

Treaty: Original pages to be on display

(Continued from page 1)

Or stated another way: “The Indian problem,” says the tribes’ Louie Pitt, director of Governmental Affairs, “Is we are still here.”

June 25, 1855

The solution for the United States was a series of treaties with tribes throughout the region, including the Middle Bands of Oregon.

Regarding the Warm Springs confederation: The tribes held a General Council gathering, lasting several days, in June of 1855. Then on June 25 of that year—it was a Monday—tribal leaders met at the Treaty Oak with officials from the United States government.

On the tribal side were leaders from the Taih, Wyam, Tenino, and Dock-Spus Bands of the Walla-Walla; and the Dalles, Ki-Gal-Twal-La, and the Dog River Bands of the Wasco. Representing the United States was Joel Palmer, superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Oregon Territory.

At the Treaty Oak that Monday they signed the document: This involved the creation of the reservation, a tribally sovereign area of some 1,019 square miles; and

removal to the reservation of many Indians from their Columbia River homeland. The treaty reserved the tribal fishing, hunting and gathering rights on the traditional ‘ceded’ lands—some 10 million-plus acres—which had always existed.

The Treaty Conference

People of the River, People of the Salmon: Then, Now and Tomorrow (Wana Tblama-Nusuxmi Tanánma: E-Wab'-Cha'-Nye), a Treaty Conference in celebration of the Museum at Warm Springs’ Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, will happen Friday through Sunday, October 25-27.

The Treaty Conference, hosted by the museum, will focus on the 1855 Treaty, plus the establishment of the museum in 1993.

The event will conclude with an honoring of ‘Living Treasures,’ Warm Springs tribal citizens whose knowledge and commitment to perpetuating the cultural and heritage leave a legacy for future generations.

The Middle Oregon Treaty of 1855 Display will be on view from October 2 through November 3 at the museum.

The exhibit will include six pages of the original Middle Oregon

Washt Service as Treaty arrives

Join the Museum at Warm Springs this Saturday, September 29 for one Seven, as the tribes welcome the Treaty of 1855. Washt begins at 9 a.m. Tribal members can register at no cost for the Treaty Signing Conference. Find out more and register online at museumatwarmsprings.org/treaty-conference

Treaty of 1855 that established the Warm Springs Reservation.

The Treaty pages, on loan from the National Archives, were selected by museum archivist Evaline Patt.

“In 1993 the Museum at Warm Springs opened its doors as a living repository and center to perpetuate the culture and heritage of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs,” said museum board president Douglas Goe.

“The Treaty Conference is an important Museum Twenty-Fifth Anniversary event that will educate the public about tribal history, culture and heritage, and the Treaty that established the Warm Springs Reservation.”

Conference speakers and distinguished invited guests will include:

Warm Springs tribal leaders; tribal leaders and dignitaries representing the Native nations of the Columbia River and Pacific Northwest; Oregon local and state government officials; U.S. congressional members of the Or-

“I did not grant the Indians anything. They possessed the right to fish for thousands of years. The Treaties of 1855 simply reserved to the Indians the rights which they already possessed. They traded title to most of the land in the Northwest in return of their fishing rights. The Tribes negotiated long and hard not to be dispossessed of those rights.”

U. S. Federal Judge Robert J. Belloni, *U. S. v. Oregon*, 1979



Historic family photo, courtesy of the Museum at Warm Springs.

