

Six Nations Legacy Consortium

War of 1812

1815 Peace Council at Fort George

At the end of August, 1815, a council of reconciliation took place at Niagara. On one side of the fire were Senecas, Onondagas and Cayugas from Buffalo Creek, Tonawanda and Allegheny. On the other side were people from the Grand River Territory with 40 leaders and 400 people to make peace, and that the *whole meeting was very orderly, no reproaches nor violent language having been uttered by any of them*, according to Col. William Claus, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs. A number of wampum belts and strings carried the message of reconciliation across the council fire.

Rawenerse (Echo), a Grand River Onondaga Chief, stated:

We condole with you from the bottom of our hearts for the loss of your friends, and wipe the tears from your eyes, we open your throats so no obstruction shall remain, that you may speak your mind freely and with the same friendship which formerly existed between us, as we now in the name of the Nations already mentioned address you as friends. If you will stand up we will take you by the hands. Should an idle young Man make use of any improper Language we request that you will not take any notice of it."

Sagoyewatha (Red Jacket) on behalf of the Buffalo Creek community responded:

We are not of the same Nations only, but of the same Families also. We therefore ought to be united and become on Body.... We seriously recommend that your people will now attend to your usual occupations of hunting and agriculture and that you pay due attention to your Women, who by our ancient customs have a voice in bringing up our Young people to the practice of truth and industry.

The former combatants made peace with each other, reuniting the Hodinohson:ni Confederacy once again.