PRE-REVOLUTION WARS, CONFLICTS

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO GENEALOGISTS?
What was happening where and when our ancestors lived can help us understand: Events in which they may have been directly involved; Events that could have affected their lives and decisions even if not directly involved.
Understanding events happening around our ancestors help turn them from dry statistics to living, breathing individuals.
Sometimes we may get actual clues as to where to look next.
Rather than to confuse with all the names involved, I will list those mentioned in my resources. If any ring a bell in your research, you can further research the individual war(s) where they were involved.

.................................................................

ANGLO-POWHATAN WAR(S)
When-1609-1614, 1622-1626, 1644-1646
Where-Primarily current-day Virginia
Who-Various native tribes led primarily by Chief Powhatan vs English settlers led my a variety of military leaders, among them Captain John Smith

Background
English elder in 1585 - purpose for new colonies “plant Christian religion” - “to Trafficke” - “to conquer”
English settlers chose bad location: Swampy, Polluted water, Disease carrying insects
Soon lack of food - Became dependent on Natives for survival

Aims of the 2 sides
Captain John Smith - someday the Virginia Indians would be doing all the work for the English
Chief “Powhatan” (Wahunsunacawh) - wanted Smith and colonists to:
Forsake the swamp: Live in one of his satellite towns:
Make metal tools for him in exchange for full provisions

Early Conflicts:
Smith captured by hunting party - Later claimed Pocahontas dramatically saved him - Historians question if propaganda or native ritual - Released when he promised to move colony
1608 - Starving colonists strong-arm ing corn from natives who also had a bad harvest
Spring 1609 - tribe resumed raiding English fort
After Wowinchopunk captured and escaped, some colonists allowed to board in Native towns
Summer 1609 - colonists build new forts, burial platforms ransacked, men wiped out when trying to buy corn
Attacks, often associated with attempts to obtain corn continue with mixed results
New commander (Lord de la Warr) was harsher, more belligerent toward Natives planed to engage in wars of conquest

Peace of Pocahontas
Peace finally sealed by marriage of Pocahontas & John Rolfe - First known inter-racial union in VA
Ushered in several years of peace and good relations

.................................................................

PEQUOT WAR
When - 1636-1638
Where - Connecticut River Valley
Who - Pequot Indians vs colonists

Background
(Contrary to popular lore, epidemic decimated many tribes BEFORE colonists arrived)
Pequot had subjugated dozens of other tribes
Control region’s fur and wampum trade
Used diplomacy, coercion, intermarriage, warfare
By 1635 Pequot had economic, political and military control of all modern-day Connecticut and eastern Long Island
Before arrival of English in early 1930’s Dutch and Pequot controlled region’s trade
Subservient tribes resenting Pequots
Other tribes sought alliance with newly arriving colonists
IMO) Dutch appeared to primarily want trade, not colonization

Impetus for War
Killing of English traders? - Culmination of decades-long conflict between Native peoples?
Trader, John Stone, and crew killed by the Pequot in early 1634. Pequot viewed their actions as justified. English felt they could not let any English deaths go unpunished. Another trader, John Oldham found murdered on his ship off Block Island (now in Rhode Island).

Response
Late August, 1636 - Massachusetts Bay Colony sends force of 90 soldiers to Block Island to exact retribution.
Set fire to villages and cornfields.
Sailed to Pequot territory along Thames River.
Failed to incite Pequot to battle.
Burned their villages and cornfields.
Pequots successfully attacked and sieged fort at Saybrook.

War's longest engagement - 11 months
Pequot destroyed English provisions.
Set fire to English warehouses.
Attacked any settlers who strayed from the fortress.
Pequot had no firearms, but won every engagement for first 6 months.
First time English had confronted Native American battle formations, tactics and weapons.
Pequot had encountered European battle formations and methods in brief fight with the Dutch in 1634.
English muskets superior to bows, but... Pequots able to use terrain and mobility for advantage.
English suffered dozens of casualties before adapting to New World strategies.

Turning Point
Pequots attack Wethersfield settlement.
First time (English) women and children killed.
1 May, 1637 - Connecticut colony declares war on the Pequot.
Capt. John Mason of Windsor ordered to conduct offensive war against Pequot in retaliation for Wethersfield.

Most significant battles followed:

Battle of Mistick Fort
10-26 May, 1637
77 CT soldiers and 250 Native allies attack and burn fortified Pequot village - 400 Pequot including 175 women and children killed in less than an hour - half of them burned to death - Any attempting escape shot by English or their Mohegan and Narragansett allies - Only about a dozen survivors - 7 taken prisoner.

“Battle of English Withdrawal”
10. hour battle
More than 500 Pequot sought to reach safety of their ships 7 miles away under Sassacus.
Pequot lost half their fighting men in the 2 battles.
Final, complete victory sealed 6 weeks later.

Swamp Fight at Fairfield
English pursued felling Pequot communities, executed fighting men, and enslaved women and children.
Colonists contingent of 160 men and 40 Mohegan scouts.
Allowed several hundred (mostly women and children) to surrender.

Sassacus & perhaps 80 warriors slipped out before dawn.

Aftermath
Sassacus and remaining Pequot sought refuge across CT River with Mohawks.
Mohawks murdered him and bodyguard and sent his head and hands to Hartford.
Pequot hunted down and killed or granted asylum with Mohegans and Narragansetts.

Treaty of Hartford - 21 Sep 1638
No Pequots to inhabit their native Country.
Never call themselves Pequot again.
Some enslaved and sent to Bermuda or forced to be household slaves in colonial English households.

No significant battles for next 38 years.

Key Participants:

KING PHILLIP'S WAR (METACOM'S REBELLION)

Bloodiest war in American History on a per capita basis.
When - 1675-1676
Where - Southern New England
Who - English settlers vs local tribes led by Pokunoket chief Metacom, aka “King Phillip”

“King Phillip”
Leader of Pokaniket tribe in Wampanog Federation.
Given the name by English because of his “haughty mannerisms”.
Son of Massasoit who helped Plymouth Pilgrims survive their first winter.

