

IMPORTANT PENNSYLVANIA DATES

----- 1600 -1700 -----

1600 - Land controlled mostly by the Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy of the Indian Nations. It was an empire that espoused restraint in controlling others. At no time did the Iroquois Nation bring it's people together to accomplish social goals like the Incas or the Aztecs. Whereas the Aztecs and Incas built cities, premium roads and provided community buildings, the Iroquois lived as families or small groups. They had a population of around 15,000 people. The total Indian population of Pennsylvania, upon arrival of the first Europeans, was estimated to be about 20,000 - 25,000 people.

1608 - Captain John Smith meets the Susquehannocks Indians making the first recorded contact with native Pennsylvanians.

1609 - Henry Hudson explores Delaware Bay for the Dutch.

1615 - French Explorer Etienne Broule is the first white man to explore the interior of Pennsylvania by entering through Chesapeake Bay and sailing up the Susquehanna River.

1616 - Captain Hendrickson in the Dutch ship Onrust Discovers the Schuylkill River.

1623 - The Dutch build the first recorded settlement in Pennsylvania, Fort Nassau, opposite the later site of Philadelphia.

1624 - King Gustavus Adolphus issues a commission for incorporation of the Swedish West India Company to establish a colony on the Delaware River.

1633 - The Dutch purchase make the first purchase of lands from the Indians on the Schuylkill River. They build the first "European Style" building in Pennsylvania at Fort Beversrede.

1638 - The Swedish West India Company expedition led by Peter Minuit

builds Fort Christina near what later will be Wilmington.

1641 - Men from Connecticut build the first English settlement on the Schuylkill River in Pennsylvania.

1643 - Governor Johan Printz the Capital of New Sweden and the first Swedish settlement on Tinicum Island. They build the first “Grist Mill” to be the first industry in Pennsylvania.

1644 - William Penn is born and Swedes found Upland - now the oldest town in Pennsylvania.

1655 - New Sweden is surrendered to the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant.

1664 - Dutch settlements on the Delaware taken over by the English under Sir Robert Carr.

1673 - Dutch retake their settlements on the Delaware.

1674 - All settlements on the Delaware returned to English control by the Treaty of Westminster on February 19. On July 11, the Duke of York appoints Sir Edmund Andros as Governor of the Delaware Settlements.

1680 - French explorer Robert de la Salle travels down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico and claims all the land draining into these rivers for King Louis XI. By 1738, the French had established trading posts at strategic locations in western Pennsylvania.

1681 - On January 25, the boundaries are approved by the Privy Council for William Penn’s Petition for a grant of lands in America. On March 4, King Charles II signs the Charter for Pennsylvania.

1681 - William Markham summons a council of 9 men at Upland (Chester) thus beginning the first government of Pennsylvania.

1682 - William Markham makes the first purchase of lands from the Indians for William Penn who arrives in Delaware Bay on the ship Welcome on October 1, 1682. On December 7, 1682 the “Great Law” is enacted by William Penn.

1683 - The oldest building still standing (Caleb Pusey House) is built in Chester, Pennsylvania.

1683 - Francis Daniel Pastorius and his colony found Germantown.

1684 - William Penn returns to England.

1688 - Quakers begin the fight against Negro slavery.

1692 - William Penn deprived of his Province by English Sovereigns.

1694 - Pennsylvania restored to William Penn.

1699 - William Penn returns to Pennsylvania.

----- 1700 -1800 -----

1701 - William Penn grants Charter for the City of Philadelphia and the Constitution of Privileges which will govern Pennsylvania until 1776 and then returns to England.

1703 - The 3 lower counties establish a separate Assembly and eventually become the State of Delaware.

1710 - The influx of Germans, Scot-Irish, and French Huguenots begins with 3,000 - 4,000 Germans settling in the Province.

1718 - William Penn dies in England.

1723 - Benjamin Franklin arrives from Boston in Philadelphia.

1737 - The "Walking Purchase" of land from the Indians.

1740 - William Campbell arrives in Pennsylvania from Donegal, Antrim County, Northern Ireland.

1744 - Lancaster Treaty

1746 - William Penn's son John dies.

1747 - Benjamin Franklin organizes the Associators for the Defense of Philadelphia.

1748 - James Hamilton becomes the first American born Governor of Pennsylvania.

1748 - The Ohio Company is Chartered by King George II. The Ohio Company builds a road following the Nemaquin Indian Trail.

1748 - Conrad Weiser of Pennsylvania Colony negotiates a treaty with the Indians at the Indian Capitol at Logstown for Pennsylvania Settlers to occupy western Pennsylvania territory. Weiser notifies the Ohio Company the land had already been acquired by Pennsylvania.

1749 - French explorer Pierre Celoron de Bienville with a force of 200 soldiers and Indians floats down the Allegheny River and buries lead plates in western Pennsylvania to claim the land for the King of France.

1749 - York County formed.

1750 Christopher Gist sent by the Ohio Company to Westmoreland County.

1752 - Benjamin Franklin proves lightning is electrical. Becomes Governor of New France and orders the establishment of forts garrisoned with French troops from Quebec to New Orleans.

1752 - Marquis Duquesne

1753 - Because the French have begun building a string of Forts to lay claim to the Ohio Valley, George Washington delivers message to the French from Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia.

1754 - French forces commanded by Colonel de Contrecoeur capture Captain William Trent's fort at the Forks of the Ohio and begin erecting Fort Duquesne. Governor Dinwiddie had promised Men working 200,000 acres of land in the Ohio Valley near the fort - over and above their pay.

