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Chapter 9: War in Western Virginia

Quick Notes

CHAPTER 9

WAR IN WESTERN VIRGINIA

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SECTION 1

The French and Indian War

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Competition between the English and the French throughout the world resulted in a war that lasted 100 years.

In North America, that war lasted seven years and was called The Seven Years War (French and Indian War).



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Although both the French and the English invaded lands which were owned by Indians, most of the Indians supported the French in the war because they believed the French were less of a threat to their lifestyle.

The French and the Indians wanted to hunt and trap in the western territory.



The English wanted to make permanent settlements in the area.



The British tried to avoid problems with the Indians by negotiating treaties. Differences in how each group viewed treaties widened the gap between the British and the Indians.

Indians believed treaties were signed to end a war or to announce a trade agreement.

British believed treaties were used to take control of property.



A Sequence of Events Leads to War

Governor Robert Dinwiddie sent George Washington to Fort LeBoeuf to ask the French to leave the Ohio Valley.



Washington was unsuccessful and returned to Williamsburg. He reported that whoever built a fort at the confluence of the Ohio River (present-day Pittsburgh) could easily control the Ohio Valley.

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Governor Dinwiddie directed William Trent to build a fort at the confluence of the Ohio River.

Washington, who was sent to check on Trent's progress, found that the French had destroyed Trent's half-built fort.



Washington retaliated by attacking a French scouting party. His troops killed the French leader Joseph Coulon de Villiers de Jumonville.

French Retaliation

The French planned immediate retaliation for Jumonville's death.

Washington hurriedly completed the building of Fort Necessity at Great Meadows.



Washington's troops were defeated.

Under the terms of the surrender

- Washington agreed to leave the Ohio Valley and not return to build forts for one year.
- Washington agreed to return all the prisoners he had taken in the battle in which Jumonville was killed.
- the French returned to Fort Duquesne and agreed to not build any more forts in the Ohio Valley.

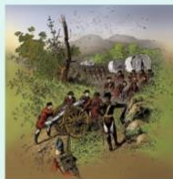
The Arrival of General Edward Braddock



Great Britain sent two regiments under the command of [General Edward Braddock](#) to reinforce troops in the Ohio Valley.

Braddock's army

- brought large wagons full of supplies on roads that had to be widened to accommodate their size.
- followed their leader who rode in a chariot.
- wore bright red (scarlet) uniforms.
- traveled slowly because they built bridges over every stream they crossed.



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The Tides of War

In April 1756, the French and Indians attacked and defeated the British at Fort Edwards.



Even though there had been fighting for several years, the formal declaration of war was issued after the attack on Fort Edwards.

In May 1758, the Shawnee attacked and defeated the British at Fort Seybert

Outside western Virginia, the British lost battles at Fort William Henry and Fort Ticonderoga.

After several years of defeat, the British government put William Pitt in charge of the war.

Under Pitt's leadership, the tides of war changed in favor of the British.

The British won victories at Louisbourg and Fort Frontenac.

The French destroyed Fort Duquesne rather than lose it to the British.

The British rebuilt Fort Duquesne and named it Fort Pitt.



On September 19, 1759, the British won their most important victory at Quebec.



The fighting continued for another three years.

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Treaty of Paris 1763

The Treaty of Paris of 1763 officially ended the French and Indian War.

The provisions of the treaty resulted in a number of territorial changes.

France gave Canada, most of the land east of the Mississippi River, and the islands of Grenada and the Grenadines in the West Indies to Britain.

France gave Spain west Louisiana and New Orleans.

France received the Caribbean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe from Britain.

Spain gave Florida to Britain in exchange for Cuba and the Philippines.



Aftermath of the French and Indian War

Wars cost money!!

After the French and Indian War, the British government imposed a number of taxes to raise money to pay for the war.

The colonists did not think they should pay the taxes because...

-they did most of the fighting in the war and considered that was payment enough.

-the taxes were passed without any input from the colonists.



The disagreement over taxes was one of the causes of the American Revolution.

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Continued Problems with the Indians

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Besides having to pay new taxes, the colonists were angered by the passage of the Proclamation of 1763.

This forbade settlement west of the Allegheny Front. The proclamation also ordered all those who had already settled in the West to return to the East immediately.



A Difference of Opinion

There were two different opinions about the need for the Proclamation of 1763.

King George III believed if settlers were permitted to move into the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains, there would be Indian uprisings. Therefore, the king believed the Proclamation of 1763 was in the best interest of the colonists.

The colonists, however, believed the Treaty of 1763 removed the threat of Indian uprisings in the western land. They also believed the land could serve as a reward for their bravery during the French and Indian War. Therefore, they opposed the Proclamation of 1763.

