

Minutes of 1800 Cont'd

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

Reprinted in this edition of the newsletter is day 4 of the Council Meeting.

Previous days of the council meeting can be found online at www.mbg-tmt.org. If anyone has any questions regarding these minutes please contact Amy Cowie in the Research Department.

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

September 6th:

Present:

The same as before

Captain John in continuation:

After the negro boy 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 Capt. Isaac seeing it, called out "Stop, we have done enough", and Green stopped accordingly. When Laurence's 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 Isaac's son and John Green attacked his Brother, Thomas, and ran a knife through his arm, which not being able to pull out again, Thomas sprung from them with a knife through his arm, but before that a blow was made at him with a Tomahawk by Capt. Isaac's 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, Vizt. 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 Laurence's 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 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 Isaac's daughter heard 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 Laurence's, 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 pointed 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 parson to ring the bell. When she told me the story, I answered, "I am 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 Laurence's 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 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 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. Isaac's 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 anything 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, 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 hollering at Capt. Isaac's as if rejoicing and they continued to keep a guard there. Ever since that time people have always gone armed and never separately but in parties of 2, 3 or more.

A Negro man named Adam Fur was always in Isaac's 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 of 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 Stuart's 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 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. Isaac's 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 Isaac's son, William, appeared and said as follows: That Captain Isaac, Isaac's son-in-law, Ab. Hill and 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 got into any quarrels, don't let us use any edged Tools. He then asked Laurence if he received the message he sent the night before and 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, Laurence's younger son met, and they attacked each

other, but Thomas being stronger 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. William further says when young Laurence, deceased, was running after him, Ab. Hill met young Laurence, and having had a knife put into his hands by Isaac's 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 Laurence's cane and began to beat him about the head. In the mean time, John Green, William's brother-in-law, came up and 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. Laurence's wife then told Capt. Isaac she would take an opportunity of getting satisfaction for what he had done, on which Isaac's 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 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 and Capt. Isaac first met on the 10th June, struck Cap. 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. Hill next appeared and said that having met Isaac's 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 Isaac's 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 and looked on. When Capt. Isaac's 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 younger Laurence, who was killed, run at him with a tomahawk and before he could get up he received 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 broke the handle, he then seized the blade of Laurence's 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 that 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 and warded off the blow.

Hill also says that young Laurence was running after William, Isaac's 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, and 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. Isaac's 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, and he answered, "he had a cane and Capt. Isaac a sword".

Adjourned until Monday morning 10 o'clock.

*Source: Library and Archives Canada RG10 Volume 26 pp. 15307-15354
Microfilm Reel C-11,007*