1754 - Washington's forces kill French Officer Jumonville in a skirmish and shed the first blood of the French and Indian War. Because of the attack on French forces, Washington is forced to surrender at Fort Necessity.

1755 - Major General Braddock's forces severely defeated by the French and Indians on the Monongahela River and the Indians began ravaging settlers on the frontier.

1755 - First Indian "Massacres" at Penn's Creek.

1756 - Governor Morris declares war against the Delaware Indians.

1758 - Colonel Bouquet builds a stockade style store house to stock pile food and supplies for General Forbes Army.

1758 - Colonel Bouquet gives permission for Major James Grant to recon Fort Dusquesne. Grant was specifically instructed by Bouquet not to do anything to cause a battle. On September 14, Grant's force is decimated when he over steps his authority and openly attacks Fort Dusquesne in the open, during daylight hours, and playing drums and bagpipes. Grant is captured, his men tortured and killed by the Indians and French. Only a few escape back to Ligonier.

1758 - Fort Dusquesne French Commander De Lignery attacks Colonel Bouquet's forces at Ligonier on October 12, with 1200 French troops and Indians. The British force of 2200 prevails with few losses. Fort Ligonier earns the title of "The Key to the Gateway of the West"

1758 - After General Forbes and his troops arrive, on November 1, the Stockade is improved named Fort Ligonier after Sir John Ligonier, who became the Commander of Land Forces in Great Britain in 1757.

1758 - Because of intelligence gained from Missionary Christian Frederick Post, Forbes divides his forces into 3 Brigades. Colonel George Washington Commands the Advance Brigade of 1500 men to open the road. The Second Brigade of 1000 Pennsylvanians is commanded by Colonel John Armstrong. Washington Left Fort Ligonier on 12 November. General Forbes and the 4,000 man main body left 4 days later. Indians informed Forbes that Fort

Dusquesne was on fire. Forbes sent a cavalry unit to try to save the supplies but they arrived too late. Forbes had the British Flag raised and renamed it Fort Pitt after the British Prime Minister of England Sir William Pitt.

1758 - French burn Fort Dusquesne and withdraw.

1759 - On 18 January, Forbes is transported back to Philadelphia where he dies on 11 March, 1759. General Forbes was succeeded by General Stanwix. The forces left at Fort Ligonier were mostly Germans or others that did not speak English to help the French at Fort Niagra.

1759 - Christian Frederick Post is finally able to arrange a meeting for peace and turnover of white captives at Lancaster. Their group traveled to Lancaster by way of Fort Pitt and Fort Ligonier. Many of the captives had lived so long with the Indians they had wives and families and considered being repatriated back to the white community as going into captivity.

1759 - The French amassed a large force at Fort Machault in preparation of counterattacking Fort Pitt and Fort Ligonier. They sent out Indian raiding parties to harass the settlers and soldiers. When Sir William Johnson began his move to capture Fort Niagra, DeLignery abandoned his plans and went

1759 - William Campbell and his sons arrive in Westmoreland County and settle in Mansville - near Stahlstown, Donegal and Fort Ligonier.

1763 - Indians defeated in the battle at "Bushy Run."

1764 - Colonel Henry Bouquet forces the Indians to sue for peace at Muskingum, Ohio.

1765 - Stamp Act passed but bitterly opposed by Pennsylvanians.

1766 - Stamp Act repealed.

1767 - Townshend Acts anger colonists.

1768 - Pennsylvania assembly demands "No taxation without Representation."

1768 - Colonel Bouquet buys the last purchase of land from the Indians which ends the conflict and starts the great migration of settlers into Westmoreland County.

1768 - Treaty with the Sioux Nations at Fort Stanwix settles the boundary dispute.

1771 - Bedford County comes under control of Pennsylvania - was formerly Cumberland County claimed to be land belonging to Virginia.

1773 - Resolution adopted by Philadelphia declares whoever receives or sells tea is an enemy of his country.

1773 - Westmoreland County is divided off from Bedford County and eventually becomes several different counties in western Pennsylvania.

1774 - First Continental Congress meets in Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia.

1776 - The Declaration of Independence is adopted on July 4, 1776.

1776 - Pennsylvanian troops engage in August Battle of Long Island.

1776 - Washington crosses the Delaware and defeats the British at Trenton, New Jersey on December 26.

1784 - All Pennsylvania lands not previously surrendered by the Indians are acquired by treaty.

1787 - The Constitutional Convention adopts and signs the United States Constitution in Philadelphia.

1790 - First Federal Census gives Pennsylvania a population of 434,373.

1790 - Philadelphia is named the "First Capitol of the United States."

1792 - The Erie Triangle purchased - small triangle of land sticking above the northern border at the west end of Pennsylvania.

1800 - Adams County divides off from York County, Pennsylvania. Records

pertaining to land, wills, and events transpiring in Adams County, prior to 1800, are still maintained by York County in York, PA.

1800 - The Capital of the United States of America is moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. but the role of Pennsylvania in the beginnings of the United States of America will always be remembered, preserved, honored and respected.

This book is not intended to show more than the development of Westmoreland County and how the Campbells, Guffys, Gettemys, Galbreaths (Galbraiths), Weimers and other early frontier families came to settle in the Mansville, Stahlstown, Donegal, and on lands to the south of Fort Ligonier. As a result, we are not addressing the history of Pennsylvania very long after the Revolutionary War and the establishment of the United States as a country.

Epilogue

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