

# Blackfeet Reservation Timeline

## Blackfeet Tribe

### 2017

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**Time Immemorial Creation** - "Napi," Old Man, created the Rocky Mountain Range, the Sweetgrass Hills, and other geographic features in Montana and Canada.

**1700** – The Blackfeet acquired the horse and rifle.

**1700s** – The Blackfeet traveled south along the Rocky Mountains.

**1780** – A band of Blackfeet raided a Shoshone camp not knowing the Shoshone had small pox. The raid resulted in a smallpox epidemic among the Blackfeet band. One third of the band died.

**1818** – The US and Canadian border was established. The 49th parallel would figure prominently in Blackfeet geography.

**1837** – A second smallpox epidemic struck the Blackfeet.

**1851** – The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851. While an estimated 10,000 Indians attended this treaty negotiation, the Blackfeet did not. Though they were not present, Article 5 defined their territory, using the Musselshell, Missouri, and Yellowstone Rivers and the Rocky Mountain Range as markers.

**1855** - Lame Bull Treaty/Judith River Treaty. This treaty took place at the mouth of the Judith River with the Blackfeet, Nez Perce, and the Salish and Pend d'Oreille (language in treaty also refers to *Flathead* tribe). To make way for the railroad, Isaac Stevens was charged with negotiating a peace between the Blackfeet and the allied tribes - the Nez Perce, Salish, and Pend d'Oreille. A common hunting ground was recognized and designated for a period of 99 years. Lands reserved exclusively for the Blackfeet were identified and described. The treaty was ratified in 1856.

**1865** – Unratified Treaty with Montana Governor Meagher and Blackfeet Indian Agent Gad Upson. Though this treaty that identified Blackfeet land cessions was not ratified, settlers began moving into the areas that would have been ceded had the treaty been ratified.

**1870** – The Blackfoot Massacre, often called the Bear River Massacre, the Baker Massacre, or the Marias Massacre. The Heavy Runner Band was camped on the Bear River during cold winter weather on January 23. A column of cavalry and infantry under the command of Major Eugene Baker attacked the sleeping camp early in the morning. The attack was purportedly to be in

## Montana Tribal History Timelines - Blackfeet

response to the killing of an influential rancher, Malcom Clark. Clark had been in several conflicts with Owl Child, a Piegan, who was not camped with Heavy Runner, but with Mountain Chief. By the end of the attack, 217 people had been killed. The largest numbers of victims were women and children. The army gave the death count at 173. While some political leaders were outraged, no disciplinary actions were taken against Clark or any of the soldiers.

**1873 and 1874** – President Grant issued Executive Orders diminishing reservation lands. The 1873 Executive Order diminished 1851 and 1855 treaty lands and established an undivided reservation for the Blackfeet, Gros Ventre, Assiniboine, and Sioux. This territory spanned land north of the Missouri and Sun River east to the Dakota border. The 1874 Executive Order moved the southern boundary north from the Sun River to the Marias River.

**1875** – Under pressure, President Grant restored some of the lands taken by the 1873 and 1874 Executive Orders.

**1880** – President Rutherford B. Hays issued an Executive Order taking back the land that President Grant had restored in 1875.

**1883-84** – Starvation Winter – Over 500 Blackfeet people died.

**1887**– A Code of Laws was enforced by three tribally elected leaders, along with Indian Agent Wood.

**1888**– Sweet Grass Hills Agreement

**1896** – A 20-mile wide strip of Blackfeet Reservation was ceded. This “ceded strip” is known today as Glacier National Park. The Blackfeet claimed the land was only provided for a 99-year lease.

**1898** – Forty percent of the Blackfeet tribal cattle herd was lost.

**1905** – Cut Bank Boarding School opened. Today it is still operating as a boarding dormitory. Children that live there do not attend school at the site; they are bussed to Browning Public Schools.

**1907 – 1908** – The first allotments were made on the Blackfeet Reservation. Approximately 2,656 individual Blackfeet tribal members received allotments.

**1911** – Surplus lands to be opened for sale were estimated at 156,000 acres.

**1911** – Children born after the middle of the year were allotted 80 acres.

**1934** – Of the 1,785 eligible voters, 994 voted in favor of tribal organization under the Wheeler-Howard Act, commonly known as the Indian Reorganization Act. Under this legislation, the Blackfeet Tribal Constitution and By-Laws were ratified in 1935, creating a representative form of government through elected tribal council representatives. Originally numbering 13, tribal council representatives now number nine.

**1962** – Article II of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Blackfeet Tribe, defining tribal membership, was amended.

**1974** – The Blackfeet Tribe chartered Blackfeet Community College.

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**1978** – Percy DeWolfe elected to State Senate.

**1978** – Earl Old Person became Chief of the Blackfeet Tribe.

**1983** – Piegan Institute established.

**1987** – Blackfeet National Bank, first tribally-owned, federally chartered bank on an Indian Reservation established. The American Museum of Natural History returned Blackfeet human remains taken from Old Agency on Badger Creek.

**1994** – Tribally controlled community colleges received Land Grant Status. Heart Butte High School completed.

**2001** – 15,441 enrolled Blackfeet members.

**2005** – Charging Home Park opened.

**2006** – Glacier Peaks Casino opened.

**2009** – New Browning High School opened.

# Crow Reservation Timeline

## Crow Tribe

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**Time Immemorial Creation Story** – “First Maker” wandered the world that is covered with water. He sent the ducks down searching for what was below. The little duck returned first with a plant and then with mud. “First Maker and the ducks made the world. Then they divided the world into sections by placing water here and there. They made the sky, the plants, the trees and the animals. They made the stars, the sun and the moon.” (Crow Tribal History, Little Big Horn College.) “Long-ago Times” – The ancestral tribe of the Crow lived in the “Land of Forests and Many Lakes,” the upper Great Lakes area of Canada and the United States.

**1450** - The Crow Migration west. Fourteen groups of runners were sent out in different directions to search for food. One returned with buffalo meat. The tribe set out in this direction. During this time, Crow Chiefs No Intestines (No Vitals), and Red Scout fasted and prayed to receive guidance for their journey. Both received instructions. Red Scout was given an ear of corn to plant and advised to settle permanently, growing corn for sustenance. No Intestines was told to travel west toward the mountains and was given a pod of seeds to plant there – they were sacred and their use would be revealed to them. When they reached the Missouri River country, they settled with the Mandan for some time. However, heeding First Maker’s instructions, No Intestines decided to continue the journey west. According to Crow oral history, this journey first led them to the region around Cardston, Alberta. Determining that the winters were too long, the band headed south, possibly going all the way to the Great Salt Lake. The journey then continued east and south through land that is now Wyoming, Colorado, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and possibly Missouri. “Ancient lullabies and war songs mention an Arrow River (Red River of Oklahoma).” (Joe Medicine Crow. *History: Crow. Ethnic Heritage Studies Program*. Bozeman, MT: Center for Bilingual/Multicultural Education, College of Education, Montana State University, 1982. p. 2) Turning north and west again, they eventually came to the Big Horn country in southern Montana, which was to end up being their permanent homeland.

**1700 – 1735** - The Crow acquired horses from Indians near Great Salt Lake.

**1743** – French-Canadian traders, the La Verendrye brothers, met a group of Crow camped at the confluence of the Big Horn and Little Big Horn Rivers.

**1805 – 1806** – Crow met Clark at Pompey’s Pillar.

**1825** – The first treaty, The Friendship Treaty, signed between the Crow and the US. Crow leader Long Hair was the tribal signatory, while Crow leader Sore Belly refused to sign.

**1840-1850** – Smallpox epidemics found their way to Crow country. The tribe suffered a staggering population loss. The tribal population, estimated at 10,000 in 1830, declined to approximately 2,000.

**1851** – The Fort Laramie Treaty with the Crow, Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Shoshone, Assiniboine, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara. The Crow boundaries identified 38 million acres as the tribe’s territory: “The territory of the Crow Nation, commencing at the mouth of Powder River on the Yellowstone; thence up Powder River to its source; thence along the main range of the Black Hills and Wind River Mountains to the head-waters of the Yellowstone River; thence down the Yellowstone River to the mouth of Twenty-five Yard Creek; thence to the head waters of the Muscle-shell River; thence down the Muscle-shell River to its mouth; thence to the head- waters of Big Dry Creek, and thence to its mouth.” Article V, 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie.

**1864** – A battle with the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho who outnumbered Crow warriors ten to one, but the Crow were successful in turning the enemy party back. The location of this battle was near present day Pryor.

**1865** – The Bozeman Trail was named after John Bozeman who used the trail as a shorter route to the Montana gold fields. Other miners and settlers followed. The trail cut through the Powder River country that was important hunting territory for many tribes, including bands of the Sioux nation. The Crow assisted the US military in protecting travelers on the trail. In 1868, the Sioux negotiated the closing of the trail.

