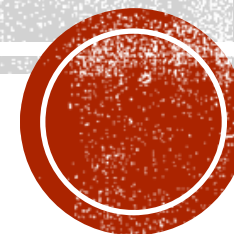


TWO YEARS OF TEARS IN KAHNAWÀ:KE

Dr. Wahéhshon Whitebean (Wolf Clan)

Dr. Gerald Reid

Community Presentation



Wednesday September 16, 2026
Kahnawà:ke Kanien'kehá:ka Territory

INTRODUCTIONS

Wahéhshon Whitebean

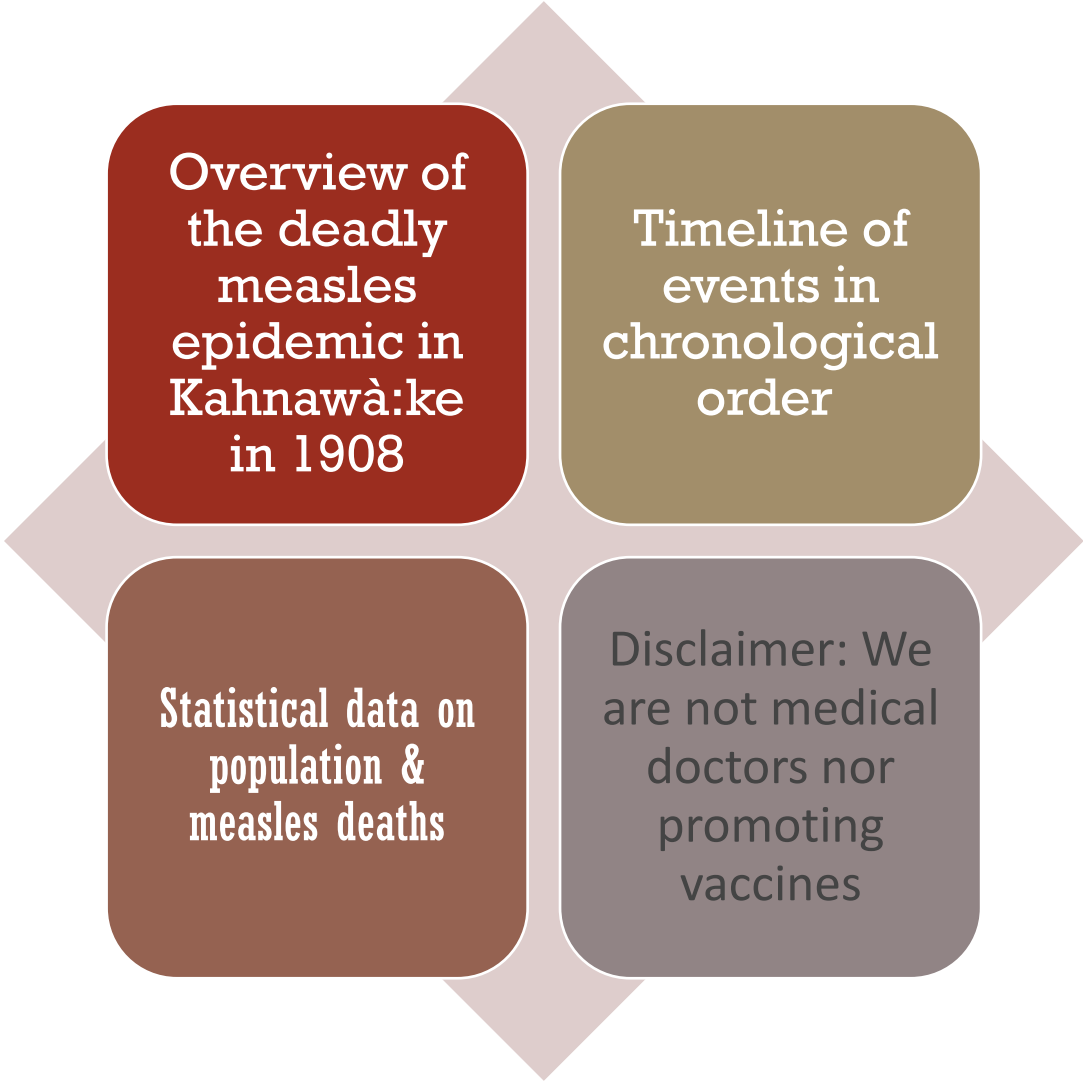


Jerry Reid





TODAY'S PRESENTATION



Overview of
the deadly
measles
epidemic in
Kahnawà:ke
in 1908

Timeline of
events in
chronological
order

Statistical data on
population &
measles deaths

Disclaimer: We
are not medical
doctors nor
promoting
vaccines

WABÉHISHON WHITEBEAN
GERALD REID
SPECIAL TO THE EASTERN DOOR

In the summer and fall of 1908, less than a year after losing 33 men in the Quebec Bridge Disaster, Kahnawake suffered another, lesser-known tragedy. Between late June and November of that year, as many as 80 young Kahnawa'kehró:non died in a measles epidemic that, sadly, could have been avoided.

Today, that tragedy is mostly forgotten. Our hope is to share what we have learned about this story and invite the community to participate in bringing it to light.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory illness that mainly affects young children. Its symptoms include high fever, dry cough, runny nose, watery eyes, and a red rash that spreads across the entire body.

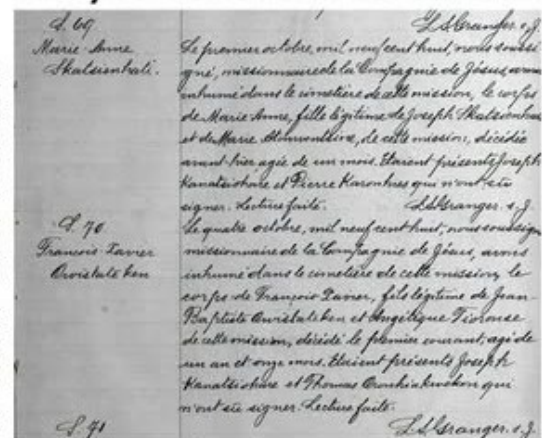
If untreated, it can lead to pneumonia, brain swelling, and even death. Today, measles can be prevented with a vaccine, but prior to the 1960s, no such vaccine existed. At the turn of the 20th century, measles epidemics were frequent in Canada and the United States, with hundreds of thousands of cases and thousands of deaths each year. Most of the fatalities were suffered by children under five years of age.

The measles outbreak in Kahnawake in 1908 was especially severe. During this time the population of the community was about 2,100, with about 400 being children under 21 years of age. Each year, about 30 young Kahnawa'kehró:non died during birth or due to a variety of causes.

The deaths were devastating, but the percentage was not much different from child mortality rates in the surrounding non-Indigenous communities.

The year of 1908 was different. The children that died between late June and December of that year tripled the average number of child deaths. Those deaths reduced the population of the community by nearly five

Two years of tears in Kahnawake



percent and the child population by close to 20 percent. For comparison, the 33 men from Kahnawake who died in the Quebec Bridge Disaster a year before represented one percent of the community's total population.

