

# Tyendinaga Info Series

Featuring: **TRISH RAE**, Researcher

Sessions to return in August 2014.  
Keep watching!

## Thank you!

The past year of info sessions and newsletter inserts have been well received by the community and beyond. We appreciate the support and have plans for more sessions and events in the future.

We want to provide information and material of interest to the community. Please let us know if there are topics of special interest to you!

**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 1 – Up To the American Revolution

As we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War One, we wish to honour the warriors in a broader time span. This month we will feature information on warriors leading up to the American Revolution.

Warfare was an essential part of Haudenosaunee life, as essential as diplomacy and the making of peace. The Mohawk Nation as, “Keeper of the Eastern Door”, is responsible for keeping watch on what happened at the eastern border. They were the first defenders in that direction and as such were always to be vigilant.

The tradition of Mohawk men involved in warfare goes deep into history. We do not have exhaustive sources but we have some sources to illustrate the military service of Fort Hunter warriors and their close associates in times before the move to the Bay of Quinte.

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### **Captain John Deserontyon**

#### **Yo-de-se-ron-tyon - “the lightning has struck”**

*[Source: The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p.136 Reel 17]*

According to a statement by Captain John in 1809, his military service began while he was “a young boy.” In 1759 he was with Sir William Johnson (Superintendent of Indian Affairs) at the siege of Fort Niagara. In 1760, he took part in the attack on Montreal by the forces under Major-General Amherst. In 1764 he was active during the time of Pontiac’s uprising.

*[Source: “Remarks of Capt. John Deserontyon’s Services To the King of Great Britain, &c, &c”, dated Niagara 1809. The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume14 pp. 49(1) – 49(5) Reel 17]*

By 1774 he was using the title ‘Captain’ as did many other Mohawk leaders including Joseph Brant, Isaac Hill and Aaron Hill.

*[Source: Emerging from the Shadows: The Life of Captain John (Deserontyou). Circa 1742-1811. Founder of the Bay of Quinte Mohawk Village, by K. Shelley Price-Jones, M.A. Thesis. 1993. Department of History, Queen's University. Kingston, Ontario, Canada]*

According to John Butler (Indian Department official and army officer), the title of Captain was because they acted as Captains in the Indian Department and not due to any commission.

*[Source: John Butler on behalf of John Deserontyon, Isaac and Aaron Hill to Lieut. Gov. John Graves Simcoe, March 30, 1793, Newark. Letter reproduced in E. A. Cruikshank (ed), The Correspondence of Lieut. Governor John Graves Simcoe, With Allied Documents Relating to the Administration of the Government of Upper Canada, 5 vols., (Toronto: The Ontario Historical Society, 1923), Vol.1, 307]*

The Indian Department at this time was under military command. After the American Revolution and until the time of his death in 1811, Captain John did receive an annual military pension of £45.

*[Source: LAC RG10 Volume 27 pp. 16218-9 Reel C-11007]*

Although it was the formal decision of the Confederacy to remain neutral in the war between the British and the Americans, many of the Mohawk Nation took up the hatchet to fight for the British. Captain John was one of these men.

During the American Revolution, Captain John was involved in numerous military actions. He was involved in the siege of Fort Stanwix and the Battle of Oriskany where he fought alongside other allies of the British including Senecas and Mississaugas. Captain John also led scouting parties, took prisoners, collected and provided intelligence, and executed raids.

Captain John was wounded on more than one occasion during his military service. In his journal, Captain John Norton described an incident which led to a wounding of Captain John. In 1777 when the British under Colonel St. Leger and their allies were to retreat from Fort Stanwix, Captain John was not “willing to leave in haste such good fare as was on Col: St. Leger’s Table” and he “remained with his comrade regaling themselves, until they were surprised by a Party of Americans... a Discharge of Musquetry[sic] brought Deserontyou to the Ground”. After the Americans withdrew, Captain John was carried away by his comrade. He had been shot and his shoulder was broken “but the Vital Parts were untouched”.

*[Source: The Journal of Major John Norton, Carl F. Klink & James J. Talman, (eds), (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1970), p. 274]*

In September 1777 the American forces attacked the Fort Hunter Mohawk community. Most were forced to flee the Mohawk Valley. According to the descendants of those who fled, Captain John helped to guard the women and children in the rear of the convoy.

