

TIMELINE *of* OHIO'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

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| <p>1600's</p> <p>Many of Ohio's original peoples leave the area due to epidemics of disease and campaigns by the Five Nations (Iroquois), who wipe out the Erie nation.</p> | <p>1700</p> <p>Early 1700's</p> <p>The Shawnee return to southern Ohio, joining small groups in western Ohio who haven't left (Miamis, Ottawas, Ojibwe). Bands of Wyandottes, Lenape (Delawares, Munsee), and Seneca-Cayuga immigrate to Ohio, after being forced off their ancestral lands. French and British traders compete in the fur trade.</p> | <p>1748 The Ohio Company</p> <p>A group of wealthy Virginians establish the Ohio Company, to secure land west of the Appalachian Mountains from the King and sell it to settlers. The British government grants them 200,000 acres of land near the headwaters of the Ohio.</p> <p>1749-50: de Bienville Expedition</p> <p>A force of 250 French troops led by Celeron de Bienville is sent to Ohio to reestablish friendship with the indigenous peoples and drive out the British. The French bury lead plates that claim ownership of the Ohio Country.</p> | <p>1754-63: French and Indian War</p> <p>Conflicting British and French claims to the Ohio Country, along with other tensions, ignite the French and Indian War.</p> <p>1763: Treaty of Paris</p> <p>The French give up all of their colonies and claims in North America to the British, with the exception of New Orleans.</p> | <p>1763: Royal Proclamation of 1763</p> <p>King George III prohibits colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, in part to safeguard alliances with Indigenous peoples. The Proclamation enrages many of the colonies. Virginia in particular views it as grounds for seeking independence. Virginia squatters ignore the Proclamation, led by Daniel Boone, while others trickle into Ohio from Pennsylvania.</p> | <p>1763-1766: Pontiac's Rebellion</p> <p>Insulted by British practices and claims of sovereignty over the region, a confederation of tribes led by Ottawa leader Pontiac attacked settlements and forts, destroying eight of them and laying siege to Fort Detroit and Fort Pitt.</p> <p>1764: Bouquet's Expedition</p> <p>Colonel leads a 1500 man force into Ohio to destroy Indigenous villages. Lenape, Shawnee, and Seneca-Cayuga groups capitulate. Bouquet requires the return of all captives taken by the groups.</p> | <p>1768: Treaty of Fort Stanwix</p> <p>A treaty with the Six Nations, who claim authority over the Ohio Country and Kentucky, and the peoples who live there. The Proclamation line is moved westward, and the Six Nations cede Kentucky to Virginia. None of the peoples who actually live and hunt in the ceded areas are represented. They sign in order to stop colonial expansion, while the colonists sign to stop frontier violence.</p> | <p>1786: Birth of Tecumseh</p> <p>The Shawnee leader is born in southwest Ohio and participates in warfare against Ohio settlers during the American Revolution and the Northwest Indian wars. Later in life he strives to build a coalition of nations east of the Mississippi to throw off colonial settlement and create a Native American territory east of the Mississippi under the protection of the British.</p> | <p>1774: Yellow Creek Massacre</p> <p>Settlers lure a party of a dozen Cayuga into a shooting match and then murder them. Among those murdered are the pregnant sister and the mother of Chief Logan, a strong advocate for peace and a friend of the settlers. Logan launches retaliatory attacks against settlers that eventually lead to a full scale war with settlers in what is now West Virginia.</p> | <p>1778: Construction of Fort Laurens</p> <p>Fort Laurens is constructed under Gen. Lachlan McIntosh to serve as a base for a campaign against the Wyandottes and against squatters, and as a base for a campaign against Detroit. It is abandoned after a little more than a year.</p> <p>1779: Bowman Campaign</p> <p>John Bowman leads a force of 300 militia to attack and burn Chillicothe. The force is repulsed.</p> | <p>1782: Gnadenhutzen Massacre</p> <p>A contingent of Pennsylvania militia encounter a group of Moravian Lenape, who are pacifists and have returned to their village to harvest crops. The militia decides to slaughter the entire group. When informed, the Lenape spend the entire night singing hymns. The next morning, 96 men, women, and children are taken two-by-two into the assembly hall and are killed by wooden mallets to the head.