

"Ducit, Amor Patriae."

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO  
NO. 41

**RECORDS OF NIAGARA**  
**A COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY LETTERS**  
**AND DOCUMENTS 1790-1792**

**COLLECTED AND EDITED BY**  
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LIEUT.-COL. RALFE CLENCH, 1762-1828

Founder of One of Niagara's Oldest Families.

Joined Royal Standard as cadet in 42nd Regiment at the time of the American Revolution, 1775. Later served in 8th, or King's Regiment, in Butler's Rangers, and 1st Lincoln Militia. At Queenston Heights. First Judge, Niagara District Court, 1827. Sat in House of Assembly, 1801, 1805, 1813.

Silhouette taken in 1827.

From the J. Ross Robertson Collection, Toronto Public Library.

RECORDS OF NIAGARA

NO. 41

After an interval of four years in which he had acted as chaplain to the Garrison at Kingston, the Reverend John Stuart found an opportunity to visit the Mohawks on the Grand River and the settlement at Niagara, giving a brief account of his journey in the following letters.

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FROM THE REVEREND JOHN STUART TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS

"Letter dated Kingston Cataraqui, July 2nd, 1788, in which he acquaints the Society that he has just returned from his long intended visit to the Mohawks on the Grand River above Niagara. That he embarked with Captain Brant & four other Mohawks on the 27th of last May and reached the head of Lake Ontario in nine days (distant from Kingston about 200 miles) from whence they proceeded on horseback about 25 miles to the Village called New Oswego; where he was well received.

"That on the sunday following, he preached & administered the Sacrament to 16 (four of them New Communicants) baptized 65 persons, 7 of whom were Adults & married three couples. That the Mohawk Village is pleasantly situated on a small but deep River -- the Church about 60 ft. in length and 45 in breadth, - built with squared logs & boarded on the outside & painted -- with a handsome steeple & bell, a pulpit, reading desk, & Communion Table with Convenient Pews. That the Church furniture lately given by the Government not having arrived (though at the date of Mr. Stuart's letter at Niagara) he took with him the plate & furniture, which formerly belonged to their church at Fort Hunter - a small organ was employed in the Service. But he was accompanied on his return as far as Niagara (about 80 miles ) by Captain Brant & 15 other Mohawks who earnestly requested that he would visit them as often as possible which he promised to do. That finding he should necessarily be detained at Niagara some days for a passage & that no regular Clergyman had been in that extensive settlement since he had been there in 1784 he gave notice of his intention to preach on the Sunday Morning following, when he preached to a crowded audience & baptized 37 Infants, which with those baptized in private houses during his stay there amounted to 72 of which 7 only were adults, and he thinks a still greater number remain unbaptized from the impossibility of collecting the children at such a distance on so short notice. That on the day before his departure from Niagara, the commanding Officer in conjunction with the principal inhabitants of the adjoining settlement, represented to him their want of a Clergyman & as they wished to have some previous personal knowledge of one to be appointed & many of the inhabitants had formerly been Mr. Stuart's Parishioners at Fort Hunter, they promised that if the Society would allow him to accept their invitation, they would make him a liberal subscription, & give proper security for the due payment of it. That Mr. Stuart gave them no encouragement to expect him at least till the society's pleasure should be known, but advised them to invite Mr. Frazer formerly the Society's Missionary at New Jersey."

(Journals of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel In Foreign Parts,  
Vol.25, 1787-1792)  
pp. 120-1.)

At a later date, Mr. Stuart wrote to Bishop White of Pennsylvania:  
Kingston (Cataraqui), Mecklenburgh District

September 4th, 1788.

"The increase of Population there is immense. And indeed, I was so pleased with that Country, where I found many of my old Parishioners, that I was strongly tempted to remove my family to it. You may suppose it cost me a Struggle, to refuse the unanimous & pressing Invitations of a large Settlement, with the additional Argument of a subscription & other Emoluments amounting to near 300 pounds York Curr'y p. Ann. more than I have here. "

(These extracts have been made by the kind permission of Professor A.H. Young from transcripts in his possession)

The receipt of Mr. Grenville's letter on the subject of alleged misconduct in the Indian Department, both at Niagara and Mackinac stimulated Lord Dorchester to order further investigation in the following letter:

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 21st January, 1790.

Sir:

The discontents among the Indians, which I hear of from different quarters, must appear very extraordinary to you, and indeed to all who are acquainted with the very benevolent intentions of the King's Government towards them.

As this disposition originates with His Majesty, so it runs throughout his confidential servants. Both duty and inclination support it without diminution in the main channels of this delegated branch of His Authority.

But before it reaches the Indians, it seems wonderfully changed. Mankind in general do not return discontents and murmurs for acts of kindness, whatever instances to the contrary may occur from the perverse disposition of a few wrongheaded individuals, and the Indians in particular, however different their manners and customs are certainly not deficient in generosity of mind and gratitude towards their benefactors. If therefore, we reflect that this benevolent disposition on our part has brought forth benefactions to a considerable amount and occasioned an expense of about thirty thousand pounds yearly, including the maintenance of the department for these last three years, besides the sum of about twenty thousand, given as a reward for former good conduct, and that in return, for all this we require nothing from the Indians, the conclusion must be, that some uncommon efforts are employed to produce an effect so *unnatural* to the human mind. Yet this can scarcely be thought possible, seeing the numbers of persons employed in the department, whose duty should prompt them to vigilance, and the detection and exposure of all practices injurious both to Indians and to the public.

How it came to pass, that a few distant and friendly Indians could be denied the common rights of hospitality, at one of the King's Posts, who approves of so great an expence for the aid and comfort of the Indian Nations, and that in direct disobedience of

the second article of Instructions for the good government of the Indian Department, which requires that upon the "Arrival of parties of distant Indians at any of the Posts the Agent shall report same to the Officer Commanding, who with the Officers of the Garrison, are to assist in receiving them, which is to be done with every mark of solemnity and friendship and as, after the usual ceremonies, they will make known their wants, their requests, if reasonable, are to be complied with. "I am at a loss to comprehend, as well as how notwithstanding this order, the Agent for Indian Affairs at Niagara could tell the Six Nations in Council, that he being absent, the Commandant at that Post could not relieve them, and this in consequence of late orders. How came he to be absent from his duty, particularly at that juncture? By whose leave did he quit his district? How came it to pass that Joseph and David, who have hitherto been treated with distinguished regard and favour, by the Commandants, and by all the English, on account of their Attachment, should now speak of their treatment at the Post of Niagara full of resentment, and complaint of personal slight, and disregard? All these things appear to me very unaccountable - The entire confidence, with which I rely on your experience, and well tried zeal for the King's Service, leaves me no doubt that you will use every exertion to investigate, and to inform me of the source of all these evils, as well as of the cause of the still subsisting dissensions among the Mohawks and that you will assist me with your best advice as to the proper means for removing them.

There has been no change in the orders respecting the Indians of any kind since the departure of Lieutenant Colonel Hunter, neither have any Instructions been issued concerning them, since my arrival in the province, but what had their benefit in view, nor can Lieutenant Colonel Butler point out orders, in the present or any former period, not dictated by the same friendly spirit towards them. Though regulations have been made at different times to check the abuses, or supposed abuses in the inferior branches of the department, there has been no diminution of the King's Bounty towards the Indians, but on the contrary these regulations have been framed for the express purpose of conveying to them the Royal benevolence as entire, and unimpaired as possible.

The loan of private goods from Niagara stated to have been made to the Indian Department at Detroit, among which, it is said, were found Articles with the King's mark upon them, the repayment of that loan in articles of the same description, without the sanction of the Commander in Chief, the reports of the King's presents to the Indians being publicly sold at a private shop at Niagara, both before and at a considerable time after that transaction, supposing no improper practices to have existed, or to have been intended, bear such marks of irregularity upon the face of them, and give room for such unfavourable suggestions, as clearly shew the necessity of the nineteenth Article of the Instructions which directs that "no stores shall be lent or exchanged on any account whatever." And the order for the removal of the King's stores in the charge of the nephew from under the same roof, and an immediate communication with the private shop of the son, will for the same reasons, I hope, no longer appear unreasonable, 'nor can the necessity of the eleventh Article of the instructions which directs that "all presents and provisions given at public conferences or councils, are to be approved of by the Commanding Officer, and delivered in the presence of all the Officers of the Garrison," or for the twelfth Article, which requires that "no presents or provisions shall be given privately nor any incidental charges paid, but with the previous approbation of the Superintendent General, or, in his absence, of the Officer Commanding." be called in

question, when the foregoing circumstances, and the representation from Michilimakinac, are considered, which state, that the King's Presents have been employed in trading with the Indians, to the injury of the Merchants, and otherwise appropriated contrary to the intentions of government. Both duty to the Crown and tenderness to the reputation of the Officers of the Department render these regulations indispensable that on the one hand there may be clear proof of the due and entire conveyance of the Royal bounty to the Indians, for whom alone it is intended, and on the other, as undeniable evidence of the upright conduct of the Officers, which supposing all these reports and complaints to be groundless, must undoubtedly be of the highest importance to them. It will be prudent for the gentleman supposed to be concerned in the unseemly traffic aforementioned, at either place, to explain their conduct, which I must suppose to be in their power.

If Lieutenant Colonel Butler still desires to retire from the King's Service, he should speak out, and I have only to regret my having taken any pains to divert him, from that purpose, and kept him to an office, the proper attention to which appears irksome to him. At any rate, it is necessary that a proper person, Accustomed to the management of the Indians, and to our friendly treatment of them, should be constantly at hand to assist the Commandant of the Post with his advice, and who must not quit his station without leave, for it cannot be expected, that every Officer on taking the command, should come possessed of the necessary knowledge immediately to discern, and adopt those measures which may be proper for his Situation and Trust.

I wish the commandant at Niagara, when the Agent absented himself from his station, had immediately substituted a proper person to do the duties of the Office, and made a report of his proceedings. Directions to this effect are now given, with regard to all Officers of the Indian Department to prevent the like injury to the King's service in future.

If the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Butler to the direction of the Indian Affairs in his district, being at the head of its Militia, the senior member of the land Board, next to the Commandant, and at the head of the Courts of Justice, besides the appointment of his Nephew in the Indian Department are not sufficient to remove the discontents he formerly testified, I have only to regret, as I said before, my having delayed his retiring from the Service. At the same time, I flatter myself, that, while he accepts the trust, he will discharge the duties of it with fidelity and honor, and take care that his own dissatisfaction in now way tinge the transactions of his office.

I am induced to hope too, that the bare report of his having obtained grants of extensive tracts of land, in consequence of the treaties of concession made between the Indians of his District and some of our neighbours, would be alone sufficient to pique his honor to avoid the least appearance of lukewarmness, or neglect in the King's service. I have formerly testified my approbation of the conduct of Joseph as well as of his friend David, and am now disposed to grant a further proof thereof, by an encrease of David's allowance from thirty to forty five pounds a year.

I am &c.

DORCHESTER

Sir John Johnson, Bart.

(Q 46-2, pp. 395-403.)

Sir John Johnson's rather laboured reply was dated only a week later.

FROM SIR JOHN JOHNSON TO LORD DORCHESTER

Montreal, 28th January, 1790

My Lord,

My wish to comply with your Lordship's commands by forwarding without loss of time by the Mondays Post for the Upper Districts such Extracts of your letter to me of the 21st instant, as I conceived were necessary for the Information of the Parties Interested and for the investigation of the evils complained of, prevented me sooner from acknowledging the honor of that letter.

I have often with much concern and astonishment heard that discontents subsisted among the Indians notwithstanding the well known bounty and benevolent intentions of Government towards them.

I have never failed when a proper opportunity offered of Impressing them with the highest sense of gratitude for His Majesty's, the Nation's and your Lordship's generous and Paternal attention to their ease, comfort and happiness, and I have only to regret that I have not been more particular than I have been, in committing to Writing a few of the many grateful acknowledgements they have made to me in return for the bounty of Government to them, for the attention of its Officers and for the heavy expence they have occasioned.

That Emissaries have been and are employed to estrange their Attachment and affection from His Majesty's Government and Interest, is not to be doubted, but which it is the duty, and I cannot doubt but it is in the Power of His servants to Counteract.

The treatment of the southern Deputies at the Post of Niagara is as much to be lamented as it is surprising to conceive how, with the stores full of everything necessary for them, and proper persons to distribute it - the Commanding Officer could refuse the request of the Six Nations in their behalf, no Orders whatever existing to the Contrary - the Absence of the agent at that time, I believe, was owing to his having obtained Permission from your Lordship to come down the year before, but which from indisposition or some other cause, he did not then avail himself of but thought himself equally at liberty, with the Approbation of the Commandant of the Post, which I believe he obtained, to come down the next year, not knowing the approach of these Indians or any particular business to be transacted until his return -- delicacy on my part and an Idea that he had your Lordship's Permission prevented me from making any Inquiry and Imagining that he would naturally report his Arrival here to your Lordship prevented me from executing that part of my duty.

The cause of Captain Brant and David's dissatisfaction, was owing, as I am pretty well informed to a Vigilance in the Garrison, I imagine, in consequence of the Alarm from Detroit, by which the latter was disarmed and the former attempted to be so, by a Sentinel at one of the Gates, conscious of their zealous and faithful Attachment to His Majesty's Interest and proud of the proofs and acknowledgements of their Brave and spirited conduct during the War, it is not surprising that their resentment was roused at so strong a proof of Want of that confidence in them, they conceived they well merited -- that this or some such treatment from the Officer Commanding is the only cause of their discontent, will appear from Captain Brant's letter, to Lieutenant Colonel Butler, which I had the honor to transmit to your Lordship some time in Autumn, as well as from the inclosed from Captain David which I received yesterday by return of the Indian Express I sent to Detroit with your Lordship's dispatches delivered to me by Captain Le Maistre.

The confidence your Lordship is pleased to honor me with shall never be abused nor shall any exertions on my part be wanting to obtain information of the Evils complained of.

The dissensions among the Mohawks originated, I am fearful in the Ambitious views of Captain Brant, who having the principle lead among the Upper Mohawks or Canajoharie Indians, and having been instrumental in procuring them the lands they possess as well as other benefits, wishes to be considered as the Chief, and to have the rule and direction of the whole settlement, which the Chiefs of the Lower Mohawks oppose, with a view to keep up their former consequence, having always been considered as the heads of the Six Nation Confederacy - I have taken some pains to bring about a reconciliation, but am fearful nothing but a separation of the Upper and Lower Mohawks, into distinct Villages, as formerly under their respective Chiefs, will effect it, - however, as Captain Brant is soon to be down I shall have an opportunity of being better informed of the steps most likely to bring about that event.

I know of no part of the orders of any change that has been made to them, that could justify Lieutenant Colonel Butler's assertion to the Indians, and I believe they are well satisfied that all the Regulations that have been made from time to time have been calculated with a view to their benefit alone.

As I never heard of it before, I am at a loss to know when, or by whom the loan and repayment of Goods with the King's Mark upon them were made - the sale of the King's presents at a private shop at Niagara is very extraordinary and unaccountable to me, unless disposed of them by the Indians, which could only be the case at the time they received goods in bulk in lieu of their losses and services during the War -- such conduct certainly points out the necessity of every restraint or Order that can be framed, and shews clearly that no part of the Instructions relative thereto can with propriety to be called in Question.

It is to be wished and I hope the Gentlemen supposed to have made an Improper use of the Goods committed to their care, for the use of the Indians may have it in their power to explain their conduct to your Lordship's satisfaction.

I have never heard Lieutenant Colonel Butler talk of quitting the service seriously, but I have lately been told that he holds such language now and means to go to the part of the country he was born in near New London - should it be the case I hope some person may be found to supply his place without much injury to His Majesty's service.

I am happy to find your Lordship has been pleased to augment David's Pension and beg leave to recommend Captain John for the same Indulgence as a Person of superior consideration.

By Return of the Express I received the inclosed letter from Mr. McKee, and I am happy to find by it, that the Indians are so well disposed as he represents them to be.

I have put into the Office a letter addressed to Captain Le Maistre from Major Murray brought by the Empress.

I have the honor to be &c.

JOHN JOHNSON

His Excellency. Right Honble Lord Dorchester.

(Q. 46-2, pp. 404-410.)

The activity of the surveying parties sent out by the Government of Pennsylvania had probably excited considerable alarm among the western Indians and seems to have



provoked suspicion on the part of Officers in Command of the Frontier Posts who were in constant dread of an attempt to take them by surprise.

#### THE QUEBEC GAZETTE

Thursday, February 18, 1790.

New York, January 23 - On the 13th instant, arrived in Philadelphia on his way from Fort Erie, Mr. Andrew Ellicott, after having fixed the Geographical situation of some important places on the Lakes, and completing all that part of a Survey lying between the west end of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, in the territory of his Britannic Majesty, made to determine the Western Limits of this State.

In the progress of this business, Mr. Ellicott had many difficulties to encounter arising from the extreme jealousy of the British Garrisons, and the continued marshes, and swamps, through which he had to pass, and which cover almost the whole face of their country.

Sir John's letter to Colonel Butler, which had enclosed an extract of the most vital part of Lord Dorchester's instructions to him, elicited an explanation of transactions which had excited suspicion and complaints.

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Niagara, 2nd March, 1790.

Sir,

I received your letter of the 25th January last covering an Extract of Lord Dorchester's letter to you of the 21st January and shall endeavour as far as in my power to explain such matters as respects the Department under my charge.

I have not been made acquainted with any Particular uneasiness amongst the Five Nations except the Mohawks, unless what some of the most distant Nations observed that what they received was scarce worth fetching so far as they had to come and that they believed the King their Father was Getting poorer every year.

The Messesagues complain of being Disappointed in their payment for the Lands they sold Government when his Lordship and you passed Toronto, I then promised them payment for what I then agreed with them for and informed you of, which was to extend Northward to Join the Bay of Quinty & West to Lake La Clay and the Rice Lake, which I presume the Surveyor who was then present has transmitted a Plan of to Head Quarters. On my arrival from Montreal last fall, a Number of Chiefs and Warriors of that Nation called on me to know if I had Brought the Payment and was much Displeased I had not, I informed them that Mr. Langan had gone up the Bay with Presents for that purpose which them seemed very Doubtful of and said they had received no informaton of it, nor any message to Attend -- after giving them some Ammunition and a few Guns with the Approbation of the Commanding Officer, they set off for their Hunts, since which I have heard nothing further from them.

The Disputes amongst the Mohawks appears to me to have Originated principally from Drunken Frolicks heightened by little private Disputes between those of Upper and Lower Villages, these Disputes were Buried in Oblivion by the Chiefs of the Five Nations last spring according to their customs, and Promises were made on both sides faithfully to abide by that Decision, but before they reached home some of them began

again to stir up Dissentions, and I must do Capt. Brant and David, the Justice to say that I have never discovered any Deviation in their Conduct from what was then recommended.

The Arrival of the Western Indians in my absence was Singularly Unfortunate, A Circumstance very Unexpected and which could not have been foreseen and the only Instance of Distant Indians visiting this Post since the Peace, and I conceive by the Tenor of the third Article that the Commanding Officer is not authorized to distribute Presents in the absence of the Agent, altho' the Interpreter and Acting storekeeper could have answered every Purpose, had Colo. Harris thought proper to have done it, and Notwithstanding my private Affairs very essentially required my Presence in Montreal I would not have absented myself from the Post, altho' there was no appearance of my presence being Necessary without Your Permission obtained by your letter of the 8th of October, 1788, together with the concurrence of the Commanding Officer. As to any Personal Slight or Disregard being shewn to Capt. Brant or David by Colo. Harris or any Gentlemen of the Garrison has never come to my knowledge but the contrary as far as I have been at Witness - I have always found him as ready to give any necessary Assistance to the Indians as any of his Predecessors at this Post whatever offence was given them in my Absence I have only by hearsay, but Colo. Harris will explain that Matter to His Lordship more fully than I can do; The Presents as observed from under charge of the Nephew into my son's store was because no other Place could be had, and his store being roomy and immediately at the Landing Place, the Presents have generally been stored there when they were to be given out immediately, and there is no communication between that and the shop of my son - and not having Room for a fifth part of them in the Indian Store was the reason of their being put there, they were this year opened and Distributed in the presence of the commanding Officer of the Garrison in the Manner directed by the Instructions, and Certified by them, except a reserve which was made by the concurrence of the Commanding Officer for Distressed families, Principle Chiefs and Widows, as well as those that have orders from You for Annual Cloathing, which I took immediately from thence and have distributed accordingly.

I have made every inquiry with respect to the Loan of Goods to and the repayment of the same from the Indian Department at Detroit and the sale of others from my son's store with the King's Mark on them, in Answer to which I inclose you a letter from Street & Butler which I trust will fully explain to you the reason of goods of that Description being sold in their Store.

I am exceedingly Unhappy that His Lordship should entertain any Doubts of my Integrity and Assiduity in giving all that satisfaction to the Indians that is expected from me & which my Duty to my King and the nature of my Trust at all times require at my Hand, sensible of that Trust and the Confidence placed in my, I have ever been watchful of the Interest of Government and the general good of the Confederate Indian Nations, and as far as my own knowledge of their customs and Manners with the means that have been put in my Power I have spared no Pains in cultivating their Friendship with Government and in Conciliating any Discontent which I have discovered to have been stirred up amongst them either by the neighbouring States or by discontented Individuals amongst themselves and I have always felt the inward satisfaction of accomplishing my Wishes till latterly. Whatever may have been said to the contrary, Permit me, Sir, to Repeat what I have before observed both to his Lordship and to Yourself, That altho' I am happy on my own personal Account that such Restrictions are laid on the Deputy Agents

as enables them to Discharge their Duty with a less degree of Censure on themselves than when they had more left to their own Discretionary Judgement, at the same time I am convinced and presume that you will acquiesce with me in Opinion that more is effected with those credulous people by one in whom they have a Confidence by the manner & mode of distributing the Presents to them than by the real value of what they receive. I am convinced of this by long experience and Confirmed in it by the effects produced by the present mode of delivering the presents - I wish not to be understood that I mean (by delivering my sentiments so freely) to complain of the Hardship of complying with the orders but merely to point out the inconvenience of attending rigidly to the tenth Article of the Orders and rendering that Service to the Government and giving that satisfaction to the Indians as is intended by the benevolent Disposition of the King - I wish all my Conduct to be under proper inspection but Not in that Public Manner which conveys an Idea to the Indians that the King, their Father is afraid to trust me as heretofore which must lessen the consequence of the Agent in their eye and of course destroy his Influence with them.

I have the honor to be &c.

JOHN BUTLER

Sir John Johnson, Bart.

(Q 46-2, pp. 411-18.)

Samuel Street, who had conducted a Sutler's Store and Trading Station with the Indians within the walls of Fort Niagara for about ten years, with considerable profit, had lately taken as a partner, Lieutenant Thomas Butler, eldest surviving son of Colonel Butler, and on being called upon to reply to the charges levelled against them, submitted the following statement:

FROM STREET & BUTLER TO JOHN BUTLER

Niagara, 2nd March, 1790.

Sir,

Respecting Articles having been sold in our shop with the King's Mark upon them, the following is as strict an account as we can give, tho' Conscious that we were doing nothing wrong have neither been very particular in Noting every Circumstance respecting such Articles as have been rec'd from the Store, nor by any means Cautious in Concealing the Marks under which we received them. Previous to the Orders from the Sup't. Inten't General in '87 forbidding all kind of Barter from the Indian Store we frequently exchanged for such Articles as answer'd us and have no reason to believe that the Goods given in return were better calculated to answer the Indians than those we rec'd, but it was never done with a view of Serving Us, but as far as came to our Knowledge, it was for the better satisfaction of the Indians.

It's well known we imported a large quantity of goods in '85 and '86 to no less amo't than 15,000 pounds Sterling, at a period when the Indian trade not only declin'd more rapidly than could have been expected, even by a more discerning eye than ours, but when the Indians were tamper'd with by the Americans all round our Trading Posts, and the greatest part of their hunts carried off by them, which consequently left large quantities of our goods on hand, and naturally induc'd us to take every fair measure to prevent their Spoiling our hands, by loan when we could not effect it by Sale - in '86 at the request of the Superintendant General, we Lent Government for the Department at Detroit upwards of 1200 pounds Sterling cost, which were returned to us in the Fall of

'87, from the General Store in Montreal. In Spring, '87 when Mr. Dease was going to Makinac boats were not to be had to convey the presents destin'd for that Post, from Fort Schlosser to Fort Erie, and with the Approbation of the Commanding Officer, I lent him a Boat Load of Indian Goods which were at Detroit, and rec'd to the same amo't from him of the King's goods, then all those goods were expos'd to view and sale in our shop, and some of them were in the shop till last Fall.

We are, Sir, &c.

Street & Butler.

Lt. Col. Butler.

Colonel Butler further demonstrated his annoyance and sense of injury by writing directly to Lord Dorchester.

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO LORD DORCHESTER

Niagara, March 3rd, 1790.

My Lord,

Permit me Sir to trouble Your Lordship at this time when I feel myself more essentially hurt than I have ever experienced during a series of upwards of Forty Years of indefatigable application in the Service of My King & Country, most of which time, I have been employed in Indian Affairs in which I have been vigilant in cultivating their Friendship with Government as far as my abilities enabled me and am not insensible to the Thanks and Rewards I have had the Honor to receive from My Superiors for my Services, but it seems lately to have produced Suspicion, Mistrust & Enemies where I have not expected nor designedly gave offence.

Since I have had the Management of the Department at this Post, I have never absented myself Twenty-four Hours without permission from the Commanding Officer, and when business called me abroad, I always left a capable person to assist the Commandant in Indian Business. Mr. Johnson, the Interpreter who is well acquainted with Indians and their Customs was here on the Arrival of the Western Indians last Summer and was capable of performing any service that might be required: Although I did not conceive from the third Article of my Instructions that the Commanding Officer could distribute the Presents in my Absence, still My Lord, other Motives induced me to tell the Indians that Colo. Harris could not cloathe them in my absence.

I saw the Indians (the Mohawks in particular) were much displeas'd with him, & I thought by that means to reconcile them to him and to appease them Myself by some other means. Conscious myself of Never having defrauded the Public nor denied the Indians any assistance in my Power to give them and more particularly of not preventing Governments Benevolent Bounty from reaching them as entire and unimpair'd as possible for which I appeal to all the Commanding Officers under whom I have served and if my Conduct is Disapproved by them, permit me to retire to some quiet repose & linger out the few Unhappy days that is left me.

I am exceeding Unhappy that your Lordship should entertain so different an Opinion of me from what I once thought I had the Honor to enjoy.

I know it is Currently reported and Generally believed that I have accumulated to myself an Independent fortune, but which will be found in the sequel to be erroneous. - Supported by that zeal for the service of that Government which has reaped the fruits of a far Spent life, induces me to continue in the place I have the Honor to fill at Present - but

it is now too late for me to think of rendering myself useful in any other line to that King & Government in whose service I have spent the Prime of my life and wish to end my days in.

With highest respect &c.

JOHN BUTLER

Lord Dorchester

I hope your Lordship will excuse the Liberty I have taken in writing thus freely & should I have said anything improper that your Lordship will impute it to ignorance and not to any design.

D.

(Q. 46-2, pp. 422-5.)

Dorchester reiterated his anxiety for the defenceless state of the province in a secret letter to the Colonial Secretary.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO W.W. GREVILLE

Duplicate. No. 18 SECRET

Quebec, 8th March, 1790.

Sir,

.....  
The great approaches to Canada by the Mohawk River and Oswego, and by Lake Champlain to the River Sorel, are too well known to require Explanation, but I must just observe, that suffering them to establish themselves on the latter up to the Treaty Line of the forty-fifth degree of North latitude, would be nearly equivalent to the making them Masters of the whole Country.

The Upper Posts were all repaired last year, and properly supplied with stores - Detroit is in a better condition than ever, but from the beginning it was only a defence against Indians, and now its chief strength must be derived from their fidelity, joined with the Militia of the place and the abilities of the Commandant - Niagara should make a good defence, Especially if the Militia of the District behave well and keep open the communication across the river. Michilimackinac can keep out only Indians, and Fort Ontario, partly from the defects of the work, partly from its position, neither is, nor can be rendered, defensible, in the present condition of Things. The works on the Sorel are all very bad - The resources, which the lower part of the province is capable of bringing forward cannot be depended upon; a languid insensibility to all political importance, with but a few Exceptions, runs through the whole; it will be difficult to rouse them Even to their own defence, or make them perceive their danger, till it is at their door, and probably too late.

The Militia has been as much attended to as prudence would admit, but a favorable opportunity to embody two battalions of them, which might in a few years correct this torpid habit, has not yet offered; and on a well timed introduction, the success of the measure will greatly depend. The defence of the Province will therefore be reduced nearly to the Troops, and what small assistance the Loyalists may be able to afford; this for local reasons must be confined to their own District, and indeed the same local considerations, in the present condition of our strength will have nearly the same

effect upon the Troops, so that every post will be left to its own defence, consequently must be expected to fall; the retaking any will be quite impracticable. It will require a reinforcement of at least four thousand men to enable this province to carry on a defensive war with any probability of success. In the year Eighty Eight, having conceived suspicion of such hostile designs, though not so far advanced. I apprised Brigadier General Ogilvie, that I might have occasion to draw two Battalions from Nova Scotia and its dependencies, to Canada by New Brunswick. I must observe that the present very defective distribution of the Troops there renders such a measure difficult and tedious in Summer, and impossible in Winter; dispersed as they are they cannot defend themselves, nor succour any other part, on a sudden Emergency; I would therefore recommend, that leaving two Battalions for the guard of Halifax, all the rest of the troops in Nova Scotia, its dependencies, and New Brunswick, be collected on the upper part of the river St. John, where they make huts for themselves, in a central situation, from whence they may give assistance with their united force, whatever it shall be. In their present dispersed situation they have nothing to guard, and may be cut off in detail. The proper defence for Nova Scotia, besides its militia, is a command of those seas; the Halifax Squadron should at all times be decidedly superior to what the French annually send to Boston; on the present occasion, an additional number of frigates Enough suddenly to extinguish the trade and fisheries of the States, should they commence hostilities, would soon convince them of their Error.

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#### DORCHESTER

The Right Honble W.W. Grenville.

Endorsed. Quebec, 8th March 1790. Lord Dorchester. Dup. No. 18 Secret.  
(q. 44-1, p. 123-5.)

Alarming intelligence continued to arrive at Niagara from Butler's correspondents or agents in the Genesee valley. It may be noted that the person who wrote this letter had been an interpreter in the British Indian Department and was soon after engaged in the same capacity in the service of the United States, vide Simcoe Papers, II 195-6, 276, 315, III. 103.

#### FROM N. ROSECRANTZ TO COLONEL JOHN BUTLER

Extract if a letter from N. Rosecrantz, an Inhabitant of Genesee County dated 16th March, 1790 to Lieut. Col. Butler.

I have been lately as far down as Cannandasago where I was informed by Mr. Smith, a Merchant, of that place, who had just arrived from Cannandasago, I asked him whether he brought us any news, he answered that he read the late papers, wherein he found that the Americans were raising a Numerous Army under a pretence of Destroying the Southern Nations of Indians and it is the opinion of the people that the Troops are intended for to take Niagara and the back Posts, at least it is strongly talk'd of.

D.

Endorsed.

3

In Lord Dorchester's Letter to Mr. Grenville, No. 26, of the 27th May, 1790. (Q 44-1, p. 244)

This information was to a certain extent corroborated by the following statement from a credible Indian source and both reports were forwarded to Lord Dorchester, who considered them of sufficient importance to be transmitted to Mr. Grenville.

