

**MASKIPITON
PEACE CHIEF OF THE CREE**



Maskipiton, Peace Chief of the Cree

Retold by Pat Pankratz, edited by Elsie Rempel, and illustrated by Nicole Lea. Design and layout by Katharina Nuss.

Adapted from ***Chief of the Cree***, by George McPeck, Winnipeg, MB, Intertribal Christian Communications (Canada) Inc., 1986. (ICC is now operating as Indian Life Ministries.)

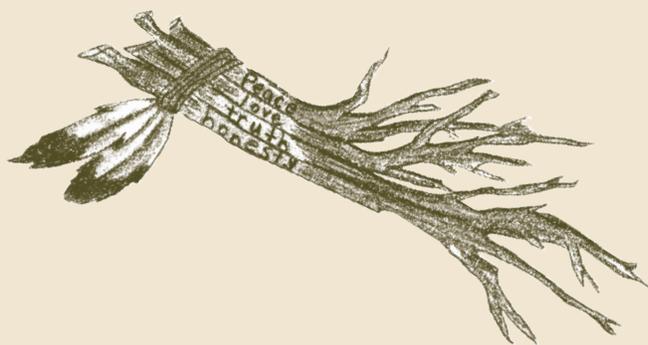
Scriptures are quoted from the New Revised Standard Version © 1989, but we have changed the terms Lord God and Lord to Creator God and Great One for use in this specific context.

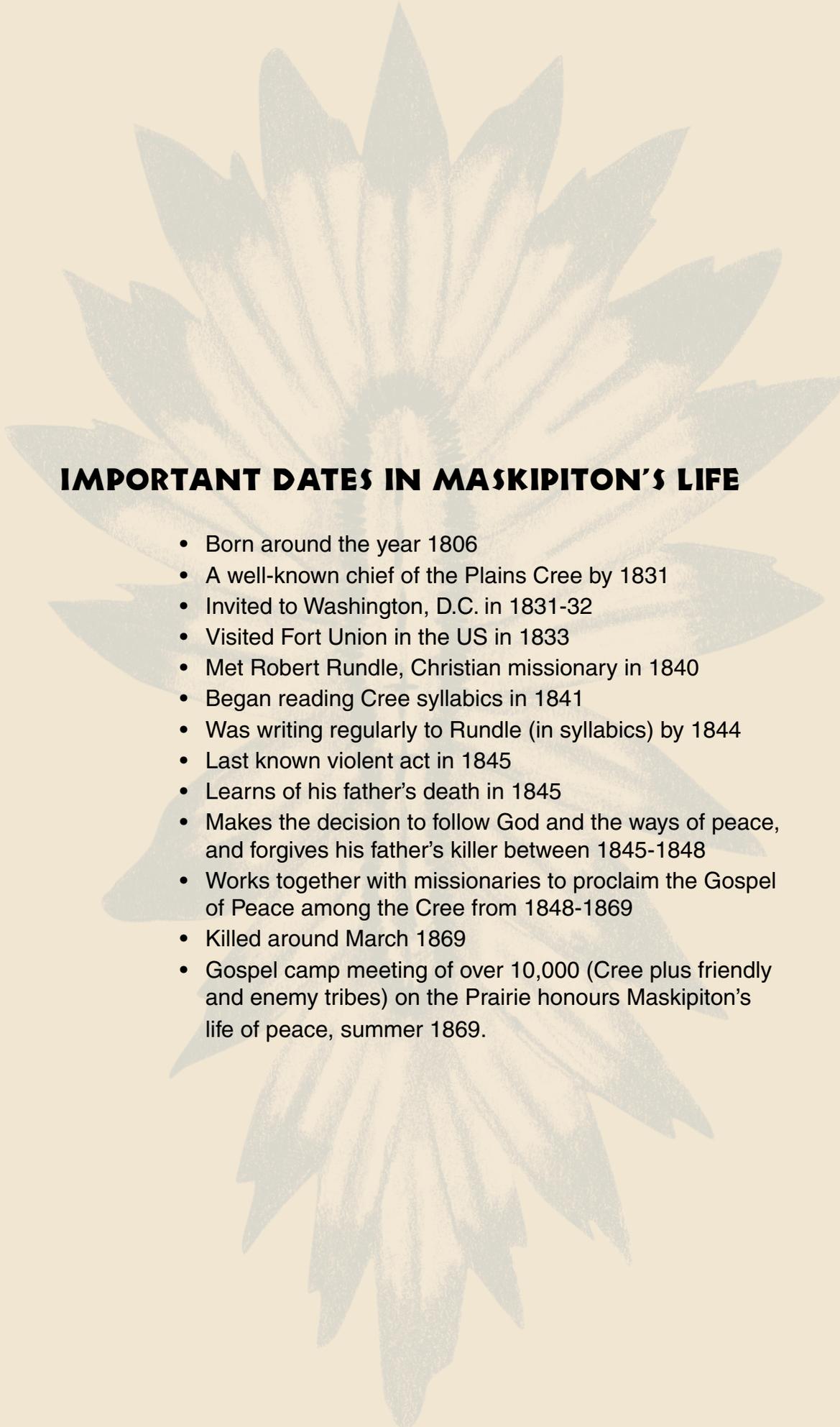
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*To all who choose
the trail of peace.*





IMPORTANT DATES IN MASKIPITON'S LIFE

- Born around the year 1806
- A well-known chief of the Plains Cree by 1831
- Invited to Washington, D.C. in 1831-32
- Visited Fort Union in the US in 1833
- Met Robert Rundle, Christian missionary in 1840
- Began reading Cree syllabics in 1841
- Was writing regularly to Rundle (in syllabics) by 1844
- Last known violent act in 1845
- Learns of his father's death in 1845
- Makes the decision to follow God and the ways of peace, and forgives his father's killer between 1845-1848
- Works together with missionaries to proclaim the Gospel of Peace among the Cree from 1848-1869
- Killed around March 1869
- Gospel camp meeting of over 10,000 (Cree plus friendly and enemy tribes) on the Prairie honours Maskipiton's life of peace, summer 1869.

PREFACE

This story is based on actual written accounts by those who were close friends of Chief Maskipiton. It is the story of his love of God's word, his ability to forgive the man who killed his father and the transformation of a man of violence and hatred to a man of peace and love.

It has been shortened from an earlier version, *Chief of the Cree* by George McPeck (Winnipeg, Indian Life Ministries, 1986) to make it user friendly for a new generation. We hope the reading of this story will transmit knowledge and pride in the contributions of the North American Native heritage alongside a desire to know and grow in our love of our Saviour. May Chief Maskipiton's story plant seeds of Christ centered transformation in the readers of this story.

Elsie Rempel, Editor

From that day on, Maskipiton began walking on the trail of peace, as he was getting to know it through the words and stories from the book of Creator God that was called the Bible. It was not an easy trail. Maskipiton was used to hating his enemy. He had been a great fighter. It was very hard not to strike back when his enemy hit him. It took courage, but he began to lead his people on the trail of peace.

One day, Maskipiton faced a great test. After a surprise attack by their enemies, his friends led a horse right up to the door of his teepee. Maskipiton was shocked to see the body of his murdered father lying across the horse's back. Tears ran down Maskipiton's cheeks. "Maskipiton, what shall we do about this great evil?" they asked. He replied: "The evil is great and fills me with great sadness, but I shall not break my promise of peace to Creator God. I will love my enemy and seek to forgive whoever killed my father. But who did this great evil?" None of them knew, at least not then.



