

Indian
1800

Proceedings of an
Indian Council held
at the Mohawk Village
in the Bay de Quinté
from the 2^d to the 10th
Sept. 1800 _

on the differences existing
among the Indians of
that Village_

15307

(Copy)

Proceedings of a Council held at the Bay of Quinté beginning on the 2^d and Ending on the 10th of Sept^r. 1800, in the Mohawk Village.

Present

Captain Claus Acting Dept^y. Superintendant[sic] Gen^l. &c &c &c
 Lieut: Givens Agent Indian Affairs
 Lieut: McQueen- Queens Rangers
 Mr. David Price }
 Mr. Nathl. Lines } Interpreters
 Mr. Ferguson - Kingston

P. Selby Ass^t. Sec^y. Indian Affairs

with the Chiefs and other of the Mohawk Indians residing there.

Captain Claus addressed the meeting as follows

Brothers - The melancholly[sic] business which has lately happened here, induced your Father, General Hunter, to order me down to meet you, and to enquire into the cause of your disputes, and if possible to bring you together again, as friends and relations should always be. The greatest misfortune which can possibly happen to you is that of living in a divided State - you lose all your domestic comforts and all your respectability as a Nation. You not only injure each other individually, but you bring disgrace and sorrow on all connected with you; Nor can I avoid telling you that I feel in a very sensible manner every circumstance that tends to weaken you as a

Nation

Nation, or to interrupt the harmony and mutual good will of men who should live as one family and who should resolve that no consideration should disunite them. Your father however is desirous of knowing the grounds of your disputes which have terminated so unfortunately, and I shall be glad to hear what each party has to say tomorrow morning at 10 °Clock as it is now too late to proceed to business.

September 3^d

Present

the same as yesterday, with the addition of L^t. Fortier, P.M.

Captain Isaac spoke as follows

Brothers -- I only want to say a few words: it is to know how you received this bad news and from whom you received it.

Captain Claus answered ---- That he had heard it as he has always been accustomed to hear news, that is, from the Head of the Village - and that he had come down to make a particular enquiry into the business that he might be satisfied of the Truth.

Captain Isaac then said. --- I will tell you, Brother, the whole business in a very short time.

There was some money brought from Albany, Vizt., 500 dollars by Captain Brant and 500 by Captain John for the payment of the Lands sold, to the American Government, on the Mohawk River. When Captain John arrived here, we enquired whether he had sold the Lands and brought the money, and what news he brought with him; Captain John answered, the Americans and us are different people, and are not fond of communicating any news to us, knowing we belonged to a different Country. We then asked John what he had done in the business

he

he went upon and he answered, "it would do very well for a Messenger to be questioned in that manner, which he did not consider himself to be" - Captain Isaac says that they had heard what money he had brought and that he had made away with the greatest part of it, which made a great riot in the Village. This was three years ago last spring - sometime after that Captain John went to Montreal; and no one knew on what business, until he returned, when he held a Council with the whole Village except Captain Isaac: - That Captain John told them, he had assembled them and that it would be for the last time and he hoped they would consider well what he was going to say: He then told them a Chief who had the care of a Village should be a man of sense and good conduct, to lead people in a proper manner and instruct them in what was right: He then desired that all of them should speak their minds freely and not hang down their heads as they had always done but to speak out and have no secrets among them, and after making this speech he quitted the Council and would have nothing more to say to them. That two years afterwards the young men of the Village met, and he, Captain Isaac was with them, and they appointed Chiefs of the Village, at which time Laurence one of the men who was killed and who was half Brother to Isaac, said "as they could get no satisfaction from Captain John for the money he got at Albany, they would take his property and sell it as they were determined to get as much as they could from his property. - That every time they met, Laurence was always repeating this, and said further, if Captain John resisted he would settle him as he was a very great thief - That he Captain Isaac told Laurence, he should not repeat these things so often that it was of bad consequence to threaten in that manner, and

that

that he had better drop the matter, and take no further notice of it as the loss of money was of no consequence, but a life was of great value - this was all that happened at that time. Last summer he Captain Isaac, and a part of the Mohawks went down to Lower Canada, and held a Council with the 7 Nations of Canada at LaChine, from whence they went to Sir John Johnsons where they received presents. Laurence was dissatisfied with what he received and applied to Mr. Chew to give him more, which Mr. Chew refused saying he had no authority, tho he notwithstanding gave him some trifle. Laurence was nevertheless dissatisfied, it being so trifling. They then came off from LaChine[sic] to return home and they conceived that Laurence was dissatisfied the whole way up. The people of the Village on the arrival of the party desired they might meet and hear what had been done in Lower Canada, and they met accordingly, except Laurence who not being satisfied would not appear in the Council. That the last spring He, Isaac, and his people Appointed a meeting to be held on Easter Sunday for the purpose of erecting a Saw Mill on the Indian Lands - That after the Council, the people staid[sic] at his, (Isaacs) house that they might be in readiness to go to put up the Mill the next day, and in the morning a Messenger was sent up by Captain John saying if they attempted to build a mill, it would not be good, as he was going to build a mill there himself, that when they received that message, they said they would drop it as it would occasion confusion among them; and as there were two rapids, they would take the upper one as they did not wish to make any disturbance. - That on the 4th of June He Capt: Isaac, assembled his people and Capt: John assembled also his people at different places and made themselves

merry

merry: That on the next day John Mircle and Seth went into the plain to Hunt up Horses and met Laurence; that Laurence struck Mircle severely with a stick three times -that on the 9th June he, Isaac, met Laurence's son Thomas and desired him to tell his father not to make a practice of beating people when he met them in the woods, for that was not their ancient custom & desired him also to tell his father if he made a practice of beating people he might repent it, and that Laurence sent him back an answer the same day that it was very wise, that was what he wished for. That He, Isaac, sent his negro boy the same day for some seed corn to Seths house and desired him to avoid Laurence for fear of accident – that notwithstanding this precaution the negro boy and Laurence met & Laurence desired him to tell his master Isaac, to appoint any place he thought proper and he Laurence would meet him. Laurence added "If you do not tell your master this, I will kill you the first time I see you, and if he does not send me a message back I certainly will kill him, and if he does not point out a place where we are to meet, I will do it for him the first time I see him". Capt: Isaac says further that Laurence was not drunk and that if Mircle had not run away when Laurence struck him, it was his design to have killed him upon the spot. That when the negro boy delivered him the Message to appoint a place to meet Laurence, he was much affected and after considering some time and that it was a matter of great consequence and that he was a man, he took his sword in his hand. That very early in the morning of the 10th June last, he Captain Isaac sent his Black boy to Laurence to inform him he had appointed a place of meeting which was half way between their two houses - and that soon after the negro boy returned with an answer from Laurence saying he was ready.

That

That He, Capt: Isaac, then got up and went to meet him, three others with him; When they came to the place appointed no one was there, but in the course of a little time Laurence and two others appeared, and did not appear to be armed. Capt: Isaac then told his men, about 5 minutes before Laurence arrived, that they were not to interfere in the matter at all, that he and Laurence would decide the matter themselves and that they by no means were to interfere in the business. That when he, Capt: Isaac, & Laurence met, they mutually saluted each other and said good Morning. He, Capt: Isaac, then asked Laurence if he had received the message he had sent him - Laurence said he had - and told Capt: Isaac he was always abusing his sons and immediately came up with a stick and knocked Capt: Isaac down, so that the sword he had was of no use to him; He Capt: Isaac says that he hoped to have settled their differences by speaking to Laurence, but he was struck down so suddenly, he had not an opportunity, - that after laying sometime, he got up and was knocked down again, with the same stick and also a third time in the same manner, after which he was incapable of getting up, but when he recovered and looked round him he saw the ground Bloody not knowing in what manner it came there.

