

## GENERAL SOCIETY of COLONIAL WARS SUMMARY

The presence on the North American continent of the three major colonial powers of England, France, and Spain (plus The Netherlands, Russia, and Sweden), resulted in continual, if not continuous, warfare for 150 years. The General Society of Colonial Wars exists to commemorate our forebears who participated in that warfare.

The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution were not written overnight. They were the result of political thought which developed over a period of time in the legislatures and taverns of the colonies. The General Society of Colonial Wars exists to commemorate our forebears who participated in that debate.

This summary is designed to acquaint the reader with a taste of the rich history of our colonial country. It is not designed to be exhaustive, for that would require hundreds of references. Even though parts of the present United States of America remained under colonial powers for another 100 years, it will not cover events after April 18, 1775, for that is the official ending point for the colonial period, as defined by the GSCW.

Late 1500s: Cape Anne and MA fishing towns, Newfoundland and Roanoke attempts to set up European colonies prove transitory.

1565: Edisto, Port Royal, Huguenot settlements, destroyed by Spain, which then establishes St. Augustine, Florida.

1570: Iroquois Confederation : five Indian nations join together in the New York area, thereby inspiring a poem by Longfellow(Hiawatha). Later joined by Tuscaroras. They extended their authority westward to lake Michigan, and turned Ohio into a hunting preserve. The Shawnees and Eries later returned to Ohio as clients of the Iroquois.

1607: Jamestown settlement, by the London Company, is the first permanent English settlement. A similar settlement in MA is a failure. History starts for the GSCW.

1613: Settlement of Nieuw Amsterdam by Dutch Company

1618: London Company breaks the single plantation into individual tracts, and forms the House of Burgesses, the first representative assembly in America

1620: Mayflower Compact signed by the Pilgrims. First women are shipped to Virginia.

1629: (Thirty Years' War)The Massachusetts Bay Company begins moving 25,000 colonists to the Boston area. Quebec and Gen. Champlain captured, are later given back to France.

1634: Maryland settled.

1636-7: Pequot War: In retaliation for the murder of a trader, New Englanders attack Pequot Indian forts near Mystic, CT., with over 500 Indians killed. Sassacus, the leader, escaped, and was killed by Mohawks. Many others were sold as slaves to the West Indies. Narrangansetts and Mohegans, under Uncas, are allied with English.  
*See:*<http://www.colonialwarsct.org/1637.htm>

1638: Wilmington, Delaware colonized by Sweden and Finland.

1642-53: Iroquois War: Iroquois attack Hurons, who retreat to WI, Jesuits driven out, Ohio emptied.

1644: Wilmington, Delaware seized by Dutch  
Indian massacres in VA

1649: Maryland assembly proclaims religious tolerance for Christians.

1664: Dutch cede Nieuw Amsterdam and Wilmington to England

1675-76: King Philip War: Indian raids on 52 MA and CT towns, destroying 16. English militia in Battle of Great Swamp, force Indians to dissipate to be attacked piecemeal. August, 1676, King Philip (Metacom) is surprised by a small force led by Benjamin Church, and killed. Most Indian tribes in the area are effectively destroyed.

1669: LaSalle sails down the Ohio River to the falls at Louisville.

1676: Nathaniel Bacon's rebellion in VA attacks Indians and Gov. Berkley. Bacon dies, 24 rebels hanged, Berkley fired, many Indians dead. Historians still arguing about it.

1689-97: King William's War (The War of the Grand Alliance) French build a ring of forts to block English from Canada and the Ohio country. Frontenac attacks south and east. Massacres of Schenectady and Casco Bay. French and Indian attacks in New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts result in no permanent territorial possession. English take Port Royal, Nova Scotia, but lose it later. Attack on Quebec fails. Treaty of Ryswick restored the possessions to the status quo ante.

1701-13: Queen Anne's War (the War of Spanish Succession). Deerfield MA massacre, other Indian attacks on MA were answered by attacks on Port Royal, Nova Scotia, and other French Towns. St. Augustine FL burned by Carolinians, who also attacked through the panhandle to try to get to Louisiana, but were stopped by the Choctaws. The Treaty of Utrecht gave Acadia, Newfoundland and Hudson Bay to England.

1711: Tuscarora Indian War in Carolina. After Tuscarora depredations nearly empty North Carolina of colonists, the colonists ally with the Yamassees. Tuscaroras are crushed, and seek protection of the Iroquois.