**1868** – The second Fort Laramie Treaty reduced Crow lands to eight million acres.

**1869** – A government agency was established in Crow country, on Mission Creek (Hide Scraper Creek).

**1870** – The Crow were expected to move to the reduced territory as defined by the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty.

**1872** – The agency was moved to Rosebud River, near present day Absarokee, Montana.

**1876** – The Crow continued to serve as scouts in the US military. Crow scouts were primarily responsible for preventing a more serious defeat of General Crook at the Rosebud Battle with the Lakota and Cheyenne.

**1881** – One hundred Crow tribal members selected allotments. Provisions for individual tribal member allotments were outlined in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. Land assignments of 320

acres were to be recorded in the “Crow Land Book.”

**1882** – Tribal grazing leases began.

**1882** – Congressional Act diminished Crow lands. The land cession brought \$750,000 in compensation, to be paid out annually at \$30,000 by the Secretary of the Interior. Funds were to be used for homes and farming and ranching needs.

**1882** – Congressional Act for the Northern Pacific Railroad right-of-way provided the railroad with 5,084 acres for which \$25,000 was provided in compensation – to be spent for the Crow at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior.

**1883** – The government boarding school was moved to present day Crow Agency. Parents were threatened to send their children to school or their rations would be withheld. The first three Crow children were sent to Carlisle Industrial School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

**1884** – The agency is moved once again, this time to its present site at Crow Agency.

**1885** – Chief Plenty Coups made his first trip to Washington, D.C., with demands for his people.

**1886** – Catholic Jesuits founded St. Xavier Mission in Crow country. The school received government support in the way of school supplies and 160-acre land grant.

**1889** – Crow Agency boarding school was built.

**1890 – 1900s** – Allotment Period

**1891** – Congressional Act for cession of land on the western portion of the reservation – nearly two million acres. Compensation of \$940,000 was provided. The Secretary of the Interior directed expenditures of the money. Crow tribal members could hold allotments in the ceded portion.

**1891** – Tribal grazing leases changed to a bidding system.

**1891** – St. Charles Mission was founded near present-day Pryor.

**1900** – Chief Plenty Coups made a second trip to Washington, D.C., demanding just payment for the Burlington Railroad right-of-way across the reservation and employment for Crow men.

**1903** – The Annual Crow Fair was established.

**1903** – A Baptist Home Mission School was started at Lodge Grass. It became quite popular, as it was a day school.

**1904** – Congressional Act diminished Crow lands again, in the northern part of the reservation. The reservation land base was now its present size, 2.3 million acres. No lump sum compensation was given, but funds provided for a variety of items: horses, cattle, sheep, irrigation, fencing, school buildings, etc.

**1914** – Crow men answered the call to military service during World War I.

**1915** –Senate hearings produced evidence of incompetent administration of the Crow Reservation.

**1920** – The Crow Act sponsored by the Crow Tribe, allotted the remainder of the reservation into tracts to every enrolled member of the tribe. “Provisions of the Crow Act were the following: allotment of everything except the mountains, patents-in fee to competent Indians, conveyance to anyone could not exceed 640 acres of farming land or 1280 acres of grazing land, tribal roles, mineral rights are held by tribe, no more irrigation systems without Crow consent, no liquor, consolidation of the Crow Fund, enrollment and competency commission, land to State in return for admission of Crow children into public schools, revolving fund.” (Government. Ethnic Heritage Studies Program: Plains Indians, Cheyenne-Cree-Crow-Lakota Sioux. Bozeman, MT: Center for Bilingual/Multicultural Education, College of Education, Montana State University, 1982.)

**1920 – 1940s** – The Tribal Council divided into committees when necessary to address multiple issues. Examples of committees were Schools, Oil, Hospital, Budget, Leases, Law and Order.

**1921** – Chief Plenty Coups died.

**1927** – At this time there were 11 public schools, four Catholic schools, and one Protestant school operating on the reservation.

**1934** –The Crow Tribe rejected the Indian Reorganization Act.

**1935** – The Indian Reorganization Act provides \$190,000 for 50 projects on the Crow Reservation.

**1948** – The Crow adopted their own model for a tribal constitution.

**1958** – The Tribe sold Yellowtail Dam site and reservoir area for 2.5 million dollars.

**1961** – The Constitution was amended.

**1962** – Court of Indian Claims awarded the Crow Tribe \$10,242,984.70 as just compensation for lands taken.

**1987** – A Supreme Court decision awarded millions to the Crow Nation in the Crow Severance Tax Case against the State of Montana.

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**1987**– The Crow Tribe filed dereliction of duties and breach of trust responsibility suit against the US Government in regard to Section 2 of the 1920 Crow Allotment Act.

**2002**–The Crow Tribe passed a new Tribal Constitution.



# Flathead Reservation Timeline Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes 2017

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**Time Immemorial** – The Creation and time of the animal people. Coyote and Fox traveled the earth preparing the world for human beings.

**Traditional Life** – The Salish, Pend d'Oreille, and Kootenai flourished in their aboriginal territory that included most of Montana and portions of Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, and Canada. The Salish Tribe grew, becoming so large that the people had to divide into smaller bands.

**Pre-1700** – A Salish prophet, Xalıqs, Shining Shirt foresaw the coming of the “Black Robes” (Catholic Jesuits).

**1650 – 1700** – The Salish and Pend d'Oreille acquired horses from the Shoshone.

**1775** – Blackfeet gained continued access to firearms through Hudson's Bay Company in Canada, leading to an uneven power struggle with area tribes over a rapidly decreasing land base.

**1780s** – A smallpox outbreak reached a group of Salish camped in the Missoula area. The camp divided – families with smallpox and those without. One group went to the Bitterroot Valley while the other moved to the Drummond area. Only one boy in the Bitterroot camp survived the epidemic. By 1782, small pox had killed an estimated one-half to three-quarters of the Salish and Pend d' Oreille bands. The combination of the introduction of disease, firearms, and horses led to massive changes in intertribal territories. Blackfeet expansion caused eastern bands of the Salish and Pend d' Oreille to move their winter camps west of the continental divide. The Salishian people called the Tuńáxn, who occupied the Rocky Mountain front, were decimated. The survivors scattered to the west and merged with other tribes, bringing about the near extinction of a native people.

**1790s** – The first French and British fur traders appeared in what is now western Montana and the Flathead Indian Reservation.

**1803** – In the Louisiana Purchase the United States purchased from France the *right* to be the only purchaser of tribal lands when and if Indians ever chose to sell any land, and

the sovereign and commercial rights to be the only government to trade and engage in diplomatic relationships with the tribal nations in the Louisiana Territory.

**1805** – The Salish allowed Lewis and Clark to enter Salish territory in the Bitterroot Valley near Darby, opening the door to fur trade in Salish territory. Kʷtít Púpłm - Salish place name meaning “Great Clearing” was located at Ross’s Hole.

**1809** – The Salish gained regular access to firearms through the establishment of fur trade in western Montana by David Thompson. Saleesh House, at Sqeyt kʷm - Salish placename in reference to “the Sound of Falling Water” located at Thompson Falls along with Kullyspell House at Lake Pend Oreille in present day North Idaho established fur posts in Salish and Pend’ Oreille aboriginal territory.

**1811 – 1830** – The peak years of the Fur Trade in the Northwest which had far-reaching impacts on the ecology, economy, and culture of the people of this region. The Iroquois people arrived among the Salish people.

**1811** – Kullyspell House having been built off the main travel ways was abandoned.

**1831, 1835, 1837, 1839** – Years the Salish sent delegations to St. Louis to bring back the “Black Robes,” the Catholic Jesuit Priests.

**1841** – Father De Smet and the first Jesuit missionaries arrived in Montana, establishing St. Mary’s, a mission near present day Stevensville in the Bitterroot. The Salish placename for St. Mary’s is Łqét młš meaning wide cottonwoods.

**1846** – The Oregon Treaty between the United States and Great Britain divided aboriginal territory along the current Canadian border on the 49th parallel. Millions of acres of aboriginal lands in current Canada were lost. Kootenai bands along with tribes in the Salish language family were now placed in separate jurisdictions.

**1848** – The United States organized Oregon Territory, exerting jurisdiction over tribal aboriginal lands west of the continental divide.

**1851** – The Fort Laramie Treaty impacted aboriginal territory east of the Rocky Mountains. The treaty failed to recognize use of Salish, Pend d’Oreille, and Kootenai aboriginal lands east of the Continental Divide.

**1853** – Isaac Stevens surveyed a route for Northern Pacific Railroad.

**1855** – Tribal leaders and US officials signed the Treaty of Hell Gate. Under terms of the treaty, tribal leaders ceded to the United States “title” to the vast majority of their lands west of the continental divide. Tribal leaders reserved 1.25 million acres for the Flathead Reservation, along with the “Conditional Bitterroot Reservation” for what the treaty said was to be for the tribes “exclusive use and benefit.” In the treaty, the tribes also reserved

rights on their ceded lands, including the right to hunt, fish, gather plants, and pasture livestock on “open and unclaimed lands.” Tribal understanding of the boundaries of the Flathead Reservation was considerably different from what was actually written in the treaty, particularly the east, west, and northern boundaries.