Adjourned till tomorrow at 10 °Clock. Captain John wishing at that time to prepare himself to speak.

September 4th.
Present

The same as yesterday.

Captain Claus desired that as Captain Isaac had been heard patiently yesterday, he hoped and expected Captain John should be heard without noise or interruption.

Captain

Captain John then addressed the meeting in the following manner

Brothers - I salute you all and am happy to see you assembled in this place.

Brother - You said you was ordered by General Hunter to enquire into the circumstances of this Bad report, which I am very sorry there was occasion for. Now Brothers as you are come we hope you will do us justice, and do the best you can for the good of us all.

Brother - I hope you will be attentive and do the best you can to ease my troubled breast and from you I expect justice. In 1775, when the troubles broke out between our Father and the Americans, we joined the British and left our Country: Having been worsted, by the Americans, the different Tribes of the Mohawks went to different parts of the Country some to Montreal and some to Niagara. I do not wish to detain you too long, but wish to come to the point. Our great Father thought a sufficient quantity of Blood had been spilt and therefore made peace with the Americans. When peace was made we were told we were to go to Nova Scotia, but not liking that situation we went to General Haldimand 27th May 1783 who told us if we did not like Nova Scotia, we might go to any of the unsettled Lands in this Country, we therefore came to this spot, where we now are. We returned to Quebec and informed General Haldimand we had found this place and he expressed his satisfaction that we had found a place that suited us, and that we and the Loyalists who would be among us would live happily together. General Haldimand also said he would send a surveyor to run out the Lands for us that we might know what was ours and he sent Major Holland with us for that purpose, and the General added you have now your choice in picking out such Lands as you like and he hoped we would always live happy & comfortably upon it.

The

The Tribe now here fixed on this place, and another Tribe fixed on the Grand River. Colonel Claus wished to know what Indians were going to the Bay of Quinté and what to the Grand River. I told him I meant to set myself down at the Bay of Quinté, among the Loyalists and Captain Brant at the Grand River. I informed Colonel Claus I was not fond of going to the Grand River owing to their being so near to the Americans and told him I thought I could not live in peace so near these people and made choice of this place as being at a greater distance from them. The Americans are like a Worm that cuts off the corn as soon as it appears: Sir John Johnson and Colonel Claus told us on leaving LaChine[sic] they were happy we were going to a place we had appointed for ourselves & they hoped we should be happy and live in peace. When we quit LaChine[sic] Capt: Isaac and his family thought proper to quit us and go to the Grand River to live there. On the 10th May 1784 Sir John Johnson and Colonel Claus desired us all to come together, but Captain Isaac paid no attention to what they said and he separated from us and went to the Grand River. Sir John Johnson and Colonel Claus also told me to guide my people in a proper manner and as we were going to a Country where there were other people (Messassagues) we ought to cultivate their friendship and live happy together: We arrived here 22nd May and found a great number of the native Messassagues at this place who were very glad to see us and we were happy to be met in so friendly a manner: We then held a Council with the Messassagues and informed them our great Father had purchased these Lands for us, and that we had come to sit down on them. I told them the Kings people were also coming to inhabit this Country which the Messassagues had sold to the Crown: We told them also that the people who were coming to settle among us were bringing Cattle and other stock and we hoped they would not disturb them or do them any damages. I also added, "We shall be great friends, &

I hope you will not forget what I say: On the 25th August, 1785, Colonel Claus wrote to me from England that he was happy we were so comfortably settled and hoped we would abide by our Religion and not give it up on any account whatever, I then assembled my people and read them this Letter; - At this time all the people of the Village were friends. I told them to continue in friendship and live in the manner we then did, and we should be happy and contented and they assured me they would do so and we were in peace and quietness.

On the 27th August 1788, Lord Dorchester and Sir John Johnson came to see us in this house where we now are and told us they were happy to see us so comfortably settled and that they had heard a very good Character of us and that we had conducted ourselves very properly with the people of the settlement. After Lord Dorchester and Sir John Johnson were gone I called my people together and told them what had been said of them and advised them, as they had a good Character to behave well and preserve it.

Brother. - Those who are attached to me have to this time continued to behave well as formerly. Some few days after Lord Dorchester went away, Capt: Isaac & Captain Aaron arrived here with their parties; from the Grand River. On the evening of the same day I held a Council with them and they informed me there had been a great dispute among them at the Grand River and that they Cap^t. Isaac and Cap^t. Aaron, with their parties intended to kill Cap^t. Brant; and took arms for that purpose and that they left the Grand River in consequence of that dispute. Cap^t. Isaac and Cap^t. Aaron with their parties went down the Country and held a Council with Lord Dorchester on the 16th September, in the same year, when they told his Lordship, they could not live in peace and quietness at the Grand River and had been obliged to leave it. When Lord Dorchester heard their story, he said he could not conceive it was Cap^t. Brants fault, but that it must be owing to some of themselves who had behaved improperly and added

it

it was in consequence of the ill behaviour of the family of the Hills. Cap^t. Isaac & Cap^t. Aaron, then told his Lordship that the dispute at the Grand River was in consequence of Cap^t. Brant bringing white people to settle on their Lands. Lord Dorchester then told them if that was the case of disagreement, he could easily settle it, for he would order all the white people off the Lands. If his Lordship had done so, none of the disturbance, or the late unfortunate business which has happened here, would have taken place, as what has happened was thro' the means of a white man among us of the name of Mircle. It was mentioned yesterday that I went down to Montreal and no one knew on what business: I went down 10th Oct^r. 1797, to ask the favor of Sir John Johnson to assist me in repairing the Church. Mr. Stuart had formerly obtained £50 Stl^g for that purpose, but it was expended, but £10 which Mr. Stuart informed me of, and at the same time requested that the young men of the Village might cut timber to erect a steple[sic], but none of them except my own people would do it; I therefore went down to Montreal to solicit some more assistance towards erecting the steple[sic] and getting a place fixed for the 10 commandments &^{ca} &^{ca} that they might be out of danger from the weather or other accidents. That in consequence of this application the matter was laid before General Prescott by Sir John Johnson and directions were accordingly sent to Major Spencer to send up a carpenter to make an estimate of the expence, which was done and the repair of the Church compleated accordingly. Captain John then produced a copy of Major Greens Letter to Major Spencer dated Quebec, 30th of Oct^r. 1797, directing the Estimate to be made by the Master Carpenter Russell and sent down for the General's approbation. On the same day that I applied to Sir John Johnson for assistance towards the Church, he told me it was not intended by Government that white people should settle on our Lands which were for the Indians only and their Childrens Children to the latest posterity and that no individual should make any regulation among them without the consent of the whole. When I returned from Montreal I called the Village together to acquaint them with

what

what I had done and they all Assembled but Captain Isaac, who did not think proper to attend as usual, he always making excuses

any

for not appearing in ^ Council saying he was sick or at work.

When Isaacs people were assembled I asked them where their Chief was and why he did not come, that he never made his appearance when I called a Council, tho' I always strove and did my best for the good of the Village: I wished the Chiefs would consider and pay more attention to the good of the Village as well as themselves. There can be no excuse for your Chief never coming, he has a Horse and can come if he pleases. A Chief named Peter, one of Isaacs Band, then told me, Cap^t. John, in the Council that they would leave the transacting of all their business to me, and that I might do as I pleased.

