

PARKER, ELY SAMUEL.

A mixed-blood Seneca of the Wolf clan, son of Chief William Parker, whose wife was a descendant of a Huron captive; born on the Tonawanda res., N. Y., in 1828. His Seneca name was Sasanoanda, 'Coming to the Front,' but on receiving the official title Deionin, hoga, we (it holds the door open') when he became eighth chief of the tribe, he laid the other aside. Parker received an academic education studied law and civil engineering, and at the outbreak of the Civil War was employed as an engineer on a Government building at Galena, Ill., then the home of Ulysses S. Grant. A friendship sprung up between the two which continued after both joined the Union Army at the outbreak of the Civil War. Parker's distinguished service in the Vicksburg campaign led to his selection by Grant as a member of his staff. In May, 1863, he became assistant adjutant-general, with the rank of captain, and was afterward secretary to Gen. Grant until the close of the war. On Apr. 9, 1865, he became brigadier-general of volunteers; in 1866 ~~a first lieutenant of cavalry in the~~ a first lieutenant of cavalry in the United States Army, and on Mar. 2, 1867, captain, major, lieutenant-colonel, and brigadier-general. By reason of their intimate relations, as well as of Parker's excellent handwriting, Grant intrusted him while his secretary with both his personal and official correspondence. It was thus that at Lee's surrender Parker engrossed the articles of capitulation. Parker resigned from the army in 1869 to accept from President Grant an appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He retired in 1871, but subsequently held several positions under the city government of N. Y., and at the time of his death at Fairfield, Conn., Aug. 31, 1905, was connected with the police department. Gen. Parker was an intimate friend of Lewis H. Morgan, the ethnologist, and his efficient coworker, in preparing his "League of the Iroquois," first published in 1851. "The recognized authority and value of this book are due to the work of Parker, as well as to that of Morgan. As a sachem Parker had full knowledge of the institutions of his people and as a man of education and culture he had both the interest and ability to make those institutions known to civilized man as no ordinary interpreter could have done." Parker had a sister, Miss Caroline G. Parker (Gahano, 'Hanging Flower') and a younger brother, Nicholas, both of whom the General survived. Miss Parker (sometimes without reason, referred to as "Queen of the Senecas") married John Mountpleasant, a Tuscarora. Consult Morgan, League of the Iroquois, a new edition edited and annotated by Herbert M. Lloyd, N. Y. 1904