

# Tyendinaga Info Series

Featuring: **TRISH RAE**, Researcher

**Sessions to return in August 2014.  
WW1 Commemoration—September 22, 2014**

Keep watching for more details!

## **Are you descendants of these men?**

**David Austin Powles, Cornelius Barnhardt** and **Thomas Mungo** were the first three men, who were members of MBQ, to sign up for WW1. We would like to hear from you if you are a descendant of these men or knew of them through family.

We are also looking for pictures and information for our commemoration kick off in September!

Local history information also appears in the newsletter, on MBQ website and on Kanhiote Library website.

**Kanhiote Library 613-967-6264  
MBQ Research 613-967-3616**



# Honouring the Warriors

## Part 2 - The War of 1812 and the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837

After the establishment of the Mohawk community on the Bay of Quinte, the community remained steadfast in their alliance with the British Crown.

### **The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and the War of 1812:**

From a variety of sources, we know that MBQ men fought during the War of 1812. We are not certain of which battles. We have some confirmation about participation in the Niagara area and an action at a place called "Grande Isle" which we now know is the early name for Wolfe Island.

Details are very hard to find and names are hard to confirm. It seems that it was enough to mention Indian participation and not to report the details.

### **About 40-45 MBQ Warriors Were Ready to Serve:**

John Ferguson was with the Indian Department at Kingston. During the War of 1812 he was the man who was supposed to be in charge of the MBQ warriors. He was also married to Magdalene, a daughter of Molly Brant.

We know from a letter by John Ferguson in June 1813 that 45 Mohawks were available. *[Source: LAC RG8-1 p.114 Reel C-2852]*

We know from a letter from the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte to the Commander of the Forces, dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 1814, that about 40 members of MBQ were ready to fight: "We have received a letter from Sir John Johnson in Montreal he tells us that it will not be long before we will have an engagement with our Ennemy[sic] we therefore offer our service to to[sic] join the army if wanted we are about forty in number that is fit for duty we are ready to go to any place that is your request to join any army..." *[Source: LAC RG10 Volume 5 p. 1450 Reek C-10997]*

Records indicate that in 1813 the population of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte was about 197. *[Source: LAC RG10 Volume 28 pp 16619-16620 Reel C-11008]*

There is no doubt the volunteers were eager to serve but their participation in the war was greatly constrained by the actions of John Ferguson.

### **MBQ Warriors Were Not At Sackett's Harbor or Crysler's Farm:**

We know that as a group MBQ warriors were not at the Battle of Crysler's Farm because John Ferguson reported they were not there. From a letter from John Ferguson to Sir John Johnson dated, 28<sup>th</sup> December 1813: "As that while previous to the action at Crysler's, the Mohawks were ordered home, to remain until they would be again called for, which will now be in a few days..." [Source: LAC RG10 Volume 12 pp.10281-10284 Reel C-11001]

We also learn that as a group MBQ warriors were not at Sackett's Harbor from another letter from John Ferguson to Sir John Johnson dated, 14<sup>th</sup> July 1814. In this letter Ferguson quotes a letter from William Claus dated June 1814: "I find a deputation has been down to see Sir John Johnson, from the Bay, with great grievances, and wanting an Interpreter established among them - they complain that you find too much fault with them, that you prevented them going to Sacket's Harbour saying there was no order for their going. Send for Hill and some of the Chiefs and be mild with the fellows, and have the matter settled". [Source: LAC RG10 Volume 29 pp.17097-17104 Reel C-11008]

The MBQ warriors blamed Ferguson for them not being at Sackett's Harbor and Crysler's Farm. They wished to be under another leader. In the letter from the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte to the Commander of the Forces dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 1814: "We have received a letter from Sir John Johnson in Montreal he tells us that it will not be long before we will have an engagement with our Ennemy[sic] ...we ... wish for to have nothing to due[sic] with Mr. John Ferguson as he has knocked us about so much for nothing or to no purpose formerly we have been reportedly sent for and kept in Kingston for fourteen or fifteen days and sometimes for a month to walk about the streets but now we wish to go where we may have a chance to have it Hot at our enemy..." [Source: LAC RG10 Volume 5 p. 1450 Reel C-10997]

### **MBQ Warriors Did Fight in the Niagara Area:**

From the source "Merry Hearts make Light Days" The War of 1812 Journal of Lieutenant John Le Couteur, 104<sup>th</sup> Foot, we learn that Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte served in the "Upper part of the Province" which probably indicates the Niagara area: "7 March 1814

...