I told them I meant to take care of the Village and that as I had established it, it was proper I should do so. About the same time Cap^t. Isaac called a Council among his own people and said, "We will be a seperate[sic] party by ourselves and have nothing to do with Cap^t. John or his party, and they have continued a seperate[sic] party ever since. They talk of the money received at Albany; that was long after they broke out in their parties and divided, which had been partially the case for 7 years past. I am accused with regard to the 500 Dollars: Isaac has had a grudge against me for 20 years - if they meant to spill Blood, Why did they not aim at me, as I am the Person they blame? they say the Blood which has been spilt is on account of this money. But how can that be?

Cap^t. Aaron went down to Albany in 1784 and disposed of a piece of Land belonging to the Mohawks, to the amount of a considerable sum in goods and in money. In the year 1790, Cap^t. Brant and Cap^t. David went to Fort Stanwix and sold the same Lands, the property of the Mohawks at Fort Hunter, for which they were to receive 1,000 Dollars. On Cap^t. Isaacs first coming here I requested him to ask Cap^t. Aaron who was his relation, what was become of the money and goods he got for the Land he sold

at

at Albany. The answer I received from Cap^t. Isaac was, that as they had lost their Country, he paid no attention to it and gave it up and refused to ask Aaron any thing about it, altho' at the same time Cap^t. Isaac had received his dividend of the money and goods received by Aaron for these Lands and as a proof that he did so, calls on Justus Thomas to declare what he knows about it.

Justus Thomas being called upon says he did not see Capt: Isaac receive any thing for these Lands, but that the Widow Hill saw a payment made to Isaac and she asked him Justus Thomas, whether he had received his share of it. His answer to her was "No, I have not, altho' I have an equal right with others".

Captain John proceeded

Soon afterwards it was mentioned in Council that they had heard there were yet Lands at Sockendagah undisposed of and they thought it proper to send a party thither to enquire about it; the intelligence was from a white man named Miller of Balls Town, stating the Mohawks, had still Lands their property in that place.

Adjourned till tomorrow morning 10 o'clock.

Sept^r. 5th.
Present

The same as before

Captain John in continuation

As soon as Miller made this report, I assembled all the Village and told them what Miller had said and asked them whether they knew any thing of the matter or not: Cap^t. Isaac and Cap^t. Aaron answered there might be some Lands undisposed of but they did not know there were any and added that a surveyor had been surveying all around these Lands many years before: They then told me to look into the business and if they only got 100 dollars they would be very happy, after which the Council broke

up

up and Captain Isaac and the party went off: I then consulted with my own people and it was agreed that it was necessary to look into the business, saying if they could get 400 Dollars for it they would be well satisfied. Miller said he was not certain whether the Land, remained as formerly or whether the Americans had claimed it as theirs, but he told me he would go, himself, and let me know whether they belonged to us or not. Miller never returned according to his promise, having said before he went away he would not return unless he found the Mohawks had a right to the Land. A little time after this I received a Message from Cap^t. Brant, to inform me it was certain that some of these Lands remained undisposed of. I immediately assembled the Village and informed them what Cap^t. Brant had said. Cap^t. Isaac made answer that he would have nothing to do in the business, that he had thrown the Land away and would have nothing more to say to it. After this declaration, I assembled my own people & told them it was a matter of consequence & I immediately appointed 4 persons to go to the States to learn what could be done in the business. Before the men went away I again assembled the Village to Consult in what manner a letter could be sent to Gov^r. Jay on the business but Cap^t. Isaac did not appear and Cap^t. Aaron was dead. After detaining the 4 men two days, Cap^t. Isaac came to my house, I was then sick and I told Cap^t. Isaac I was then unable to do any thing, but I requested of Capt: Isaac to get the Letter wrote to Gov^r. Jay, to which he made no answer. I then sent a Message to Cap^t. Isaac to his house begging of him to get the letter wrote and he returned for answer that he would have nothing to do with it, as he had thrown the Land away. Finding Cap^t. Isaac would not have any thing to do in the business, I assembled my own people and got Cap^t. Bowen and Kennedy to assist me in writing a Letter to Gov^r. Jay, - tThe 4 young men went off with this Letter and when they arrived at New York

they

they met two of Captain Brants people, both of the name of Aaron Hill who had been sent on the same business. When the young men returned they informed me that they were told by Gov^r. Jay, the Land Board business was then over, but desired that I might go myself to New York in the January following and the same message was sent to Cap^t. Brant that he also might go to New York. In July having heard that Cap^t. Brant and his party had passed, I set off with 5 of my party and on my arrival at Albany I was informed by Gov^r. Raenslow that he did not think the business could then be done and desired me to return in December following. I then returned home and made a report to the Village what had been told me: I also met Cap^t. Isaac in the road and told him I wished to speak to him to tell him what I had done, but he would not give me any answer. In the fall I again went to the States with two of my young men, before I went I applied to Cap^t. Isaac for 6 dollars (which had been lent by me to Aaron who had paid the same to Isaac for my use) in order to assist me on my journey, but could not get it from him. On my arrival at Albany I met Cap^t. Brant. The American Land Commissioners did not assemble until 15th of March following 1797. Mr. Tenbrook one of the Commissioners, laid his hand on my shoulder and said, "you talk about Lands, there is no Land belongs to you, the Lands were all gone 100 and odd years ago. We will however take it into consideration and see if anything can be done for you". Cap^t. Brant was in company at the same time. We remained there five months using all our endeavours to get the Lands sold and at last the Commissioners agreed to Pay us one thousand dollars and told us we were never after to make any more demands for Land. Governor Jay then provided a stage for Cap^t. Brant and myself and we were carried to Fort Schuyler where we received the money: Cap^t. Brant received 500 dollars and I received the other 500. Cap^t. Brant & myself and Party came together to Whites Town, where we seperated[*sic*]. Before I parted with Capt: Brant I told him there was a sum of 250 Dollars due to my party for Lands he, Cap^t. Brant, had formerly

sold

sold and which I expected he would give me. Capt: Brant answered he could not pay me as the money belonged to the whole Village. On my return to this place I intended to Assemble the Whole Village, but on enquiry, I found that Capt: Isaac and several men had gone down to Montreal, and I could not find out on what business, I however afterwards found that Capt: Isaac had applied to Sir John Johnson for a pension for his former services and that he had a very good right to it, and that Sir John had answered it was not in his power. When Capt: Isaac found that he could not get a pension, he made use of very improper expressions (Mr. Lorimier being interpreter) and added he would never serve the King again. When Capt: Isaac returned from Montreal some of his own party requested him to go down to my house to enquire what I had done in the States, but he refused, saying he would have nothing to do in the business, and as we have heard, he has received the money and spent it, it is therefore useless to go to him. As soon as I heard that Capt: Isaac and his party had behaved so disrespectfully to me, I did not think proper to come forward to say any thing about it. Some time after this I found a letter in my house directed to me but not signed by any body, expressing surprise that I had not given any account of what I had done in the States, after having been at home so long, I then wrote an answer to Capt: Isaac and his party telling them I was surprised they had not come down to me to enquire and be informed of what I had done, and told them also it appeared by their conduct, as If I was a messenger sent by them, which I by no means look on myself to be. This Letter of mine highly offended Capt.:Isaac, who said to his people "We will be a party by ourselves and will have no connection with Capt: John and his party". From this period the troubles took place in the Village - That Frenchman who sits there, named Paulus, has always been stirring up strife and discord among us and also his Son in Law Thomas, the Fidler[sic]. On the 9th of Oct^r. 1797, Capt: Isaac said to his people, "Now I think I can hold up my head, we will now begin