Most of the children who died in the epidemic were under five years of age, and their surnames indicate that nearly every family in the community was affected: Beauvais, Bordeaux, Boyer, Canadian, Cross, Diabo, Decaire, Deer, Dearhouse, Delaronde, Desile, Goodleaf, Hill, Jacobs, Kane, Lebourg, Labache, Laplume, Lazare, Mailoux, McComber, Meloche, Montour, Peterson, Phillips, Riggs, Rice, Stacey, Walker, White, Williams, and Zachary.

The scale of the measles outbreak and the deaths that resulted were entirely avoidable.

On August 3, 1908, reverend Timberlake, a local Methodist minister, wrote to the Indian Department after a teacher requested that the reopening of the Methodist Indian Day School after the summer holidays should

be delayed to avoid the danger of spreading measles.

Timberlake also requested that the Indian Department send a medical officer to examine the children. The department secretary, J.D. Maclean, did not respond until a month later, stating that this was the first report of an epidemic in Kahnawake and they would not send a medical officer.

He pointed out that the Roman Catholic Indian Day School opened on time and said the Methodist School should open as well. He suggested only that afflicted children should be kept home from school.

The decision to keep the day schools open and not to investigate the report of an epidemic had deadly consequences. The disease swiftly spread and was compounded by the inaction of the local Indian agent, Jean Blain.

From his office in Montreal, Blain was either unaware of or unconcerned by the mounting death toll - 11 in August, 17 in September, and 21 in October. It was not until more than 30

children had died that he notified the Indian Department and a medical officer was brought in to help stem the outbreak.

The medical officer, Dr. Peter Bryce, set up a temporary hospital staffed by local medical personnel. This and other health measures Bryce introduced brought the epidemic under control, but not before many more children died.

When the Indian agent Jean Blain reported to the Indian Department on the epidemic several months later, he suggested that the outbreak was caused by the community's inadequate hygienic practices.

However, up until this time Kahnawake had a well-recognized record of safe health practices. Indian Department officials frequently attempted to avoid accountability and blamed Indigenous people themselves for the problems in their communities. By blaming Kahnawa'kehró:non, Blain sought to hide his own incompetence and culpability.

Other factors may have

contributed to the measles epidemic and its toll. Unusually hot weather in the summer of 1908 and outbreaks throughout the Montreal area likely played a role. An economic recession in 1908 and a steep decline in ironwork and other employment may have strained household resources.

Another factor may have been the community-wide trauma following the Quebec Bridge Disaster a year earlier. However, the principal cause was the neglect and inaction of Indian Department officials.

While the Quebec Bridge Disaster was memorialized both locally and internationally, recollection of the measles epidemic faded from Kahnawake's collective memory.

Family stories may help shed light on this tragic story, and centre community voices in Kahnawake's history.

We invite all Kahnawa'kehró:non to a short presentation and community conversation about this topic on Wednesday, September 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the new Kanatawé:ke Cultural Arts Center. Refreshments will be provided. Skenné:wa.

Dr. Wabéhishon Whitebean (Wolf Clan) is Kanien'kehí:ka from Kahnawake. Wabéhishon is an emerging Ojibwé:we scholar, oral historian, and assistant professor of Indigenous Studies at McGill University. She recently completed a doctoral dissertation on the history of Indian Day Schooling in Kahnawake.

Dr. Gerald ("Jerry") Reid is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. He has written and published several articles and books on the history of Kahnawake during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including *Kahnawá:ke: Factionalism, Traditionalism, and Nationalism in a Mohawk Community*.

TWO YEARS OF TEARS IN KAHNAWÁ:KE

- How we came to work together
- Sharing this information with Kahnawa'kehró:non first
 - Eastern Door Article
- Co-writing academic articles – still doing research
- Discussion
- Family stories
- Archival data:
 - Library and Archives Canada (LAC)
 - BanQ
 - Newspaper archives
 - Catholic & Protestant mission records
 - Published materials
 - Etc.

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THE MEASLES



What is it and
how does it
spread?



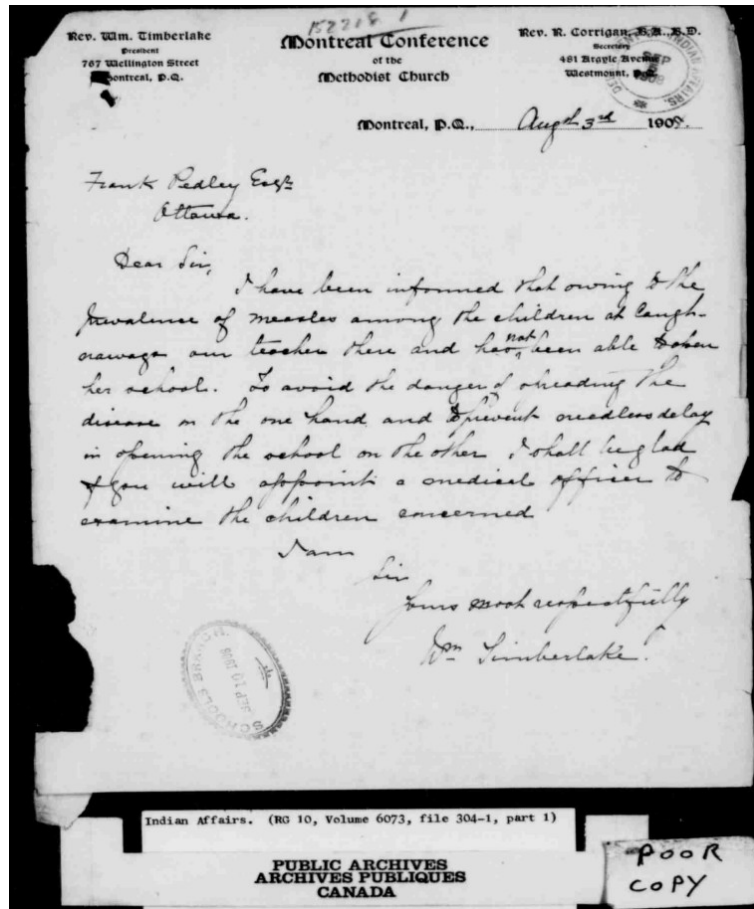
MEASLES (RUBEOLA) - SNAPSHOT

- Airborne, can live on surfaces for up to two hours
- Causes high fever, cough, runny nose, red watery eyes, Koplick spots (mouth), and a distinct red rash
- May be contagious but asymptomatic for several days
- Complications: pneumonia, severe diarrhea, blindness and encephalitis (brain swelling).
 - In surviving children may cause immunity amnesia
- One of the most contagious diseases on the planet
 - Once a child is infected, 90% of those they come into contact with will contract the infection
- Malnourished children and those under 5 most at risk of complications



MEASLES IN KAHNAWĀ-KE, 1908

REVEREND TIMBERLAKE WRITES TO DIA



- **President of the Montreal Conference of the Methodist Church**
- **On August 3rd, 1908:**
 - **To Frank Pedley (Deputy-Superintendent)**
 - **Day School teacher reports measles in Kahnawà:ke**
 - **Requests a medical officer to examine children**
 - **Cannot open school to avoid danger of spreading disease**
 - **Avoid needles dealy in school reopening**

INTERNAL DIA COMMUNICATION

- Superintendent's office passes Timberlake's letter around
- September 15, 1908: Martin Benson (Clerk of Schools) writes to Frank Pedley about the matter:
 - "This is the first official intimation we have had about a measles outbreak on the reserve."
 - 3 Catholic Schools opened on time
 - Methodist school should have opened
 - Children better off at school

"The Methodist missionary and the teacher should have been able to find out what families, if any, are affected and order them to stay away from the school."

