



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



MAY 2012

website: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html
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President's Message

Dear Compatriots:

On April 21, 2012, we met at the Sea Watch Restaurant. There were 18 members and guests present.

The food and camaraderie were outstanding, and everyone had a great time. At the meeting, we were delighted to induct a new member, Wayne Gomez. He is descended from a patriot who served with Spanish forces in Louisiana that supported the efforts of troops participating in the Battle of Pensacola.

During the meeting, the members present expressed an interest in having more chapter meetings at the Sea Watch restaurant, if we could have a more private area in which to meet. Based on discussions with the restaurant, they have one private room that requires a minimum of 25 members to reserve it. There are two smaller areas of the restaurant for smaller groups, but both of these areas are open to the rest of the restaurant and do not have doors. We can discuss these options at our upcoming meeting and make a decision for future meetings.

From May 4 to May 6, I attended the Board of Management and Annual Meeting of the Florida Society held in Kissimmee. At the meeting, I was honored to be elected as Senior Vice President of the Florida Society. I will discuss this and other events that occurred at our upcoming meeting.

I hope to see everyone there.

In patriotism,

Ted Duay
President



Members and guests enjoy the April meeting at Sea Watch restaurant



(From left to right) Registrar Don Green, new member Wayne Gomez, and President Ted Duay

NEXT MEETING - MAY 19, 2012

Colony West Country Club
6800 NW 88th Ave in Tamarac

Future Dates:

Saturday, 5/19/2012

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon

Buffet Luncheon - \$15.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-441-8735

or e-mail Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com

The American Revolution Commanders

Chief Joseph Brant

Born 01/01/1743 in Mohawk Valley
New York Died 11/24/1807 in Burlington, Ontario

Thayendanega or Joseph Brant(1743 – 24 November 1807) was a Mohawk military and political leader who was closely associated with Great Britain during and after the American Revolution. He was perhaps the most well-known North American Indian of his generation. He met many of the most significant people of the age, including George Washington and King George III.

While not born into a hereditary leadership role within the Iroquois League, Brant rose to prominence thanks to his abilities and his connections to British officials. Through his sister, Molly Brant, he was associated with Sir William Johnson, the influential British Indian agent in the province of New York. During the American Revolutionary War, Brant led Mohawk and colonial Loyalists against American revolutionaries in a bitter partisan war on the New York frontier. During the war, he was accused by the Americans of committing atrocities, charges that were later shown to be false. After the war, he relocated to Canada, where he remained a prominent leader.

Early Years

Brant was born in 1743, probably in March, probably in the Ohio Country somewhere along the Cuyahoga River. This was during the hunting season when Mohawks traveled to the area. He was named Thayendanega, which can mean two wagers (sticks) bound together for strength, or possibly "he who places two bets." He was a Mohawk of the Wolf Clan (his mother's clan). Fort Hunter church records indicated that his parents were Christians and their names were Peter and Margaret Tehonwaghkwangearahkwa. His father Peter died before 1753. Other sources cite the father's name as Nickus Kanagaradankwa.

After his father's death, his mother Margaret, or Owandah, the niece of Tiaogeara, a Caughnawaga sachem, returned to the province of New York with Joseph and his older sister Mary (known as Molly). They settled in Canajoharie, a Mohawk town on the Mohawk River, where they had lived before her family had traveled to the Ohio River. On 9 September 1753 in Fort Hunter (Church of England), his mother married again, to a widower named Brant Canagaraduncka, who was a Mohawk sachem. Her new husband's family ties with the British were shown by his grandfather Sagayendwarahton, or "Old Smoke", having visited England in 1710.

The marriage bettered Margaret's fortunes and the family lived in the best house in Canajoharie. Her new alliance conferred little status on her children, however, as Mohawk titles and leadership positions descended through the female line.

Brant's stepfather was a friend of William Johnson, the influential and wealthy British Superintendent for Northern Indian Affairs, who had been knighted for his service. During Johnson's frequent visits to the Mohawks, he always stayed at the Brants' house. Brant's half sister Molly Brant married Sir

William Johnson. Johnson was an agent for the British and a highly successful trader. The wealth of his mansion Johnson Hall impressed young Brant so much that he decided to stay with his half sister Molly and Johnson. Johnson took an interest in the youth and helped him in his education as well as in meeting influential leaders in the colony.

Seven Years War

Starting at about age 15, Brant took part in a number of French and Indian War expeditions, including James Abercrombie's 1758 invasion of Canada via Lake George, William Johnson's 1759 Battle of Fort Niagara, and Jeffery Amherst's 1760 siege of Montreal via the St. Lawrence River. He was one of 182 Indians who received a silver medal from the British for his service.

In 1761, Johnson arranged for three Mohawks, including Joseph, to be educated at Eleazar Wheelock's "Moor's Indian Charity School" in Connecticut. This was the forerunner of Dartmouth College, later established in New Hampshire. Brant studied under the guidance of the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock. Wheelock wrote that Brant was "of a sprightly genius, a manly and gentle deportment, and of a modest, courteous and benevolent temper." Brant learned to speak, read, and write English. Brant met Samuel Kirkland at the school. In 1763, Johnson prepared to place Brant at King's College in New York City. The outbreak of Pontiac's Rebellion upset these plans and Brant returned home. After Pontiac's rebellion, Johnson thought it was not safe for Brant to return to the school.