Background
During 55 years between Mayflower arrival and the outbreak of King Philip’s War:
English prospered, multiplied and expanded their settlements.
Natives in state of decline.
Diseases introduced by Europeans.
Loss of tribal lands to whites.
Philip warned whites, “I am determined not to live until I have no country!”

The War Begins
Wampanog braves kill English owned cattle near tribal headquarters.
English livestock repeatedly trampled Indian corn.
Farmer retaliated by killing an Indian.
Uprising would eventually threaten to wipe Massachutes Bay and Plymouth Bay colonies out of existence.
Other tribes join Wampanoags and attack town of Brookfield.
8 soldiers killed in ambush, remainder made it back to Brookfield.
Warriors pursued and burned every building in town.
Using last of their drinking water, settlers slowed blaze.

...
Dilemma: death by fire/ flee only to be scalped & killed
Sudden heavy rain doused the fire
Additional soldiers arrived & rescued survivors but town in ashes and abandoned for 11 years (until 1686)
Other tribes joined natives
Further battles
Deerfield - settlers abandoned after attack - Soldiers returned to retrieve remaining grain, on return, put muskets in wagons and stopped to pick wild grapes Indians set trap and killed 71 soldiers - stream red with blood and renamed “Bloody Brook”
Nearby troops too late, unable to save the men, forced to abandon field of battle, but returned next day to bury the dead
English in disarray - Concluded war was result of Puritans not following strict religious codes - Puritans lashed out against easy scapegoats, Quakers and neutral and Christian natives
Hatfield, Northampton and Springfield
Thirty Houses burned - Philip joined by Agawams who were formerly peaceful, but settlers had taken some of their children hostage
Hardships for Indians
Algonquins grew food in garden plots
Constant movement left crops unattended and hunger took toll
English becoming desperate as central Massachusetts firmly in hands of natives
English feared Narragansetts, who were peacefully living in Rhode Island with Roger Williams followers, would join fight
“Neutrality meant little in Colonial New England”
December 1675 colonists launched preemptive strike Known as Great Swamp Massacre
About 1000 soldiers surrounded and eventually breached native palisade
500 Narragansetts (mostly women and children) killed
Many wigwams put to torch
Survivors joined on side of Philip
English launch surprise raid at northern end of CT river - Scores of natives slaughtered or drowned in falls - Warriors from surrounding areas launched counterattack
War Comes to End
Major camp wiped out - Indian alliance collapsed
The few Native survivors fled north or continued fighting a lost cause
Philip made hit and run attacks on isolated farms until he was killed
Native resistance effectively ended in New England
Random raids and skirmishes ended when treaty signed in April, 1676

Affects of the war
Colonists: 600 dead, 1200 homes burned, 12 of 90 settlements destroyed
Financial losses stopped further English expansion for 50 years
Ruined economy by: nearly halting the fur trade, 8000 cattle killed, Interrupting importing and exporting of goods, Decline in fishing industry, Expenses of 80,000 pounds led to high taxes
Natives: Out of population of 20,000, 2000 killed, 3000 died of sickness and starvation, 1000 captured and sold into slavery, 2000 fled to join other tribes in the west and north
Philip seen as hero to many natives even today

Key Participants:
Metacom, Massasoit, Edward Hutchinson, Captain Wheeler, Thomas Lothrop, Captain Moseley, Josiah Winslow, Benjamin Church, Edmund Andros, Canonchet, John Alderman, Captain Gardner, Mary Rowlandson, William Turner, Captain Holyoke, John Sassamon, Simon Willard, Richard Beers, Major Treat, William Clark, Major Tallcott

BACON’S REBELLION
When - 1676
Where - Virginia
Who - Settlers led by Nathaniel Bacon vs Governor William Berkeley

Background
Virginia Governor, William Berkeley, (appointed by the crown) refused to retaliate for series on Native attacks on frontier settlements
Colonists refused permission to expand westward and claim Indian lands on the frontier
Nathaniel Bacon’s personal vendetta against Berkeley for perceived favoritism toward some members of his court
Many colonists felt their shared interests among all social classes were being ignored

Rebellion
Bacon led raiding party consisting of disgruntled farmers
He was elected their leader (after distributing a quantity of brandy)
Attacked a native village killing most of the men, women and children
Berkeley called for new elections to better address Indian raids
Bacon and 500 followers attempted to get commission for militia against Natives-granted after some “sabre rattling”
Bacon and his army issue “Declaration of the People of Virginia” levelling accusations against Berkeley
He raised great unjust taxes
He advanced favorites to office
He monopolized the beaver trade with Native Americans
He was “pro-Native American”

Attack on Jamestown
Following months of conflict: Bacon and 300-500 men burned colonial capital to the ground. Berkeley retreated across the river. Bacon died from dysentery before English naval squadron could arrive to help Berkeley
Rebellion gradually faded

Aftermath
Berkeley returned to power, seized property of some remaining rebels and executed 23 by hanging but was relieved of governorship after investigative report
Both black and white had joined the rebellion. - “...there was an obvious lesson in the rebellion. Resentment of an alien race might be more powerful than resentment of an upper class”

**Key Participants**
- William Berkeley
- John Coode
- Josias Fendall
- Nathaniel Bacon
- John Larimore
- John Ingram
- Thomas Grantham
- William Drummond
- Giles Bland

**CULPEPPER’S REBELLION**
*When - 1677*
*Where - Carolinas*
*Who - Carolina colonists vs British Proprietor*

**Background**
- Thinly populated county of Albemarle claimed by both Virginia and Carolina
- British Navigation Acts:
  - Britain wanted colonies to generate income
  - Colonies to export only raw materials
  - Colonial goods carried only on English and colonial ships
  - European goods bound for colonies must pass through Britain
  - Taxes collected at each level
- Colonists considered taxes unfair especially after several years of bad harvests
- Settlers also grumbled that quitrents they had to pay on their land were higher than neighboring colonies