*[Source: The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 67 Reel 17]*

Eventually the Fort Hunter Mohawks and others settled at Lachine, remaining there for about seven years. While Captain John and other men of the community continued to fight in the American Revolution, the women, children and older men suffered under difficult circumstances in Lachine.

When the hostilities finally ended, Captain John remained steadfast to the cause. In a letter from January 1784, Captain John wrote to Daniel Claus about what the cessation of the war meant to his people: "We have been thinking for a long time, ever since you said that peace was restored, and our minds, then and even now, were in pain because we have been kept living under a shadow... There is another matter remaining that our King should disentangle. We are amazed and taken by surprise, at his taking away weapons of war from his men...we say our minds are in pain... We do not think they have beaten us, our minds are still strong and determined to carry on the war. The disgrace is almost killing us... We warriors have steadfastly set our minds to fight to the end; we are joined with the King, but you can withdraw if you like..."

*[Source: Claus Papers LAC Claus Papers MG19 F1 in Mohawk see Vol. 4 p. 3 Reel C-1478. Translation see Vol. 24 p.15 Reel C-1485]*

In 1785 Captain John wrote about his decision to stay at the Bay of Quinte and being loyal to the Crown: "...as for us we are determined to stay here where we are now; we care not if it will be the means of our poverty, the being true loyalists, and being steady for the King... but see we have left every thing that we possessed in our country, however we do not care for all our possessions & estates, we only want to be true & faithful, as our fore fathers have been.

*[Source: The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 20 pp. 52-52-2 Reel 19]*

Captain John said of his service during the American Revolution "I never remained quiet during the last American war – always fought for the King and Country, and throwed [sic] down great many that hated him. There is Sir John Johnson and Mr. Stuart can prove of the whole of my service."

*[Source: "Remarks of Capt. John Deserontyon's Services To the King of Great Britain, &c, &c", dated Niagara 1809. The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 14 pp. 49(1) – 49(5) Reel 17]*

Captain John was granted land (as others who served in the military were) in the Rawdon area and had a pension. When he died in 1811, William Claus wrote: "Captain John Deserontyn, a Mohawk Chief, who received a Pension of £45 pr[sic] annum for past services, died on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1811, which you will report to His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Gore, and I beg to recommend to His Excellency, notice the Widow of the above Chief, who merits any kindness from the Government from the faithful services of her late husband, which I take the liberty to mention as they are well known to me.

*[Source: LAC RG10 Vol. 27 pp. 16218-9 Reel C-11007]*

According to Chief Thomas Green, Captain John was “buried with the honors of war – his medal, & other trappings being placed on his coffin during the funeral procession.

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 67 Reel 17*]

### **Old John Green**

According to his daughter, Margaret Green Moses, John Green “first went upon the war path at fourteen; was much under Sir Wm. Johnson”.

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 65 Reel 17*]

Margaret also reported that during the American Revolution, John Green served under Captain John “and was a great warrior”.

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 79 Reel 17*]

In the move to Lachine, John Green was among “the braves in the rear guarding the women and children.

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 66 Reel 17*]

Old John Green died the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1841 and was buried on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1841. The notation in his burial record says “John Green who took part and was wounded in the Revolutionary Struggle”.

[Source: *Tyendinaga Parish Church Records*]

### **Captain Isaac Hill**

**Anoghsookte, Aknosotah or Ak-no-so-tak - meaning “to the end of the house”**

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 86 Reel 17*]

Along with Captain John Deserontyon, Captain Isaac Hill also took part in war parties during the American Revolution.

[Source: *Barbara Graymont, The Iroquois in the American Revolution, (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1972. p. 254)*]

According to his grand-daughter Lydia Loft Martin, he was wounded during the war. He was granted land in the Cobourg area and drew a pension, although we currently do not know the exact location or how much his pension was.

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 36 Reel 17*]

According to his grandson, Seth W. Hill, one of Captain Isaac Hill's brothers was killed during the American Revolution.

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 87 Reel 17*]

### **Captain Aaron Hill**

#### **Kanonraron**

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 14 p. 41 Reel 17*]

He was a relation of Captain Isaac Hill. He was active in the American Revolution in many roles including translator. For a time, just after the end of the American Revolution, he was held hostage at Fort Stanwix by Americans.

[Source: *Barbara Graymont, The Iroquois in the American Revolution, (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1972. p. 282)*]

### **Joseph Hill Senior**

According to his son, Joseph Hill Jr, Joseph Senior "was all through the Revolutionary war, & under Brant".