On Sunday we went to the Mohawk Church. The Minister or reader was an Indian Chief, the Squaws were on one side and the Indian Men on the other. None looked up as we entered though my Red uniform was enough to attract notice in some Churches that I have entered. The reader has a fine sonorous voice and read very impressively. After having witnessed these men scalping, looting, Yelling and carousing in the Upper Part of the Province, it was very striking and imposing to behold them listening to the Divine truths of Christianity..." [Source: "Merry Hearts Make Light Days" the War of 1812 Journal of Lieutenant John Le Couteur, 104<sup>th</sup> Foot, Edited by Donald E. Graves. Carleton University Press. 1993. p.181]

And in a letter from John Ferguson to Sir John Johnson dated 28<sup>th</sup> December 1813, Ferguson confirmed that a few MBQ men were with the Army at Niagara: "...the few however that were with the Army at Niagara behaved well..." [Source: LAC RG10 Volume 12 pp.10281-10284 Reel C-11001]

### **Other Places Where MBQ Men Participated:**

In that same letter Ferguson states that 9 warriors from MBQ were involved in an action that took place "upon Grande Isle" [Wolfe Island]: "They have been occasionally employed here [Kingston], since the commencement of the War, but never had any opportunity of meeting the Enemy, but once when I had 9 of them upon Grande Isle, where the Americans landed about 60 Men out of a Gun Boat, 26 of whom followed us to a small house, when I desired them to make a stand, and in two minutes after we drove them off, killing One Man. But one only of the nine I had, had ever seen an enemy before, they having all been born since the last war...." [Source: LAC RG10 Volume 12 pp.10281-10284 Reel C-11001]

### **Known Warriors from 1812:**

**Brant Brant** His participation is noted on his headstone.  
Buried at Christ Church  
"Brant Brant, Chief, who died- Mar.14, 1867  
aged 88 yrs., A warrior of the wars of 1812 & 1837"

He was born about 1789 and died 14<sup>th</sup> March 1867 aged 88 years. His wife Margaret was born about 1797 died about 1880.

Although we cannot confirm who his parents were, it is most likely that he was descended from the Brants who were Delawares. These Brants accompanied the Fort Hunter Mohawks on the way from Mohawk Valley to Lachine. They remained associated with the Mohawks at Lachine. They were living at Lachine before the move and came to the Bay of Quinte with the Mohawks in 1784.

Brant Brant was a Chief at the Bay of Quinte for a long time. He signed many documents as Chief starting about 1824. By the 1840s when the community wanted changes to the ways their affairs were managed, Brant Brant was considered one of the "Old Chiefs". He signed documents as Chief into the 1850s.

Brant Brant has a number of descendants among the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte through: his son Powles; his daughter Lydia; his daughter Susannah who married William Maracle Sr – the originator of the Buck Maracle line; his daughter Margaret who married Peter Doreen - the origin of most of the Doreen families; his daughter Catherine; and his son William.

**John Green**

His participation noted in the Draper Manuscripts  
Warrior and Chief. Veteran of 1812.

In 1879, his daughter Margaret stated  
“Her father John Green... He was a chief - went in 1814 for  
defence of Kingston”

*[Source: Draper Manuscripts Vol.13 p. 65 Reel # 17]*

Captain John Green was also a Veteran of the American Revolution. Probably born  
about 1755, he died the 26th June 1841 and was buried the 28th June 1841 [CR].

John Green has a number of descendants among the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.  
He had both legitimate and illegitimate children so tracing descendants is a bit tricky.  
His son-in-law Jacob Moses was a veteran of the War of 1812.

**Joseph Hill Jr.**

His participation was noted in the Deseronto Tribune.

