

Starnes Tour 2014 Berea Condensed Talking Points

Welcome to Berea, Kentucky County, VA ... currently known as Berea, KY. Near here, our family, in 1779, was involved in one of the most brutal massacres on record. In April of that year a family scouting party from Boone's Fort was looking for land when they chanced upon a marauding band of Shawnee Indians near Squire Boone's Rock near Blue Lick. All but one were killed (including Frederick Starnes II). The lone escapee was Joseph Starnes. This year, we are headed on a journey that will take us to a re-creation of Boone's Fort, the massacre site, and the first brick home in Kentucky belonging to the discoverer of the massacred bodies, William Whitley from Logan's fort. Again, we will be looking at a chronological list of important family events with **corresponding national and international events posted in red for reference**. Approximate US Interstate mile markers are given parenthetically. Important **rivers** are illustrated on the map on p 6.



It is important to define the terms that are important to our discussion this year. These have to do with the concept of land ownership...which was obviously perceived differently by the Shawnee, the English and the western settlers, and caused a good deal of the conflict.

Allodial title is a system in which real property is owned absolutely free and clear of any superior landlord or sovereign. True allodial title is rare today, but could be attributed to the early Israelites. Year of Jubilee. Such land is inalienable, in that it may be conveyed, devised, gifted, or mortgaged by the owner, but may not be used for collection of taxes or private debts, or condemned (eminent domain) by the government. **Traditional land tenure** was at least the perceived form for most of the indigenous nations or tribes of North America who had no formal notion of land ownership. European Americans sometimes disregarded this tenure and simply seized land. In other cases they accommodated traditional land tenure of the various tribes thereby forming the basis for various treaties. **Fee simple**, under common law, is the most complete ownership interest one can have in real property, other than allodial title. However, "complete ownership" is, of course, limited by the obligation to pay a property tax.

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In most modern societies, this is the common form of land ownership. **Feudal land tenure** consists of mutual obligations under which a king or noble grants a fiefdom — some degree of interest in the use or revenues of a given parcel of land — in exchange for a claim on the maintenance of the land in which the royal continues to have an interest. Such was the perceived case of the colonies on the part of the throne, King George III (KG3).

1745 About 400 of the Shawnee tribe, southern most branch of the Algonquin, migrate to West Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, Illinois and Ohio from Pennsylvania. This took place under **Peter Chartier** as a result of the negative impact of alcohol being introduced to the tribe through the North American fur trade. Many were already in present day West Virginia and Ohio with the largest headquarters in northern Kentucky and southern Ohio (**Lower Shawneetown**, pop 1200).

1754 French 'n' Indian war begins. **This world war was fought from 1754 to 1763 between the English and Colonial forces against the French 'n' Indian forces. Recognizing that the victory would be decided in North America, Parliament approved vast funding for the English effort here.**

1755 Shawnee attack on Draper's Meadows. Mary Ingalls captured by Shawnee Indians. Frederick I wounded in defense (ca VA I-81 114).

1756 Frederick Starnes I serves as Augusta (?) County commissioner in charge of purchasing locally produced beef for American troops.

1758 Shawnee Tribe flips to British and Colonial side of French and Indian war as a result of the **Treaty of Easton** in October. The treaty set the western border of colonial advancement at the Eastern Continental Divide (VA I-81 118, VA I-77 6.5, NC I-40 67.5 East of Ridgecrest), and gave the Indians traditional land tenure west of that divide.

1763 KG3 formalized the 1758 treaty at the end of the war (and the acquisition of French territory) with the **Royal Proclamation of 1763**. His consideration of all colonial American land as colonial feudal land, and the limiting line of the continental divide angered many colonials. **Pontiac's War** took place due to Indian dissatisfaction with continued British colonial activities west of the proclamation line. The war involved **Ft Pitt** and **Ft Detroit** among other western outposts. British Generals **Jeffrey Amherst** and **Henry Bouquet** infamously attempted to annihilate the Indians by distributing small pox infected blankets. The confederation of Indian tribal belligerents included the Shawnee and Mingo of the Ohio Country. These tribes were particularly agitated because of the continued influx of white settlers west of the line.