1714: Yamassee Indian War in South Carolina. Indians lose when the colonists ally with the Cherokees.

1721-25: Dummer's War: Skirmishes between English and French in NH and what is now ME (then MA).

1739-42: War of Jenkins' Ear: Georgia attacks Spanish Florida unsuccessfully; Florida attacks Georgia unsuccessfully at St. Simon's Island. Spanish retreat when they find out how much a condo costs.

1744-48: King George's War (The War of Austrian Succession) was a continuation of Jenkins' Ear in Europe, but French attack on poor Port Royal in 1744, was an end to the relative peace enjoyed for a couple of years on the American Continent. Saratoga NY was burned, along with the usual towns in MA.

1745: MASS militia capture Louisbourg, the key to the St Lawrence River, in King George's War. The fort was returned after the end of the war, with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. MA militia are furious, and England agrees to pay for the cost of the war.

English trade goods to the Indians were as little as 25% the cost of French

trade goods. English traders began to move into the French/Indian lands.

1748: Ohio Company of Virginia formed to sell about 300,000 Acres of land to settlers around Pittsburgh..

by 1749 an English trading post was set up in Pickawillany, near Dayton, Ohio, trading down the Miami River and Ohio River.

in 1749 CAP Celeron de Bienville began a 3000 mile trip (took 5 months) around the Ohio River, burying lead plates reminding trespassers of French claims to the Ohio country, and chasing away English traders.

1750-51: Christopher Gist surveys the Ohio River as far west as Louisville

1752: Gist and Croghan convene an Indian conference at Pittsburgh and they agree to 200 pioneer families near Pittsburgh...

but in June 1752 Pickawillany was attacked by Indians and French and destroyed and chief "Old Britain" cooked and eaten. This put a damper on the westward migration for awhile, and an end to Pickawillany..

1754-63: French and Indian War. (Seven Years' War) New French Governor Dusquene built forts from Lake Erie to Pittsburgh. George Washington attacks Pittsburgh and loses. Washington and General Braddock attack Pittsburgh. Washington survives. Result was a war that involved fighting in North America, Cuba, Europe, India and Philippines; our first World War . Fortress Louisbourg was taken again by English. Crown Point, NY French General Dieskau is shot in the rump. Most of the fighting takes place in New York, with both sides having Indian allies. Wolfe takes Quebec. Robert Rogers takes Detroit. British take Pittsburgh. Cherokees take Fort Loudon in TN. Acadians expelled from Nova Scotia, thereby inspiring a poem by Longfellow (Evangeline).

The War worldwide was ended by the Treaty of Paris. France was driven from the continental United States. Had there been no war, we would not have had the Revolution in US, or Latin America, or France, and the US would probably stop at the Mississippi River.

1763: Chief Pontiac's rebellion in future Northwest Territory.

1770: Boston Massacre

1773: Boston tea party

1774: Lord Dunmore's war battle at Point Pleasant. This has been called the last battle of the French and Indian War, or the first battle of the Revolution. Treaty at Camp Charlotte was followed by the Ft. Mifflin Resolves, which included: "But as the love of liberty and attachment to the real interests and just rights of America outweigh every other consideration, we resolve, that we will exert every power within us for the defense of American liberty, and for the support of her just rights and privileges... when regularly called forth by the unanimous voice of our countrymen." Two months later was Lexington and Concord.

The Declaration of Independence made reference to: "[The King] has excited domestic insurrections among us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished destruction, of all ages, Sexes, and Conditions."

The Gnadenhutten Indians were at a strategic point of the Great Trail, and were removed by British to Captives' Town on the Sandusky River, because they were thought to be supporting the Americans. The Americans thought the Moravians were supporting the British. The Christian Indians were caught in the middle. The massacre caused great consternation at the brutality, particularly in the East. Eighteen months later, the treaty ending the Revolutionary War was signed, but strife between the Indians and the white settlers continued until the end of the War of 1812.

The Society of Colonial Wars was formed in 1892 to provide a living commemoration of the struggle to form the various colonies into the United States. The American Revolution didn't just happen. The principles which became the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were formed during 150 years of almost continual warfare.

The Ohio Society was incorporated in 1895, and has been in continuous existence ever since.

Even though Ohio was received into the Union in 1803, the State played a vital role during the Colonial Period, and we are happy to sponsor historical markers to commemorate that period.

## Bibliography

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