

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES LANGUAGE LESSON

May in North American Indian History by Phil Konstantin

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May 16th

• 1677: Mugg, an Arosaguntacook Indian Chief, dies in Black Point, Maine. At the outset of King Philip's war, Mugg attempted to arrange a peace treaty with the British. Instead they jail him for a short time, and gain a bitter enemy. He destroys much of Black Point, Maine in a raid on October 12, 1676. Later he captures a few ships and stages a brief naval war before his death.

• 1760: Creek warrior Chief Hobbythacco (Handsome Fellow) has often supported the English, but, at the outbreak of the Cherokee war, he decides to support the Cherokees. He leads an attack on a group of English traders in Georgia. Thirteen of the traders are killed during the fighting. Creek Chief "The Mortar" also participates in the fighting.

May 17th

• 1629: According to a deed, Sagamore Indians, including Passaconaway, sell a piece of land in what becomes Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

• 1673: Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet begin their expedition from the "Straights of Michilimackinac." Eventually, they explore much of the Mississippi River.

May 18th

• 1661: Captain John Odber is order by the Maryland General Assembly to take fifty men and go to the "Susqueshannough Forte." According to a treaty signed on May 16th, Maryland is required to help protect the Susquehannocks from raids by the Seneca. Odber's force is to fulfill that part of the treaty.

• 1839: General Alexander Macomb announces the peace terms with the Seminoles. The Seminoles are able to stay in Florida, if they remain near Lake Okechobee.

May 19th

• 1795: A treaty is signed between the Chippewa and the Canadian government. Second Lieutenant J. Givins represents the crown and several Chippewa Chiefs are present. It is signed at "York, in the Province of Upper Canada" (Penetanguishene, Ontario).

• 1796: Congress passes "An Act Making Appropriations for Defraying the Expenses Which May Arise in Carrying into Effect a Treaty Made Between the United States and Certain Indian Tribes, Northwest of the River Ohio."

May 20th

• 1493: A civil war battle among the Cakchiquel (Kaqchikel) Maya takes place today in Guatemala.

• 1702: Franciscans have established the Mission of Santa Fe de Toluca at one of the largest Timucua villages in northern Florida. Apalachicola Indians fight a battle with Spanish and Mission Indians. Both side lose a considerable number of fighters before the Apalachicolas finally gain the upper hand.

May 21st

• 1542: Hernando de Soto dies with a high fever in the village of Guachoyo, along the Mississippi River. Before his death, he appoints Luis de Moscoso to be his replacement. Fearing that the Indians might exhume his body, Moscoso has de Soto's body weighted down, and deposited in the Mississippi River.

• 1832: As a part of Black Hawk's War, a group of approximately fifty Potawatomis attack a settlement on Indian Creek near modern Ottawa, Illinois. Fifteen settlers are killed in the fighting. This is often called the "Indian Creek Massacre." This is also reported to have happened on May 20th.

May 22nd

• 1851: As one of the last conflicts in the "Mariposa Indian Wars" in California, a large group of Yosemite Indians are captured at Lake Tenaija.

• 1863: As a part of the "Owens Valley War" in California, Paiute Chief Captain George arrives at Camp Independence. He tells the soldiers the Paiutes want peace. This effectively ends the war.

May 23rd

• 1807: The Chickasaw Treaty of July 23, 1805 is publicly proclaimed.

• 1838: Under the provisions of the New Echota Treaty of December 29, 1835, this the deadline for Cherokees to emigrate to the Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma). Any Cherokees still east of the Mississippi River, after today, are force to leave. Only an estimated 2,000 Cherokees have emigrated to the Indian Territory by today's date, according to government estimates. General Winfield Scott is charged with removing the recalcitrant Cherokees. Many are forced from their homes at bayonet point. The illegal treaty is publicly proclaimed by President Jackson, two years ago, on this date.

May 24th

• 1513: While exploring the Gulf Coast of Florida. Ponce de Leon encounters Calusa Indians near Charlotte harbor. In a fight with the Calusa, de Leon captures four warriors.

• 1539: Mexican Viceroy Don Antonio de Mendoza has decided to send an expedition to search for wealthy cities north of Mexico. On March 7, 1539, Friar Marcos de Niza started the expedition from Culiacan. According to Niza's journal, he finally sees Cibola, although he never sets foot in the pueblo. His report will lead to future expeditions looking for the "Seven Cities of Gold."

May 25th

• 1637: "The Battle of Mystic": As a part of the Pequot war Mohegan Chief Uncas is leading approximately 100 Indian allies, but he is doubtful of the ability of Captains John Underhill and John Mason's seventy-seven Europeans to defeat the Pequots. Regardless, they attack a fortified Pequot village near modern Mystic, Connecticut before dawn. Few of the Pequot warriors are in the village, and the allies set fire to the dwellings. According to some accounts, as many as 700 old men, women and children are burned or shot to death. Only about a dozen Pequots in the village survive. Some sources say this happens on May 26th and June 5th.

• 1776: The United States Congress resolves that it would be "highly expedient" if they can engage Indians to fight on their side of the Revolutionary War.

May 26th

• 1540: The "Lady of Cofitachequi" has been taken with the de Soto expedition, against her will. With a large quantity of the pearls that de Soto's men took from her village, she escapes.

• 1728: According to some sources, a peace and friendship conference is held for two days between the representatives of the British in Pennsylvania and the Conestoga, Delaware, Potomac and Shawnee Indians.

May 27th

• 1607: Virginia has it's first significant battle between Indians and European settlers.

• 1847: The Oregon Country publication "The Spectator" has an article by its editor, George L. Curry. He blames much of the problems with the local Indians on their use of alcohol. He asks for better enforcement of the laws prohibiting the sale of "intoxicants" to Indians.

May 28th

• 1830: Andrew Jackson, called "Sharp Knife" by the Indians, has long fought the Indians of the southeast. He believes that the Indians and white settlers will not be able to peacefully live together. His solution to this is to renege on all of the previous treaties, which granted the Indians their lands forever, and to move all Indians west of the Mississippi River. Jackson makes this proposal to Congress during his First Congressional speech on December 8, 1829. Congress makes the proposal into a law on this date.

• 1851: One in a series of treaties is signed with California Indians at Dent's and Ventine's Crossings. The purpose of the treaty is to reserve lands for the Indians and to protect them from angry Europeans.

May 29th

• 1677: Pamunkey, Roanoke, Nottaway and Nansemond Tribes of the Powhatan Confederacy sign a treaty with the English in Virginia.

• 1876: The Interior Department is told to cooperate with the War Department so the military can round up the "hostiles" whenever they may appear on a reservation or an agency.

May 30th

• 1548: Juan Diego (Cuauhtlatotzin) is the Nahua who saw the apparition of the Virgin Mary on a hill called Tepeyacac in Mexico. The encounters took place between December 9th and 12th in 1531. He dies at the age of seventy-four.

• 1650: An ordinance is passed against the making of counterfeit, or "fake," wampum by the Directors of the Council of the New Netherlands. European manufacturers are producing the fakes, which are being used to pay Indians.

May 31st

• 1796: The Treaty of the Seven Tribes of Canada is signed by three Chiefs at New York City. The tribes give up all claims to lands in New York, except six square miles in Saint Regis. They are paid 1233 pounds, six shillings, and eight pence now, and 213 pounds, six shillings, eight pence annually, if five more Chiefs show up and sign the treaty.

• 1876: According to the San Diego Union, a San Diego California newspaper, there are disputes over land with the Campo Indians. "One Indian took refuge in the rocks . . . and continued firing. They soon discovered his whereabouts and silenced him, shooting him through the head, killing him instantly."



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