



BHS Quarterly



Brant Historical Society 1999 ISSN 1201-4028

Celebrating Ninety - One Years of Preserving Local History

Season's Greetings



***A Seasonal greeting from Christmas past
Brant County Museum and Archive Collection***

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President's Reflections

The year has certainly passed quickly. It's 17 degrees Celsius outside today and hard to come to grips with the fact that we are only about a month away from Christmas. What to get for Christmas presents?

Looking back over the year, there are a number of high points which I will fondly remember.

We had a wonderful volunteers' recognition day at Westfield Village that was made all the more interesting because our tour guide, Glenn Kilmer, was one of its founders. The weather was perfect for our long promised outing along the Grand River. The running commentary by one of the experts in the history of the navigation era, Bruce Hill made

the trip particularly worthwhile. The new staff have settled into the museum program. The Harrison Scheak "ex libris" and "Age of Chivalry" displays are a good example of the quality of work that we can expect next year. Of course, the monthly lecture program series has gone well, but the evening with James Hillier was a stand out.

The Society and BCMA have a number of challenges to face in the upcoming year and new millenium. The greatest challenge will be maintaining and improving the quality of the work we do under greater financial restraints from our funding partners.

This brings me full circle to the opening question - what to get for Christmas. Instead of the

box of chocolates you inevitably send, consider some gifts that are unique and would support the Society and BCMA at the same time. Some books from the gift shop? BHS memberships and a day at the museum for stocking stuffers? Why not! You might actually raise a friend's awareness of our heritage instead of their cholesterol level.

Robert Glass

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The Millennium - Year 2000 - Y2K and All That

By Ruth Lefler

Think back a millennium ago. In Europe, the Middle Ages were slowly rising out of the ruins of the Roman Empire and the Dark Ages. New political and economic institutions, which were tied closely to the church, were developing. The church grew in numbers and in strength.

In what is now Southern Ontario, virgin forests, pure clean lakes, streams and rivers covered the area. The First Nations People came seasonally, primarily to hunt and fish.

The time line moves along through 900 years of development. In 1900 the Brownie Camera, manufactured by Kodak, entered the photographic world. The paper clip was also invented in this year to help keep the paper world more organized.

Locally, settlements by both First Nations and Europeans

had taken place and villages, towns and cities had been established. Brantford was known as the "Telephone City" and it was third in importance among the exporting cities in Canada. It was the 13th largest city in Canada with a population of 16,685. There were 61 miles of public streets, 12 miles of cement sidewalks and 15 1/2 miles of street sewers.

Mr. Harry Cockshutt, Mayor, was assisted by 15 aldermen - R.E. Ryerson, S. Suddaby, A.G. Montgomery, R. Hall, J. Kerr, R. Middlemiss, R. Waddington, A.L. Baird, B.J. Wade, S.F. Witham, W. Glover, J. Muir, D.B. Wood, J.A. Leitch and A. Weir.

Public Transportation was provided by the Brantford Street Railway Company. In 1900 the railway was electrically operated. Eight miles of track served the citizens in taking them to and from work, shopping and to Mohawk Park

for a day's outing.

Railroads provided an excellent way of getting goods, products and passengers in and out of Brantford. The Grand Trunk Railway, which carried two thirds of the trade to and from Brantford, The Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway (T.H. & B.) and the Lake Erie and Northern Electric Railway (L.E. & N.) were key to the area.

The Brantford Board of Trade was organized in 1866 to help expand the trade of the city. In 1900, when Mayor J.S. Hamilton was president, there were 45 manufacturing establishments in the city with agricultural implements and machinery in the lead. There were 3,896 people employed in the factories. One of the advertisements for Brantford stated that the working man could own his own home. Throughout the city many "Brantford" cottages can be

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BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
57 Charlotte Street, Brantford, Ontario
(519) 752-2483

Admission:

Adults - \$2.00 Seniors/Students - \$1.50
Children - \$1.25 Under 6 - Free

BHS members - Free

**Hours: Wednesday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm,
Saturday 1 to 4 Open Holiday Mondays**

THE MUSEUM IN THE SQUARE
(A Satellite of the B.C.M.A.)