</p> | <p>1782: Crawford Expedition</p> <p>Colonel William Crawford leads a force of Virginia and Pennsylvania militia on an expedition to destroy Cayuga and Lenape towns along the Sandusky River. The American force is defeated and divided. Crawford is captured. He and a few officers are handed over to the Lenape to die by ritual torture in reprisal for Gnadenhutzen.</p> | <p>1783: Treaty of Paris</p> <p>The British relinquished claims to land in the Ohio Country and abandon the Native allies who have fought with them. The Treaty does not acknowledge claims to the land by the Indigenous peoples and effectively recognizes American sovereignty over the area.</p> | <p>1784: Second Treaty of Fort Stanwix</p> <p>The US recognizes spurious Six Nations claims to the Ohio Country and on that basis requires the Six Nations to recognize American claims to the Ohio Country and cede the land. The Confederation Government thus claims Ohio by right of conquest from the Six Nations.</p> | <p>1784: Ordinance of 1784</p> <p>Legislation by the Confederation Congress determines that the Ohio Country is to be divided into ten separate states, after a period in which they are settled as territories. The legislation assumes the area belongs to the United States. None of the land, however, has been relinquished by its Indigenous occupants.</p> |
| <p>1785: Northwest Ordinance of 1785</p> <p>Legislation authorizing the surveying of land into townships of 6 x 6 miles square, for the purpose of organizing land sales and settlements, beginning in Ohio.</p> | <p>1785: Treaty of Fort McIntosh</p> <p>US agents negotiate a treaty with young Wyandotte, Lenape, Ottawa, and Ojibwe leaders, who are not authorized to speak for their peoples. After plying them with alcohol, the agents succeed in getting them to sign a treaty that relinquishes eastern and southern Ohio, about two-thirds of the land in what would become Ohio. The Shawnee do not recognize the treaty, nor do the other peoples.</p> | <p>1785: Treaty of Fort Finney</p> <p>US agents demand that the Shawnee acknowledge the terms of the Treaty of Fort McIntosh, even though they had no representatives at that council. Under threat of force, some Shawnee leaders sign the treaty, while others refuse.</p> | <p>1786: Murder of Moluntha</p> <p>Kentucky rangers assault the village of a Shawnee chief who advocated for peace at Fort Finney. He greets them bearing a copy of the treaty. One of the rangers splits his head with a tomahawk and the rest kill a number of his warriors. The incident reinforces Shawnee convictions that the US cannot be trusted.</p> | <p>1786: The Ohio Company of Associates</p> <p>A group of wealthy and well-connected New Englanders, led by Manasseh Cutler, with a proposal to the Confederation Congress to buy newly-opened Ohio lands. Their plan is to buy 5,000,000 acres in Ohio for pennies on the dollar, providing funds to pay down the national debt, and to resell the lands for the authorized sale price of one dollar per acre. They negotiate with individual Congressmen, some of whom are brought into the scheme, to secure Congressional authorization of the sale.</p> | <p>1789: Treaty of Fort Harmar</p> <p>Northwest Territory Governor Arthur St. Clair uses deceit and threats of force against the Wyandottes, Delaware, Ottawas, and Ojibwe to force the tribes to agree to the lands relinquished by the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix and by the signatories at Fort McIntosh. The Shawnee again are not present, and none of the tribes holds that the treaty is valid.</p> | <p>1790: Harmar's Defeat</p> <p>Gen. Josiah Harmar leads a force of 320 regulars and 1100 militia to attack villages in western Ohio. The force burns a few villages before it is ambushed and defeated in two battles by a coalition of indigenous forces, with a loss of 183 killed. The remaining force retreats to Fort Washington (Cincinnati).</p> | <p>1791: St. Clair's Defeat</p> <p>Gen. Arthur St. Clair leads an expedition of 1400 militia against coalition villages in western Ohio. The indigenous coalition, led by Miami leader Little Turtle, attacks and routs the force, with 623 killed, 258 wounded. It is the greatest defeat of a US military force, by indigenous people, in US history.