"We have no regular medical officer on the reserve as the Indians generally are able to look after themselves in this respect, and I do not see why the Department should be called upon to Pay for examining 25 or 50 pupils."



- September 19, 1908 (J.D. Maclean)
 - Acknowledged request for medical officer
 - Methodist school should have opened
 - Only affected children should have been kept home
- "The Department has no regular physician on the Caughnawaga reserve, as the Indians are all fairly well-to-do and provide for their own medical attendance."

DIA RESPONDS TO REVEREND TIMBERLAKE





DR. PETER H. BRYCE COMES TO KAHNAWÀ:KE

Chief Medical Officer, Department of Indian
Affairs from 1904 to 1921



The Bryce Report of 1907, & "The Story of A National Crime" 1922

IRS Whistleblower – Advocated for better care
and living conditions for Indigenous children

Reputation tarnished, forced into retirement

It suffices for us to know...
that of a total of 1,537 pupils
reported upon nearly 25 per
cent are dead, of one school
with an absolutely accurate
statement, 69 per cent of ex-
pupils are dead, and that
everywhere the almost
invariable cause of death
given is tuberculosis (Bryce,
1907, p.18).

“The story of Dr. Peter
Henderson Bryce is about the
strength of people who make
a choice to stand up for what
is right for children in a
peaceful and respectful way,
even when faced with doubt
and criticism.”

(FNCaringSociety, 2016)



DR. BRYCE'S INTERVENTION

- Sets up temporary tent hospital
- Infected children and mothers quarantined
- Mentions a trained nurse and Dr. Patton involvement
- Few deaths after intervention

Dr. A.O. Patton in charge:

- Sends a report on October 30th, 1908
 - 15 cases in the hospital
 - Only two new cases since opening
 - Only two deaths
- Newspapers cover story on November 17, 1908 (Moncton Transcript, NB)

BAND MEETING MINUTES

- **November 27, 1907:** Bryce calls for a meeting with the Band Council
- Indian Agent Blain, J.W. Jocks (Constable, translator), Dr. Bryce & Band Council members
- Band Council Chief: Michael Daillebout
- Bryce: Measles & Scarlet Fever attacking children in an alarming manner
- Department hears "cries of distress" from mothers and caregivers
- Many lost to the disease
- Proposes by-law which is in effect on other reserves
 - Wanted the Band to adopt a "model health by-law" to curb outbreaks from the start
 - Forced quarantine & isolation
 - Wants health ordinances imposed
- Council votes down the motion: *"...among other reasons, it imposed too onerous clauses and too severe conditions."*



ANNUAL REPORTS 1909

J.D. Blain & Dr. P.H. Bryce Quotes from DIA Annual Reports 1909

REPORT OF INDIAN AGENT JEAN BLAIN FOR KAHNAWÀ:KE, JUNE 8, 1909

972c 10/25
DOMINION OF CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

1909

PRINTED BY ORDER OF PARLIAMENT



OTTAWA
PRINTED BY C. H. FARMER, PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST
EXCELLENT MAJESTY
1909

[No. 27—1910.]

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,

IRROQUOIS OF CAUGHNAWAGA,

MONTREAL, June 8, 1909.

FRANK FIDELL, Esq.,

Deputy Supt. General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report in regard to the Caughnawaga agency for the year ended March 31, 1909.

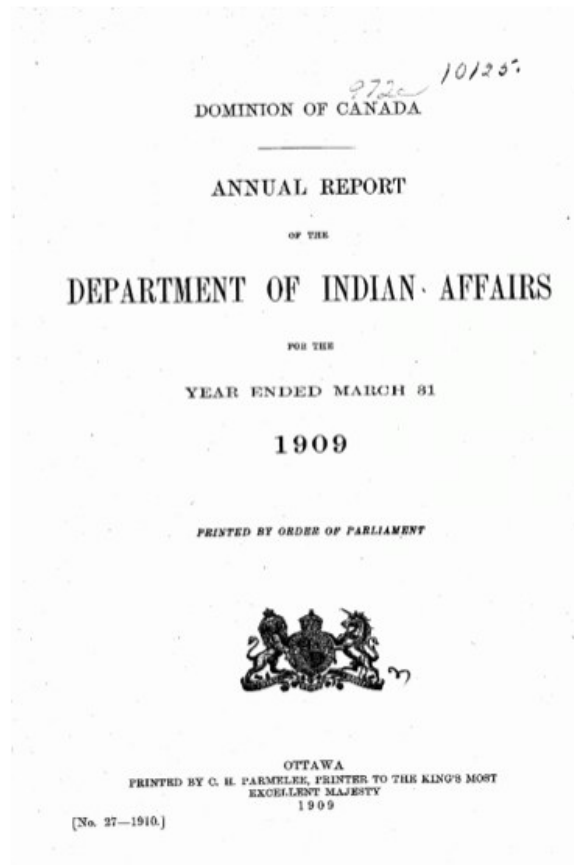
Reserve.—The Caughnawaga reserve is distant about 9 miles from Montreal on the south shore of the St. Lawrence river, and contains an area of a little more than 12,000 acres.

Vital Statistics.—The population, exclusive of whites, is 2,189. The band is decreasing owing to an excessive death-rate among children; over 80 died of scarlet fever last summer. Dr. Bryce, acting for the department, did effective work in stopping this epidemic.

Health.—The Indians are in fairly good health; the trouble is that there are too many deaths among the children. This increasing mortality could, to some extent, be prevented by the spread of the principles of hygiene.



REPORT OF CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER PETER H. BRYCE FOR KAHNAWÀ:KE, JUNE 8, 1909



REPORT OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
OTTAWA, JUNE 30, 1909.

FRANK PEDLEY, Esq.,
Deputy Supt. General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I beg to present my fifth annual report as chief medical officer of the department, being for the fiscal year 1908-9.