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**Hours: Monday to Friday 10 am to 6:00 pm,
Saturday 10 am to 5:30 pm**

The Tuscarora Township Squatters

By Roger Sharpe

(PART ONE)

The story of the Six Nations people having been granted land along the Grand River is very familiar for most people of Brant County. The story of how the Six Nations, through the years, divested themselves of large tracts, and individual lots, is also familiar but the struggle to remove and discourage the encroachment of squatters on the Tuscarora Township Reserve is a story that has not been fully told. It is the story about some settlers who had resided for years on land in Tuscarora Township, improving their farms, only to be told that Tuscarora was being made a Reserve where only aboriginal people could have land. It is also about squatters who tried to take advantage of the naiveté of some aboriginal people's understanding of the nature of land ownership and about others who obstinately refused to leave the Tuscarora Township Reserve. Swarms of land-hungry settlers were moving westward during the 1830's and 1840's and, because of this, the Six Nations were having difficulties with squatters. A squatter was someone who settled on land to which he had no title. This practice threatened to leave the Six Nations people scattered among white settlers in isolated settlements. The settlers were coming into the fertile Grand

River Valley, marking out lots, then settling on them even though it was known to be Indian land. From documents, it seems that the squatters were, in some cases, being encouraged by local aboriginal people and the Indian Department, while at other times they were discouraged from squatting. The report of the Chief Superintendent of the Indian Department, Samuel P. Jarvis, described the problem as, "The intrusion upon, and occupation of these lands, so frequently complained of by the Indians, are in many instances of so long a standing, and the interposition of Government on their behalf has hitherto been so tardy and ineffectual that I really believe that both the Intruders and the Indians doubt the will, as well as the ability of the Government to grant redress. To remove these people in a body from the lands which they occupy would be to inflict absolute ruin upon many hundreds industrious inhabitants. From information which I have received, I am persuaded that a great many have been induced by persons in the employment of Government to settle upon Indian lands, and have held out to them the prospect, that at no distant day the lands thus acquired would be confirmed by Patent under the Great Seal of

the province. The evil has now reached to such an extent that unless some prompt and energetic measures are adopted and enforced by Government, the Indians must soon be deprived of the best portions of their inheritance... As the condition of these lands has arisen partly from the imbecility and the neglect of the Government in not protecting the interest of the Indians, a medium course should be pursued." In the beginning this did not seem to be much of a problem. White settlers it was believed would help aboriginal farmers improve their agricultural skills by providing a good example. When the masses of settlers began coming it seemed like control of the squatter problem was being lost. Along with the occupation of their land, the Six Nations complained that squatters were opening numerous roads through the virgin tract without their permission. The squatters complained that the lack of roads was an obstacle to the settlement and improvement of the surrounding country because it created difficulties trying to move in or through the Grand River Tract. Settlers in other areas were subject to laws requiring them to maintain roads through the area they occupied.

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seen as a reminder of this prosperous time.

With 6 workmen, the Cockshutt Plow Co. began its operations in 1878. By 1900, the factory covered 3 acres on Mohawk Street and from 1895 to 1901, business had increased four times over. Their farm implements were shipped world wide.

The Waterous Engine Works Co., that stood across from the present day Civic Centre on Market Street, was built in 1895. Four hundred men were employed manufacturing engines, boilers, saw-mill machinery, road rollers, rock crushers, fire engines and pulp making machinery. The first pumping engine used at the Brantford Waterworks was manufactured in the Waterous plant.

Many people in Brantford have collected the paper covered wooden box which once contained Lily White Gloss Starch manufactured by the Brantford Starch Company on Canal Road. The company, employing 45 people, manufactured a variety of starches for domestic and commercial use.

At Colborne and Bain Streets, in 1888, D.B. and W.B. Wood established the Brant Roller Mills. Two hundred barrels of flour, from wheat grown on local farms, was turned out from this



GRAND TRUNK STATION

3 storey building. Brands such as Golden Crown, Five Seals, and Veteran were shipped throughout Canada and Great Britain.

Many tales from 1900 are told about Friday and Saturday nights in downtown Brantford. On each Saturday, local farmers brought their produce to the Market Square while local citizens patronized the farmers. Both groups did their other shopping in the stores around the Square.