**1855** – Lame Bull/Judith River Treaty with the “Blackfoot Nation” (Piegan, Blood, Blackfoot, and Gros Ventre), the “Flathead Nation” (Flathead – Salish, Upper Pend d’Oreille, Kootenai), and Nez Perce. In an effort to establish peace among warring tribes, the US government convened treaty negotiations to establish a “Common Hunting Ground” that would be acknowledged and honored by all of the tribes. At these negotiations, Pend d’Oreille Chief Alexander told all the other Indian leaders present that the Sweetgrass Hills country “was an old road for our people. A long time ago our people belonged to this land.” Alexander’s statement documented tribal homelands east of the Rocky Mountains – as other tribes moved into Montana, the Salish, Pend d’Oreille, and Kootenai were forced to concentrate their populations on the west side of the mountains.

**1859** – Hell Gate Treaty of 1855 was ratified by US Senate and signed by the President.

**1864** – First major gold rush in Montana Territory brought thousands of non-Indian people with it.

**1870** – ᠰᠡᠭᠡᠯᠡ ᠶᠡᠭᠡᠨ - Many Horses, Chief Victor, died out in buffalo country. His son, ᠰᠡᠨᠶᠡᠨ ᠶᠡᠭᠡᠨ - Claws of the Small Grizzly, or Chief Charlo, succeeded him as head chief of the Bitterroot Salish.

**1870s** – Six buffalo calves survived a journey west to the Flathead Reservation. Łataᠲi, - Little Falcon Robe, brought the calves to the reservation. These calves eventually became the Pablo-Allard herd. Remnants of this herd sold to Canada made their way back to the reservation when the National Bison Range was formed.

**1871** – President Grant signed an Executive Order, requiring the Salish to leave the Bitterroot Valley and go the “Jocko” reservation. The president’s action was not based on any survey or examination of the Bitterroot for a suitable place (reservation) for the Salish, as required by the 1855 Treaty of Hell Gate. Representative James Garfield was appointed by President Grant to secure the Salish removal to the Jocko Reservation.

**1872** – Representative Garfield met with the Salish near present-day Stevensville to secure their approval and signature on an agreement for their removal to the Jocko Reservation. Chief Charlo refused to sign. Under the terms of the agreement, the Salish were to move from the Bitterroot Valley to the Jocko Reservation (Flathead Reservation) in exchange for \$55,000, new log houses, a side of beef for every family, and plots of land designated specifically for the Salish. Salish sub-chiefs Arlee and Adolph signed the contract, but head chief Charlo, son of Victor, refused to sign, therefore making the contract invalid. When the agreement was officially presented upon Garfield’s return, a

signature mark, which was a forgery, appeared on the contract by Chief Charlo's typed name. Chief Charlo was enraged when he found out about this deception. The senate approved the agreement for ratification.

**1873** – Chief Arlee and a few families moved to the reservation and settle near the Jocko Agency.

**1875** – By fall of this year, 123 Salish had moved from the Bitterroot Valley to the reservation. The North American bison population had dwindled to about one million, due to a deliberate campaign to exterminate them. "The elders say that in the second to last year of the traditional Pend d'Oreille buffalo hunts, the hunters were able to kill only 27. The following year they killed only seven." "Going to buffalo" was becoming only a memory.

**1877** – Fort Missoula established in the Bitterroot in large part due to the Nez Perce war. The non-Indians in Montana Territory feared all Indians were going to rebel against the federal government and demanded protection.

**1882** – Tribal leaders were pressured into signing an agreement to allow a railroad right-of-way through the reservation, relinquishing 1,430 acres of reservation lands.

**1883** – Railroad tracks were laid across the Flathead Reservation. Tribal leaders expressed their anger and resentment at the continuing loss of tribal homelands. "The country we gave the government is very valuable. Lots of white men made independent fortunes in my country ... We don't want the railroad to go through the reservation ... When we heard that you were coming, we made up our minds what to say to you. You seem to like your money, and we like our country; it is like our parents." Kootenai leader Eneas said, "I would like to get the Flathead Lake country back. There are things that the government promised me in that treaty that I have never seen ... We had a big country, and under those conditions we signed the treaty. Seven years after that we learned that the line of the reservation ran across the middle of Flathead Lake.... I do not wish the road to pass through the reservation. This reservation is a small country and yet you want five depots upon it ... My country was like a flower and I gave you its best part...."

**1884** – Sisters of Providence boarding school was built in St. Ignatius.

**1887** – The Dawes General Allotment Act was passed, mandating the breaking up of communal tribal homelands and setting a course for catastrophic land loss on reservations.

**1888** – Boys boarding school was completed in St. Ignatius.

**1890** – The Ursuline nuns arrived in St. Ignatius and began a kindergarten, which eventually expanded into a grade school and high school that operated until 1972.

**1891** – Chief Charlo and the Salish were forcibly removed to the Jocko Reservation after 36 years of resisting removal, in the conviction that the 1855 Treaty of Hell Gate had guaranteed the Bitterroot Valley for their reservation.

**1893** – Flathead Reservation Indian Agent Peter Ronan died. Indian agents that succeeded Ronan were proponents of allotment and homesteading the Flathead Indian reservation.

**1895** – Congress appointed “Crow, Flathead Commission” to negotiate cession of reservation lands. Tribal leaders refused to cede any lands at any price.

**1898** – The first Arlee July celebration was held in spite of the protests from the priests and Indian Agents. William Smead was appointed as the US Indian Agent for the Flathead Indian Reservation. Smead, as a state representative, had previously advocated for opening up the reservation to white settlement.

**1901** – A small delegation of representatives of the US Government, led by Commissioner of Indian Affairs Charles Hoyt, met with tribal leaders on the reservation to discuss an offer to buy part of the northern end of the reservation. Tribal leaders refused to sell. Chief Charlo stated, “I will not sell a foot (of land).” Kootenai Chief Isaac responded, “My body is full of your people’s lies. You told me I was poor and needed money, but I am not poor. What is valuable to a person is land, the earth, water, trees ... and all these belong to us ... We haven’t any more land than we need, so you had better buy from somebody else.”

**1901 – 1904** – Agricultural production statistics of 1902 recorded there were 25,000 cultivated acres with 120,000 bushels of grain, 25,000 tons of hay, and 20,900 bushels of vegetables produced by tribal members. There were 25,000 horses, 27,000 cattle, and 600 bison owned by tribal members.

**1901** – Last documented small pox outbreak among the Salish. A quarantine camp was set up near Mission Creek.

**1903** – Montana Congressman Joseph Dixon introduced a bill to Congress to impose the Allotment Act on the Indians of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

**1904** – Congress passed the Flathead Allotment Act, setting the course for the loss of over 60% of the reservation land base. Heads of household were assigned 160 acres, while single adults received 80 acres. Two rounds of allotments were held. An enrollment and census were done to assign allotments. At this time, many names were altered, as the census workers insisted on each individual having two names. Upon completion of the census, 2,390 tribal members were eligible to receive allotments. Of the 1,245,000 acres, only 245,000 were secured by allotments. The remaining grazing and agricultural lands were opened up to homesteading. Amendments to the act seized additional lands for town sites, the Indian agency, churches, reservoirs, and power sites, along with

61,000 acres for Montana school lands. The 16th and 36th section of each township were set aside for school support. Immediately following allotment, Indian owned cattle dropped to 5,000 head and the horse herd was reduced to 4,000.

**1905** – Chief Charlo traveled to Washington, D.C., to try to persuade the President to halt the allotment process on the Flathead Reservation.

**1906** – Chief Charlo sent tribal leaders Antoine Moiese and Alicot to Washington, D.C., to make another allotment protest to the President, Congress, or anyone who would listen. Indian Agent Smead forced Michel Pablo to sell buffalo. Between 1906 and 1913, buffalo were gradually rounded up and shipped to Canada, the sole purchaser.

**1906** – Congress passed the Burke Act that allowed Indian allotments to be taken out of federal trust if the allottee was deemed “competent.”

**1908** – The first round of allotment of lands to tribal members was completed. After 2,400 allotments were issued, covering 228,434 acres, the remaining land was declared “surplus.” The Salish, Pend d’Oreille, and Kootenai Tribes suffered another loss of reservations lands as a Congressional Act passed in 1908 took 16,000+ acres for a National Bison Range. The Flathead Irrigation Project bill passed, justified as aiding Indians in transition to agriculture. The project actually benefited non-Indian farmers and ranchers and harmed many native subsistence operations. Many Indians lacked the money to pay the irrigation charges, which led to allotments being seized for settlement of debts. A state game warden killed four members of a Pend d’Oreille family hunting party in Swan Valley. The game warden was killed by one of the tribal women who acted in self- defense.