The year has been marked by no widespread epidemic of acute-contagious disease, but small-pox obtained during the winter a serious hold in the bands of Central Vancouver island, and was stamped out after prompt and effective measures were taken by officers of the department. The type of disease was fortunately mild, and no deaths occurred. The total number of cases reported was: Nanaimo district, 17, and Cowichan district, 89; a total of 106. One case occurred on the Six Nation reserve, where, owing to the new hospital grounds being equipped with a separate tent for contagious disease, its prompt isolation and vaccination of the exposed families limited the disease to the single case. On the Restigouche reserve, in Quebec, an outbreak of a mild nature occurred. Prompt action limited the epidemic to some 25 cases, and fortunately no fatalities resulted. Other outbreaks of acute communicable disease occurred at different places, the most fatal of these being on the Caughnawaga reservation. Owing to the unfortunate delay in notifying the department, an outbreak of measles, beginning in July, was allowed to gain such headway that in all some 100 cases had occurred, and 50 deaths resulted before action for its suppression was taken. The mortality of the outbreak was excessive, the total, as seen

REPORT OF CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER PETER H. BRYCE FOR KAHNAWÀ:KE, JUNE 8, 1909

cases, and fortunately no fatalities resulted. Other outbreaks of acute communicable disease occurred at different places, the most fatal of these being on the Caughnawaga reservation. Owing to the unfortunate delay in notifying the department, an outbreak of measles, beginning in July, was allowed to gain such headway that in all some 100 cases had occurred, and 50 deaths resulted before action for its suppression was taken. The mortality of the outbreak was excessive, the total, as seen from the above figures, being very high. So soon as notified, the department established a temporary hospital with a trained nurse in charge, and at once removed, through the activity of the medical officer, the remaining cases found on the reserve, some 25 in number, in most cases where the children were small, the mothers going in as well. Within two months thereafter the outbreak was suppressed, there being but one fatal case occurring in hospital.





RECORDING CHILD DEATHS



Sample Catholic
Church Records:
Births,
Marriages,
Deaths & Burials

REGISTER PRESENTED BY
REV. FATHER SAMUEL
GRANGER, PRIEST, CURATE
OF THE PARISH OF SAULT
ST. LOUIS CAUGHNAWAGA
IN THE COUNTY OF
LAPRAIRIE... FOR THE
RECORDING OF BAPTISMS,
MARRIAGES, AND BURIALS
THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE
SAID PARISH DURING THE
YEAR ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND EIGHT.

36
Registre présenté par Rév. Père
Samuel Granger Prêtre, Curé de la Paroisse de
Sault St. Louis Caughnawaga
dans le Comté de La Prairie
Contenant rente six — feuillets,
celui-ci y compris, pour servir à l'enregistrement des actes de
Baptême, Mariage et Sépulture qui se feront dans la dite
Paroisse pendant l'année — Mil neuf cent
huit
Donné et Scellé à Montréal — sous
notre seing et le sceau de la Cour Supérieure
du Bas-Canada, dans le District de
Montréal — par et en vertu de l'article treize
cent onze du Code de Procédure civile du Bas-Canada et
des articles quarante-deux et quarante-deux A, qua-
rante-deux B, quarante-deux C, et quarante-cinq du
Code Civil du Bas-Canada
Montréal ce dix sept Octobre mil neuf cent
sept.
J. Champagne
Séputé P. D.

III. Sépultures			
(enfants)	A	Aientomis Marie-Joseph	26
		Bionvisere Julia Anne	22
		Akwirakenhiathe Elizabeth	3
		Anenhrente Joseph	25
		Anenharoten Anne	15
		Arakwation Joseph	12
		Arakwente Jean-Baptiste	12
		Arivakeron Anne	3
		Aronhiaritha Maria	19
		Aronhiatis Francois-Pierre	9
		Aronhiotas Louisa	12
		Atenhartha Francois	4
		Atiatonenti Marguerite	25
		Atiatonenti Thomas	19
		Atihentoko Jean	18
	B	Boyer Marie-Anne	25

SÉPULTURES (ENFANTS)

BURIALS (CHILDREN)

Dixième annexe feuille 3		
Sépultures d'enfants (suite)		
C	Canadien Joseph.	25
I.	Illégitime François Xavier.	24
K	Kahakenhiati Marie Charlotte	18
	Kahenbinto Marie Joseph	13
	Kahrakontio Marguerite	18
	Kanawato Marie Jeanne	6
	Kanerahtati Jean Baptiste	22
	Kanerahtati Marguerite	21
	Kanietanoron François Xavier	5
	Kamietohare Jacques	18
	Kamietohare Joseph	26
	Kanowehon Marie Joseph	8
	Karakohare Marie	27
	Karonhiaktati Anne	19
	Katsienhoton Michel	23
	Kentaratiron Guillaume	9
	Konwatsitaianni Marguerite	11
M	M ^c Comber Catherine	24
	M ^c Comber Louisa	24
	Meloche Anonyme	1
N	Nikanatasha Ignace	18
	Nikanatasha Pierre	17
O	Onasakemat Louis	19
	Oniarahté Pierre	7
	Oute Louis	3
	Oronhiatekha Anonyme	27
	Oronhiavento Jean	28
	Oronhiavento Louise	19
	Oronhiavento Marie	21
	Outeiakomat Ignace	24
	Outeiakomat Marie	22
	Outeiakoten Marie Louise	7
	Ovenmatekha Ignace	14
	Ovistateken François Xavier	20
	Ovistateken Thomas	12
R.	Rakomienstha Agnès	17
S	Sakoiatentha Joseph.	16

Sépultures d'enfants (suite.)		
S.	Sakoronakotats Jean Baptiste	18
	Satchoronsies Jean Baptiste	24
	Shawemattor Marie	26
	Skahetati Alexandre	23
	Skantitien Louis	4
	Skaronhiati Thomas	20
	Skaronhiati Marguerite	20
	Skatsienhati Marie Anne	20
	Soherese Agathe	25
T.	Tachiaronsere Eugene	17
	Tachiaronsere Marie	18
	Taientaneken Louis	4
	Tarontentha Louis	17
	Taventene Anne	25
	Tchassemontie Louis	2
	Tchatie Joseph	10
	Tchavemontie Marie	25
	Tchoumwahe Anne	6
	Tchoumwahe Cecilia	6
	Tchouwatichenho Louis	24
	Tchakomwensere Pierre	13
	Tchahorelontie Ignace	14
	Tchameratanek Louis Alphonse	21
	Tchameratanek Louis	14
	Tchameratensere Jean Baptiste	19
	Tchkaronhiacke Louis	19
	Tchkaronhiaketen Louis	16
	Thawenrate Anne	27
	Thonahokathe Michel	7
	Thorakwanente Marguerite	15
	Tiohatekwen Louisa	20
	Tiohatekwen Maria	21
	Tiousawetes Elisabeth	16
	Tiousawetes Joseph	14
	Tsiowirate Joseph.	23

882 sepult. d'enfants.
L. H. Branger. 1893

EXAMPLES OF REGISTRY ENTRIES FOR CHILD BURIALS

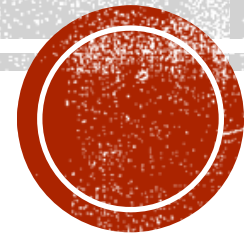
S. 47.
Marie
Oronhiarvente. L. S. Branger, s. J.
Le neuf octobre, mil neuf cent huit, nous soussigné,
missionnaire de la Compagnie de Jésus, avons inhumé
dans le cimetière de cette mission le corps de Marie
fille légitime de Thomas Oronhiarvente et de Anne
Kaiseritron, décédée le ~~sept~~ courant, âgée de cinq
ans. Étaient présents Joseph Mc Gregor et Pierre
Karonhies qui n'ont su signer. Lecture faite.
M. 10 L. S. Branger, s. J.