The Turnbull, Howard and Co. hardware store was located at the corner of King and Colborne Streets. It sold a variety of hardware, house furnishings and

the Happy Thought Stove which was manufactured by Wm. Buck Stove Co. of Brantford.

At 144 Colborne Street, Grafton and Co. operated a men's clothing store. Their specialty was carrying attractive, high-grade, union-made clothing.

Coles Brothers operated a fine shoe store for both ladies and gentlemen at 122 Colborne Street. On the second floor they carried valises and trunks.

Sutherland's store, across from the Market Square on Colborne Street, carried fine china, figurines, clocks, lamps, and leather goods on the first floor. A

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The Indian land was not subject to these laws and this created the problem which some squatters tried to solve by creating their own roads. The Six Nations also complained that, "They frequently open small grocery shops, or stores, where spurious liquors are sold to the Indians, and that the Indians will not only buy some, but will part with their clothes, presents, guns etc. to procure it." Alcohol was a continual problem which the government tried numerous times to control through Acts outlawing this practice. In 1801 it was made illegal, in 1835 a fine of 5 pounds was imposed and in 1840 it was increased to 20 pounds. It was problems like these that were forcing the Six Nations and the Government to deal decisively with squatters. When it was decided to have a Reserve exclusively for members of the Six Nations another problem developed. No matter where the Six Nations chose, there were white settlers squatting. If an area was to be given solely to the Six Nations, some squatters would have to give up their land. The Six Nations chose the area, now called Tuscarora Township, south of the upper Grand River Valley for their reserved land. When the time came to clear the land for the Indians, the authorities had a very difficult time removing settlers, some of whom, it was said, had spent eight to ten years developing their farms. This unfortunate

situation would have inevitably led to one squatter on the Tuscarora side of the township line having to leave while his neighbour, squatting on the Brantford side of the township line, was allowed to keep his land. The apparent inequity was overshadowed by the aboriginal people's right to control their own land. On May 11, 1830, the Government passed the Act 2 Vic. Ch. 15, "An Act for the Protection of the Lands of the Crown in this Province From Trespass and Injury." It allowed the Lieutenant Governor to appoint Commissioners to receive information and inquire into complaints made to them against persons illegally taking possession of Indian land. Such a person would be told to leave within 30 days. If this was not complied with, the Commissioners could issue a warrant to the sheriff to have him ejected. If this person returned, he could be jailed for 30 days and possibly made to pay a fine not exceeding 20 pounds. All moneys collected were to be paid to the Crown on behalf of the Province or appropriated on behalf of the Indian tribes. In January 1840 Commissioners were appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act. The statute was first used on the Six Nations Reserve and judgments were entered against a large number of what the Government called, "intruders." They were ordered to leave and the sum of 700 pounds was eventually

gained for the Six Nations' funds through the legal actions of what the Government described as the, "plunder and trespass then being committed upon the tract." An example of the previous law was the case of Burril Baker who was charged with illegally being in possession of Six Nations' land. James Winniett, the Six Nations' Superintendent, and a Commissioner, signed a warrant that stated 30 days had expired since Baker had been given due notice to remove himself from the land he possessed. Since he had not left, the Warrant ordered the Sheriff to eject and remove him. In August 1840 John W. Gwynne, a Toronto Barrister, was sent, with Six Nations' Superintendent James Winniett, to investigate the nature of the claims of persons in possession of land along the Grand River and the extent of their improvements. Improvements meant houses, barns and sheds that were added to the original property. He was also to make recommendations about improving the situation. On Tuesday, August 18, 1840, Gwynne held a meeting at Doyle's Inn, in Brantford, where all parties claiming Indian land could come and present proof of their claims. His report recommended that the Government take control of the squatter situation by selling the land on behalf of the Six Nations. He also recommended the whole tract be surveyed and

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bindery operation was located on the fourth floor. Here, ledgers, cash books and office diaries were made for local manufacturers, offices and banks.

These are but a few of the manufacturers and businesses in Brantford in 1900. It was a time of revitalization and increasing prosperity following the depression of the early 1890's.

Brantford is at the threshold of the year 2000. Once again Brantford is shaking off its depressed state and is making positive strides. The city has become more accessible with the completion of highway 403, industries and businesses are establishing themselves in the community, an extension of Sir Wilfred Laurier University is very much alive in the downtown core and, of course, the most recent newcomer to the city is the Charity Casino which employs almost 800 people.