#### INDIAN INTELLIGENCE

Copy of Intelligence received from a principal Cayuga Chief, called the Blue Coat --  
Buffaloe Creek

26th March, 1790.

Sent by Lt. Col. Harris.

The above mentioned Chief lately returned from the Mohawk River, says, that he there met with a Mr. Wemp, (with whom he had been well acquainted before the last War.) who told him he wished to have some Conversation with him, and told him he had long wished for such an opportunity as now offer'd of Speaking His Mind to one who he thought from their former friendship he could depend upon, he informed him it was the wishes of the Americans to have Oswego thrown open which he said ought to have been done long ago, according to the Treaty of Peace in 1783, that it being kept Occasioned them many Difficulties especially in settling the Country lately purchased from them by subjecting them to a long land Carriage which occasioned great trouble and Expence in settling that Country, and prevented many of the principal people, from going there, which would not be the case was Oswego thrown open, that it Greatly injured their trade and they were thereby prevented from Selling their Goods cheaper to the Indians than they could buy them at any other Place, and that the people were therefore determined to take some Method to lay open Oswego, and that they were now raising Troops in the States, but whether they were intended against Oswego or not he Could not tell, and added, that, he had informed him in all that he knew respecting the Americans and would be glad to know if it would be agreeable to the Indians in General to have Oswego thrown open, as it would be of such great benefit to them also, or if he thought they would oppose such a thing and requested to know if they were told by the King their Father to oppose the Americans or whether the King advised them (at the time they received their Annual Presents) to stand against the Americans should they attempt to take the Upper Posts - he continued that what they intended to do was not from any authority of Congress, but from the Wishes of the People.

The Blue Coat made answer that the King the Father, since the Peace had given them no advice to oppose the Americans nor were they ever told that their Presents were given them for that Purpose, but that the King, their Father had desired them to be peacable and Quiet, and to Mind their Own Business and that he did not imagine the King or any of his People had any thoughts that the Americans intended to do what was then told him.

D.

Endorsed.

2

In Lord Dorchester's letter to Mr. Grenville No. 26 of the 27th of May, 1790. (Q 44-1, pp. 241-3.)

Having at length received the necessary instructions for their guidance, the district land board entered upon the active performance of its duties which in addition to the

allotment of grants of land, included the selection of sites for Towns and laying out new roads and the improvement of such primitive roads as had already been opened.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Niagara, March 20th, 1790.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Harris, Lieutenant Colonel Butler, R. Hamilton.

"Which day various Letters and other papers being laid before the Board, they read the same, and for the purpose of executing their contents, they direct a Board to be held on the 29th inst., at Mr. Sheehan's House, in the Ranger's Barracks, and that the inhabitants of Township No. 1 be advertised then and there to attend for the purpose of filling up the lots of that Township, with the names of the Proprietors."  
Till then, the Board adjourned."

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"Land Board, Nassau, 29th March, 1790.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Harris, Commanding Upper Posts, Lieutenant Colonel John Butler, Peter Ten Broeck, Robert Hamilton, Nathaniel Pettit, Esquires.

"The Board Proceeded to the election of a Clerk, and appointed Mr. Sheehan for that purpose. Mr. Jones, Acting Surveyor, was called in and produced a plan of the first Township, which the Board proceeded to examine, and entered those claimants for land whose titles appear clear and undisputed."

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"Land Board, Nassau, 30th March, 1790.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Harris, Commanding Upper Posts, Robert Hamilton, Nathaniel Pettit, Peter Ten Broeck, Lieut. Col. John Butler, Esquires.

"The Board this day continued examining the claims of the inhabitants to the lots in the First Township, and entered in a list for that purpose, such of the claims are undisputed."

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"Land Board, Nassau, 31st March, 1790.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Peter Ten Broeck, Robert Hamilton, Nathaniel Pettit, Esquires.

"The Board, having met, issued the following advertisements:

"The Land Board for the District of Nassau, having received from Lord Dorchester instructions to open the Portage on the west of the River above Niagara, And his Lordship wishing to do this on the most liberal and useful terms for the Settlement directs them to be consulted on this business, and that every proposal they individually or in companies may think proper to make for a contract shall be handed to him the Board have appointed the next Meeting on the second Tuesday in April, when the Court sits, at which time they will communicate every particular respecting this business to whoever may apply, and Mr. Sheehan, Clerk of the Board, will inform any others who may wish this information sooner, if they will apply to him at his house.

"(Signed) J. Butler, Peter Ten Broeck, Nathaniel Pettit, R. Hamilton."



"The Board are also of opinion, from the regulations of the Governor and Council of the 25th August last, that the center of this Township on the banks of Niagara River is the proper place for a Town, and other Public Buildings, and that the lots Nos. 15, 16, 17, and 18, in the center of this Township are at present in the possession of Gilbert Fields, Wm. Baker, Richard Wilkinson and Nathaniel Fields, which the Board will endeavour to obtain from those Proprietors for that purpose."

"The Board then proceeded to appoint Commissioners of the Roads, when the following Persons were named:

"John McNabb, Andrew Butler, Jacob TenBroeck, Charles Pettit, Robert Lottridge, Robert Nelles, Gilbert Tice, John Warren, Elijah Phelps, Jacob Ball Jr., John Powell.

"REGULATIONS FOR THE COMMISSIONERS; No new roads are to be opened nor any alterations made in the old ones except by the concurrence of three of the Commissioners of Roads for that District, and the Board thinks it requisite that the commissioners do order that the inhabitants shall Work on the Road six days in the year, viz: three days in the Spring and three days in the Fall, and at any other time when it shall become necessary either by floods or other accidents; and you are hereby directed, in case of any persons refusing to work, after having been warned, to fine them five shillings for every day they shall neglect to work, and the Path Masters are to be fined 5 pounds should they neglect their duty. The Commissioners will observe that all roads are to be one chain in breadth."

---

Colonel Butler took advantage of a meeting with some of the principal chiefs of the Five Nations, residing on their lands in Central New York, to inquire whether they were disposed to resist an attack upon the British Post at Oswego, but at the same time, renewed his former advice to endeavour to live at Peace with their white neighbours and avoid being drawn into a conflict with the United States in the event of a War with the Southern Indians.

#### SPEECH BY JOHN BUTLER TO THE INDIANS

Copy of Lieut. Colonel Butler's Speech to some of the Principal Chiefs of the Five Nations and their Answer.

Niagara, 8th April, 1790.

Brothers,

I was informed by Mr. Johnson, the Interpreter at his Return from your Village that the Cayuga Chief called the Blue Coat, told him he had lately returned from the Mohawk River, where he saw Hendrick Wemple, an American Interpreter, who told him that the people of New York were very uneasy about the Post of Oswego being detained from them, that they found not only an inconveniency in conveying their Settlers into the new Settlements; but that they must bring goods by Land a Considerable distance, which put it out of their Power to furnish them so Cheap as they otherwise might; he said the people were very desirous to have that Post thrown open and wished to know if you would have any objection to their attempting it by force and whether you had any directions on receiving your Annual Cloathing from the King Your Father, to oppose them.

You know, Brothers, that it has always been recommended to you to live peaceably and justly and to give your Neighbours no Cause to blame your Conduct, this was my Advice to you, and is still. And it appears from the above information and from Reports of the Americans raising Troops to go against the Southern Indians that they are not perfectly satisfied. I recommend it to you as a prudent step towards keeping clear of disputes with them to call home all your scattering people from amongst them, least some of them may be prevailed upon by the Americans to Join in the Quarrel against people of your own Colour which might involve your Nations in a War.

ANSWER FROM THE CHIEFS

Brother:

Our Attachment to the King, Our Father, is firmly Fixed and Agreeable to His Advice, we shall endeavour to keep clear of Disputes with our Neighbours and as we are apprehensive that should a quarrel between the Americans and our Brothers to the Southward take place, that our Situation might be disturbed sooner than we Conceive, at present they are encroaching fast upon our Country with their Settlements, and as we wish to keep free from disputes we are desirous of knowing from the Commander in Chief, the particular Boundaries of the Lands that are given us on the Grand River, that we may make such divisions amongst ourselves; so as to know where to retire when we see Cause to remove to it; the Mohawks have papers to shew for their Lands, we wish also to have the same, with the outlines point out that there may be no Misunderstanding or disputes hereafter.

Endorsed

6

D

In Lord Dorchester's Letter to Mr. Grenville No. 26 of 27th May, 1790. (Q 44-2, pp. 248-250.)

These proceedings were duly reported to Sir John Johnson and by him to the Governor, who transmitted the information to the Colonial Office.

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Extract of a letter from Lieut. Colonel Butler to Sir John Johnson dated Niagara, 10th April, 1790.

We have had a Report here that the Americans are raising an Army against the Southern Indians. I have desired them to call home their Scattering people as it is probable some of them might be prevailed upon to Join against the Indians which might be the occasion of involving their Nations in a War with those of their own Colour and may be prevented by a timely attention which I strongly recommend and hope will be attended to.

D

Endorsed

7

In Lord Dorchester's Letter to Mr. Grenville No. 26 of the 27th May, 1790. (Q 44-1, p. 251.)

About this time, Lord Dorchester had received private information that some of the Officers of the Indian Department among them Colonel Butler, had obtained considerable grants of land in the United States, which gave him some anxiety, and the Superintendent was instructed to make a full inquiry and report the result.

FROM HENRY MOTZ TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Sir,

Quebec, 12th April, 1790.

Lord Dorchester having understood, although he cannot give full credit to the report, that several persons in the King's service, and other the King's subjects in the Province, are possessed of Lands, beyond the line marked by the late Treaty of Peace, in the Upper Part of the Country under titles derived from the States, or subjects of the United States - His Lordship requests you will endeavour to obtain full and special information on the subject, and bring him acquainted with all particulars of the names, characters and residence of the persons of this description, what quantities of Lands they possess as aforementioned, where the lands are situated, and upon what terms or pretences, how, and from whom they have been obtained, and in what manner they are held or pretended to be held, whether in their own names, or in any other way whatever with the dates of all such grants or titles.

I am &c.

HENRY MOTZ

Sir John Johnson, Bart.

The following letters show that the commandant at Fort Niagara had become seriously alarmed and considered it necessary to take unusual precautions to guard against surprise.

FROM LIEUTENANT COLONEL HARRIS TO CAPTAIN LE MAISTRE

Extract of a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Harris Commanding the Upper Posts, dated Niagara, 15th April, 1790, to Captain Le Maistre, Military Secretary.

The inclosed papers have been delivered to me by Lieut. Colonel Butler; Rosecrans - you may probably remember, he was with the Rangers and Captain Brant during the War, but has since resided at the Genecies.

That the States have ordered Troops to be raised, is mentined by different People lately arrive here - A Mr. Skinner says, such a Report prevailed amongst the Common People. Murphy (who is Blacksmith in the Indians Department at Michilimakinac) says Troops are ordered to be raised to the number of thirteen or fourteen Thousand to be employed against the Western Indians, for having taken or destroyed five of their Boats on the Ohio last fall.

There is a Report (but not generally believed) that the English have taken two French Ships, returning from Philadelphia laden with corn. D.

Endorsed - 1 In Lord Dorchester's Letter to Mr. Grenville, No. 26 of the 27th May, 1790.

FROM LIEUT. COLONEL HARRIS TO CAPTAIN LE MAISTRE

Copy of a Letter from Lieut. Colonel Harris, dated Niagara, 15th April, 1790 to Captain LeMaistre, Military Secretary

Since my letter to you of this morning, I have received the enclosed from Col'l Butler, how far the Intelligence is to be relied on I cannot pretend to say -- but should anything material be attempted this way, beg to be inform'd what lengths I may go with

the Indians; and what Engagements I may enter into, in order to interest them (if it should be thought proper) to take an Active Part on the side of Government.

I have this day wrote to Captain Partridge Commanding at Oswego to put him on his guard. Endorsed 4 D.  
In Lord Dorchester's Letter to Mr. Grenville No. 26 of the 27th May, 1790. (Q 44-1, pp. 245.)

Some of the six Nations, who remained in the United States, then announced their intention of joining the Mohawks already settled on the Grand River and the chiefs of that nation requested in consequence that the limits of their reserve should be defined and those intending to migrate should be supplied with provisions.

FROM DAVID AND AARON HILL TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Nassau, 15th April, 1790.

Sir,

Having been informed by Colonel Butler of the receipt of a Letter from You, mentioning His Lordship's wish to know when we would choose to have our Deed for the Lands granted to us on the Grand River, it being the wish of the Six Nations in general we have to request the Deed as soon as possible, being informed the Americans are Raising Troops and Ignorant of what their intentions may be, think the sooner our Boundaries are pointed out, the greater will be our satisfaction, and wish to know how much of the Land to the south of the Grand River we may expect will be reserved for our Hunting, and further request His Lordship will order a Surveyor, to survey the Tract granted us, that in future we may be certain as to our Boundaries.

There being a number of the Six Nations who means to move over to the Grand River and the Season being considerably advanced a number of them nearly destitute of Provisions in order to enable them to move, and until such time as they may be able to support themselves, we are in Behalf of the Six Nations &c.

DAVID HILL, AARON HILL  
Sir John Johnson, Baronet.

Butler encouraged the project of emigration to the Grand River and recommended that provisions should be supplied to the Indians who intended to remove.

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO COLONEL HARRIS

Copy of a letter from Lieut. Col'l Butler to Lieut. Colonel Harris dated Niagara, 15th April, 1790.

I have been informed by Captain Aaron that he had send a Messenger to Onida, who had returned and relates that Congress had sent a Message to the Onidas informing them that they had now raised an Army to take their own Fort Niagara, and that Two Thousand of that Army were now on their way from New York, and recommended to the Indians to collect their People in a Body and Advise them to lay Still and look on, and not to interfere with White People, and that any who Disobeyed this Caution, they would Punish as the Island of America was not so large but what they could find them out, and

further related that in Consequence of Capt. Aaron's Message, all the Indians in the King's Interst had left Onida and were removed to Genesea.

A great part of the Tuscarora and some of the Cayuga Nations are now preparing and will move over to settle at the Grand River this Spring and it is my opinion that if Government would allow a year's provisions to those that move over, that many of the other Nations would follow their Example and move there in the Course of the Summer, but without that Assistance they Cannot as moving their Families would prevent them from planting and of course leave them Destitute of Provisions. D

Endorsed

5

In Lord Dorchester's Letter to Mr. Grenville No. 26 of the 27th May, 1790. (Q. 44-1, pp. 246-7.)

At the next meeting of the Land Board, Petitions were received from two men who were destined to take a long and active part in public affairs, as rivals for popular favour. Swayze had been employed in Secret Service during the War, and seems to have had a talent for making enemies. Street, who was a native of Connecticut, had commenced trading with the Indians on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, whence he had removed to Fort Niagara in 1778. He had not taken any active part in the War, but had married the daughter of a Loyalist. Both of them soon acquired considerable property in land, and were commissioned as magistrates. Street and Butler had already built a Saw Mill on the Fifteen Mile Creek.

In 1798, Samuel Street patented 4,600 acres in the township of Willoughby, mostly obtained by transfer from Philip Stedman and other original grantees. Swayze patented 1,200 acres in Pelham in 1797 to which he added other lands in that and adjacent Townships at a later date. He was elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Third Riding of Lincoln in 1792, but was succeeded and probably defeated by Street in 1796. Street had been a Candidate for the Second Riding in 1792, but was defeated by Benjamin Pawling by 148 votes to 48 votes. Street was again elected in 1800 and chosen as Speaker. Swayze was elected by the Fourth Riding on the death of John Fanning in 1812, and re-elected in 1816. Street died in 1815 but Swayzie lived until 1828.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Nassau, 16th April, 1790.

"Present: Lieut. Col. John Butler, Peter TenBroeck, Nathaniel Pettit, Esquires.

"Received a Petition from Isaac Swayze, setting forth that from his character having been traduced, he had been prevented from enjoying the privileges of other loyal citizens, and, having produced sufficient proof that his character had been misrepresented, the Board are of opinion that he is entitled to the quantity of land his services may entitle him to as a Volunteer in the British Army at New York.

"Received a Petition addressed to his Excellency Lord Dorchester from Samuel Street, Esquire."

A copy of Mr. Street's Petition has been preserved and is of considerable interest, relating his claim to the occupation of a part of the Crown reserve at what was then called the "lower landing," which became the subject of a suit at law two years later.

"Writing to Mr. Secretary Dundas, on 4 November, 1792, Lieut. Governor Simcoe said: "The Queen's Rangers are hutted by great exertions at the Niagara Landing,

*now Queenston*, Mr. Street, an inhabitant of the place, chose to dispute the Right of the Land; I directed the Attorney General to defend the suit, & Judgment was given in favor of the Crown."

#### THE MEMORIAL OF SAMUEL STREET

To His Excellency The Right Honourable Guy Lord Dorchester Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Colonies of Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick and their Dependences, Vice-Admiral of the same General and Commander in Chief of all His Majesty's Forces in the Said Colonies and the Island of Newfoundland, &c. &c.&c.

The Memorial of Samuel Street of Niagara, Esqr., humbly sheweth -

That your Lordship's Memorialist having observed through the Medium of the Land Board here that from the remarks made by Lieut. Hemphry of the Engineers, the face of the Hill and the front of the Lots at the Landing may be taken for the Use of Government, the Present Possessor having no rights to them; begs leave to represent that he has been a Residenter at Niagara upwards of twelve years, and in Possession of the Lands pointed at by Lieut. Humphry upwards of six years; that he made a Purchase of them at a Price little short of Seven Hundred Pounds, under the written Sanction of Lieut. Colonel Depeyster, the then Commanding Officer of this Post and has since expended near double that Sum in Buildings and other Improvements thereon -- Your Lordships Memorialist having at all times strictly complied with every Instruction and Regulation which has come to his knowledge relative to settlers on Crown Lands and done all in his Power to promote the Prosperity of this New Settlement conceives himself entitled to the same Privileges as other Settlers and asks no more than to be permitted to keep the Lands he has taken Possession of conformable to the General Rules observed in this Settlement.

Your Lordships Memorialist will however most cheerfully submit to have such Reserves made in his Deeds as will not only enable Government to take away from the face of the Hill what Stones may be wanted, but to erect Store Houses, and Wharfs for the King's use on such Part of said Lands as shall be found most convenient, when the Engineer views the Ground - Your Lordships Memorialist therefore humbly begs that your Lordship will be pleased to take his Case into Consideration and Grant him such relief as your Lordship in your wisdom shall judge right -- And your Lordships Memorialist as in Duty bound will every pray &c. &c.

Niagara, 15th April, 1790.

SAM'L STREET

Copied from a Copy.

D.W. Smith.

After the organization of the Province of Upper Canada, Mr. Swayze renewed his application for lands, at first in conjunction with associates, unsuccessfully, and afterwards alone with better fortune, as he had then become a member of the Legislative Assembly.

To His Excellency, John Graves Simcoe, Esqr. Governor and Commander of the Province of Upper Canada &c. In Council.

The Petition of Isaac Swayze, John Secord, Sr., John Secord Jr., and David Secord,  
HUMBLY SHEWETH-

That Your Petitioners desirous of promoting the population of this Province hath encouraged a number of their friends and Relations, now residing in the States of New

Jersey and New York to become Settlers in this Country, and as your Petitioners conceive that from the great resort of People to this Province applying for Grants of Land, that the Townships most contiguous to the navigable waters may be located; In behalf of themselves and Friends, solicits your Excellency for a Grant of one Township and your Petitioners will strictly adhere to the settlement and cultivation thereof, or grant such other relief in the Premises as Your Excellency may seem meet, and your Petitioners will ever pray.

New Ark, 21st May, 1793

Endorsed - May 24, 1793 - Read in Council - Inadmissible.

To His Excellency, John Graves Simcoe, Esqr. Governor and Commander of his Majesty Province of Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c. In Council.

The Petition of Isaac Swayzie Humbly sheweth:

That the sufferings and loyalty of Your Petitioner during the late Rebellion are well known neither, he presumes, have his services been forgot. He therefore most humbly prays that you Honor will grant him a location agreeable to His Majesty most gracious bounty to his Loyal subjects.

Newark, June 4, 1794            ISAAC SWAYZE

(The whole petition in Swayze's handwriting)

Endorsed: Granted one thousand, two hundred acres, and refered to Surveyor Genl. to locate the Same.

Read in Council July 8, 1794, gave the Minutes to Mr. Swayze.

As hostilities with Spain seemed almost certain in consequence of the seizure of British Ships in Nootka Sound, Lord Dorchester was requested to abandon his intention of returning to England on leave, through fear that the United States might be tempted to take an active part in the War to secure possession of the Frontier Posts, and he was accordingly directed to organize the Militia for their defence.

FROM W.W. GRENVILLE TO LORD DORCHESTER

No. 22 - SECRET    The Right Honorable Lord Dorchester.

Whitehall, 6th May, 1790.

My Lord,

In consequence of discussions which have arisen between His Majesty and the Court of Spain relative to the Capture of some British Vessels on the North West Coast of America, & His Majesty having received information of armaments in the Ports of Spain, has judged it necessary to give immediate orders for augmenting His Forces.

I trust that the issue of this business will be such as to correspond with His Majesty's sincere desire for the maintenance of peace consistently with the preservation of the Honor of His Crown and the Essential interests of His People. But as it is possible that this business may take a contrary turn, I have thought it right that Your Lordship should be apprized of it as early as possible.

It is I think extremely improbable that any attack will be made by Spain in the present circumstances on any of His Majesty's North American Dominions -- But it is evidently to be apprehended that the existence of a War between this Country and Spain will give encouragement to the United States to demand the Cession of the Forts on the

Frontier of Canada. And, it is possible that by holding out to them a prospect of obtaining this favourable object, the Court of Spain may be able to induce them to take an active part in the War. As this is a point of the utmost importance to the British Interests, I am persuaded that Your Lordship will feel how necessary it is that His Majesty should have in that part of His Dominions a person to whose Experience, talents and character He may look with Confidence for such a line of conduct as may be necessary to protect the whole of the remaining British Empire in America, and that Your Lordship will therefore readily be induced to relinquish Your wish of returning to Great Britain this Season.

The necessary arrangements for the defence of those of His Majesty's possessions which are more immediately exposed to attack either by Spain if she should find herself in a condition for offensive operations, or by France, if that Country should be induced to become a Party in the War, make it very doubtful whether any reinforcement of Troops can be sent out to North America this year -- As Your Lordship is empowered by an Ordinance of the Province to Embody such part of the Militia as shall be necessary, you will of course, on receiving accounts of the commencement of Hostilities, of which I shall not fail to give Your Lordship the Earliest intelligence, take measures for doing this as far as the circumstances of your situation may appear to require, and considering how large a part of the Inhabitants, particularly in the Upper Country, were in arms during the American Revolution, I should hope this might soon be made by Your Lordship's Exertions, an useful and efficient force. I am, &c.

W. W. GRENVILLE.

Endorsed. Drat to Lord Dorchester 6th May, 1790.

Secret No. 22. (Q 44, pp. 84-6)

Early in 1788 Oliver Phelps, Nathaniel Gorham and their associates had purchased from the Government of Massachusetts their right of pre-emption to all the Indian Lands in the State of New York. To secure the good will of the Six Nations, these persons had employed Samuel Kirkland, the Missionary, (See Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society, Vol. XXIV, pp. 79-88.) "and had endeavoured with some success to enlist the influence of Colonel Butler, Joseph Brant, Samuel Street, and other persons living at or near Niagara. On being called upon by the Commandant for an explanation of his conduct, Butler made the following rather unsatisfactory statement.

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO LIEUT. COLONEL HARRIS

Niagara, 18th May, 1790.

Sir,

Agreeable to my promise to You this morning, I send you an account as far as has come to my knowledge respecting Persons concerned in the Purchases made of Lands in the Indian Country. Messrs. Oliver Phelps & Company of the state of Massachusetts had made a purchase from the Five Nations sometime in the month of July, 1788, of a large Tract of Land, at which time Mr. Phelps offered a part of that Tract, by Paying the sum that he did for it, to some Inhabitants of this Place, which was accepted and went by the name of the Niagara Company, but thinking it improper to hold those Lands, I believe most of them gave up their Claim to them except Mr. Street & Mr. Barton, who I believe are now the only persons that claim lands in that country. In order to accommodate some



of my Relatives in the New England States, I got a Deed for them from Mr. Phelps for 10,000 acres with a promise of 10,000 more to be given them hereafter. The Five Nations had lately made Sir John Johnson and myself a Present of a Tract of Land, for the purpose of accommodating our Friends in the States, but Sir John having refused it, I have also done the same and given them back the conveyance (they had given us) in the presence of Doctor Kerr and Mr. Wm. Johnston the Interpreter.

I had no other view of accepting that Present than to give it to my Friends in the States: and Lt. Col. Hunter told me when he was here that he saw no impropriety in my Getting Lands from Mr. Phelps for that purpose.

I have the honor to be &c. JOHN BUTLER

Lt. Colonel Harris, Commanding the Upper Posts.

P.S. As Mr. Street is the Acting Person in this Business, he will on his return be able to inform you more particular than I can.

Lord Dorchester disapproved the proposal made by Butler to encourage migration of the Six Nations from the States of New York to the Grand River, which had seemed to him the natural sequel to the sale of the greater part of their lands. Sir John Johnson was given orders to be watchful and warn the Militia to be in readiness for a resolute defence.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 20th May, 1790

Sir,

The Indian Intelligence communicated by Lieutenant Colonel Butler in his dispatch of 15th April, importing that hostilities are intended against the Posts of Oswego and Niagara, with the request of some Principal Chiefs of the Five Nations in consequence of that alarm, to know the boundaries of lands said to be given to those Nations on the Grand River to which they propose to remove, appear very extraordinary.

It is not generally thought desirable for the Indians to abandon their country, and yet Lieutenant Colonel Butler's suggestion to allow a Year's provision to those, who shall take that course, as an incitement for others to follow, indicates a strong and decided opinion to the contrary. I shall be glad to hear his reasons.

I do not exactly comprehend what lands, said to be given to the Five Nations on the Grand River, are alluded to, the boundaries of what was promised by General Haldimand I think have been described in writing, and are, or ought to be in Lieutenant Colonel Butler's hands, so that he should be able at all times to satisfy them in that respect.

But though I cannot discern how the removal of the Indians to the Grand River can benefit either themselves, the King's service, or the settlers in the Upper Part of the Province and fear, that on the contrary, it will occasion much inconvenience and distress, particularly at the present time when there is a general scarcity of provisions, yet it is not difficult to perceive the advantage and convenience which must result there from to those who have obtained grants of land in the Indian Country; and to them I impute the assertions of an attack upon Oswego and Niagara being in agitation, for I cannot easily persuade myself our Neighbours really mean now to begin a War.

But however improbable these reports of hostile designs against us may be, common prudence requires all precautions should be taken immediately and the more so as it is evident the Indians have been tampered with for some purpose or other.

You will therefore take all proper measures to excite vigilance in the Indian Department, as well as in the Militia of the Western Districts, and that all things be prepared for a vigorous defence against any insult that may be offered in those parts.

If anything occurs to you to be further necessary for putting our strength in the Upper Country in a better state of defence, I shall be glad to be made acquainted with it.

Similar instructions are now given to the Commanding Officers of the Upper Posts.

Lieutenant Colonel Butler was right in advising the Five Nations to call in their Scattered people to prevent their being involved with the Southern Indians.

I am &c.

DORCHESTER

To; Sir John Johnson, Bart.

(Q 46-2, pp. 432-4.)

Particular instructions were issued for the guidance of the Land Surveyors, in the delimitation of Townships on the shore of Lake Ontario in the tract recently purchased from the Indians at the Treaty held with them at the Carrying Place of the Bay of Quinte.

FROM JOHN COLLINS to PHILIP R. FREY

Quebec, 20th May, 1790.

Instructions to Mr. Philip Frey, Deputy Surveyor of the District of Nassau.

Sir,

His Excellency having been pleased to direct "that the Land Board of Nassau employ the surveyor of their District with ten men to survey and mark the front lines of Townships from the eastern boundary of their district to Toronto and to carry the side line of each Township back one mile well marked, at such time as may best fall in with their general arrangement of the summer business of their District if other more necessary work will admit of it."

You are to proceed to the execution of these services at such time and agreeable to such instructions as the Land Board of your District may direct, reporting to this office protraction of the work when finished.

You are directed to keep a journal and field book, inserting whatever is observable for its singularity and value towards the Public Utility, as Waterfalls, Minerals, Quarries, the quality of the land and timber, &c. &c.

And I am charged to apprise you that besides your return to me of a Map and Field Book, you do also account for the time to be spent on it in a Journal to be kept for the purpose with such minuteness and certainty as will enable you to answer questions respecting the business, upon oath, if the same should be required.

There must be very strict attention to economy in the whole service and the hands dismissed as soon as they can be spared and as the accounts will all be subject to audit, you'll take care to furnish the documents that will be expected in justification of every article of charge. It is not, however, his Lordship's intention by any small savings to disappoint the useful end for which these surveys are commanded, but there must be a responsible discretion exercised in the expenses both of the time and the means.

And you are on receipt of these instructions to communicate the same to the Land Board of your District for their information and that they may be the better enabled to direct such further particulars as their local knowledge and experience may suggest.

I am with Regard, &c. JOHN COLLINS, D.S.G.

Approved by His Excellency Lord Dorchester.

31st May, 1790 Henry Motz.

(District of Nassau, Letter Book, No. 5, pp.33-4.)

FROM SIR JOHN JOHNSON TO LORD DORCHESTER

Montreal, 24th May, 1790

My Lord,

By the last Post, I was honored with your Lordship's letter of the 20th instant. It would appear as if Lieutenant Colonel John Butler meant to encourage the Six Nations in their intention of removing to the Grand River, his reasons for doing so I am at a loss to know -- unless it be to prevent their being detached from us, and to have them more at liberty to Act with us in case of necessity. Yet is not at all Improbable that those who may have obtained Land from them, and have more extensive views, may propagate those reports to encourage the Indians to abandon their Country. Long ere this however, Lieutenant Colonel Butler will have received my letter, in which I acquainted him with your Lordship's sentiments upon that subject, and directed him by all means to advise and discourage them from Removing, and I gave Captain Brant written instructions to the same purpose.

Lieutenant Colonel Butler and the Six Nations are perfectly acquainted with the extent of the Tract allowed for the use of the Six Nations by General Haldimand, but the inclosed Letter will shew what is meant by their desire to know the Boundaries of their Tract on the Grand River.

I shall not fail to give every necessary direction to prepare the Indian Department, and the Militia of the Western District to guard against any attempt that may be made to Insult them in those parts, at the same time, I do not apprehend the least danger and only look on those reports as the Vaunting of a set of men who feel sore by the detention of the posts from them, for the reasons they assign -- yet I am confident they would be the last to make an attempt threatened, more is to be apprehended, I should imagine, from the eastern people now settled in the neighbourhood of Oswego and Niagara - Nothing occurs to me necessary for putting our strength in the Upper Country in a better state of Defence than the strengthening of the Garrison at Oswego, and that orders be given to the Commanding Officers of the several Posts, in case of Invasion, to furnish Arms & Ammunition to such of the Militia as may stand in Need of them, upon the Requisition of the Commanding Officers of the Battalions -- for want of an order something similar, I shall ever regret the failure of an Expedition the Success of which would have been attended with the greatest advantage to His Majesty's Service.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JOHN JOHNSON

His Excellency, The Right Honble Guy, Lord Dorchester, &c. &c.&c.

(Q 46-2, pp.435-7.)

Colonel Harris commented adversely on Colonel Butler's conduct in becoming involved in land speculation and discredited his explanation, which he forwarded.

