

Tennessee History Highlights Workshop Resources

Lisa Oakley

Curator of Education

East Tennessee Historical Society

oakley@easttnhistory.org

teachtnhistory.org

Tennessee in Context: 1760-1789

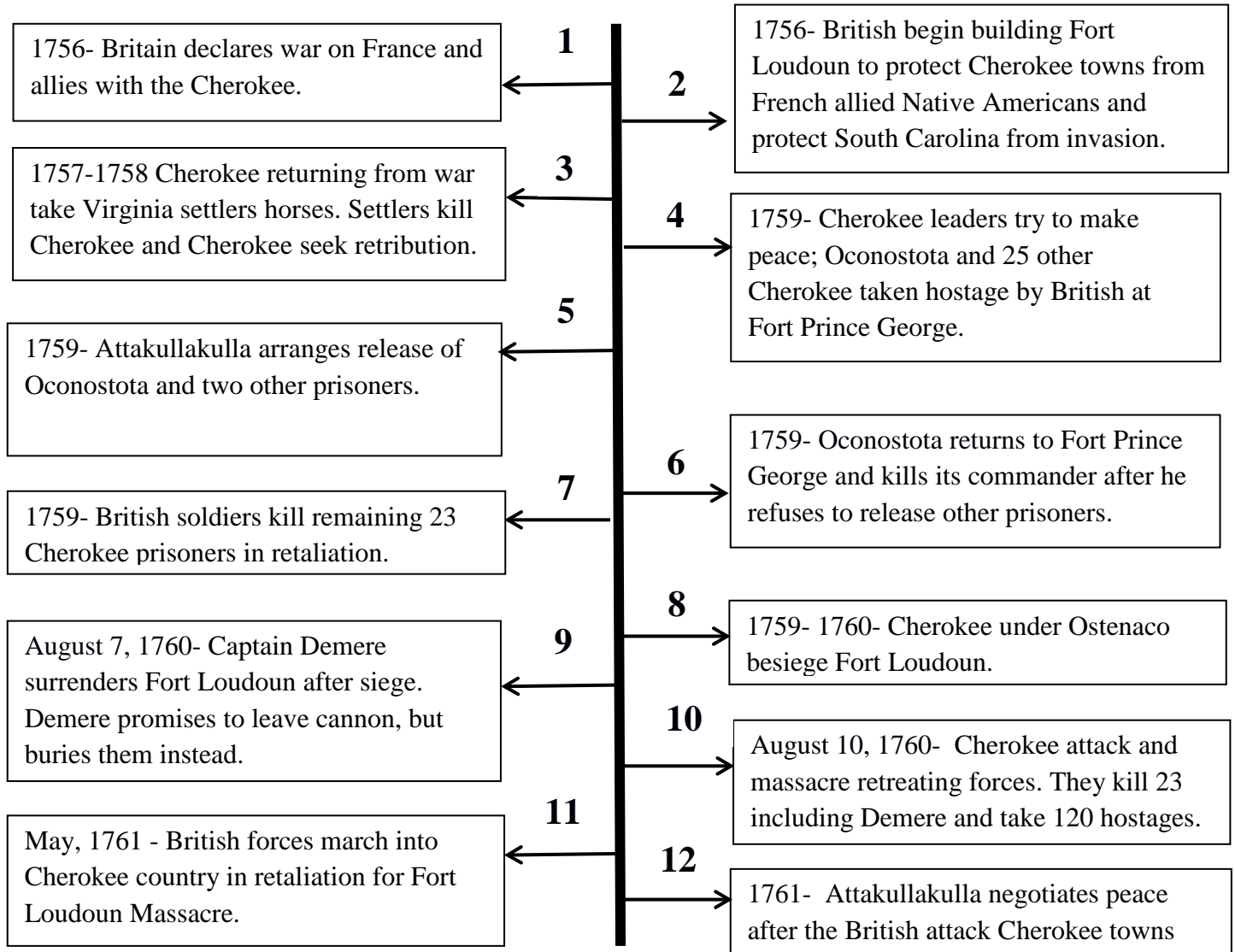
1760 Fort Loudoun Massacre- Cherokee attack British troops after surrender of the fort. 23 soldiers killed.
1763 Proclamation of 1763
1772 Watauga Compact- Settlers in Watauga create laws and government for their settlement since they are outside the authority of Virginia or North Carolina.
March 14, 1775 Transylvania Purchase- Land speculator Richard Henderson purchases 20 million acres of land in Middle Tennessee and Kentucky from the Cherokee. Henderson hires Daniel Boone to clear the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap.
March 19, 1775 Watauga Purchase- Watauga leaders negotiate a treaty with the Cherokee to convert their lease into a purchase.
1775- Watauga renamed Washington District
1776 Cherokee War- Cherokee, unhappy about Watauga and Transylvania Purchases, attack the settlements. Dragging Canoe leads the attacks.
1776 Watauga Petition- Washington District petitions North Carolina for annexation; North Carolina agrees.
1779 Cumberland Settlement- Henderson sends John Donelson and James Robertson to start settlement along Cumberland River in Middle Tennessee.
1780 Cumberland Compact- Cumberland settlers sign Cumberland Compact to create laws and government for the settlement.
October 7, 1780 Battle of King's Mountain- Overmountain men defeat British loyalist force at King's Mountain.
April 1781- Battle of the Bluffs- Chickamauga are defeated after attacking Fort Nashborough (Nashville) settlement.
1784-1789-State of Franklin- Settlers declare independence from North Carolina, but fail to gain recognition for Franklin as 14 th state.

March 5, 1770- Boston Massacre
December 16, 1773 – Boston Tea Party
March 23, 1775- Patrick Henry delivers his “Give me liberty or give me death!” speech
April 19, 1775- Battles of Lexington and Concord
June 15, 1775- George Washington named Commander in Chief of Continental Army
January 15, 1776- <i>Common Sense</i> published
July 4, 1776- Declaration of Independence
Oct 19, 1781- Cornwallis surrenders
September 17, 1787- Constitution signed
June 21, 1788- Constitution ratified

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.



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 late 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