S. 49. a déclaré ne savoir signer. Lecture faite.
Jean-Baptiste L. S. Branger, s. J.
Kaneraktatie
Le quatorze octobre, mil neuf cent huit, nous
soussigné missionnaire de la Compagnie de Jésus
avons inhumé dans le cimetière de cette mission, le
corps de Jean-Baptiste, fils légitime de François Kaneraktatie et de Marie Anne Kakerirakes, décédée
avant-hier, âgée de trois ans et demie. Étaient présents
Joseph Kanatashare et Pierre Karonhies qui n'ont
su signer. Lecture faite.
S. 80 L. S. Branger, s. J.

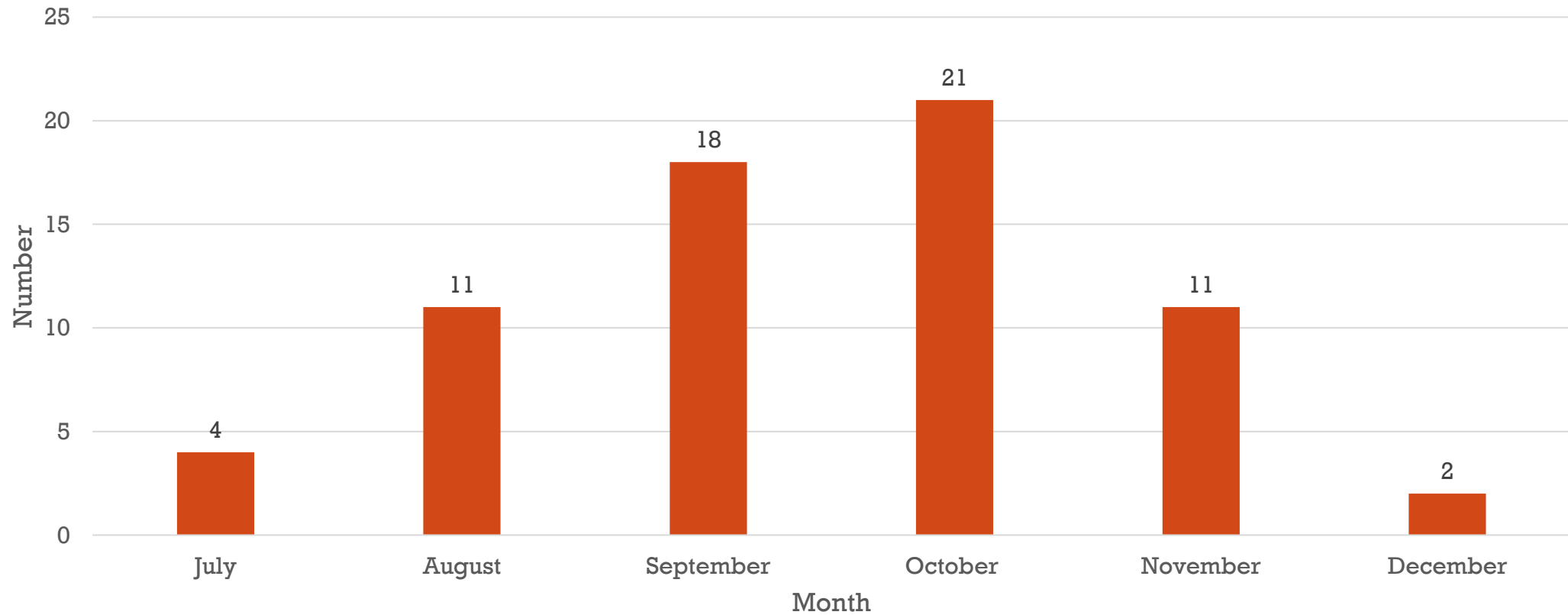


POPULATION STATS

Kahnawà:ke population, child death statistics