FROM COLONEL J.A. HARRIS TO CAPTAIN LE MAISTRE

Niagara, 26th May, 1790

Sir,

In my letter of the 26th of February last, I acquainted you, Lieut. Coll. Cutler had shewn me a sketch of a Tract of Land, to the *Eastward* of this place, which he meant to take up. I express'd my disapprobation, and represented the Impropriety of it to him. Notwithstanding which the *Business was transacted*, and a Deed obtained from the Indians - This deed has been given up within these few days.

The inclosed I received from Col. Butler in answer to some question asked him relative to the lands he held in the States.

The true state of the case I have reason to believe is this - A set of People call'd the Niagara Company have obtained Land in the States (near Genecies) to the Amount of Twenty Thousand Acres, and the Members of the above Company, I am informed, are Messrs. Lt. Col. Butler, Capt. Powell, Lieuts. Johnson & Dockstader, Street, Barton from the States (residing when here at Mr. Streets) and Murphy the Blacksmith, and I have understood the Lands were to be held in the names of others, under the title from Phelps, Gorham & Co.

When Mr. Street went from this, he told me it was to bring in his property, mostly cattle, and asked me if it would be convenient to take them for the Garrison, in exchange for salt provisions; his principal errand I believe is the Land jobbing business abovementioned. Mr. Frey (the Deputy Surveyor) notwithstanding his assurance to me of returning as early in the spring as possible, has wrote word to his Creditors, that he means to remain where he is.

I have the honor to be &c.

JNO. ADOLPS. HARRIS

Lt. Col. Comg. Upper Posts.

Capt. Le Maistre, M.S. &c.

As the proposal for granting a further measure of self-government to the inhabitants and the probable division of the Province was then under consideration, Lord Dorchester forwarded the regulations lately adopted for the grant of lands to encourage settlement which he accompanied with a form of the list to be used from distinguishing the United Empire Loyalists from other settlers.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO W. W. GRENVILLE

No. 25

Quebec, 27th May, 1790

Sir,

The King's Instructions restraining the further Grants of land within the Province under my government inclosed in your circular letter of the 10th of March, signifying at the same time, that it is not His Majesty's intention to preclude any claim to a grant of land founded on any antecedent step, that in equity gives a title to such grant, induce me to transmit the inclosed Regulations, although they are part of the Council Minutes, concerning the waste lands of the Crown in this Province, as it may be proper on this occasion to bring the whole into one view, in order to shew the extent of certain equitable claims found thereon.

A speedy settlement of the Upper Country with profitable subjects, provision towards a strong and loyal Aristocracy, and the reservation of certain tracts in every Township, for future uses, appear, on perusal, to be chief principles on which they were formed.

A number of well affected persons have upon the faith of these regulations, emigrated from the United States into the upper part of this Province, and there is reason to believe, that a continuance of the same spirit, if not checked on our part, will fill that extensive country, which under the free tenure already promised to the settlers, may soon be brought to a flourishing condition.

Care has been taken to reward the spirit of loyalty and industry, to extend and transmit it to future generations and to predispose for the political classes and distinctions, necessary to good order, by opening the road to affluence and honors to all, whose diligence and fidelity shall keep pace with the benevolent intentions of the King's Government.

Nearly one seventh (exclusive of Roads and spots for Public uses) of every Township or Parish is reserved for future disposition of His Majesty, and this I conceive to be as much as can be left in an unimproved state, without injury to the present settlers - - These reservations will no doubt become valuable when the population is advanced, and then may assist in providing for the Provincial expenditure.

It is essential to the security of the King's dominions on this continent, that the people be Attached by the strongest of all ties, their own interest. The Landholders must ever be the chief defence of this country, and should have nothing to gain, but much to lose, by a separation from Great Britain -- An easy tenure of their lands will prevent a fruitful source of discontent.

And while I am on this subject, I cannot help expressing a wish, that in whatever manner it shall please His Majesty to dispose of the Estates of the Jesuits in this province, the mutation fines, to which the tenantry are subject, may be abolished. It will be economy in the Mother Country to avoid the necessity of sending her treasure abroad for the support of her provincial governments; And her immediate advantages will depend upon the consumption of her manufactures, and the profits of a fair and liberal commerce.

The expediency of a strict observance of political justice, in the distribution of the Royal favors, and of the admission of all classes of the King's subjects to offices of honor and profit, in proportion to their merit, and usefulness to the State, is too obvious to require being enlarged upon. A schedule of the inclosures is subjoined.

I am &c. DORCHESTER.

The Right Honble W.W. Grenville.

(Q 44-1, pp. 191-4.)

## BLANK FORM OF ROLL FOR UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

Roll of Captain

Company of Militia of the

Battalion of

District of

-----  
NAMES

NUMBERS

Age Married

Unmarried

Absent

Infirm

Fusil

N.B. - Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their Children and their Descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals, affixed to their names: U. E.  
Alluding to their great principle The Unity of the Empire.

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In Lord Dorchester's to Mr. Grenville. No. 25 of the 27th May, 1790. (Q 44-1, p. 224.)  
In a second letter of the same date he described the precautions he had taken for defence.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO W.W. GRENVILLE

No. 26, See 1 to 7  
1790.

Quebec, 27th May,

Sir,

Late Accounts from Niagara, copies of which are inclosed, state that the Indians were much alarmed by intelligence of hostile designs against the Posts of Oswego and Niagara.

The Commanding Officer of the Upper Posts has therefore been ordered to take all necessary measures for their defence, to consider any Attempt to wrest them from us as a commencement of War and to repel it as such, agreeable to former orders given in December, 1786.

Sir John Johnson has likewise received orders to take all proper measures to meet such an event -- Lieut. Humphrey of the Royal Engineers has been sent to Niagara, and Lieutenant Bruyere of the same Corps to Fort Ontario, to repair the damages sustained by the works in the course of the Winter.

The Indians about Niagara having taken umbrage at some part of Lieutenant Colonel Harris's conduct towards them, it becomes necessary to relieve him from the command of the Upper Posts. Lieutenant Colonel Gordon with the 26th Regiment will therefore be sent to Niagara, and Major Smith with the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment to Detroit.

I am &c. DORCHESTER.

The Right Honble W.W. Grenville  
(Q 44-1, pp. 238-9.)

The following letter from Lord Dorchester to Sir John Johnson shows that he was greatly disquieted by reports of hostile designs and was not inclined to ignore them.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Copy

Quebec, 31st May, 1790.

Sir,

Though I may be inclined to think with you that the United States have no hostile designs at present, yet it is necessary that every preparation be made on our part to meet such an event however improbable.

The Garrison of Oswego shall therefore be strengthened, and the Commanding Officers of the Upper Posts ordered, in the event of hostilities, to furnish Arms and Ammunition to such of the Militia of their Districts, as may stand in need of them, upon

your requisition, as far as the quantity in store may admit, consistently with the immediate defence of the Garrisons.

You will be pleased to inform me, whether any, and what arms and accoutrements have been restored to the several disbanded Corps of Royalists in this Province from the deposit in the Upper Country, in consequence of the General Order of the 16th of February, 1789, and what further quantity may be requisite to be deposited at the different posts to arm the Militia of the Western Districts in case of emergency.

I also wish to know your opinion whether it may not be advisable in case of further continuance of hostile appearances to embody a Battalion of Militia in the Upper Country, under the Ordinance of 1787.

As the Mohawks on the Grand River have not been able to preserve peace among themselves, and a part has in consequence of their quarrels quitted the Settlement there is still greater reason to fear, that an Accession of others, not of the same tribe, will renew these Evils, and occasion much uneasiness to themselves, as well as to the Loyalists, besides the general detriment to their own interest.

I am &c. (Signed) DORCHESTER

To: Sir John Johnson, Bart.

Endorsed - In Lord Dorchester's to Mr. Grenville, No. 56, dated 17th Oct. 1790. (Q 46-2, p. 440)

Among other persons consulted by Mr. Grenville at this critical period one of the best informed was John Inglis, the senior partner in a firm of London Merchants deeply interested in the Canadian Fur Trade.

FROM JOHN INGLIS TO W. W. GRENVILLE

Mark Lane, 31st May, 1790.

Sir,

Agreeable to your request, I have the Honour to send herewith for your information a state of the Indian Trade at the different Posts in Canada.

I believe I may venture to assure you, that it is correct as far as any estimate of a fluctuating Trade can be made.

I beg leave also to mention that the Merchants in this Country & in Canada, who are engaged in this adventurous Traffick, have generally a property embarked, & chiefly in the Indian Country equal to two years returns, & there is besides, fixed property of considerable value at the Posts of which I think an Estimate was furnished from Canada for some of the Departments of Government.

When it is in your power to see us, I will be ready to attend with Mr. Todd (Isaac Todd of the firm Todd and McGill of Montreal) the gentleman I mentioned on Saturday. He has been long engaged in the Trade, & has within two years been at the Principal Posts. He can, I am sure, furnish every information you may wish, relating to the Indian Trade.

If Military Information is wanted, may I be permitted to suggest that Lieut. Col. De Peyster of the 8th Regt. can probably furnish the best. He has the reputation of being a sensible & intelligent Officer, has served more than twenty years in that country & during the late War, generally commanded at one of the Garrisons as I understand with much satisfaction to Sir Fredk. Haldimand & with very great Reputation to himself.

I have the Honour to remain, &c.

JOHN INGLIS

Endorsed. Mark Lane, May 31, 1790. Mr. Inglis, R.1 June, I inc. (Q 49, pp. 287-8.)

The statement enclosed by him was illuminating as to the extent and value of the fur trade.

#### STATE OF THE FUR TRADE IN CANADA

The produce in England of Furrs & Skins imported from the Province of Quebec, taking the trade at the average of the last ten years amounts to the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Pounds Per Annum, which Furrs, &c. are traded for in different districts as nearly as can be ascertained as under, vizt.

The whole Country & Posts below

Montreal 30,000

The Grand River - The North Side of Lakes Ontario,

Huron & Superior 30,000 - 60,000

In the country generally called the North West 40,000

In the countries to *Southward* of the Lakes, the trade of which are principally brought to the Posts of Detroit and Michilimacinac, there being very little Indian Trade at

Niagara 100,000 - 140,000

As Above 200.000

Although there is no Indian Trade of consequence at Niagara, that Post is the key of the communication to the principal Trade of the Upper Countries of Canada -- It is very uncertain whether the Trade to the North West can be carried on otherwise than by the Post of Michilimacinac.

The American Claim extends to the Lake of the Woods, if admitted they command the present Communication from Canada & in that case the Trade also as stated above at 40,000 pounds. The Trade stated above at 100,000 pounds is carried on by Traders who go into different as under. In the District of the Garrison of Detroit, vizt.

The Fort of Detroit, Segana & the south side of Lake Huron 1,000

Miamanies & Wabach Country 2,000

Sandusky 400

say 3.400

Say 3,400 packs of Furrs estimated at 12 pounds 40,800

In the district of Michilimacinac vizt.

On Lake Michigan

The Grand River 100

St. Joseph's 300

Chequago 100

Milwaki 100

LaBay or Green Bay, including the upper part of the Mississippi 1,500

The South Side of Lake Superior 300

The Illinois Country 600



3,020 packs of Furr's estimated at 20 pounds each is	60,400
	101,200

This computation exceeds the Sum in the General Estimate 1,200 Pounds.

From this short state of the Indian Trade, it appears that if the Country & Posts are ceded to America agreeable to the Treaty, 3/10 of the furr Trade of Canada will only remain for certain to Great Britain, -- 1/5 is dependent upon Contingent circumstances -- The remaining half will inevitable be lost. It is true that probably 3/5 of the Merchandise necessary for the supply of the Indians will in any even be furnished by Great Britain but the labour of the great number of persons employed in the Trade from Canada is of importance as well as the Trade with the British Settlers at Detroit where the fixed property & cultivation is of considerable Value.

It is presumed that America is not well prepared to Garrison the Forts, to protect the Traders & carry on the Trade with Effect, & that dissatisfaction or War with the Indian Nations will be the inevitable consequence of their being abandoned by the British Troops. All which is humbly submitted.

PHYN ELLICE & INGLIS

London, May 31, 1790.

(Q 49, pp. 289-90.)

Captain (afterwards Admiral) John Schank, who had commanded the naval force on the Lakes, supplies the Minister with precise information respecting the state of the military posts and ships on those waters, based on personal knowledge.

#### MEMORANDUM BY CAPTAIN JOHN SCHANK, R.N.

1st. Oswegatchie is the first place, on the navigable part of Lake Ontario at the East End, and on the American side, but should it be necessary there is ground on the British side, which would answer the purposes intended for the Fort & Storehouses.

2nd. Oswego is next on the American side, and in my opinion is the only place of any great consequence to them, and indeed the only one that would give them any advantage over the British in the Fur Trade, as it is the leading passage from New York, through the Oneida Lake, and as there is no ground nearer the opposite shore, which is about 40 miles across, it would not be possible to prevent British Merchants from Trading with those of the American States, and carrying their Furr's to New York in preference to Quebec.

From Oswego to Niagara, there are some few Bays where Boats may lie in Summer, but of no great consequence.

3rd. Fort Niagara is the largest Fort and of the greatest force, both with respect to guns & Barracks &c. on the American side, but the ground on the opposite shore is in my opinion equally high, and the soil better, so that every conveniency necessary for a Post could be erected on the British side, with a Carriage Road as good, as that now on the American shore, and the conveniences for shipping are all, and ever were, on the British side.

4th. Fort Slosser is the next on the American side, and above the Falls of Niagara, chiefly intended to protect the Provisions and Merchandize which may be sent up Lake Erie. A Fort with all other conveniences may be erected on the opposite shore.

5th. Fort Erie is on the British side, and at the foot of the Lake, and is as well suited for the protection of Merchandize &c. as appears to me to be necessary, and is near the Road where the Shipping lie. The other shore is not in my opinion so well adapted for the above purposes.

6th. The next place on the American Shore, that forms anything like a Harbour for the reception of Vessels, is Presquisle, which River leads near to the branches of several others, running towards the States.

7th. At the West end, and towards the South side, are the Sandusky & Miamis Rivers, They lead away to the South into the States, and towards the Mississippi and many other branches of that River and I believe is a good country for Furs.

8th. The next place on the American side is the Town & Fort of Detroit, and a Settlement of some miles distance on both sides of the River; but a Fort could be erected equally as commodious on the other side as I believe there is little difference with respect to the ground. The River is about the same breadth as that of Niagara, which I consider to be nearly the distance of a musket shot.

9th. Michillamakinac and the Falls of St. Mary's, Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods, I cannot speak of with certainty, as I have never been there, but it appears to me that the line of division points them out as favorable to the Americans, as the passage into Lake Superior is on the West side, the East side being I understand rocky and almost impassable, and that most of the Furrs are got to the West of these Lakes.

Endorsed -- Accot. of the Posts in Canada.  
R. from Capt. Schank, May 31, 1790. (Q 49, p.291.)

#### MEMORANDUM BY CAPTAIN JOHN SCHANK, R.N.

List of Ships now on Lake Champlain, vizt:	Tons	Guns
Royal George	384	26
Inflexible	204	22
Maria	129	14
Carleton	96	12
Washington	127	20
Trumbell	119	14
Liberty	37	8

All these Ships are Old but Repairable.

List of Ships now on Lake Ontario belonging to the King	Tons	Guns
Limnade	220	16
Seneca	130	18
Caldwell	37	2

Old but Repairable

2 Schooners of 100 Tons each building.

Merchant Vessel on the Above Lakes

Schooner Lady Dorchester 90 Tons

Some large Boats or Craft belonging to Settlers on this Lake.

Kings Vessels on Lakes Erie & Huron

Rebecca	136	16
Felicity	45	
Windot	37	
Chaboagar	37	
Repairable		

The above is all the King's Vessels, and built before 1783. I believe there are some others now building belonging to Merchants on the above Lakes.

Beaver	40 Tons
Saganaux	40 Tons
Industry	20 Tons
A Vessel to be launch'd this Spring	90 Tons

On Lake Superior

Two small Vessels belonging to the Company trading to the West about 12 & 15 Tons.

Indorsed: List of Ships &c. on the Lakes. R. from Capt. Schank, May 31, 1790. (Q 49. p. 295 )

PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Nassau, 7th June, 1790."

Present: Lieutenant Colonel John Butler, Peter Ten Broeck, Nathaniel Pettit, Esquires.

"The Board having met according to appointment, too into consideration several petitions, viz: two from the Distressed Inhabitants of this District, Dated 15th May, 1790, praying for a longer time than the stated period for making returns for the provisions lent to them by Government. One from Elizabeth Thompson, (Widow) (See Papers & Records, Ontario Historical Society, Vol. XXIV, p.142) stating that His Lordship had been pleased to grant the Petitioner some lands upon an application made at Kingston, last summer, praying that the Board will make known to her the quantity of lands his Lordship will be pleased to allow her; also a Petition from Samuel Street, Esquire, which the Board submitted for his Lordship's consideration.

Sir John Johnson was instructed to make a special journey through the Western parts of the Province to inquire into any valid reasons for dissatisfaction, in his dual official posts of Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, and Superintendent of the New Settlements.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 17th June, 1790.

Sir,

The paternal benevolence of the King's Government requiring that all causes of dissatisfaction and uneasiness among the Indians and among the Settlers in the Western Country in general, be minutely investigated and removed, and His Justice requiring at

the same time that all His Servants shall execute their respective trusts with fidelity, free from doubts or suspicion, I avail myself of Your Zeal and Experience, for the accomplishment of these objects, which I am persuaded will be best attained by your personal exertions on the spot.

You will therefore be pleased, with all convenient speed to repair to the Western Parts of the Province, where,

1. You will make all necessary inquiries into the conduct of the Officers of the Indian Department in the discharge of their general trust, as well as the due observance of the established orders and instructions at Niagara, Detroit and Michilimackinac, if the Season and the business of the first two mentioned posts, will admit of your going so far.

2. You will take all proper means to discover the true temper and disposition of the Indians about the different Posts and trace as far as possible the true origin of the late alarms spread amongst the Six Nations, of hostile designs against the Posts of Oswego and Niagara, as well as the causes of certain irregularities supposed to have been committed by the Indians near Detroit in consequence of which several of the Loyalists settled are said to have been obliged to abandon their farms. These matters require the greater attention, as they may be connected with the secret Machinations of designing persons inimical to the King's Authority and Government. It will be expedient to institute a solemn Inquiry into the truth and origin of the disorders complained of at Detroit by convening the Indian Nations, whom it may concern and requiring them to discover the motives of their conduct, examining such of the injured settlers, as may be within reach, and all others who may have any knowledge of these transactions, taking proofs upon Oath, and reporting the result with due particularity.

3. You will make diligent inquiry into the truth of the reports mentioned in a former letter of the 12th of April last, that several persons in the King's service, and others the King's subjects, in this Province, are possessed of, or have interested themselves in the acquirement of Titles to lands beyond the line marked by the late Treaty of Peace, in the Upper part of the country, under the pretence of title from the States or their subjects, or the Indians. You will endeavour to ascertain all necessary particulars relative to such acquisitions, agreeable to the aforementioned letter, and extend your inquiries in this respect to any points interesting to the Government, particularly what is the nature and object of the pretended titles, and the views and aims of their Associates, and whether any of the persons above described have actually taken Oaths of fidelity to the United States or any of them, and what duties are eligible or expected as the condition for the enjoyment of such property. And you will at the same time inform yourself as fully as possible, upon the present condition of the more recent occupations under the American States in their Approaches to the Line of Partition, and in your report of the strength and intention of the Settlements, communicate your ideas upon the probable consequences and especially as to such as appear to you to give any ground for more than ordinary apprehension.

4. You will make the strictest Inquiry into all ill founded claims of individuals within the Treaty line, unfriendly to the general progress of industry and contentment in the Western Districts, and into every illegal practice countenancing pretensions of title not warranted by Authority derived from the Crown. And I trust that your influence with the Indian Nations will enable you to prevent any ill designing persons from rendering them instrumental in any partial projects injurious to the public peace and

tranquility, subversive of the benevolent intentions of the Government and repugnant to the rights of the Crown, as the only fountain of title to all the subjects of its protection.

5. You will in general lend your aid in all matters interesting to the prosperity of the Western Settlements, and for that end sit as President of the different Land Boards wherever you may be present. The Land Boards will bring you acquainted with the impediments they have met with, and they will not lose the opportunity of your presence and aid for concocting the means to remove them, and for the speediest and fullest representation to me in all the instances requiring the special, and more effectual interposition of the government.

It is of the highest consequence to the strength and prosperity of the western frontiers, that the legal settlers, who have obtained locations under the Authority of the Boards, set down in the firm confidence of the Royal protection, and it is necessary to that end, that their minds be free from every apprehension of insecurity and vexation.

6. On your arrival at Detroit, you will endeavour, if it is not already done, to effect as extensive a Purchase of Indian lands on the North of Lake Erie, and along that shore up to Lake Huron, as may be consistent with the Indians, but their consent and full approbation is indispensably necessary.

7. It having been represented to me that in the year 1784 Orders were given by General Haldimand to Captain Caldwell to collect and take with him to Detroit such of the disbanded Rangers, as might wish to settle in that vicinity, upon a certain tract, ceded by the Indians with whom they had served during the War, for that purpose, that the then Lieutenant Governor of the Post was at the same time, ordered to give them the aids granted to disbanded Troops and Loyalists in the Province, that a small number of rations was actually issued to some of these people at Detroit, in consequence of the said orders, but that there are now complaints of a number of persons of this description having been deprived of provisions, to which they were entitled - You will make diligent Inquiry into the foundation, extent and equity of these claims, and report thereon.

8. You will give such directions on the spot with regard to all matters concerning the Indian Department as you may find requisite, and upon your return, or previous thereto if necessary, make full and particular report to me respecting all the objects of these Instructions, and on all other points, connected with the security, comfort and welfare of the Loyalists which may occur in the course of your inquiries, together with your opinion of the proper measures to be pursued therein for the advancement of the King's Service and the prosperity of his subjects in that part of the province.

I am &c.

DORCHESTER

Sir John Johnson, Bart.

(Q 46-2, pp. 442-8.)

By a second letter, Johnson was required to make a particular investigation into the conduct of Colonel Butler which had seemed so reprehensible.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 17th June, 1790.

Sir,

In addition to the Third Article of my letter of instructions to you dated this day, and by which you are directed to make diligent enquiry into the truth of the reports

mentioned in a former letter of the 12th April, last that several persons in the King's Service and others the King's subjects, are possessed of Lands beyond the line marked by the late Treaty of Peace, I think it necessary to acquaint you, that a letter dated the 20th October, 1789 and received the 23rd April last, states that it had been reported that some of His Majesty's Subjects now residing in Canada, have been in great measure parties in the purchases made of the Indian Lands, and that it is believed that Colonel Butler is largely concerned in these grants, and further it is desired in the case the report is founded, that Col. Butler be called upon for a justification of his conduct in this respect, it appearing on the first view to be no less than applying his influence with the Indians and which he derives from his official situation to promote the objects of the United States of American, and to further his own private interests. -- Wishing to give you every information, I likewise enclose you copies of Letters from Lieut. Col. Butler and Lieut. Col. Harris of the 18th and 26th May last on the subject - I must add to the above that there are reports, that it Colonel Butler's intention to withdraw himself to the States.

You are therefore desired to be very minute in your Enquires on this head, tho' at the same time, you will proceed with all that delicacy you will perceive the nature of the case may require, and if you find as suggested, you will be pleased to call upon Colonel Butler to explain the reasons of his conduct, and report the same accordingly with your Opinion thereon. I am &c. DORCHESTER  
Sir John Johnson, Bart.  
(Q. 46-2, pp. 449-50.)

The number of applications to the District Land Board has become so large as to render weekly meetings advisable and it was decided to take a vote of the inhabitants on the site for a Town.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Nassau, 21st June, 1790.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Harris, Commanding the Upper Posts, Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Peter Ten Broeck, Robert Hamilton, Esquires."

"The Board, having met, are of the opinion that from the variety of business which will come before them, it is necessary to have regular and stated meetings for the despatch of business, and do for that purpose appoint every Monday at eleven o'clock in the forenoon for that purpose. That the inhabitants of the District be advertised of it accordingly, and the Clerk proceed to fill up the Certificates of Location for such of the Settlers whose claims are free from dispute. The Board recommend meetings of the Militia to be called for the purpose of taking the sense of the inhabitants respecting the most eligible Plan for a Town and Public Buildings. The following places\* are offered for their choice, 1st: The Crown lands near Captain McDonnell's farm; 2nd, The center of Township

No. 1, on the banks of the Niagara River; 3rd, the rise of Mount Dorchester, above the Landing; 4th, the Glebe Lands on Mount Dorchester; and that the same be reported on the second Tuesday of July next. Adjourned to Monday, 28th inst.

\*The Crown Lands mentioned above are solely meant with application to and the consent of Government obtained.

J.A.H.: R.H.; P.T.B.

"Land Board, Nassau, 28th June, 1790.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Harris, Commanding Upper Posts, Peter Ten Broeck, Robert Hamilton, Esquires.

Major Robert Matthews, who had been Military Secretary to General Haldimand and his successors in command for nearly eight years, 1778-1786, and was known to have made an official tour of inspection of the western frontier posts, had been called upon to make a special report on the subject of their contemplated evacuation for the information of the Colonial Secretary.

FROM MAJOR ROBERT MATTHEWS TO EVAN NEPEAN

Plymouth Barracks, 9th July, 1790.

Sir,

I am sorry that, owing to the Reviews and sudden march of the 53rd Regimt. from Bridgnorth to this place, I should thus long have been prevented communicating to you, for Mr. Grenville's information remarks upon the Upper Country and Posts in the Province of Quebec from reference to my notes when in that Country such as they are, I have now the honor of submitting them.

In the year 87, I went from Quebec to Detroit having various instructions from Lord Dorchester, one of which was to make every possible enquiry respecting places of Embarkation and fit Posts upon the Lakes Ontario and Erie as substitutes for those at present occupied, in the event of their being given up to the United States of America. Form the best information as well as from my former knowledge of the Country, I found that on Lake Ontario, there is no place beyond Niagara fit for that purpose nearer to it than Toronto (about 60 miles) the shore on the side being shoal and without any harbour this seems to preclude all communication between these Lakes in the vicinity of Niagara should that place be given up (unless a Post is established on the opposite side of the River) which, on account of the Trade as well as the fine settlement thence to Fort Erie and beyond (about 80 miles in Extent) would be a melancholy necessity, as it would lay them open to the Americans, which the sanction of a Post at present prevents. There is a point of land, on our side of the River, opposite to Niagara which forms the mouth of the River, equally well situated to command the entrance of it -- this Point and a necessary portion of land was reserved to Government by Sir Frederick Haldimand with a view to the necessity of, one day, taking Post there - about 1100 yards up the River, on the same side there is a harbour where the vessels formerly wintered, & where they can run alongside a Quay.

Fort Niagara is situated upon an angle formed by the Lake and River; the side next the land was two half Bastions with a long curtain and Raveline all of sod work; there is a strong stockade in the ditch, which is dry, and on the Berm a smaller line of Picket sloping outwards, there are two Blockhouses of mason work in the gorges of the Bastion mounting each two pieces of cannon en barbette which commands the whole country within their range. The sides next the Lake and River are stockaded, the former not open to attack except from the Lake, nor the latter but from the opposite side of the River (at the distance of 7 to 800 yards) this side has two Bastions mounting 12 & 18 pounders the whole in a good state of defence.

Fort Schloser, or little Niagara, is situated at the upper end of the Carrying Place, 14 miles from Niagara; it is an inconsiderable stockade intended merely for the protection of stores & merchandize, while in waiting for conveyance, and will lodge an Officer and 40 men - On the opposite side of the River a reserve of land was also made in order, when it might be necessary to remove the Carrying Place.

From Fort Schloser, the conveyance is in Batteaux to Fort Erie, 18 miles farther and the Post of Embarkation upon Lake Erie for Detroit, this is the only Post remaining to us by the Treaty.

The work consists of four small Bastions, two of bad mason work washed by the Lake, and two on the land side stockaded, it is quite in ruin, and was originally very improperly placed, being commanded within a short musket shot, and exposed to injury from the Lake in Southerly and Westerly winds, if we keep that Country, a good Post here will be indispensably necessary.

Detroit is situated 18 miles up the River from Lake Erie, its principal defence is a sod work hastily thrown up on the commencement of the Rebellion it has four sides with half Bastions, a Fraise upon the Berm, and a good stockade in the Ditch, the greatest diameter of this work is not 300 feet; it commands the upper part of the Town (at a distance of 250 yards) but the other part, situated upon a slope to the River, is not seen from it, there are about 22 nine & six pounders mounted here, with Barracks, Stores & proportioned to its size, it is connected with the Town by a strong stockade flanked by wooden block houses, all which form a good defence against musketry or any sudden attack. Should this Post be given up, and another taken, the most convenient place will be at the entrance of the River, upon a point at present occupied by some officers & men who served the War as Rangers with the Indians. -- the channel for ships runs between this Point and Isle au bois blanc, which should also be fortified, the distance from each to mid-channel about 200 yards. There is a fine settlement running 20 Miles from this point on the north side of the Lake.

The next and last Post on this communication is Michilimackinac, at the farther end of Lake Huron, situated upon an Island about nine miles from the main, the works here never were finished, and its insular situation is its chief defence, this is the great resort of the Fur Traders, fitting out for the N. West Trade, and the centre of a very considerable one in that vast Country to the Mississippi for this Post, no good one, I am inclined to think, can be substituted nearer than the Falls of St. Mary, very many leagues from thence, that might answer for the N. West Trade as the Furs are brought from thence down the Grand or Ottawa River directly to Montreal, leaving the Lakes to the Westward, but the loss of Makina will entirely sever from us the Western Trade above mentioned, which is carried on by the Lakes, the greatest part of which, there can be little doubt, will pass by the Oswego River into the United States, and the N. West Trade, or a part of it, must ultimately be drawn that way also from the same cause.

I cannot finish without taking notice of the Post of Cataraqui (now Kingston) situated in a Bay on the Lower end of Lake Ontario - it was a considerable Post for Trade with the French, well fortified and garrisoned, but was never occupied by us until the year 83, when the Commander in Chief considering it a proper place to withdraw the Provisions Stores &c., to, in case the Posts should be relinquished, established a Post and Settlements of Loyalists there, extending many miles upwards, which has daily increased,



and will, if not interrupted, continue round that side of the Lake to Niagara - at Kingston there is an excellent Harbour, and here the Trade upwards will embark for Niagara.

Without Posts of Strength in that Country, it cannot be expected that much of the Trade will remain with us, and how far it may be preserved by forming Posts in lieu of those we now occupy is, I think very problematical.

The Indians have, ever since the Peace, dreaded our relinquishing the Posts, and will assuredly take the alarm whenever that happens, after which, the Friendship can, of course, no longer be depended upon.

I have the honor to be with great esteem, Sir, Your most obedient and most humble  
Servant, R. MATHEWS

I have annexed an Abstract of the Peltreis from the West & Michilimackinac & Dependencies, I think of the year 88 on which you may depend. (Q 49, p.309.)

Dorchester suggested the expediency of promoting the exportation of the produce of the United States through the Port of Quebec by a Treaty of Commerce.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO W.W. GRENVILLE

Quebec, 21st July, 1790.

No. 43.

Sir,

While the affairs of this Country are under consideration, it may not be amiss to submit to the wisdom of His Majesty's Councils, whether it is not expedient to allow all the produce of America of what kind or nature so ever, which shall come to the Ports of Quebec or Montreal, by Land or Inland Navigation, to be exported by sea, under the same regulations and with the same advantages, as the produce of this Province, leaving the Provincial Legislature to regulate the Internal Consumption, as their own interest may require. It seem to me that this measure in the natural course of things must produce three considerable advantages, Canada must gain by the passage of all commodities through the Country, Great Britain by an increase of her carrying trade, and both by interesting our neighbours to preserve in the hands of Great Britain, this outlet to the sea, and to the most profitable markets for all their produce; the advantages of this system will increase in proportion to the extent of its operation.