Many positive signs show that Brantford is now moving forward. May the future continue to hold revitalization and prosperity.

Happy New Year!

Bibliography:
The Industrial Recorder of Canada, Descriptive of and Illustrating Brantford, Ontario - 1901.

NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP

Framed and unframed prints by local artist J. Tomothy Moriarty - \$20 - \$99. Local sites - Mohawk Chapel, Old Library, Train Station, Bell Homestead and two framed prints of Paris Dam. Also framed print of "Gretzky Homestead, Canning, Ont." signed by both J.T. Moriarty and Walter Gretzky. Proceeds to Brantford Minor Hockey. **Framed original watercolours** by John Bonfield - Brant Visual Artists Guild. Fisherville, Ont. - \$260.00 and Slowly Sinking (barn) - \$195.00

Framed silkscreen prints from original pen and ink by Rose Hirano. The Grand Trunk Station - \$110.00 and Mohawk Chapel - \$110.

Oct/Nov. 1999 issue of "The Beaver" - \$4.95. Features "The Mohawk Princess" E. Pauline Johnson. Photographs courtesy the Brant County Museum and Archives.

Bookmarks/Greeting Cards - \$3.98. Blank card and a bookmark which features works by "Lawren S. Harris" recognized as the chief organizer of the Group of Seven.

We also carry the beautiful book "**Light of a Cold Land, Lawren Harris's Work and Life - An Interpretation**" by Peter Larisey. \$49.95

Pewter Collectible Replicas of Brant Heritage Buildings. A 1999 fund raising initiative for the Brant Historical Society. The first two of the series are "Mohawk Chapel" and "Brantford's Original City Hall". They are priced at \$10.95 each or \$20.00 for the set. These are attractively boxed, suitable for gift giving or for collectors.

B.H.S. HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

NEW RELEASES		Tuscaorora Township	5.95
Lorimer Brothers: Brant County's Other Telephone Inventors	6.95	B.H.S. REPRINTS	
The Way we Were	16.95	Oakland Township	8.00
B.H.S. ORIGINAL PUBLICATIONS		Lewis Burwell's Diary of the Indian Surrender	8.00
A History of Brant County and Its People		Brantford City Directory 1910	16.00
Vol 1	15.95	Brant County place names & List of Professionals and trades, 1855	5.95
Vol 2	14.95		
Set of Vol. 1 & 2	22.50		
The Grand River Navigation Co.	21.95	Grand River Tract Assessment Rolls 1816, 1818-1822	5.95
St. George Continuation School	7.00	Grand River Tract Census 1824, 1827, 1829, 1832	5.95
Rural Schools of South Dumfries Township	8.00	Directory of the Townships of Brant, 1880	10.00
How Brantford Cooked	5.95	City of Brantford Municipal Directory, 1880	10.00
A History of The Brantford Pottery	9.95	Irwin's Directory, 1883	10.00
Brantford Arts & Entertainment	9.95	City of Brantford Municipal Directory, 1883-86	8.00
From Automobiles to Washing Machines	9.95	City of Brantford Directory, 1899-1900	15.00
A History of Mohawk Park	2.00		
Wild Mammals of Southwestern Ontario	8.95		

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The South African War Monument Facing The Grand River In Brantford

by Angela Files.

1. The South African War Monument

Some monuments commemorate brave deeds and remind succeeding generations of the sacrificial deaths of soldiers in past conflicts. One of these impressive monuments in our area, the South African War Monument, is located near the Lorne Bridge facing the Grand River.

2. The Unveiling Of The South African War Monument

In 1903, Sir Frederick Borden, Prime Minister of Canada unveiled the high monument amid the fanfare of a military parade and service. The Queen's Own of Toronto and The 13th Hamilton Regiment stood beside our own Dufferin Rifles during the celebration. Sixteen hundred militia were also present.

In front of the statue, at Jubilee Park, a large platform was erected for the Lady Borden, Colonel Otter, the Mayor of Brantford and City dignitaries. The ceremonies were presided over by Mr. E. L. Gould.