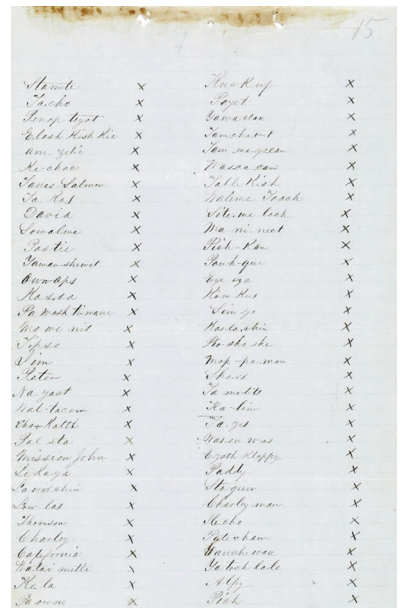
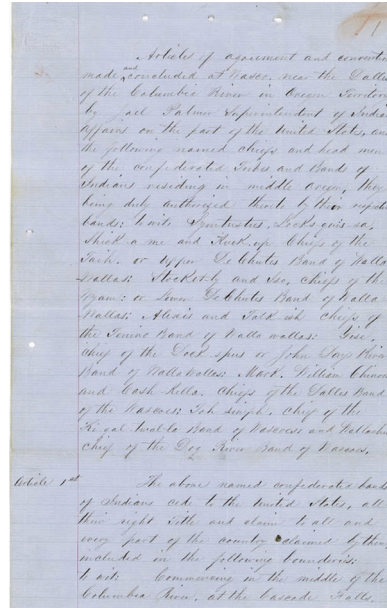


Photo image of the opening page (left) of the Treaty of 1855; and a signing page; courtesy The National Archives.

gon delegation; and prominent Native American attorneys, scholars, educators and cultural leaders.

The Treaty Conference will focus on the education of Warm Springs tribal children and citizens, as it pertains to their inheritance of Treaty right and responsibilities; a history of treaties and of Oregon tribes; informative panels for administrators of Oregon’s county and state governments and federal administrators of the Pacific Northwest region.

Additionally: To assist Oregon teachers and educators to understand treaties and the history of Oregon’s tribes for the mandate of teaching American Indian history in schools; and provide essential education for current and future Oregon citizens regarding tribal sovereignty and co-management of natural resources.

“Treaties are at the heart of indigenous governance, law and policy in the United States,” said Walter Echo-Hawk Sr. (Pawnee), Esq., who will be a main speaker at the Treaty Conference.

“So it is appropriate for this historic gathering at the Museum at Warm Springs to focus on those foundational documents made by our ancestors, often at great cost—including sacrifice on the field of battle—as expressions of the inher-

ent sovereignty of each Indian Nation.”

Mr. Echo-Hawk says: “These solemn agreements among nations are foundational political charters, because they brought Indian Nations into the Republic as sovereign governments under the protection of the United States.

“As the ‘supreme law of the land’ right down to the present day, the words in treaties define the political relationship between Indigenous nations and the United States, and set forth an inalienable and indefeasible body of rights, relationships, and responsibilities to guide that government-to-government relationship.”

As the Supreme Court has stated, when referring to these treaties, ‘Great Nations, like great men, must keep their word’—“What could be a more important topic than treaties to guide our discussions today?” asks Mr. Echo-Hawk

The Treaty Conference will be open to the general public and, especially, to those interested in tribal affairs. Registration is required.

The Conference is free to Warm Springs tribal citizens but will be capped at 100 attendees with registration first come, first served.

Total conference attendance will be capped at 300 with registration first come, first served. The registration fee for all three days of the conference is \$350 for non-tribal citizens (attendees). The registration fee includes meals. Lodging is not included in the fee.

To register online, visit museumatwarmsprings.org/treaty-conference/

Or: treatyconference.com
Or call Deb Stacona, museum development officer, 541-553-3331 ext. 405. Her email is: dstacona@museumatwarmsprings.org

The Treaty Conference is organized by the Museum at Warm Springs and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

The Treaty Conference, Treaty exhibit and associated programs are sponsored by Meyer Memorial Trust, Collins Foundation, the Oregon Community Foundation, the PGE Foundation, PGE Corporation, Samuel Johnson Foundation, Oregon Humanities, Siletz Tribal Charitable Fund, Roundhouse Foundation, among others. Co-Sponsors are the Oregon Historical Society, High Desert Museum, Confluence Project, Tananawit, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LRP and Karnopp Petersen LLP.



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