and

and make regulations for ourselves and we will put down Captain John and he shall be no more - I will not follow his example, but will take a new method of my own". When I heard what Capt: Isaac had said, I was determined they should not put me down, as there was only one who could do it - that was the great Spirit. Soon after this I received a letter written by Thomas in the name of a Council where Isaac presided, desiring me to deliver up all the articles entrusted to me by Government, such as, Iron, Nails, Colours, Grindstones and the two small Canonades &^{ca} &^{ca}. This letter was delivered by the white man Mircle and I returned an answer by him saying I would sooner lose my Life, than give up the Guns or the flag to them. After this there were constantly Messengers passing from them to Sir John Johnson, making false stories, and misrepresentations of me. They also took upon themselves to open Public Houses for the sale of Spirituous Liquors in the Village and all the Clothing &^{ca} which was given by Government was spent at these places and their families left naked, at one of these Houses (Viz^t. John Hills) they had for a sign the picture of the Devil. Now Brother were you at the Head of a Village as I am would you like such usage from them? - You would certainly think it very hard and insufferable treatment. One of these new regulations, was to beat and abuse all my friends and on New Years day last one of Capt: Isaacs party (Abraham Hill) came to the house of one Isaac, a trusty good man, and beat him very severely with a stick and afterwards went and bragged of it to his party. Ab: Hill and his Brother soon after this beat another of my people and nearly killed him, being beat as black as a kettle, without the least provocation. Nicholas Crawford one of my people went up to Capt: Isaac and begged him to put a stop to the irregularities of his people, as it was uncertain whether the man they beat would live: Capt: Isaac answered them he could not do it as he had not that authority over them and was liable to be beat himself.

Capt: John then delivered in the following papers

Viz^t.

Account of the Expence which Capt: John was at the from

the

15324

the 10th July 1789 Endeavouring for to sell Fort Hunter
Lands, with consent of the people of the Village.

£ S d

To Six person expences who went with me to Niagara to meet }
Major Fundie } 6.10. 0

April 1792 To 3 persons who accompanied me to the Mohawk River on purpose}
to see Major Fundie still concerning the Lands} 4. 5. 0

Feb^y - - To my son William & 4 persons who went with him to New}
York concerning Land} 7.0. 0

July 10th. 1796 To 4 persons who went with me to Albany on purpose to meet}
the Commissioners} 19.0. 0

November To 3 persons who went with me to Albany, the Commissioners}
desiring me to meet them there} 7.0. 0

We being obliged to stay all winter in Albany, I was obliged for}
to send unto Mr. John Forsyth, Montreal, for some money} 12.10.0
who sent me}

Halifax £ 56. 5. 0

Brother - You now see my Expenses with those who went with me, for
which in Justice I ought to be paid - Brother - now if we had lost
this and had got nothing Capt: Isaac would not have indemnified
me for my trouble, for he himself would not be at any trouble about
it, expecting the Commissioners would not give anything.

Signed

John Deserontyon

1st April 1797 - Albany

In company with Capt: Brant we received 1,000 Dollars which
we divided at Fort Schuyler, and can any reasonable person
suppose that myself and two more could travel from Albany to
this place without expense, and at the arrival at this place
I found we had expended 100 dollars, and the expenses at different
times to Amount to two hundred and thirty seven dollars as per
account, which I still keep in my possession, and the whole
amount to be Three hundred and thirty seven dollars.

Signed

John Deserontyon

Brother

15325

Brother - Since I first came to this place I have strove hard to settle the people in the best manner I was able. I have by the Assistance of our Great Father erected a Church and a School house, and have endeavoured to follow the example of Christians, like the white people in our neighbourhood, and I have used my influence to keep peace & quietness in the Village as far as lay in my power. We poor miserable tribe of Mohawks are very sensible of the great Bounty of our Great Father and are very thankful for it. We have been more indulged than We could expect, but since Capt: Isaac's party has been formed, the Door of the Church has been locked, for how could we assemble there with such a burden on our Minds? Before Capt: Isaac left the Grand River, the Church there was also shut up on account of the disturbances he made.

Brother - After hearing what I have said you must be sensible I am very much hurt. These people who have occasioned all these disturbances were driven away from the Grand River for the same kind of behavior and came here for shelter. When they arrived I did every thing in my power to accommodate them.

Now Brother I shall begin on another subject, you say it was by Gov: Hunter's orders you came here to get a just account of the sad affairs which lately happened here. Last year the disputes between the parties began to be more serious, & they continued growing worse and worse to the time of the unfortunate business. About a year ago, Laurence the Deceased sent for Capt: Isaac to endeavour to compromise their differences and make friends, and expected he would come, but Capt: Isaac refused coming. The son of Isaac had frequently abused his cousins the sons to the Deceased and was constantly irritating & treating them in an abusive manner, having been made a Chief by His fathers party. On the 22nd October last when the King's presents were delivered at this place, Capt: Isaac & Laurence were at great variance, and when Capt: Isaac found the division had not been made agreeable to his Wishes, he seized by force what had

not

not been divided and carried them away to his own party & said he would divide them in the manner he pleased. Laurence seeing this behavior of Capt: Isaac's became more inveterate against him than before. Capt: John also states that a young man named William now present had informed Laurence sometime before the murder, that mischief was intended against him and desired him to be on his guard and that Ab: Hill one of Isaac's party had told this young man that murder would be committed. Capt: John then says - I went up to Laurence's house on hearing this and advised him to keep himself quiet and not think of the threats he had heard, that perhaps it might not happen, and if it should happen, it cannot be helped, but I advise you not to be the first aggressor. On the 4th. June, Laurence and his family came to my house, saying it was the King's Birth day and they ought to pay attention to it, but having lost my son a little before I did not intend to have any mirth about my house. Laurence and his people were however pressing and saying it was a day they should celebrate, desired me to give them something to drink the Kings health and make a little merry. I complied with the request and sent for a gallon of Rum, thinking that sufficient - they then fired a salute and drank the Rum. Laurence then said he would go home, but on the invitation of my wife he staid[sic] all night. My Wife was induced to keep them all night for fear of accident, knowing that Isaacs party were drunk about the Village. As Laurence went home in the morning and was passing a House where some of Isaacs party were, and being still in Liquor said, "You may hear what I say and you may go and carry the news to your Great Chief", which gave them offence. Some days before the 4th. June, Laurence sent his youngest son to Cap^t. Isaacs house requesting him to come to his fathers, that they might endeavour to compromise their differences, that things by long delay were getting worse, and the Capt: Isaac returned for answer that he would not go. On the 9th. June a Young man called Thomas and his younger Brother sons of the deceased Laurence, went up to a salt Lick above Capt: Isaacs where the Deer usually come out of the Woods, and after staying

some

sometime without success, the elder proposed to go home again, saying that tomorrow the other Brother would come, on their way back they passed Capt.: Isaacs House, when he told them to tell their father not to make a practice of beating people as he had done, and if he did not leave it off, he himself, would put a stop to it. The young man, Tho^s. said he did not know any thing his Father had done amiss. Cap^t. Isaac then told him to hold his Tongue, or he would take a Stick and flog him and looked about for one, saying you cannot dispute with me for I am a great Warrior, neither can your father dispute with me, tell him to come here, taking his Tomahawk and saying I am a great man. Thomas then said "Why did you not go when my father sent for you, he sent for you with a good design": Cap^t. Isaac answered he would not go to see such a fellow. Tho^s. thought it extraordinary to hear such Language. Capt: Isaac then said, "I tell you again to tell your father to come over and do not forget it" the young man looked pale when he got home which being observed by His mother, he told her it was in consequence of what Capt: Isaac had been saying to him the young man then related to his Father what Cap^t. Isaac had said.