CHILD BURIALS IN THE PARISH OF LAC ST. LOUIS BY MONTH, JULY-NOVEMBER 1908

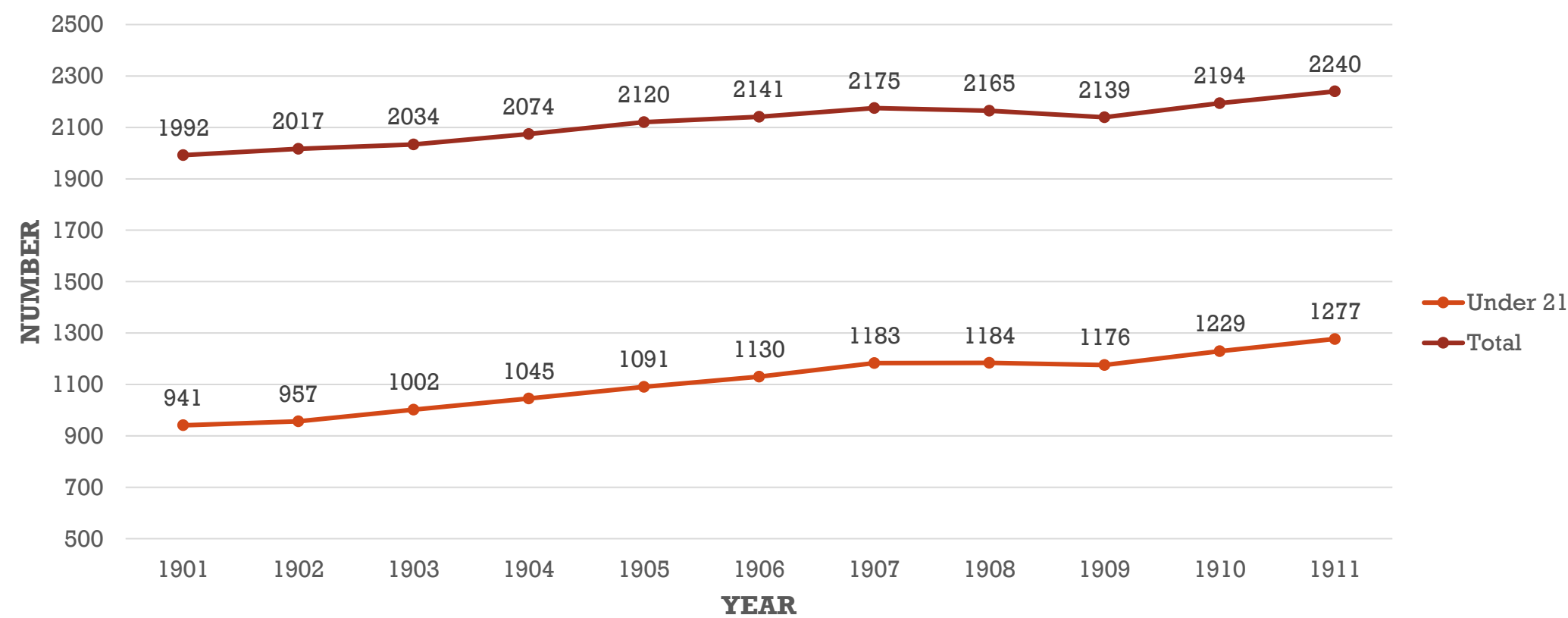


ESTIMATES OF CHILD DEATHS IN MEASLES EPIDEMIC OF 1908

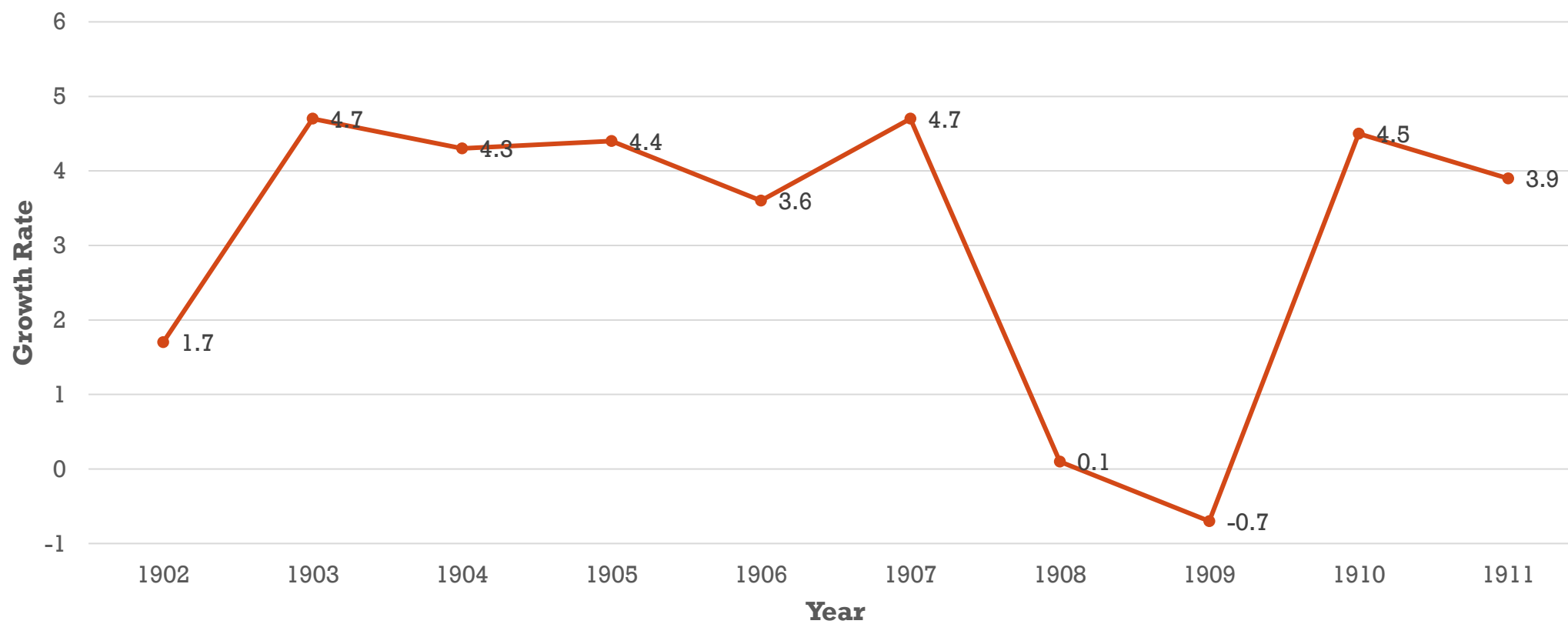
- Indian Agent Blain (DIA Annual Report):
 - “Excessive death rate among the children”
 - “Over 80”
- Chief Medical Officer Bryce:
 - “100 cases, 50 deaths before action... was taken”
 - “Mortality was excessive”
- Parish Registry (July-December 1908): 64
- Non-Parish (Methodist): 20+



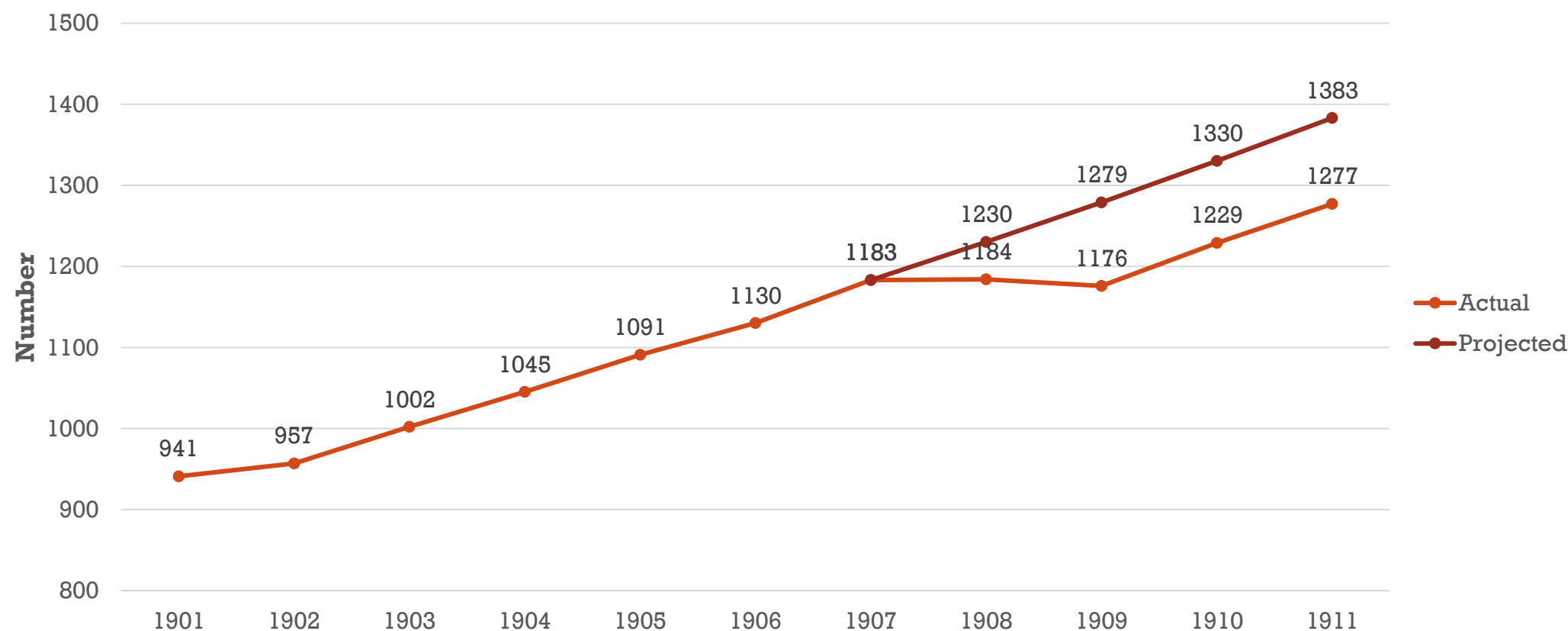
KAHNAWÁ:KE TOTAL & CHILDHOOD (UNDER 21) POPULATION, 1901-1911