**Revolt**
- New customs collector (Thomas Miller):
  - Collected taxes strictly, Seized illegally imported goods, Imposed fines, Had himself appointed interim governor, Used power to interfere with elections and imprison his opponents, Travelled with guard of armed men
- In 1677, 40 men, led by 3 including John Culpeper:
  - Forced Miller out of office and took over government, Held new elections
  - English government investigated: Culpeper tried for rebellion, Supporters argued there was no settled government so colony had right to riot against abuses of Miller, Culpeper acquitted and returned a hero

**Aftermath**
- New governor delayed. His replacement restored order, pardoned the rebels & collected the customs duties
- Delayed governor arrived but he was so corrupt he was removed from office and banished
- After further chaos and rebellion, order finally restored and residents of region appointed to local offices
- With peace and stability, colony of NC began to grow (until the next rebellion known as Cary’s Rebellion)

**Key participants:**
- John Culpeper
- Peter Carteret
- John Jenkins
- Thomas Eastchurch
- Thomas Miller
- Stephens Berkeley
- George Durant
- Valentine Bird
- Lord Shaftsbury
- Edward Hyde
- Philip Ludwell
- Frances Culpeper

**“FRENCH & INDIAN WAR”**
- Actually 3 or 4 different conflicts often lumped together: King William’s war; Queen Anne’s war; King George’s war; 7 Year’s war

**...**

**KING WILLIAM’S WAR (1ST FRENCH & INDIAN WAR)**
*When - 1689-1697*
*Where - Northern New England and lower Canada East (later Quebec)*
*Who - Northern English Colonies vs French (primarily fur traders)*

**Background**
- Concurrent with Nine Years’ War in Europe so neither England nor France willing to weaken position in Europe to support efforts in North America
- English Traders has recently established the Hudson’s Bay Trading Company which competed with French traders in Canada
- Political divisions fragmented northern English colonies, each jealous of their frontiers
- Treaties and agreements reached at end of King Philip’s War not adhered to
- Natives playing both French and English fears the other was aiding them
- English perceived Natives as their subjects despite Natives unwillingness to submit
- English settlers (more than 154,000) outnumbered French 12 to 1
- English colonies unable to cooperate efficiently and lacked military leadership
- French vastly outnumbered, but more politically unified with disproportionate number of males with military background
- French developed good relationships with indigenous peoples and made effective use of hit-and-run tactics
- English settlers from Massachusetts expanding into Acadia

**War**

**NEW ENGLAND, ACADIA and NEWFOUNDLAND**
- April 1688 English raid triggered retaliatory raids killing over 30 - 29 captured & sold into captivity in New France
- After turning the French/Native coalition back, British Major returned to Bostin leaving the settlers unprotected
- The following spring retaliated massacring all English settlers in Fort Loyal leading to near depopulation of Maine
- Native forces then able to attack New Hampshire frontier without reprisal
- July 1694, French and Native forces killed 45, captured 49, burned half the dwellings, destroying crops, killing livestock and causing famine and destitution in Durham NH
- 2 years later, almost every English settlement in Newfoundland destroyed killing over 100 and 500 deported to England or France

**QUEBEC and NEW YORK**
- Late 1689 and 1690 - back and forth attacks between Iroquois and colonists in New York
Two expeditions sent in response
By land under Connecticut militia failed due
to disease and supply issues
By sea defeated in the Battle of Quebec
Only major NE offenses in King William’s War
During remainder, English colonists primarily
engaged in defensive operations, skirmishes and
retaliatory raids
After England & France made peace in 1697,
Iroquois, abandoned by English, remain at war with
France until 1701
Hudson Bay Theatre
Ongoing economic war between French and
English interests in Arctic NA
HBC established trading outposts by early 1680’s
Control went back and forth several times. Last
(during this war) occupied by France
Aftermath
Treaty of Ryswick in September 1697 reverted all
colonial borders to what they were before the war!
Many tensions remained:
Resentment by colonists that their efforts were
for naught
Peace lasted a short time - Within 5 years Queen
Anne’s War resumed in many of the same areas
Key Participants:
Governor Andros, Kancamungus, Mesandowit,
Jean-Vincent d’ Saint-Castin, Father Louis-Pierre
Thury, Benjamin Church, William Phips, Governor
de Meneval, Villebon, Moxus, James Converse,
Joseph Storer, Malodowat, Claude-Sebastian
de Villieu, Bomazeen, Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville,
General Denonville, Count Frontenac, Fitz-John
Winthrop
Cotton Mather

Leisler’s Rebellion
When - 1689-1691
Where - Southern New York
Who - Various entities quibbling over jurisdiction
of the area
Background
1680’s - Royal appointee (Francis Nicholson) as
governor of NY, NE and NJ described colonists as
“conquered people with no rights and privileges as
Englishmen”
“Glorious Revolution” in England changed rule
from Catholic to Protestant
New governor highly unpopular
Opponents in MA organized uprising in Boston
18 Apr 1689 (no, not the infamous “tea party”)
Arrested governor and restored pre-dominion
government
Meanwhile, back in Europe France declares war
against Britain
NY concerns: Defenses poor; Import duties resisted;
Worries that those in charge wanted to “impose
popery”
Rebellion
Remark by Lt. Governor started rumor that he
planned to burn New York
Militia called in and occupied Ft. James on Long
Island
Gov resigned and militia turned command to
Leisler
Much confusion as to who should be in charge
Dutch retained control of NYC
Race from Albany with proclamation
Leisler won out - chosen province’s commander-
in-chief pending word from Britain
War broke out between France and England
Leisler’s Rule
Opponents seized control in Albany
Rumors of imminent attack from French Canada
Appealed to Leisler for militia help
He finally gained control in 1690
Made move to divide neighboring communities
Letter from England stating recipient to “take
upon you the government of the ...province” so Leisler
claimed legitimacy
Attempted to collect taxes and customs duties
which met with some resistance
Downfall
Developed scheme to invade New France (Canada)
Ordered merchants to provide goods and broke
into storehouses if they didn’t - Kept careful account
and many were later repaid
Orders finally arrive from England for Leisler to
surrender control. Some small skirmishes follow
Leisler refused to acknowledge legitimacy of
court
Sentenced to “be hanged, drawn,
quartered, and their estates confiscated”
Seen as martyr and divisions continued until 1710
Key Participants: Jacob Leisler, Francis
Nicholson, Andros, Abraham de Peyster, Johannis
de Peyster
Charles Lodewick, Thomas Dongan, Nicholas
Bayard,
Benjamin Fletcher, Henry Ashurst, Robert Hunter,
Richard Ingoldsby, Stephanus van Cortlandt,
Frederick Philipse, Jacob Milborne, Fitz-John
Winthrop,
Robert Treat, Henry Sloughter, Jost Still, Joseph
Dudley,
Sir William Phips, Sir Constantine Henry Phips,
Matthew Clarkson, Henry Sloughter