In the evening of the same day Laurence the Deceased seeing Captain Isaacs Negro Boy pass, desired him to tell his master that as they could not meet at each others houses, to point out a place where they could meet and talk over their differences, the Widow of the Deceased being now present, and heard[sic] the Message sent. Laurences eldest son (who was also Killed at the same time with his Father) desired his Father as he was going to Bed, to awake him early in the morning as he and his Brother Thomas were going to hunt. At sun rise in the morning, sometime after Laurences sons had gone a hunting, Capt: Isaacs Negro Boy came to the Door and told Laurence that his master was at the place appointed, which was half way between their Houses, and was waiting for him and begged him to make haste and come immediately. The night before Cap^t. Isaac told Young Mircle and John Loff to go with him in the morning and he would shew them how to go to War, that he only wanted them to look on and he would show them what the Warriors did. Laurence followed the Boy out of the Door and asked him if his master was there, the boy answered, "he thought

he

he was there by that time". Laurence hearing that imagined he was alone. Peggy an Indian woman who was in the House said as Laurence was lame, it was a pity he should go alone, and sent a younger son of Laurences after the two Brothers who had gone a hunting. They were met by him coming home. When they got into the house they put away their Guns and followed their Father who had gone before they came home with no weapon but his walking stick and the Young Men having only their Tomahawks which they usually carry.

Laurences Wife wishing to bring her husband back went after him with two other women, but when she ascended a hill, she perceived he was a Considerable distance and She heard Isaacs party whooping and Holloring[*sic*]. When Laurence arrived at the place appointed, Capt: Isaac same up to him with a sword under his arm and wished him a good morning, saying I wanted very much to see you before, and hope you will quit that way of beating and abusing people where you meet them. Laurence answered, "I never struck any of your Children or any person belonging to you, but you always make a practice of beating my Children". Capt. Isaac then took the sword from under this arm and said, "Dont you say a Word, but hold your Tongue, on which Laurence took his stick and Struck him on the Shoulder. Capt: Isaacs son immediately called out !How -!How - an Indian expression signifying !come on - !come on - !let us begin- upon which all of Isaacs party who had their Knives & Tomahawks came forward, at which time Laurence had Isaac by the Breast on the Ground. At this time two Women with Clubs (one of which is produced and is about 4 feet long came up and struck Laurence very Violently, they afterwards with the same Clubs came up to Laurences Wife and knocked her down so that she was for some time senseless. While Laurence had a hold of Isaac on the Ground, John Green an Indian came up and struck Laurence a Violent Blow with the axe part of his Tomahawk so that it was sometime before he could get it out

again

again. The Widow of Laurence had also been attacked with a Club by Captain Isaac's daughter and was left for dead on the Ground, on which the widow Laurences daughter in Law attacked Isaacs daughter and overpowered her, on which Isaacs daughter called out to her Fathers Negro to come to her assistance, which he did and knocked her down with a Stick.

Adjourned till tomorrow at 10. °Clock.

September 6th.

Present as before

Captain John in continuation

After the Negro had struck her, Christeen, the widow of the younger Laurence, who was also killed, got up, on which John Green ran up to her with his Tomahawk with a design to kill her and her mother, but Cap^t. Isaac seeing it, called out "Stop, we have done enough" and Green Stopped accordingly. When Laurences Widow recovered her Senses, she got up and saw them Struggling very much, Ab: Hill with a Tomahawk and Knife and the two Loffs with Clubs, beating the Deceased Laurence the son. When he was killed, Captain Isaacs son and John Green attacked his Brother Thomas, and ran a Knife thro' his arm, which not being able to pull out again, Thomas sprung from them with a Knife thro' his arm, but before that a blow was made at him with a Tomahawk by Capt: Isaacs Son which cut his Hat and grazed off without doing any material injury. After the business was all over, Capt: Isaac went among his people and enquired if any of them were wounded, they answered that two of the men were wounded, Viz^t. His son and Ab: Hill. The elder Laurence not yet dead, sat up, but senseless, when Capt: Isaac went up to him and asked him, shaking his fist at him, "are you Satisfied now" but Laurence was incapable of making any answer.

Capt: Isaac then went to the Elder Laurences Widow, who was Standing up and the Blood running down her head, and asked her if She was Satisfied, and then he said, "go and desire

your

your Brother (Captain John) to come here and I will serve him in the same manner", pointing to the dying father and son, "can you withstand us"? She answered, "No, there are a great Number of you and we are almost all killed". When Isaacs daughter heard[sic] her speak she run up again with a Club to Knock her down and told her if she spoke another word she would knock her brains out. Capt: Isaac then stepped forward and told her to be done as he supposed she would not live long having received so many bruises already. Captain Isaac asked the widows of the Laurences, "why did not you obey orders, you know we are numerous and a Strong party". he then turned about and went away saying, "come, let us go we have done enough and pointing to Thomas' Tomahawk which was lying on the ground, said, "it is our custom when we go to war to take the weapons of our Enemies; take up that and if the owner of it wants it let him come to me", and then gave it to Joseph Hill. After Capt: Isaac and his party had gone away, Christeen got up and came away and in passing the Church on her way to my House, she desired a person to ring the Bell. When she told me the Story, I answered, "I was not surprised as they had been always at Variance and expected something of this Kind would happen". I then took two men and went to the spot to enquire into the matter, before I went thither, I called at Laurences house and saw the ground and the floor of the House Bloody and the Children in Tears. The Young man Thomas, who had been wounded, having gone up stairs and laid himself on his bed. We then stripped and took arms and went to the place where we found the younger Laurence yet alive and his mother washing his face. The young man spoke to me and said, "I am yet in my senses; it is not my fault that this has happened; I was not to blame and I hope you will forgive me; God Almighty is master of us all -

God's

God's will be done". I then desired his people to lay out the bodies in order to have them carried away. The Entrails of young Laurence were then hanging out and they moved as he breathed. This was about noon and the Elder Laurence had been killed early in the morning, but was so much defaced by blows that his features were not to be known again. The place where this scene had been acted was spacious and the Ground and Brush about the place was all bloody as if Cattle had been Killed there, this was by the Violent Struggles of the Younger Laurence, who made many efforts in defending himself. This young man being yet alive we thought to get him to his house, and carried him away leaving his Dead Father behind: When we had got about 300 yards he said "Uncle put me down for I am gone", and died immediately: We then said prayers over him and carried him to the house. Instead of Captain Isaac and his party taking any care of the Dead, they had armed themselves and were at Capt: Isaacs house where they kept guard all night: The corpse of the Elder Laurence lay on the ground where he was killed, all that night and the next morning the body was brought down in a boat by me and my people to this House where we now are. Isaac had forbid his party to have any thing to do with the dead bodies and they were taken from this House to the Grave by Bowen's people, white settlers adjoining our Lands. Capt: Bowen asked me to go out with him to John Howell a Magistrate who told him he had a Message from Capt: Isaac importing that he wished to hold a Council with me, when it would be seen who was in the wrong and that they wished to bury the remembrance of the misfortune under the Ground.