KAHNAWÁ:KE CHILDHOOD (UNDER 21) POPULATION GROWTH RATE, 1902-1911



KAHNAWÁ:KE CHILDHOOD (UNDER 21 YEARS) POPULATION, ACTUAL & PROJECTED, 1901-1911



NAMES OF CHILDREN LOST IN 1909

Surnames cross-referenced in Forbes genealogy

PARISH OF SAULT ST. LOUIS-CAUGHNAWAGA

KAHNAWA:KE CHILD BURIALS, JULY-DECEMBER 1908

Surname	Kanienkeha	First	Father		Mother	
<i>Beauvais</i>	Nikanatasha	Ignace	Nikanatasha	Jean-Baptiste	Konwanatonion	Therese
<i>Beauvais</i>	Nikanatasha	Pierre	Nikanatasha	Jean-Baptiste	Konwanatonion	Therese
<i>Bourdeau</i>	Katsienhoton	Michel	Katsienhoton	Ignace	Awenhoken	Anne
<i>Boyer</i>		Marie-Anne		Joseph	Kaneratitakhe	Louise
<i>Canadian</i>	Satehoronhies	Jean-Baptiste	Satehoronhies	Jean-Baptiste	Tekahawakwa	Marie
<i>Canadian</i>	Soherese	Agathe	Soherese	Louis		Marie Louise
<i>Canadian</i>	Tehasennontie	Louis	Tekahentake	Thomas	Atonwenstiiostha	Marie-Anne
<i>Canadien</i>	<i>Atihentonko</i>	Jean	Atihentonko	Joseph	Katsitsioronkwas	Anne
<i>Canadien</i>		Joseph	Ariwakennha	Jean	Karakwiio	Marie
<i>Cross the River</i>	Tekahnetontie	Ignace	Tekahnetontie	Joseph	Karhienentha	Marie



PARISH OF SAULT ST. LOUIS-CAUGHNAWAGA

KAHNAWA:KE CHILD BURIALS, JULY-DECEMBER 1908

Surname	Kanienkeha	First	Father		Mother	
<i>D'Ailleboust</i>	Anenharoten	Anne	Anenharoten	Alexandre	Karonhiakwas	Maria
<i>D'Ailleboust</i>	Aronhiaritha	Maria	Aronhiaritha	Jacob		Adelina
<i>D'Ailleboust</i>	Atiatonenti	Marguerite	Atiatonenti	Rene	Karenharonkwas	Marie
<i>D'Ailleboust</i>	Karonhiaktatie	Anne	Karonhiaktatie	Dominique	Konwanatense	Marie-Anne
<i>D'Ailleboust</i>	Orite	Louis	Orite	Joseph	Kanenharentha	Marie Rosalie
<i>D'Ailleboust</i>	Skaronhiati	Thomas	Skaronhiati	Jacques	Kawennakenre	Marie-Anne
<i>D'Ailleboust</i>	Tehatie	Joseph	Tehatie	Ignace		Alexina Rachel
<i>D'Ailleboust</i>	Tekanerataneken	Louis Alphonse	Skaronhiati	Jacques	Kawennakenre	Marie-Anne
<i>D'Ailleboust</i>	Tekaneratensere	Jean-Baptiste	Tekaneratensere	Ignace	Kahawinontie	Anne
<i>Dailleboust</i>	Sakorontaketats	Jean-Baptiste	Sakorontaketats	Joseph	Kakhasionkwas	Agathe



PARISH OF SAULT ST. LOUIS-CAUGHNAWAGA

KAHNAWA:KE CHILD BURIALS, JULY-DECEMBER 1908

Surname	Kanienkeha	First	Father		Mother	
<i>Decaire</i>	Taientaneken	Louis	Taientaneken	Thomas	Sateiokwen	Celina
<i>Deer</i>	Aronhiatis	Francois-Xavier	Aronhiatis	Thomas	Kanatanoron	Marie
<i>Deer</i>	Aronhiotas	Louisa	Aronhiotas	Joseph	Wasontiiostha	Marie
<i>Deer</i>	Skatsienhati	Marie-Anne	Skatsienhati	Joseph	Atonwentsine	Marie
<i>Deerhouse</i>	Anenhrente	Joseph	Anenhrente	Thomas	Tewatennihe	Agathe
<i>Deerhouse</i>	Thonahokathe	Michel	Thonahokathe	Pierre	Tewetha	Anne
<i>Delisle</i>	Kaneraktatie	Jean-Baptiste	Kaneraktatie	Francois-Xavier	Kakwirahes	Marie-Anne
<i>Delisle</i>	Kaneraktatie	Marguerite	Kaneraktatie	Francois-Xavier	Kakwirahes	Marie-Anne
<i>Goodleaf</i>	Sakoiatentha	Joseph	Sakoiatentha	Joseph	Takonwatonti	Therese
<i>Hill</i>	Kentaratiron	Guillaume	Kentaratiron	Francois-Xavier		Mary



PARISH OF SAULT ST. LOUIS-CAUGHNAWAGA

KAHNAWA:KE CHILD BURIALS, JULY-DECEMBER 1908

Surname	Kanienkeha	First	Father		Mother	
<i>Hill</i>	Tehoionwake	Anne	Tehoionwake	Louis		Angelique
<i>Hill</i>	Tehoionwake	Cecilia	Tehoionwake	Louis		Angelique
<i>Jacco</i>	Shawennatson	Marie Joseph	Shawennatson	Jean-Baptiste	Tekahentakwa	Marie
<i>Jacco</i>	Tiohatekwen	Louisa	Tiohatekwen	Louis	Takaierente	Cecile
<i>Jacco</i>	Tiohatekwen	Maria	Tiohatekwen	Louis	Tekaierente	Cecile
<i>Jacobs</i>	Kanonwehon	Marie-Joseph	Ositakehte	Michel	Kanakoretha	Marie
<i>Jacobs</i>	Oronhiawente	Jean	Oronhiawente	Thomas	Kaieriton	Anne
<i>Jacobs</i>	Oronhiawente	Louise	Oronhiawente	Thomas	Kaierithon	Anne
<i>Jacobs</i>	Oronhiawente	Marie	Oronhiawente	Thomas	Kaierithon	Anne
<i>Jacobs</i>	Skahetati	Alexandre	Skahetati	Ignace	Tierente	Cecilia



PARISH OF SAULT ST. LOUIS-CAUGHNAWAGA

KAHNAWA:KE CHILD BURIALS, JULY-DECEMBER 1908

Surname	Kanienkeha	First	Father		Mother	
<i>Kane</i>	Konwatsitsiaienni	Marguerite	Karenhoton	Jacques	Konwaronhio	Marie
<i>Lahache</i>	Otsitsiateken	Marie-Louise	Otsitsiateken	Leon	Kahentiaks	Agathe
<i>Laplume</i>	Akwirakenhiathe	Elizabeth	Akwirakenhiate	Michel	Kariwaienhne	Catherine
<i>Lazare</i>	Tarontentha	Louis	Tarontentha	Joseph	Tekaionwaretha	Marie
<i>Leborgne</i>	Aionwisere	Julia Anne	Aionwisere	Mathias	Kawennaiesen	Therese
<i>Leborgne</i>	Thawenrate	Anne	Thawenrate	Louis	Konwaionse	Marie Anne
<i>Mailloux</i>	Tehonwatihentho	Louis	Tehonwatihentho	Ignace	Kahentaronkwas	Marie
McComber		Catherine		Jacques	Owennokon	Marie
McComber		Louisa		James	Owennokon	Marie
<i>McComber</i>	Tekahonwensere	Pierre	Tekahonwensere	Joseph	Kahentaronkwas	Marie