Perhaps it may not be advisable at once to open to the full extent, all these indulgences, but to leave it to the Governor as at present, the power of extending them, as the condition and progress of things may require that our settlers on the north side of the Lakes may acquire strength, and get the start of those on the opposite shore in population, improvement of their settlements and the Navigation of the Upper Lakes.

Though it does not appear at present to be our interest to encourage the settlements of our neighbours south of those lakes and the river Saint Lawrence, nor yet to check them by any violent measures, but to let them take their own course, while vigilant attention to their progress, and act as the change of things may require, taking care firmly to establish in those parts the national character for justice, moderation, and liberality never to be departed from under any change whatever, however uniformly this policy be adhered to near the source of government, to establish and maintain it in those distant countries will require great care and constant attention.

It appears to me highly proper to form alliances with our neighbours, as soon as all things are well matured for that purpose, but their own interest alone can render them zealously attached to us and give duration to any of their engagements.

I am &c. DORCHESTER.

The Right Honble, W.W. Grenville.

(Q 45-2, pp. 532-4.)

Mr. Grenville repeated the previous instructions to Lord Dorchester that every effort should be made by the Officers of the Indian department to restrain the Indians from attacking the frontier settlements of the United States.

FROM W.W. GRENVILLE TO LORD DORCHESTER

No. 29

Whitehall, 4th August,

1790

Right Honble Lord Dorchester.

My Lord,

I have had the Honor of receiving and laying before the King Your Lordship's Dispatches No. 19 to 38 inclusive. I have also received your Three Letters marked "Private and separate of the 27th of May & 7th June."

At the same time that I acknowledge the very full Intelligence upon Indian Affairs, contained in No. 26, 35, 37 and others, I must lament the depredations and Excesses which they state to have been committed by the Indians on the Ohio, and near Detroit, particularly on account of the Embarrassment and Danger which may arise from sending an Army against them.

Every Endeavour should on this Account be used to restrain them, and I hope that Colonel Butler's exertions to that End, and the Message of Remonstrance which has been sent to them from Detroit, will have proved effectual.

The probability of Your Lordship's speedy Return to England, and Lieutenant Governor Clarke's Presence here at the moment, make it more unnecessary for me to enter into a Discussion by Letter, of the several Matters under consideration in the Indian department, or of the subjects mentioned in your other Dispatches.

I am &c.

W. W. GRENVILLE.

(Q. 45-2, pp. 510-11.)

Immediately after his arrival at Niagara, Sir John Johnson complied with one article of his instructions by presiding at two meetings of the Land Board.

PROCEEDING OF LAND BOARD

"Proceedings of a Land Board Held at Navy Hall, the 23rd August, 1790."

"Present: Sir John Johnson, Bt. President, Lieutenant Colonel Harris, Commanding Upper Posts, Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Peter Ten Broeck, Robt. Hamilton, Esquires.

"The first business brought before them respected the disputed line in the front Concession from Showers to the upper part of Township No. 1, when the Board, taking into consideration that by the first line, these lots were settled, that any alteration now made in them must derange the whole settlers, and that this matter was also formerly determined by a Board of Magistrates before any Land Board was formed.

"They determined that the original lines as made by Allan McDonell in these front lots, shall be held good and that the occupiers shall keep what lands they possessed in consequence of that original survey.

"A Memorial from Augustus Jones was laid before the Board, stating his services since Mr. Frey's departure from this settlement, as Surveyor, and that these have not in any way been compensated for. The Board considering that his time this Winter had been entirely taken up in this service, direct that application by Petition shall be made to Head Quarters that the pay of the person appointed Surveyor may for that period be given to Augustus Jones and to be continued to him while the Board shall think proper to employ him in that line."

"Adjourned to the 25th Instant."

LAND BOARD HELD AT NAVY HALL, 25th AUGUST, 1790.

Present: Sir John Johnson, Bt. , President Lieutenant Colonel Butler; Peter Ten Broeck, Esquire, Robert Hamilton, Esquire, Nathaniel Pettit, Esquire.

"A disputed claim on Lots No. 19 & 26 in the first and second concessions of Township No. 1, between Lieutenant Colonel Butler and John McNabb, Esquire, determined in favor of Lieut. Colonel Butler, as the certificate by which Philip Frey held these lots and which he had assigned to John McNabb, was found illegal, being signed by John Collins, posterior to the regulation depriving all surveyors of that power and vesting it solely in the Land Board."

"A Memorial from a number of the principal inhabitants, Officers of Militia, and others stating the want of a place to erect public buildings on, and praying Lord Dorchester to grant them a part of the Lands near Navy Hall reserved for the use of the Government, was presented and being approved of, was directed to be transmitted to his Excellency and the President, Sir John Johnson, is requested to take charge of this.

"Received a Letter from Augustus Jones stating that a number of chain-bearers and others employed by Mr. Frey, still remain unpaid, the Board resolve to take the accounts in which these are included into consideration the earliest opportunity.

"Adjourned until to-morrow, 26th instant."

N.B. The Board did not meet pursuant to this adjournment".

The Interpreter, who had been present at the Councils of the Six Nations held to consider the sale of their Lands in the State of New York, gave the following circumstantial account of their proceedings, which was supplemented by written statements from Ralfe Clench, Joseph Brant, Augustus Jones and Colonel Butler himself, and a complaint from some chiefs of the Senecas who were dissatisfied.

#### STATEMENT BY WILLIAM JOHNSTON

William Johnston, Interpreter at Niagara, for the Six Nations, his Account of the Transaction with respect to the Sale of Indian Lands.

Buffaloe Creek, 20th October, 1787.

Mr. Livingston and Doctor Benton sent a Message to the Six Nations inviting the Principal Chiefs to their Fire Places.

Old Smoake and the Chiefs sent the farmer's brother a Seneca Chief and two or three of each Nation to let Livingston and Benton know the season was too far advanced

for them to attend the Meeting, and many of the Principal chiefs were absent, that those Warriors now sent were to cover over the fire until the Spring and not to enter on any business whatever.

Mr. Livingston & Benton had said in their speech they were impowered by Congress to hold a Treaty with the Indians of the Six Nations at Canadasaga. November 20th. Several of the Warriors sent by Smoake to cover u the fire returned from Canadasaga and informed him and the Chiefs that Livingston and Benton had taken a Lease for the whole Indian Country, that when they signed the paper, they were told it contained speeches that passed between them and an Agreement to see each other in the Spring at that place; there is every reason to suppose Abael (John O'Bail) and a few others were bribed to get the Lease signed.

Old Smoake, being unwell and not able to do business at this time, the Chiefs applied to Colonel Butler for advice as they heard all their Country was sold by a few young men which sale they did not think legal.

Livingston and Benton being to pay for the Country sold in the Spring at Canadasaga, the Chiefs wished Colonel Butler to be there at that time as they were determined not to Agree to the sale or to part with their Country - Col. Butler said everything in his power should be done to assist them, but he could not see what steps to take in order to recover the country as they had given a Lease for the whole of it, that if he could think of anything proper to be done, he would let them know - he then said there was one thing he had thought of that might serve them which was for the Chiefs to give him and some other person a Lease of the Country and date it before the date of that given to Livingston and Benton, he desired them to consider of it and if they agreed to it, they might keep the Land or he would keep it for them, the Chiefs readily agreed to this and in March, he, Capt. Powell and Mr. Murphy got the Lease signed by the Chiefs at Buffaloe Creek which Colonel Butler said was the only thing that could serve them.

April - The Six Nations had a general meeting at Buffaloe Creek and sent for Colonel Butler to be present as they had received a Message from Governor Clinton inviting them to a Meeting at Fort Stanwix – Colonel Butler and Lieut. Vassall of the 65th Regiment came to the Meeting when the Chiefs agreed to send a Message to Governor Clinton, Mr. Livingston & Benton, inviting them to their fire place at Buffaloe Creek, where the business of the Six Nations was done; the Chiefs then insited on his going with them to Canadasaga to take Messrs. Livingston & Benton by the hand and lead them to Buffaloe Creek, the fire place of the Six Nations, he told the Chiefs he could not do this without leave of the Commanding Officer and advising Colonel Butler of it and it was inconvenient for him, and the Chiefs still insisted on his going and some of them went to Niagara and acquainted Col. Hunter and Col. Butler that they were desirous he should go with them, which they approved of.

In May, he left Buffaloe Creek with three or four Chiefs of each Nation of Senecas, Onandagas & Cayugas on the way he strongly recommended it to the Chiefs not to accept any present from Livingston or Benton but only deliver their Message, get an answer and return, the Chiefs requested he would use his endeavours to prevail on Livingston & Benton to go with them to Buffaloe Creek, where the business could be settled in the presence of all the Six Nations.

In June, they arrived at Canadasaga when the Chiefs delivered their message to Doctor Benton and a Mr. Gilbert, Livingstone not being there, Benton said he did not

intend to Comply with the Chiefs request, not thinking himself safe in going to Buaffaloe Creek, and their Agreement with the Six Nations was to pay them at Canadasaga, and as there was a sufficient number of Indians present, he would pay them for the Country they had purchased, he then told the doctor he thought the Lease was not Legal which they had taken for the Indian Country, as not one Principal Chief had signed it, and that those who had were not authorized to do it, that he thought, for their own safety, they should go to Buffaloe Creek and have the matter settled, as the Indians in general were greatly dissatisfied, and tha any agreement he might make there would be by the consent of the whole of the Six Nations. Benton then said he was informed some gentlemen at Niagara would do all in their power to prevent the Indians parting with their Country, which was one reason he declined going to Buffaloe Creek he said he knew nothing of this and that the Indians could act as they thought proper respecting the sale of the Lands, that he could see no danger in their going to Buffaloe Creek.

At Mr. Barton, Benton & Gilbert then had a long Conference together and the next morning, Benton & Gilbert told him they had agreed to go to Buffaloe Creek and that Doctor Kirtland would go with them. The third day after they left Canadasaga, and about twelve miles from it met Mr. Phips (Probably a clerical error for Phelps) and Mr. Lee who had been at Niagara and were returning. Phips told Benton he was glad to see him and wished no time might be lost in their going to Buffaloe Creek where they arrive the \_\_\_\_ of June, he left them in the Indian Village and went to his trading House at the mouth of the Creek where Colonel Butler arrived in a few days and desired him to go with him to the Village which he did.

The first business the Chiefs entered upon was an Enquiry about the Lease taken by Livingston & Benton, and desired to see all the papers, and have a particular account of what passed at Canadasaga at that time.

Mr. Phelps let the Indians see the Authority he had to treat with them having purchased from the State of Massachusetts whatever Claim or pretensions they had for making Purchases from the Indians, and his business was now to treat with the Six Nations for a sale of Land. Benton then told the Chiefs if they agreed to dispose of a part of their Country, he would give up the Lease he had taken at Canadasaga, they Answered that they would consult among themselves, Colonel Butler then gave up the lease which Powell, Murphy & he had got the Indians to give by the Colonel's advice about parting with their Land, he said they had not asked it before, which he had thought they should have done, or why did they send for him, that it now appeared to him, it would be best for them to part with some part of their Country, as the Lease they had given to Livingston & Benton would not be delivered up if they refused it, and Phelps said he would join Livingston & Benton, that it was better for them to have some part of the Country, than to part with the whole, that he only gave his advice and the Chiefs might do as they pleased.

The Chiefs frequently asked his advice, he said he was only a Trader among them, that he wished they and the people of the United States might settle the business peaceably, three of four days more passed in consultation, when the Seneca Chiefs sent for him and told him they had been all night with Phelps, Benton Gilbert and Lee, that they insisted on having the Country to the Genesee River two miles below the Canawagaras Village on that river and about \_\_\_\_ from Lake Ontario, then to cross the River two miles below \_\_\_\_ Village, a west course twelve miles keeping twelve mile distance from the River until it came to Lake Ontario, and that two miles below

Canawagaras Village up the Genessee was to be the Line between Mr. Phelps and the Six Nations, that they had not informed the other Nations of it, as they intended first to speak to Colonel Butler and then inform the other Chiefs of it, and desired him to let Col. Butler know they wished to see and consult him, when the Seneca Chiefs informed Colonel Butler of it, he said he was glad they were like to agree with Phelps & Co., that they had been long about it, and he did not think they would have parted with so much of the Country, the Chiefs said it was not in their power to settle the affair in any other way.

The \_\_\_\_\_ June, the whole of the Six Nations agreed to give Phelps & Benton a Lease of the Country, according to the before mentioned bounds, Col. Butler, Captain Brant & Mr. Kirkland (the Missionary) were appointed by the chiefs to fix the price for the Country sold, Phelps was to pay \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars at the first Payment and five hundred yearly, Benton's first payment was to be \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars and one thousand dollars every year, the Chiefs signed, the Lease and Colonel Butler and Kirkland signed as witnesses, as he was leaving the village Mr. Street told him that Mr. Phelps wanted to see him when Phelps & Benton asked him if he would have any of the Land they had purchased, he informed Col. Butler of this who told him he saw no impropriety in having lands, from Phelps & Benton that he intended to get some for his relatives in New England if he could have them cheap, Capt. Powell, Barton, Murphy and himself then agreed to take lands from Mr. Phelps and Mr. Street & Barton said if it was left to them, they would settle it with Mr. Phelps, and Mr. Street said some hard money would be wanting, and asked Powell and him how much they had. Powell said about three hundred pounds York Currency - Mr. Street said that would do, for their parts, for their parts, for the first payment, and that he and Barton would endeavour to hold fourteen shares in Phelps purchase as in a short time these lands must be very valuable - Powell and he gave the three hundred pounds being easily persuaded out of their money, for which they have had no satisfaction and were as much deceived in parting with it, as the Indians were in parting with their Country.

The 19th of September, he received a letter from Col. Butler informing him of the death of Mr. Stevens, and that he had recommended him to Sir John Johnson as Interpreter to the Six Nations, and desired him to come to Niagara as soon as he could which he did, after being there a few days, he spoke to Col. Hunter about those who had lands in Phelps & Benton's purchase, Col. Hunter said he saw no impropriety in hold Lands in the States but advised him to make the most of them as soon as he could, he then enquired of Mr. Street the quantity of land in a share as he was to have one. Street said about twenty thousand Acres, he then said as he was in the service of Government he did not think it proper for him to hold those lands and wished Mr. Street would sell them for him. Mr. Street answered that he & Col. Butler had more lands themselves than they could dispose of, he then found out the only money that had been paid was his & Powell's 300 pounds - for which they have nothing to shew that they have any share or right to any part of the before mentioned Lands or (nor?) has he concerned himself about them since.

The Senecas, Onandagas & Cayugas have lately given one Allen (Ebenezer Allen) a Township on the Genesee River for his Two Children he had by an Indian Woman, for which he was to give the Indians sixty bushels of Indian Corn annually the Deed was left with Col. Butler until Allen complied with his Agreement. D  
Endorsed - 16b In Lord Dorchesters to Mr. Grenville No. 56. (Q 46-2, pp. 479-90.)

FROM RALFE CLENCH TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Nassau, 28th August, 1790.

Sir,

Permit me to offer for your perusal a few minutes I have taken since the purchase made by some Americans of part of the Six Nation's Country, being informed by Doctor Kerr that you are desirous of gaining every information you can relative thereto; as an Officer and Inhabitant of this District, I think it a duty incumbent to make mention of every circumstance that has fallen within my knowledge.

1stly. Some time in June or July, 1788, I accidentally met with a Copy of a Letter from Samuel Street, Esqr. (of Nassau) to the Principals of the Land Company acknowledging the receipt of their Letters by Major Scott, Mr. Shaw, and Capt. Bartell, thanking them for admitting him amongst the number of intended Proprietors and as a Proprietor gives his advice, which was, that it would be well worth while to take in with them as Proprietors, some people of this settlement, such as he could point out, and even to allow some of them a share gratis, who from their influence with the Indians would be able to make the purchase with more ease, and not that only but would from being amongst them, in time be able to prevail upon them to move over to those Lands granted them by Government at the Grand River, by which means a purchase of the rest would be the more easily effected.

This is as nearly the purport of the letter as I can recollect, having a few days after I met with it, sent it by Doctor Wright to Lieut. Col. Hunter, Our Commandant.

2ndly. Augustus Jones (Acting Surveyor) was at Buffaloe Creek at the time of the Treaty, who mentioned he heard Col. Butler say that the Dish was now offered them (the Indians) if they did not feed themselves, it was their own faults, that they before called upon him to witness their Bargains, if they did not now determine, he shou'd not attend again, as they had so often made a fool of him, that he heard William Johnson (now Interpreter) tell Col. Butler, that they shou'd be cautious how they acted, as he believed there were people there as Spies upon their Actions; after they compleated their Purchase, Captain Powell told the reason they gave so high a price for the Tract they had purchased was in order to get a settlement, afterwards he was in expectation the remainder of the Country wou'd fall at a lower price, and further mentions that (Street) at different times wanted him to go out to survey the Lands they had purchased, and that Col. Butler afterwards asked him if Street had spoke to him about going out (who mentioned he had ) and if he intended it or not, when he told him (Butler) that he did not, who again made answer, that it was nothing to him, only as a Negroe man of Mr. Barton's was at his house, and he thought if he did go he might take him as a hand with him.

3rdly. Mr. Sheehan, Acting Secretary and Nephew to Col. Butler mentioned (the time I cannot exactly remember) that Colonel Butler had a Pre-emption right from Phelps and Goreham, who had purchased from Congress with the Right of Pre-emption, and that the Country adjoining to Niagara wou'd be his (Butler's) as no other persons purchase wou'd be valid.

4thly. Some time in June, 1790 was informed by Timothy Murphy one of those people who had a share in the purchase, that Colonel Butler had a very large share.

5thly. Was informed by Major Tice that some of Colonel Butler's relations in the United States held his (Butler's) obligation for a considerable sum of Money, which he paid by Transferring part of these Lands purchased from the Six Nations.

6thly. Being to William Johnson's 16th August, 1790, I mentioned who told me how him and Captain Powell came to be admitted as Proprietors was thro' Street asking them what Sum of hard money they had, if any they had best put it in and take a share, accordingly they advanced 300 pounds New York Currency, at the same time mentioned that he was going from the place the Treaty was held to his Trading house and was followed by Samuel Street who asked him if he did not wish to have a share of the Lands they had purchased, he replied he could not give an answer until he had seen Colonel Butler, which was soon after; and he then mentioned to him Street's proposal and his advice was by all means to take a share if he could get it cheap, as he meant to take a share for himself and friends in the United States.

Previous to this Mr. Johnson told me that Mr. Phelps gave him to understand that he would give him a share in case he would not endeavour to prevent the purchase taking place.

If any part of the above proves worthy your Notice, I can at any time if called upon, with safety declare as to the Truth my assertions and produce the people mentioned, who, I dare say must corroborate the same.

I am &c.

RALFE CLENCH

D.

Sir John Johnson, Bart. Navy Hall.

Endorsed - 16c. In Lord Dorchester's to Mr. Grenville No. 56. (Q 46-2, pp. 491-5.)

FROM JOSEPH BRANT TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Nassau, 28th August, 1790.

Sir,

Having reason to suppose that Government wishes to get Information respecting the late purchase of the Six Nation Country, and the proprietors; as I am one of these people called the Six Nations wish to give you every Information in my power, as the proceedings were in my opinion not considered with either Honor or Justice, from my knowledge of the weakness of numbers of us who think whatever our Agent recommends ought to be complied with -- And as our Agent Col. Butler and some half pay Officers adherents of his interested in the purchase, inclined toward the American Commissioners at the Treaty where the purchase was made, as an Indian I am highly of opinion that if matters are fully explained, it will be made appear, that those from whom the purchase was made were swayed by those White Men in power in our Department. The Agent being the person placed over us by Government is the man we look up to for Advice when in critical situations, and I should think would lay private Interest aside, the Interest of Numbers, and those of the people for whom he receives his Salary are at the same time interested, however, I am sorry to think it has not been the case.

Col. Butler, our Agent mentioned to me that Mr. Phelps who is at the Head of the Land Jobbing Company, had been at this place and he believed meant to deal fairly, and was duly authorized to make the purchase, and told him that if his (Phelps) Intent in was early Jul, he had no doubt but that I could assist him --- and at the Treaty, frequently said that the Depth of Twenty or Thirty Miles would be as much as we would wish to reserve and if we did not now sell, that Phelps would go and join with Livingston & Co., by which we would lose our Country by force. I shall at any time if called upon be ready to explain matters fully, till when

I have the honor to be &c.

JOS. BRANT.



Sir John Johnson, Bart.

Endorsed - 16d.

In Lord Dorchester's to Mr. Grenville, No. 56. (Q 46-2, pp. 496-7.)

#### COMPLAINT BY SENECA CHIEFS

Substance of a private complaint made yesterday by the Chiefs of the Seneca Nation and intended to be repeated by them in Public Council this day.

That some short time ago they (the Seneca Chiefs) gave a small Tract of Land to (Ebenezer) Allen, in trust for his Children by a Woman of their Nations who lives with him, but on condition that he should not alienate the same, nor appropriate any part of it to any other purpose than for the maintenance of the said Children.

That previous to their making this grant they consulted with Coll. Butler on the propriety of it, and asked his advice, and that his opinion was, that he saw nothing improper in their giving him this mark of their favor as he had been a zealous and deserving subject of the King's, and suffered in his property by the Indians.

That on their expostulating with him on this conduct his only answer was, that he cared very little for their complaints as Coll. Butler was equally interested with him in this Tract.

The Chiefs further say that they asked advice from Mr. William Johnston and Timothy Murphy (both employed in the Indian Department) on this subject, and that their opinion coincided with Col. Butler's so far as to say that they (the Indians) had better give this Land to their own flesh and blood than to the Americans.

Mr. Wm. Johnston, the Informant further adds that Allen came to Niagara some time after this conversation happen'd but previous to the Deed being signed, and that he then agreed to give the Informant and Timothy Murphy one hundred Pounds each, for their good offices with the Indians on his behalf, and for the performance of which the said Allen gave the Informant & Murphy each a note of Hand for one hundred pounds which notes are now in their possession.

D.

Endorsed - 16 f. In Lord Dorchesters to Mr. Grenville No. 56. (Q 46-2, pp. 500-01 )

#### STATEMENT BY AUGUSTUS JONES

Nassau, 30th August, 1790.

Sir,

Some time in the month of May, 1788, being at Buffaloe Creek at a Council held with the Indians and Americans in order to make a purchase of part of their Country, Mr. William Johnston came up to Lieut. Col. Butler and told him they must be on their guard what they did say, as there was a certain person then present, who had come as a Spy and had no other Business but to hear and get what information he could.

A short time after that, the same evening, Col. Butler said that this was the second or third time that the Indians had asked him to their Councils, in order to be a Witness to the Sale of their Lands, and that some of them were against it, and had still put it off, but he had told them at the time that the Spoon and the Dish were offered them, and if they did not accept of it and feed themselves, that he would not attend any of their calls after that time - Some time in the Fall 1788, I met Col. Butler in the Lane near the Ferry House opposite Niagara when he asked me if I had been spoke to by Mr. Street to go upon a Survey at or near the Genesee River. I told him that I had, but that I was in employ here by Mr. Frey, and that I thought it would hurt my Interest by it, he told me it was nothing

to him, only that Mr. Barton had left a Negroe with him, and desired him to send him along as a hand, and if I went he would be glad to know, a few days after this I saw Mr. Street, who asked again whether I would go on a survey for him, he said that they wanted me to go and begin at the Mouth of the Genesee River, and take the course of it and lay it out in Townships beginning at the Mouth of said River - I told him as before (to Col. Butler) and he said that he had mentioned it to Lieut. Col. Hunter, and he said that I might use my pleasure -- This is nearly as I can recollect what passed.

I am &c.

AUGUSTUS JONES.

Endorsed - 16 e

In Lord Dorchester's to Mr. Grenville, No. 56.

(Q 46-2, pp. 498-9.)

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Nassau, 30th August, 1790

I have good reason to believe that much to my Prejudice has been reported to His Excellency Lord Dorchester, but what may be I have not as yet been able to learn. I must own I feel myself hurt that anything of that nature surmised by his Lordship without giving me an opportunity of exculpating myself. Some time ago, you wrote me, and referred me to his Lordship, who would answer My Letter, but as yet have not had the Honor of receiving it.

From some hints that have been given me, I am inclined to believe, that I have been blamed on account of the sales of the Six Nation Country to the Americans. I must beg leave by anticipation to disprove anything that may have been said on that subject, and am happy I can now call upon you as a Boucher for the greatest part of what I know of the transactions.

In July of the year 1784, at the Black Rock, the Governor of New York invited the Six Nation Indians (then in Council) to a Council at Fort Stanwix, in order, as he said to settle their matters to their mutual interest.

The Chiefs of the different nations being met, sent for me, and advised with me on the propriety of attending the Meeting proposed, my advice to them was, that I thought they should attend, in order to make peace with them, and thought it was their Interest to appoint Chiefs as were thought most proper to settle their Matters, other ways, they might be imposed on by the Americans - I named five, who I thought the most Intelligent, as well as being the most attached to our Interest, viz. *Captain Joseph Brant, Captain Abel, the Spruce Carrier, Scheheas, Schevonada*, or through the River, *Ondago, the Fish Carrier, Nevi Coyaja* - The Indians appeared very uneasy they told me that the King their Father had ceded the whole of their Country to the Americans, and had not named them. I told them that at this Meeting, they would be made acquainted if that was the case, and whether the Americans would demand their Country -- If the Americans should propose making a purchase of it, it would convince the Indians that the right of soil was understood to belong to them (the Indians) and of course a right to sell or not as they thought proper. A few days after this Meeting, I left on my way to England. The whole of the above you was Acquainted with at the time. This is all I recollect relative to Lands that passed to my leaving this.

In May, 1786, I returned from England to Quebec; Lieut. Governor Hope then shewed me the proceedings of some Councils that had been held, and said that another was soon to take place, that the Indians had sold great part of their Lands, and that the

Americans was gaining over the Indians to their Interest, very fast, and mentioned some things else to that purport, which at present, I do not recollect, after which I believe he sent for you to Quebec, but what passed between you and the Governor your recollection may not now assist you in.

Governor Hope informed me I was immediately to proceed to Niagara, and that the Superintendant would give me the necessary orders, but on my arrival at Montreal, you said you thought it unnecessary except I myself choosed it, I mentioned this to the Governor, and received an answer thinking it was very necessary for me to go to Niagara, and that he should not think me neglectfull, I shewed you his letter, and said that I intended setting off the next day. I arrived here in the month of August, 1786, when I found a Meeting had taken place at Canadasaga.

I set off immediately for Buffaloe Creek and overtook Captain Brant at Fort Erie, on his way to Detroit, I then made every enquiry to find out the purport of the Meeting and was told that the Americans had called a Council, that they had sent some Chief Warriors to Cover Up The Fire, till another time, which they supposed was done. A few days after, some Accounts were brought that their whole Country was sold to the Americans, by some of their young people without the consent of the Chiefs - This intelligence gave great uneasiness to the Indians at Buffaloe Creek &c. I endeavoured to make the Indians as easy as possible untill the Chief Warriors they had sent to Cover Up The Fire returned. For the space of fourteen days after my arrival, I heard nothing of their return, when I was shewn some papers, signed by four or five proprietors, that the Six Nations Indians had leased the whole of their Country to Mr. Livingston and his Associates - for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, paying an Annual Rent of one thousand dollars - when some of the Indians returned they brought Mr. Livingston and his Associates' Note and Copy of the Lease, and some other papers which I then sent to you, togethr with every information that came to my knowledge - I then advised them not to allow any surveys to be made, nor any person to settle any part of their Country, but to Acquaint their Governor of the Advantage that had been taken, which I believe they did, and received a letter and advertisement from the Governor advising them not to let the Lessees Survey or Settle, but that every justice should be done them - Those papers I also sent you at the time - Mr. Livingston had in this Lease included the Lands ceded to the Massachusetts state, who had agreed with Messrs Phillips (Phelps) and Gorham for the same. On Mr. Phillips (Phelps) his Arrival at Canadasaga, he found the Indians disputed the sale -- after which with some more Gentlemen, he came to Niagara - I waited on Lieut. Col. Hunter & told him their business - After a Consultation between him and I we were of the opinion, by the Indians selling part of their Country to Messrs Phillips (Phelps) & Gorham, it might be the means of getting the Lease invalidated. We accordingly told them if their Intentions were fair, they ought to call a Council at Buffaloe Creek and when the Indian Council Fire in the presence of the whole Six Nation Indians to make their Proposals & if agreed to, would be looked upon as binding from the Indians, but, that any transaction at any of their present Meetings with a few young men would never be esteemed fair of binding, nor would they ever allow a Settlement to take place in their country by any such clandestine purchase - This being told Mr. Phelps, he called at Council at their fire.

The Chiefs previous to the Council came to Col. Hunter and myself for our advice and desired we would attend their Intended Council. Colonel Hunter declined, but said I

should attend. I then asked that two or three of the Officers of the garrison should accompany me and be present at the Meeting to represent him. He agreed to this and then ordered Lieuts. Douglas & Vassal of the 65th Regiment, to accompany me, who were present during the whole treaty, at which time the Lease taken by Livingston was made void and a new one taken for that part of the Indian Country that lay within the State of New York, and that on condition they should obtain the Preemption right from the State, otherways to be void.

Mr. Phillips (Phelps) got a Deed for all the Lands East of the Genesee River as far as claimed by the Massachusetts state, and that on West of said River was released to the Six Nations Indians free of all claims or Pretensions whatever - After the Deeds were fully explained to the whole of the Six Nations by Captain Brant several times and the Consideration money agreed upon, they signed the deeds in presence of four Officers and twenty or thirty other persons, and appeared to be fully satisfied except that they had forgot to reserve a Tract of Land left to *me by Serahawana*, a Seneca Chief who died during the time I was in England, but on its' being mentioned by Mr. Phelps, he agreed to give me Twenty Thousand Acres in lieu of It, and if that was not sufficient, I might have another share, paying proportion of the first cost; I then told him I wanted no more than would accommodate some friends I had in the State of Connecticut and desired him to give them Deeds for Twenty Thousand Acres, which he promised to do, and has since granted them part, with his obligation for the remainder, at that time, He, the said Mr. Phelps then made an offer to a number of British subjects then there, of becoming Proprietors, paying proportion of the first Cost, which was excepted of by Mr. Street and sundry other persons but nothing was agreed upon by me, or any other Subject untill Lieut. Col. Hunter's opinion was asked, who said he could see no Impropriety in it - but added that the sooner we got rid of it the better -- The whole of the above was done by Mr. Phelps had obtained his Deeds - Thus Circumstantially have I narrated facts and given you an account of everything I know of all these transactions, and had time permitted at present, should have still given you more Corroborating evidence by the Affidavits of different people acquainted with every circumstance, I have advanced, and who can prove far from advising the Indians to dispose of their Lands was not made acquainted with the Sales for a day or two after it was made.

As you have promised to transmit this to his Lordship I could wish to anticipate every Charge that could be brought against me. Among other things which I have heard suggested since your arrival here, and what I understand has come to his Lordship's ears, I must beg leave to answer to, Vizt. an Opinion or Report that has got abroad of my intention of leaving this Country and alienating myself from the Interest of Government, at such an Idea I spurn with indignation and contradict any such assertion most flatly, who could harbour such a thought after a moments reflection? !! From my youth to this time, my services have been employed, and I trust not unacceptably in the Interest of the British Government, a Government whose Mildness & benignity I have often experienced - at my advanced age, and to this Settlement whose Interest and Welfare I have had much at heart, little did I imagine that the shafts of Calumny should have been pointed at me, and misrepresented matters so egregiously to His Lordship -- In the full assurance of the probity of my intention,

I remain &c.