I answered "Captain Isaac should have considered that before, as the people are now dead and cannot answer for themselves. Capt: Isaac may now say what he pleases as the people are dead who could have given the best account of the matter". It is now 10 years that he has absented himself from every Council in the

Village

Village, except a few times; and when he did come he did nothing for the good of the Village. He now wants to hold a Council when it is too late, but I do not wish to see him there". I have only one thing more to say, and that is that I wish he may never do the like again, nor ever oppose me again in the business of the Village. Two days after the burial, I went up to the Widow Laurence's House to see them, when I heard firing of Guns and holloring[sic] at Cap: Isaac, as if rejoicing, and they continued to keep a guard there. Ever since that time people have always gone armed and never seperately[sic] but in parties of 2, 3, or more. A Negro Man named Adam Fur? was always in Isaacs party and very active since the death of the Laurences, tho' not present on the 10th. June. This man has not one drop of Indian Blood in him his Father being a Negro and his Mother a Dutch Woman. On the 19th. July last Captain Isaac held a Council in the Woods and asked his party whether in case the Government were to send to take them up they would resist and Support each other; and they all said they would sooner lose their Lives than be taken as they would not wish to be made prisoners. After this a party of them, with Captain Isaac at their Head was formed, who went in a Boat to Kingston, and I went thither on horseback about the same time and saw them walking about in parties as usual with their Tomahawks - they encamped near Parson Stuarts in order to get his advice on what to do. Seeing things go on in this manner and considering what was best for me to do, I first wrote a letter on the subject to Sir John Johnson, but receiving no answer I thought it best to go to York and lay the whole matter before the Governor.

Now Brothers I have stated all the matter in the Clearest manner I am able. Capt: Isaac told you two days ago to look clearly into the whole business and see where the fault lay. The marks of the Blood are yet on this floor and you may rely that I have

told

told you nothing but the truth. All the White people hereabouts are under great apprehension on account of this business and that was my reason for going up to the Governor in time.

There is yet one thing more I wish to say. I beg you Brother, to ask these people who are of Capt: Isaacs party whether they mean still to go on as they have done and still attach themselves as a party to him. My Chief Study is to do my best for the good of the people; to instruct them in that - which is just and honest and to attend to their religion, for it hurts me much to see the manner in which I have Spilt Blood on this Ground which was given to us by the King for ourselves and our families. Capt: Isaac says my mind is Thick and that he will never come into my way of thinking - it is so because I will not come to his way of thinking - for I study for the good of the Village and keep service in the Church and obey the Laws of the King. Now Brother, you may depend I have stated all this matter fairly and clearly in the presence of all the people here.

Captain Claus then told Capt: Isaac he would be glad to ask a few questions of some of the people who were present on the unfortunate day.

Captain Isaacs Son William appeared and said as follows-

That Captain Isaac, Isaacs Son in Law, Ab: Hill & himself set out early in the morning of the 10th June and came to the place appointed.
 - Captain Isaac with his Sword under his arm came up to Laurence and said good morning and Laurence returned the compliment.
 - Captain Isaac said to Laurence, if we get into any quarrels, dont let us use any edged Tools. He then asked Laurence if he received the Message he sent the night before, Laurence answered, he did. Laurence then took his Cane and struck Capt: Isaac over the shoulder who fell with the blow. William says he was a little way behind and seeing his father fall he could not help running up and giving Laurence a Stroke with the flat Side of his Tomahawk on the Head - immediately after, he and Thomas, Laurences Younger son met, and they attacked each other, but Thomas being stronger

than

than him seized the Tomahawk and took it from him, on which William took his Knife and Stabbed him in the Arm. After this Thomas said, he was done. Ab: Hill then desired Thomas to throw away the Tomahawk and set off with himself which he did, and his Life was saved by that means. William says when he stabbed Thomas in the Arm, he left the Knife in the Arm and having lost his Tomahawk before, he was quite disarmed. W^m. further says when Young Laurence Deceased was running after him Ab: Hill meet[sic] young Laurence, and having had a Knife put into his hands by Isaacs Son in Law, cut Laurence the Younger in the belly with the Knife. William says further that Laurence still had his father down - that he came up and took up the Elder Laurences Cane and began to beat him about the head: in the mean time John Green, Williams Brother in Law came up & Tomahawked Laurence, when Capt: Isaac called out there is enough done. That Capt: Isaac then got up and asked Laurence if he was satisfied with that. Laurences Wife then told Capt: Isaac she would take an opportunity of getting satisfaction for what he had done, on which Isaacs Daughter told her, there was no time like the present and took a Stick and knocked her down. After they got home, Captain Isaac seeing the Tomahawk of Thomas, asked them why they brought that with them, saying throw it away, you have no business with it, as also a Knife which he had picked up; and they were thrown into the River and Recovered some days after by Jos: Hill. William says also he got a Cut on the back of his Head during the affray, but does not know who gave it.

John Loff then appeared and said that Laurence, when he & Capt: Isaac first met on the 10th June, struck Cap^t. Isaac who fell, and when down, Laurence was upon him - that he John Loff then went up with a club and struck Laurence 8 or 9 times across the back, he says also that he saw the Young Laurence deceased strike Ab: Hill and William with a Tomahawk.

Ab:

Ab: Hill next appeared and said that having met Isaacs Negro Boy by accident the Boy told him his master was going to have a battle and he Ab: then determined and said he would go and see it. That John Green and William went along with him. He says that after the usual salutations of Good Morning, some words arose about Laurence beating some of Isaacs Children, that Laurence got into a passion, and while in the act of lifting his stick to strike Isaac, Isaac attempted to draw his sword, but before he got it quite out of the Scabbard a Blow from Laurence's stick struck Capt: Isaac on the back of his Head, and in his fall, the sword went one way and the Scabbard the another, and the reason of Capt: Isaac being struck on the Back of the Head, was his endeavouring by stooping to avoid the blow. He says further that as Capt: Isaac had desired them not to interfere in his business, he sat quietly & looked on. When Capt: Isaacs son William saw his father fall he ran up and Struck Laurence on the head with the flat of his Tomahawk. When Thomas the son of Laurence saw that, he run up to William and they attacked each other with Tomahawks and while he, Ab: Hill, was yet sitting down the young Laurence, who was killed run up to him with a Tomahawk and before he could get up he rec^d. a blow on his head with the Edge of the Tomahawk, his own having fallen as he attempted to get up. He says he was sometime senseless with the blow, but on recovering himself the Blood flowed freely from the wound. Laurence seeing him again Standing up returned to him and said, "now you shall die" and made a Blow at his head with the Tomahawk but the handle having struck his head, broke the Skin only, which together with the loss of Blood weakened him so much that he fell again. At that time John Green came up to him and went to old Laurence and sunk his Tomahawk into his Head: As he was going to repeat his blow on old Laurence, Young Laurence came up and made a Stroke at him (Hill) with his Tomahawk

and

and broke the handle, he then seized the blade of Laurences Tomahawk and while they were struggling, the Negro Boy belonging to Captain Isaac came up with a Club and struck Young Laurence upon the head and shoulder. Laurence said to the Negro if he did not go away he would Kill him and the Boy went away. Thomas came up while Laurence and Ab: Hill were Struggling for the Tomahawk and Stuck a Knife into his back and soon afterwards gave Hill another cut on his Shoulder and another on his Thigh. Thomas then made a Blow at his Breast with the Knife but he, Hill, stopped his hand & warded off the Blow. Hill also says that young Laurence was running after William, Isaacs son, and as they were passing him he took out his Knife and as Laurence passed, He Hill held out his hand with the Knife, & cut Laurence across the Lower part of his Belly, which wound, occasioned his Death as he believes. Laurence however rose again when John Green came up with a Tomahawk and cut him in the back of the neck.