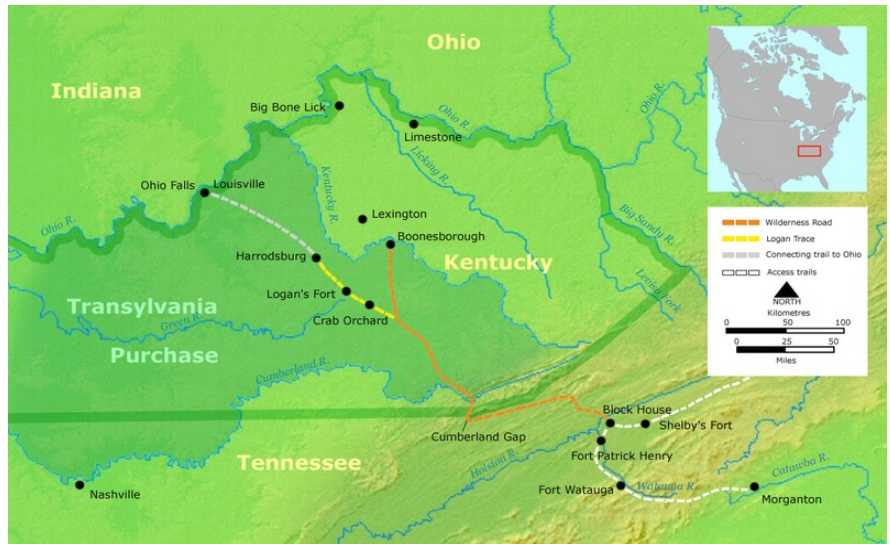
1768 The **Treaty of Fort Stanwix** (NY I-90 32) did nothing but muddy the waters further. This treaty was negotiated and signed by the 6 nations of the Iroquois with the British while the Shawnee and other tribes looked on. It changed the proclamation line to run down the Ohio river and then back along the Tennessee to the continental divide (via the Holston and French Broad). This “officially” ceded Kentucky and much of Tennessee to the British (and the colonials), but not in the minds of the Shawnee.



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1774 After the treaty, colonials began pouring into the Ohio valley. While the Iroquois and Lenape stood by, the Shawnee, aided only by the Mingo took up the battle against the settlers. Virginia governor, **Lord Dunmore**, planned a two pronged attack into the valley along the upper Ohio, and the Kanawha. **Colonel Andrew Lewis** led the southern approach. In October, Lewis's forces reached the Ohio and fought with **Chief Cornstalk** and the Shawnee at the **battle of Point Pleasant** (WV I-77 138) in which members of the Starnes family participated under **Captain William Christian**. Although, the battle was “officially” considered a draw, Cornstalk's forces had to retreat back across the river and ultimately accept the terms of the Stanwix treaty at Camp Charlotte (OH I-71 97).

1775 In March of the following year, at the settlement of Sycamore Shoals on the Watauga River (TN I-26 24), **Richard Henderson** and **Daniel Boone** (assuming traditional land tenure for the Cherokee) negotiated what would later be known as the **Transylvania Purchase** of a significant portion of modern day Kentucky and part of Tennessee from the Cherokee. Boone immediately went to work on extending the Wilderness Road from the great valley out through the



Cumberland Gap and up into Kentucky. At this point settlers poured into Kentucky intent on acquiring 400 acres of land fee simple from the Transylvania Land Company by homesteading and raising crops for 3 years. Three forts were then built/utilized in the eastern part of the purchase for protection and so that the settlers could fan out to stake claims. These were: **Logan's Fort** (KY I-75 59), **Harrod's Fort** (KY I-64 53), and **Boone's Fort** (KY I-75 97). It was to the third of these that some members of the Starnes family came between 1775 and 1778.

1776 In addition to the commencement of the **Revolutionary War**, a young Cherokee chief named **Dragging Canoe** served as leader in another war on the colonies...the **Cherokee-American War**. Following the Transylvania Purchase, it was determined by the colonial governments of Virginia and North Carolina, and by England (assuming Feudal Tenure), that Henderson had acted inappropriately in scheming to create the 14th colony of Transylvania...at least according to the Proclamation of 1763 and the Stanwix Treaty of 1768. Additionally, Dragging Canoe had been the only Cherokee Chief to refuse to sign at Sycamore Shoals. Again, the Shawnee were not with the Henderson program either. The outbreak of war between the colonies and England provided the perfect platform for the two sides of the Cherokee-American war to build up. Dragging Canoe facilitated a three way alliance between the Cherokee, the British (**John Stuart**, **Alexander Cameron**, and **Henry Hamilton** in Detroit), and the Shawnee (**Cornstalk**). And Robert Henderson and Daniel Boone kept the colonial settlers coming into, protecting and developing the now county of Kentucky.