“Mr. Joseph Hill, a survivor of the war of 1812, died on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
inst., he was 85 years of age” *[Deseronto Tribune April 1885]*

“From Jos. Hill, 86 years old - pensioner for services in war  
1812. Born in 1793 son of Joe Hill Sr. & oldest person living at  
Bay settlement, & only pensioner”

*[Draper Manuscripts, Vol. 13, p. 78, Reel # 17]*

“Hill, Joseph Shannonville \$25.00

*[War 1812 petition, LAC RG10 Vol.1956 File 4610 Reel C-11120]*

Joseph Hill Jr. was the son of Joseph Hill Senior *[source: Joe Hill Jr. in Draper]* and Sarah  
Wedine[sp?] as reported in a declaration by his sister Hannah (Hill) Barnhart. *[LAC  
RG10 Vol.3016 File 218,250 C-9666]*

He is listed as receiving a pension for military service in the War of 1812. *[Source: LAC  
RG9, II A4, Volume 4 Reel T-283]*

He was born about 1793 and died the 8th April 1885 *[Obituary in Deseronto Tribune]*  
buried 10<sup>th</sup> April 1885 [CR] at “88yrs”.

There are very few direct descendants for Joseph Hill Jr. His son Isaac had a son  
James who had two daughters: Lila Ruth and Selma Muriel. They are the last known  
descendants.

But Joseph’s sister Hannah Hill married David Barnhart which is one of the original  
Barnhart families here. The descendants of this family are connected to Joseph Hill  
Junior through Hannah.

**John Loft Senior** Details of his participation in the war are not known but John Ferguson who organized MBQ warriors in Kingston during the war and who acted as Agent for them noted John Loft's conduct in letters written years later.  
"I am sorry to find Loft so much altered, after having behaved so well during the War." Letter from Ferguson dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 1819. [LAC RG10 Volume 36 pp. 20800-20802 Reel C-11011]

"and I am sorry to find that John Loft has so much interfered, because I found him, during the late war, to be active and having every wish to promote the intentions of Government..." Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 1819 [LAC RG 10 Volume 36 pp. 20689-20691 Reel C-11011]

John Loft Senior was a brother to Henry Loft and son of David Loft.

Documents indicate that John Loft was not Mohawk. His father David Loft was one of the guides that conducted the Mohawks to Lachine [Draper]; called "Ka-ron-ya-gi-gowe", or The Big Clear Sky. He traded names with David Loft during the American Revolution. He has been called a St. Francis Indian and Peter John wrote that he was a Stockbridge Indian. His wife was the daughter of Dutch parents. [Source: LAC RG10 Vol. 3 pp. 1041-4 Reel C-10,996]

He was probably born before 1790 and died 31st July 1840 ("drowned"). He was buried 2nd Aug. 1840. [CR]

He lived with Catherine Hill. Catherine Hill was the daughter of Captain Isaac & Lydia (John) Hill. She was born about 1775 and died before 23rd January 1827 when John married Christiana Green. [St. Thomas CR][married at Mohawk Church]

There are numerous descendants of John Loft Senior including: Dr. Oronhyatekha; Descendants of Seth Powless Jr.; Descendants of Jacob Brant; Descendants of Kathleen Mavis Maracle; Descendants of Marjorie Maracle; Descendants of Harold Franklin & Lawrence Douglas Maracle; Descendants of Arthur Brant (aka Joker Brant); Descendants of James Maracle (aka Fiddler Jim); Descendants of David Joe Brant; Descendants of Lilly Catherine Green; Descendants of Meta Winnifred Claus; Descendants of Arthur Claus and his son Stafford Claus; Descendants of John Claus Jr; Descendants of Priscilla Hill; Descendants of Donald Leslie Claus; Descendants of Newton Alfred Loft; Descendants of Dora Beatrice Loft; Descendants of Clara Annie Loft; Descendants of Solomon Loft; Descendants of Christine Loft; Descendants of Joseph S. Brant; Descendants of David Seth Brant; Descendants of Johnson Brant and his sister Annie May Brant; Descendants of Amos Brant; Descendants of Bertha Brant; Descendants of Elizabeth Brant; and others

**Jacob Moses Sr.** His participation is noted in archival files  
He applied for and received in 1877 a pension for his service  
in war of 1812. Buried at Christ Church in September 1877.

