

a while.
Some
in War.

3 Frenchmen and Indians



General Braddock was 60 years old in 1755 and had been a soldier since he was 15. But he didn't know how to fight Indians in a wilderness.

In North America the French and Indian War changed the future of the continent. It was a war to answer this question: which would be the stronger power in North America—England or France? France, the French colonists, and France's Indian allies fought against England, the English colonists, and England's Indian allies.

The war began with conflicts about land. France and England had real arguments over the same pieces of land. French explorers—Marquette, Joliet, La Salle, and others—had been the first

Europeans in the region around the Great Lakes and also in the lands drained by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. France had sent traders and trappers to those territories, and had set up trading posts as well.

England claimed the same land. In the original English charters, the king granted land from coast to coast—even though no one had any idea where the West Coast was. Now that the land along the East Coast was filling up, English-speaking settlers had begun pushing west. Indian hunting grounds were disappearing as the whites moved in. The Indians were alarmed. They were willing to fight to preserve their land.

The English had signed treaties and bought land from many of the Indian nations. But sometimes the treaties were signed without the Indians understanding the details. Indians thought the earth belonged to everyone. One Indian said selling land was like selling the sea, or the sky. And yet, though Indians never owned land individually, Indian tribes did claim the right to use an area of land. It was those rights they signed over to the English.

French traders were at Lake Huron in 1612, eight years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth.

The rain, melted snow, and other water that falls on a region flows out of it through streams, rivers, and bigger rivers to the sea. The rivers catching the flow **drain** that area.

When George Washington was asked to be a member of Braddock's staff, he replied that he hoped to serve king and country and added, "I wish for nothing more than to attain a small degree of knowledge in the military art."

Why wasn't this war called the French and English War? Can you guess?

It was the English colonists who called it the French and Indian War. They knew who they were; they wanted to remember whom they were fighting. In Europe it is known as the Seven Years' War.

Beaver pelts fetched a lot of money in Europe, where they were usually made into hats. French fur traders such as these were ready to fight anyone—Indians or British—trying to take over the trade.

When the English colonists signed treaties with the Indians, the people who signed the treaties usually meant to honor them. The trouble was that the people who actually signed the treaties weren't the ones who lived on the frontier near the Indians. Those frontier people were often rough and rowdy. They wanted land, and sometimes they didn't mind killing for it.

If the Indians had united, perhaps they might have been able to resist the frontier people. But old feuds kept the Indian tribes apart. So when England and France started fighting each other, some Indians sided with the English. Others helped the French. They kept picking at each other—the English, the French, and the Indians—raiding and scalping and killing. Soon the hatred was intense.

New France (Canada) was different from English America, and that made for conflict, too. There was no religious freedom there. The French insisted that all settlers in their territories be Catholic and French. So when 200,000 Huguenots (HUE-guh-nots—though the French said hue-guh-noes), who were Protestants, fled from France, many settled in the British colonies. If France had let them settle in Canada, that country would have been stronger. It is easy for us to see that now, but it wasn't so easy then.

France was more interested in the fur trade—and the money it brought—than in settling people on the land. So when English traders began buying furs from the Native Americans and paying high prices for those furs, it made France angry. It hurt their fur business.





General Braddock died from a shot in the lungs at Fort Duquesne. Two-thirds of his men were killed or wounded.

Brown Bess

The most famous gun in the 18th century was the Brown Bess. It fired a flintlock: when you pulled the trigger a small piece of flint snapped against steel. That made sparks, which hit a tiny bit of powder. That lit the powder in a cartridge in the barrel, and that exploding powder sent a round lead bullet flying out of the musket. The Brown Bess wasn't very accurate, but it didn't matter much. Men stood shoulder to shoulder, and it was hard to miss hitting someone.

French scouting party and killed 10 Frenchmen. An English writer, Horace Walpole, said of that small battle, "The volley fired by a young Virginian in the backwoods of America set the world on fire." It was 1754; the French and Indian War had begun.

Washington built a small fort called Fort Necessity. He built it on low ground. When the French attacked, Washington and his men were outnumbered, but they held out until it started raining. Heavy rain flooded the fort, soaked all their gunpowder, and left them defenseless. The French captured the fort, but Washington escaped and learned a lesson he would remember when he became a great general: don't build a camp on low ground.

He learned even more important lessons when he fought with England's famous Major General Edward Braddock. Braddock arrived in America in 1755. He was expected to push the French out of the Ohio Territory. Braddock decided to begin by capturing Fort Duquesne, and he thought he knew just how to do that. The general had been trained in Europe, on great open battlefields, where armies lined up facing each other and shot long, clumsy guns called "muskets." Those European armies seemed awesome. Braddock assumed that European methods would work in America.

George Washington wrote of the British troops in their bright red coats, and the Virginia troops in their handsome blue coats, all marching through the green forest. He said it was one of the most beautiful sights he had ever seen. But he realized those colorful coats were great targets. Braddock didn't. The French and their Indian allies wouldn't fight the kind of war Braddock wanted to fight. They wouldn't stand in a straight line and let the English shoot them. They hid in the woods. They wore skins to camouflage themselves. The Indians screamed blood-chilling war whoops. They shot at the British troops from the woods. The British panicked. They "broke and ran as sheep pursued by dogs," wrote Washington.

The French and Indians were outnumbered almost two to one, but they destroyed the English forces. General Braddock was killed. George Washington escaped with four bullet holes in his coat; two horses were shot from under him. But he learned lessons from Braddock's mistakes.

A young man named Daniel Boone, who drove a wagon in Braddock's army, also noted the way the Indians fought. He had grown up on the frontier, and he could fight and hunt like an Indian. At night Boone sat around the campfire and heard tales of the western lands. He wanted some of that land for himself. He believed the Indians would have to go before he could have it; many others believed as Boone did.

7



What
Fran
toor
was
prin

quil
Tie
tled
red-
stre
T
with
who
a m
Anc
J
mo
goc
the
Eng
bes
eve