3. The Three Fallen Heroes Depicted On The Monument

Three of the local heroes of the South African campaigns Lieut. Osborne, Sergeant

Builder and Corporal Sherritt are depicted on the monument. The fourth panel represents Corporal Sherritt at Hart's River where he fell.

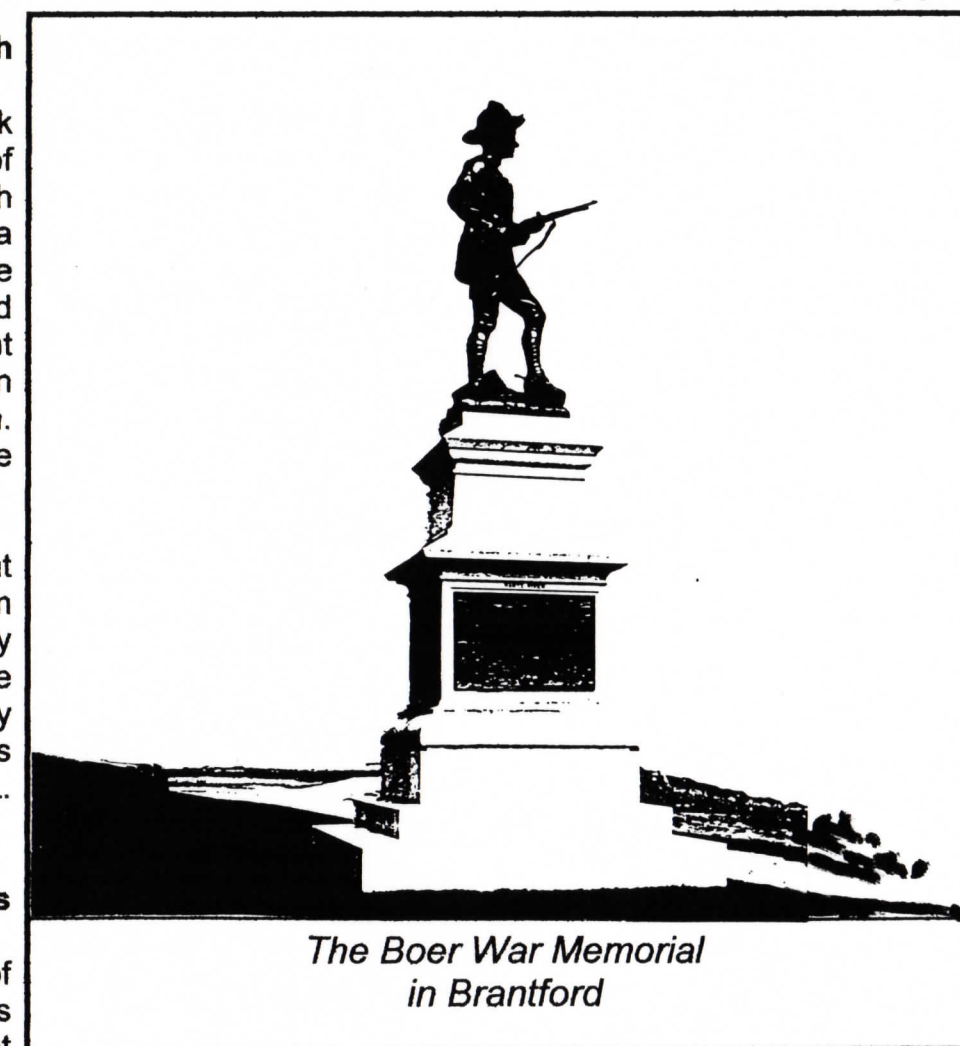
4. The Design Of The Monument

Mr. Hamilton MacCarthy of Ottawa sculpted this impressive monument. It is surmounted by an infantry man cast in bronze. Portraits in bas relief appear on one side of the panel while another panel depicts Lieut. Builder during the defence of the faithful officer in the Dufferin British guns at the Battle of Rifles. He offered his service as Belfast in the Transvaal. A third panel represents Lieut. Osborne but was not selected. He then in the attack on the Boer position applied to the Second at Spion Kop, where he gave his

