

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY AUGUST 18



Photo of lead plate buried by French explorer Celeron de Blainville

On August 18, 1749, French explorer Celeron de Blainville planted a lead plate along the Ohio River at present-day Point Pleasant, claiming the territory for France.

CSO: SS.8.20 & SS.8.21

Investigate the Document: (*History Of The Early Settlement And Indian Wars Of Western Virginia*, by Wills De Hass)

1. Name one of the treaties listed on the lead plate. Who was the king of France in 1749?

Think Critically: Why did the French bury the lead plate at Point Pleasant? What was New France? Who were the French competing against in North America?

4 TRANSLATION OF PLATE.

In the year 1749, reign of Louis XV., King of France, We, Celeron, commandant of a detachment sent by Monsieur the Marquis de la Galissoniere, Commandant General of New France, to re-establish tranquillity in some Indian villages of these cantons, have buried this plate at the mouth of the river *Chinodashichetha*, the 18th August, near the river Ohio, otherwise Beautiful River, as a monument of renewal of possessions, which we have taken of the said river Ohio, and of all those which fall into it, and of all the lands on both sides, as far as to the sources of said rivers; the same as were enjoyed or ought to have been enjoyed, by the preceding Kings of France, and that they have maintained it by their arms and by treaties, especially by those of Ryswick, Utrecht, and Aix-la-Chapelle.