Queen Anne’s War (2nd French & Indian War)
When - 1702-1713
Where - Spanish Florida, Acadia and Maritime
Canada
Who - England and colonists vs Spain, France and
various tribes
Background
France and England still seeking control of North
American continent
Connected to battle in Europe over succession to
the Spanish throne
Fought in 3 “theatres”: Spanish Florida, New
England,
Newfoundland and Labrador
Treaty ending King William’s war ambiguous and
Native tribes not included
Frictions along frontier areas separating
colonies, most pronounced along northern and
southwestern English frontiers
Total English colonial population 250,000 dominated by Virginia and New England concentrated along coast with small settlements inland.

**Contributing factors in the different regions**

- Arrival of French in south threatened existing trade links
- Territorial claims overlaid by religious divisions - Roman Catholic Spanish vs Protestant English

In the north, strong economic component - Smaller permanent settlements, many seasonal Competition over fisheries of the Grand Banks

Border between Acadia and New England uncertain

**Technology and Organization**

- Military technology not as developed as in Europe
- Few stone fortifications-mostly simple wooden structures
- Europeans and colonists firearms short range (100 yds) and not very accurate beyond 50 yds - some pikes
- Tribal warriors supplied with European arms or used tomahawks and bows
- Few canons (and few colonists with experience)

English organized into militia companies, but no regular military presence: French had militias plus a standing defense force: Spanish Florida defended by a few hundred regular troops

**Course of the war(s)**

**FLORIDA AND CAROLINA:**

- French and English understood significant role of control of Mississippi River would take so French wanted to push English off the continent
- English traders and explorers from Carolina had established extensive trading networks
- Little respect for Spanish in FL
- Understood threat posed by French arrival
- Spanish with Apalachee warriors tried to attack frontier trading centers but English had advance warning and routed Spanish
- Governor Moore led unsuccessful force against Spanish Florida

- Moore’s force virtually wiped out Apalachee and Timucua of Spanish Florida

**NEW ENGLAND and ACADIA:**

- France defined border as Kennebec River in southern Maine and were able to thwart New England expansion into the area
- Along with 500 Wabanaki Natives, led attacks against New England settlements - > 300 settlers killed or captured
- Year later raid on Deerfield MA destroyed the settlement, killing or capturing many colonists
- Surviving children adopted by Mohawk people Active market in human trafficking of captive colonists
- Unable to effectively combat raids, New England colonists turned to Acadia
- British finally captured Port Royal and control of peninsular portion of Acadia (now Nova Scotia)

**Key Participants**

- **BRITISH/Colonial:** Walker, General Hill
- Governor Moore, Benjamin Church
- Joseph Dudley, Winthrop Hilton, John Marsh
- Francis Nicholson

- **French:** Francis Nicholson, Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville
- Jean-Baptiste de Rouville, Fr. Sebastien Rale
- Philippe de Rigaud Vaudreuil

**ATTACKS**

- **Sep 22 1711** - Killed hundreds of settlers including several key political figures - Stories of women impaled on stakes, 80 infants slaughtered and 130 settlers killed in additional raids
- NC sought help from South Carolina – Barnwell’s expedition
  - Of 528 men, only 30 were colonists, the rest Natives from other tribes
  - Many natives deserted or died leaving only 148 while colonists increased to 94
  - Truce arranged and Barnwell criticized for lifting siege
- 1713 In later battles 950 Natives killed, captured or sold into slavery Still most fighting Tuscarora were from competing tribes

**Aftermath**

- Majority of Tuscarora survivors migrated to New York, joined the Iroquois and became the 6th nation in the Iroquois Confederacy
- Remaining signed treaty in 1718
  - Granted tract of land on Roanoke River (now Bertie County) where the remaining were forced to move
  - Over next decades land sold off to speculators in deals designed to take advantage of them

**Key Participants:** Tom Blount, Chief Hancock
- John Lawson, Baron Von Graffenried
- Edward Hyde, Major Mackay, John Barnwell
- Captain Jack, William Bull, Dove Williamson
- James Moore, Thomas Cary, ? Brice
- Alexander Spotswood, Christopher Gale
- Robert Gibbes, Maurice Moore, Thomas Pollock

**YAMASEE WAR**

- **When - 1715-1717**
- **Where - Colonial South Carolina**
- **Who - British settlers vs various tribes**

**Background**

- Alliances and contention between various tribes in a state of constant flux
- Tuscarora War and aftermath played a big role
Reasons complex
Land encroachment by Europeans; Trading system
Trader abuses; Indian slave trade; Depletion of deer
Increasing Indian debts vs increasing wealth of some colonists - Spread of rice plantation agriculture

The Yamasee were an amalgamation of remnants of earlier tribes and were strong military allies of South Carolina - made up core of Carolina armies.

