



Remembering Joseph Brant's 200th

The following headlines appeared two days after the 200th anniversary of Brant's death on 24 November 2007: "One Man's Tribute to Joseph Brant" in *The Brantford Expositor*, and "Colonel Butler offers salute of thanks to Brant" in the Six Nations newspaper, *The Tekawennake*.

My son, Tyler Misiak, carried the Ranger Regimental Colours, accompanying me to the Mohawk Chapel. On the west side very close to the church wall lies Joseph Brant and his son. Surrounded by trees, bushes and enclosed within an iron fence the concrete mould of his tomb rests peacefully. Tyler and I stood for a moment not really sure what to do. I started to speak, pausing quite a few times trying to recall Brant's connection and relevance to the Rangers and the more I said, the more I recalled. I acknowledged his value and loyalty to the Crown, his "divided loyalties" when it came to living in two worlds, the "white man's world" and that of the Mohawks of the Six Nations Confederacy, the Haudenosaunee.

I motioned for Tyler to stand beside me as I felt I was now ready to do something more formal. I asked Tyler to place the Colours against Brant's tomb. I removed my sword, saluted and then stated, "His stepping in and out of cultures upset some and confused others. Brant spoke at John Butler's funeral in 1796 and we commemorated John's 200th in 1996 having at our side representatives from the Six Nations. We attended Lorne Butler's funeral in 2007. There is a strong connection between the Six Nations and Butler's Rangers, which I want to maintain. Here we are for Joseph Brant's 200th." I sheathed my sword, Tyler and I rolled up the Colours, and we walked slowly away to our car.

The Six Nations newspaper wrote, "Zig Misiak chooses to build a bridge over which our cultures could cross back and forth carrying goodwill, understanding and mutual respect," and *The Brantford*



by Zig Misiak
Butler's Rangers

President's Note: I greatly admire Zig, not just for remembering the 200th anniversary of the passing of Joseph Brant, but for his acting upon it. His following report is personal and heartfelt, but also sends out an important message for all. Had I been closer to Brantford, I would have loved to have joined Zig and his son on that day. Thanks Zig.

—Peter W. Johnson UE



Expositor wrote, "On a cold cloudy Sunday, one soldier pays respect to Joseph Brant, donning his 18th century Butler's Rangers uniform..."

I wanted to make a statement on behalf of history and the descendants on both sides, and on behalf of all of us living that continue to present historical information as accurately as we can. That's why I have maintained my website www.realpeopleshistory.com at my own expense, to help educators understand in more depth, the rich history that we have in common. I have made it my life's commitment to share my limited knowledge of Butler's Rangers and show clearly the relationship they had with the Six Nations as allies, friends and neighbours.

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Zig Misiak. Photo by his son Tyler.