JOHN BUTLER

To Sir John Johnson, Superintendent & Inspector General of Indian Affairs.

Endorsed - 16 g. In Lord Dorchesters to Mr Grenville, No. 56. (Q 46-2, pp. 502-511.)

SIR JOHN JOHNSON TO LORD DORCHESTER

La Chine, 13th September, 1790.

My Lord,

Having had the honor to acquaint your Lordship of my departure from hence on the 25th of June, in obedience to your commands, I now have the satisfaction to inform your Lordship of my return to this place after having visited the western posts as directed by your letter of instructions of the 17th June, and I have the honor to report to your Lordship that, led by inclination as well as by duty, I lost no time in proceeding to the Western Settlements and Posts and endeavouring there to forward the benevolent intentions of the King's Government by inquiring into and using my utmost exertions to remove all causes of dissatisfaction and uneasiness among the settlers as well as among the Indians, and I hope not without effect.

I made every inquiry as directed by the first Article of your Lordship's letter of Instructions, into the general conduct of the Officers of the Indian Department at the Posts of Niagara, Detroit and Michilimackinac, and find, though great complaints are made by the Indians dependant on the first mentioned post of the want of almost every necessary annually sent for their use, as well as of provisions, the expenditure of which article for the last eighteen months, far exceeds that of the other Posts, no specific charge alleged against the Deputy Agent or those Acting under his direction, yet I feel a concern to be under the necessity of adding that though Mr. Sheehan was put on the establishment of that Post, with a view to assist the Deputy Agent as a Clerk (those under a different denomination) no part of the established order and Instructions have been complied with, but those relating to the quarterly returns for pay & incidental expences, notwithstanding my repeated directions on those subjects, as well as forms sent from time to time, for their further guidance, I hope in future they will be more attentive, having explained very doubtfull matter in such a manner as I hope will prevent all mistakes for the time to come.

I am happy to have it in my power to say that I found great attention paid to every part of the Instructions and orders of the Posts of Detroit and Michilimackinac, very regular Books of the Receipts and Issues being kept with the signature of the Commanding Officers at the foot of every issue, notwithstanding which I am sorry to say that in other respects, Mr. Gauthier's conduct has been represented to me by Captain Parr to be such as renders him unfit to be longer continued in his present employ.

From the present situation of affairs in the neighbourhood of Detroit and the Multiplicity of business, Mr. McKee consequently has to transact, I found it necessary for the good of the King's service to employ Captain Elliot, who is well acquainted with the Shawanese & Delaware langague, to assist him in watching and procuring intelligence of the designs and proceedings of the Spaniards, and all others who may be trading with the Indians, and otherwise acting against the interest of Government, and I also found myself under the necessity of agreeing to his returning a storekeeper or clerk on his quarterly return, a person who he has hitherto employed, and paid out of his own purse; this I hope will meet with your Lordship's approbation as nothing but a conviction of the necessity of it at this time, would have induced me to comply with his request.

I am happy to have it in my power to say that, in consequence of the means I took to discover the true temper and disposition of the Indians, as directed by the second Article of your Lordship's Letter of Instructions, I found notwithstanding the complaints and uneasiness that may have been represented to have prevailed among the Indians, they were never better disposed, nor more gratefull for the many favours they have received; and I sincerely believe if this Country should be so unfortunate as to stand in need of their aid, they would most cheerfully afford us every assistance in their power, the Reports of Hostile designs against the Posts of Oswego and Niagara, I have every reason to think were nothing more than the vaunting of an ignorant, interested Dutch Trader, who I have long had a personal knowledge of, and am sure he would be among the last to be trusted with a secret design of importance.

I made every inquiry into the supposed irregularities said to have been committed by the Indians near Detroit, by assembling all the Inhabitants interested at the mouth of the River, or Huron Village, where I had assembled the Indians for that and other purposes and found that, as in other districts, some Cattle and Hogs had from time to time, been destroyed through hunger and drunkenness, part of which they had promised to pay for, and some of their effects were brought in with themselves in my presence, and retained until they should perform their promise. The inhabitants declared to me, in the pretence of a number of Gentlemen that they were not under the least apprehension of anything further than the loss of some of their stock now and then when hunger and liquor impelled them to it - the inclosed copy of a conference with the Indians on the subject will shew your Lordship their own sentiments and resolutions on the occasion.

I lost no time in commencing the necessary Inquiry pointed out by the third Article of your Lordship's letter of Instructions and beg leave to refer your Lordship for the result thereof to the inclosed papers of information, Number one to five and to Lieut. Col. Butler's Letter on the same subject, of which I gave him full information.

From all the information I was able to collect, I cannot find that the settlements forming by the American States in the Six Nation Country, and which have reached the Genesee River, the Western boundary of their purchase, increased in the rapid manner that was a first imagined they would, nor do their numbers exceed what was at first reported, one thousand families - their intention is to raise Stock and Corn for the lower markets, or for the West Indies. Should any rupture happen between Great Britain and the States, they will be able to afford both men and provisions for an attack on teh Post or Settlement at Niagara, at the distance of about Ninety Miles, either by land or water.

Not hearing of any ill founded Claims in the Lower Districts and the Land Board of Hesse having received instructions to make the inquiries directed by the fourth Article of your Lordship's letters of Instructions to me of the 17th June, and they having proceeded in the business, I must beg leave to refer your Lordship to their report.

From the disposition of the Indians I have reason to think they will not be led into any partial projects that might prove injurious to the public peace and tranquility, or in any wise injure the prosperity of the settlements.

In obedience to the fifth Article of your Lordship's Instructions, I offered my aid to the different Land Boards in the Western Districts, and was happy to find that those of Luneburg and Meckienburg had nothing that required any assistance on my part, nor Could I learn that they had met with any impediments that required the interposition of

Government -- some difficulties and disputes of a trifling nature subsisted in the other Districts which I endeavoured to assist in removing, and hope not without effect.

I believe little remains to ease the minds of the Settlers who have obtained locations under the Authority of the Boards or otherwise, but the Issuing of their Grants and Deeds, which they all look for with impatience.

The Sixth Article being accomplished by the Purchase of Mr. McKee, the Deed of which I found on my return to Montreal with the letters from Mr. McKee now inclosed herewith, rendered anything further on that head unnecessary, except an inquiry into the Boundary of the Reserve made by the Indians of the Tract before granted to the Crown, and which the Land Board of Hesse have reported their opinion upon to your Lordship - the copy of the proceedings of the Meeting I had with the Indians on that subject will fully explain their sentiments on that head.

I mentioned to Mr. Powell, (Justice W.D. Powell.) my intention of making the inquiry, and expressed a wish that the person might be present who informed him that the chief Agouchaway had declared that he never mentioned or agreed to the reserve specified in the Deed of Sale, but had been led drunk and sick with sower Red Wine to the place to mark the Boundaries that are now to be seen, and are expressed in the deed, and though I think Mr. Powell told me the man should attend, and I was afterwards informed that Mr. Powell meant to attend also, neither appeared, though my stay at the Village was longer than I at first imagined it would be - before I left the Village, Mr. McNiff ( Patrick McNiff, Deputy Surveyor) delivered me the Boundaries of the reserve, which I had directed him to ascertain agreeable to your Lordship's directions.

Since my return to Montreal, I received a letter from Mr. Motz of the 5th July with further Instructions relative to the purchase of those lands.

On my arrival at Detroit, the Land Board acquainted me that they had entered upon Inquires directed by the Seventh Article of my instructions, and would prepare a full report against my return from Mackina, but on making further inquiry on my return I was told that they had forgot that they had transmitted the report to Head Quarters before my arrival, this made any further inquiry on my part into the subject unnecessary.

In obedience to the Eighth Article of my Instructions I have left such directions and forms for the guidance of Officers of the Indian Department at the several Posts as I hope will prove usefull and prevent any errors in future.

The want of a regular and full survey of the Crown Lands has hitherto I apprehend, greatly retarded the settlement of the Country, too few surveyors have been employed, and some of them ill qualified for the business, particularly in the Upper Districts, by which means many Inhabitants, who came in, have been obliged to abandon the country, after having expended the little property they brought with them, or to settle on the lands of other claiming under doubtfull Titles at best, and great numbers have been prevented from coming in who had determiend and prepared themselves for it - Nothing but a failure in their expectations of a well established form of Government and the imposition of heavy Taxes, together with great encouragement on the part of our Government could now, in my opinion, recall even those who were at first, from principle, led to take refuge under the King's Government, an immediate complete survey of the lands lately purchased, with the encouragement of one or two years' allowance of provision till they could repay it, might prove an inducement to some to return, and to others to come in.

An addition of some Members to the Land Boards of Hesse and Nassau would prove beneficial and give great jealousy of the prevailing majority in those Boards. I would beg leave to suggest the propriety of adding the Engineer and the Surveyor of the Districts, if such there be, and two or three principal Inhabitants, Mr. McComb and Mr. Leith of Detroit might perhaps be proper persons for Hesse, and Major Tice, Mr. Birch, Mr. Warren, Dr. Kerr and Mr. John McNabb for Nassau - time will not permit me to add more at present.

I am &c.

JOHN JOHNSON

His Excellency, The Right Honble Lord Dorchester.

(Q 46-2, pp. 458-69.)

Lord Dorchester's subsequent letter to Mr. Grenville, in which he forwarded all these papers, indicates that he was far from being satisfied with the Management of Indian Affairs although disposed to excuse the Superintendent General from particular responsibility for the misconduct of some of his subordinate officers.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO W.W. GRENVILLE

No. 56

Quebec, 17th October,

1790.

Sir,

On my first Acquaintance with the Indian Department in seventy-five, I could not but observe a certain assumed official independence, and much mystery, throwing the expenditure and other transactions into the dark more than the King's Service appeared to require. As the three or four Officers who managed this Department, did little more than pass through the Province, it was thereby broken up, and an Interpreter only, now Lieutenant Colonel Butler, assisted the Officer Commanding the Troops at Niagara; his good conduct on that occasion brought him into notice and occasioned his preferment. None of those Gentlemen returned to Canada until seventy-seven, and even then, if I remember right, only Lieut. Claus, so that while in Canada, I had not experience sufficient of their proceedings to alter my first opinion of their system; but the public rumours of great abuses reached me at home, and the transactions at Niagara and Michilimackinac were too notorious to leave a doubt with me of the necessity of reducing their expenditure of cash, and what is not less essential, their expenditure of stores and Indian presents under the checks necessary for preventing all ill grounded suspicions and complaints, or at least of bringing their irregularities into public notice. For this purpose all their expenditures are to be examined by a Board of Accounts, where the Comptroller objects to whatever is not duly authorized and vouched agreeable to the instructions, recommending all equitable allowances.

Hitherto these Instructions have not had their full effect; whether from the gentlemen's not being Masters of regular Accounts, or from the difficulty of changing old habits, 'tis certain, that from those two Posts more particularly, the accounts have not received approbation.

Sir John Johnson seems to apprehend, that in this business something personal is glanced at him, seeing that the enormous abuses, committed before his appointment passed without such observations. I suppose he alludes more particularly to a bill drawn from Niagara in April 1781, for Thirty five thousand seven hundred and eighty pounds, of which, upon ample proof, that goods to that amount had not been expended, a sum of



fifteen thousand seventeen pounds, both New York Currency, was by the Court of Common Pleas in April 1782 decreed to be refunded, which sentence having been confirmed in the Provincial Court of Appeals, the cause was by a further appeal carried home, and there seems to rest.

I am persuaded no one means more honestly than Sir John Johnson; he originally declined the Office, as very disagreeable to him, and was induced to accept of it from necessity, after he was driven from all his estates - He sensibly feels and suffers from any failure of those under his command, and I think the present inclosures, a schedule of which is subjoined, are sufficient to show the great difficulty of reducing the Indian Department to method and a proper control.

I am &c.

DORCHESTER

The Right Honble, W.W. Grenville.

(46-2, pp. 387-90.)

Like Colonel Butler, Joseph Brant desired to encourage the emigration of the remainder of the Six Nations Indians from the United States into the British territory. The advance of a considerable military force in the direction of Detroit from the Ohio River had so seriously alarmed the western confederacy of Indians that they sent messages soliciting the assistance of the Six Nations, which gave them great embarrassment in their exposed situation.

FROM JOSEPH BRANT TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Nassau, 8th November, 1790.

Sir,

The death of my friend Captain David, I dare say you have ere this heard of, he has left a Wife and young Family for the support of which, I hope the Government will consider the Services of the Father, and be pleased to make the Widow some small allowance, for her children's maintenance, be assured many less deserving has been provided for by Government -- I therefore as a friend and Brother to the deceased, request your Interest in behalf of procuring something if Ever so little, it will always be found beneficial in a large family and will be ever gratefully acknowledged.

I cannot think of finishing my Letter without touching a little on Politics, as I have ever spoken freely on matters in which the public was any ways interested, and have ever disapproved of its being recommended to the Six Nations to remain on the Lands they are now on, and not to Cross to this side of the River in order to settle, the Evil of which may at present no appear, but he assured that time will point out the Error, their being settled on Government lands was surely strengthening the British interests in this part of the Country - The Americans in order to Engage them have had tracts Surveyed on purpose for them to settle amongst them, which is in my opinion, lessening the Safeguard that Niagara has always had, if they had been settled on the Lands allotted to us by Government, this Settlement might have ever rested in Security, having their frontier well guarded, those things perhaps may never strike you in the same light with me, but whether or not, I have only taken the Liberty to give you this little of my opinion on the subject.

From my disagreeable Situation at present, when I know the Enemy are in the Country of our Allies, would wish to have your opinion an advice by the Earliest

Opportunity, as I expect we will receive a Message from that Country, and your advice I could wish for before I take any active part.

I am &c. JOS. BRANT D.

Sir John Johnson, Bart.

Endorsed - 13.

In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 79 of the 23d. Jany. 1791.

(Q 90-1, pp. 58-60.)

The Land Board continued its meetings for granting certificates for the occupation of lands assigned to settlers in the three townships, which had been completely surveyed, but had not yet received official names.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, 22nd November, 1790.

"Township No. 1 -

"The Board having met, ordered a report of their proceedings to be transmitted to the office of the Governor's Secretary with a schedule of locations in Township No. 1, for his Lordship's information, after which they proceeded to grant certificates to such persons as attended for that purpose. Referred to his Lordship, two Petitions, viz: one from John McNabb, Esquire, stating his services during the late War, and praying for an equal quantity of land as has been granted to disbanded subalterns; One from Augustus Jones stating that he had acted as Deputy Surveyor in this District since 28th, November, 1789, for which he has not received any compensation, also soliciting the appointment of Deputy Surveyor. The Board taking said petitions into consideration concurred in recommending the prayer of the Petitioners to his Lordship as being in their opinion proper."

The request of the Chiefs of the Mohawks for the survey of the boundaries of their reserve at length received attention.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, 20th December, 1790.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Robert Hamilton, Esquire, Peter Ten Broeck, Esquire.

"The Board having met, were of opinion that it is necessary for the citing Surveyor to ascertain and report the boundaries of the Indian Lands extending Six Miles on each side of the Grand River, and as this cannot be so easily effected as at this season, the Board submit the expediency of this Service to Lieutenant Colonel Gordon, for his approbation, and in case this service is directed, provision for the Surveyor and four Chain Bearers will be requisite from the King's stores, as is directed and has always been done.

N.B. It had been customary for the Surveyor to receive a ration of provision."

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board held at the Landing for Township No. 2, on the 3rd January, 1791.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Peter TenBroeck, Esquire, Robert Hamilton, Esquire.

"Read a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Gordon signifying his approbation of the service for surveying the Grand River. The Board in consequence ordered the Acting Surveyor to proceed on that business and ordered a speech to be prepared explaining to the Indians the intention of the said survey.

"The Board then proceeded to grant certificate to such persons as attended.

"Adjourned to the 16th instant.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Landing, 16th January, 1791.

"Present: Lt. Col. Butler, R. Hamilton, Esquire, P. Tenbroeck, Esquire.

"The Board continued to grant certificates to such persons as attended.

"Adjourned to meet in the Third Township.

"Land Board Township o.3, 18th January, 1791.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Peter Ten Broeck, Esquire, Robert Hamilton, Esquire.

"Finding few disputes in this Township the Board proceeded in granting certificates.

N.B. No Glebe reserved in this Township."

As the statements of Prisoners taken by the Indians intimated that the Force then advancing against them was intended, if successful, to attack Detroit in the Spring. Major John Smith, who commanded there, and his superior, Lieut. Colonel Gordon who had relieved Lieut. Colonel Harris at Niagara, requested definite instructions how to act in such event. Lord Dorchester was thus obliged to repeat his former orders in a slightly different form.

#### FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO COLONEL GORDON AND MAJOR SMITH

Quebec, 20th January, 1791.

Sir,

The hostilities between the United States, and the western Indians are much to be lamented - Could I be instrumental in putting an end to these calamities it would give me great satisfaction.

We are at peace with the United States and wish to remain so.

There is no power in this Country to begin a War.

But should the assertions ascribed to some of the prisoners, lately taken by the Indians, that the States mean to attack the Post of Detroit in the Spring, prove true, I can only repeat that such a step must be considered as a commencement of hostilities on their part - And War must be repelled by War. The King's benevolence and friendship towards the Indians is undoubted, it continues to be manifested by His bounty every year.

All these principles have been fully made known to the Commandants of the Upper Posts, and to the Officers of the Indian Department soon after my arrival in this Country, they have since been inculcated repeatedly; good sense must direct the application of them to the occurrences of the day, but they cannot be departed from, unless a different system should be enjoined from home, in consequence of the late events in the Indian Country, in which case the necessary orders will of course be issued.

I am inclined to give the United States credit for too much good sense to begin a War with Great Britain, but notwithstanding this, I cannot but repeat, that common prudence requires a constant vigilance and readiness on our part to meet such an event, however improbable. I am &c. DORCHESTER D.

Lieut. Col. Gordon & Major Smith.

Endorsed - 15 In Lord Dorchester's to Mr. Grenville, No.79 of the 23rd Jany. 1791.  
(Q 50-1, pp 66-7)

The difficulty that would have attended an attempt to conform the winding course of the Grand River in settling the boundaries of the Indian reserve, was fortunately obviated by an agreement between the Land Board and the principal chiefs of the Mohawks.

#### PROCEEDING OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Niagara, 1st February, 1791

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Peter Ten Broeck, Esquire, Robert Hamilton, Esquire.

(See Letter received No. 7).

"When a plan of the Grand River was laid before them and having called in Captain Joseph Brant, Tekarehokea, Shasiowanea, Ateweanookten, Oghnadongoghton, Oghguarioseta, Ojageghte, Gonghsaneyonte, Kayendaderhon, Chicheless and several of the Principal Chiefs to aid the Land Board with their advice and Council, it was unanimously agreed upon and determined That the bend of the river easterly, nearly two miles from its mouth or issue into Lake Erie, and the Mohawk Village shall be the two fixed points and that a line drawn straight from one of these points to the other shall form the center line of the Indian Settlement or Lands on the Grand River, and that two parallel lines to this, six miles distant on each side of the River shall form the bounds between them and the Settlement of Nassau.

Jos. Brant; Ojageghte; Gonghsaneyonte; Atewanookte.; Oghsita; Kayendaderhon.  
Signed on the Plan: J. Butler, Peter Ten Broeck, R. Hamilton.

FROM JOHN COLLINS TO AUGUSTUS JONES

Surveyor General's Office

Quebec, 22nd February, 1791.

Sir,

I congratulate you on your appointment in our department and herewith send you instructions for the business to be done in your district, the ensuing season, and to enable you to carry the same into execution, I enclose you, Mr. Todd's Bill on Messrs. Hamilton & Cartwright for fifty pounds currency. I long since wrote to Mr. Frey for a plan of your district on a scale of forty chains to an inch with the proprietor's name wrote on their several lots; and I am now to request the same of you to be sent down as soon as possible. I wish you health and am &c. JOHN COLLINS, D.S.G.  
Augustus Jones, Esquire.

INSTRUCTIONS

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Quebec, 22d February, 1791

Sir,

You are hereby directed to engage ten chain bearers and axe men on the most reasonable terms they can be had, not exceeding one shilling and sixpence currency per day each man, with an allowance of one shilling and threepence per day to yourself and party for provisions, or a ration of provisions from the King's store in lieu thereof, at your and their option.

And immediately proceed with all diligence to survey and mark a town plot for a County Town of the district called Lenox on the west side of the Niagara River at such place and according to such plan and dimensions as the Land Board may direct in conformity to the general Rules and Regulations.

And likewise to survey and mark the front lines of a row of Townships from the Eastern Boundary of the District of Toronto, and to carry the side lines of each township back one mile, well marked, which townships are to be designated on the charts, the first, adjoining the said Eastern Boundary by the name of Murray and the rest as they follow in proceeding Westerly in the order here mentioned: Vizt. Cramahe, Haldimand, Hamilton, Hope, Clarke, Bristol, Norwich, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dublin.

You are to commence and proceed in the execution of this work with all diligence, accuracy and fidelity in conformity to the general Rules and Regulations in all instances not otherwise specially directed.

You are to keep Journals and Field Books, inserting therein whatever is observable for its simplicity and value towards public utility as waterfalls, minerals, quarries, the quality of the land, timber, &c. &c., and likewise accounting for the time spent upon such service with such minuteness and certainty as will shew the work of each day, and enable you to answer questions upon oath in respect thereto, if the same shall be required, reporting all such journals and field books under your signature to this office after the completion of the work, together with the instructions thereof, both to me and the Land Board of the District in which you have been employed.

You are to pay a very strict attention to economy in the whole service and dismiss the hands as soon as they can be spared, And as the accounts will all be subject to audit, you'll take care to furnish the necessary documents in justification of every article of charge - observing nevertheless that it is not intended by any small savings to disappoint the useful ends for which these surveys are ordered, but that a responsible discretion is exercised in the expenditure, both of the time and the means.

You are to do no work in the nature of the subdivision of townships into lots except to such number and extents as the Land Board of Nassau and a copy thereof is to accompany the accounts hereafter to be rendered to obtain payment for the services you shall have performed.

Wishing you Health I am &c.

SAML. HOLL, SUR. GENL.

JOHN COLLINS, D.S.G.

AUGUSTUS JONES, D.P.S.

(District of Nassau Letter Book, No. 5, pp. 35-8)

PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board held at Nigara, 22 Feb. 1791.

"Present: Lt. Col. Gordon, Comm'g Upper Posts, Lt. Col. Butler, R. Hamilton, Esq.

"Received a Petition from Peter Clow praying the Board to authorize an agreement made with John Lutes for the purchase of his farm, Lot No. 34 in the 2nd Township; also a petition from Joseph Robinson, praying for leave to purchase from Thomas Martin Lot No. \_\_\_ in the 2nd Township. The Board being convinced of the propriety of these transfers, authorized them accordingly.

"As no lands have hitherto been granted to the heirs or executors of those persons who died in his Majesty's service during the late War, it remained a question whether it is the intention of government to extend his Majesty's Bounty to persons of the above description. The justice of these claims are so apparent that the Board concurred in granting these lands and to request his Lordship's approbation of this measure.

"The Board authorized Lt. Col. Butler to purchase from Robert Smith his farm on the 15 Mile Creek with all the Lands himself and family may be entitled to.

"Adjourned."

Captain John Powell, who is mentioned in the following letter, had been an officer in the Indian Department and had been assigned two thousand acres, distributed in farm lots in various parts of the Township of Bertie then known as the Township of Fort Erie. Two of these lots fronted on the Niagara River where he had built a house.

FROM JOSEPH BRANT TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Extract of a letter from Captain Brant dated Grand River, 4th March, 1791.

"I am informed that Capt. Powel has been tampering with a set of Senecas, in order to bring some of the Americans on the opposite side of the River from his House to build Mills on Skeendioghquade's Creek, which will not be effected without opposition, as I think half pay officers as well as those in the Service ought rather to prevent, than introduce the Yankees under the nose of a British Settlement.

Sir John Johnson,

Bart.

D

Endorsed --- 14 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 84 of the 14th June, 1791.

Samuel Street, who had returned from a prolonged visit in the United States, gave his version of his connection with Phelps in the purchase of Indian Lands.

FROM SAMUEL STREET TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Samuel Street dated Grand River, 4th March, 1791.

"As Agent for the following persons in this Settlemnt, vizt. John Powell, William Johnston, Timothy Murphy, W. Butler Sheehan and Street & Butler and some relations of mine in the Stats, I purchased fifteen shares, or fifteen one hundred & twentieth parts of the Genesee purchase, from Mr. Phelps at the time he treated with the Indians at Buffaloe Creek for the Lands in July 1788., Sheehan & Murphy were included without their knowledge in order to assist them in extricating themselves from some heavy Debts with which they were Burdened as were several others who were rejected. Colo. Butler had two like shares allowed him, said to be in consequence of some Lands promised him by

*Theoquanda* which lay within the purchase, one of which he gave to the Compa. and the other to his Brothers Children in New England. My intentions were and still are to sell off as soon as possible which I supposed might be done to much better Account than has yet appeared, for which purpose I authorized a Mr. Barton to manage the Business, who not succeeding to my Expectation has obliged me to take more of the Management on my own hands than I intended.

"The unsettled state of my Affairs here prevented me from going into Business again till I have Collected and Discharged my Debts, therefore I proposed attending to that Business this Summer in hopes of bringing it to a period. Many have been the reports which have circulated to my disadvantage no doubt, and I have found no friend candid enough to tell me particularly what they are, to give me an opportunity of clearing them up."

Sir John Johnson. Bart.

D.

Endorsed: - 18 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No.84 of the 14th June 1791. (Q 50-1, pp 128-90)

Acting on Instructions from the Governor, Sir John Johnson had made a proposal for the surrender of a portion of the Indian Lands at the mouth of the Grand River for the purpose of forming a continuous settlement along the shore of Lake Erie. Assent to this was given so reluctantly that the project was dropped.

#### FROM JOSEPH BRANT TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Extract of a letter from Capt. Brant dated Grand River, 24th March, 1791.

"About the Lands at the Mouth of the Grand River you seem much to wish that we should spare you at least Six Miles up the River in order to have your new Settlement of the Indians here on this head seems to be thought it rather hard that they should give it back after its given to them. However, they have agreed to give it up Five Miles and a Half Up the River, because Six Miles, it would take in a Seneca settlement who we could not think to remove them as they are fond of their Place and half a mile cannot make any odds with you.

"The Deed or Grant for the Lands here which you are going to give us, we hope you will make the Deed or Grant near the same sort which General Haldimand first promised to us, we hope the Council would not restrict us too much otherways we shall look upon it not much better than a Yankee Deed or grant to their Indian friends."

Endorsed - 23

D

In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Greville No. 84, of the 14th of June, 1791.

(Q 50-1, pp. 154-5.)

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Niagara, 4th April, 1791.

"Present: Lt. Col. Gordon, Comm'g Upper Posts, Lt. Col. Butler, R. Hamilton, Esquire.

"The Acting Surveyor laid before the Board a survey of the Indian Lands on the Grand River from its mouth to about thirty Miles above the Mohawk Village, he also laid before the Board two accounts of incidental expences incurred in the survey of the Grand River and in ascertaining where a North West line from the mouth of the Little Lake at the head of Lake Ontario would intersect the Grand River, the Board taking these

accounts into consideration, approved the same, and resolved to draw a bill on Government, approved the same, and resolved to draw a bill on Government for the amount, at their next meeting. Adjourned to the 3d Township.

Dr. James Muirhead, who is mentioned below, married Deborah, a daughter of Lieut. Colonel John Butler. He served in the War of 1812 as Surgeon to the Flank Companies on Active Service, and was promoted to be Surgeon General of Militia in 1822. He was chairman of Quarter Sessions for the District of Niagara for many years and died at Niagara, 24 March, 1834, aged sixty-nine. He is buried in Butler's Family Graveyard.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board held in Township No. 3, 7th April, 1791.

"The Board proceeded to Grant Certificates to Such Persons as attended.

"Received a Petition from James Muirhead, late Surgeon's Mate in the 60th Regiment, stating his service as mate and inclination of becoming a Settler, and praying such additional quantity to the usual allowance of lands as the Board should think proper. The Board taking the said Petition into consideration, agreed to grant a Subaltern's allowance, viz. two thousand acres. Adjourned to the 11th instant.

The Council described in the following report was called to debate on the mission of Colonel Thomas Proctor, who had been sent overland from Philadelphia by President Washington, to invite the Western Indians to attend a Meeting at Fort Washington, now Cincinnati. The French gentleman who accompanied him was Captian H.G. Houdin. Horatio Jones acted as their interpreter and his account of their proceedings is printed in Volume VI of the Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society, pp. 488-92.

#### FROM JOHN BUTLER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Niagara 14th April, 1791

In consequence of a Message with a Belt from the Chiefs of Buffaloe Creek requesting myself and the other persons of the Indian Department to attend at a Council to be held at that place, stating that some persons in Authority from the United States was to be there, and that they wished me to hear what he had to say. The Commanding Officer thinking it proper for me to comply with their request, I left this place on the 14th Inst. and proceeded to Fort Erie, the 15th I dispatched Mr. Johnston, Interpreter across the River to Buffaloe Creek, to know if the Chiefs were prepared for the council, but finding they were not ready, I did not think it requisite to cross the River until they could Assemble, I remained at Fort Erie the 16th. The 17th, I went to Buffaloe Creek Accompanied by Captain Borrough, Commanding Fort Erie, when a few of the chiefs met me and told me that they could not be ready in less than two days as their people were a great deal scattered.

On the 19th we met in Council when I addressed them as follows:

Brothers: Agreeable to Your request I am now come to meet You, and am ready to attend to what you have to say, I now return You the Belt of Invitation. The Farmers Brother, the principal Seneca Chief Speaker.



Brothers: We return Lieut. Colonel Gordon and Yourself our sincere thanks for Your readiness in complying with our request and your attendance at this place. We are also happy that Capt. Brant was at Niagara when you received our Message and you took him by the hand and brought him with you.

The usual ceremony of condolence was then performed.

Brothers: At the time when we sent you a Message requesting you to meet us in this Council, we received word from O'Bale that a great man from the Governor of New York accompanied by a French Gentleman would be here in the space of three days time upon business of importance with us, and as we wished to do no Business without the knowledge of the King our Father, we sent for you to be present in order to hear what they might have to say, we are sorry for the disappointment as they are not come agreeable to the word we received.

Colonel Butler then asked them if they had any knowledge of the business that this great man was coming upon? To which the speaker replied they had heard a little about it.

They understood that part of his business was to inform them that the Americans and the Western Nations are now at War, and that he wished to consult with the Six Nations on this Affair and to take them by the hand, and hoped they would accompany him to the westward in order to make a peace with those Indians and the United States. Lieut. Colonel Butler informed them that it was not in his power to wait the arrival of this American the time of which seemed uncertain but hoped when he did arrive and the chiefs knew the business he was come upon, that they would without loss of time dispatch two or three of their principal chiefs to inform him of it, to which they immediately assented. The Cow Killer, a principal Seneca chief then produced the annex'd Speeches from Timothy Pickering, Commissioner in behalf of the United States which they received last fall at Tioga and requested they might be publicly read. Captain Brant then addressed them as follows:

Brothers:

As we the Six Nations have received many invitations from our Brethren to the Westward, the Chiefs of the Grand River give their Advice and opinion that it is necessary for some of us to go to see them as Visitors and to know what they are about, I recommend this matter to you, and propose going myself as one. Farmer Brother speaker.

