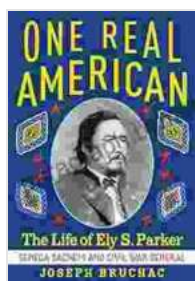


The Life of Ely Parker: Seneca Sachem and Civil War General

In the annals of American history, the name Ely Parker stands as a testament to the resilience, bravery, and unwavering spirit of the Seneca people. From his humble beginnings in the heart of Iroquois territory to his rise as a respected Civil War general and advocate for Native American rights, Parker's life is a tapestry woven with adversity, triumph, and enduring legacy.

Early Life and Education

Ely Samuel Parker was born on October 19, 1828, in Ga-no-wa-ga, a Seneca village on the Cattaraugus Reservation in New York. His Seneca name, Ha-sa-no-an-da, translates to "Door Opener", a symbolic nod to his future role as a bridge between Native American and European cultures.



One Real American: The Life of Ely S. Parker, Seneca Sachem and Civil War General by Joseph Bruchac

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 15258 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 208 pages
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported

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Parker's early years were shaped by the traditional Seneca way of life, instilling in him a deep respect for nature, community, and the pursuit of knowledge. In 1839, at the age of eleven, he was sent to an Indian mission school in Pennsylvania, where he excelled in his studies and developed a thirst for Western knowledge.

Military Career

Parker's destiny took a dramatic turn with the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. Despite facing prejudice and racism, he determinedly joined the Union Army, believing it was his duty to defend the nation that had wronged his people.

His military acumen and leadership skills quickly caught the attention of his superiors, and in 1863, Parker was appointed as an aide-de-camp to General Ulysses S. Grant. In this role, he proved to be an invaluable asset, serving as a trusted advisor and interpreter, and demonstrating exceptional bravery in battle.

Parker's most significant contribution came at the historic surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House in 1865. As Grant's adjutant, Parker drafted the terms of the surrender, forever etched his name in the annals of military history.

Post-War Advocacy

After the war, Parker dedicated his life to improving the lives of his people. He worked tirelessly as a commissioner on the Board of Indian Commissioners, advocating for the rights and land claims of Native Americans. His efforts were instrumental in the establishment of the Indian

Peace Commission, which sought to resolve conflicts between the United States government and various tribes.

Parker's deep knowledge of both Native American and Euro-American cultures enabled him to effectively negotiate on behalf of his people. He played a pivotal role in the drafting of the 1871 Indian Appropriations Act, which granted tribes greater control over their affairs and resources.

Personal Life

Beyond his military and diplomatic achievements, Parker was a devoted family man. In 1855, he married Charlotte Dickerson, a member of the Tuscarora tribe. Together, they raised two children, a daughter named Maud and a son named Ely Jr.

Parker's home in Wisconsin became a meeting place for Native American leaders and allies. He was known for his hospitality, his unwavering support for his community, and his commitment to preserving Seneca traditions.

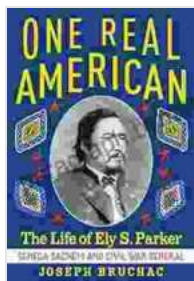
Legacy

Ely Parker passed away on August 31, 1895, at the age of 66. His legacy continues to inspire and motivate generations of Native Americans and Americans alike. He was the first Native American to hold the rank of general in the United States Army, and his tireless advocacy for his people left an enduring mark on the nation's history.

In recognition of his extraordinary life and contributions, numerous monuments, schools, and organizations bear his name. His image adorns the Buffalo nickel, a testament to the lasting impact of his unwavering spirit and his enduring legacy as a Seneca sachem and Civil War general.

The life of Ely Parker is a testament to the human capacity for triumph over adversity. From his humble beginnings to his rise as a respected military leader and advocate for his people, Parker's journey is a reminder of the power of perseverance, courage, and the enduring human spirit.

Through his extraordinary life, Ely Parker not only served his country with honor but also opened doors for generations to come. His unwavering advocacy for Native American rights and his dedication to preserving indigenous traditions continue to inspire and guide the path towards a more just and equitable society for all.



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