MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER

The Three Villages

Three villages. One promise. A line that never ends.

Canajoharie, Tikondarago and Aughgugo, from a promise to the posterity today · From Book IV of the National Books, Lands and the Tract

not to scale

1710 *four chiefs in London* · **1775** *the promise* · **1779** *the Pledge* · **1783** *the peace* · **1784** *the Grand River* · **1789** *the Mark of Honour* · **1796** *the oath* · **Today** *the posterity*

1 · 1775 · THE PROMISE

At a council at Montreal, Sir Guy Carleton asks the nations to take up the hatchet, and promises that any losses in the war will be replaced.

2 · 1775–1779 · THE LOSS

The Mohawks of the Valley withdraw north, to safety and to fight beside the King's forces. Their villages are occupied or burned: in the Pledge's words, "Ruined by the Rebels".

3 · 1779 · THE ASK, AND THE PLEDGE

On 7 April the Mohawks of the three villages tell Haldimand of Carleton's promise and ask that it stand. He ratifies it: the villages are to be restored "to the state they were in before".

4 · 1783 · THE PEACE

On 3 September the Treaty of Paris gives the Mohawk Valley to the United States and says nothing of the villages. The promise can no longer be kept where it was made.

5 · 1784 · THE GRAND RIVER

On 25 October Haldimand sets apart six miles each side of the Grand River for "the Mohawk Nation and such others of the Six Nation Indians as wish to settle in that quarter". A census in 1785 counts 548 Mohawks there.

6 · 1789 · THE MARK OF HONOUR

On 9 November Lord Dorchester marks those who "adhered to the Unity of the Empire", and their descendants by either sex, with the letters U.E. The Loyalist Mohawks of the three villages are United Empire Loyalists.

7 · 1796 · THE OATH

On 6 April, Simcoe's Register Proclamation: the mark is ascertained on oath before a magistrate. The Nation's position is that this was never done for the class; its Register records each line now.

FROM MANY VILLAGES TO THREE

1634 8 villages · **1677** 4 castles · **1700–75** 3 castles · **1779** the Pledge: 3

Rebuilt south of the river after 1693; by 1775 the Lower and Upper castles remained, Tarajorees having merged into Canajoharie after 1755. The Pledge names "Canojaharie, Tikondarago and Aughuago".

THE THREE VILLAGES, BURNED · 1775–1779

Canajoharie
Kana'tsioharé:ke · the Upper Castle
Indian Castle Church, 1769: still stands

Tikondarago
Tiononderoge · the Lower Castle, at Fort Hunter
Queen Anne's Chapel, 1711

Aughgugo
Oquaga, on the Susquehanna

THE ROAD · 1775–1784

The Bay of Quinte
about twenty families, 1784, under Captain John Deserontyon

Queen Anne's silver, 1712: divided between the two

Lachine

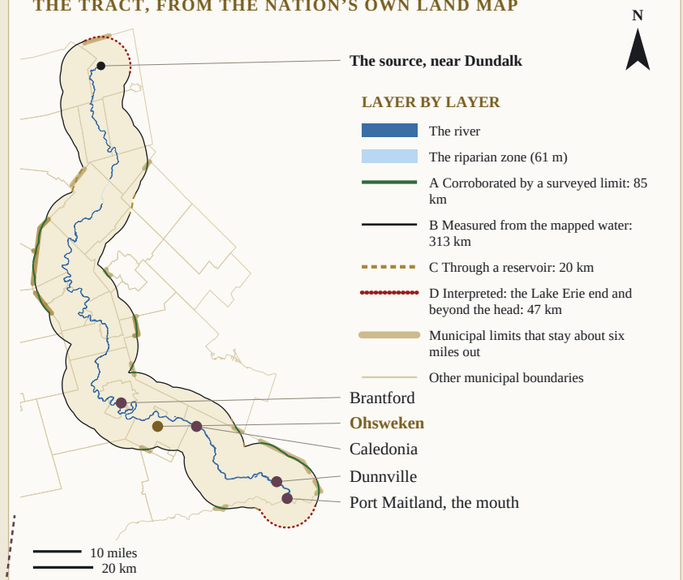
The St Lawrence
Kahnawake, Kanesatake, Akwesasne, Wahta

Joseph Brant
Thayendanegea

Fort Niagara

To the Grand River →
the Mohawk Chapel, built 1785

THE TRACT, FROM THE NATION'S OWN LAND MAP



Land map of the Register, mohawkuniversity.org/Register/land-map. Produced using information under licence with the Grand River Conservation Authority. © Grand River Conservation Authority, 2026. Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence – Ontario. © King's Printer for Ontario, 2026.