</p> | <p>1794: Battle of Fallen Timbers</p> <p>A highly trained military of US regulars under the command of Gen. Anthony Wayne decisively defeats a coalition of indigenous nations (along with a few accompanying British troops). Many of the indigenous troops retreat to a nearby British fort but are denied entry. Wayne proceeds to burn coalition villages, including the central village of Kekionga, where the army erects Fort Wayne to mark ownership.</p> | <p>1795: Treaty of Greenville</p> <p>A treaty with twelve nations, from as far as Illinois, which ended hostilities. The Ohio nations relinquish more land in Ohio but retained the right to hunt on it (a provision that the government could not guarantee). The treaty set a precedent by granting annuities to the nations in compensation for the land, which created a dependent relationship on the US government.</p> | <p>1800</p> <p>1804: Treaty of Detroit</p> <p>Ottawas, Ojibwe, Potawatomie, and Wyandottes are forced to relinquish large swaths of land in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.</p> <p>1805: Treaty of Fort Industry</p> <p>The Wyandottes, Ottawa, Ojibwe, Lenape, and Shawnee relinquish 500,000 acres of land in what is now the Western Reserve for annuities and the right to hunt.</p> | <p>1812: Greentown Removal</p> <p>The US military feared that Greentown, a large multi-tribal town, might abandon its neutrality and defect to the British. A military contingent was sent to evacuate the town and escort its residents to a safe zone under the supervision of the military but failed to persuade the inhabitants. A trusted local pastor was prevailed on to convince them to evacuate, under assurances that their homes and possessions would be inventoried and guarded. As soon as they left the town, a contingent of Ohio militia ransacked the abandoned town and burned it to the ground.</p> | <p>1814: Treaty of Ghent</p> <p>As a provision of ending the War of 1812, the British agree to stop arming and supporting indigenous resistance in the Northwest Territory. This leaves the people without any counterbalancing power to aid them in resisting expansion by the United States.</p> | <p>1816: Wyandotte Methodist Mission</p> <p>John Stewart, an African-American Methodist lay preacher responds to a calling to carry the gospel to the Wyandottes in Upper Sandusky. Many respond to his ministry. Bishop McKendree appoints Rev. James Finley to supervise the mission. Finley becomes an ardent advocate for the Wyandottes with the Methodist Church and the US government.</p> | <p>1817: Treaty of the Maumee Rapids</p> <p>The Wyandottes, Ottawas, Ojibwe, Lenape, and Seneca-Cayuga relinquish 4,000,000 acres of land in northwest Ohio in return for payments and yearly annuities. The Wyandottes and Seneca-Cayuga receive small reservations on the Sandusky River.</p> |
| <p>1817: Treaty of St. Mary's</p> <p>Additional money for land is provided for the maintenance of the reservations granted to Wyandottes and Seneca-Cayugas.</p> <p>1818: Treaty with the Miamis</p> <p>Miamis relinquish all Ohio land and most Indiana lands, leaving them with six small reservations in Indiana (less than 10 square miles each) in exchange for a yearly annuity.</p> | <p>1823: Johnson v. M'Intosh</p> <p>In a landmark ruling, the Marshall Court recognizes the Doctrine of Discovery as the basis for title for the United States ownership of indigenous land. Discovery of land gives exclusive rights to settle, possess, and govern lands, while indigenous peoples only possess a right of occupancy. The ruling acknowledges royal grants and charters as the original warrant for discovery and land claims which, with the defeat of the British, transfer to the US government.</p> | <p>1829: Treaty of Lewiston</p> <p>Bands of Shawnee and Senecas relinquish claims to their land in exchange for 60,000 acres west of the Mississippi River and yearly annuities.</p> | <p>1830: Indian Removal Act</p> <p>Passage of the Act by Congress, after intense political and religious opposition, authorizes the US Government to grant lands west of the Mississippi in exchange for the forfeiture of lands by tribes in the east. While the exchange was conceived initially to be a voluntary act, great pressure was applied to coerce tribes to sign treaties of removal, leading eventually to forced relocation for nations unwilling to vacate their ancestral lands.