**1910** – Chief Charlo died on January 10. In April the Flathead Reservation was officially opened up to non- Indian settlement. “Surplus” reservation lands were sold to homesteaders.

**1911** – Public schools began to open to serve the non-Indian homesteaders.

**1911 – 1934** – By 1930, most of the Indian allotments were now in non-Indian ownership.

**1917 – 1919** – The United States participation in World War I included many American Indian soldiers, among them members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

**1920** – A second round of allotments transferred 124,795 acres from communal Tribal ownership to individual tribal member ownership.

**1924** – Congress granted citizenship to American Indians.

**1927** – After learning of plans to construct a massive hydroelectric power plant and dam



on the lower Flathead River, a coalition of non-Indian reservation residents, the Rocky Mountain Power Company, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other profiteers attempted to take ownership of the proposed dam site.

**1928** – Congress affirmed the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes’ ownership of the proposed dam site.

**1930** – Rocky Mountain Power Company secured a license from the FPC to build the hydroelectric power plant on the proposed reservation site.

**1933** – Sixty percent of the original tribal allotments were lost. This land became fee land owned by non-Indians.

**1933 – 1942** – The Civilian Conservation Corps was funded during these years employing tribal members building trails and roads on the reservation.

**1934** – Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act. This Act repealed the Dawes Act and enabled tribes to voluntarily organize and adopt federally approved constitutions and by-laws.

**1935** – The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes organized under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, ratified a tribal constitution and created an elected government of ten tribal council representatives and the last two federally recognized head chiefs, Chiefs Charlo and Koostahtah. The first Tribal Council meeting was held at the Flathead Agency in Dixon. The Council representatives were Edwin Dupuis, Alexander Clairmont, Louis Tellier, Eneas Conko, Nicolai Lassaw, Duncan (Charlie) McDonald, William Gingras, Louis Adams Sr., Louis Couture, and Joseph Blodgett. Chief Martin Charlo and Chief Koostahtah were life members and active members of all committees. The first committees established were Land, Finance, Law and Order, Health, Labor, and Education. The council made a recommendation to designate an area of the Mission Mountains for management similar to the National Parks, keeping it undeveloped and allowing only foot and horse trails.

**1936** – The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) adopted a corporate charter. A first order of business was to address issues with Montana Power Company and their license at Kerr Dam. This included appropriate rental fees, preference hiring of tribal members in the construction work. The original annual rental fee was \$140,000.

**1936-1938** – Kerr Dam was built.

**1941 – 1945** – Years of World War II, during which 25,000 American Indians served in the military, including many Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal members. Indian people also worked in defense-related industries. According to late tribal elder Margaret Finley, life changed very rapidly for Indian people, “...when we got in the war with the Japanese, Pearl Harbor, right after that. Everything changed very fast, very, very fast ... how we do

things together, happiness, all that. It all changed.” American Indian people left their home communities – many for the first time – to serve in the war or work in defense projects. People who still held the collective memory of an old tribal world were exposed to a global world that would forever change the country their world was now situated in.

**1951 – 1953** – Tribal members again enlisted in the military and served during the Korean War.

**1953** – House Concurrent Resolution 108, the Termination Act, targeted the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Termination ended a tribe’s sovereign status and relationship with the federal government as a political entity. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes were at the top of the list of tribes to be terminated. Termination was considered “voluntary” and required tribal member consent, although pressure and coercion were not uncommon.

**1954** – The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes successfully resisted the US government’s attempt to terminate their tribes and reservation.

**1960** – The Tribal Constitution was amended to change the blood quantum requirement for membership to one-quarter degree Salish or Kootenai or both combined. The change was not retroactive, and only applied to people born after the amendment was approved.

**1961** – The tribes entered into a Public Law 83-280 agreement with the state of Montana. This law allowed the state to assume criminal and civil jurisdiction on the reservation. Five states were mandated to this jurisdiction change and Alaska became the sixth mandatory state in 1958. Montana was not one of the mandatory states; however, the remaining 44 states, including Montana, had the option to assume jurisdiction in Indian Country. PL83-280 was amended between 1953 and 1968, allowing states to assume jurisdiction unilaterally. In response, after tribal opposition, Congress amended PL 83-280 to include a requirement for tribal consent for the jurisdiction change, and also to allow acceptance of “retrocession” of the state’s assumption of jurisdiction. In 1963 the state of Montana passed legislation to allow the state to assume jurisdiction on reservations. However, by this time the law had been amended to require tribal consent. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes were the only tribe in the state to agree to PL 83-280.

**1965** – The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes passed a Tribal Ordinance defining the terms under which they would come under PL 83-280.

**1965** – The Indian Claims Commission determined that Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes had not been compensated for the lands ceded in the 1855 Treaty of Hell Gate. “...the Tribes had surrendered 12, 005,000 acres to the government which were worth \$5,300,000. The total payment to the tribes, however, had only been \$593,377.82.” After fees were taken out, the tribes received \$4,016,293.29 in 1967. The compensation was



determined in 1855 land values. No interest was paid for the 112 years the Tribes had been deprived of the money.

**1971** – The US Court of Claims found that the Flathead Allotment Act was a breach of the 1855 Treaty of Hell Gate. Compensation to the Tribes was determined in 1912 land values, totaling \$7,410,000, of which only \$1,783,549 had been paid. The balance of \$5,626,451 was paid a few years later.

**1974** – Tribal elders Christine Woodcock, Louise McDonald, and Annie Pierre protested the Ashley timber sale in the Mission Mountains, successfully stopping it.

**1975** – Two Eagle River School was founded, serving high school students with a dominant focus on cultural studies.

**1975** – The Culture Committee was formed and then divided into the Salish-Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee and the Kootenai Culture Committee. The Indian Self-Determination and Education Act passed, which recognized the right of Indian tribes to self-government “as domestic dependent nations, Indian tribes exercise inherent sovereign powers over their members and territory.”

**1976** – Salish Kootenai College was founded. Prior to 1976, only 41 tribal members had college degrees, compared to 423 from 1976 to 1995.

**1978** – The Supreme Court ruled that Tribal Courts do not have criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians, and that tribal courts DO have jurisdiction over non-Indians in matters such as permits, licensing, and environmental protection.

**1981** – The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes’ Natural Resources Department was established.

**1982** – The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council approved Tribal Ordinance 79A, setting aside approximately 91,778 acres of the Mission Range as the Mission Mountain Wilderness.

**1984** – The Tribes negotiated re-licensing of Kerr Dam, which secured the option to take control of the dam in 2015, and raised the fee from \$2.6 million to \$9 million annually, along with annual adjustments for inflation.

**1985** – The Tribes secured minimum stream flows to protect fisheries.

**1997** – The National Trust for Historic Preservation named “the Flathead Indian Reservation one of 11 Most Endangered Places in the United States” due to the proposed radical expansion of US Highway 93.

**1998** – The Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) agreed as part of a legal settlement to pay the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes \$18.3 million to restore, replace, and/or

## Montana Tribal History Timelines - Flathead

acquire the equivalent of Tribal treaty- protected resources that were injured by the release of hazardous substances in the Clark Fork River through mining and smelting in Butte and Anaconda.

**1999** – The “Squaw” word bill passed Montana State Legislation. The Salish and Pend d’ Oreille Culture Committee begin work to rename over 20 “S” word sites with Salish place names. By 2009, 19 proposed Salish place names were approved by the US Board of Geographic Names to replace “S” word sites across Montana.

**2002** – Nkwusm, the Salish Language Immersion School, opened in Arlee.

**2015** – Kerr Dam administration reverted to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and was renamed Salish Kootenai Dam.

# Fort Belknap Reservation Timeline Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes 2017

The Montana Tribal Histories Reservation Timelines are collections of significant events as referenced by tribal representatives, in existing texts, and in the Montana tribal colleges' history projects. While not all-encompassing, they serve as instructional tools that accompany the text of both the history projects and the *Montana Tribal Histories: Educators Resource Guide*. The largest and oldest histories of Montana Tribes are still very much oral histories and remain in the collective memories of individuals. Some of that history has been lost, but much remains vibrant within community stories and narratives that have yet to be documented.

**Time Immemorial Creation** – Iktomi and Earthmaker (The Keeper of the Flat Pipe) instructed the animals to dive for mud. Several animals were successful and the mud was used to make land on top of the water.

The Assiniboine were part of the Yanktonai Sioux, living in the Lake Superior area. The Gros Ventre were linguistically affiliated with the Arapaho. Before their arrival in Montana, they were known to occupy lands in southern Saskatchewan and north to the Saskatchewan River.

**1600** – The Assiniboine split off from the Sioux, and moved west toward the Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg. Some Assiniboine bands moved farther west to the southern part of Saskatchewan.

