



Name: Ely S. Parker

Years: 1828- 1895

Residence: Indian Falls, NY

Biography: Born into a Seneca family on the Tonawanda Indian Reservation he was named Hasanoanda. When he was baptized, his white name became Ely Parker. Parker excelled in school and became fluent in English. As a teenager, his reservation was threatened by land developers and he was invited to discuss the issues with President Polk. Parker saw the importance of law in his community leading him towards a career in law. Because of strict bar requirements, he was not able to do so. In 1857, he was appointed by the Treasury Department to lead the building of a hospital in Galena, Il. While working on the construction of the hospital, Parker met U.S. Grant and the two became close friends. By 1863, Parker was on Grant's personal staff and served as his military secretary. When Grant became president, Parker was appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs, he was the first Native American to hold this honor.

Major Accomplishments: Parker is most known for holding the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

More Information: *The Life of General Ely S. Parker* by Arthur Parker and <http://www.pbs.org/warrior/content/bio/ely.html>

Resources: National Park Service Museums Collection, [http://www.nps.gov/apco/learn/education/upload/Ely%20Parker-TWMC%20lesson%20plan%20\(revised\).pdf](http://www.nps.gov/apco/learn/education/upload/Ely%20Parker-TWMC%20lesson%20plan%20(revised).pdf)

By Elizabeth Wasserman