

WHO'S FIGHTING WHO?

The threat of being scalped was enough to halt Mason and Dixon for a while. The two surveyors had drawn a boundary line that almost reached to the Point—when they quit, they were only ten miles away—but beyond that line there was no way of deciding who owned what. No one was surprised when Pennsylvania and Virginia each decided that the Ohio River Valley belonged to them. Pennsylvania opened a land office and began to sell land. Settlers, including the Girtys, filed claims for the land on which they were living. Soon Virginia opened its own land office, selling the same land at one-tenth of the price. Both Pennsylvania and Virginia set up their own systems of government and their own courts. Disputes were predictably hard to settle.

The village now called Pittsburgh was growing by leaps and bounds. One year, there were 88 men (not counting the soldiers, who included two companies of the Royal Irish), 29 women and 32 children, and the very next year, there were 324 men, 92 women and 41 children. Houses were built at the Point, along Water Street near the Monongahela River, and on Grant's Hill. Most of the villagers were from England, Ireland, Scotland and Germany, and new traders and Indian fighters appeared every day. They were a motley crew. Some were runaway indentured servants who came west to start a new life. Others were loyalists, people loyal to England's king, who opposed the War for Independence that had already started back east. Some were simply folks looking for adventure.

Inside the fort at the Point was the brick governor's mansion, and beyond it were orchards and vegetable gardens. But the villagers themselves lived in log houses and huts, making their own clothing from fabric they had spun on their spinning wheels, wearing moccasins cut from hides of animals they had eaten at long-forgotten suppers.

A thriving village needs a strong economy. Though Indians were no longer allowed to live in Pittsburgh, they were welcomed again with open arms at the trading posts to exchange their fur pelts for ammunition, blankets, rum and other goods. A typical trade list showed that 88 summer deerskins, six beaver, three fox, 13 raccoon, one bear and two wildcat hides were swapped for a supply of ammunition, knives, calico skirts, leggings, blankets, razors, coats and a tin kettle. Boatbuilding also became a busy industry in