**1754** – The Gros Ventre had their first documented contact with whites between the north and south forks of the Saskatchewan River.

**1780 – 1783** – Smallpox epidemics severely reduced the Gros Ventre population.

**1793** – The Gros Ventre attacked the Hudson's Bay trading post, South Branch House. Most of the employees were killed.

**1794** – The Gros Ventre attacked another Hudson's Bay trading post, the Manchester House. The Gros Ventre suffered attacks from the Cree and Assiniboine who were being armed by the Hudson's Bay trading posts.

**1826** – The Gros Ventre met German explorer and naturalist Prince Maximilian, near the Missouri River in Montana. Artist Karl Bodmer accompanied Maximilian and they both painted portraits and recorded their meeting with the Gros Ventre.

**1830 – 1832** – The Gros Ventre and Arapaho separated after a disagreement and killing on both sides. While the incident was resolved and peace restored, the groups held to the decision to separate.

**1832** – The Gros Ventre engaged in a battle with trappers and Indians at Pierre’s Hole in Wyoming.

**1843** – Assiniboine and Cree at the Sweet Grass Hills killed four hundred Gros Ventre.

**1837 –1838** – A smallpox epidemic devastated the Assiniboine.

**1851** – The Fort Laramie Treaty included the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre along with the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ogallala, Brule Sioux, Crow, Shoshone, Mandans, Arikaras, and Minnitarees - 10,000 Indians were in attendance. Article 5 described territories of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine.

**1853** – Treaty negotiations with the Gros Ventre at the Milk River. The Milk River country was the primary location of the Gros Ventre at this time. The following year, the tribe received one thousand dollars of food and annuities, along with the Piegan.

**1855** – Judith River Treaty / Lame Bull Treaty – Common hunting grounds were determined and the Assiniboine had hunting privileges in common with the Blackfeet.

**1866** – A raiding party of Pend d’Oreille stole horses from the Gros Ventre. The Gros Ventre tracked the horses to a camp of Piegans. Not knowing that the Piegans were not the raiders, the Gros Ventre retaliated, killing three people. This incident fueled continuing conflicts between the two tribes until the late 1870s.

**1867**–Fort Belknap was established on the south side of the Milk River. It served as both a fort and a trading post, and became the agency for the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Indians in the area. The Fort was named after the Secretary of War at that time, William W. Belknap.

**1873 and 1874** – President Grant issued Executive Orders. The 1873 Executive Order established an undivided territory for the Blackfeet, Gros Ventre, Assiniboine, and Sioux. The territory spanned lands north of the Missouri and Sun Rivers. The 1874 Executive Order moved the southern boundary from the Sun River north to the Marias River.

**1875** – President Grant issued an Executive Order restoring some of the lands diminished by his prior orders.

**1880** – President Rutherford Hays took back the land that Grant had restored. This area included land around the Musselshell and Missouri Rivers.

**1884** – Gold was discovered in the Little Rockies on the reservation. Miners staked claims even though the gold was on Indian land.

**1887**– St. Paul’s Mission was established at the foot of the Little Rockies near Hays.

**1888** – The Sweetgrass Hills Agreement established the Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, and the Fort

Peck Reservations.

**1888** – Completion of the Great Northern Railroad, crossing reservation lands.

**1895**–The Tribes were pressured to sell land in the Little Rockies where gold was discovered. A piece of land seven miles long by seven miles wide was sold. Payment was \$360,000. George Bird Grinnell led the commission negotiating this deal. This agreement ratified in 1896 is sometimes referred to as the Grinnell Treaty.

**1908** – *Winters V. United States*: This US Supreme Court case was pivotal in determining reserved water rights for tribes. The Fort Belknap Tribes pursued the case as non-Indian settlers began diverting and using water from the Milk River on their northern border.

**1909** – The Gros Ventre engaged a group of Crow and Lakota warriors south of the reservation. The site was named after Gros Ventre warrior, Red Whip, who killed twelve Lakota in the battle.

**1924** – The Washington, D.C., Bureau of Indian Affairs Office approved the Fort Belknap allotment plan. The government allotted 539,065 acres of land to 1,171 Indians enrolled at Fort Belknap. Tribal members received 40 acres of irrigable land and 320 acres of non-irrigable land. Lands not allotted on the Fort Belknap Reservation were not opened up to homesteading.

**1933** – As part of the New Deal program, the proposal to build Fort Peck Dam was authorized, resulting in tons of rock being hauled from Fort Belknap’s Snake Butte to the dam site. Original payment to be provided was five cents a ton. The tribes were able to negotiate for 25 cents a ton.

**1934** – A delegation of tribal members traveled to Rapid City, South Dakota, for the regional Indian Congress.

**1935** – The Fort Belknap Tribes organized under the Indian Reorganization Act and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws.

**1937** – The tribes ratified a corporate charter August 25.

**1941 – 1945** – World War II, during which 25,000 American Indians served in the military, including Fort Belknap tribal members.

**1974** – The Fort Belknap Tribal Constitution was amended to elect a council consisting of 12 representatives – six Gros Ventre and six Assiniboine.

**1977** – The Zortman and Landusky mines began operation on the land the tribes had been pressured to sell in 1895. The mines extracted gold from low-grade ore by cyanide heap-leach process.

## Montana Tribal History Timelines – Fort Belknap

**1984** – Fort Belknap Community College was chartered.

**1992** – Indian law Resource Center represented the Fort Belknap Tribes in case to shut the Zortman and Landusky mines down, citing degradation of the reservation's water and air quality.

**1994** – The tribal constitution was amended. The Fort Belknap Community Council make up was changed to four representatives from three districts (two districts get one representative and one district gets two). These representatives serve two-year terms. The chair and vice-chair run for election as a team and must include one Assiniboine and one Gros Ventre. These positions are four-year terms. The council then appoints a secretary/ treasurer.

**1998** – Pegasus Gold Inc., operators of the Zortman and Landusky mines, declared bankruptcy. Over 30 million dollars were spent on reclamation of the Zortman and Landusky open pit mines. The money fell short and the Bureau of Land Management spent around another 12 million to reclaim the area. Cyanide mining was banned in Montana.

**2002** – Tribal enrollment changed, with tribal blood quantum lowered from one-fourth degree to one-eighth degree.

**2011** – Fort Belknap Community College changed its name to Aaniiih Nakoda College.



# Fort Peck Reservation Timeline Sioux and Assiniboine Tribes 2017

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**Time Immemorial Creation** – Western Siouan-speaking tribal groups were located west of Lake Michigan, inhabiting a region including present-day southern Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and northern Illinois.

**1600s** – Assiniboines lived in northwest Ontario, Saskatchewan, and eastern Alberta. (Northern and Southern Assiniboines). The Assiniboine established trade with the French and British. Assiniboine were pressured from both Chippewa and Cree. Cree had already secured weapons from traders. Assiniboine allied and intermarried with the Cree. Cree and Assiniboine pressed militarily against the Dakotas (Sioux).

**1640** – References to Sioux Tribes depicted them as two groups the “Sioux of the East” and the “Sioux of the West,” being separated by the upper Mississippi River in Minnesota. The four tribes of the Sioux of the East became known as the Dakota proper, or Santee Sioux. The four tribes were Mdewakanton, Wahpekute, Sisseton, and Wahpeton. Twelve villages were identified as “Sioux of the West.” Yanktons, Yanktonais, and Ti'tu'wa.

**1720-1730** – Dakota secured trade with the French and moved aggressively against the Assiniboine and Cree.

**1730** – Eastern Sioux abandoned their northern homelands in Minnesota and moved to the west side of the Mississippi.

**1730s** – Southern Assiniboine and Western Cree moved west for subsistence and in response to Dakota war pressures. The Northern Assiniboine continued their economy of fish, waterfowl, moose, and caribou. The Southern Assiniboine began to hunt buffalo. Southern Assiniboines traded with the Hidatsa and Mandan.

**1750s** – Southern Assiniboines acquired horses.

**1777** – Founding of Hudson's House on the lower North Fork of the Saskatchewan River. Inter-tribal conflicts developed among the Assiniboine, Gros Ventre and Cree, as each tribe desired control of the tribal trade.

**1781 – 1782** – Smallpox epidemic among the Assiniboines, Gros Ventres, Blackfeet, and Western Cree. This epidemic was one of the most important events to influence two-thirds of the southern Assiniboine to move south. The second motivation was trade with the Europeans and the Mandan and Hidatsa.

**1800** – By this time, the Assiniboine relied heavily upon horses and had evolved to a plains economy, with bison at the center. Assiniboine tipis used a three-pole base and required 12 or more bison hides to complete the cover.