Wrote to the government for a pension in February 1877:  
“I have written to Department twice before about my  
salary[?] on duty and gard[sic] for the Province  
of Ontario – now – in 1812 I was under sirvis[sic] for my  
flag union forever. I therefore ask you about my pension  
I was promised to draw from...” [LAC RG10, Volume 2004 File 7692  
Reel C-11132]

His claim for a pension was accepted in a letter dated  
April 1877: “I have the honor to transmit herewith affidavits  
respecting Jacob Moses services as militiaman in War of 1812-  
1815 and to request that the same may brought under the  
consideration of the Department of Militia & Defence, in order  
that Moses may received any benefits to which he may be  
entitled. Although the evidence is not exactly in accordance  
with the printed forms issued by the Department of Militia &  
Defence, I think there is no doubt that Moses actually served.”  
[LAC RG10, Volume 2004 File 7692 Reel C-11132]

His wife wrote a letter on his behalf in July 1877 asking why the  
pension had not yet come and stating Jacob served as a boy of 14  
years of age: “Why not Jacob Moses draw his pension for his  
service in 1812 he was 14 years old then and now he is now 78  
years old” [LAC RG10, Volume 2004 File 7692 Reel C-11132]

Jacob is also named in a letter from Sampson Green which  
gives the name of all the surviving men who served in the War  
of 1812. [LAC RG10 Vol. 1956 File 4610 Reel C-11120]

Jacob Moses Senior also known as Jacob Sero

He was born about 1797. He died 21<sup>st</sup> September 1877 [Headstone at Christ Church]  
and was buried September 1877. [CR] He married Margaret Green, illegitimate  
daughter of Chief John Green.

There are a great number of known descendants of Jacob Moses Sr. including those  
from his son Jacob (daughter Elizabeth who married Josiah Brant; son Sylvester  
Moses; daughter Julia who married Henry Smart; son Benjamin Moses; daughter  
Mary who married Frank Brant; daughter Alice who married Robert Smart).

There are a number of descendants through his son Peter (daughter Charlotte who  
married Cornelius Maracle Jr.; daughter Anna who married R. J. Barnhart; daughter  
Catherine who married Wellington Jaynes).

There are a number of descendants through his daughter Hannah who married John  
G. Culbertson.

**Seth Powles**

His participation was noted in an archival file (letter from Sampson Green. *[LAC RG10 Vol. 1956 File 4610 Reel C-11120]*)

Seth Powless was born about 1790 and died 28th May 1877 due to "Heart Disease" [AO] He was buried 30th May 1877 [CR]  
He married Elizabeth Hill/Loft, an illegitimate daughter of Catherine Hill & John Loft Sr.

There are descendants of Seth Powles. They are far flung but include the descendants of the late Tom Powless; descendants of Frank Smith who married Lydia Maracle; descendants of Jacob Brant (through his second wife Margaret Smith); descendants of other children of Seth's daughter Susannah.

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It is more than likely that there were other men who served during the War of 1812, but their participation was not properly recorded.

## **The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837:**

In the 1830s in Upper and Lower Canada there was a movement for more responsible government and democratic representation. Some of the supporters of the rebellion were seen as having American sympathies, supporting “republicanism” in Canada and disloyal to the Crown.

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, who remained wary of American ways, were again ready to fight in support of the Crown.