</p> | <p>1831: The Cherokee Nation v. Georgia</p> <p>The Marshall Court rules that indigenous peoples are "domestic dependent nations" subject to the United States – as opposed to being independent foreign nations. As a consequence, they may not claim lands and exist in a trust relationship with the US.</p> <p>1831: Treaty of Wapakoneta</p> <p>A band of Shawnee sign a removal treaty that cedes their land to the US government in exchange for 100,000 acres of land west of the Mississippi and yearly annuities. After the Civil War they were relocated to Indian Country (Oklahoma)</p> | <p>1831: Shawnee and Seneca-Cayuga removal</p> <p>Bands of Shawnee and Seneca-Cayuga are removed to Kansas by the US military. Promised provisions and transportation along the way does not materialize, creating great suffering by those making the trek. Many die along the way. After the Civil War they are relocated to Oklahoma.</p> | <p>1843: Wyandotte removal</p> <p>Despite receiving their Grand Reserve at Upper Sandusky in perpetuity, in gratitude for allying with the US during the War of 1812, the Wyandottes are forced to sell their reservation for less than fair market value. They are removed to Kansas, to live within reservation land granted to the Lenape. With their departure, all indigenous peoples have been removed from Ohio. After the Civil War, they are relocated to Oklahoma.</p> | <p>1879: Carlisle Indian School</p> <p>The founding of the school initiates a program of forced assimilation, in which indigenous children, as young as four years of age, are taken from their families and sent to boarding schools. There they are forbidden to speak their native language or practice their ceremonies and are subject to severe abuse.</p> | <p>1882: Code of Indian Offenses</p> <p>The Department of the Interior issues a series of policies that criminalize indigenous religious ceremonies, traditional dances and feasts, reciprocal gift giving, and funeral practices. It sets up Courts of Indian Offenses to enforce the policies.</p> | <p>1886: Kagama v. U.S.</p> <p>The Supreme Court rules that Congress has complete power to regulate all aspects of Native American affairs.</p> <p>1887: General Allotment Act</p> <p>Congress authorizes the president to privatize tribal reservations, assigning each household individual land allotments of 160 acres and single individuals 80 acres. It also authorizes the government to negotiate for the sale of tribal lands that remain after allotment. As a consequence, the amount of land in possession of indigenous tribes is reduced from 137 million to 47 million acres.</p> | <p>1900</p> <p>1924: Indian Citizenship Act</p> <p>Congress grants American citizenship to indigenous people.</p> <p>1934: Indian Reorganization Act</p> <p>Congress reverses policies of assimilation and ends the allotment of tribal lands. It reestablishes tribal sovereignty, tribal governments, and restores tribal management of land and mineral rights.</p> | <p>1946: Indian Relocation Program</p> <p>A new federal program is launched that seeks to break the reservation system by inducing indigenous people to leave their reservations and settle in one of eight urban relocation centers. Chicago and Cleveland were the two relocation centers located east of the Mississippi River.</p> | <p>1953-63: Federal Termination Policy</p> <p>The Federal Government terminates federal benefits and support services to over 100 tribes and dissolves their reservations and tribal courts, ordering them to distribute land and property to tribal citizens. As a further program of assimilation, tribal peoples were induced to leave their reservations and settle in one of eight urban relocation centers. Chicago and Cleveland were the two relocation centers located east of the Mississippi River.</p> | <p>1968: Indian Civil Rights Act</p> <p>Congress extends parts of the Bill of Rights to individual indigenous people and guarantees equal protection under the law.</p> <p>1978: American Religious Freedom Act</p> <p>Restores basic civil liberties and legalizes traditional customs, practices, and religious rites, on the basis of the First Amendment.</p> | <p>1978: Indian Child Welfare Act</p> <p>Prohibits states and social service agencies from forcefully removing indigenous children and putting them up for adoption. Up to this date, indigenous families have no protection from these practices.</p> |