MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER

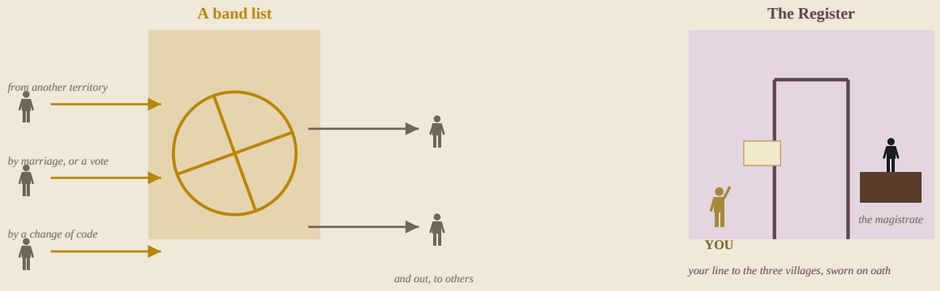
Who Stands in Your Place?

The law set a certainty for this interest: each holder ascertained on oath. A band list cannot keep it, and what is lost through it cannot be got back.

The companion to Acquired Territory: two doors; the seat at the table; the certainty the law set; why the harm cannot be undone

TWO DOORS TO THE SAME TABLE

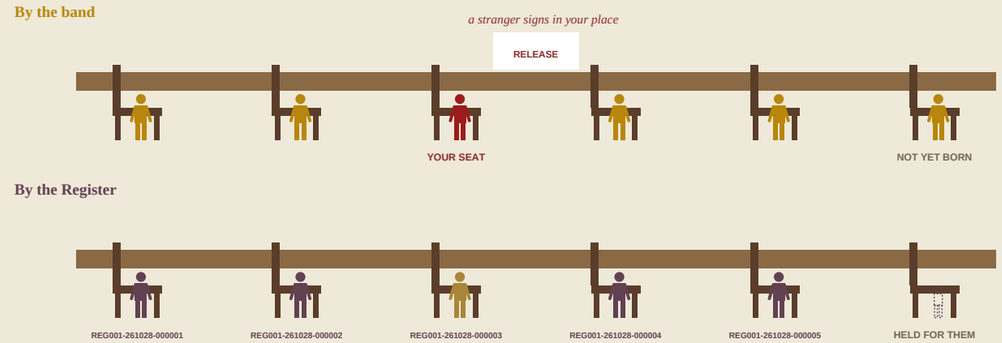
How to read it: *on the left, a band list: people come in from other territories and go out to others, by the band's own rules. On the right, the Register: one gate, where each person proves a line to the three villages and swears to it.*



One door turns both ways, by rules a band can change. The other opens only on proof, sworn: the standard the Crown set for this interest in 1796.

SOMEONE IN YOUR SEAT

How to read it: *the same table twice. Each seat is a holder of the interest. Above, the band sits down for everyone, and a stranger sits in your seat and signs; below, each seat carries its holder's Record Code, and an empty seat stays empty.*



No one signs for a seat that is not theirs, and no one alive can sign for the unborn.

THE CERTAINTY THE LAW SET

How to read it: *a ladder of proof, weakest at the foot. The Crown's instruments set this interest near the top: each holder ascertained on oath before a magistrate, and recorded.*



SIMCOE'S PROCLAMATION, 6 APRIL 1796

"such registry has not been generally made; and as it is still necessary to ascertain the persons and families" … all claiming "to ascertain the same upon oath before the magistrates"

Those who neglect it *"will not be considered as entitled, in this respect, to the benefit".*

The Crown's own words: certainty is the condition, and failing it costs the benefit. A band list is no oath. **Band figures are never the posterity.**

WHY THE HARM CANNOT BE UNDONE

How to read it: *one-way doors. Once a settlement, release or surrender is signed for a people, it runs against everyone counted in it, and the door does not open back.*

A collective claim — *the class folded into a band* ▶ **A settlement or release** — *signed for everyone on the list* ▶ **Strangers counted in** — *who never held the interest* ▶ **The holders counted out** — *the posterity, the unborn* ▶ **The interest given up** — *for ever, by those who never held it*

The answer the law already gave: ascertain each holder on oath, record them, and deal with no one in their place. Until then, the interest stands: only a surrender by the class could free it, and the class runs to people not yet born.

The companion to Acquired Territory and Exclusive Use and Enjoyment; Book II, The Acquired Territory Doctrine; Book XV, on joining the Register.

This poster states the Nation's position. Sources: Simcoe's Proclamation, 6 April 1796; the Haldimand Pledge, 1779, and Proclamation, 1784; Ontario Mining v. Seybold (1903). It concerns who holds this interest, not who is Mohawk.

MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

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