In March 1764, Brant participated in one of the Iroquois war parties that attacked Delaware Indian villages in the Susquehanna and Chemung valleys. They destroyed three good-sized towns, burning 130 houses and killing the natives' cattle. No enemy warriors were seen.

On July 22, 1765, in Canajoharie, Brant married Peggie (also known as Margaret). Said to be the daughter of a Virginia gentleman, Peggie was a white captive sent back East from western Indians. They moved into Brant's parents' house. The house soon became Brant's after his stepfather's death. He also owned a large and fertile farm of 80 acres (320,000 m²) near the village of Canajoharie on the south shore of the Mohawk River. He raised corn, and kept cattle, sheep, horses, and hogs. He also kept a small store. Brant dressed in "the English mode" wearing "a suit of blue broad cloth." With Johnson's encouragement, the Mohawks made Brant a war chief and their primary spokesman. In March 1771, his wife died from consumption.

In the spring of 1772, Brant moved to Fort Hunter to live with the Reverend John Stuart. He became Stuart's interpreter and teacher of Mohawk, collaborating with him to translate the Anglican catechism and the Gospel of Mark into the Mohawk language. Brant became Anglican, a faith he held for the remainder of his life.

In 1773, Brant moved back to Canajoharie and married Peggie's half-sister Susanna.

American Revolution

Brant spoke at least three and possibly all of the Six Nations' languages. From 1766 on he was a translator for the British Indian Department. In 1775, he was appointed departmental secretary with the rank of Captain for the new British Superintendent's Indian warriors from Canajoharie. They went to Canada, arriving in Montreal on July 17. His wife and children went to Onoquaga.

On November 11, 1775, Guy Johnson took Brant along with him when he traveled to London. Brant hoped to persuade the Crown to address past Mohawk land grievances. The British government promised the Iroquois people land in Canada if Brant and the Iroquois nations would fight on the British side in what was shaping up as open rebellion by the American colonists. In London, Brant became a celebrity and was interviewed for publication by James Boswell. While in public, he carefully dressed in the Indian style. He also became a Mason, and received his ritual apron personally from King George III.

Brant returned to Staten Island, New York, in July 1776. He participated with Howe's forces as they prepared to retake New York. Although the details of his service that summer and fall were not officially recorded, Brant was said to have distinguished himself for bravery. He was thought to be with Clinton, Cornwallis, and Percy in the flanking movement at Jamaica Pass in the Battle of Long Island in August 1776. This helped create a lifelong friendship with Lord Percy, later Duke of Northumberland, the only lasting friendship Brant shared with a white man.

In November, Brant left New York City and traveled northwest through colonist-held territory. Disguised, traveling at night and sleeping during the day, he reached Onoquaga where he met up with his family. At the end of December he was at Fort Niagara. He traveled from village to village in the confederacy urging the Iroquois to abandon neutrality and to enter the war on the side of the British. The Iroquois balked at Brant's plans. Joseph Louis Cook, a Mohawk leader who supported the American colonists, became a lifelong enemy of Brant's.

The full council of the Six Nations had previously decided on a policy of neutrality and had signed a treaty of neutrality at Albany in 1775. They considered Brant a minor war chief and the Mohawks a relatively weak people. Frustrated, Brant free-lanced by heading in the spring to Onoquaga to conduct war his way. Few Onoquaga villagers joined him, but in May he was successful in recruiting Loyalists who wished to strike back against the colonists. This group became known as Brant's Volunteers. In June, he led them to Unadilla to obtain supplies. There he was confronted by 380 men of the Tryon County militia led by Nicholas Herkimer. Herkimer requested that the Iroquois remain neutral while Brant said the Indians owed their loyalty to the King.

Northern Campaign

Service as war leader, 1777-1778

In July, 1777 the Six Nations council decided to abandon neutrality and enter the war on the British side. Brant was not present at this council. Sayenqueraghta and Cornplanter were named to be the war chiefs of the confederacy. Brant had

previously been made a war chief of the Mohawks; the other major Mohawk war chief was John Deseronto.

In July, Brant led his Volunteers north to link up with St. Leger at Fort Oswego. In August 1777, Brant played a major role at the Battle of Oriskany in support of a major offensive led by General John Burgoyne. After St. Leger's retreat, Brant traveled to Burgoyne's main army and told him the news of St. Leger's retreat from Fort Stanwix. Burgoyne's restrictions on native warfare caused Brant to depart for Fort Niagara, where he spent the winter planning the next year's campaign. His wife Susanna likely died at Fort Niagara that winter.

In April 1778, Brant returned to Onoquaga, becoming the most active partisan commander. He and his Volunteers raided colonists in the Mohawk Valley, stealing their cattle, burning their houses, and killing many. On May 30, he led an attack on Cobleskill (Battle of Cobleskill) and in September, along with Captain William Caldwell, he led a mixed force of Indians and Loyalists in a raid on German Flatts.