For years profited from relations with the British
but by 1715, difficult to obtain 2 trade items most desired by the British: deerskins and Indian slaves

Became increasingly indebted to British traders who continued to supply trade goods on credit

Granted large land reserve on southern SC border, but settlers began to covet it as ideal for rice plantations

Peace attempts and subsequent war
British promised to make effort to redress Yamasee grievances in return for assistance is dealing with another tribe.

Yamasee debated through the night and chose war, They woke Carolinian delegation and attacked, killing 4 of the 6 delegates
War ensued proving to be first major test of South Carolina's militia

British traders throughout southeast caught up and 90% killed in the first weeks
Appeals for assistance from northern tribes with mixed results

Indians refused to engage in pitched battles but used unpredictable raids and ambushes making it impossible to send an army against them

Treaties and frontier security
No single definitive end to conflict
During 1716 and 1717 peace treaties established with various tribes. Some never agreed to peace while some moved further south but continued to raid settlements

War led to establishment of colony of Georgia
One quarter of Yamasees killed or enslaved in first year of the war

Unable to find security in their traditional homeland, the survivors mostly incorporated in other tribes

Key Participants:
Samuel Warner, William Bray, Thomas Nairne, John Wright, Seymour Burroughs, Governor Craven,
John Barnwell, Alexander McKay, Francis Le Jau, Thomas Barker, James Moore, George Chicken, Charity Hagey, James Oglethorpe, Wateree Jack

War of Jenkin’s Ear
When - 1739-1748
Where - Georgia, Florida and the West Indies
Who - Britain vs Spain - I will cover only the parts relating to the British colonies

Background
Treaty of 1713 with Spain gave Britain right to supply unlimited number of slaves and 500 tons of goods per year to Spanish colonies and British traders and smugglers inroads into traditionally closed markets

In a1729 treaty, Britain gave Spanish ships “Visitation Right” to stop British traders and check for smuggled goods. Spanish suspected British traders abusing 1713 contract and began boarding ships and confiscating cargoes

Jenkin’s Ear
1731 - British brig boarded by Spanish patrol boat. Captain Robert Jenkins accused of smuggling and cut off his left ear to show they were serious.
Jenkins told story to Parliament and along with petitions from other West Indies merchants maritime reprisals began. Many battles ensued throughout the Indies, Central and South America

Colonies become involved
1740 - inhabitants of Georgia, led by James Oglethorpe, and supported by a British naval blockade, attack St. Augustine overland but were repelled and retreated after a month. Oglethorpe prepared Georgia for expected Spanish assault
In 1742, the Spanish launched attempted to seize Georgia colony. 2000 troops landed on St Simons Island bit local forces repelled them and forced withdrawal

Border clashes between colonies of Florida and Georgia continued next few years

Neither Spain nor Britain undertook offensive operations directly on North American continent

Key Participants:
Robert Jenkins, Robert Walpole, Nicholas Haddock,
Juan de Leon Fandino, , Edward Vernon, Don Gabriel de Zuloaga, Don Francisco Saucedo, Thomas Waterhouse,
Lord Wilmington, Charles Knowles, William Pepperrell,
Edward Trelawny, Don Blas de Lezo, Don Pedro Hidalgo,
Don Juan Carlos Gutierrez Cevallos, Lawrence Washington, Melchor de Navarette, Carlos Desnaux,
Thomas Wentworth, George Anson, James Oglethorpe

King George’s War
When - 1744-1748
Where - Primarily New York, Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire and Nova Scotia
Who - British and French

Background
Struggle over accession of Maria Theresa to Austrian throne in 1740. In 1742, Britain drawn in diplomatically as an ally of Austria against France and Russia. Open hostilities began in 1743

March 1744 - war formally declared between Britain and France

Meanwhile, back in the colonies:
French controlled Fort Louisburg which commanded chief entrance to St. Lawrence River. It was considered the Pride of the French heart in America and was thought impregnable and able to keep out every intruder and baffle every foe.

On 2 June 1744 - Massachusetts declares war.

On hearing (3 May 1744) of war declaration, forces in Fort Louisburg began hostilities.

Concerned about their overland supply routes to Quebec,

French raid British fishing port and capital of Nova Scotia failed.

British subsequently captured Fort Louisburg.

Indian confederacy attacks British settlements on border of Acadia.

French launch failed major campaign to recapture Ft. Louisburg.

Skirmishes and raiding along northern Massachusetts communities led to construction of frontier outposts all the way to border with NY.

**Attacks in NY**

Nov 28 1745 - French with Indian allies raid and destroy village of Saratoga killing or capturing more than 100 after which all settlements north of Albany abandoned.

Back and forth attacks in the area for next 3 years.

Heavy toll, especially in northern British colonies where Massachusetts alone lost 8% of colony's adult males.

**Treaty and Aftermath**

Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle 1748 returned Louisburg to France in exchange for Madras, India which French had captured from British.

New Englanders outraged, especially MA who contributed the most in terms of funding and personnel.

As a result, the British government paid £180,000 to MA.

Borders returned to pre-war status, meaning long lingering enmities remained and territorial disputes unresolved, so tensions reignited with 1754 outbreak of last French and Indian War.

English view: England had lost her reputation, expended £ 30,000,000 for colonists who had lost nothing and continued to defraud the mother country.

**Key Participants:**


---

**FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR (Seven Years’ War)**

**When - 1754-1763**

**Where - Virginia to Newfoundland**

**Who - British colonists and their Indian allies vs French and their Indian Allies**

**Background**

Ongoing tensions in North America as both French and British sought to extend their sphere of influence in frontier regions.

Great Britain, its colonists and Native allies controlled most of northern NY, parts of northern PA and 13 colonies up the Appalachians.

French and their Native allies controlled New France, the area beyond the Appalachians stretching from Louisiana through the Mississippi valley and Great Lakes to Canada.

Border not well defined including the upper Ohio valley.

In 1754 - British colonial forces led by George Washington unsuccessfully attempted to expel the French from the upper Ohio.

**War**

British Prime Minister called for retaliatory strike, but opponents in the Cabinet made the plans public, alerting the French.

