

# Six Nations Legacy Consortium

War of 1812

## Roy Buck on Battle of Stoney Creek

(O:gweho:weh is an Onondaga term for Native People)

*The Americans were moving closer to the King of England's people at Stoney Creek. The British became really scared. The O:gweho:weh were living close by. The British thought they might be able to help. A British scout went out and found them at Ononde:gih (Onondaga, Ontario) where they were living, where the Five Nations held their councils. The scout delivered the message that the British were being threatened by the Americans and they needed the help of the Five Nations.*

*The Confederacy Chiefs responded: "So what will happen, we will give this to the men. It's up to them as what they will do. What they may do. They might accept it or maybe not."*

*The scout retired so they could discuss his invitation and the O:gweho:weh were assembled. The Chief delivered the message of invitation but noted, "We do not go to war. It's up to you men as to what you do."*

*The men accepted the invitation as they felt it might not be good to let the Americans defeat the British. They might then turn on the O:gweho:weh and punish them. The men decided, "It is best we just keep guard. We will not fight. We'll just keep guard."*

*They brought together twelve men with the most "luck" (men of spiritual power). One of the men said: "Now we are ready to go there. We will go there to the edge of town where we will stop. What will happen is that I will holler three times. When I holler for the third time you will see fire starting all over, we will light it up. Then we will go down hill."*

*The scout returned to his camp and informed them that the O:gweho:weh were coming. He told them what to watch for and what to do when they heard the signals.*

*When the warriors arrived at the Escarpment, the leader hollered as he said. However, it was so loud that they could hear it all the way to the Niagara River. It made things get hot where every his voice went. The leader had the clearest, far reaching, loudest war cry, and that is why he said his voice would light everything up. The warriors then headed down the escarpment. Their "luck" made the Americans see an O:gweho:weh face everywhere and would shoot at these images everywhere they saw them on trees. This would allow the actual warriors to sneak around the front lines and capture the Americans and hold them for the British. Their plan was working and they were tightening the circle on the Americans who were running out of ammunition. That is when the war party leader told the British: "Now that's all we are able to do to help you. Now you can continue on."*

*That is when the King's soldiers became stronger because of the aid they were given. They were able to push the American back to where the border is today.*

(Buck, Roy, interview with Jim Sky, 1982, 15 1026.21, Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford, ON)