

III.

The General Title to Lands in Nichol

Britain won Canada by conquest. The capture of Quebec in 1759, and four years later the Peace of Paris, established the rights of the English over those lands east of the Mississippi that had from the time of their discovery been claimed by the French. The rights of the Indians were extinguished piecemeal by treaty, the English paying what was agreed upon as a fair price for the lands that were gained.

During the war of the American Revolution the Iroquois Indians, especially the Mohawks under Joseph Brant, gave signal help to the British, and at the close of the war in 1773, many of them accepted the invitation of the English to come into Canada and settle there. One of the districts selected as hunting grounds for the Six Nations was the valley of the Ouse or Grand River. The Chippewas or that branch of them known as the Mississaugas, in 1784 surrendered their claim to a large tract of land bounded on the northeast by line running exactly northeast from a point near what is now Burlington to the Conestogo River, at what is now Arthur Village. Further particulars were given in Col. McCrea's article. This purchase was made by Sir John Johnson at Niagara, on May 22nd, 1784, and on Oct. 25th of the same year Sir Frederick Haldimand, then Governor of Canada, by an instrument under his hand and seal, declared that the Six Nations Indians and their posterity should be allowed to possess and enjoy a tract of land six miles in depth on each side of the Grand River, running into Lake Erie, being part of the land lately purchased. When surveyed, the grant consisted of a strip of land 12 miles in width along the Grand River, comprising the townships of Dunn, Moulton, Canborough, South Cayuga, Seneca, Oneida, Tuscarora, Onondaga, Brantford (East and West), Dumfries (South and North), Waterloo, Woolwich, Pilkington and Nichol. These lands were extensive and well situated, and were soon encroached upon by white settlers. The Iroquois hunted upon the grounds of the Chippewas, who were now friendly. In 1796, the Six Nations, being partly civilized wished to sell their lands on the basis of an annuity. This course was probably suggested by the whites, who wished to get possession of such valuable lands. Brant was appointed agent of the Six Nation Indians in Council, and was given power of Attorney to act for them on the 2nd of Nov., 1796. The tract to be sold contained 310391 acres, and was to be regranted by the Crown to such person or persons as Brant might think proper, adequate security for the payment of the annuity being given.

On Feb. 5th, 1798, Chief Brant, in behalf of the Six Nations, sold several blocks of land to different parties. Block No. 4, consist-