

Detailed History Timeline

for PA Native Americans

By David Minderhout



HISTORY TIMELINE: PENNSYLVANIA'S NATIVE AMERICANS

- 1608 – Captain John Smith meets Susquehannock warriors on the Chesapeake Bay
- 1624 – The Lenape meet with Dutch traders on Manhattan Island
- 1628 – Susquehannocks extend control over the Lenape on the Delaware River
- 1629 – The Dutch make 1st land purchase from the Lenape at Lewes, Delaware
- 1633 – The Lenape greet a Dutch sailing vessel on the Delaware River
- 1638 – Swedish settlements are founded on the Delaware River
- 1643 – Dutch soldiers kill 80-120 Lenape as revenge for a stolen pig; the Lenape retaliate
- 1656 – 80,000 beaver pelts bring shipped annually from the Dutch New World to Holland
- 1661 – Smallpox breaks out among the Susquehannocks
- 1663 – Smallpox spreads to the Lenape
- 1664 – The English take possession of the Delaware River
- 1670's – English settlers colonize Delaware, New Jersey and the Philadelphia area
- 1675 – Susquehannocks abandon their PA towns under pressure from the Senecas and Maryland; Move to Patuxent River where they are defeated by a Maryland militia
- 1682 – William Penn arrives in PA to take possession of the Commonwealth;
Penn meets with Lenapes and extends to them the promise of fair treatment
And friendship (“Love and Consent”)
- 1683 – Penn makes 1st land purchase from the Lenape sachems Tamenend and Metamequan
- 1694 – Iroquois spread their influence into PA; northern Lenape fall under their domination
- 1731 – Conrad Weiser meets with Oneida chief Shikellamy; the meeting symbolizes the PA colonial government's acceptance of the Iroquois as spokespersons for all native people in the state
- 1737 – The Walking Purchase occurs; Iroquois refuse to support the Lenapes' protest

- 1742 – Iroquois order Lenape to relocate to the Wyoming Valley or the Susquehanna River at present day location of Sunbury; others move to Ohio
- 1747 – Moravians build a mission town, Friedenshutzen, near Wyalusing to convert and shelter Lenape refugees
- 1755-1763 – French & Indian War; many Iroquois and Lenapes join the French
- 1755 – Lenapes begin to attack English settlements in reprisal for the Walking Purchase and forced relocations
- 1755 – Lenape under Teedyuskung make peace with the English at Easton to guarantee Lenape claims in the Wyoming Valley
- 1756 – April, PA declares war on the Lenape; forts are built, including Fort Augusta at Sunbury
- 1756 – September, Colonel John Armstrong destroys a Lenape village at Kittanning
- 1756 – English settlers from Connecticut move into Wyoming Valley in violation of the treaty between the Lenape and PA
- 1763 – Teedyuscung is burned to death in a fire at his log cabin; settlers are implicated; many Lenape move west to Lock Haven
- 1763 – Pontiac's Rebellion: Pontiac creates an alliance among native groups as a result of a vision by a Lenape shaman who predicts that the English want to do away with all native peoples
- 1763 – 1st Wyoming Massacre: Teedyuskung's son, Captain Bull, leads a war party against English settlements in the Wyoming Valley in retaliation for his father's death
- 1763 – Paxton Boys murder the last(?) of the Susquehannocks in Lancaster
- 1763-1765 – Continuous war between natives and Europeans in the PA frontier
- 1765 – Peace treaty is signed between the English and the Lenape; Lenape agree to put down their arms and return any European prisoners; Lenape relinquish all remaining land rights in PA
- 1768 – Treaty of Fort Stanwix: Iroquois relinquish all land rights in PA
- 1768 – Many surviving Lenape move to Ohio or western New York State

1791 – Cornplanter Tract is created by U.S. government in northwestern PA as a reward to the Iroquois chief named Cornplanter for his services against the Shawnees in Ohio

1867 – The Lenapes in Kansas agree to become part of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma

1879 – The Carlisle Indian Industrial School opens; over 10,000 Native American children would be sent there by the time the school closes in 1918

1972 – The Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center is incorporated in Pittsburgh

1980 – The Lenni Lenape Historical Society is created in Allentown, PA

1982 – The Lenni Lenape Museum opens in Allentown; later renamed the Museum of the American Indian

1982 – The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe is recognized by the State of New Jersey

1984 – The Eastern Delaware Nation is incorporated in PA