant, was the daughter of Chief Brant
Brant & Margaret Brant

***Following his maternal lineage, Peter's mother Margaret was a sister to Jane's
mother Susan, that means Peter Doreen Jr. should be Turtle Clan, not Wolf.***

Jake Maracle
Wolf Clan

We think this *could* be Jacob W. Maracle
Son of Joseph & Susan (Smith) Maracle
Born: 16th of February, 1861
Died: after 1936

Jacob W. Maracle married Mary Brant on the 14th of January, 1887

Mary Brant, daughter of William & Margaret (Sero) Brant
Born: 20th of August, 1866
Died: after 1936

Children:

Rose Annie who died at about 4 years of age
Nelson who 1st married Jennie Brant; and 2nd married
 Mary Grace Penn
Charlotte who died at about 3 years of age
Stewart who died as an infant
James Wilson who died at about 6 years of age

Jacob's mother, Susan Smith, was the daughter of Oliver & Jane (Claus) Smith

Jacob's grandmother was Jane Claus, the daughter of David & Mary (Brant) Claus.

OR, we think this *could* be Jacob F. Maracle
Son of Joseph & Ester (Claus) Maracle
Born: 20th of January, 1840
Died: 25th of December, 1924

Jacob F. Maracle married Margaret Maracle about 1865.

Margaret Maracle, daughter of William & Sarah (Hill) Maracle
Born: 10th of October, 1842
Died: 21st of March, 1896

Children:

Francis who married Ellen Brant
Isaac who died at about 63 years of age
Laurence Matthew
Melissa who married Jesse Green
Maggie who married Allen Sero
Richard who married Essie Claus
Bessie
Esther

We do not know Jacob F.'s mother's parents or grandparents

Joe Sero

Wolf Clan (his name has a "B." beside it, which could mean Bear Clan)

We think this is Joseph Sero

Son of James & Ellen (Penn) Moses

Born: about 1865

Died: 23rd of July, 1938

Joseph first married Catherine Brant on the 27th of October, 1910

Catherine Brant, daughter of John S. Brant & Margaret Loft

Born: 16th of December, 1843

Died: 27th of September, 1917

They had no children.

Secondly, Joseph married Elizabeth Smart on the 30th of January, 1919

Elizabeth Smart, daughter of Thomas & Magdalen (Hill) Smart

Born: about 1869

Died: 12th of August, 1952

They had no children.

Joseph's mother, Ellen Penn, was daughter of Chief Joseph & Ann (Brant) Penn

Joseph's maternal grandmother was Ann or Hannah Brant, daughter of Peter Brant the Delaware

S. Brant

Bear Clan

Solomon J. Brant

Son of Isaac John & Melissa (Baptiste) Brant

Born: 12th of March, 1878

Died: 10th of July, 1960

Solomon first married Rebecca Brant on the 3rd of January, 1900

Rebecca Brant, daughter of Joseph I. & Eliza (Claus) Brant
Born: 3rd of March, 1878
Died: about 1901?

Children:
Rebecca died as an infant

Solomon secondly married Margaret Hill on the 22nd of June, 1905

Margaret Hill, daughter of John J.D. & Nancy (Maracle) Hill
Born: December, 1886
Died: 25th of March, 1927

Children:
Wesley who married Violet Ruth Maracle

Thirdly, Solomon married Dora Emmeline Fuller on the 8th of August, 1928

Dora Fuller, daughter of Samuel & Louisa (Maracle) Fuller
Born: 15th of June, 1905
Died: ?
They had no children.

Solomon's mother, Melissa Baptiste, daughter of John & Ellen (Maracle) Baptiste

Solomon's maternal grandmother is Ellen Maracle, daughter of Francis L. & Hannah Maracle

John J. Smart
Bear Clan
John J./I. Smart
Son of James & Catherine (Loft) Smart
Born: about 1864
Died: 29th of June, 1937

George's maternal great-grandmother was Ester Claus, daughter of Dow Aronharha & Catherine (Penn) Claus

Johnson Lewis

Bear Clan

Johnston Lewis or Leween

Son of James & Mary (Scero) Leween

Born: 1st of May, 1858

Died: 20th of February, 1934

Johnston Lewis married Mary Elizabeth Brant sometime before 1877.

Mary Elizabeth Brant, daughter of Seth P. & Deborah (John) Brant

Born: 11th of February, 1859

Died: 12th of May, 1932

Children:

Joseph	who died as an infant
George Washington	who died as an infant
Henrietta	who married Isaac F. Claus
Caroline Helen	who married Jacob A. Moses
William Perry	who married Mary Margaret Brant
Clayborn	who married Mary Zachariah

Johnston's mother, Mary Scero, was the daughter of James & Christine (Strong/Brant) Moses

Johnston's maternal grandmother was possibly Rachel, wife of Jacob Strong

P. Buck

Bear Clan

Not yet identified.

John A. Maracle

Bear Clan (his name has a "W." beside it, which could mean Wolf Clan)

John A. Maracle

Son of George & Lydia (Blanchard) Maracle

Born: 1st of May, 1884

Died: 9th of February, 1953

John first married Jessie Brant on the 7th of June, 1905

Jessie Brant, daughter of Abram P. & Mary (Hill) Brant

Born: 4th of June, 1883

Died: 5th of October, 1942

Children:

George Hubert who married Hilda Austin

Daisy May who died as an infant

Marie

Osborne who died at about 6 years of age

Bertha who married James H. Maracle

John secondly married Annie Brant on the 13th of September, 1945

Annie Brant, daughter of Peter Joe & Deborah (Claus) Brant

Born: 13th of June, 1881

Died: 3rd of August, 1949

They had no children.

John's mother, Lydia Blanchard, was the daughter of Jemima Maracle & Thomas Blanchard

John's maternal grandmother was Jemima Maracle, the daughter of Lawrence & Rachel (Claus) Maracle

If you recognize any of these men and women, have questions, or would like more information on the event or the details, please contact Callie, Karen, or Amy!

We look forward to seeing you at the event and sharing this information in more detail.