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 78 Reel 17*]

### **David Loft**

#### **Ka-ron-ya-gi-gowe - meaning "The Big Clear Sky"**

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p.48 Reel 17*]

David Loft was the father of John and Henry Loft. His grandson, George Rokwaho Loft, reported that David Loft was a St. Francis Indian who "was the pilot sent to conduct the Mohawks from the Mohawk Valley to Lachine... He served till the end of the war".

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 p. 48 Reel 17*]

### **Peter Brant and Brant Brant**

These brothers were actually Delaware but were both involved in the American Revolution. The descendants of Peter Brant were recognized as MBQ. Peter Brant, according to Ann Brant Penn, his daughter, was wounded in a battle, his brother carried him away and Peter was wounded again in the same leg while being carried. The wound never fully healed. Peter had a small pension and died about 1815.

[Source: *The Draper Manuscript Collection, Joseph Brandt Papers, Series F, Volume 13 pp. 76-7 Reel 17*]

**Our Warriors:**

We do not have sources to describe all the military service by Fort Hunter warriors and their close associates. But we take this opportunity to acknowledge them all, to show our respect for them and the sacrifices they made no matter the role they played in times of conflict.

Next month we will provide information about military service by Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte in the War of 1812 and also during the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837.

# World War One

2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WW1. Members of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte continued to support the British as a military ally by signing up to fight in this war. This year we want to commemorate the actions of our heroic members and the start of The Great War as a beginning of recognition and remembrance over the next four years. We have been working on collecting documents and information from the Library & Archives Canada and other sources to help us identify members who were involved.

Below is a list of names that we have so far. We ask the community to help us ensure that we have not missed anyone. Please review the list and contact us if there is an error or omission.

[amyc@mbq-tmt.org](mailto:amyc@mbq-tmt.org) or 613-967-3616

Bannister, James Albert	Brant, William [served as William Sero]	Maracle, George Mark [served as George Mark Hill]
Bardy, Alexander	Claus, Ira Alfred	Maracle, Goldie
Bardy, Frank	Claus, Stafford	Maracle, Isaac
Bardy, James	Clause, Ambrose	Maracle, Jacob
Bardy, Louis Sherman	Clause, Huron	Maracle, John H.
Barnhart, Con [Cornelius]	Corby, Harry	Maracle, Mark
Barnhardt, Harry D.	Corby, Jake	Maracle, Nelson
Barnhardt, Harry F.	Corby, Joseph	Maracle, Peter William
Barnhardt, Isaac [served as Isaac McDonald]	Corby, Matthew	Maracle, Philip
Barnhardt, James Nelson	Corby, Samuel	Maracle, Solomon
Barnhardt, Peter	Crawford, Cecil Ernest	Maracle, Wesley
Barnhardt, William Henry	Crawford, Percy Overton	Maracle, Wheeler
Bernhardt, David Stanley	Culbertson, John Alexander	Maracle, William Edward
Bernhardt, Joseph Edward	Doreen, William	Maricle, Joseph
Bernhardt, Marvel	Fuller, Bertram	Miller, Norman Albert
Galveston	Green, Austin	Mungo, Thomas
Bernhart, Jacob	Green, David	Penn, Joseph
Bey, Alexander	Green, Jacob	Pinn, William
Brant, Alfred A.	Green, Jake	Powles, David Austin
Brant, Brant	Green, Jonas	Powles, Joab Walter
Brant, Burton	Green, Sampson	Powless, Charles David
Brant, Burget	Greene, Milton	Powless, David J.
Brant, Charles Arthur	Hill, John	Powless, Harold
Brant, Charles Clinton	Hill, Joseph Bernard	Powless, Harold Dean
Brant, Ernest Russell	Hill, Thomas	Powless, Hughie Norval
Brant, George	Hill, Thomas [served as Thomas Brant]	Powless, Isaac
Brant, Hugh	Jaynes, Daniel	Powless, Peter
Brant, Matthew	Johns, Orval	Sero, Reuben
Brant, Philip	Loft, Andrew	Smart, George Leo
Brant, Randall	Maracle, Anthony	Smart, Harold
Brant, Richard	Maracle, John (Charlie)	Smart, Joseph Laheed
Brant, Wilbert	Maracle, Clarence	Smart, Joseph William
Brant, Wilbert		Williams, George