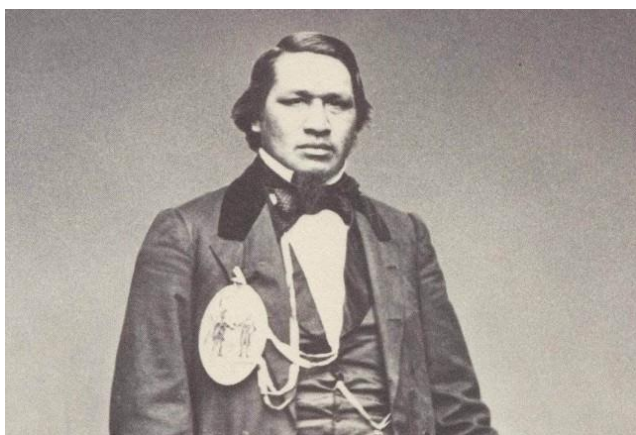


Name \_\_\_\_\_

You are a journalist for the Buffalo Gazette in the year 1895. Your newspaper job is to write obituaries, or newspaper stories about the life of a person who just died. The editor hands you a telegram he just received that says, "Hasanoanda or Ely S. Parker has just passed away at age 67." You have never heard of this person. Use information from the articles and the photos to learn about this person, and then write the obituary that will be published in the paper. Choose a photograph to be included with the article.



## Ely S. Parker

In 1828, Hasanoanda, which means "Leading Name", was born on the Tonawanda Seneca Reservation. His mother has been told before his birth that her son would be an important warrior as well as a peacemaker and that he would be important to both the Seneca culture and the white culture. Hasanoanda won a scholarship to attend a white school where he learned English and also choose a white name, Ely Samuel Parker, to use in addition to his Seneca name. Ely excelled at school and spoke and wrote excellent English. At age 14, he was chosen by the chiefs to be their translator and took notes whenever they had meetings with the government, so Ely traveled often to Albany and Washington, DC. One day in 1844 when Ely was 16, he met author Lewis Henry Morgan in Albany. Together they wrote a book about the Haudenosaunee culture that Ely lived. People still read this book today. Lewis Henry Morgan never gave much credit to Ely as being coauthor of the book.

Ely then started studying law on his own. At age 18, he passed the New York bar test to become a lawyer, but because he was Seneca, the New York government would not let him be a lawyer. Then Ely started studying on his own to learn civil engineering as he was working on the Erie Canal. He started working on the canal by digging ditches, but learned engineering quickly and had great ideas on how to improve the building of the canal that he soon became the head of the canal in the Rochester area.

In 1851, the clan mothers chose Ely to become a chief of the Seneca and he received the new name of Donehogawa, that means "Open Door". He lead treaty negotiations with the government that allowed the Seneca to buy back some of the land they had lost after signing many questionable treaties throughout the years.

When Ely was 29 years old, he moved to Illinois to supervise the construction of a large building. There he met Ulysses S. Grant who

became his best friend. When Ulysses S. Grant became a Union General during the Civil War, he chose Ely to become his Military Secretary, even though Native Americans were not allowed to serve in the military. Ely wrote the surrender for General Lee to sign and was present at the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse that ended the Civil War.

When Grant became President of the United States, he appointed Ely as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, a position where he could help Native Americans across the country. Ely was the first Native American to be appointed to that position. A white man who wanted the job told a lie about Ely and that forced him to resign the job. Ely was later proved innocent of the lie.

Ely married a white woman and moved to Connecticut where he and his wife had a daughter. He worked on Wall Street and made lots of money. After a while, he found himself broke when he lost the money he invested due to a stock market crash. He took a job as a desk clerk in charge of supplies with the New York City Police Department. He had been dehorned as a chief (his title was taken away) and he did not go back to visit the Seneca Nation too often. Ely died in Connecticut in 1895. His body was eventually brought to the Seneca homelands where he was buried next to his ancestors.

The prophecy of Ely's life had come true. He was a warrior and peacemaker for both the Haudenosaunee and the Amer

Ely and Daughter, Maud Theresa



Wife- Minnie



## Hasanoanda or Ely S. Parker Timeline

Born at the Tonawanda Seneca Reservation	1828	
	1835	Attends Baptist Mission School and adopts name of Ely S. Parker
Gets scholarship to attend Yates School where he becomes an excellent speaker, reader and writer of English.	1842	Chosen by the chiefs as their translator and scribe when dealing with NY and USA government officials
	1844	Meets Lewis Henry Morgan and together they start writing a book about the Haudenosaunee culture
Goes to Washington representing the Seneca Nation and has dinners with the President	1846	Passes the bar exam to become a lawyer but is not allowed to practice because he is Haudenosaunee
Starts work as civil engineer on Erie Canal	1850	
	1851	Becomes canal chief engineer of Rochester, book is published, and he becomes a chief of the Wolf Clan.
Negotiates treaty so Seneca Nation can buy back original land	1857	Moves to Illinois to supervise building project and meets Ulysses S. Grant
Joins General Grant's Staff	1863	
	1865	Writes the surrender that General Lee signs ending the Civil War
Becomes Commissioner of Indian Affairs	1869	
	1876	Clerk job at NYC Police Dept.
Dies after illnesses	1895	



**GENERAL ELY SAMUEL PARKER**  
**1828-1895**

**"DO-NE-HO-GA-WA"**

**GRAND SACHEM CHIEF**

**"KEEPER OF THE WESTERN DOOR OF THE LONG HOUSE OF THE IROQUOIS"**

Son of William and Elizabeth Parker, born in a log cabin overlooking the water-falls, at Indian Falls, N.Y., then part of the Tonawanda Indian Reservation. Volunteered into the army, and became General Grant's Military Secretary. He was instrumental in drafting the final terms of the Confederate Surrender at Appomattox Court House in Virginia on April 9, 1865.

On March 2, 1867, he was commissioned a Brigadier General in the regular army.

President Grant appointed him the first Commissioner of Indian Affairs on April 13, 1869. He died August 31, 1895, at Fairfield, Conn. His remains lie at rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, N.Y.

ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF PEMBROKE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

*Photo Credit: H.W. Fritze Jr.  
NYHistoric.com*

Ely S. Parker on the left      Gen. Grant in the middle

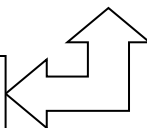


Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and four members of his staff photographed in Boston in the summer of 1865. *Left to right: Ely S. Parker; Adam Badeau; Grant; Orville E. Babcock; Horace Porter.* His sturdy frame and broad shoulders prompted Parker to call himself "a savage Jack Falstaff of 200 weight." *Lloyd Ostendorf Collection, Dayton, Ohio.*

*From 'Warrior in Two Camps' by Wm. H. Armstrong*



Ely S. Parker



## Planning Page for the Obituary

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth and death dates \_\_\_\_\_

Childhood events

Adult events

Why he is remembered

Death information