The Negro Boy Capt: Isaacs Slave, being called was desired to say what was the Message he took from Laurence to Capt: Isaac - he answered this - That Laurence told him to inform Capt: Isaac to appoint a place to meet him and fight him and that if he did not deliver the Message he would flog him. He was also asked whether Laurence was armed, when Laurence and Capt: Isaac met, he answered, he had a Cane & Capt: Isaac a Sword.

Adjourned till Monday morning 10 °Clock.

September 8th:

Present as on Saturday.

Capt: Isaac desired to speak again.

Brother - The Great Spirit has again permitted us to meet this

day.

day. We have been holding this Council several days and you have heard a variety of stories some concerning War and some concerning troubles. I am not going to tell you of my War exploits, as you come on another business. It has been said I was driven away from the Grand River before I came here. I will relate how that matter really stands. The reason of my coming was, that I was called down by Capt: John, telling me this was a very good place and if I would come down we would be happy together.

Captain Johns people told me that Sir John Johnson had said he would be glad if I would come and join Capt: Johns party at this place; and these letters (delivering two written in the Mohawk tongue) will confirm what I say to be true. I would rather by choice have remained at the Grand River, but I came in consequence of these friendly invitations: I found the place very pleasant and the greatest friendship among the Indians of the Village. About 3 or 4 months after I came here various stories were going about which altered matters very much, but I paid no attention to them, imagining as I had so many friends nothing of consequence could happen. About a year after, I began to think there were a number of people telling stories of me; and whenever any of the people of the Village behaved improperly Capt: John was always very rough with them and threatening them and when he assembled the Village he said what he thought proper and told them to abide by what he said. One day while Captain John was holding a Council Ab: Green got up and said something in opposition to the mode directed for placing the Benches of the Church, on which Captain John desired him to be silent and struck him.

Brother - You know Captain John told you I never came to council, nor paid any attention to it. Capt: John also told you that Thomas the fidler[sic] and the Frenchman Paulus were always making disturbances. When the money had been got at Albany and the People found they were to get none of it they were dissatisfied and it caused great confusion. About this time, Laurences

Widow

widow came and told me that Capt: Johns conduct was such as to have him put aside. Some of the People advised to drop the thoughts of this for the present and try if matters would not mend and things go on better hereafter. She still persisted in it and insisted that Capt: John should be set aside and another person appointed in his room. The Wolfe Tribe then appointed Thomas the fidler[sic], Chief in the room of Capt: John, and 3 strings of Wampum were produced as the speech of Laurences wife when he was made Chief by the Tribe. Old Laurence and his Wife often threatened to kill Capt: John, but I always told them to be quiet. After this Laurences family left me and went to Capt: Johns party and threatened me as they had done Capt: John before. On being asked the reason why the Laurences changed so often – Capt: Isaac answered, “it was because Laurence thought while they were at Lachine that he Capt: Isaac did not obtain from Sir John Johnson more things for him than he got”. We then lost our friendship and we have been enemies ever since. When the Church was compleated, all the people who lived near it were very happy and attended it regularly; those at a distance did not attend, among which number I am one. After service one Sunday, Capt: John said to the People “You see how well we are provided with a church: I have done the whole of this and none have assisted me: I was also the means of getting all the Indian Lands here”. Last fall when the presents were brought up by Mr. Lines a dispute arose about the mode of dividing the Presents; a parcel of Kettles were on the outside of the Tent, and Capt: John put them on one side, saying these will be divided by & bye. I then went and took them and carried them among my own people, on which Capt: John struck me with a Stick and afterwards drew his Knife, that was the reason I was so angry and Shook my Tomahawk. I have nothing more to say on that Subject.

Capt:

Captain John mentioned the other day, he did not like to see blood Spilt, But when we were at Fort Hunter many years ago, Capt: John Killed a Nephew of mine while he was in liquor, - the Village then came to a resolution to Kill Capt: John, who was my Brother in Law. I advised them to wait until the matter would be taken into Consideration but they disregarded me until I brought Mr. Stuart to my assistance and we settled the matter. We then sent for Capt: John and told him the business was settled and he might make himself easy. I strove hard to save him then, and he is now endeavouring to Kill me if he can.

This is all I have to say, altho I could say a great deal more, but it would be tedious and unsatisfactory.

Question from the Acting Dep^y. Superintend^t General to Capt: Isaac
Was Sir John Johnson informed of the purpose for your Council with the 7 Nations of Canada”

Answer -Yes - Sir John Johnson was present - it was on account of the Dispute about Lands with the Caughnawagas

Question - Who is Mircle who lives among you

Answer - A Swede by birth - he has been 3 or 4 times taken prisoner by the Indians in different wars and was at length taken from the Caughnawagas by his relations when they went with him to the States to sell furs - after that he ran away from his friends and has voluntarily lived with our people ever since.

Question - Did you not lately receive some Wampum from Moses Johnson sent you by Cut Nose Brant -

Answer - Yes
Then say what the message was -

Answer by Peter - Moses Johnson gave me the Wampum by desire of Cut Nose Brant who sent his respects to the Bear Tribe and hoped they would take good care of themselves. He hoped there would be no disturbances in the Village, and that there would be peace and quietness. He said he heard there was much

trouble

trouble in our Village and that we were seemingly unhappy, which he was sorry for. We know Capt: Isaac has been the occasion of a great Crime being lately committed among you, and that matter will probably be taken into consideration bye & bye.

The Acting Deputy Superintendant[sic] General informed them he would speak to the two parties seperately[sic], as it was his wish and the instructions of the Governor to make peace among them and to see them renew their former friendship

Captain John desired to speak a few words more

Brother - With regard to my having said I would hurt any person for placing the Saw Mill - it is not true. The principal part of what Isaac has said has come from the Women, and when old Laurence came to speak about the Saw Mill, I said I had no objection to it - there was one place only which was wanted for the good of the Village, and they might take all the rest.

Capt: Isaac and his people got tired of reading the same prayers over and over again in the Church, And in Council said they would make new prayers of their own, Which surprised me much, Knowing when the Minister heard it, he would throw us all away. I told them so in Church and desired them to let it alone until they saw whether it met Mr. Stuarts approbation. I then told Capt: Isaac and his party, they held too many Councils on no good principle and that the Women caused these Councils to be held. I also told them to look up to their Great Father and every thing would go on Well: But if you mean to make Books and Prayers for yourselves, I will never approve of it or have any thing to do with it.

On the 27th. July 98 - Mr. Stuart was here and we went to Church after Church we assembled in this House by desire of Mr. Stuart who said he would endeavour to make peace and quietness among us - this was about the money, so much has been said about. On hearing what Mr. Stuart said, Capt: Isaac got very angry and I expected he would fall upon me in the House. At this time Laurence

did

did not pay attention to Capt: Isaac with regard to the money which enraged him very much and he said that I put a stop to every thing which could be useful to the poor. I then told Capt: Isaac, I was as good a man as he was, and was ready to settle the business with him directly. You seem to endeavour to do all the mischief you can - if you are a man let us decide the business at once and then there will be peace & quietness, on which Capt: Isaac retired and stood back, this was all in the presence of Mr. Stuart.