Prior to the issuance of the proclamation, two brothers, John and Samuel Pringle, deserted from Fort Pitt and moved into the area. They lived in a hollow sycamore tree.

John Pringle left their hiding place to travel east to replenish their supplies. While he was gone, he discovered that the French and Indian War was over. The two brothers no longer had to hide as deserters.



John told people in the East about the land they saw in the West. A number of people traveled with John when he returned to the land around the Buckhannon River.

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Legally Moving into the Western Lands

The Proclamation of 1763 created an Indian territory west of the mountains.

The territory was divided into northern and southern districts.

The land North of the Ohio River was overseen by **William Johnson**. Johnson negotiated the **Treaty of Fort Stanwix** which gave the British all the Iroquois land south of the Ohio River and east of the Allegheny Mountains.

The land to the South, which went all the way to Florida, was administered by **John Stuart**. Stuart negotiated the **Treaty of Hard Labor** in which the Cherokee gave up all their lands between the Kentucky and Kanawha rivers.

These two treaties took away the legal rights of the Proclamation of 1763 and opened the western lands to migration and settlement.

A number of settlements resulted from the negotiation of the treaties of Fort Stanwix and Hard Labor.

In 1768

John Simpson

settled on Elk Creek, near present-day Clarksburg

Zackquill Morgan

settled Morgantown

In 1769

The Zane family settled in Wheeling.

In 1770

The Tomlinson family settled Grave Creek, now Moundsville.

Proposed Changes in western Virginia.

George Washington owned considerable land, over 55,000 acres, in western Virginia. He planned to settle his lands in present-day Mason County. To that end, he sent an employee, James Cleveland, to design and establish a planned community of indentured servants from Ireland.



Great Britain granted land to a group of speculators, including Benjamin Franklin, for a fourteenth colony to be established in the western lands. The colony would be called Vandalia and its capital would be Point Pleasant.

The American Revolution interrupted the completion of both projects.

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SECTION 3

Lord Dunmore's War

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INDIAN PROBLEMS CONTINUE

Michael Cresap's attack at Captina Creek

Murder of Logan's Family

Murder of Chief Bald Eagle



LORD DUNMORE'S WAR

Virginia Governor, Lord Dunmore, decided it was time to completely destroy the power of the Indians.

Some doubted whether this was his true motive for assembling a force of 2500 men.

Some believed his real motive was to draw attention away from the colonists' grievances against the British government.

Others believed he wanted to become more actively involved in the events in western Virginia.

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Regardless of his true motive, Dunmore assembled an army and announced he would personally command half of the men and the other half would be under the command of Colonel Andrew Lewis.

Dunmore led the entire army to Fort Fincastle, in Wheeling. From there he sent half of the troops to meet Colonel Lewis. Lewis was to march from Lewisburg to Point Pleasant.

Dunmore moved down the Ohio River from Wheeling, but stopped before meeting Lewis' forces.

Shawnee chief Cornstalk believed this was the time to attack Lewis, before he and Dunmore could come together.



The result was the Battle of Point Pleasant.

BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT

Andrew Lewis divided his men into two divisions. He appointed Colonel William Fleming to head one regiment and his brother, Colonel Charles Lewis, was chosen to head the second division.

A third group, under Colonel William Christian, was to oversee the transportation of supplies and baggage.

While Lewis's men were resting from a long march and awaiting food supplies, Cornstalk moved his army near their camp.

On the morning of October 9, two soldiers were attacked by the Indians. One of the soldiers was killed, but the other escaped and ran back to the camp to warn the others.



October 10, 1774

The Bloody Battle at Tu Endie Wei

The frontiersmen had superior weapons.

The Indians fought from behind rocks.

The battle lasted all day.

An estimated 200 Indians were killed.



The Virginians lost 50 men, including Colonel Charles Lewis. Another 100 were wounded.

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The End of The War

Cornstalk retreated across the Ohio River and asked for peace.

Lewis learned of Cornstalk's request some 12 days after the battle.

Lewis later learned that the Treaty of Camp Charlotte had been signed by Lord Dunmore, the Shawnee, the Delaware, and the Mingo.

By the terms of the temporary Treaty of Camp Charlotte, the Indians agreed to...

-return all prisoners and horses.

-give up their rights to hunt south of the Ohio River.

The terms of the Treaty of Camp Charlotte became permanent in the Treaty of Pittsburgh.



Fort Gower Address

Tensions between the colonists and the British government grew as many people again questioned Dunmore's real motives for fighting the Indians. Since the Indians were not soundly defeated, they refused to accept this as his real motive.

