

**Arthur C. Parker**  
**1881 - 1955**

Dr. Parker was an internationally known scientist whose outstanding achievements brought him high honors in number that can be claimed for by few men. Over many years he had been acknowledged as the leading authority on aboriginal peoples of New York State. He also ranked among the leaders as an anthropologist, archaeologist, museologist, and historian.

He was born on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation, New York, on April 5, 1881. His great-uncle, Ely Samuel Parker, was military secretary to General Ulysses S. Grant. Dr. Parker's Iroquois name was "Gawasco Waneh," meaning "Talking Leaves".

He studied for the ministry for three years at Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport, PA, and then took up archaeology under Frederic Ward Putnam of Harvard University.

His professional positions included: assistant archaeologist at the American Museum of Natural History, 1900 – 1903; field archaeologist of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 1903; ethnologist of the New York State Library, 1904; state archaeologist and the New York State Museum, 1905-1924; director of Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1924-1945; director-emeritus of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1945-1955.

His public services included: New York State Indian Commissioner, 1919-1922; chairman of the Committee of One Hundred on Indian Affairs appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, 1923; vice-chairman of New York State Committee for the Conservation of Cultural Resources Planning Board; chairman, Speakers' Bureau, Rochester War Council; member of State Museum Advisory Council, Board of Regents of the State of New York; councilman, National Council of Boy Scouts of America; consultant on Indian Affairs, under Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge.

Dr. Parker was much sought as a lecturer and was a prolific writer, being credited with authorship of more than 350 books and monographs, mostly scientific; but including some children's works of historical background such as "Red Streak". His "A Manual for Historical Museums" was sponsored by the Carnegie Institute and is still in much use today. Many of his writings have been translated for use in foreign countries.

Hi died January 1, 1955 at his home in Naples, New York. He had moved there after his retirement due to the fact that it overlooked Canandaigua Lake and the site of Nunde-wah-oh, the place where he felt his Indian ancestors had lived.