

trader, Kinzie, was killed. We had no knowledge of any attack having been intended by the Indians on Chicago, nor can they indeed be said to be within the influence of the superintendent. I have reason to believe that Fort Wayne has been invested by the back Indians, and if Colonel Elliot had not been totally unable, from lumbago, to ride so far, I should have required him to proceed for that place to restrain the Indians. He has, however, taken measures that I hope will have the desired effect."

A few days later Proctor decided to send a small force of regulars and militia to Fort Wayne, mainly to preserve the lives of the besieged garrison, but "the delay occasioned by the armistice prevented the attainment of one object of the expedition, which was the destruction of Fort Wayne; the other was effected by the enemy. I do not think," he added, "we shall have any credit for our good intentions, however."

Sometime in July, 1812, Erastus Granger, Indian agent for the United States in western New York, held a council with the Senecas at Buffalo and proposed that they should send 200 warriors to join the American army. This they declined to do, but agreed to send a deputation to the Grand River to dissuade those of the Six Nations residing there from joining the British forces.

On the 27th of the same month the Secretary of War wrote to General Dearborn inclosing a letter to Granger authorizing him to organize the Six Nations as a military force. Addressing the same officer a few days later, he said:

By letters received from Erastus Granger it appears that the young men of the Six Nations can no longer be restrained, and that in case of refusal on the part of the United States to accept their services they would join the Indians under the British standard. Mr. Granger has therefore been authorized, after every attempt to secure their neutrality has failed, to employ them.

Yet at a council held at Onondaga on the 29th of September the spokesman of the confederacy replied to a formal invitation to take part in the war in the following terms:

Having been told repeatedly by your agents to remain neutral we were very much surprised at the council held at the Buffalo Creek at being invited to take up the tomahawk. We are not unfriendly to the United States, but are few in number and can do but little, but are willing to do what we can, and if you say so we will go with your people to battle. We are anxious to know your wishes as soon as possible because we are afraid some of our men may disperse among distant tribes and be hostile to you.