**1826** – Treaty of 1826 – Assiniboine

**1837** – Second major smallpox epidemic.

**1851** – Fort Laramie Treaty with the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ogallala, Brule Sioux, Crow, Shoshone, Assiniboines, Gros Ventre, Mandans, Arikaras and Minnitarees – an estimated 10,000 Indians were present. The treaty recognized vast territories for the different tribal groups and secured the right to build roads and erect forts in the tribal territories. The right to build roads through tribal lands was to accommodate travel to Oregon and California. Gold had been discovered in California in 1848.

**1852** – Fort Laramie Treaty was amended.

**1855** – The Judith River/Lame Bull Treaty with the Blackfeet Nation defined a common hunting grounds. It also identified Assiniboine hunting rights.

**1855** – Fort Stewart was built on the Missouri River near present-day Blair, Montana.

**1857** – Sioux and Assiniboine battle on the Poplar River. This incident referred to a battle in which Sitting Bull prevented warriors from killing an Assiniboine boy. Eastman knew Sitting Bull and reported these words on the event:

The second incident that made him well known was his taking of a boy captive in battle with the Assiniboines. He saved this boy's life and adopted him as his brother. Hóhay, as he was called, was devoted to Sitting Bull and helped much in later years to spread his fame. (Eastman, Charles. *Indian Heroes and Great Chieftains*.

- Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 1918 and Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991, p. 114)

Other primary sources on this incident were related in Robert M. Utley's book *The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull* (Ballantine Books, 1994). These sources describe the incident as a battle in which people on both sides were killed.

**1860** - Fort Kipp was built on the Missouri River above the mouth of the Big Muddy.

**1861**– Fort Poplar was built on the Missouri River near the Poplar River.

**1862** – The Sioux wars began with the Santee uprising in Minnesota. Two treaties, one in 1851



and one in 1858, brought settlers into the rich Minnesota agricultural lands ceded by the Dakota. Trying to exist in a diminished land base, surrounded by settlements, and cheated out of the annuities promised by the treaties, the Dakota made the decision to go to war. The violence lasted six weeks, ending with the hanging of 39 Dakota men. Their sentence was ordered in a letter written by President Lincoln in December 1862.

**1865** – The United States negotiated a treaty with Sioux bands they deem “friendly.”

**1866** – The United States began negotiations with hostile Sioux over travel routes to Montana. Red Cloud declared war when the United States moves to fortify the Bozeman Trail. The campaign ended with the annihilation of Colonel Fetterman and his troops.

**1868** – The Fort Buford military reserve was established from Assiniboine lands.

**1868 & 1869** – Gros Ventre, Assiniboine, and River Crow were assigned to the Upper Milk River Agency.

**1868** – The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 established the Great Sioux Reservation as the permanent homeland of the Sioux Nation and preserved the Powder River and Big Horn country as “unceded Indian territory.”

**1868** – A sub-agency was built to furnish rations to the lower Assiniboine, Sioux, Gros Ventre, and River Crows. The agency was built south of the Milk River and is called Fort Browning.

**1870** – In keeping with President Grant’s Peace Policy, the Fort Peck Tribes were awarded to the Methodist denomination.

**1870** – President Grant’s second annual message to Congress on December 5, 1870, outlined his policy on Indian Affairs:

Reform in the management of Indian affairs has received the special attention of the Administration from its inauguration to the present day. The experiment of making it a missionary work was tried with a few agencies given to the denomination of Friends, and has been found to work most advantageously. All agencies and superintendencies not so disposed of were given to officers of the Army. The act of Congress reducing the Army renders army officers ineligible for civil positions. Indian agencies being civil offices, I determined to give all the agencies to such religious denominations as had heretofore established missionaries among the Indians, and perhaps to some other denominations who would undertake the work on the same terms--i.e., as a missionary work. The societies selected are allowed to name their own agents, subject to the approval of the Executive, and are expected to watch over them and aid them as missionaries, to Christianize and civilize the Indian, and to train him in the arts of peace. The Government watches over the official acts of these agents, and requires of them as strict an accountability as if they were appointed in any other manner. I entertain the confident hope that the policy now pursued will

in a few years bring all the Indians upon reservations, where they will live in houses, and have schoolhouses and churches, and will be pursuing peaceful and self-sustaining avocations, and where they may be visited by the law-abiding white man with the same impunity that he now visits the civilized white settlements. I call your special attention to the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for full information on this subject.

**1871** – Fort Peck Agency was established at old Fort Peck to serve the lower Assiniboine and Sioux.

**1871** – Indians attached themselves to the agency.

**1872** – The United States provided aid to the Fort Peck agency.

**1873** – Executive Order by President Grant established an undivided reservation for the Blackfeet, Gros Ventre, Assiniboine, and Sioux. The territory covered lands north of the Missouri and Sun Rivers. Fort Peck Agency was opened at the confluence of the Milk and the Missouri Rivers.

**1874** – President Grant’s Executive Order diminished tribal territories, moving the southern boundary north of the Sun River to the Marias.

**1876 – 1877** – Sioux campaign with Sitting Bull.

**1876** – The Sioux were given the date of January 31 to return to the reservation from their hunting expedition or they would be considered as hostiles.

**1876** – The Battle of the Little Big Horn.

**1877** –. The agency moved to a site on the Poplar River. General Miles was stationed at Fort Peck to maintain order.

**1877** – Sitting Bull fled to Canada.

**1879** – Presbyterians were granted permission from the Methodists to start a mission on the reservation.

**1880** – A military post was established at a point just north of Poplar. It remained until around 1893.

**1881** – Chief Gall surrendered.

**1881** – Sitting Bull surrendered at Fort Buford.

**1883** – Starvation on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation – in part due to the extermination of buffalo.

## Montana Tribal History Timelines – Fort Peck

**1885** – A proposal was put forth to divide the reservation.

**1886** – A treaty, establishing the confines of the Fort Peck reservation, was entered into between the Indians and the government. This reservation was created from the existing one established for multiple tribes by Grant’s Executive Order in 1874.

**1887** – Railroads were built through northern Montana reservations.

**1887** – An agreement was negotiated, ceding 17,500,000 acres of land to the US Government, and dividing the remaining 6,000,000 into three separate reservations – The Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, and Fort Peck. This is often referred to as the Sweetgrass Hills Treaty/Agreement.

**1888** – Congressional Act ratified the Sweetgrass Hills Agreement establishing the Fort Peck Reservation.

**1889** – Beef rations to the Fort Peck Tribes were cut in half.

**1889** – Congressional Act reduced the Fort Peck Reservation to its current size.

**1896** – The federal government discontinued aid to Indian Missions.

**1897** – The Catholics established a mission on Fort Peck Reservation.

**1908** – The Allotment Act was passed for the Fort Peck Reservation lands.

**1909** – Yankton and Assiniboine Council elected a business Committee and considered application for enrollment.

**1913** – After tribal allotments were made, 1,348,408 acres of reservation lands were deemed “surplus.” This land was opened up for homestead entry.

**1927** – The Fort Peck Tribes developed a tribal Constitution.

**1950s** – Oil was discovered and there was a subsequent oil boom.

**1960** – Fort Peck Tribes revised their Constitution and By-Laws.

**1978** – Fort Peck Community College was chartered.

**1980s** – The second oil boom took place on the Fort Peck Reservation.

**2008** – The Fort Peck Tribes held a constitutional convention.



# Northern Cheyenne Reservation Timeline

## Northern Cheyenne Tribe

### 2017

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#### **Time Immemorial Creation – *How the Earth (HO'E) was Made***

Long, long ago, before there were people, water was everywhere. *Ma'heo'o*, the Creator, was floating on the water. All of the water birds were swimming nearby – the ducks, geese, swans, and other birds that swim. *Ma'heo'o* called to them and asked them to bring him some earth....

**Traditional Life & Homelands** – The Cheyenne had a fishing economy while they lived around Hudson Bay and the Great Lakes.

**1600s** – Moving from Cheyenne homelands southwest to Minnesota, the Cheyenne developed permanent earth lodge villages and began an agricultural economy, planting corn and other crops.

**1680** – The Cheyenne traveled 300 miles to La Salle's Fort to try and secure guns from French traders.

**1700** – The Cheyenne moved northwest to the Sheyenne River in North Dakota, and continued to grow corn, beans, and squash; they also began hunting buffalo.

**1750** – The Cheyenne acquired horses and began to use buffalo hide tipis.

**1750 – 1790** – The Cheyenne migrated to the Missouri River country. The Tsitsistas met the So'taeo'o in the Missouri River country. Cheyenne developed a friendship with Arikaras and Mandans. They moved to the west side of the Missouri, and built another earth lodge village near Porcupine Creek (present-day Fort Yates, North Dakota.)

**1780** – The Cheyenne moved to the game lands of the Black Hills. Here they allied with the Arapaho. This period marked the beginning of life on the Plains as hunters and followers of the buffalo.

**1770-1790** – Conflict with the Chippewa. The Chippewa destroyed the Cheyenne village on the Sheyenne River. In 1799, the Chippewa Chief related this event to David Thompson.