Brother- I have always strove to be of the greatest use to the Village little expecting such treatment - it was on that principle I did not wish to have any Liquor sold in the Village as long as I had any influence. After Mr. Stuart had spoke to them some time Capt: Isaac got up and acknowledged he was a bad man and never would repent and that he never would stop the selling of Liquor as long as the Town of Kingston shall last as by that means the place will get rich. Now we see that by Selling of Liquor, a family has been destroyed.

Brother - You have now heard[sic] all I have to say, and you have also heard[sic] all parties, I hope you will fulfill General Hunters wishes.

After Capt: John and his party had withdrawn, the Acting Deputy Superintendant[sic] General spoke as follows -

Brother - We have patiently attended to all that has been said and there appears reason to believe that both parties have been greatly to blame.

You began with accusing Capt: John with receiving 500 Dollars which he did not account for - but you took a most improper method to bring him to account. You should have gone to the King's Officers who have the care of you & justice would have been done you - the method you took was the most improper and calculated to defeat the end. You threatened to Burn his Houses and destroy his Cattle. You

also

also appointed Thomas, the Fidler[sic] a Chief of the Wolfe Tribe - among yourselves that may be. But I was present when the King placed Capt: John here as the Head of the Village and no one but the same authority can displace him -if he had complied with your demands in delivering up the things committed to his charge, he would have deserved to be displaced, but he properly refused it. If an application had been sooner made to the Officers of the department, all the Mischief which has happened might have been prevented: but both parties have been greatly to blame. And until the person who was placed here by the King forfeits the confidence reposed in him, he cannot be displaced by any one. He was put here as the principal person of the Village and must remain so. Altho' the Governor has been pleased to place me at the Head of the Department in this province, yet it is not in my power to displace him; if he acts wrong, all I can do is to report it. I came here as I told you before to endeavour to accommodate your differences. The Great Spirit is looking down on us and sees all your actions and he observes you are only destroying yourselves by your disagreements and quarrels: I therefore ask you whether you are willing to come to an accommodation and live in the manner you formerly did. We have sat patiently and heard every thing both parties had to say; if therefore you now agree to bury every thing that has been said, your minds will be easy and all will be well. I therefore recommend to you again most strongly to agree to an accommodation - You must do so - it is impossible for you to live otherwise. And you must be informed that by a Contrary conduct and you do not agree to this, the Governor will put you aside and have nothing more to say to them who refuse this advice. I shall tell Capt: John the same And I persuade myself that you will consider the propriety of it :and when I know that, I will speak further to you. With regard to the 500 dollars, Capt: John has accounted fairly

for

for the whole but 163 Dollars, and with regard to these same Lands it appears you, Isaac, and Capt: Aaron had received your share before - the 163 dollars remaining, I will see and endeavour what can be done in it, but if recovered it must be divided among the whole Village.

I now only want to know your Sentiments, I am sure it is unnecessary to press it and when you have both agreed, we will endeavour to bind you so together that nothing of this kind shall happen again. I shall exactly repeat the same words to the other party.

After Capt: Claus and the other Gentlemen had retired for some time a Messenger was sent to say that they had agreed on what to say.

Capt: Isaac then said

Brother - You told us that it was not proper to take Capt: Johns Cattle on account of the money, true it was not right and I went down & laid the matter before Sir John Johnson, who answered it was not just and he would endeavour to get us righted, having received no Satisfaction, we wrote down to Sir John the following winter. Capt: John went down about the Same time and we soon afterwards received an answer from Sir John desiring us to remain quiet for that he had not had time to look into the business, but he imagined the Chief part of the money had been spent on the road and in drink. I answered Sir Johns Letter and told him, I would follow his advice and endeavour to keep peace in the Village. I believe as you have said that both parties have been to blame. You also said when you took the Whole matter into Consideration that you would not speak from Your Lips, but from your Heart. It will take us a little time to form a determination on what to do in so good a cause, Sensible the Great Spirit is Looking at us: - We the Turtle, Wolfe and Bear Tribes have consulted among ourselves and have come to a resolution never again to breed any disturbances in the Village, and on now from our hearts, determined that

nothing

nothing hereafter shall be done ,without the Consent of the whole Village: Should any Kind of news arrive among us the Whole shall be assembled and the whole Village made acquainted with it. Should any of us in future hear any bad news, it shall go into one Ear and out at the other, for we will pay no attention to it. Whatever may happen I shall never in future open my mouth to insult any one, if I am sober. We will take the good advice you have been pleased to give us and I hope the like confusion will never happen again among us. You are all here representing the King, and your advice is so good we must follow it, if you had not come we should have remained longer in a bad situation. We have determined on the business and I think the matter well settled and have nothing further to say.

The Acting D^y. Superintend^t. General replied
 Brother - We have been listening to you attentively for 8 days and it gives me great Satisfaction to hear the determination you have come to: You have been in opposite parties all this time, but as I shall hope to meet you tomorrow at noon, I shall rejoice to see you meet in a different manner, when this determination shall be repeated, leaving out that part respecting the money, as enough has been said on that subject already, and nothing shall be said to irritate.

Adjourned till tomorrow noon

9th September

The Council held at Capt: Johns House.

Present as before.

Capt: Claus informed Capt: John & his people ,the same as he had done to Capt: Isaacs party yesterday.

Capt: 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

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 time 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

Capt: 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 Mr. Stuart said too much in Capt: Isaacs favor and it does not appear to me that Mr. Stuarts advice would correspond with the Generals 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 every thing 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^l. Claus always

instructed

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.

- 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 heard[sic] what I have said and the Village will never be in peace until those people who have 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 any thing more can be done these people must be sent out of the place. Now Brother you will take this into consideration. Which do you think, Bro^r. 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 Kings 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 disturbance. Isaac says - he will never be guilty of such conduct again, let him Pay all the Deceased's debts and go thro 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 as Capt: Isaacs party have, as I always give good advice to my people.

You

you see Brother when the white people come among us there is always Mischief and Misunderstanding. Sir W^m. 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 mean time 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: Johns 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 every thing which has passed, to be put under ground. We see clearly you wish us well. 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

for

for their long attendance and attention to this unhappy business.

Adjourned till tomorrow noon
Council House 10th September

Present as before.

The acting Deputy Superintendant[sic] 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 thing 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 Bl: & 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 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[sic] 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

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 say that, I will take him by the hand - if he will do that every thing shall be settled and nothing more said about it. And if he 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 any thing that was just. In 1786 Lord Dorchester said that no white person should stay among us and as you are now here, I wish 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 Superintendant[sic] 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[sic] 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

seem satisfied with the manner in which he understood what I had 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.

Capt: 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 Superintendant[sic] 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 Superintendant[sic] 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 every thing 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 Every thing 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 alternately - 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.

Capt: 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

find no obstacles in your road home, and that you will remember us Kindly to General Hunter. Every thing is now done, I shall therefore ask for the Tomahawk they have of ours (Delivered to Capt: Claus).

The Acting Deputy Superintendant[sic] 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 every thing 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 every thing 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 Superintendant[sic] 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

of wiping away their Tears &^{ca}; and afterwards delivered a Belt of 2000 Wampum and 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 - Every thing is now done, in case any further disturbances happen, we shall acquaint you; and these Young men (pointing to Isaac and Peter Smarts son) will be our Messengers".

Montreal 24th October 1800

A true Copy

John Chew

Sec^y. I. A.

Document: Proceedings of an Indian Council held at the Mohawk Village in the Bay of Quinte... on the differences existing among the Indians of that Village

Date: 2nd to 10th of September 1800

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