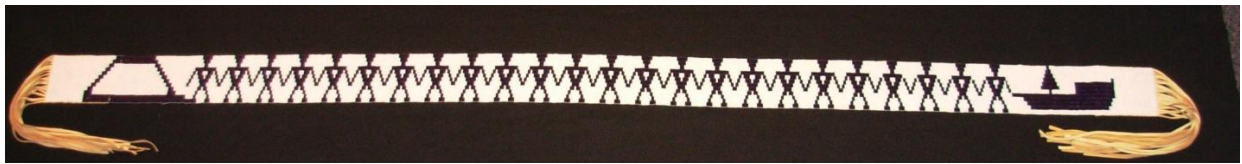


Six Nations Legacy Consortium

War of 1812

Sending Peace Belts

On August 15, 1815 Col. William Claus wrote to Maj. Gen. Frederick Robinson: *on the 24th April last, in a full council of all the nations at Burlington Heights, at which Lieut. Col. James was present, they were told, that the Kings' Council Fire was again uncovered at the Posts of Niagara, Amherstburg, and St. Josephs, which council was directed to be communicated to all the Nations in Friendship with the King of England, and a quantity of Wampum, and one large Belt given on the occasion.*



The old 24 Nations Belt showing the King's ship laden with presents, last held by Ottawa Chief Assekiknik (Blackbird) of Michilimackinac in 1852.

On September 10, 1815, Col. Claus wrote a second explanation to Robinson:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the proceedings of a meeting of the Grand River Indians with the American Indians at Buffaloe held at Niagara by order of His Excellency Sir Gordon Drummond.

In compliance with the request of the Indians, I have written to Colonel Caldwell directing him to forward their Wampum and message to the Western Indians immediately and to make the necessary arrangement for assembling them at Amherstburg, whenever they shall determine upon the time convenient for them to meet.

It was settled at the general council of the Six Nations and Western Indians at Burlington last spring, that immediately after a meeting with the American Indians from Buffaloe they would proceed to Amherstburg for the purpose of performing the same ceremonies of reconciliation there.