5. The Sacrifice In Battle Of The Three Heroes

"Who were these three soldiers?" people still ask to-day. Children often ask why a soldier with a gun is guarding the Grand River. (A) Sergeant Builder was a member of the First Contingent but was not selected. He then applied to the Second

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The Brant Historical Society, 57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6

Phone: 519- 752-2483 E-mail: bcma@bfree.on.ca

HAPPENINGS

EXHIBITION

"Age of Chivalry"

October 2 - December 31, 1999
Museum in the Square

Have you always wanted to learn more about knights in armour and the code they lived by? Explore the age of chivalry with a tour of our new exhibit. View suits of armour and chain mail. Admire the stained glass inspired by this period. Discover the impact of the Crusades on European society and pick up some medieval recipes.

BHS Lecture Series

**Wednesday, December 15,
at 8 p.m.**

Ken Strachan will return for his popular Christmas address of newsworthy items culled from the December 1899 issues of the *Expositor* and *Courier*.

**Wednesday, January 19,
2000 at 8 p.m.**

Mike Hand will give a lecture on *The Lorimer Brothers*; Brantford's other telephone inventors

**Wednesday, February 16,
2000 at 8 p.m.**

Elizabeth Hunter address the audience on;
"Building the Collection for the Twenty First Century"

NEW EXHIBITION

"The Scout Show"
Scouting in Brant County.
January 15 - March 17

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Brant Historical Society gratefully acknowledges support from:

The County of Brant
The City of Brantford and Brantford Regional Arts Council
The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation

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Contingent where he was successful and rose to the rank of sergeant. On November 7, 1900 at Belfast, Transvaal, he was killed in the historic defence of British guns. On the same day of his death, an official dispatch mentioned him for conspicuous bravery.

(B) Lieutenant Osborne was born in Brantford and graduated from The Royal Military College with honour and distinction. He was appointed aid-de-camp to the Lieut. Governor of Bengal.

He rejoined his former regiment and went through the Natal Campaign with General Butler and fell in the disastrous battle of Spion Kop, on January 24, 1900.

(C) Corporal Sherritt was also of the Dufferin Rifles. In 1899 he joined the First Contingent under General Smith-Dorrien. He participated in fifty fights from Paardeburg to Pretoria. In November, he returned home but went back to South Africa where he gave his life in supreme sacrifice at the Hart's River engagement on March 31, 1902.

6. The Patriotic Tribute Paid To The South African Soldiers

On each Empire Day, tributes were paid at the South African War Memorial to show that Brantford had not forgotten its heroes of the war which thrust the British against the Boers.

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appraised for the purpose of facilitating the sale of the lands and settling the Indians better. Gwynne's recommendations were nothing new. Sir John Colbourne, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, had suggested the establishment of Reserves and selling of Indian land as supported by Sir James Kempt, the Administrator of Lower Canada. Sir George Murray, Secretary of War and the Colonies, approved of these changes in policy in 1830, so Gwynne was just following the new policy of the Indian Department.

An Order in Council dated November 27, 1840, which was based on the above Report, recommended that the Six Nations surrender their land to the Government who would keep it in trust and sell it for their sole benefit. It also recommended, "That all persons reported as resident settlers, up to the date of the present Order in Council, be considered the first applicants, and entitled to the right of preemption (first chance to purchase) for six calendar months thereafter."

This would allow established squatters, outside of Tuscarora Township, to purchase the land they lived on before the general public had a chance to buy it. On January 15, 1841, the suggestion was put to the Six Nations that their lands be disposed of to the Crown to be sold on their behalf at auction. After discussion and debate this was agreed to on January 18, 1841. It seemed to the

Government to be the wisest solution to the difficult situation. It does not however seem to have been approved by all chiefs. There was some dissent among aboriginal leaders as to this solution. Six Chiefs of the Six Nations eventually signed the Instrument surrendering the land. Another delegation approached Lord Sydenham, the Governor General, to express their dissatisfaction but, by that time, the disputed surrender had already been ratified and an order issued to divide the land. Chief William Johnson Kerr wrote to Sydenham of their view saying, "the surrender of land made and signed by a few Chiefs last winter, has not given general satisfaction." This was followed by a formal petition to the Governor General by the dissenting Chiefs on July 7, 1841, but nothing ever came of their effort.

To Be Continued in Next Edition



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