Potential Native allies and colonial leaders did not cooperate.

There was a stalemate for next several years as attention of both France and England was in Europe.

1756 - French captured Minorca from the British in the Mediterranean.

1757 - British forces defeated the French in India.

**Peace attempts**

French approach British who wanted not only French cession of Canada, but also commercial concessions the French found unacceptable.

French approached Spain who agreed to declare war on Great Britain if war did not end by 1 May 1762.

Intended to pressure the British.

Actually invigorated the French to continue British declared war on Spain 4 January 1762.

**British success**

British naval strength and Spanish ineffectiveness.

British forces seize French Caribbean islands, Spanish Cuba and the Philippines.

Failed Spanish invasion of British ally Portugal.

Treaty of Paris - 1763: Great Britain wins significant territory in North America.

All French territory east of the Mississippi.

Spanish Florida.

Cuba was returned to Spain.

**Aftermath**

War was enormously expensive, so Britain attempted to impose taxes on the colonies to recoup.

Colonial resentment over British attempts to expand imperial authority in the colonies.

Limits on western expansion by colonies.

Inadvertent provocation of a major Indian war.

**Key Participants:**


---

**CHEROKEE WAR (Anglo-Cherokee War)**

**When - 1758-1761**

**Where - Virginia and the Carolinas**
Who - British-American settlers vs Cherokee Nation

Background
Cherokee had switched loyalties from time to time
British and Cherokees allied at start of F&I war but each suspected the other of betrayals
Tensions between British and the settlers increased during 1750’s
There were isolated incidents of violence along the western frontier
Late 1758 settlers attacked and killed warriors returning from battles against French
Cherokee retaliation:
Militia soldiers accused of abusing Cherokee women
Militia attacked in retaliation for theft of some horses they believed were theirs as part of promised supply in return for their help in the F&I war

War
Some Cherokee leaders called for peace while others continued raids
Declared open war against British in 1759
SC Governor embargoes gunpowder shipments leading to shortage for fall and winter hunts and raises army of 1100 to march on Cherokee towns
Chiefs send delegation to negotiate
All taken prisoner and taken to fort “to ensure peace”
Angered Cherokee continue attacks and attempt to free hostages
Fort’s commander killed and replacement massacred
Cherokee expand retaliatory campaign into NC
Backcountry settlements fall
New colonial army of 2600 razes 15 towns & burns crops

Treaties and Aftermath
November 1761 - treaty with Virginia - SC follows the next year
Many Cherokee towns never reoccupied and former inhabitants moved further west
Cherokee warrior strength reduced by 1/3 by battle, smallpox and starvation
French Louisiana goes from French to Spanish west of Mississippi and the British east of the Mississippi: Spanish Florida to British

Cherokee leaders taken to London
Visited Tower of London
Audience with King George III
Met playwright Oliver Goldsmith
Translator died making communication nearly impossible
South Carolinians saw warm reception in London as sign of imperial favoritism at their expense

Key Participants:
William Lyttelton, Richard Cotymore, William Bull Jr., Archibald Montgomery, Paul Demere, James Grant,
Little Carpenter, James Adair, Henry Lyttelton, Hugh Waddell, Henry Timberlake, Thomas Sumter,
John McCormack, John Stuart, Alexander Cameron,
John McDonald, William Shorey, Oconostota, Osteneoco, Mankiller (Utsidhitii), Old Caesar, Raven (Kalano), Stalking Turkey (Kanagatogat), Kunagadoga, Big Mortar (Yayatustanage), Moytoy (Amoadawehi), Aganstata, Wauhatchie, Round O, Atakullakulla, Standing Turkey, Wood Pigeon (Ata-wayi)

PONTIAC’S WAR (Pontiac’s Conspiracy, Rebellion)
When - 1763
Where - Great Lakes Region
Who - Loose confederation of Native American tribes vs British

Background
British in 1758 Treaty agreed not to settle beyond the Alleghenies, but little respected
French had controlled area prior to end of French and Indian Wars
British treated Natives as a conquered people
Those who had been allies of the French increasingly dissatisfied with British occupation and policies.
(“Tribe” more a linguistic or familial group rather than a political unit.)
Those who made peace with British thought Brits would withdraw but instead they strengthened their forts

General Amherst’s Policies
Believed with French gone, Natives had no choice but accept British rule and that they were incapable of offering serious resistance.
Cut back on gifts given Natives considering them a form of bribery (Many natives took it as an insult indicating British saw them as conquered people rather than allies.)
Restricted amount of ammunition & gunpowder that could be sold to Natives
Thought such restriction would prevent future uprisings - Natives relied on them to provide game for their families & skins for fur trade

Religious Awakening
Fed by discontent with British as well as food shortages and epidemics
Merged elements from Christianity and traditional religious beliefs
Neolin (“Delaware Prophet”) called on Natives to shun trade goods, alcohol and weapons of the whites
Told listeners “Master of Life” displeased with Natives for taking up bad habits of whites and that British posed threat to their very existence
“If you suffer the English among you, you are dead men. Sickness, smallpox, and their poison (alcohol) will destroy you entirely”
Powerful message for those whose world was being changed by forces beyond their control.

Stirrings of war
British hearing rumors in 1761 that Natives were planning attack
Natives heard in 1763 that French had ceded their land to the British
Under leadership of Pontiac, 8 British forts were taken

No clear evidence it was part of a coordinated operation

Some believed it was secretly instigated by the French to make trouble for British. Others felt the Natives were trying to stir the French to get them to take back control.

