

RS#19: “The Disturbances in America give great trouble to all our Nations”: Mohawk Joseph Brant Comes to London to See the King, 1776 (Adapted)

Joseph Brant or Thayendanegea was a Mohawk war chief, interpreter, statesman, and British military leader. Brant and his sister led the Mohawks and most Iroquois nations into an alliance with the British but also indicated that Native Americans were trying to hold on to their homelands. This is a paraphrased version of his speech to the king.

Brother Gorah (Great One: King George), We have crossed the great Lake (Atlantic Ocean) and come to this kingdom from our Confederacy the Six Nations and their allies, that we might see our Father, the Great King, and join in informing him of the good intentions of the Indians our brothers, and of their attachment to His Majesty and his Government.



Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea)

Brother, the Disturbances in America give great trouble to all our Nations, as many strange stories have been told to us by the people of America. The Six Nations who always loved the king, sent a number of their Chiefs and Warriors to Canada last summer to join with their British allies to help defend America. But when Canada was invaded by the New England people, the Indians alone defeated them. Brother, in that engagement we had several of our best Indians killed and wounded. They feel they were deceived by the White people. The enemy returned in great numbers, and no White people supported the Indians.

The Mohawks our particular nation, have on all occasions shown their passion and loyalty to the Great King; yet they have been very badly treated by the British. Even the City of Albany is claiming the lands on which our Lower Castle is built. Indeed it is very hard when we have let the Kings subjects have so much land for so little value. The British want to cheat us out of the small spots we have left for our women and children to live on. We are tired out in making complaints & getting no action. *Dictated by Joseph Brant and taken down by Jo. Chew., Secretary*

Glossary

alliance – a formal friendship, usually united by a treaty

ally – a formal friend, usually united by a treaty