Brother: As the day is far spent and we have something further to say, we propose deferring it till tomorrow morning when we will meet you again in Council. 20th.

The Council having met the Fish Carrier spoke as follows, addressing himself to Captain Brant.

Brothers: We highly approve of your advice respecting a visit to our Western Brethren. I speak in behalf of Three Nations vizt., the Cayugas, Tuscaroras and Teddighronies.

The Chiefs of the Senecas and Onandagoes then approved of Capt. Brant's Proposal in the same manner.

They then appointed the Grandson of the late Syengaraghta (frequently called the Old King of the Senecas) to the place of that Chief after which the Council broke up.

(Q 50-1, pp. 167-71.)

On the approach of Spring, Lord Dorchester considered it necessary to warn both Colonel and Sir John Johnson to be prepared to meet and repel an attack.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO COLONEL GORDON

Quebec, 14th April, 1791

Sir,

Notwithstanding some late pacific appearance it is not improbable that armed parties may again make their appearance in the Indian Country, and perhaps in the vicinity of some of the King's Posts.

Common prudence therefore requires we should be on our guard, and prepared to meet all events. 'Tis not enough that the Posts under your command be in a thorough state of defence, you must be prepared to march forward should the turn of affairs render this absolutely necessary. To carry his operation into effect with proper importance a part of the Garrison of each of the Posts of Niagara and Detroit with a considerable draft from the Militia and some field pieces should be in readiness to move upon a short notice.

You will be pleased to inform me with what force you think you may march forward from Niagara, and with what force from Detroit should it be so ordered, and what you may still want for this purpose.

The Gunboats and King's Vessels should likewise be ready for service at a short notice. I am &c.

DORCHESTER

D

Endorsed - 25 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 84, of the 14 June, 1791.  
(Q 50-1, pp 158-9)

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 14th April, 1791

Sir,

Notwithstanding the late pacific appearance, it is fit that we should not Sleep while our Neighbours are in Arms.

The inclosed copy of my orders to the Commanding Officer of the Upper Posts will shew you my opinion of what ought to be done in the Upper Country.

I wish you to assist Colonel Gordon with your sentiments and observations on this business. I am &c.

DORCHESTER

D

Endorsed - 26 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 84 of the 14th June, 1791  
(Q 50-1, p. 160)

These instructions were supplemented by letter to Gordon from the Military Secretary, directing him to discourage the immigration of the Six Nations and prevent the settlement of white people on the bank of the Niagara.

FROM FRANCIS LE MAISTRE TO COLONEL GORDON

Quebec, 14th April, 1791.

Sir,

Your letter of the 28th February last, covering among other papers, substance of the speech delivered by the deputation of the Tuscarora Indians, with your reply thereto

has been placed before Lord Dorchester; and it is in obedience to His Lordship's commands, I informed you that whatever influence may have been used to tempt those people to dispose of their lands, or encouragements held out to them to removed from their own Country to Grand River, was done without the knowledge or approbation of Government.

Such conduct excites and still keeps up a suspicion the Indians have been unfairly treated, and that some who should have opposed those practices turned their influence another way, and were busy in bringing that poor people to consent to their own detriment and this for interested reasons.

The whole of this transaction having been transmitted home, His Lordship cannot proceed therein, till he knows in what light it has been seen by the King's Ministers.

His Excellency approves much of the reply you made them and it is His wish they should upon all occasions be treated with every mark of friendship and benevolent attention.

I have the honor to be &c.

FRAS. LE MAISTRE.

M.S.

Colonel Gordon, Commanding the Upper Posts at Niagara.

D.

Endorsed - 13 - In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No. 84 of the 14th June, 1791 (Q 50-1, pp 121-2.)

FROM FRANCIS LE MAISTRE TO COLONEL GORDON

Quebec, 14th April, 1791.

Sir,

The copy of Mr. Warren's letter transmitted in yours of the 28th February addressed to Mr. Motz, relative to a projected settlement by the States near Fort Erie, has been laid before Lord Dorchester.

His Lordship commands me to say he cannot admit of any settlements, whose vicinity to the King's Forts, would render their defence of less moment; These as well as all such, are therefore upon every occasion to be discountenanced and prevented, but with civility and good humour.

I inclose by His Lordship's orders, copy of His Letter to the Commanding Officer at St. Johns.

The steps you have already taken in this matter meet his Lordship's approbation. But however inclined the Indians may be to grant the lands in question, it cannot be suffered to take effect.

I am &c.

FRAS. LE MAISTRE, M.S.

Colonel Gordon.

Endorsed - 12. In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No.84 of the 14th June, 1791. (Q 59-1, p. 120)

The approach of Colonel Proctor's party, which had been announced by Indian Messengers, and the request from the Indians for advice on the subject of its mission, created a difficult situation, which was accentuated by later events.

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Extract of a Letter from Lieut. Colo. Butler, Deputy Agent of Indian Affairs - Dated Niagara, 24th April, 1791.

"About the 1st Instant, I received Intelligence by two Indians from Buffaloe Creek that a Party of Chippewas from Cayahago River on Lake Erie had killed two Americans at Cassawago on the Verango River about Fifty Miles from Presque Isle, and had sent Messages to the Six Nations, which alarms them a good deal as the Chippewas are still about Presque Isle and say they are very Angry with the Six Nations for their Deceit.

"On the 10th instant, I received a Belt of Invitation from the Chiefs at Buffaloe Creek, requesting Colonel Gordon myself, and the Indian Department, to meet them in Council at that place in the space of three days, as they expected a visit from O'Bale who was Conducting to their Council Fire a great man from the Governor of New York, accompanied by a French Gentleman - and that they wished me to hear what these people had to say;

Colonel Gordon, thinking it necessary for me to comply with the request, I according left this with Captain Brant, but was much disappointed as I was detained there a long time almost to no purpose, I inclose you their speeches to me on this occasion. Capt. Brant left this yesterday and means to proceed to Detroit which the Five Nations have approved of as you will see by their Speech - This Vessel sailing immediately on my return prevents me from having Dispatches completed to go by her. I have annexed a Copy of all the American Speeches for your information - The day before I left Buffaloe Creek, A nephew of O'Bale came in and added to the above Intelligence, that it was not from one state, that the council was to be with, but that a number of Americans were coming to the Council, at least one or two from each state, and that their Business with the Six Nations was to take them by the hand and Endeavour to get them to accompany them to the Western Indians, in order to effect a Peace with those Indians and the United States.

D.

Sir John Johnson, Bart.

Enclosed - 29 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 84 of 14th June, 1791.  
(Q 50-1, pp. 165-6.)

The Land Board was enlarged by the appointment of four new members, all of whom were Magistrates. John Burch was a Miller at Niagara Falls, John Warren, Assistant Commissary at Fort Erie, and Robert Kerr, Surgeon to the Indian Department.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Niagara 3d May, 1791.

Present: R. Hamilton, Esq.; John Burch, Esquire; John Warren, Esquire; Robert Kerr, Esquire, John McNabb, Esq.

"Mr. Hamilton laid before the Board a letters from Henry Motz, Esquire, accompanying Lord Dorchester's order for augmentation and continuance of the Land Granting Department from the 1st May 1791 to the last June, 1793.

The new members are: John Burch, John Warren, Robert Kerr and John McNabb, Esquires; of the Board, any five are a Quorum.

"The Board having observed that the intention of Government in keeping roads along the River from the Landing to Chippeway Creek has not been attended to by the inhabitants occupying those lands and who cannot be ignorant of a Chain being left by the surveyor for that purpose, the Board Order that as soon as the present crops are got in,

the people do then move their fences and open the road to the breadth of the Chain of which the Clerk is directed to give them Notice.

"The Board proceeded to grant certificates to such persons as attended.

"Adjourned to the 1st Monday in June."

After conferring with Colonel Proctor, the Chiefs of the Six Nations held a Council at Buffaloe Creek which was attended by Colonel Butler and the Commandant of Fort Erie on their invitation. Butler advised them to maintain peace but counselled delay in co-operating actively with Proctor until they could receive a message from Brant who had headed a deputation to confer with the Western Indians near Detroit.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF AN INDIAN COUNCIL AT BUFFALOE CREEK

Proceedings of a Council held with the Chiefs of the Six Nations at Buffaloe Creek, 4th May, 1791.

Present: Lieut. Colonel John Butler, Deputy Agent; Captain Burrough, 26th Regiment; W.B. Sheehan; William Johnston, Interpreter.

The Chiefs at Buffaloe Creek having met, Colo. Butler addressed them as follows:

Brothers: A few days ago, I received a Message from you to attend a Council, begging that Coll. Gordon and all who belong to the Indian Department would accompany me, as the Business was of greatest importance to you and wished our assistance and advice; I am now ready to hear what you have to say and return you, your Strings of Invitation. (Six Strings Wampum,)

The Farmers Brother, Speaker.

Brothers: An American and a Frenchman are arrived here, who say they are sent to us by the President, General Washington, with a number of Papers which we cannot read, we hope you will read them for us and Explain them fully.

Brothers: Exclusive of these they have other Papers, which they explained as follows: "That they are going on a Message with some Written Speeches to the Western Nations and that they were ordered to take the Chiefs of the Six Nations by the hand to accompany them, agreeable to Capt. O'Bale's promise to Congress." This is a matter of serious consideration to us, Brothers, what is your opinion?

Colonel Butler replied as follows:

Brothers: I have heard with attention your speech, it has always been my wish to advise you what I thought for your interest, I foresee the present case is not without its Difficulties - The King, your Father, wishes you to live in Peace and I advise you by all means to preserve it, I cannot say it would be prudent for you to accompany these people immediately to the Westward, those Indians you know are a good deal enraged; they have also threatened you and at your last Council you approved of Captain Brant's going to visit them to see what they are about, he is now gone and will use all his influence for Peace and not involve yourselves in troubles, I think you ought to embrace the opportunity of doing so.

This is all that occurs to me, but I by no means wish your attention to it, if it differs from your own opinion of this matter which concerns yourselves and the Americans, but as you insisted upon my thoughts on the subject, I have given you them.

The Farmers Brother Speaker.

Brother: We return you thanks for what you have said to us - We request you to take these Papers to Niagara, that the King our Father, may see them, and a few of Our Chiefs propose meeting Colonel Gordon and Yourself at Niagara in three days to speak further on this subject.

Endorsed - 33. In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No. 84 of the 14th June, 1791. (Q 50-1, pp. 205-6)

FROM THOMAS PROCTOR TO COLONEL GORDON

Buffaloe Creek, May 5, 1791

Sir,

Altho' I have not the honor of being personally known to you, I am notwithstanding emboldened to address you with a few lines, and thereby to acquaint you, that I am charged with certain messages from His Excellency, the Secretary at War for the United States, to the Six Nations and other Tribes of Indians, inhabiting the lands on the borders of Lake Erie, &c. One of these Messages are particularly sent to the Indians, now unhappily at War with the Americans, and with which people it is the ardent desires of General Washington, the President of the United States, that Peace should be established on lasting terms of Equity and Justice to them and Posterity. And to accomplish the same, I am commissioned to invite them to a Treaty on the Ohio, not far distant from their Settlement.

The better to accomplish this desirable object, promises had been made to the President in January last by certain Chiefs who came to Philadelphia on business of the Six Nations, that they would appoint certain head men of their people to accompany such persons as should be sent into the Country of those unfortunate people to assist in bringing them to Terms of Reconciliation with the Thirteen States.

This, Sir, you will be enabled to discover on reading the last Message of the Secretary of War, tho' me to the Six Nations which with other Public Papers, will be handed to you by the Farmers Brother, and other Chiefs who wait upon you, to receive your Council on this weighty business. And I am happy to believe that you will entertain the most favourable sentiments on the Intent and Meaning of those overtures, for the restoration of Peace. And the same being formed solely on the principles of Humanity and a regard for the well being of our fellow men, that the same motive will invite you to give a small assistance in providing so laudable an undertaking and that of such a nature and tendency, as to promote the Happiness of His Britannic Majesty's subjects of Canada, as well as to the United States in general.

The favor I have to request at your hand - namely to permit me to Charter a Frigate, or one of your Vessels for such number of Indians, as may accompany me to Sandusky, on the west end of Lake Erie.

So far as my requests meet your approbation, I shall receive the greatest Honor, by your signifying the same by a line to

Sir, Your Most Humble Servant.

THOMAS PROCTOR.

Endorsed, No. 34. In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No.84, of the 14th June, 1791.  
(Q 50-1, pp. 208-10.)

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO COLONEL GORDON

Niagara, 6th May, 1791.

Sir,

The enclosed Speech is what passed between myself and the Chiefs of the Six Nations at Buffaloe Creek which I hope will meet your approbation.

I had not an opportunity of seeing the Private instructions of Colo. Proctor, but from the conversation I had with him, imagine he is to proceed at all events (and should none of the Indians accompany him) to the Miami River, and from hence to the Ohio - he talked of hiring a Merchant Vessel to carry him to Sandusky and told me he hoped no impediment should be thrown in his way by preventing the Indians from accompanying him, he also said he expected to be supplied with Charts of the Lake from Government if he should want them.

I am sorry illness has prevented me from waiting on you, but as I expect the Chiefs from Buffaloe Creek, hope to be able to see you tomorrow.

I have the Honor to be &c.

JOHN BUTLER

D.

To Colonel Gordon.

Endorsed - No. 32 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No. 84 of the 14 June, 1791.  
(Q 50-1, p. 204)

Meanwhile, the Governor had received information, which increased his apprehensions so much, that he considered it necessary to repeat his warning message to Gordon, which of course did not reach him until about the end of that month.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO COLONEL GORDON

Quebec, 9th May, 1791

Sir,

The expected approach of an Army in the Indian Country, and the rumours of an intention to attack the Posts or surprize them as was done at Ticonderoga in Seventy-Six require that we should be on our guard and prepared for all events.

I send you herewith a copy of my orders to you of the 14th of last month, lest the original should have been miscarried, together with a copy of further directions of this date to Sir John Johnson on the same subject. Should the turn of Affairs require the King's Vessels and Gun Boats on the Lakes, or any of them, to be fitted for War, and the exigency of the service not admit of your waiting for orders from hence upon such reports as you may have to make you will proceed to arm and man the said Vessels or Gun Boats, or so many of them as you think necessary, agreeable to the returns transmitted to you on the 6th of October last without delay.

I am &c.

DORCHESTER

D.

Endorsed - 28 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 84 of the 14th June, 1791.  
(Q 50-1, p. 164)

Sir John Johnson was instructed to assure the Indians on the Grand River that Haldiman's promise to them would be faithfully fulfilled and that the surrender of any part of their lands would not be accepted.

FROM HENRY MOTZ TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 9th May, 1791

Sir,

On the subject of Joseph Brant's letter respecting the Lands on the Grand River, I am to observe that without doubt the Indians are entitled to the full accomplishment of Governor Haldimand's promise to them, without any diminution, and it shall be carried into execution accordingly.

A continuation of Settlements along the borders of Lake Erie, concerning which it seems Indians have been spoke to, may be for the general convenience of the King's Subjects, but no parts of the lands promised to the Indians can be kept from them on that ground.

To leave their choice more free, it should have been explained to them that this proposal did not come from Government, as from Government they may now be assured their acquiescence shall not be accepted, while they think it hard, that they should give it back after it has been given to them - They must have all that has been promised, and if they should afterwards consent to surrender any part of their tract, for the accommodation of the King's Subjects in general, they must have full and ample compensation, for it to their entire satisfaction.

As to the nature of the deed, it should be framed in every respect according to their own wishes, so as to secure the true interests of themselves and their posterity for ever in the most effectual manner - It will be very desirable that they should consider this matter fully among themselves, and bring forward the heads of the deed they wish to receive - You will be pleased to recommend this measure to Captain Brandt and to acquaint him with His Lordship's sentiments, expressed in this letter in general.

I have the honor to be &c.

HENRY MOTZ.

Sir John Johnson, Bart.

Endorsed - 24 - In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 84, of the 14th June 1791.  
(Q 50-1, pp. 156-7)

At the same time, he was directed to supply the Western Indians with provisions to enable them to meet and deliberate fully on "the means of restoring the general tranquility." But he was again warned to be watchful and reminded of the surprise of Ticonderoga "in Seventy-Six," which ever haunted Lord Dorchester's memory.

FROM HENRY MOTZ TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 9th May, 1791

Sir,

Your letter of the 5th instant has been laid before Lord Dorchester.

His Lordship thinks it very natural that the present situation of the Western Indians should call for more than usual supplies of provisions and necessaries and that without such aid, it will be very difficult if not impracticable to engage a sufficient



number of their leading people to meet, and continue together long enough for the purpose of fully deliberating in the means of restoring the general tranquility.

You will therefore be pleased to furnish His Lordship with a state of such extraordinary supplies, as you may conceive the present circumstances to require.

Brant seems to think they are acting deceitfully with the Indians on this occasion, and that they intend to make a tool of him for that purpose.

On the other hand, many are of the opinion that there is an intention of attacking the Posts, or surprising them as they did Ticonderoga in Seventy-Six.

My Lord therefore thinks it necessary to be prepared for all events, as you were informed by His letter of the 14th of last month.

Besides great watchfulness in the affairs of your Department to obtain and communicate the earliest intelligence of all movements in the Indian Country, His Lordship wishes them to consider whether in the case of an approach of an Army, the safety of the King's Posts may not require that detachments from the Garrisons and Militia should march forward from Niagara and Detroit and occupy certain stations at a distance, what stations they think most eligible for this purpose, and by what force and means, they should be occupied.

Upon these matters they should communicate their opinions fully to the Commanding Officers of the respective Posts as well as to you.

The situation at Oswego differs from that of the other Posts, but the means of its safety should likewise be fully considered and the sentiments of the Officer of your Department at Niagara, with respect to it, made known to the Commandant and to you.

His Lordship wishes to have your own sentiments on all these matters, as soon as can be, besides the communication of such reports and observations as you may receive from your Officers at the different posts in the Upper Country.

I have the Honor to be,

HENRY MOTZ.

D.

Sir John Johnson, Bart.

Endorsed - 27

In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No. 84, of the 14th June, 1791.

(Q 50-1, pp. 161-3.)

As two weeks had elapsed without receiving any reply to his letter from Colonel Gordon, Proctor wrote again, sending his second letter by his Interpreter, who had been formerly employed in the British Indian Department and was well known to Colonel Butler.

FROM THOMAS PROCTOR TO COLONEL GORDON

Buffaloe Creek, May 17th, 1791

Colonel Gordon,

Sir

The 5th Instant and immediately on the departure of Colonel Butler from this place, I had the Honor to address a few lines to you, which I put into the hands of Captain William Print, an Indian to be forwarded, but I presume that the same has miscarried by some neglect.

The purport of it was, to be permitted to have a passage in any Vessel on Lake Erie, for seventeen or more Indians, and for three other persons who bear me company, to any part of the west end of the Lake.

The Mission that I am charged with is from the Secretary of War, for the United States and directed to the Indians now unhappily at War with the Army of the United States, with desires to reclaim them to a peaceable demeanour, before certain desolation overtakes them, which is now pending. To effect the purpose of my request from Colonel Gordon, I have sent Mr. Horatio Jones to receive an answer and should the freight of the above persons be granted, I shall with much pleasure satisfy the Commander of such vessel for the same and the honor done in this instance shall be duly acknowledge by,  
Sir, Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant, Colonel Gordon. THOMAS PROCTOR.  
Endorsed - 35 - In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 84, of the 14th June 1791.

Gordon apologized for the delay in answering and stated bluntly that he had no authority to grant his request, which was undoubtedly true.

FROM COLONEL A. GORDON TO THOMAS PROCTOR

Niagara, 18th May, 1791.

Sir,

A few days ago, I had your letter of the 5th Instant, to which I should have returned an immediate answer, had I not waited for some Public Papers which you wrote were to be handed to me by the Farmer's Brother, and other Chiefs, who were to wait upon me, to receive my advice on business of importance.

They have however never made their appearance at this Post.

I think it proper to give you this explanation, of my not having sooner replied to your letter; but as there is no Document which places you in any other light, than a Private Agent, I cannot enter on any discussion of a Public Nature.

Whenever any of the Chiefs of the Senecas, or others of the Six Nations apply to me for Council, I shall give them such advice, as I conceive best suits with the present situation of Affairs.

As to that part of your Letter, which requests to be permitted to freight one of the Vessels on Lake Erie, to convey you, and such Indians as may be inclined to accompany you to Sandusky, on the west side of the Lake

I beg leave to inform you, that I am not authorized to comply with your request.

I am &c. Colonel Proctor

A. GORDON

Endorsed - 36 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 84 of the 14th June, 1791.  
(Q 50-1, p. 202)

He then reported the matter briefly to the Military Secretary.

FROM COLONEL GORDON TO FRANCIS LE MAISTRE

Extract of a letter from Colonel Gordon to Francis Le Maistre, Esqr. dated Niagara, May 20th, 1791.

"There has for some time been at Buffaloe Creek, a Colonel Proctor and three other people, one of them I understand a Frenchman; they have had a Council with such of the Six Nations as are settled there, at which Colonel Butler was present; they produced voluminous papers from Congress and others of the United States, Copies of

which I imagine are forwarded by this opportunity to the Superintendent General. I inclose Colonel Butler's speech on the occasion - The Farmer's Son (Probably the Farmer's Brother) and other Chiefs expected here have not yet made their appearance, But I inclose for His Lordship's information copies of two letters from Coll. Proctor to me together with my Answer.

"I have had it privately conveyed to me that the reason why the Chiefs have not appeared here to ask my Council, is, that they are very much divided, some are for going with Coll. Proctor and others not - I shall follow the advice I give them, much the same line as prescribed by Lt. Coll. Butler, shou'd they apply for it."

D.

Endorsed - 31 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 84, of the 14th June, 1791.

(Q 50-1, p. 202)

Butler wrote more fully on the subject to Sir John Johnson and in a subsequent letter justified his conduct in favouring the migration of Indians to the Grand River in an aggrieved tone.

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Niagara, 20th May, 1791.

Dear Sir,

Since I had the honor of writing you last a good deal of Indian Business at Buffaloe Creek has been in agitation, which required the Chiefs to send for me to attend their Council, the proceedings of which I have the honor to enclose herewith. About three weeks ago, a Colonel Proctor arrive there accompanied by a Frenchman called *Captain Houdin* and O'Bale, with some of the Senecas that adhere to him, they left Philadelphia about the middle of last March and have brought a number of Papers, Speeches, &ca. from Washington and the Secretary of War addressed to different nations of Indians, those of the Six Nations I have got, but being so voluminous and Colonel Gordon requiring a Copy, I fear they cannot be ready for you by this Vessel, but shall be sent in the very next which will be in three days.

Col. Proctor's instructions are from H. Knox, Secretary of War by which he is to take the Six Nations by the hand to accompany him to the Westward and to take all those Nations to Governor Sinclair at Fort Washington on the Ohio, to meet in Council there, but his speeches are so haughty and explanatory, that in my opinion, they cannot be delivered to these Indians, already so much enraged, without risque to himself and failing of his object - It is well known that nothing is to be got by threatening these People.

The object of his Business is with the Six Nations is not yet completed, but I am since informed that the Cow Killer with some Senecas and two Onondagas have agreed to accompany him, the Chiefs from Buffaloe Creek have proposed a Council at this place respecting these matters. I expect them to morrow, and shall take the earliest opportunity of reporting to you their proceedings, until this Council takes place, nothing can be said with certainty as to the part they mean to act.

As my private Affairs will require my presence in Montral, I have to request your permission to go down for that purpose as I imagine after the meeting there will be little or nothing to detain me.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JOHN BUTLER

D.

Sir John Johnson, Bart.

Endorsed - 37 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No. 84 of the 14 June 1791  
(Q. 50-1, pp. 215-7.)

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Niagara, 27th May, 1791.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter of the 25th April respecting the removal of the Tuscaroras, and of the settlement intended to be made of the Americans, opposite Fort Erie, on the receipt of your letter, I enquired of the Tuscaroras, what was their reason or who had advised them to remove over.

They gave me for answer, they had already assigned their reason for wishing to move over, and that they had been advised by the Indians settled on the Grand River.

I have also enquired of the other Nations if they received any applications for a Settlement at Skeendioghquade's Creek, they replied that no application had been made to them, but they had heard of Skentioghwadighs say that Americans wished to build a Mill at his Place, and were making application to the States for that purpose.

Since its coming first to my knowledge which was from Colo. Gordon, I have taken ever step in my power to prevent it, and am convinced the Indians will not allow it to take place.

How any censure should be thrown on me for either, astonished me as much as the Circumstances could astonish you, but to stop the torrent of censure aimed at me requires more than I can write - I at first thought it for the Interest of Government for the Tuscaroras to remove to the Grand River but when I found it disapproved of, I have used all my influence to prevent its taking place. If I have erred in opinion I should not be blamed for any subsequent change of theirs, & of which I probably may have no intimation at this time. I rely on you Sir to explain this matter in its true light which I have now stated, and hope you will be convinced that any Censure thrown on me upon this occasion is without the least foundation as can at any time be made appear.

I have the honour to be &c.

JOHN BUTLER

D.

Sir John Johnson. Bart.

Endorsed - 17 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No.84 of the 14th June, 1791.  
(Q 50-1, pp. 126-7.)

Lord Dorchester did not conceal his displeasure at the recent management of Indian Affairs at Niagara and censured in particular the timid and faltering tone of one of Butler's Speeches to the Six Nations.

FROM FRANCIS LE MAISTRE TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 30th May, 1791.

Sir,

Lord Dorchester having been informed that Capt. Powell of Nassau, has been tampering with some of the Seneca Indians, for the purpose of forming a Settlement of some people, not the King's subjects, on Skeendighquade's Creek near the East end of Lake Erie, where they are supposed to intend building Mills, I am commanded to signify

His Lordship's desire, that you make diligent Inquiry concerning the truth of the report, and the particulars of the transaction alluded to, and inform his Lordship of the result. The Commanding Officer at Niagara has been directed in case he shall find the report grounded, to call upon Captain Powell for an explanation of the reasons of his conduct, which wears an unseemly appearance for a Magistrate and an Officer upon half pay.

I am &c. FRAS. LE MAISTRE. D.  
Sir John Johnson, Bart. Endorsed - 15 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No.84  
of the 14th June, 1791. (Q 50-1, p.124 )

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 2nd June, 1791.

Sir,

I am by no means satisfied with the language held by the Deputy Agent at Niagara to the Chiefs of the Six Nations on the 4th of May last, a copy of which is inclosed.

He should have consulted the Commandant previous to giving any opinion or advice upon matters of such delicacy and importance to the Indians.

You will be pleased to direct the Deputy Agent upon all future occasions of this nature, when he has no special instructions to report to the Commandant and wait for his advice.

I am &c. DORCHESTER D.  
Sir John Johnson, Bart. Endorsed - 38 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No.  
84, of the 14th June, 1791. (Q. 50-1, p. 218)

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO COLONEL GORDON

Quebec, 2nd June, 1791.

Sir,

The application of Mr. Proctor for the hire of one of the King's Vessels on Lake Erie, communicated in your reports of the 20th of last month, has to me an appearance of insult, 'tis impossible he could expect success.

I take for granted you have taken effectual means to prevent his procuring any vessel or conveyance whatever, from any of the King's Subjects, which Mr. Butler mentions to have been his intention.

My Letters of the 14th of April and 9th of May have apprized you tht there are rumours of an intention to seize the Posts, which implies the vessels also, and of course any means for carrying hostile designs into execution – You will therefore be upon your guard against everything which may have a tendency to facilitate such designs. This is a matter of too great delicacy and importance to give any opinion upon.

Whatever advice may be given will eventually expose us to the reproach of acting deceitfully with the Indians.

I am &c. DORCHESTER D.  
Colonel Gordon or Officer Commanding the Upper Posts. Endorsed 39 In Lord  
Dorchster's to Lord Grenville No. 84, of the 14th June, 1791. (Q 50-1, pp. 219-20.)

At the next meeting of the re-organized Land Board, the selection of a Town Site at the mouth of the River was approved and the name of Lenox was given to it.

#### PROCEEDING OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board for the District of Nassau held at Niagara the 6th June, 1791.

"Present: Colonel Gordon, Command'g Upper Posts, Lieut. Col. John Butler, Robert Hamilton, John Burch, Robert Kerr, John McNabb, Lt. Bruyere, R. Engineers.'

"The Board having met, Colonel Gordon laid before them several letters and instructions from Head Quarters for their guidance, which were read, also a paper signifying the appointment of Mr. Jones as Deputy Surveyor for this District, who was sworn by the Board for that purpose.

"Instructions were given to the Surveyor to proceed in laying out the Town of Lenox.

"Read a Petition from Peter Secord, Senior, (see also his later Petition in Papers & Records of the Ontario Historical Society, Vol. XXIV, pp. 119-120. stating that he had been promised by Brigadier General Powell Six hundred acres of land, but from the late regulations, he finds himself only entitled to Three Hundred Acres, that having improved a great quantity of land, and erected buildings, prays the Board to take his industry into Consideration and grant him the remaining three lots agreeable to the promise of Brigadier Powell, &c., which the Board agree to refer to his Lordship.

"Received a Petition from the Widow Van Every for leave to dispose of Lots 10 & 37 in the First Township which was granted upon condition of the purchase money being lodged in the hands of the Board, until a Division of it takes place with the rest of the family.

"The Board proceeded to grant certificates and transferred the lands that Henry Jago, Christian Jacobs, and James Dugan were entitled to John McEwen, who had purchased them.

"The lot of land in dispute between Elsworth and Forsyth near the Falls containing sixty acres, is ordered to be divided, acre for acre, between them.

"Several disputes about lands, viz., between Lawrence Jenning and Peter Thompson; 3d Between David Betton and Archibald Flack; 3rd. Between John Thompson and James Burke, were, by recommendation of the Board referred to Arbitration. Adjourned to Monday, 20th June, 1791.

#### EXTRACT FROM THE QUEBEC LAND BOOK

Wednesday, 8th June, 1791.

His Lordship informed the Council that he had continued the appointment of the different Land Boards in the Province until the first day of June, 1793 – and communicated a Schedule of the persons named with a Copy of the Letter of Appointment addressed to each Board which were read in the following words, Schedule of the Land Boards appointed by His Excellency Lord Dorchester to act from and after the first day of May, 1791.

Sir John Johnson, Bart., President of the Land Boards of Montreal, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nassau and Hesse, when present.

.....  
NASSAU

The Officer commanding the Upper Posts.

LIEUT. COLO. JOHN BUTLER

PETER TENBROECK

ROBERT HAMILTON

BENJAMIN PAWLING

NATHANIEL PETTIT

GILBERT TICE

JOHN BURCH

JOHN WARREN

ROBERT KERR

JOHN MC NABB

ESQUIRES.

The Officers of the Royal Corps of Engineers stationed at Niagara for the time being.

FROM JOHN COLLINS TO AUGUSTUS JONES

Surveyor General's Office, 10th June, 1791.

Sir,

His Excellency Lord Dorchester has been pleased to order one thousand acres of land to be laid out at Toronto for Mr. Rochblave; and for Captain Laforce and for Captain Bouchette seven hundred acres each, which please to lay out accordingly and report the same to this office with all convenient speed.

I am &c. JOHN COLLINS, D.S.G.

Mr. Augs. Jones, D.P.S.

Col. Gordon commented with considerable acerbity on what appeared to him to be duplicity on the part of the United States in their negotiations with the Indians as well as their unwillingness to accept any mediation from the British Government. Butler was spurred to activity by instructions from Sir John Johnson.

