Tennessee History Highlights Workshop

Resources

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## Tennessee in Context: 1760-1789

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1760</td>
<td>Fort Loudoun Massacre - Cherokee attack British troops after surrender of the fort. 23 soldiers killed.</td>
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The Fort Loudoun Massacre

Long-term Causes

1. British sought Native American allies in conflict with France
2. The British did not understand Cherokee culture and believed themselves to be superior to the Cherokee.

1756- Britain declares war on France and allies with the Cherokee.

1757-1758 Cherokee returning from war take Virginia settlers horses. Settlers kill Cherokee and Cherokee seek retribution.

1759- Attakullakulla arranges release of Oconostota and two other prisoners.

1759- British soldiers kill remaining 23 Cherokee prisoners in retaliation.

August 7, 1760- Captain Demere surrenders Fort Loudoun after siege. Demere promises to leave cannon, but buries them instead.

May, 1761 - British forces march into Cherokee country in retaliation for Fort Loudoun Massacre.

1756- British begin building Fort Loudoun to protect Cherokee towns from French allied Native Americans and protect South Carolina from invasion.

1759- Cherokee leaders try to make peace; Oconostota and 25 other Cherokee taken hostage by British at Fort Prince George.

1759- Oconostota returns to Fort Prince George and kills its commander after he refuses to release other prisoners.

1759-1760- Cherokee under Ostenaco besiege Fort Loudoun.

August 10, 1760- Cherokee attack and massacre retreating forces. They kill 23 including Demere and take 120 hostages.

1761- Attakullakulla negotiates peace after the British attack Cherokee towns

Long-term Effects

1. Fort Loudoun is abandoned.
2. The British issue the Proclamation of 1763 forbidding settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains.
3. Fighting between the Cherokee and British settlers continues.
Frontier Figures

Attakullakulla- also known as Little Carpenter. Attakullakulla was a Cherokee peace chief who played a key role at Fort Loudoun and supported the Transylvania and Watauga Purchases. He was the father of Dragging Canoe, uncle of Nancy Ward, and great uncle of Sequoyah.

Dr. Thomas Walker- physician and land speculator who discovered Cumberland Gap in 1750 while exploring for the Loyal Company of Virginia.

Daniel Boone- explorer who worked for Richard Henderson. Boone’s reports encouraged Henderson to negotiate Transylvania Purchase. Boone also led the team of men who blazed the Wilderness Road.

William Bean- first settler in modern Tennessee. Bean and his family settled along the Watauga River in 1769.

Richard Henderson- North Carolina land speculator who purchased 20 million acres of land in Middle Tennessee and Kentucky in the 1775 Transylvania Purchase. Henderson also organized the Cumberland Settlement expeditions and the surveying of the Wilderness Road.

James Robertson- chosen by Henderson to lead a group of men overland to establish settlement along the Cumberland River near French Lick in 1779.
John Donelson- chosen by Henderson to lead a group of settlers to the Cumberland Settlement by way of the Holston to the Tennessee to the Ohio Rivers and finally down the Cumberland River.

Dragging Canoe- son of Attakullakulla Dragging Canoe opposed the Transylvania and Watauga Purchases. He became leader of the Chickamauga, a group of Cherokee who fought against white settlements especially in Middle Tennessee.

Thomas Sharpe Spencer- long hunter who explored Cumberland River region. Spencer lived along the Cumberland River from 1776-1779. He spent the final winter in a hollow sycamore tree.

Nancy Ward- also known as Nanye-hi. She became a “Beloved Woman” after picking up her husband’s gun and leading a charge against the Creeks. She later married a trader named Bryan Ward. Ward supported white settlement and warned Sevier of an impending attack by Dragging Canoe.

John Sevier- also known as Nolichucky Jack. Sevier was a leader in the Watauga settlement. Sevier helped organize and lead the Overmountain Men at Battle of King’s Mountain. He was governor of the failed State of Franklin and was the first governor of Tennessee.

Oconostota- Cherokee red chief or war chief. He was imprisoned at Fort Prince George in 1759 and later returned and had the fort’s commander killed.
Watauga
- William Bean
- Richard Henderson
- James Robertson
- John Donelson
- John Sevier

Cumberland
- Richard Henderson
- James Robertson
- John Donelson
- Thomas Sharpe Spencer

Cherokee
- Attakullakulla (Little Carpenter)
- Dragging Canoe
- Nanye-hi (Nancy Ward)

Fort Loudoun
- Attakullakulla

Battle of King’s Mountain
- John Sevier

State of Franklin
- John Sevier