

RED JACKET'S MEDAL: A SACHEM'S STORY

This is the story of ELY S. PARKER, a Seneca Indian born at the Tonawanda Reservation located in Genesee County, Western New York State. The fact that this Reservation, even though a fraction of its original dimensions when created at the Treaty of Big Tree in 1797 still exists as of the Twenty-first Century is in large part a tribute to his memory.

RED JACKET'S MEDAL refers to a large Medal given by George Washington to a renowned Seneca Orator and Chief in recognition of his role as a liaison between Native Americans and a newly established government of the United States. His designation as "Red Jacket" grew from his habit of wearing a bright red coat given him by the British in recognition of his service to Great Britain during the American Revolution.

Through his mother, Ely Parker was a Great Grand-nephew of Red Jacket. By virtue of this connection, the famous Medal eventually became the property of Ely who was also known by the appellation "DO-NE-HO-GA-WA" roughly translated as "KEEPER OF THE WESTERN DOOR OF THE IROQUOIS LONGHOUSE" when he was chosen to be "Grand Sachem of the Six Nations".

"SACHEM" was a title given to special leaders or "kings" of various North American Indian Tribes.

During his Adult Life, Ely Parker earned a number of distinctions as an Indian as well as an American though being denied many of the Rights accorded to U.S. Citizens. As such, his was an odyssey marked by passage through two

contrasting worlds while also denoting the merger of one into the other.

ACT I:

SCENE 1:

GEORGE WASHINGTON was Commander of the Continental Army and first President of the United States.

TIMOTHY PICKERING was U.S. Secretary of State from 1795-1800. In those years, Native American Tribes were considered to be "Foreign Nations" thus requiring his involvement in legitimizing Treaties.

RED JACKET was a Native American Seneca chief of the wolf Clan and Orator. In 1794, he was one of 52 Iroquois to sign the Treaty of Canandaigua which confirmed Peace with the U.S. as well as Iroquois acceptance of the 1788 Phelps and Gorham Purchase of Seneca land east of the Genesee River in Western New York State.

GENERAL HENRY KNOX was an American Revolutionary officer and Advisor to George Washington. He was U.S. Secretary of War from 1785 to 1794, during which time the main role of the War Department was securing Western Frontiers for American settlers particularly in the Northwest Territory where factions of Native Americans sought to block expansion of the new Nation. These insurgents were encouraged and aided by the British who continued to have interests in North America well beyond their recognition of sovereignty for the Thirteen original Colonies.

THE TREATY OF FORT STANWYX, 1784, established Peace