**1819** – Cheyenne united with the Oglala against the Crow.

**1825** – Friendship Treaty. This treaty was a pledge of peace between the Cheyenne and the United States.

**1849** –Cholera epidemic among the Cheyenne.

**1851** – First Treaty at Fort Laramie with the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Oglala, Brule Sioux, Crow, Shoshone, Assiniboines, Gros Ventre, Mandans, Arikaras and Minnitarées; 10,000 Indians were at the treaty negotiations. Cheyenne and Arapaho territory was established, spanning lands in Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. Two years before the Fort Laramie Treaty, Commissioner of Indian Affairs William Medill suggested offering compensation to the Plains Tribes in recognition of the destruction of the buffalo.

“Under these circumstances, whatever may be the nature and extent of their title to the lands, I think it would be sound policy to make them some annual compensation for the right of way through the county, and in consideration of the destruction of the buffalo therein.” (Prucha, Francis Paul. *American Indian Treaties: The History of a Political Anomaly*. University of California Press, 1997. p. 237)

**1856** – Platte Bridge Incident. After a false accusation of horse stealing was made against a party of Cheyennes, one of the Cheyenne was shot and killed, another captured, and a third wounded. The horses in question actually belonged to Two Tails, who was later to become the famed Chief Little Wolf.

**1861** – Treaty of Fort Wise. Six leaders of the Southern Cheyenne and four Arapaho bands signed the Fort Wise treaty, establishing a reservation in Colorado. Many Cheyenne opposed the treaty.

**1864** – Sand Creek Massacre. Colonel Chivington and 700 Colorado Volunteers attacked a camp of Southern Cheyennes and a small number of Arapahoes; two-thirds of the camp were women and children. One hundred thirty-seven people, mostly Southern Cheyennes were brutally massacred. Major E. W. Wynkoop investigated the “incident,” interviewing the Volunteer soldiers. This statement was part of his report:

The affidavits which become a portion of this report will show more particularly than I can state the full particulars of that massacre. Every one of whom I have spoken to, either officers or soldier, agree in the relation that the most fearful atrocities were committed that ever was heard of. Women and children were killed and scalped, children shot at their mothers’ breasts ... Numerous eye-witnesses have described scenes to me coming under the eye of Colonel Chivington of the most disgusting and horrible character. (United States War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Series I Volume XLI, Part I, pp. 959-962. U.S. Government Printing Office)

**1865** – One thousand Cheyenne warriors struck the town of Julesburg. The ensuing raids by the Cheyenne, Sioux, and Arapaho were in response to the Sand Creek Massacre.



**1865** - Powder River Expedition - \$40-million-dollar failure. The Powder River Expedition was intended to crush the “hostile” Northern Plains tribes – in particular, the Cheyenne, Sioux and Arapaho. Inexperience, poor equipment, and little knowledge of the territory (one group got lost in the badlands) all contributed to a failed effort.

**1865** – Treaty with the Southern Cheyenne and Southern Arapaho, made at the Little Arkansas River, established a new reservation spanning the borders of Kansas and Oklahoma. Article 6 acknowledged the grievous violence committed against the Cheyenne at Sand Creek and made an attempt at reparations.

**1868** – The Fort Laramie Treaty established the Great Sioux Reservation in South Dakota that includes the sacred Black Hills. Article 16 describes unceded Indian Territory: “The United States hereby agrees and stipulates that the country north of the North Platte River and east of the summits of the Big Horn Mountains shall be held and considered to be unceded Indian territory, and also stipulates and agrees that no white person or persons shall be permitted to settle upon or occupy any portion of the same....” This “unceded Indian territory” was land occupied by the Northern Cheyenne. Treaty stipulations included “undisturbed travel” for settlers and “withdrawal of opposition to the construction of the railroads now being built on the plains.” (Article 11)

**1875** – Gold discovered in Black Hills. An attempt was made to purchase the Black Hills and then later the mineral rights. Tribes had no intention of selling the land or the minerals.

**1875** – Indian agents were directed to order off-reservation Indians to report to their agencies. This included many Northern Cheyenne. When only a few complied, the matter was turned over to the military and the course was set for violent conflict.

**1876** – Where the Girl Saved Her Brother – Battle of the Rosebud. Thirteen hundred soldiers under General Crook moved up the Bozeman Trail to Rosebud Creek, meeting about the same number of Cheyenne and Hunkpapa (a Lakota band). The Cheyenne warrior, Comes in Sight, had his horse shot out from under him and was about to be killed when his sister, Buffalo Calf Road Woman, rode to him, under fire, and saved him. Eleven Warriors were killed in the battle and five wounded. The cavalry suffered 57 killed and wounded.

**1876** - Battle of the Little Big Horn. The famed battle that took place nine days after the Battle of the Rosebud. Custer made the ill-fated decision to divide his regiment of 600 men into four battalions. Custer and 264 of his men were killed.

**1876** – The Cheyenne were pursued by cavalry during the winter months.

**1876** – Many Cheyenne were forced to move to forts and agencies.

**1877** – Nine hundred and seventy-two Cheyenne were moved from Red Cloud’s Agency south to Oklahoma to live with Southern Cheyenne. After arrival, many people contracted malaria.

## Montana Tribal History Timelines – Northern Cheyenne

**1878** – The poor conditions of the Cheyenne in Oklahoma resulted in Northern Cheyenne leaders Morning Star, Little Wolf, Wild Hog, and Old Crow making the decision to move their people north. Two hundred and ninety- seven Cheyenne began the march north. The group split into two bands, one led by Little Wolf and the other by Morning Star. Morning Star’s band got caught and sent to Fort Robinson in Nebraska.

**1879** – Fort Robinson Outbreak. In an effort to force the Cheyenne to agree to move back to Oklahoma, the soldiers deprived them of food, water, and heat. People were scraping ice off of the windows to get moisture. In a desperate attempt to escape, 61 of the 149 imprisoned Cheyenne were killed. During their return to their Tongue River country, Little Wolf’s band met with Cheyenne and Sioux scouts traveling with Lieutenant W. P. Clark, and agreed to go to Fort Keogh.

**1880** – Due to overcrowding of Sioux and Cheyenne at Fort Keogh, Colonel Nelson Miles allowed Cheyenne families to settle along the Tongue River and encouraged the Cheyenne to homestead their lands.

**1882** – Cheyenne families remaining at Fort Keogh moved south to the Rosebud and Muddy Creeks, building houses and planting crops.

**1884** – Executive Order created the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeast Montana on the Tongue River.

**1884** – Ursuline nuns arrived and set up a mission.

**1889** – Bureau of Indian Affairs began a 30-year suppression of the Northern Cheyenne Sun Dance.

**1890** – The Bureau of Indian Affairs opposed General Miles’ recommendation to move the White River Cheyenne to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana. Despite the Bureau’s opposition, the White River Cheyenne were united with their people on their own reservation. The Cheyenne reservation population totaled around 1200.

**1890** – The last Northern Cheyenne engagement with the US Cavalry. After being accused of killing a white man, Head Chief and Young Mule faced their accusers in a traditional manner of bravery and were killed.

**1904** – A boarding school at Busby was built.

**1918** – Spanish influenza outbreak on the reservation

**1919** – In order to increase a tribal cattle herd, the Bureau of Indian Affairs implemented a plan to reduce the Cheyenne horse herd, numbering 15,000. One hundred horses a month were killed, giving the owner \$6.55 per hide.



**1924** – The Bureau of Indian Affairs discontinued the tribal cattle herd that was a dismal failure under its management.

**1926** – Northern Cheyenne tribal members voted in favor of allotting their reservation lands.

**1929** – After the Bureau’s intentional slaughter, only 3,000 horses were left on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

**1930-1932** – All 1,457 Northern Cheyenne enrolled tribal members received an allotment of 160 acres.

**1936** – The Northern Cheyenne approved a tribal constitution under the Indian Reorganization Act.

**1950** – During the winter, 50 children and older people died during an epidemic of German measles.

**1963** – Northern Cheyenne received a \$4,200,000 settlement in the Court of Claims for lands taken from them by violation of the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaties.

**1966, 1969, 1971** – The Northern Cheyenne gave three coal permit sales. This action resulted in over 56 percent of the reservation being leased to energy companies and speculators.

**1972** – The Northern Cheyenne were offered millions of dollars from Consolidation Coal to build four plants to gasify Cheyenne coal. The plants were said to be needed during the country’s national “Energy Crisis.” Included with the offer was a much needed \$1.5 million health center. Cultural leader Ted Rising Sun responded “I think I would rather be poor in my own country, with my own people, with our way of life than be rich in a torn-up land where I am outnumbered 10 to one by strangers.”