WHY IT IS CONFUSED

One sentence, two groups. The Proclamation names "the Mohawk Nation", then "such others of the Six Nation Indians as wish to settle in that quarter".

A grant that widened. In 1805 the Grand River Council recalled that it was first meant for those who had lost their lands on the Mohawk and Susquehanna Rivers, then "extended to such others of the Six Nations as wished to settle there".

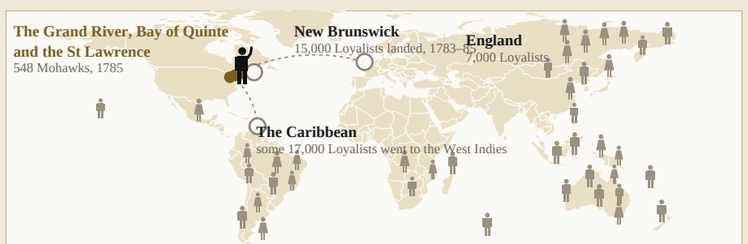
One reserve, one name. What remains is Six Nations of the Grand River, six nations in one community, so "Grand River Mohawk" and "Six Nations" are used as if they were one.

Many Mohawks, many places. Kahnawake, Kanesatake, Akwesasne, Wahta and Tyendinaga each have their own history. The Pledge's Mohawks are those of three named villages who adhered to the Crown.

The class is defined by village and by adherence: not by band, clan or nation.

WHO THEY ARE TODAY

Generations on, the posterity are anywhere, in any life, born in marriage or out of it. Most do not know. Each is still joined by a line to a Loyalist ancestor.



- *Where the Mohawks of the villages are recorded*
- *Where the Loyalists went*
- *A descendant today: anywhere, in any life. Most do not know*

Land outlines: Natural Earth

THE POSTERITY HAS NO EDGE

Marrying out, having no clan, having no status: none of these ends the line. A descendant, by either sex, born in marriage or out of it, in any place and any life, who can link to one Loyalist ancestor is the posterity. Most do not know. A band counts those on its list; a clan follows the mother; the posterity follows the line, and passes beyond both.

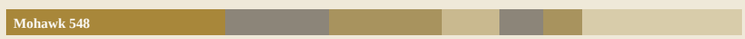
The Register organizes; it does not control. It records each line back to a Loyalist ancestor, and the person keeps the right. The mark, UE, is the Crown's (1789); the magistrate's oath ascertains it (1796).

The land today



5 of every 100 acres
The Tract of 1784: about 950,000 acres; the Six Nations reserve: about 45,580. About 30,000 registered members; 13,000 on the reserve (2026).

The census of 1785, on the Grand River



Cayuga 281 · Oneida 262 · Onondaga 145 · Tuscarora 109 · Seneca 98 · others 400 · 1,843 in all (Kelsay, 1984)

Think you may be one of the posterity? Start with The Line of Honour, and see how the mark passes in The Mark of Honour: the companion posters, from Mohawk's Printer.

MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

Sources: Haldimand's Pledge, 7 April 1779; Joseph Brant's account of Carleton's promise, 1775; the Haldimand Proclamation, 25 October 1784; the Grand River Council, 4 May 1805 (Six Nations Archive); Lord Dorchester's Order in Council, 9 November 1789; Kelsay, Joseph Brant (1984), for the 1785 census; the UNB Loyalist Collection; Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte; Six Nations of the Grand River (Canadian Encyclopedia, 2026); the Register's land map (mohawkuniversity.org/Register/land-map/), from the Grand River Conservation Authority's data. Tikondarago is generally identified with the Lower Castle at Fort Hunter.

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ISBN 978-1-0680559-5-9