Many battles ensued which I will only list here

Fort Detroit - 1763 - Pontiac and allies killed all British soldiers and settlers they could find outside the fort - 900 soldiers from half dozen tribes took part

Fort Sandusky - May 16 - seized commander and killed the other 15 soldiers as well as British traders at the fort - dead ritually scalped and fort burned to the ground

Fort St Joseph (site of Niles, Michigan) - May 25 - seized commander and killed most of 15 man garrison

Fort Miami (now Fort Wayne IN)

Fort Ouiatenon - June 1 - (near present Lafayette IN) - lured soldiers outside and took them captive

Fort Michilimackinac - June 2 - soldiers watching stickball game, ball went in door of fort, teams rushed in and took fort

Fort Presque Isle (Erie PN) - June 19 - 30-60 men surrendered on condition they could return to Ft. Pitt, but most shot on exiting

Native raids on frontier settlements escalated in spring and summer of 1764. Some Indian soldiers killed and scalped a school teacher and 10 children

Pennsylvania Assembly reintroduced scalp bounties for every Native over age 10 killed, including women

General Amherst held responsible, recalled to England and replaced by Thomas Gage

Gage considered to have prolonged war by concentrating on punishing Natives rather than ending war

1764.- treaty signed at Fort Niagara

Military conflict essentially ended in 1764 but some pockets of resistance continued as Natives and British had different interpretations of treaty

Casualties: Total of 400 British soldiers killed in action and 50 captured and tortured to death - 2000 settlers killed or captured - 4000 fled their homes - Native losses uncounted

Legacy

Both sides concluded that colonists and Natives so inherently different they could not live with each other

Royal Proclamation Act of 1763 again described Native land as that west of the Alleghany ridge. It officially recognized that indigenous people had certain rights to the land they occupied and is considered Native Americans’ “bill of Rights”

However: British colonists felt it denied them the fruits of victory (western lands) and it undermined colonial attachment to the Empire

For Natives, Pontiac’s war:

Demonstrated the possibilities of pan-tribal cooperation

Was the first extensive multi-tribal resistance to European colonization and the first war between Europeans and Natives not ending in complete defeat

Key Participants:

Jeffery Amherst, Henry Gladwin, William Johnson, Simeon Ecuyer, Henry Bouquet, William Trent, Thomas Gage, John Bradstreet, George Croghan, Neolin, Tahaiadoris, Turtleheart, Malamtee, Killbuck, Kiyasuta (Guyasuta), Grey Eyes, Wingenum, Charlot Kaske

PAXTON BOYS

When - 1763-1764

Where - Pennsylvania

Who - Frontiersmen vs Susquehannock and colonial government

Background - (Closely linked to Pontiac’s Rebellion

Scots-Irish settlers formed vigilante group after Royal Proclamation Frontier of PA unsettled, but wave of Scots-Irish immigrants encroached on Native land

Settlers claimed frequent Indian raids killing men, women and children

Attacked Conestoga homes (part of Susquehannock tribe) who had been living peacefully with European neighbors for decades by bartering handicrafts, hunting and food from PA government - Murdered 6 (scalded or otherwise mutilated) and burned their cabins

Government inquest held determining the killings were murder

Responses

Reward offered for capture of Paxton Boys

Remaining Conestoga given protective custody

Paxton Boys broke in and killed, scalped and dismembered 6 adults and 78 children. Subsequently and a new $600 reward offered but attackers never identified

Jan 1764 Paxton Boys (250 strong) marched toward Philadelphia. Ben Franklin and others agreed to read their pamphlet of issues before the colonial legislature, And the mob agreed to disperse

Some claimed “painful catastrophe could have been avoided if the government had only removed the Indians”

Other colonist enraged describing the murders as more savage than those committed by Indians. Described by the Paxton Boys as “white savages”

Many of the Paxton Boys later killed during Wyoming Massacre (1778-during the Revolutionary War)

Named Participants:

John Elder, John Penn, Will Sock, William Henry,...

LORD DUNMORE’S WAR

When - 1774

Where - Virginia

Who - Colony vs Shawnee and Mingo Indians

Background

Named for John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore who was Governor of VA

Contention over control of area south of Ohio River

British acquired land after F&I war(s) Natives (Primarily Shawnee) refused to accede and prepared to defend their hunting rights
Following 1768 treaty British explorers, surveyors, and settlers poured in in spite of Indian camps located all along the river. In Sept 1773, “obscure hunter” Daniel Boone and 50 emigrants tried to establish settlement in Kentucky County VA. A small group, attacked when retrieving supplies, was captured and tortured to death “to send a message of opposition to settlements”. Shocked settlers-Boone’s party abandoned expedition.

**War**

For several years Indian nations opposed to the treaty continued attacks - Surviving men were ritually mutilated and tortured to death - Women and children taken into slavery. Several groups of settlers entered area to settle their “holdings”.

Reports of hostile Indians robbing and killing traders, surveyors and others and were bent on all-out war. Few were experienced in warfare-one with combat experience (Capt. Michael Cresap) chosen to lead. He dissuaded group from attacking and did not believe war was inevitable. He believed they would likely have initial success, but would be blamed for subsequent war.

Further battles. Many British colonists from frontier flocked to towns for protection.

Massacres and attacks on both sides.

Dunmore’s motives complicated. Wanted to open new western lands to occupation and settlement.

Saw campaign as distraction from escalating crisis in Boston.

Secure VA claims to area around Pittsburgh. Open to criticism on both sides - he would wind up either disgraced or a successful leader in time of dramatic upheaval.

Treaty (19 Oct 1774) brought short-term peace. Shawnee to cease hunting south of the Ohio and stop harassing river travelers.

24 May 1775 attacked Boone along Wilderness Road.

May 1776 American Revolution began but the Cherokee (with Shawnee) - American wars continued 1776-1794.

**Key Participants:**

- John Murray (Earl of Dunmore)
- Daniel Boone
- James Boone, Henry Russell, 1, William Russell
- William Preston, George Washington, Thomas Hog
- Spotwood Dandridge, Andrew Lewis
- George Matthews, William Crawford, Mr. Floyd
- Captain Michael Cresap, Ebenezer Zane
- George Rogers Clark, John Connolly, Chief Logan, Joshua Baker, John Gibson, Mr. McKee, Mr. Croghan,
- Chief Cornstalk, Chief Dragging Canoe

**WAR OF THE REGULATION (Regulator Movement)**

**When** - 1765-1771

**Where** - Carolina colonies

**Who** - Colonial Citizens vs British-appointed “Regulators”

**Background**

1760’s saw dramatic population growth in the Carolinas with inland population changing from trappers and farmers to merchants and lawyers. Agricultural community suffered economic depression because of severe droughts leading to food shortages, reduced income and debt. As a result, planters lost homes and properties.