**1973** – The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council voted to cancel all the permits and leases.

**1974** – Interior Secretary Morton refused to cancel the leases and instead placed them on indefinite hold.

**1976** – Northern Cheyenne Tribe v. Hollowbreast et al. A provision in the 1926 Northern Cheyenne Allotment Act would have conveyed mineral rights to allottees and their heirs after 50 years. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe took the case to court to determine if the Act had indeed given the allottees vested rights in the mineral rights of their allotments. After a decision and a reversal, the case went to the Supreme Court. It was determined that the coal and mineral rights were “reserved for the benefit of the tribe.”

**1976** – The Northern Cheyenne opposed the expansion at Colstrip, based on recent regulations in the Clean Air Act. The courts agreed with the Northern Cheyenne and stated that the tribe’s Class I Air Standards would be applied to the new generators at Colstrip. Engineers had designed



generator 3 & 4 for Class II standards. The EPA shut down construction for three years. The company was forced to install better pollution control equipment. Air monitoring stations are set up on the reservation and monitored by tribal employees.

**1979** – Dull Knife Memorial College was established at Lame Deer, Montana. The name was later changed to Chief Dull Knife College.

**1980** – A Congressional act canceled the coal leases and permits.

**1990** – William Tall Bull, Northern Cheyenne elder, helped Senator Melcher write the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act.

**1993** – The Northern Cheyenne Tribe repatriated the human remains of 26 relatives. Nineteen were returned for burial home from the Smithsonian Institution. Seven were men, women and children of Chief Morning Star's band that had been killed in the Fort Robinson massacre in 1879.

**2000** – President Clinton signed the Sand Creek National Historic Site Establishment Act, setting aside 12,000 acres in Colorado.

**2008** – The Northern Cheyenne successfully petitioned to have the Rosebud Battle Field site and the Wolf Mountain Battle site listed as National Historic Landmarks.

# Rocky Boy's Reservation Timeline

## Chippewa and Cree Tribes

### March 2017

The Montana Tribal Histories Reservation Timelines are collections of significant events as referenced by tribal representatives, in existing texts, and in the Montana tribal colleges' history projects. While not all-encompassing, they serve as instructional tools that accompany the text of both the history projects and the *Montana Tribal Histories: Educators Resource Guide*. The largest and oldest histories of Montana Tribes are still very much oral histories and remain in the collective memories of individuals. Some of that history has been lost, but much remains vibrant within community stories and narratives that have yet to be documented.

**Time Immemorial** – “This is an old, old story about the Crees (Ne-I-yah-wahk). A long time ago the Indians came from far back east (Sah-kahs-te-nok)... The Indians came from the East not from the West (Pah-ki-si-mo- tahk). This wasn't very fast. I don't know how many years it took for the Indians to move West.” (Joe Small, Government. Ethnic Heritage Studies Program: Plains Indians, Cheyenne-Cree-Crow-Lakota Sioux. Bozeman, MT: Center for Bilingual/Multicultural Education, College of Education, Montana State University, 1982. P. 4)

**1851** – Treaty with the Red Lake and Pembina Chippewa included a land session on both sides of the Red River.

**1855** – Treaty negotiated with the Mississippi, Pillager, and Lake Winnibigoshish bands of Chippewa Indians. The Tribes ceded a portion of their aboriginal lands in the Territory of Minnesota and reserved lands for each tribe. The treaty contained a provision for allotment and annuities.

**1863** – Treaty with the Mississippi, Pillager, and Lake Winnibigoshish bands of Chippewa Indians ceded a significant portion of their lands as designated in the 1855 treaty.

**1887** – The Montana Territorial Legislature appropriated \$500 for relief for the Cree camped on the Sun River.

**1893** – Crees camped at Silver Bow suffered an outbreak of Scarlet Fever.

**1894** – Despite the policy criminalizing the spiritual traditions and ceremonies of tribes, the Cree held a Sun dance.

**1896** – Congress appropriated \$5,000 Congress to fund the deportation of the Cree from Montana.

**1896** – Buffalo Coat filed a petition with the court, saying he and the other Cree that were detained for deportation were not afforded due process of the law. Buffalo Coat claimed US residency since 1885 and noted the number of children in their group that had been born in the

United States. A judge determined the state court did not have authority to give a ruling as the deportation was through act of Congress. The deportation to Canada went ahead.

**1909** – Rocky Boy’s band ordered to the Blackfeet Reservation. Eleven thousand acres of 80-acre parcels were set-aside for them.

**1912** – Fred Baker searched for a permanent settlement for Rocky Boy’s band and other landless Indians. Fort Assiniboine by the Bear Paw Mountains was offered as a possibility.

**1914** – Frank Bird Linderman wrote letters to influence addressing the landless Indian issue.

**1915** – A survey was done of Fort Assiniboine to determine its suitability for a reservation.

**1916** – Chief Rocky Boy died April 18.

**1916** – A September 7 congressional act designated a tract of land as a refuge for the “homeless and wandering Indians.” The land included part of the abandoned Fort Assiniboine Military Reserve. The original bill was to include four townships. Within this land base there were 21 tillable sections, 80 grazing sections, and 12 timbered sections. Unfortunately the bill was approved with one amendment – the removal of one township. This land included the lower valley of Beaver Creek that contained the tillable acres. The refuge ended up totaling approximately 56,035 acres. More land was added later during 1934 – 1946 almost doubling the size of the reservation, now totaling 107,613 acres. The reservation was named after Chief Rocky Boy as an honor to their departed chief.

**1916** – The first agency school was built.

**1917 – 1920** – A drought ended reservation gardening and eliminated most reservation jobs.

**1925** – A health survey revealed 23 of 65 children attending school had advanced trachoma; nine had evidence of Tuberculosis (TB); and all showed signs of malnutrition. Of the adult population, 20 percent had TB.

**1928** – Sangrey Day School was constructed to serve kindergarten through fifth grade.

**1930** – Haystack Day School was established.

**1931** – Parker Day School was constructed. These latter schools served the tribal member populations moving away from the agency out to the reservation districts. Sometimes the schools were empty as it was hard to keep teachers employed. Housing was scarce and conditions were challenging. Charles Gopher, born in 1933, remembered attending Parker Day School. In addition to formal schooling, one of his memories was the children being gathered together at a home to learn songs and cultural knowledge from elders such as Young boy, Chief Goes Out, and Well Off Man.

**1931** – The Interior Department encouraged mining on the reservation as a 20-year lease was granted to the Bear Paw Mining and Milling Company of Havre to mine gold, lead, silver, copper,



and vermiculite. The Bureau of Indian Affairs limited tribal royalties to seven and one half percent. The Tribe derived no income from this arrangement, and, in fact, the company failed to pay rents and provide safe working conditions.

**1933** – Through the “New Deal” programs, several government projects accomplished road building, construction of an irrigation ditch, Bonneau Dam, and some house construction. Houses were built on “assignments”. At this time a house could be constructed for \$500.

**1934** – With a vote of 172 for and 7 against, the Rocky Boy Tribes voted to organize under the Indian Reorganization Act.

**1935** – Thirty-five thousand acres of land adjacent to the Rocky Boy Reservation was purchased and put in trust for the Chippewa, Cree, and other Indians. It became unclear just whom this land was purchased for. There were still landless Indians in the state at this time. Rather than set up two reservations, it was decided to make the 35,000 acres part of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation, with the tribes’ adoption of 25 additional families.

**1936** – Dr. Henry Roe Cloud conducted a census of landless Indians that totals 550 families representing 3,000 landless Indians eligible for adoption. Eligibility required an Indian blood quantum of one-half or more.

**1936** – The worst drought in the history of the state forced the tribe to sell the 350 cattle they were able to save.

**1938** – The adoption of non-ward Indians.

**1944** – Trusting the promise of Havre, Hill County, and the state to help the Rocky Boy Tribes with their land acquisition program, the Chippewa-Cree Tribal Council gave up their claim to Beaver Creek Park. The tribe never received the support promised.

**1948 – 1949** – Record low temperatures required emergency airlifts of hay, food, and clothing to keep people and cattle alive.

**1949** – The Bureau of Indian Affairs and Rocky Boy Business Committee worked to get a bill introduced for economic support for the reservation. Funding was requested in the form of low interest loans. The bill died without any congressional action.

**1970** – The Rocky Boy’s Reservation’s petition for their own school district was finally approved. Tribal members testified and gave evidence as to the need for a reservation school district. Citing a 12 percent Indian student graduation rate in Havre High School, as well as other incidents of discrimination, a strong case was made for a separate reservation school district.

**1979** – Rocky Boy Alternative High School opened to meet the needs of 32 students who had dropped out of the public school system.

**1984** – A Tribal Ordinance was passed, creating the Charter for Stone Child College.

## Montana Tribal History Timelines – Rocky Boy’s

**1987** – The Rocky Boy Tribal High School was built and the tribes petitioned to create a new public high school district. The tribes eventually appealed to State Superintendent Nancy Keenan and won, making their school a public school.