### **40-60 Warriors Ready to Serve:**

In a document dated December 1837, there is a list of 37 names of those volunteering “for the protection of Government” led by John W. Hill:

Alexanter Loft	[Alexander Loft]
Dammis Loft	[Thomas Loft?]
John Brant	
Jacap Petersen	[Jacob Peterson]
Abraham Cerow	[Abraham Sero]
Tenis Cerow	[Dennis Sero]
Moses Cerow Junr	[Moses Sero Jr.]
Brant Brant	
Francis Markel	[Francis Maracle]
Lurlecs[?] Markel	[Lawrence Maracle?]
Tavit Crawes[?]	[David Claus]
Abraham Brant	
Seth Hill	
Wm. I. Hill	
John Craford	[John Crawford]
John Marakle	[John Maracle]
Isaac Hill	
William Marakle	[William Maracle]
Thomis Green	[Thomas Green]
John Green	
John Green juner	John Green Jr.
Taniel Green	[Daniel Green]
Petter Green	[Peter Green]
John Green	
John Loft	
James Cerow	[James Sero]
Moses Cerow	[Moses Sero]
Hanaly[?] Markel	[Henry Maracle]
John Marakle	[John Maracle]
Abraham Marakle junr	[Abraham Maracle Jr]
Joseph W Hill	
Seth Brant	
David Crawfort	[David Crawford]
Joseph Crawfort	[Joseph Crawford]

Thamis Claus junr                    [Thomas Claus Jr]  
George Loft  
Joseph Smart Junr  
[Source: LAC RG10 Volume 67 pp.64198-64201 Reel C-11023]

And 12 additional names are found on another document dated from about the same time:

Laurence Loft  
Joseph Claus  
David Loft  
Brant Brant Junr  
Isaac Green  
John S. Marcle  
John Marcle Junr  
Abram Strong                    [could be Abraham Brant listed above]  
John Strong                    [could be John Brant listed above]  
Thos. Claus  
John D. Hill  
Henry Loft  
[Source: LAC RG10 Volume 67 pp.64198-64201 Reel C-11023]

It is reported that John Culbertson also served as a volunteer in a letter from Manahan to Fitzgibbon dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 1837. [Source: LAC RG5, Volume 9 No. 1176 pp 4949-4951]

In a letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 1837, William Portt, a local man known to the Mohawks & a captain in the local militia, wrote "I have placed myself at the head of sixty excellent warriors of the Mohawks who are ready to march to any part of the Province when His Excellency may order." [Source: LAC, RG5, C 1, Vol. 9 pp.5322, 5328 Reel C-13,552]

A report from Lieutenant-Colonel Richard H. Bonnycastle dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 1838 reported "1 Indian leader, 3 chiefs, 92 warriors" as part of the volunteer forces at Kingston. [Source: *CANADA AS IT WAS, IS, AND MAY BE* by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Richard H. Bonnycastle, Royal Engineer in Two Volumes London: Colburn and Co., Publishers, 1852. Volume 1 pp. 314-5]

In 1837 the population of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte was reported to be 337. [LAC RG10 Volume 67 pp 64080-64081 Reel C-11023]

### **Bonnycastle's Recollection:**

In his book, Bonnycastle gives the following dramatic recollection of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte during the Upper Canada Rebellion:

"And let me turn to the brave warriors of the Indian woods, - those Mohawks, who, when the United States was a British Colony, lived in the happy valley of the Mohawk River...

They followed Captain John, their war-leader, and received from the King a grant of a large township in the Midland District of Upper Canada; in which they have ever since dwelt. ..

...  
These unsophisticated forest-rangers, as soon as they heard that their enemies threatened once more the British dominion, harnessed their little wagons, and leaving only the women and children, the feeble and the aged of their tribe, drove into Kingston, ninety in number, with the old Union Jack proudly floating over them, to offer their services to me.

I was delighted, but not surprised; Indian gratitude was no stranger to my feelings, and as soon as I saw the venerable chiefs and the young athletic warriors halt opposite my house, I summoned them to council...

...  
The scene was an interesting one. .. a circle of these red men squatted on their hams, passing the pipe of peace and fellowship, and in the quiet sententious manner of the Indian they, after the usual and indispensable ceremonies which filled the room with tobacco-smoke, but not with noise or clamour, declared one and all that they were ready to die for their great mother the Queen...

...  
We put them into barracks and supplied them daily with food, and apportioned their duties... the services they rendered were important, and they were amply repaid when all was over, by a few yards of cotton, a few silk handkerchiefs and ribbon of gaudy colours for their wives and daughters, with a good rifle of two for the chiefs, some tobacco and powder for the hunters and warriors, and a few pipes.

