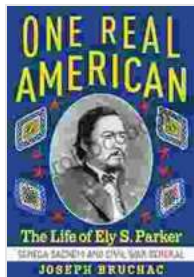


The Life of Ely Parker: Seneca Sachem and Civil War General



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



In the annals of American history, Ely Parker stands as an extraordinary figure, a Native American leader who defied adversity and rose to prominence as both a Seneca Sachem and Civil War General. His life, marked by unwavering determination, courage, and a deep commitment to his people, is a testament to the resilience and indomitable spirit of the Native American community.

Early Life and Tribal Leadership

Born on a Seneca reservation in New York in 1828, Ely Parker was destined for greatness from a young age. As a member of the Wolf Clan, he exhibited exceptional leadership qualities and was chosen to serve as Sachem, the paramount chief of the Seneca Nation. In this role, he led his

people through a period of significant transition, advocating for their rights and preserving their cultural heritage.

Parker's diplomatic skills and fluency in both Seneca and English proved invaluable during negotiations with the United States government. He played a pivotal role in securing land rights and fostering understanding between the Seneca Nation and the white settlers who were encroaching on their territory.

Civil War Service

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Ely Parker's patriotism and sense of duty led him to join the Union Army. His fluency in the Seneca language and his understanding of the terrain made him an indispensable translator and guide for General Ulysses S. Grant. Grant, recognizing Parker's exceptional abilities, appointed him as a military secretary, a position of great responsibility and trust.

Throughout the war, Parker distinguished himself on the battlefield. He served with distinction at the Battle of Vicksburg and was wounded at the Battle of Spotsylvania. His courageous actions earned him the respect of his fellow soldiers and commanders alike.

Historic Role in Appomattox Court House

One of the most significant moments in Ely Parker's career came at the end of the Civil War. As General Grant's aide-de-camp, Parker played a pivotal role in the surrender negotiations at Appomattox Court House. It was Parker who penned the terms of surrender that ended the bloody conflict between the Union and the Confederacy.

This historic document, written in Parker's elegant handwriting, bears witness to his intelligence, diplomatic skills, and the impact he had on the course of American history.

Post-War Career and Legacy

Following the Civil War, Ely Parker continued to serve his country. He was appointed as the first Native American Commissioner of Indian Affairs, where he advocated for the rights and well-being of all Native Americans. He also played a key role in the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian.

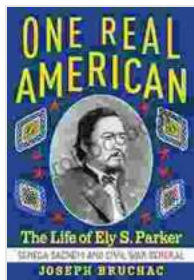
Ely Parker's legacy extends far beyond his lifetime. He remains a revered figure among the Seneca Nation and a respected symbol of Native American leadership. His story inspires generations of Native Americans and Americans alike, reminding us of the power of perseverance, diplomacy, and the enduring spirit of the human soul.

The life of Ely Parker, Seneca Sachem and Civil War General, is a captivating and inspiring tale of triumph over adversity. His unwavering commitment to his people, his exceptional leadership qualities, and his role in shaping American history make him a truly remarkable figure. Through his story, we gain a deeper understanding of the contributions Native Americans have made to our nation and the importance of embracing diversity and inclusion.

As we delve into the pages of "The Life of Ely Parker," we are transported back in time to witness the challenges and triumphs of an extraordinary man who left an indelible mark on our world. Through his unwavering determination, diplomatic skills, and unwavering courage, Ely Parker not

only made history but also changed the course of history for generations to come.

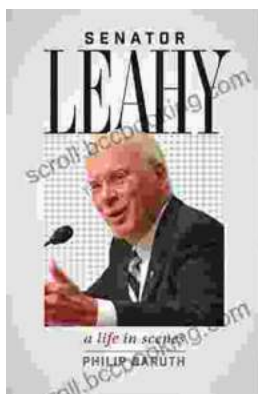
May Ely Parker's legacy continue to inspire us all to embrace the values of empathy, understanding, and the pursuit of a more just and equitable society.



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