In October, 1778, Continental soldiers and local militia attacked Brant's base of Onoquaga while Brant's Volunteers were away on a raid. The American commander described Onoquaga as "the finest Indian town I ever saw; on both sides [of] the river there was about 40 good houses, square logs, shingles & stone chimneys, good floors, glass windows." The soldiers burned the houses, killed the cattle, chopped down the apple trees, spoiled the growing corn crop, and killed some native children they found in the corn fields. On November 11, 1778 Brant was a leader in the Cherry Valley massacre conducted for revenge.

In 1773, Brant moved back to Canajoharie and married Peggie's half-sister Susanna.

Commissioned as officer, 1779

In February, 1779, Brant traveled to Montreal to meet with Frederick Haldimand, who had replaced Carleton as Commander and Governor in Canada. Haldimand gave Brant a commission of Captain of the Northern Confederated Indians. He also promised provisions, but no pay, for his Volunteers. Haldimand pledged that after the war had ended, the government would restore the Mohawks to their state before the conflict started.

In May, Brant returned to Fort Niagara where, with his new salary and plunder from his raids, he acquired a farm on the Niagara River, six miles (10 km) from the fort. To work the farm and to serve the household, he used slaves he had captured on his raids. Brant bought a black slave, a seven-year-old African-American girl named Sophia Burthen Poolley; she travelled with him and his family for many years before he sold her to an Englishman for \$100. He built a small chapel for the Indians who started living nearby. He started living with Catherine Adonwentishon Croghan, whom he married in the winter of 1780. She was the daughter of the prominent American colonist and Indian agent, George Croghan and a Mohawk mother, Catharine Tekarihoga. Through her mother, Catharine Adonwentishon was head of the Turtle clan, the first in rank in the Mohawk

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Nation. Her birthright was to name the Tekarihoga, the principal sachem of the Mohawk nation.

Brant's honors and gifts caused jealousy among rival chiefs, in particular Sayenqueraghta. A British general said that Brant "would be much happier and would have more weight with the Indians, which he in some measure forfeits by their knowing that he receives pay." In late 1779, Haldimand decided when a commission for Brant as a colonel arrived from Lord Germain, to pocket it and not tell Brant.

In early July, 1779, the British learned of plans for a major American expedition into Seneca country. In an attempt to disrupt the Americans' plans, John Butler sent Brant and his Volunteers on a quest for provisions and to gather intelligence on the Delaware in the vicinity of Minisink. After stopping at Onaquaga, Brant attacked and defeated American militia at the Battle of Minisink on July 22, 1779. Brant's raid failed to disrupt the Continental Army expedition, however.

In the Sullivan Campaign, the Continental Army sent a large force deep into Iroquois territory to defeat the Iroquois and to destroy their villages and crops. The Iroquois were defeated on August 29, 1779 at the Battle of Newtown. Sullivan's Continentals swept away all Indian resistance in New York,

burned their villages, and forced the Iroquois to fall back to Fort Niagara. Brant wintered at Fort Niagara in 1779-80.

Wounded and service in Detroit area, 1781-1783

Brant resumed small-scale attacks on the Mohawk Valley. In February, 1780, he and his party set out and in April attacked Harpersfield. In mid-July, 1780 Brant led an attack on the Oneida village of Kanonwalohale. Some of the Oneida surrendered, but most took refuge at Fort Stanwix. Brant's raiders destroyed the Oneida houses, horses, and crops.

They then went further east where they attacked towns on both sides of the Mohawk River: Canajoharie and Fort Plank. On their return they divided into small parties to attack Schoharie, Cherry Valley, and German Flatts. They then took part in a third major raid on the Mohawk Valley with Butler's Rangers and King's Royal Regiment of New York. Brant was wounded in the heel at the Battle of Klock's Field. He burned his former hometown of Canajoharie because it had become inhabited by American settlers.

In April 1781 Brant was sent west to Fort Detroit to help defend against Virginian George Rogers Clark's expedition into the Ohio Country. In August 1781, Brant completely defeated a detachment of Clark's army, ending the threat to Detroit. He was wounded in the leg and spent the winter 1781-1782 at Fort Detroit. From 1781 to 1782, Brant tried to keep the disaffected western tribes loyal to the Crown before and after the British surrender at Yorktown.

In June 1782 Brant and his Indians went to Fort Oswego, where they helped rebuild the fort. In July 1782, he and 460 Iroquois left for a raid on Fort Herkimer and Fort Dayton, but they did not accomplish much. Sometime during this raid, a letter from Frederick Haldimand arrived recalling the party and asking for a cessation of hostilities. Brant denounced the defensive policy as a betrayal of the Iroquois and urged the Indians to continue the war, but they were unable to do so without British supplies.

In the Treaty of Paris (1783) that ended the war, Britain and the United States ignored the sovereignty of the Indians. They determined that the sovereign Six Nations' lands would become part of the territory of the United States. British promises of protection of their domain had been an important factor in inducing the Iroquois to ally with the British and they were bitterly disappointed with the results. The Treaty of Fort Stanwix (1784) served as a peace treaty between the Americans and the Iroquois.

Continued in September issue

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