

Six Nations Legacy Consortium

War of 1812

Who Won the War?



A two-piece round snuff box of black-enamel, with a lacquered, transfer-image of four military figures and an Indian who oversees the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, while winged Victory hovers above. Britannia appears at the right in a subdued, minor role.

It is not important to us who won or lost the War of 1812. What is important is that we survived another war brought to us by our allies. In many regards, the horrific events of this war pushed our people to get back to what made us stronger than guns in the beginning – the use of the Good Mind to build consensus, strength and peace. We called upon our traditions to heal the horrors of war, wipe clean the bloodstain on the ground. We then picked up wampum belts to once more to renew our internal relationship. We strengthen our house. The house has become divided as we live within two different political realms that at times can still divide our loyalties. However, our leaders made the decision that no matter how difficult things might get, we will no longer allow it to tear us apart. We will not betray our law and traditions for the sake of pleasing the Crown or Uncle Sam. We have become one people again.