

Virginia and the Cherokee in the Eighteenth Century

A selected reading list for general audiences on the causes, campaigns, diplomacy, and consequences of conflict, including Cherokee perspectives.

Recommended books

- Kevin Kokomoor, *The Cherokee War of 1776: Native Destruction at the Dawn of American Independence* (2026). The war and coordinated invasions of Cherokee country.
- Nadia Dean, *A Demand of Blood: The Cherokee War of 1776* (2012). A readable narrative, including Virginia's frontier.
- Richard D. Blackmon, *Dark and Bloody Ground: The American Revolution along the Southern Frontier* (2012). Military campaigns and frontier warfare across the Revolutionary South.
- Colin G. Calloway, *The American Revolution in Indian Country* (1995). Native experiences of the Revolution; see the Cherokee chapter.
- Tom Hatley, *The Dividing Paths: Cherokees and South Carolinians through the Era of Revolution* (1993). Relations between Cherokees and colonists.
- James H. O'Donnell III, *Southern Indians in the American Revolution* (1973). Native nations and wartime alliances.
- John Oliphant, *Peace and War on the Anglo-Cherokee Frontier, 1756–63* (2001). The earlier war and its consequences.
- Kristofer Ray, *Cherokee Power: Imperial and Indigenous Geopolitics in the Trans-Appalachian West, 1670–1774* (2023). Cherokee diplomacy and territorial interests.
- Patricia Givens Johnson, *William Preston and the Allegheny Patriots* (1976). Virginia frontier leaders and events.
- John R. Finger, *Tennessee Frontiers: Three Regions in Transition* (2001). Holston settlements and Cherokee homelands.

Explore original documents — where to find them

- **Virginia Gazette (1736–1780):** Browse digitized newspapers in Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library Digital Collections, in partnership with William & Mary Libraries and the Library of Virginia. digitalcollections.colonialwilliamsburg.org. Browse by year and printer; look for reports on Cherokee warfare and Virginia militia expeditions.
- **Virginia state correspondence:** *Calendar of Virginia State Papers* and *Official Letters of the Governors of the State of Virginia* are available through archive.org. For original manuscripts, consult the Library of Virginia (lva.virginia.gov), Governor's Office records.
- **Frontier letters and recollections:** The Draper Manuscripts are available on microfilm at Virginia Tech's Newman Library in Blacksburg, Virginia. Originals are held by the Wisconsin Historical Society (wisconsinhistory.org).
- **Cherokee treaties, including Long Island of Holston (1777):** Consult the *Colonial Records of North Carolina* at Documenting the American South (docsouth.unc.edu) and related records at the Library of Virginia. Later federal treaties appear in Kappler's *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*.
- Archibald Henderson, "The Treaty of Long Island of Holston, July, 1777," *The North Carolina Historical Review* 8, no. 1 (January 1931): 55-116. Free scan: archive.org/details/northcarolinahis1931nort/page/55/mode/2up
- Andrew Lewis and Thomas Walker, "Report of Col. Lewis and Dr. Walker to Lord Botetourt," February 2, 1769, *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 13, no. 1 (July 1905), pp. 30-36. Primary-source report on Virginia's efforts to revise the Cherokee boundary.