



Oronhyatehka

Burning Sky

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Oronhyatehka (Burning Sky), Mohawk, was born at Six Nations Reserve in 1841. Peter Martin, or “Dr. O”, as he is fondly remembered, was a Philanthropist and a significant, remarkable and prominent figure in Canadian history.

In early life, he developed good educational habits, spoke both Mohawk and English and maintained his strong cultural background, influence and values. At the age of 19, being raised in an oratorical tradition, Oronhyatehka evolved with great communication skills and charm; and in the tradition of the Haudenosaunee, it was most likely the Clan Mothers who designated him to deliver a welcome address to the visiting Prince of Wales (who later became King Edward VIII) and his Royal party. So impressed were they with his warm personality and outstanding speech, that they invited him to further his education at Oxford University where he attended for three years.

Upon his return to Canada, he married the great-granddaughter of Joseph Brant and they had two sons and a daughter. He completed and received his medical degree at University of Toronto in 1867 and was one of the first Aboriginal doctors in Canada. He practiced in Frankford, Stratford and London. From 1896 he lived on Carlton Street until his death on March 3, 1907. At his death, he lay in State at Massey Hall.

***So he died for his faith? That is fine - More than most of us do
But say, can you add to that line That he lived, for it, too?***

Ernest Crosby, Social Reformer and Writer



Oronhyatehka mural by Joseph Sagaj

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167 Gerrard Street E. Toronto ON M5A 2E4

Tel: (416) 591-2310 • Email: info@miziwebiik.com

www.miziwebiik.com