FROM COLONEL A. GORDON TO JOSEPH BRANT

Niagara, 11th June, 1791.

Dear Sir,

I am glad to find by your letter, from the foot of the Rapids to Colonel Butler, that you was in good health, and I very sincerely hope the business you are engaged in, will be attended with success.

From the inconsistent proceedings of the Americans, I am perfectly at a loss to understand their full intentions. Whilst they are assembling Councils at different quarters, with the avowed purpose of bringing about a Peace, the Six Nations have received a Speech from General St. Clair, dated at Pittsburgh, 23rd of April, inviting them to take up the Hatchet against their Brothers, the Western Indians.

Can anything be more inconsistent? or can they possibly believe the Indians are to be duped by such shallow artifices? - This is far from being the case; the Indians at Buffaloe Creek saw the business in its proper light, and treated the invitation with the contempt it deserved.

It might strike you very forcibly, that in all the proceedings of the different Commissioners from the American States, they have cautiously avoided applying for our interference, as a measure they affect to think perfectly unnecessary wishing to impress the Indians with Ideas of their own consequence, and of the little influence, they would willingly believe, we are possessed of. This my good friends is not the way to proceed. Had they before matters were pushed to extremity, requested the assistance of the British Government to bring about a Peace on equitable terms, I am convinced the measures would have been fully accomplished long before this time.

I would however willingly hope they will yet see the propriety of adopting this mode of proceeding, and the Peace, an object so much to be desired, will at length be permanently settled.

Let me hear from time to time, how matters are going forward, and with my wishes for your health, believe me,

Your Friend.

A. Gordon.

D.

Captain Brant.

Endorsed - 7 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville, No. 95 of the 1st July, 1791. (Q 51-2, pp. 777-8.)

FROM JOHN BUTLER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Niagara, 13th June, 1791.

Dear Sir,

I have been honored with your letter of the 22nd May last with its enclosed Extracts. In answer to which I am clearly of opinion that every prudent precaution should be taken to put us in a situation to meet the worst, as the present operations of the Americans, altho' under pretence of prosecuting another object, may be aimed at the Posts in the End, and to which their endeavouring to draw the attention of the Six Nations another way seems to give too much reason to expect, and as their troops are levied and in the Indian Country, the smallest pretext added to their preset pretensions, may cause them to make an attempt.

If the Indians should be obliged to fly before this Army and should chance to take shelter under the protection of any of our Forts, there is not the smallest doubt with me but they would take advantage of that Occasion, for if they find we even continue the accustomed supplies to the Indians at War with them, they will make a handle of it.

By the advice of Colonel Gordon, I have sent out Captain Clement, and my son Johnson Butler, on whom I can rely, (under cover of business) to see if there is any thing amongst them which indicates their intentions, the result of which shall be immediately communicated to you on their return.

If we have further reason to think they aim at this Post and Oswego, I think a Secret eye should be kept on the Three Rivers, Big Sodus, and Presque Isle, the two latter places, I think we may rely on the Indians for intelligence, at the same time, our Militia should be put in the best disposition their present situation will admit of, will full confidence that the necessary Arms, &ca. will be put in their hands or lodged in some convenient place but to avoid giving suspicion, I should recommend the latter as the most prudent.

For the present condition of the Militia, I beg leave to recommend you to the Returns, from which His Lordship will be able to judge how far they may be serviceable



to effect any plan with them or the Indians, which His Lordship may think necessary; no exertions of mine shall be found wanting consistent with the orders I may receive.

I am happy to find by the late conference that the Indians (a few Individuals excepted), are firmly attached to His Majesty's Interest, to keep them so, and United will require attention assisted by the means which generally Predominate over them.

I have already brought back those scattering Senecas about the Allegany River, and near the Ohio, who are settled at Cadaragras (now Cattaraugus, N.Y.) - from whence they have been absent since the Peace, and I hope this Measure will meet His Lordhsip's and your approbation.

I have the honor of enclosing to you herewith Copies of our late Councils with the Six Nations, and &c.

JOHN BUTLER D.

Endorsed - 8 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 95 of 1st July, 1791.  
(Q 51-2, pp. 779-81.)

Lord Dorchester's policy was distinctly defined in the concluding paragraph of the following letter to Mr. Grenville.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO LORD GRENVILLE

Quebec, 14th June, 1791.

No. 84

My Lord,

.....  
A Mr. Proctor, charged, as he says with a Commission to invite the different tribes of Indians to a General Meeting on the Ohio, for the restoration of Peace, has lately made his appearance among the Six Nations near Niagara, requesting them to accompany him to the westward, and lend their aid in the accomplishment of this object. He has likewise applied to the Commandant of Niagara for assistance to that effect, and for one of the King's vessels to carry him to the West of Lake Erie which the Commandant refused.

By the accounts from Detroit it appears, that the Indians have been active all winter in harassing the western settlements of the states by small parties from different tribes and quarters, that Military preparations and movements in the Indian Country are carried on with vigor on both sides, that the Indians expect further hostilities and that it is doubtful, whether the steps taken by the Deputy Agent at Detroit towards effecting a re-establishment of peace, in consequence of my orders (C in No. 82) will have any success.

In this conjuncture of affairs, it seems expedient to avoid everything that may tend to involve us in the contest, or in the turn of affairs may expose us to the reproach of acting deceitfully towards either party, at the same time holding ourselves prepared to meet all events, as far as our strength and present condition will permit.

I am &c. DORCHESTER.

Lord Grenville. (Q. 50-1, pp. 82-5.)

The attention of the Land Board was engaged by the Survey of the Projected Town and the Proposals for transporting goods over the newly opened Portage Road by a

Company in which two of the members, Robert Hamilton and John Burch, had a large interest.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board held at Niagara, for the District of Nassau, Monday, 20th June, 1791.

"Present: Colonel Gordon, Commanding the Upper Posts; Lt. Col. Butler; Robert Hamilton, Esquire; Nathaniel Pettit, Esquire; John Burch, Esquire; John McNabb, Esquire; Lieut. Bruyere, Royal Engineers.

"The Deputy Surveyor laid before the Board the out lines of proposed Town of Lenox by which there appears to be an error in the Plan presented by the Surveyor General, which states that the reservation for works on the high ground back of Navy Hall, will leave a front for a Town of three quarters of a mile and six hundred and forty feet. Instead of this, it appears from the present survey and report of the engineer there will remain only a front of about eight hundred yards. In some measure to remedy this the Board direct each lot to be divided into two, which will still leave as many lots as were originally intended, which they order the Surveyors to perform.

The Board, having received a petition from several principal inhabitants, stating their ability to fulfill the intentions of Government respecting the transporting across the carrying place all the effects of Government on the west side of the River, and having examined several people as to the facts stated in the Petition from hence, the Board are of opinion that they are fully adequate to the end proposed and that the security required is ready to be lodged for the performance of the contract, fully convinced of the essential service the settlement will derive from having this Portage made a central public road and do strongly recommend the plan proposed.

#### PROCEEDING OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board held at Niagara, 24th June, 1791."

"Present: Colonel Gordon, Commanding Upper Posts; Lieutenant Colonel Butler; Peter Ten Broeck; Robert Hamilton; Benjamin Pawling; John Burch; John Warren; John McNabb, Esquires; Lieut. Bruyere, R. Engineers.

"The Board, after reconsidering the plans for a County Town in this District, relinquish the first proposed by the Surveyor General and adopt the second as most eligible, the first having been curtailed by the reservations for Government, to a front of only eight hundred yards. They, accordingly direct the Surveyor to run the out lines of said town to the west of Navy Hall adjoining the reservation, and they direct that such persons as may be inclined to build on Town Lots shall pay to present possessors two pounds, ten shillings N.Y. Currency, for each improved acre, and the present occupants are permitted to retain the lot on which their houses may fall.

"The Board authorize a Public House to be built on the corner lot at the east end of the Town adjoining the River, and a Mason's Lodge on the next to it. Adjourned to the 2nd Monday in July.

After due enquiry Colonel Gordon reported that the complaint made by Brant against Captain John Powell was not sustained.

#### PROCEEDING OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board held at the 40 Mile Pond for the Upper Townships, viz., No. 5, 6, 7, and 8, 10th February, 1791.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, P. Ten Broeck, Robert Hamilton, Nataniel Pettit, Esquires.

"The Plans of the several Townships being laid before the Board they proceeded to grant certificates to such of the Inhabitants as attended."

After considerable deliberation Lord Dorchester instructed Sir John Johnson to ascertain, "with certainty and dispatch, on what terms the Western Indians, who had gained a considerable success over the Troops sent against them, commanded by Colonel Harmor, would be willing to make peace with the United States.

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

Quebec, 10th February, 1791.

Sir,

I have often expressed my concern at the hostilities between the United States and the Western Indians, and that I should feel great satisfaction in being instrumental in putting an end to these calamities.

I do not know how far tis may be in my power, but wishing to be fully prepared, in case the opportunity should offer, you will be pleased to take such means, as you may think most effectual, to learn with certainty and dispatch, the nature and extent of the specific terms, on which the confederated Indian Nations may be disposed to establish a general tranquility and friendship, with the United States, together with the grounds of equity, justice, and policy of those claims and pretensions on which they may think it expedient, and incumbent on them to insist, for their honor and interest.

As the Indians themselves are the best judges of the extent of their own confidence, they should be made clearly to understand, that there is not the smallest desire to obtain any knowledge of their views and designs, but what they themselves of their own free choice may think proper to communicate.

I am &c.

DORCHESTER

D.

Sir John Johnson. Bart.

Endorsed - C In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 82 of the 19th Feby. 1791. (Q 50-1, pp. 76-7)

As Philip Frey had not returned to Niagara, Augustus Jones was appointed to succeed him as Deputy Surveyor, and given explicit instructions to continue the Surveys.

FROM COLONEL GORDON TO FRANCIS LE MAISTRE

Niagara, 29th June, 1791.

Sir,

In consequence of your letter, under date 30th May, I have made what enquiry was in my power, in order to discover whether there was any ground for supposing Captain Powell had been tampering with the Indians at and in the vicinity of Buffalo Creek, to establish a settlement of some persons, not subjects of the King; and after having sent for Capt. Powell and talked the matter over, I have no reason to suppose him in any degree reprehensible.

But as I am ignorant of the Channel through which His Lordship received his information, I am not enabled to investigate the whole of the transaction so fully as I should otherwise be, was that known to me.

I have the honor to be &c.

A. GORDON

D.

Major Le Maistre, M.S. Head Quarters.

Endorsed - 9 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 98 of 27 July 1791. (Q 52; 195)

The recently appointed Deputy Surveyor reported Progress of Surveys at considerable length.

FROM AUGUSTUS JONES TO JOHN COLLINS

Nassau, 29th, June, 1791.

Sir,

I am honoured with yours of 22nd February last, informing me of my appointment to the Office of Surveyor of this District, accompanied with instructions for my conduct in this business and covering a draft for fifty pounds, Quebec Currency, on Hamilton and Cartwright, to enable me to carry on the same.

I would wish in the warmest terms to express my gratitude to you for your goodness in procuring me this appointment, believing however that the most effectual way to evince that will be my future attention, assiduity and industry; I will endeavour by these and by the strictest obedience to such orders as you may furnish me with to shew that I am not unworthy your future countenance or of favor already conferred.

Since my appointment I have been busy in surveying the ground for the proposed Town of Lenox. The Land Board now state the reasons that have induced them to change the place they had formerly proposed and to prefer the situation on the north of the intended works at Navy Hall to those on the south side.

A Plan of the proposed Town accompanies the letter from the Land Board and will more fully explain every particular, as it is thought expedient to wait the consent of Government to this alteration, and as the lands are mostly covered with grain which in a month or two will be gathered in, the Land Board have directed me to proceed on the surveys from the Eastern Boundary of the District and to defer laying out the Town till my return, which I trust will meet your approbation.

Inclosed I herewith transmit an account of my time since my being first employed by the Board here on the departure of Mr. Frey, which I respectfully submit to your control. When not employed in actual Service, I was constantly engaged by the Land Board in making plans of the different towns and in attending their meetings when granting certificates for lots in these. This is also accompanied by a state of the actual expences attending the Survey of the lands reserved for the Indians on the Grand River as certified by the Board. You will observe the pay allowed the men on that party is higher than is to be given by the Regulations now received; when however, you consider the hardship of the service, undertaken in the middle of winter, and in a country where the men were obliged to carry a week or ten days' provisions on their backs, and that as these men were hired by the day as we could not ascertain the time necessary for the service, I trust you will not find this unreasonable.

In future, I hope to procure the hands on the terms you point out.

I have appointed Robert Lester, Esqr., my Attorney in Quebec to settle my pecuniary business there. As the amount of these sums has been on the wish of the Board advanced by merchants here and as my own situation does not allow me to lay long out of my pay I depend upon your kind interposition to have those audited with your first leisure.

I shall take the earliest opportunity in my power to extend for you a plan of this settlement on the scale you direct with the owner's name on each Lot, in the mean time, I send you a plan of this settlement from scale of eighty chains to an inch which I hope will meet your approbation. I am &c. AUGUSTUS JONES, D.P.S.  
John Collins, Esqr. D.S. General, Quebec.  
(District of Nassau, Letter Book No. 5, pp. 41-2.)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT BY AUGUSTUS JONES

Surveyor General's Department

To Augustus Jones, Dr.

District of Nassau

.....  
To actual surveys running a Township line back of Township No. 5 from the 22nd April 1790 Pounds to the 9th May both days inclusive - 18 days at 7/6.....6.15.0  
To surveying part of a Township on the North West side of Lake Geneva from the 14th May, 1790 to the 26th both days inclusive - 13 days at 7.6..... 4.17.6  
To surveying Indian lands Grand River from the 4th Jany. 1791 to 29th Mar. both days incl. 85 days at 7/6 ..... 31.17.6  
To his Salary from the 28th November, 1789 to the 10th April, 1791, 383 days Exclusive of 116 days upon Actual Surveys at 4/..... 76.12.0  
To a Ration of Provisions from the 11th October, 1789 to the 10th April 1791 - 462 days Exclusive of 85 days drawn from the Kings store at 1/3 pr. day..... 28.18.9  
E.E. Quebec Currency 149.0.9

Amounting to One Hundred and Forty-Nine Pounds and Nine Pence Quebec Currency -

I do Certify this to be a just and true Account 11th April, 1791.

Sworn before me at Niagara this 29th day of June, 1791.

R. HAMILTON, J.P.

AUGUSTUS JONES, D.S.

State Records.

The critical situation confronting Gordon and his apprehensions were clearly stated in a letter to Lord Dorchester requesting more explicit instructions, but with little effect.

FROM COLONEL A. GORDON TO LORD DORCHESTER

Niagara, 4th July 1791.

My Lord,

I had the honor to receive your Lordship's Letter under date 2nd June, covering the copy of one from your Lordship to Sir John Johnson on the subject of Lieutenant Colonel Butler's speech to the Chiefs of the Six Nations, on the 4th of last May.

In my dispatches under date 14th June, I had the honor to convey to your Lordship copies of different papers from Buffaloe Creek, together with my reply to the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations, as also a copy of a letter I addressed to Captain Brant at the foot of the Rapids on the Miamis, both of which I hope will meet your Lordship's approbation.

From the delicate situation in which I feel myself placed with respect to the Indians; and the necessity I am under of attending and returning answers to their almost daily Councils, I am induced to address your Lordship on the critical situation which they appear to me, to stand in; and to hope I may receive your instructions to guide my general line of conduct towards them.

I am fully convinced, from every informaton I have received, the Six Nations will be obliged to embrace hostile measures, in favor of the Americans, or in support of their Allies the Western Indians; in either of which situations they will expect some decisive measures on our part. Shou'd they as there is every reason to believe, decline the solicitation of the Americans to take up the hatchet, many of their Villages and scattered settlements, will without doubt be sacrificed to such refusal; those settled at Buffaloe Creek feel their defenceless situation in this respect very forcibly.

Many families of the Delaware Nation, notwithstanding the active zeal with which they conducted themselves in support of Government during the last War, continued, on the conclusion of the Peace at their former places of residence, are now crowding towards our limits in order to avoid Joining the Americans on the present occasion.

In short the whole body of Indians who have been used to apply to Government in matters of difficulty, are alarmed, and appear in such a state of uneasiness, I do not hesitate to pronounce, that the steps pursued in this crisis will either tend to rivet their attachment, or operate with very contrary effects. Little acquainted with the stile in which Indians are accustomed to be addressed and anxious that my conduct shou'd meet your Lordship's approval, I hope you will forgive the earnestness with which I again solicit your instructions on this subject.

I beg leave at the same time to observe to your Lordship, that the presence of Sir John Johnson, as a person to whom they look up with respect and confidence, wou'd I am convinced be attended with happy effects on the present occasion. I propose having the honor to write him by this opportunity stating the particulars which I now lay before your Lordship.

As the Merchant Vessels both on this Lake and those above, are unarmed, and their capture wou'd greatly facilitate any hostile views the Americans may have against the King's Posts, I have without waiting for your Lordship's instructions, given orders they shall not be permitted to sail, unless in Company with one of His Majesty's Armed Vessels. As this order may be attended with some occasional delay, and perhaps detriment to the Mercantile interest, I have to request your Lordship will honor me with your commands on this subject as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be &c.

A. GORDON

D.

The Right Honble Lord Dorchester. &c., &c., &c.

Endorsed - 7 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 98 of 27th July, 1791.

(Q 52, pp. 190-2)

PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, held at Niagara, 8th July, 1791.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel John Butler; Robert Hamilton, John Burch, Robert Kerr, John McNabb, Esquires.

"The Board having met, proceeded to grant certificates to such of the Inhabitants as attended. Adjourned."

FROM LORD DORCHESTER TO COLONEL GORDON

Quebec, 14th July 1791

Sir,

From your letter of the 4th instant, I perceive with concern, that the hostilities in the Western Country are likely to spread still further, yet I see no ground at present for adding to, or altering, the instructions formerly given; The same principles must still govern your conduct, and the same wariness and vigilance observed which has been so often recommended.

In regard to Private Vessels on the Lakes it may suffice at present to give orders, that the Masters of the King's Armed Vessels take under their convoy and protection all such as may think proper to sail in company with them, and request that assistance, informing the Merchants thereof and recommending it to them to avail themselves of the advantage, as often as circumstances interesting to the safety of their vessels.

It may however, be expedient to caution private vessels, and order those in the King's service, not to admit persons unknown, especially in numbers, to come on board, nor to land or anchor at places not under our immediate protection.

I am &c.

DORCHESTER

D.

Colonel Gordon.

Endorsed - 8 In Lord Dorchester's to Lord Grenville No. 98 of 27 July, 1791.

(Q 52, pp. 193-4)

Walter Butler Sheehan, a nephew of Colonel Butler, and storekeeper in the Indian department, was appointed Sheriff of the District to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Gilbert Tice.

COMMISSION OF SHERIFF TO WALTER BUTLER SHEEHAN

George the Third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith and so forth.

To Walter Butler Sheehan, Esquire, and to all whom these Presents shall come to Greetings.

Know Ye that reposing trust and confidence in the Loyalty, Integrity and Ability of You, the said Walter Butler Sheehan, of Our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, We have Assigned, Constituted and Appointed, and by these Presents Do assign, constitute and appoint You, the said Walter Butler Sheehan to be Sheriff for the District of Nassau within our Province of Quebec in the Room and Place of Gilbert Tice, deceased; and We Do give and grant the same District to be your Bailiwick, and Do commit to your care and keeping, the Prisons within the same District. To have and to hold, exercise and enjoy the said Office and Bailiwick for and during Our Pleasure and your residence within the same District, together with all and singular the Powers and

Authorities, profits, benefits, privileges and Emoluments which unto the said Office and Bailiwick belong and appertain. In Testimony whereof &ca.

16th August, 1791.

(Draft of Commission in State Records).

An effort was made by the Land Board to promote the cultivation of hemp but no record has been found of the result.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Nassau, 6th September, 1791.

"Present: Colonel Gordon, Commanding Upper Posts, Robert Hamilton, Robert Kerr, Esquires, Lieutenant Bruyere, Royal Engineers.

"The Board having met, Colonel Gordon laid before them several letters relative to the Land granting Department, and stating that in consequence of an application from this Board a quantity of Hemp seed had been sent up for the Inhabitants of this District, and for the purpose of making a tryal of the seed the

Board authorizes two barrels to be distributed in small quantities this fall - adjourned."

"Later activities of the Land Board and the progress of surveys are briefly narrated in the following minutes and a letter from the diligent Deputy Surveyor.

#### PROCEEDING OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Lenox, 9th November, 1791.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, R. Hamilton, R. Kerr, John Burch, Esquires, Lieutenant Pilkington, Royal Engineers.

"The first business before the Board being to fix the boundary between the Town of Lenox and works reserved for Government, they therefore directed the Deputy Surveyor, who was assisted by the Engineer, finally to fix the said line, which was accordingly executed and the base line marked with stakes. The Board in consequence directed the Surveyor to employ sufficient hands to lay out the said Town into Lots agreeable to the plan produced by him and approved by the Board in which business he will proceed without Delay."

#### FROM AUGUSTUS JONES TO JOHN COLLINS

Niagara, 16th November, 1791.

Sir,

I am honoured with your three letters of different dates with the enclosures & have been busy in making out the plans of the Townships of this Settlement and completing a register of reduced Provincial Troops being under the designation you direct.

The death of my father and brother (which happened last month) prevented me from making my returns to you as soon as I could have wished.

The plan which I mentioned to have sent I left with the Clerk of the Land Board when I was ordered by them out on actual survey, he was to have sent it by the first Opportunity that might offer, he falling sick, it was neglected and I concluded it was gone down till I received yours; as the draft has been somewhat defaced, (I) hope you will



excuse the present appearance as I had not time to make a new one. This I send with the plans of the different Townships and with proprietor's name inserted in his own lot which I hope will meet approbation.

Inclosed is a charge of expences incurred in surveying the last six months with the vouchers both from the Land Board and the men who has been employed which I trust you will find right.

I have completed the survey from the Eastern Boundary of this District extending westerly two miles beyond Toronto, including the fronts of eleven townships agreeable to your regulations in that respect; a plan thereof together with the field notes I will extend for you the earliest opportunity that may offer after this.

The Land Board ordered me to proceed in laying out the Town Lots in Lenox, for the accommodation of several persons who wish to build, when this is compleated, I shall have the honor of laying it before you.

New as yet in the office, you have had the kindness to place me in, I trust to your goodness to overlook any inaccuracies or omissions I may have been guilt of and I shall most thankfully receive any corrections or instructions you may be pleased to favour me with.

With Sincere Respect, I am &c.

AUGUSTUS JONES, D.P.S.

John Collins, D.S.G.

(District of Nassau Letter Book, No. 5, pp. 52-3)

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, held at Fort Erie, 21st November, 1791.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Robt. Hamilton, Benjamin Pawling, John Burch, John Warren, Esq.

"The Board having met in this part of the District for convenience of the settlers, granted certificates of location to such as attended. Advertisements were issued informing the public that the hemp seed would be distributed gratis in proportion to the land they would have prepared in the Spring.

"The Board, after regulating the number of people for the different parts of the public road leading from Chippeway Creek to Fort Erie, adjourned."

Towards the end of November the surprising news of the complete defeat of General St. Clair's force was received and embodied in the following anonymous letter, probably written by Robert Hamilton, as a comparison with a part of Hamilton's letter to Simcoe, dated at Niagara on 4th January, 1792, and printed in Volume I, pp.98-9, goes far to prove. By the fur-traders and officers in the public service in Canada there can be little doubt that this was considered an event of great importance as being likely to place the frontier posts in a position of safety from attack for a long time and promoting the return of peace in the Indian Country. As soon as Simcoe heard of it, he wrote to Mr. Dundas that it "may be productive of beneficial consequences to the Government of Upper Canada by terminating the War upon equitable terms between the American Indians and the United States."

#### A LETTER FROM NIAGARA

Niagara, 24th November, 1791.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you a few weeks ago, perhaps this may reach you nearly as soon as the other, the reason of my troubling you is to convey the very interesting News we have just rec'd from Detroit - The American Army of which no doubt you have this summer heard, had advanc'd on the third of this month to within Forty Miles of the Miamis Towns, they were there encountered by near Two Thousand Indians, who on that day took from them, the greatest part of their Horses & Cattle - on the fourth, at Sun rise, they attack'd their camp, but were twice repuls'd, irritated beyond measure, they retir'd to a little distance, where separating into their different tribes, and each conducted by their own Leaders, they returned like Furies to the assault & almost instantly got possession of near half the Camp - they found it in a row of Flour Bags and Bags of Stores which served them as a Breast work, from behind which they kept up a constant & heavy fire, the Americans charg'd them several times with Fixed Bayonets, but were as often repuls'd - at length General Butler, second in Command, being kill'd, the Americans fell into confusion & were driven from their Canon, round which a Hundred of their bravest men fell, the Rout now became universal, & in the utmost disorder, the Indians follo'd for six Miles & many fell Victims to their Fury, in the Camp they found 5 piece Brass Cannon, 3 of 6 & 2 of 4 pounds, 1 4-1/2 Mortar & 2 paturaros, all Brass & mounted for Field Service, with these they took all the Arms, Ammunition, Provisions, Cloathing, entrenching Tools and Stores of every kind, the Americans had in their Camp for the purpose of erecting Forts, & remaining the ensuing Winter in the Indian County, besides the Commanding Officer, the Adj. Genl. & Surgeon Genl., Twelve hundred are said to have fallen in the Assaults and Pursuits - you however know the Indians, most probably this Number is exaggerated we do not hear of one prisoner - about 50 of the Indians are said to be killed & wounded, the Numbers at first were American Regulars 1500, Militia 800, in all 2,300 - of Indians nearly 2000. Two Forts they had erected on their Rout nam'd Hamilton & Jefferson, are said to be surrounded by the Indians, they contain 100 Men each with but little provisions; the truth of this information may be depended on, provisions; the truth of this information may be depended on, Simon Girty, if not in the action, was within view of it. He had join'd Coll. McGee at the foot of the Rapids brought the American Orderly Books & all their papers - Butler's Scalp was brought in & is sent they say to Joseph Brant with a severe Sarcasm for his not being there - He is at the Grand River with the Six Nations - Cowan in the Felicity was dispatch'd with the interesting intelligence. I saw him yesterday at Fort Erie - He left your Brother well on the 14<sup>th</sup> who had sometime before hurt his arm and was not yet able to write, an Express is now getting ready for Quebec, finding an opportunity I send this by New York. Humanity shudders at the number of poor wretches who have fallen in this Business, but as they were clearly the aggressors, they merit less pity, the horrible Cruelities that may probably now fall on the defenceless Frontiers of the Western American Settlements, is infinitely more dreadful & claims from every person who can feel as a man, every preventative that can be devis'd; I have this morning wrote to our Friend Mr. Askin, strongly pressing him to join the Trade in inspiring the Indians with moderation. The Americans must be severely hurt at this Blow, however willing to resent it, they will find great difficulty in raising another Army for this Service. They would probably listen to any Reasonable Terms of accommodation, if they saw a prospect of its being establish'd on solid Grounds, perhaps this can only be affected by the influence of the British Government & Trade with the

Indians – The Terms the Indians ask'd were that the Ohio shou'd be established as the Boundary to the Americans Settlements & that they shou'd enjoy unmolested their Hunting Grounds, to the west and north of that River, some of the Branches of the Ohio to the southward of this come within a few Miles of the Genesee River, which runs into Lake Ontario, Sixty Miles east from the Fort of Niagara - If these two Rivers by the interposition of Government cou'd be fix'd as the Boundaries between the Americans and Indians & between them & us, we shou'd secure our Posts, the Trade & the Tranquility of the country; you will know that the present lines must furnish a source of constant Contention & dispute - The others now propos'd being on Streams not navigable, will be free from this, the Indians not as yet sold their country between this & the Genesee nor does any of the American Settlements extend to the West of that River, but they very soon will - I wish our Peacemakers of 83 had but known a little more of this Country. I wish our Present Ministry were informed of the actual situation - perhaps this is the important moment in which the unfortunate terms of that Peace may be alter'd - Perhaps this moment may never return -

Allow me to call on you and Mr. T\_\_\_\_ (probably Isaac Todd) and our other Friends sincerely to consider this & believe me to be &c.  
(Q. 57-1, pp. 178-81.)

The proceedings of the Land Board in the course of the Winter and the progress of Surveys are narrated in the following extracts from the minutes and the letters from and to the Deputy Surveyor General.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Nassau, 5th December, 1791.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Robert Hamilton, John Burch, Robt. Kerr, Jno. McNabb, Esquires, Lieutenant Pilkington, Royal Engineers.

"The Board direct the Surveyor not to extend the Town of Lenox further back than one mile from the bank of the River, the line to run South thirty degrees West. The choices for Town lots were drawn for, from No. 1 to 84 inclusive. Adjourned."

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Lenox, 12th December, 1791.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Robert Hamilton, Benjamin Pawling, Robert Kerr, John Burch, John McNabb Esquires.

"The Board, having met, proceeded in granting tickets for choices of Town Lots, and directed that all lots that have been cleared should be paid for before they were granted, at the rate of 25/ per acre, for the purpose of defraying part of the expence of the Jail or other Public Buildings. Adjourned."

#### THE MEMORIAL OF COLONEL JOHN BUTLER

To His Excellency Lieut. Governor Clarke, Major General and Commander in Chief of the Province of Quebec, &c., &c, &c.

The Memorial of Lieutenant Colonel General Butler.

Humbly Sheweth,

That Your Memorialist having early in the late troubles with America, taken an active and decided part in favor of the Kings Government, had his whole Estate, real and personal, confiscated and sold, some part of which was in Lands not Patented at the time he was oblig'd to retire to this Province, was therefore not included in the estimation of his losses given into the Commissioners for examining into the Loyalists Claims - tho' in equity his real Property - your memorialist on application to Lord Sidney in the year 1785 was refer'd to the Governor of this Province - and in the year 1787 laid his case before the Governor and Council at Quebec, praying for such relief in vacant Crown Lands in this Province as to them should seem right – and was since informed that lands would have been granted him had the Place have been describ'd - Your Memorialist therefore now prays that he may be allowed to Locate Lands in the District of Nassau, at the south-west corner of the Late purchase from the Missesago Indians, between Toronto and the Head of Lake, six miles on the Lake, and extending back twelve miles on the end of the purchase.

And your Memorialists as in Duty bound will ever pray &c., &c., &c. Montreal, 5th Sepr. 1791.

#### STATEMENTS OF LANDS ENCLOSED

Statement of Lands the property of Lieut. Colonel Butler, and which has been confiscated and sold in the State of New York, but not included in the estimate given in by him to the Commissioners for examining into Loyalists Claims -

In Jessops Patent	2000 acres.	
Fra. Masons Patent	15000 acres	
Col. Crohan's Patent	5000 acres	
Ditto do, at Lake Otsego	2000 acres	
John Glenn's Patent	2000 acres	
Glenn & Yate's Patent	1000 acres	
Robert Mills Patent	600 acres	
	Total	27,600 acres

Montreal, 7th Sept.

#### EXTRACT FROM THE QUEBEC LAND BOOK

24th December, 1791

On Lieutenant Colonel Butler's Petition.

"Read a Report of the Land Committee dated 9th October, 1791, upon the Petition of Lieutenant Colonel Butler for Lands in Nassau in the following words:

"To His Excellency Alured Clarke, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of Quebec &c. &c. &c. Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces in America &c. Report of the Land Committee (consisting of Messrs. Finlay, Collins & Grant) upon the Petition of Lieutenant Colonel Butler for the Lands in Nassau. "May it please your Excellency".