They were urged to accept the usual pay of Militia; but chief and warrior alike rejected the proffered boon. "We came to fight for our mother across the Great [p.106] Lake: we want not to be paid. If she thinks well of us, good!" And so they returned to their simple forest homes...[Source: *CANADA AS IT WAS, IS, AND MAY BE* by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Richard H. Bonnycastle, Royal Engineer in Two Volumes London: Colburn and Co., Publishers, 1852. Volume 2 pp. 104-6]

### **Known Warriors from Upper Canada Rebellion 1837:**

**Brant Brant** Buried at Christ Church  
Head stone reads:  
"Brant Brant, Chief, who died- Mar.14, 1867 aged 88 yrs.,  
A warrior of the wars of 1812 & 1837"

(For descendants see above under War of 1812)

**John S. Brant** He was shot in the leg during the conflict. He applied for a pension but was told there were no pensions for veterans of actions during the Rebellion. [Source: LAC RG10 Vol. 2434 File 89,633 Reel C-11220 file dated 1888]

**John John**

“John John, the oldest Orangeman on the Reserve, nearly 90 years of age, attended the services at All Saints Church on Sunday last. He is a veteran of 1837 having done duty at Kingston and Gananoque”. [*Deseronto Tribune November 10<sup>th</sup> 1893*]

**Old John Green**

A veteran of the American Revolution and the War of 1812, was a very old man at the outbreak of the Rebellion in 1837. Yet, his daughter Margaret (Green) Moses reported: “In the outbreak of 1837, he shouldered his gun, was resolved to go and help repel the invaders, & was scarcely persuaded to remain at home.” [*Source: The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Vol. 13 p. 79 Reel # 17*]

(For descendants see above under War of 1812)

**John S. Brant**

He was the son of Jacob & Rachel Strong. The parents were also known as Jacob & Rachel Brant. The initial “S” most likely stands for “Strong”. He was born about 1812 and died in 1892. John S. Brant had children with Mary Loft and Margaret Loft.

There are many descendants of John S. Brant through: his son Jacob Brant; his son Joseph Powless Brant; his daughter Catherine; and his daughter Sarah.

**John John**

He was the son of Old William & Catherine John. Old William John was a descendant of Captain John Deserontyon.

John John was born about 1809 and baptised in December 1809 as “Johnny, son of William and Katreen Desarontian Mohawk Village” [OHS]. He died the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1899 of “old age” [AO] and was buried the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1899.

There are many descendants of John John through: his son Charles; his daughter Catherine who married Michael Brant; his son Joseph.

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**Other Noted Leaders:**

**John W. Hill**

He was the son of William Isaac & Nancy (Crawford) Hill and a grandson of Captain Isaac Hill. He was born about 1803 and died in 1858 [HSCS-AS].

He married Catherine Brant (granddaughter of Captain John Deserontyon).

There are numerous descendants.

## **John Culbertson**

He was the son of Margaret John and John Culbertson Sr. He was the grandson of Captain John Deserontyon. He was born about 1801 and died about 1854.

He married Sarah Bowen and had several children.

There are a number of descendants.

### **Attachment and Fidelity:**

The first section of The Simcoe Deed refers to the “Attachment and Fidelity” of the Six Nations to the Crown and how that attachment and fidelity “have been made manifest or divers occasions” by “spirited and zealous exertions and by the bravery of their conduct”. [*Source: LAC RG10 Volume 1850 IT 006 Indian Affairs*]

It was true of the Fort Hunter Mohawks and later the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.

Through the times before the American Revolution, through the Revolution, through the War of 1812 and the Upper Canada Rebellion, that attachment and fidelity remained.

And in 1914, at the start of what would be World War One, Mohawks of the Bay the Quinte, yet again, stood ready to honour the deep relationship with the Crown.

Next month, we will continue our series honouring the warriors of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte with World War One. We will honour those who served and although they returned home, their deaths were directly related to their war service.