

foundation for the political alliance between the British Indian Department, and the chiefs and warriors of the First Nations. There was nothing to compare with this in the United States. In 1812, in contrast, relations between American settlers and the First Nations south of the Great Lakes was often a war of extermination.

The British Indian Department in 1812 was concerned with two main groups of First Nations.

The first group was the remnants of the Six Nations of Iroquois from New York State, who had fought with the British during the American Revolution. One of the principal war chiefs of the Iroquois at that time was Chief Joseph Brant of the Mohawk Nation. Chief Brant was also Brother Brant. He was made a Mason in 1776 during a trip to London England. During the American revolution, he had led his warriors on campaign for the Crown beside Brother and Colonel John Butler's Corp of Rangers.

After the Revolution, many Iroquois were forced to leave the new United States as political refugees. Some 2,000 Iroquois had followed Joseph Brant, to new homes on the Grand River near Brant's Ford, while another Iroquois settlement was founded at Deseronto, west of Kingston.

In Upper Canada, Brother Brant promoted Freemasonry in the new settlements. He was active in Lodge # 11 at the Mohawk Castle, near present day Brantford, and the Barton Lodge # 4 in Hamilton.

History took a significant turn in the early 1800's at Grand River with the arrival of a man called John Norton. His ancestry was actually half Scottish and half Cherokee. Before he came to the Grand River, Norton had been a British soldier, and then a fur trader in the Ohio and Michigan Territories. When he arrived at the Grand River to work as a Christian missionary, Brant recognized Norton's leadership skills, and encouraged his participation in Iroquois affairs. Brant eventually adopted Norton as a Mohawk with the Mohawk name Teyoninhokarawen. Like his adopted Father before him, Norton was also a Mason.

Brother Brant passed to the Grand Lodge Above in 1807. On his death bed, Brant passed his chieftainship to John Norton, his adopted son. Norton, as a principal chief of the Mohawk nation, would later become a key figure in the War of 1812.

The second important group of First Nations were the Shawnee and other related Nations, known at that time as the "Western Indians." These people lived in the Michigan and Ohio Indian Territories of the new United States, and were led by Chief Tecumseh and his brother the Prophet. Tecumseh and his brother attempted in the early 1800 era to organize a confederacy of all First Nations in the Territories to resist American settlement on Indian lands. In this work, they received British Indian Department support and encouragement from the British post at Fort Malden in Amherstburg, located on the Detroit River, south of modern day Windsor.

It is widely believed that Chief Tecumseh was a Mason, although exact details of his Masonic affiliation have been lost. However, we do know that when he travelled to Fort Malden to meet with Indian Department officials, he often visited Adoniram Lodge in Amherstburg. Captain