"In obedience to your Excellency's Order of Reference of Lieut. Colo. Butler's Petition of the 5th of September last, for a Grant of Land in the District of Nassau, beginning at the South West Corner of a late purchase made by the Crown from the Missisaga Indians, lying between Toronto and the Head of Lake Ontario, six miles on the Lake, extending back 12 miles, or to the end of the purchase, to compensate him for the

loss of 27,000 acres, which he held in the Province of New York before the late War, but which have since been confiscated and sold, and were not included in an Estimate which he delivered to the Commissioners for examining into the Claims of Loyalists.

"The Committee on a Former reference of a Petition from Lieut. Colo. Butler, dated the 12th November, 1787 praying for compensation for the Lands mentioned in his last Petition, Reported the 28th Febry. 1788 to His Excellency Lord Dorchester, Stating that he valued these Lands at 5,720 pounds New York Money, but the Committee considering the losses suffered by Loyalist in the late troubles in the Colonies, now the United States could not be compensated by Grants of the Waste Lands of the Crown, under His Majesty's Instructions at that time existing, did not advise His Lordship to grant the Prayer of Lieut. Colo. Butler's Petition; and as matters with respect to the Grants of Lands in this Province, remain as they were at the date of this Committee's last Report on the same subject, they are humbly of opinion that his request cannot be complied with.

"All which is nevertheless humbly submitted to Your Excellency's great wisdom.  
(Signed) HUGH FINLAY in the Chair."

Council Chamber, Bishop's Palace, Quebec, 9th Octo'r, 1791.

(Pp. 311-12)

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Nassau, January 2nd, 1792.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Robert Hamilton, John Burch, Robt. Kerr; John McNabb, Esquires.

"Capt. Hope, 26th Regiment, late of the 34th, having made application for 15 Lots of 200 acres each situated on the north side of Lake Ontario, in this District, beginning at the east corner of the Township of Hope, and on the west corner of the Township of Hamilton. The Board observe by the Instructions of 17th February, 1789, ten lots in the corner of each township lying on the Lake, were to be reserved, agreeable to which they have it not in their power to grant the Lots in the First Concession. They direct, however, that those in the Second Concession, chose by him shall have his name inserted therein, and he may apply by Memorial for those in the First, or chuse others within the power of the Board to grant.

#### FROM JOHN COLLINS TO AUGUSTUS JONES

Quebec, 23rd Jany. 1792.

Sir,

I duly received your letter with the plans and accounts that accompanied it, for which please accept of my thanks, and I assure you that both your plans and accounts came in that regular manner that does you great honour, and gave me great satisfaction.

I beg that with all convenient speed, you send me plans of your Surveys made in the course of last Summer by order of my instructions of 22nd February, 1791. Colonel Simcoe, the Governor of your Province, is now with us. I have taken the liberty to recommend you to him in the manner I think you merit, and I cannot doubt but that you will be continued in your Salary. I have received from Government on your account 165.2.9 Currency of which I advanced your 50 pounds, and I have paid into the hands of Lester and Morrough, 115.2.9 Currency, which is the full amount of your account. I cannot say who will be your Surveyor General in the future, should it be your humble servant, you may command my ready and best services.

I am &c. JOHN COLLINS, D.S.G.  
Mr. Augustus Jones. (District of Nassau Letter Book, No. 5, pp. 57-8)

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Lenox, 9th February, 1792.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel Butler, Robert Hamilt, John Burch; Robert Kerr; John McNabb, Esquires.

"Several applications were laid before the Board from persons in the District of Mecklenburg for lands on the north side of Lake Ontario, in this District, one of which specifys a Mill Seat.

"The Board having reference to their Instructions, find that they are restrained from granting Mill Seats and are of the opinion that the Creeks falling into that part are valuable for fishing, &c., therefore direct that they shall not become private property whereby this natural advantage might be destroyed. They, therefore, reject those petitions, and direct the clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Board at Kingston for the information of the applicants, but that whenever a proper arrangements of those lands is made, they shall then come in for lands according to the priority of their petitions."

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, held at Niagara, 25th February, 1792.

"Present: Colonel Gordon, Commanding Upper Posts, President: Robert Hamilton, John Burch, John Warren, Robert Kerr, Esquires, Lieutenant Pilkington, Royal Engineers.

"The Board took into consideration the accounts transmitted by Mr. Frey to the Surveyor General's Office, and sent up from thence for the inspection of the Board. As these accounts are totally unaccompanied with any set of Vouchers, the Board remit them to Mr. Jones, to procure in every individual charge the best vouchers he can get, which the Board will take into consideration and transmit to Head Quarters with their opinion thereon.

They recommend to Mr. Jones to have this completed with every dispatch in his power. Adjourned."

#### FROM AUGUSTUS JONES TO JOHN COLLINS

Nassau, 26th February, 1792

Sir,

I am duly favoured with yours of the 23rd ulto. & think myself exceedingly happy in any degree to have merited your approbation; The commendations you bestow will I trust have the effect to make me exert myself to the utmost to deserve the continuation of your good opinion. I send herewith the plans of my surveys made last summer on the North Side of Lake Ontario on a scale of 80 chains to an inch - The field notes are too bulky to accompany this by express, but will send them per first opportunity in the Spring.

Since my last letter to you I have been busily employed, making a Survey of the Town of Lenox, but the weather setting in very severe, was obliged to stop proceeding in that business until a more favourable opportunity & when finished I shall have the honour of laying it before you.

I am truly sensible and very thankful for your kind attention to my pecuniary matters, and must take the liberty of soliciting the recovery of my pay from the 28th November, 1789 to the 10th April, 1791, A Memorial on this subject I herewith transmit thro. Mr. Lester, my Attorney to the Commander In Chief accompanied by my account and the Certificate of the Land Board, stating my appointment by them and my services.

I observe a Copy of a Minute of the Committee of Quebec of the 19th December last, that they look on me accountable for 542 Rations of Provisions issued at this place to the Surveying Party between the 24th Decr. 1790, and the 24th April, 1791, when employed in the Survey of the Indian Lines on the Grand River. Will you have the goodness to state to them, that those provisions were issued to the people employed on actual service exclusive of the two shillings and six pence currency pr. day as this service was particularly hard at that inclement season of the year, as stated by the Certificate of the Land Board which accompanied that account.

If I am so fortunate as to retain my present place under the new Government, I shall owe it entirely to your obliging recommendation for which I shall be ever thankful and I shall double esteem my appointment should you be at the head of the Department. I have the honor to be &c. AUGUSTUS JONES.  
Honble John Collins, Dy. Surveyor General, Quebec.  
(District of Nassau Letter Book No. 5, pp. 59-60.)

The Arrival of Colonel John Graves Simcoe at the city of Quebec was known in Niagara early in January, for on the fourth of that month, Robert Hamilton wrote a long letter to him on Public Affairs. Afterwards, in conjunction with Colonel Butler, his colleague in the Court of Common Pleas, Quarter Sessions, and the Land Board, he prepared an address of welcome which was signed by many of the inhabitants in the vicinity and duly forwarded.

FROM JOHN BUTLER AND ROBERT HAMILTON TO J.G. SIMCOE

Niagara, Feby. 27th, 1792.

Sir,

At the request of the other Magistrates and of the most respectable Settlers in this District, we have the honor to resent to you the enclosed address.

It affords us the greater satisfaction as furnishing an opportunity of offering at the same time our own personal and unfeigned respects and of stating the promising prospects of the District in which we reside.

Our last crops have been abundant to our utmost expectations and peace and plenty promise once more to reside among us.

Our Courts of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions as established by His Excellency the Governor General continue till further directions to perform their usual Duties - From the attention of the Magistrates and from the peaceful deportment of the people but few causes of considerable consequence have ever come before us.

From our past decisions, we do not understand any appeal is intended and we are happy in observing that at present we know of no cause remaining before us undetermined.

If in this Quarter, our Personal Services can be in the smallest degree instrumental to your convenience, nothing will afford us more satisfaction than in receiving your commands.

With sincere respect, we have the honor to be &c.

JOHN BUTLER

ROBERT HAMILTON

Js.C.C. pleas

J. G. Simcoe.

(Q 278, pp. 131-2.)

ADDRESS TO LIEUT. GOVERNOR SIMCOE

To the Honorable John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant Governor of The Province of Upper Canada, &c., &c. &c.

May it Please Your Excellency.

To permit the Magistrates and the Inhabitants of the District of Nassau to offer you their sincere congratulations on your appointment to the Government of Upper Canada, and on the safe arrival of yourself and family in this Country.

Established in this Quarter by the Munificence of the best of Sovereigns and supported by the Bounty of the British Government - We are just emerging from the Indigence and Obscurity which constantly surround new Settlements - Our possessions are now becoming of Value, and plenty once more begins to shew her Face among us.

The having these possessions confirmed to us by regular deeds. The having our property secured to us by good and equitable Laws, and the having these established and enforced by the Wisdom of our Government, affords us the most promising hopes of future success.

For these manifold blessings, we trust our Gratitude will be best shewn by our unalterable Loyalty to our King and to his Government, by our unremitting Industry and peaceable demeanour as his Subjects.

To Fatherly care of his Excellency, The Governor General, and to the fostering hand of his Council, The New Settlements owe in a great measure the rapid progress They have made in so short a time; for these our grateful thanks are due, and we wish to express that tho' now separated, nothing will give us so much real satisfaction as constantly joining our zealous endeavours to Theirs, in promoting the general good of the whole Country.

Our warmest wishes & sincere prayers are constantly offer'd for you and yours.

JOHN BUTLER

THOMAS BUTLER

ROBERT HAMILTON

WILLIAM DICKSON

JNO. BURCH

W. JOHNSON

JNO. WARREN

J. W. CROOKS

JACOB BALL

ARCHD. CUNNINGHAM

ROBT. KERR

J. EDWARDS

JNO. McNABB

JO. P. CLEMENT

P. BALL

JOS'P CLEMENT

RAL. CLENCH

W.B. SHEEHAN

JAS. MUIRHEAD

JOHN POWELL

COLIN McNABB

JACOB SERVOS

B. BRADY

BEN. PAWLING

GEO. FORSYTH

JESSE PAWLING

JO. BALL

ROBT. NELLIS

G. BALL

ANDREW BRADT

D. SERVOS

NATHL. PETIT

P. TEN BROECK

WM. DUNBAR

PETER BRADT

THOS. McMICKING

ROGER BRADT

DONALD ROSSE (DANIEL ROSE)



AUGT. JONES	GEO. CHISHOLM	BEN CAULAY (CANBY?)
DAVID SEACORD	JACOB TEN BROECK	PETER SEACORD
GEO. LAWE	JACOB JERIDICK (DITTRICK)	ADAM VROOMAN
ROBT. CAMPBELL	ISAAC VROOMAN	JOHN HAINER
PHIL BUCK	JOHN REID (READ)	PETER McMACHAN
JOHN McEWAN		

Niagara, 24th Feby. 1792  
 Endorsed - In Lieut. Govr. Simcoe's of 28 August, 1792.  
 (Q 278, pp. 133-5.)

PROCEEDINGS OF LAND BOARD

"Land Board, Lenox, 5th March, 1792.

"Present: Lieutenant Colonel John Butler, Robert Hamilton, John Burch, John McNabb, Robert Kerr, Esquires. Lieutenant Pilkington, Royal Engineers.

"Several Petitions were presented and read at the Board, praying for grant of lands on the North side of the Lake, in the Township of Dublin, and neighbourhood of Toronto. The Board defer granting these lands, and ordered the Petitions to remain until it is known what reservations Government may think proper to make, after which those who applied first will be preferred.

"The Board proceeded to grant certificates of location to such of the Settlers as attended and agreed to meet on every Monday at 10 o'clock for the despatch of business. Adjourned".

DEPOSITION OF THE REVEREND SAMUEL KIRKLAND  
 CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, SS.

The fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, before me, Clement Biddle, esquire, notary public, of the City of Philadelphia, in the commonwealth aforesaid, appeared the Reverend Samuel Kirkland, Missionary to the Oneida Nation of Indians; and being of full age, did, on his solemn oath, depose and say, that in the month of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, he was appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to superintend a purchase to be made by Oliver Phelps, Esquire, from the Five Nations of Indians, of the lands ceded to the said Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by the State of New York; that in the month of June, in the same year, he, this deponent, accompanied the said Oliver Phelps, for the purpose aforesaid, into that country, where they were met by several principal Chiefs of the said Nations, at Kanadasago, who invited and conducted the said Oliver Phelps and his deponent to their Council Fire at Buffaloe Creek. That the said Oliver Phelps and his deponent were there met in full council, by all the principal Chiefs and Warriors of the Five Nations; that after several days were spent in agreeing on the quantity and boundaries of the land to be sold and conveyed by them to the said Oliver Phelps, the same were unanimously agreed on; that the said Oliver Phelps, then enquired of them what price or compensation he must make them for the said lands; and they answered him, that they were willing to part with them at the same price, in proportion to the

quantity, as they had leased the whole country for to the Yorkers - to this Captain Brant, as Indian Chief, objected, and said he thought they should have as much for the lands now sold to Mr. Phelps, and the Yorkers, as they had formerly leased the whole country for to the Yorkers. To the terms proposed by Captain Brant, the said Mr. Phelps consented; and it was then and there agreed, that Captain Brant, Colonel Butler and this deponent, should apportion the price accordingly, and determine what sum should be given by him, the said Phelps, and what sum by the Yorkers, who at this time purchased; so as to be equal to what the Yorkers had formerly agreed to give for the whole country, including that part of it, which the Indians at this time reserved to themselves; that the said Captain Brant, Colonel Butler and this deponent, having been agree in as aforesaid, with the unanimous consent of the same Oliver Phelps and the said Indian Chiefs and warriors, they proceeded to fix the said proportion, and the price agreed to be given by the said Oliver Phelps for the lands agreed to be purchased by him as aforesaid, and unanimously fixed the same at the price, or sum of five thousand dollars, to be paid annually, and every year, forever; that these terms were agreed to by the said Olivier Phelps, and by all the said Principal Chiefs and Warriors; that an Instrument of Conveyance for the said land, so as aforesaid purchased by the said Mr. Phelps, was then drawn up and prepared, bearing the date the fourth day of July, one thousand and seven hundred and eighty-eight, and also two other instruments of writing, for securing the payment of the said price or consideration money, so as aforesaid agreed to be given; that the said instruments of writing, were severally, fully, and clearly interpreted to the said Indian Chiefs and Warriors, in full Council, by his deponent, Mr. Dean, and Captain Brant, in the presence of several gentlemen who understood the Indian Language, and after being well understood by them, and unanimously agreed to, were duly signed, sealed and delivered; that the whole business was fairly conducted, with great harmony, without any threats of any kind being used by the said Mr. Phelps; and this to the contrary suggested; and finally, that this deponent hath at all times since, found the Chiefs and Warriors of the said Five Nations (Captain Obiel only excepted) to speak in a friendly manner of the said Mr. Phelps, and favourably of his conduct; and further this deponent saith not.

SAMUEL KIRKLAND, Missionary.

Sworn this 5th of May, 1792, before me, Quod attestor,  
Clement Biddle, Notary Public.

FROM AUGUSTUS JONES TO JOHN COLLINS

Nassau, 15th June, 1702.

Sir,

Inclosed is a charge of expences incurred at surveying of Lenox, &c., including the last six months amounting in all to eighty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and a half penny currency, accompanied with the necessary vouchers which I trust you will find right, and must beg of your interest in settling the same.

A plan of the Town of Lenox according to the survey, I herewith transmit, it does not extend so far back as our former one proposed owing to Colonel Butler and some others who live in rear of and refuse giving up their possessions in consequence of which the Land Board directed me (for the Present) to extend the survey only one mile back from the River bank a copy of which accompanies this. The field notes thereof as well as

the survey on the north shore of the Lake, I am now making out and will send by the first opportunity.

Your order of the 10th June, 1791, for the land at Toronto in favour of Mr. Rochblave and others, I only received the other day, and as the members of the Land Board think their power dissolved by our Governor's late Proclamation, relative to granting of Lands in Upper Canada, they recommend it to me to postpone doing in respect of said order until I may receive some further instructions.

I am &c. AUGUSTUS JONES, D.P.S.  
Honble John Collins, Esqr. D.S.G. Quebec.  
(District of Nassau Letter Book No. 5, pg. 65.)

As the Deputy Surveyor General had informed Lieut. Governor Simcoe of the existence of a Salt Spring near the Fifteen Mile Creek, in what is now the Township of Louth, one of his first official acts after assuming office was to order an analysis to be made of the quality of the water.

FROM THOMAS TALBOT TO AUGUSTUS JONES

Kingston, July 9, 1792.

Sir,

It being necessary for the public service that an analysis should be made of a Salt Spring reported by the Deputy Surveyor General, to be near Niagara. His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Simcoe has directed Mr. McDonell to proceed immediately to analyse its quality, he will receive particular instructions for this purpose.

At the same time, his Excellency thinks it proper for various reasons that a Deputy Surveyor should accompany him. I must therefore beg that you will immediately proceed with Mr. McDonell to the object of this mission.

You will be pleased to note down as particular as possible the nature of the soil and the country you pass through and any observations that may be serviceable to his Majesty's Government you will communicate in writing.

The mode of Conveyance must depend entirely upon you and in the hiring of boats, axe-men &c., you must use the utmost economy.

You will repair to your customary duties as soon as this expedition shall be over and be ready to report to His Excellency as soon as he shall arrive at Niagara.

I am &c. THOMAS TALBOT, Secretary.

To Mr. Jones, Depy. Surveyor, Niagara.

(District of Nassau Letter Book, No. 5, p. 66).

Soon after his arrival at Niagara, he took measures to ascertain and mark the correct boundary line of the lands purchased from the Mississaugas by the Treaty of 22 May, 1784, and this boundary was duly confirmed by a new treaty on the 7th December, 1792.

FROM THOMAS TALBOT TO AUGUSTUS JONES

Navy Hall, Sept. 4th, 1792.

Sir,

You are hereby directed to engage ten chain-bearers and axe men on the most reasonable terms they can be had, not exceeding if possible, one shilling and six pence Per day Currency, each man, with an allowance of one shilling and three pence per day to yourself and party for provisions.

And immediately proceed with all diligence to survey and mark a boundary line, commencing at the outlet of Burlington Bay, thence a north course 45 d \_\_\_\_\_ to the westward until you strike the Heads or Sources of the River La Trance now the Thames; however after having proceeded on your said line as far as you may conceive the distance ought to fall on the said Sources, and not having met with them, you will branch off from the said boundary line with such Offsets as may complete a semicircle with four or five radii till you meet the Heads of said River La Tranche, now the Thames, which you will ascertain by following the said sources or waters till you are well assured you have hit the said River, after which you will return to Niagara, having regard in other matters, minutes and journals to the General and Existing instructions which you may heretofore have had from the surveyor General's Office.

Mr. A. Jones, D.S.

THOMAS TALBOT, Secretary

#### TREATY WITH MISSISSAUGAS

J. Graves Simcoe

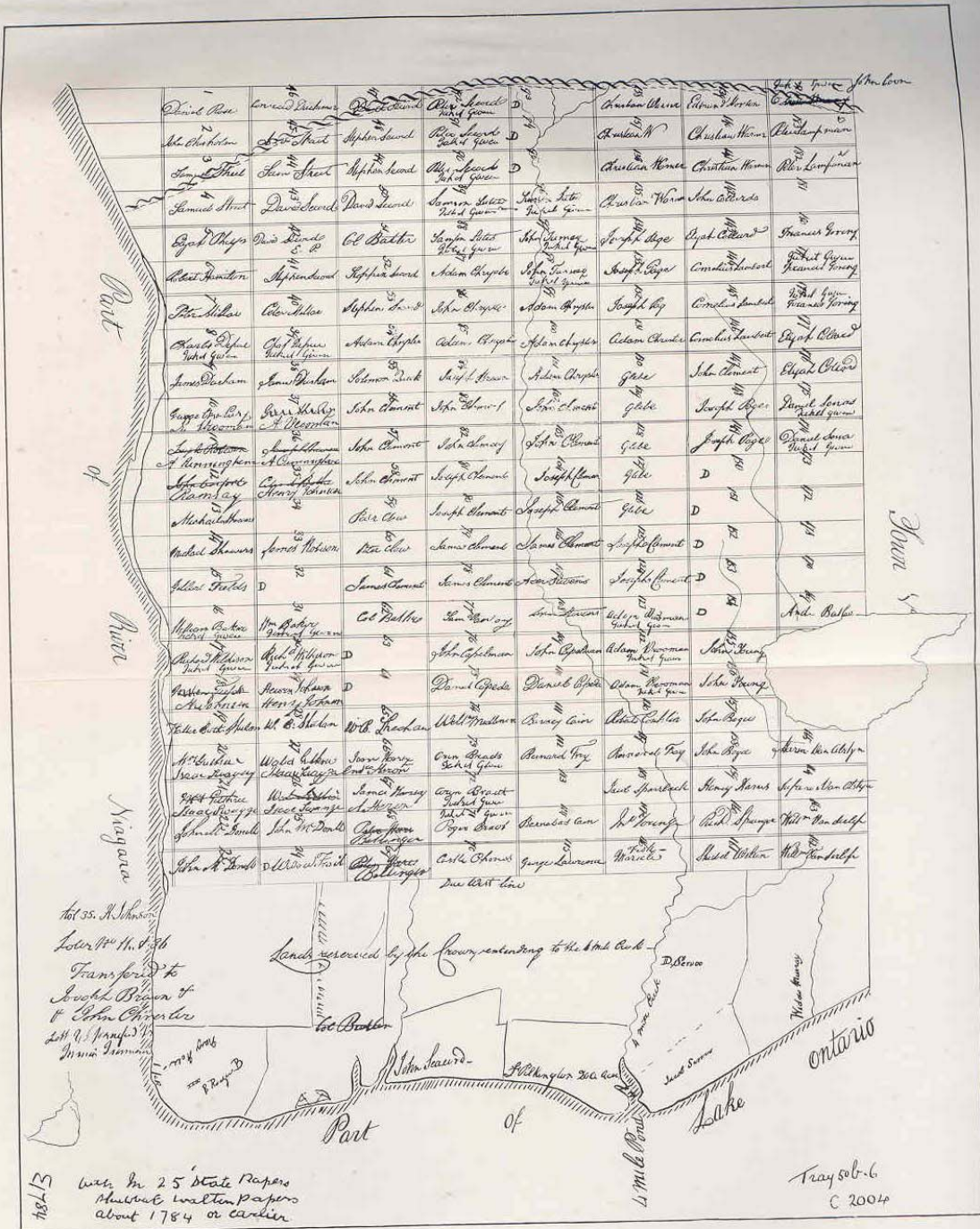
THIS INDENTURE made at Navy Hall in the County of Lincoln in the Province of Upper Canada on the Seventh Day of December in the year of our Lord, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Two, BETWEEN Wabakanyne, Wabanip, Kautabus, Wabaniship and Mattatow - on the one part AND our Sovereign Lord, GEORGE, the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith &c. &c. on the other part WHEREAS by a certain Indenture bearing date the Twenty Second Day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand and Seven Hundred and Eighty Four made between Wabakanyne, Nannibosure, Poquan, Nanaiyhawestrawi, Papamaw, Tabendaw, Sawainchik, Peasamish, Wapamaichigun, Wapeanojhqua, Sachems, War chiefs and Principal Women of the Messissague Indian Nation on the one part and our said Sovereign Lord George THird, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland of the other part, It Was Witnessed that the said Wabakanyne and the said Principal Chiefs and Women above named for and in consideration of the Sum of Eleven Hundred and Eighty Pounds, Seven Shillings and Four Pence of lawful money of Great Britain to them the said Wabakanyne, Sachems, War Chiefs, and principal women in hand well and truly paid did grant, bargain, sell, alien release and confirm unto his said Majesty, His Heirs and Successors all that Tract or Parcel of Land lying and being between the Lakes Ontario and Erie beginning at Lake Ontario, four miles South Westerly from the point opposite to Niagara Fort known by the name of Messissague Point and running from thence along the said Lake Ontario to the Creek that flows from a small Lake into the said Lake Ontario known by the name of Washquarter, from thence a North Westerly Course until it strikes the River La Tranche or New River, thence down the Stream of the said River to the part or place where a due South course will lead to the mouth of Cat Fish Creek, emptying into Lake Erie and from the above mentioned part or place of the aforesaid River La Tranche following the South Course to the mouth of the said Cat Fish Creek, thence down Lake Erie to the Lands heretofore purchased from the nation of Messissague Indians and from

thence along the said Purchase to Lake Ontario, at the place of beginning above mentioned, together with the Woods, Ways, Paths, Waters, Watercourses and appurtenances to the said Tract or Parcell of Land belonging to have and to hold unto our said Sovereign Lord, the King, His Heirs and Successors for Ever, as in and by the said Indenture will more fully and at large appear AND WHEREAS at the time of executing the said Indenture the boundaries of the said Parcell of Land were on one side described by an imaginary line running from the small Lake Washquarter in a North West Course until it strikes the River, but from an actual Survey, it has been discovered that a line from the said Lake Washquarter carried on a North Westerly Course will not strike the said River La Trance and Whereas it is necessary and expedient that the boundary lines of the said Parcell of Land sho'd be more accurtely laid down and described NOW, this Indenture Witnesseth and the Wabakanyne, Wabanip, Kautabus, Wabaniship and Mattatow..... do hereby acknowledge and declare that the true and real description of the said tract or parcel of Land is bargained and sold, aliened and transferred by and to the parties aforesaid is all that tract or parcel of Land lying and being between the Lake Ontario and Erie beginning at Lake Ontario four miles South Westerly from the point opposite to Niagara Fort known by the name of Messissague Point and running from thence along the said Lake to the Creek that falls from a small Lake known by the name of Washquarter into the said Lake Ontario and from thence North Forty-five degrees West fifty Miles, thence South forty-five degrees West Twenty Miles and thence South until it strikes the River La Tranche then down the Stream of the said River to that part or place where a due South Course will lead to the Mouth of Cat Fish Creek emptying into Lake Erie and from the above mentioned part of place of the aforesaid River La Tranche following the South Course to the mouth of the said Cat Fish Creek, thence down Lake Erie to the Lands heretofore purchased from the said Nation of Messissague Indians and from thence along the said Purchase to Lake Ontario at the place of beginning as above mentioned, together with all the Woods, Ways, Paths, Waters, Watercourses and appurtenances thereunto belonging AND therefore the said Wabakanyne, Wabanip, Kautabus, Wabaniship and Mattatow..... for and in consideration of the said Sum so advanced as aforesaid and for the further consideration of five shillings of lawful money of Great Britain to them the said Wabakanyne, Wabanip, Kautabus, Wabaniship and Mattatow..... in hand duly paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents and for the better ratifying and confirming of the heretofore recited Indenture have granted bargained sold and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, and confirm to his Britannick Majesty his Heirs and Successors ALL that Tract or Parcell of Land lying and being between the Lakes Ontario and Erie beginning at Lake Ontario, four Miles, South Westerly from the point opposite to Niagara Fort, known by the name of Messissague oint and running from thence along the said Lake to the Creek that falls from a small Lake known by the name of Washquarter into the said Lake Ontario and from thence North Forty five degrees West fifty Miles thence South forty-five degrees West twenty Miles and thence South until it strikes the River La Tranche then down the stream of the said River to that part or place where a due South Course will lead to the Mouth of Cat Fish Creek emptying into Lake Erie and from the above mentioned part or place of the aforesaid La Tranche following the South Course to the Mouth of the said Cat Fish Creek thence down Lake Erie to the Lands heretofore purchased from the Nation

of Messissague Indians and from thence along the said purchase to Lake Ontario at the place (of) beginning as above mentioned together with all the Woods, Ways, Paths, Waters, Watercourses and Appurtenances thereunto belonging To Have and To Hold all and singular the said Tract or Parcel of Land with its appurtenances unto his Britannick Majesty, His Heirs and Successors for Ever AND WHEREAS at a conference held by John Collins and William R. Crawford Esquire. with the Principal Chiefs of the Messissague Nation, Mr. John Russeau, Interpreter, it was unanimously agreed that the King sho'd have a right to make roads thro' the Messissague Country that the Navigation of the said Rivers and Lakes shall be open and free for his Vessels and those of his Subjects, that the King's Subjects sho'd carry on a free trade unmolested in and thro' the Country, NOW this Indenture doth hereby ratify and confirm the said conference and agreement had between the parties aforesaid giving and granting to his said Majesty a power and right to make roads thro' the said Messissague Country together with the Navigation of the said Rivers and Lakes for his Vessels and those of his subjects trading thereon free and unmolested IN WITNESS whereof the chiefs on the part of the Messissague Nation And His Excellency John Graves Simcoe, Esqr. Lieutenant Governor of the said province &c. &c. &cs on the part of his Britannick Majesty have hereunto set their hands and Seals the day and year first above written in the presence of

JOHN	L.S. BUTLER	Totem	WABAKANE
R----	L.S. HAMILTON	Totem	WABANIP
ROBT.	L.S. KERR	Totem	KAUTABUS
PETER	L.S. RUSSELL	Totem	WABANINISHIP
JOHN	L.S. MCGILL	Totem	L.S. MATTOTOW
DAVID WILLIAM SMITH	L.S.		
L.S.	J. GRAVES SIMCOE		

Endorsed - Dated the 7th Decr. 1792 The Messissague Nation to His Britannick Majesty.  
Deed of feofment.



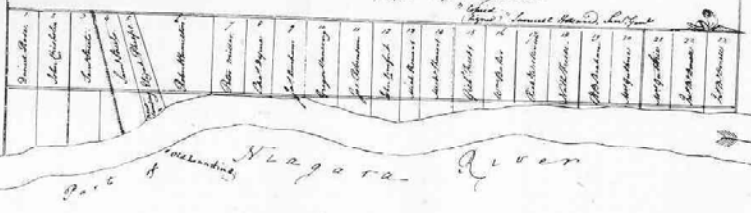
1843  
 was in 25 State Papers  
 Montreal, written papers  
 about 1784 or earlier

Tray 507-6  
 C 2004p

Copy of part of an accurate Survey of Township No. 1.

- 1. The Regular Survey of the Township differs a good deal in part from No. 1 down to 19. These lots were sold prior to any Survey; Anomalous from all the surveys connected to the land Office, states that these improvements would be much hurt, should their original lines be changed, the Board is unwilling to grant this lot conformable to their professions -

(Appt) August 1850



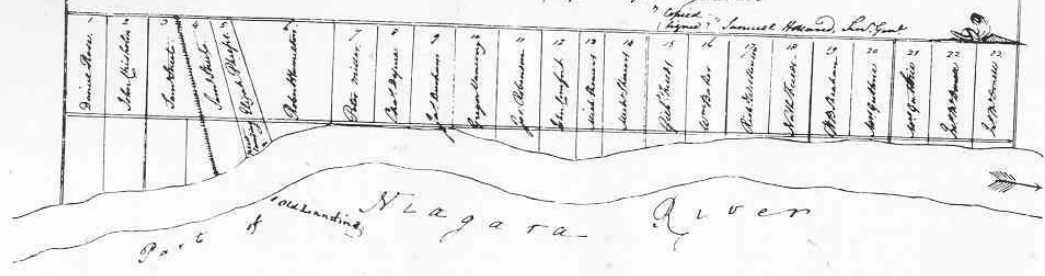
See Petition 57-2 - 10/162

2 Copy  
Detroit  
1850  
57-21  
1792

Copy of part of an accurate Survey of Township No. 1.

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(Appt) August 1850



See Petition 57-2 - 10/162

2 Copy  
Detroit  
1850  
57-21  
1792