A small group of wealthy officials grabbed most of the political power (5%). As a result, thousands became extremely dissatisfied:

- Most officials cruel, arbitrary, tyrannical and corrupt
- Taxes benefitted the collectors
- Some sheriffs removed records of tax collection, then returned to collect them again
- Colonial governor endorsed these actions fearing losing support of county officials

**Regulator Movement** - An effort to eliminate this system of government

- Aim: to form honest government and reduce taxes
- Wealthy businessmen/politicians saw this as threat to their power so they brought in militia to crush rebellion
- and the leaders of Regulators were hanged
- Leader of movement wanted to win over public sentiment while others committed acts of minor violence
- One official found guilty of embezzling public money - fined one cent per charge
- The Regulators attempted to get satisfaction in court
- But the presiding judge adjourned to next day, then escaped in the night. As a result, the Regulators rioted, destroying public (courthouse) and private property.

**“War”**

Minor clashes for several years.

Only 1 true battle, 16 May 1771, Battle of Alamance.

1000 government forces faced 2000-6000 Regulators who had no clear leadership or supplies. Shots fired and Regulators crumbled quickly.

About 9 deaths on each side. Most fully pardoned in exchange for pledge on loyalty to the Crown however, 6 Regulators hanged.

**Aftermath**

- Militia went through Regulator territory getting sympathizers to sign loyalty oaths and destroying property of the most active
- Taxes raised to cover militia’s expenses
- Initially public opinion saw Regulators as “lawless desperados” and the Governor as a hero
- When initial excitement died down, destruction of Regulators seen as an act of a repressive government
- Many surviving Regulators moved west, especially Tennessee where they established Watauga Association-first independent white republic on American soil

**Regulators in South Carolina:**
Main concern not corruption buy lack of representation and government-provided services
   Inland settlers suffered violent crimes including organized bandit raids
   Hunting not seen as an honorable profession in spite of need to hunt for food
   Inland settlers had support of coastal elite
   Their efforts were Successful

Colonial legislation acts met needs of frontiersmen
Vagrancy acts, restrictions on hunting, forbidding trespass on native lands
Participants received full pardon for any actions taken

Key Participants:

………………

WYOMING VALLEY “WAR”
   When - 1769-1784
   Where - Pennsylvania in the area currently occupied By Wilkes-Barre
   Who - “Pennamites”-associated with William Penn and “Yankees” from Connecticut also known as the Susquehanna Company

Background:
   Originally the Dutch considered the Susquehanna River as the border between New Netherland and the Virginia colony
   1662 - King Charles II rejected all Dutch claims in North America and grants Connecticut land from the Atlantic to the “Western Ocean” - 1681 - He gave a charter to the same area to William Penn - Both colonies “purchased” the same land by treaties with the various tribes inhabiting it

Settlements
   Penn’s followers concentrated on settling the area near and west from Philadelphia
   1753 - “Susquehanna Company” formed in CT and began exploring and purchasing land in the “Wyoming Valley” - 1754 - Deed from Six Nations conveyed land to the Susquehanna Company
   1762 - First contingent of 119 settlers from CT arrived in area of present-day Wilkes-Barre - more follow year
   15 October 1763 - Delaware Natives attack settlers killing, driving away or capturing them leaving the valley uninhabited

Conflict
   1765 - Some “Pennamites” locate in Wyoming as Indian traders
   1768 - Susquehanna Company decides to retake and settle their claimed land
   1769 - “First Forty” arrive from CT followed by 200 more in spring
   By fall, skirmishes began and forts changed hands several times

   Feb 1770 - Yankees again kick out the Pennamites and start building homes and planted crops
   Both governors issue proclamations forbidding any settlements by the other group
   Hostilities between PA and CT ease while both participated in the Revolutionary War

Final settlement
   Immediately after the surrender of Cornwallis, the Continental Congress was petitioned to settle the issue
   December 1782, PA declared to be legal occupants
   CT settlers claimed ruling did not cover individual land ownership and refused to leave
   Several further engagements followed
   December 1786, CT dropped its claims. In return, individual settlers were able to retain titles to their land claims in the Wyoming Valley
   CT claims to land further west in present-day Ohio confirmed and became known as the “Western Reserve”

Key Participants (I have lists of all the CT settlers if anyone wants to check it for possible ancestors)
   William Penn, Governor Hamilton (PA), Governor Wolcott (CT), Charles Stuart, Amos Ogden, John Jennings, Zebulon Butler, Lazarus Stewart, John Franklin, Robert Geer, William Buck, Uriah Steavens, Timothy Woodbridge, Increase Mosley, Zachariah Clark, John Durkee, Thomas Grey, Nathan Ogden, Stephen Richard, William Markham

………………

COLONIAL RESOURCES
   Family Search Wiki - Colonial Wars
   Googling the name of the war/conflict will give lots of sources for articles
   NEHGS (American Ancestors) has a lot of information especially for New England
   Guest membership (free) allows access to some of their databases
   Cheapest full access membership is $90 per year
   Best way may be state and local libraries, history associations and genealogical societies e.g.: Library of Virginia very helpful for my husband Local History Association gave me a number of articles on the Wyoming Valley Conflict (including 5 volumes of the Susquehanna Company Papers) FYI, Fold 3 seems to start with the Revolutionary War
   “The Society of Colonial Wars was founded in New York in 1892 for the purpose of furthering the interest in, and study of, America’s Colonial history for the period between the settlement of Jamestown, Virginia on May 13, 1607 and the battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775.” www.gscw.org
   For women: https://www.nsdcw.org