



Prelude to War: A Chronology

(Based on Miller and Pencak, eds., *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth*, chapters 1 and 2 and Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America*.)

1550

A number of Native American groups lived in what became Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. The major Native American groups in what became Pennsylvania were the Leni Lenapes, Munsees, Monongahelas, Shenk's Ferry People, and Susquehannocks. The Susquehannocks became more dominant in Pennsylvania in the 1600s.

1630s–1640s

Europeans start to settle in what became Pennsylvania. The land along the Delaware River was named "New Sweden." Their numbers were few but included Swedes, Finns, Dutch, Germans, and Poles, and also included at least one enslaved African (Angolan). The European settlers included convicts serving a sentence, bound laborers, conscripted soldiers, volunteers, artisans, officers, gentlefolks, missionaries, and a few aristocrats.

1670s–1700

The Native American groups in what became Pennsylvania by the 1670s were the Munsees, Lenapes, Nanticokes, Conoys, Conestogas or Susquehannocks, and Shawnees. The dominant Native American groups in New York were the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, who formed the Iroquois League. Eventually, the Iroquois expanded its power into Pennsylvania. The Susquehannocks were either absorbed into Iroquois villages or became known as Conestogas.

1670s–1680s

The British and the Iroquois formed an alliance called the "Covenant Chain." The British encouraged Iroquois dominance over other Native American groups and traded guns and ammunition with them. Though not officially encouraged by the British, the Iroquois used these weapons in their war against the French and their Native American allies. When the Iroquois were attacked by French soldiers and their allies, the British did not help the Iroquois.

1681–1682

William Penn, an English "Friend" (Society of Friends) or "Quaker" and an aristocrat and man of great wealth, convinced King Charles II of England to grant him 45,000 acres of land on the Delaware River in exchange for a debt owed to Penn's father's estate. The "Friends" or "Quakers," a Christian

based religious group which was formed in the 1600s in England, believed in pacifism and the spiritual equality* of all people, including women. Their refusal to pay taxes to support war led many to be jailed. William Penn was looking for a place for Quakers to practice their religious beliefs without persecution.

William Penn signed treaties with Lenape Indians along the Delaware River for access to land. Philadelphia was established as a port city. Initially the relationship between the new European settlers or colonists and the Native American groups was peaceful. This was a result of William Penn's diplomacy and the dislocation of many native peoples that resulted from the earlier "Beaver Wars," which left the Iroquois the "winners" over other Native American groups.

1683

Pennsylvania, according to the British King, was the property of the Penn family. William Penn and his family had the power to appoint governors and collect taxes. However, colonists were British citizens and they expected the same rights they had in England. Also, not all Quakers in the Pennsylvania legislature supported the power of the Penns. The legislature rejected William Penn's first proposed a frame of government.

1684–1700s

William Penn recruited other European immigrants, including Scottish, Scots-Irish, Welsh, Irish, and Germans. Later, French Huguenots (Protestants) and Jews from the Spanish empire moved to Pennsylvania. Enslaved Africans were involuntary immigrants to Pennsylvania. Most of the Africans were West Africans, including Mandinka, Fulbe, Jola, Serer, Wolof, Bambara, Vai, Mende, Kpelle, Dru, Ashanti, Fanti, Ibo, Ibibio, and a few from Central Africa, including Kongo, Tio, and Mtamba.

1700–1750

Pennsylvania's European populations increased from 18,000 to 120,000 primarily because of Scots-Irish and German emigration. By 1750, 25% of Pennsylvania's European population was Scot-Irish, 25% Quaker (primarily English and Welsh), and 40% German. Pennsylvania also had religious diversity: Quakers, Anabaptists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, Reformed, Lutherans, and a few Catholics and Jews. Many of the enslaved Africans followed their traditional beliefs.

Pennsylvania attracted immigrants who were farmers. The immigrants, especially the Scots-Irish, moved onto Native American land faster than the proprietors (William Penn and then his sons) could purchase the land. (After 1680, the Lenape numbered about 5,000 in eastern Pennsylvania.)

* At the time, Quakers did not support civil equality. For example, William Penn enslaved at least 12 Africans.

The Scots-Irish and German immigrants who arrived between the 1730 and the 1750s were often indentured servants. They often were indentured as a family to pay the cost of their passage to the colonies.

1701

After a series of problems establishing a government, the Charter of Privileges was reluctantly signed by William Penn. The Charter was in place until the War for Independence in the 1770s. The Charter included a single-house, annually elected assembly. There was no upper house to represent the wealthy. European men who owned 50 acres of land or 50 British pounds could vote; this included most free men in rural areas but only about 10% of people living in towns or Philadelphia. Quakers maintained control of Pennsylvania government. The Charter also guaranteed religious freedom.

1718

William Penn died. His second wife, Hannah Callowhill Penn, acted as the governor of Pennsylvania until her death in 1726.

1720s

James Logan, the provincial secretary, allowed European immigrants to take Native American land in southeastern Pennsylvania. He was more concerned with profits from land speculation than with respecting treaties with Native Americans.

1729

James Logan warned the Penn family that European immigrants were squatting on land without paying the Native Americans or the Penn family. Some immigrants argued that the Native Americans and land owners such as the Penn's did not "improve" the land, or farm it, and therefore they had the right to take over the land. Some settlers lived peacefully with their native neighbors; others beat, robbed, cheated, or killed Native Americans indiscriminately. Many Native Americans, based on their experience with William Penn, hoped to be treated fairly by James Logan and Penn's sons.

1737

William Penn's sons wanted to increase their income through selling land; they negotiated the "Walking Treaty" as a way to acquire more Lenape land. By using runners rather than walkers to mark the boundaries of a tract of land that could be "walked" in 1 ½ days, the Penns seized much more land than the Indians expected. The scheme, developed by the Penns and James Logan, added 750,000 acres to the Penn estates. Many Lenape felt cheated because of the unfairness of the scheme.

1754

The Albany Purchase, which included most of central Pennsylvania land west of the Susquehanna River, was negotiated with the Iroquois. It was reduced in 1758 as part of a peace agreement between the British King and the Lenape and Iroquois.

1754–1763

A war between England, France, their colonists, and the majority of the Iroquois, the Delaware (Lenape), and other Native American groups begins in North America. The war broke out when the British tried to remove the French from forts in western Pennsylvania to gain control of the Ohio Valley. It spread to New York, Europe, West Africa, and Asia. The war ended France's empire in North America and Quaker control of Pennsylvania's government. In Pennsylvania, it began 30 years of bloodshed between Native Americans and white settlers.

1755

Pennsylvania forms its first state militia.

1756

Pennsylvania appropriates some money for military defense. It is not enough to protect European settlers or colonists against Native Americans. There is an increase in racism, ethnic and geographic divisions, and war.

1760s

The British remain at Fort Pitt after peace is declared, despite the fact that they assured their native allies that their presence would be temporary, and Pittsburgh begins to develop.