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1779 Three years into the Revolutionary War, the colonials had the help of the French, both at sea and on land. Activity in the north had basically come to a standstill as the British evacuated various outposts. On the other side, **George Washington** was having trouble keeping his army intact. It was in April that four new citizens of Boone's fort ventured out to look for land for family settlement. Joseph Starnes, Frederick Starnes II, Joseph Starnes II and Michael Moyer went south and while traveling southeast along Blue Licks Creek (KY I-75 76) were ambushed by an armed party of about 30 Shawnee. Joseph, Frederick II and Michael Moyer were all killed in the attack, and Joseph II managed to escape down the valley and then back up to Boone's fort. About a month later, a scout team under **William Whitley** found the bodies and buried them ... likely near the Pilot Knob cemetery.

1779 In the following month, Jacob Starnes exacted revenge as part of a Kentucky County raiding party. **George Rogers Clark**, after capturing **Vincennes**, began to plan another attack across the Ohio in response to Shawnee attacks like **Starnes's Defeat**. In late May a militia was formed with soldiers from all three Kentucky forts and Clark's own men just across the river from **Limestone (Cincinnati)**. The plan was to covertly travel north along the Little Miami river, then east to a large Chillicothe Shawnee encampment at Xenia (OH I-675 10) and attack. The plan worked to perfection. The Shawnee were routed, much loot was taken, and Shawnee chief **Blackfish** (who refused to honor the Fort Stanwix treaty) was killed.

Quiz (no blurting allowed)

1. From what general Indian family were the Shawnee?
 - a) Punjab
 - b) Catawba
 - c) Cleveland
 - d) Iroquois
 - e) Algonquin
2. Who wanted the western Indians to fight the colonial settlers?
 - a) RG III
 - b) Cornwallis
 - c) King Lebron James
 - d) KG III
 - e) the Los Angeles Kings
3. Where did the Wilderness Road fork into separate paths?
 - a) Hazel Nut
 - b) Hazel Patch
 - c) Hazel Eyes
 - d) Hazel Starnes
 - e) Fraternity Hazel
4. Which French 'n' Indian War fort possibly involved construction work by Frederick I's sons?
 - a) the Alamo
 - b) Fort Knox
 - c) the Old Fort
 - d) Fort Chiswell
 - e) Fort Loudon

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5. Which Starnes revenged (in southern Ohio) his relatives' deaths of Starnes defeat?
 - a) Michael
 - b) Albert
 - c) Joseph
 - d) Lee
 - e) Jacob
6. What was the main reason many Shawnee moved west out of Pennsylvania in 1745?
 - a) their widows were being ignored
 - b) taxes were too high
 - c) the effects of alcohol
 - d) Penn State was on probation
 - e) they were being called offensive nicknames
7. At the end of the French and Indian war in 1763, another war kicked off between the Indians and the westward bound settlers. It was called _____'s War.
 - a) Chevrolet
 - b) Pontiac
 - c) Chrysler
 - d) Toyota
 - e) Lincoln
8. Which Cherokee chief vehemently disagreed with the land purchase at Sycamore Shoals in 1775?
 - a) Dragging Canoe
 - b) Dragging Wagon
 - c) Dragging Cornstalk
 - d) Dragging Feet
 - e) Dragging Fish
9. In an attempt to secretly rid themselves of the Indians around 1763, British generals Jeffrey Amherst and Robert Boquet gave the natives blankets infected with ...
 - a) Bed Bugs
 - b) AIDS
 - c) Lice
 - d) moquitos
 - e) Smallpox
10. Which of the following were the three original forts in Kentucky county?
 - a) Boone's fort
 - b) Harrod's fort
 - c) fort Sanders
 - d) Stanwyx fort
 - e) fort Pitt
 - f) Logan's fort
 - g) Whitley's fort
11. What was the name of the real estate company headed by Robert Henderson?
 - a) Century 18
 - b) K-max
 - c) Transylvania
 - d) Come and get it

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12. The Indians (and British to some extent) in North America in the 18th century perceived the land west of the continental divide theirs by ...

- a) Traditional Land Tenure
- b) Fee Simple Tenure
- c) Feudal Tenure
- d) Fee Simple Tenure
- e) Farming Tenure

Sources: Of Them That Left a Name Behind, Herman and Gerald Starnes, Heritage, 2002; www.wikipedia.org; Google Images;, Google Maps