PARISH OF SAULT ST. LOUIS-CAUGHNAWAGA

KAHNAWA:KE CHILD BURIALS, JULY-DECEMBER 1908

Surname	Kanienkeha	First	Father		Mother	
Meloche		Anonyme		Louis Dalifa		Angelie
Montour	Owistateken	Thomas	Owistateken	Michel	Oronhioken	Agathe
Montour	Tsionsawetes	Elizabeth	Tsionsawetes	Ignace	Konwarwennawi	Anne
Montour	Tsionsawetes	Joseph	Tsionsawetes	Ignace	Konwawennawi	Anne
Peterson	Kahrakontie	Marguerite	Kahrakontie	Joseph	Kaniawinon	Marie
Phillips	Kahentente	Marie-Joseph	Tiohatekwen	Francois-Xavier	Atonwentsison	Catherine
Regis	Arakwatiron	Joseph	Arakwatiron	Laurent	Konwarasenni	Franciose
Rice	Owennatekha	Ignace	Karontatsi	Onesime	Kahentenhawe	Rosina
Rice	Owistateken	Francis-Xavier	Owistateken	Jean-Baptiste	Tioronse	Angelique
Stacey	Atiatonenti	Thomas	Atiatonenti	Louis	Karonhiahente	Marie



PARISH OF SAULT ST. LOUIS-CAUGHNAWAGA

KAHNAWA:KE CHILD BURIALS, JULY-DECEMBER 1908

Surname	Kanienkeha	First	Father		Mother	
<i>Stacey</i>	Skaronhiati	Marguerite	Skaronhiati	Pierre	Katsitsienhawi	Louise
<i>Walker</i>	Kanawato	Marie Jeanne	Kanawato	Jean Baptiste	Onenkwirohon	Marie
<i>White</i>	Ariwakeron	Anne	Ariwakeron	Jacques	Kawennison	Agathe
<i>Williams</i>	Taetsiaronsere	Eugene	Taetsiaronsere	Jean-Baptiste	Oronhienhawi	Marguerite
<i>Williams</i>	Taetsiaronsere	Marie	Taetsiaronsere	Jean-Baptiste	Oronhienhawi	Margeurite
<i>Zachary</i>	Karakohare	Marie	Karakohare	Pierre	Kahnetenhawi	Scholastique
????	Aientonnis	Marie-Joseph	Aientonnis	Pierre	Kasennaronkwas	Marie
????	Arakwente	Jean-Baptiste	Arakwente	Joseph	Kanonsakenheion	Cecile
????	Atenharha	Francois	Atenharha	Ignace	Katsitsiaienhne	Marie Joseph
????	Illegitime	Francios-Xavier	Unknown		Unknown	



PARISH OF SAULT ST. LOUIS-CAUGHNAWAGA

KAHNAWA:KE CHILD BURIALS, JULY-DECEMBER 1908

Surname	Kanienkeha	First	Father		Mother	
????	Karhakenhiate	Marie Charlotte	Karhakenhiate	Alexis	Katenies	Marie-Jospeh
????	Kanietanoron	Francois-Xavier	Kanietanoron	Ignace	????	Louise
????	Kanietohare	Jacques	Kanietohare	Jean-Baptiste	Watsenisaks	Louise
????	Kanietohare	Joseph	Kanietohare	Jean-Baptiste	Watsenisaks	Louise
????	Onasakenrat	Louis	Onasakenrat	Pierre	Kanerataronkwas	Anne
????	Oniarakehte	Pierre	Oniarakehte	Jacques	Karakwentha	Anne
????	Oronhiatekha	Anonyme	Oronhiatekha	Jean-Baptiste	Wasontiio	Anne
????	Otsitsiakenrat	Ignace	Otsitsiakenrat	Jean-Baptiste	Karonhienhawe	Cecile
????	Otsitsiakenrat	Marie	Otsitsiakenrat	Michel	Konwasennakwen	Sarah
????	Rakonnienstha	Agnes	Rakonnienstha	Thomas	Skawennetsi	Beatrice



PARISH OF SAULT ST. LOUIS-CAUGHNAWAGA

KAHNAWA:KE CHILD BURIALS, JULY-DECEMBER 1908

Surname	Kanienkeha	First	Father		Mother	
????	Skanatatihen	Louis	Skanatatihen	Jean-Baptiste	Konwarontiaki	Marie-Joseph
????	Tawentene	Anne	Tawentene	Francois-Xavier	Wahienhawi	Cecile
????	Tehawennontie	Marie	Tehawennontie	Michel	Onentsiaieshon	Anne
????	Tekanerataneken	Louis	Tekanerataneken	Ignace	Kawennisakhe	Martha
????	Tekaronhiake	Louis	Tekaronhiake	Louis	Kahentaronnion	Agathe
????	Tekaronhianeken	Louis	Tekaronhianeken	Paul	Kahentoktha	Madeleine
????	Thorakwanente	Maguerite	Thorakwanente	Thomas	Wahiaronkwas	Monique
????	Tsiowirate	Joseph	Tsiowirate	Joseph	Kaientison	Marie
????	Skanatatihen	Louis	Skanatatihen	Jean-Baptiste	Konwarontiaki	Marie-Joseph
????	Tawentene	Anne	Tawentene	Francois-Xavier	Wahienhawi	Cecile



**WHY AND HOW DID
THIS HAPPEN?**



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Quebec Bridge disaster of 1907
 - Psychological trauma and social stress
 - Increased biological susceptibility to disease
 - Impact on health-relevant decision-making
 - Economic consequences
 - Loss of income in affected households
 - Compromised ability to respond to spread of disease



FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE EPIDEMIC OF 1908

- **Economic recession**

- Financial panic in US beginning in 1907
- Spreads to Canada in 1908
 - Sharp decline in building and construction trades
 - High level of unemployment in Kahnawà:ke
 - “Work was exceedingly scarce this past year and many suffered on that account”

– J. Blain, DIA Annual Report for Year Ended March 31, 1909)





BLAMING THE VICTIM

- Indian Agent Blain suggests Kahnawa'kehró:non are responsible for the epidemic
- “The increasing mortality could, to some extent, be prevented by the spread of the principles hygiene”
- Up to this point in time, Kahnawá:ke had a commendable public health record.

A PREVENTABLE TRAGEDY

- Agent Blain oblivious or incompetent
- Dr. Bryce in the annual report of 1909:
 - Kahnawà:ke had the "most fatal" outbreak in 1908
 - Excessive mortality

"Owing to the unfortunate delay of notifying the department, an outbreak of measles, beginnning in July, was allowed to gain such headway that in all some 100 cases had occurred and 50 deaths had resulted before action for it's suppression was taken."



IN CONCLUSION...

Bridge disaster & measles epidemic significantly impacted Kahnawà:ke's population

Strength of Kahnawa'kehró:non, especially the women to get the community through these dark times

Lack of empathy & compassion of DIA

This is a developing story/project

We welcome feedback & stories from Kahnawa'kehró:non

Niawen'kó:wa

- The Eastern Door
- KORLCC for use of the space
- Kahnawa'kehró:non for supporting our work
- Slides will be posted on shewalksabout.com

