

Six Nations Legacy Consortium

War of 1812

Deadliest Day of the War at Chippewa 1814



Transporting the Wounded by Seth Eastman from *The American Aboriginal Portfolio* by Mary Eastman, 1853, (1808-1878), USA, Chicago, Newberry Library

Only half of the Grand River fighting force will turn out to join John Norton's camp at Niagara Falls by late June, 1814. None of them are happy with the prospect of facing their brother Nations from the New York who were seeking revenge for the burning of the Tuscarora Nation in December 1813. U.S. Major General Jacob Brown combined his troops with a force of 500 Buffalo Creek warriors, including Seneca, Onondaga, Tuscarora and Oneida under the command of General Peter Porter and Seneca war chief Sagoyewatha (Red Jacket). They crossed over and quickly took Fort Erie. They then headed north to Chippewa, near Niagara Falls. It was there that Haudenosaunee warriors found themselves facing their relatives, in what turned out to be the deadliest day of the war for them. Sagoyewatha, who was in his 60s, led Seneca warriors against 200 Grand River warriors led by John Norton. Norton and his men came upon 87 of their kinsmen, nearly one third of their entire force, who were killed in the American-Seneca assault. The Senecas later counted 25 of their own dead and many others wounded. Oneida Chief Cornelius Doxtator was also killed that day. It turned out to be the most devastating day of the entire war, forcing the Haudenosaunee to reconsider their actions.