Soldiers met at Fort Gower and issued a statement known as the Fort Gower Address.

In the statement, the soldiers pledged their allegiance to King George III and Lord Dunmore, but they also expressed a feeling of independence when they pledged that from this time on their love of America and Virginia would be of utmost importance.

Significance of the Battle of Point Pleasant

Some believe the Battle of Point Pleasant was the first battle of the American Revolution.



More likely, the importance of the Battle of Point Pleasant was that it was responsible for keeping peace between the Indians and the colonists for the first two years of the American Revolution.

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SECTION 4

Western Virginia and the American Revolution

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The American colonists declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776.

Two companies of troops were organized in western Virginia.

One, from Berkeley County, was placed under the leadership of Captain Hugh Stephenson.

The other, from Frederick County, was led by Daniel Morgan.



The men from the West dressed differently from the soldiers in the East.

Fighting in western Virginia

First Attack on Fort Henry (Wheeling)

Between 300-400 Indians, supplied with arms and ammunition by the British, attempted to force the colonials out of the fort by placing it under siege.



The Indians also tried to batter down the walls of the fort.

When the Indians realized they could not draw the defenders out of the fort, they retreated. As they left, the Indians burned many of the houses surrounding the fort, killed the cattle, and destroyed crops.

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McCullough's Leap

Major Samuel McCullough came to the aid of besieged Fort Henry.



He guided his horse to the edge of the cliff and forced it to jump.

When he was unable to get into the fort, McCullough rode away from Fort Henry; he was followed by a group of Indians.

Eventually McCullough found himself backed up against a steep cliff, surrounded by Indians.



McCullough's leap is one example of bravery during the American Revolution.

Cornstalk's Death

In September 1777, Cornstalk visited Fort Randolph to warn colonial commander Matthew Arbuckle of a possible Indian attack.

Cornstalk and Delaware chief Red Hawk were taken prisoner.



Later Cornstalk's son, Elinipsico, went to the fort to see what had happened to his father. While there, he was also taken prisoner.

While the three Indians were prisoners, two white hunters were attacked by a group of Indians. One of the hunters was killed.

The soldiers at Fort Randolph decided that Elinipsico must have brought the Indians with him when he came in search of his father.

Because of this, they ordered that the three prisoners be killed. Captain Arbuckle stepped aside and let the soldiers kill the three Indians.

Siege of Fort Randolph

In May 1778, some 2,000 Indians came to **Fort Randolph** and demanded its surrender.

When the commander, Captain William McKee, refused, the Indians surrounded the fort and held it under siege for a week.

The siege of Fort Randolph ended in the same way as the siege on Fort Henry. The defenders refused to leave the fort, and, eventually, the Indians left. As they left, they gathered up all the cattle in the vicinity and moved to the Kanawha River.

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Attack on Fort Donnally

Captain William McKee believed the Indians who were retreating from Fort Randolph were headed to the Greenbrier Valley. To that end, he asked for volunteers to go to warn the settlers there of an impending Indian attack.

John Pryor and Phillip Hammond volunteered to go. They arrived at Fort Donnally before the Indians and informed the settlers of the possible attack.

Phillip Hammond and Dick Pointer, a slave, kept watch that night while the defenders slept. Around dawn, the Indians attacked. Hammond and Pointer protected the fort. Others, awakened by the noise, began firing at the attackers.

The Indians fled when Captain Arbuckle arrived from Camp Union (Lewisburg) with a company of sixty-six men.



Second Battle at Fort Henry

On September 10, 1782, five years after the first battle, Fort Henry was attacked by a company of 40 British soldiers and 238 Indians.

The battle lasted two days before the defenders began to run short of gunpowder.

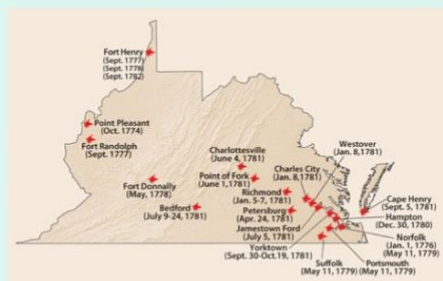
Elizabeth (Betty) Zane, a sixteen-year-old girl, volunteered to run to her brother's house a few yards from the gates of the fort to secure the needed gunpowder.

She ran through gun fire on her way back to the fort, but succeeded in her mission.

The Second Battle at Fort Henry actually occurred a year after British General Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown.



Where were the battles fought in western Virginia during the American Revolution?



How does the number of battles in western Virginia compare with the battles in eastern Virginia?

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