

Transcript: Part One, Episode Four- Colonial Expansion

I'm Matthew, I'm Mike. Welcome to Keep Liberty Alive. At the end of Episode Three we saw that Plymouth Colony was combined with the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Province of Maine in 1691 to create the Province of Massachusetts Bay, when it became a Royal Colony. In this episode we will take a look at the other twelve colonies and when they came into being. This is Part One, Episode Four-Colonial Expansion

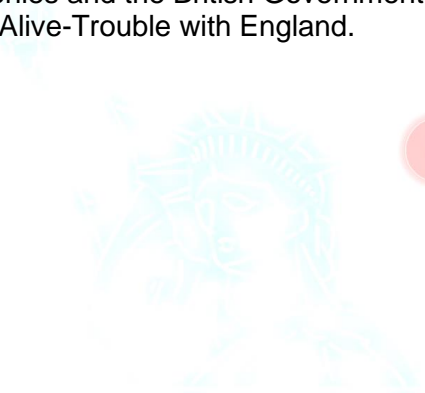
The Province of Massachusetts Bay was one of the four New England Colonies. The others were Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. The Connecticut Colony was originally established in 1636 and given a Royal Charter in 1662 when it combined with Saybrook and New Haven Colony. The Colony of Rhode Island was given a Royal Charter in 1663 and included Providence Plantations, Portsmouth, New Port and Warwick Colonies. The Province of New Hampshire was originally established in 1629 and given a Royal charter in 1679. These four colonies were known as the New England Colonies, which later became New England States. These colonies were founded for the purpose of religious freedom along with the Provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Maryland became a province in 1632 and Pennsylvania in 1681, both were Proprietary Colonies. The difference between a Royal Colony and a Proprietary Colony was that the Proprietary Colony was wholly owned and controlled by the Monarch of England as his personal property. The Royal Colonies were controlled not only by the Crown, but by the British Government as well. Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn, who founded it for the benefit of his fellow Quakers. They founded the City of Philadelphia, which eventually became the largest city in the colonies. Another Proprietary Colony was Delaware Colony, which became a colony in 1664. The rest of the colonies were all Royal Colonies and included the Province of New York, which was given a royal charter in 1686, the Province of New Jersey, given a royal charter in 1702, which included East Jersey and West Jersey, the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, which as we saw, originated in Jamestown in 1607 and was given a royal charter in 1624, the Province of Carolina, which was given an initial charter in 1629, later taken away by Charles II in 1660, rechartered as a Proprietary Colony in 1663, then split into separate Proprietary Colonies (North and South) in 1712 and both finally given Royal Charters in 1729. The last of the Original Thirteen Colonies was Georgia, which was given a royal charter in 1752. In contrast to the first six colonies, which were founded on freedom of religion principles, the other seven were founded for business and trade purposes.

During the time the British were colonizing the area, other countries were as well. Beginning in 1609, Netherlands began colonizing near the Hudson and Connecticut Rivers via the Dutch West India Company, primarily focusing on the fur trade. The West India Company created New Netherland near the Hudson River and New Amsterdam on the Island of Manhattan, which had been purchased from the Lenape Tribe. It became a major trading base with the English trading colonies and Dutch ships transported many products to Europe from the colonies. The Dutch were also involved heavily in the African Slave Trade. After several battles in the 1650s and 60s, the English took over the area controlled by the Dutch and changed the name of New Amsterdam to New York.

Another country colonizing in the area was Sweden. The Swedish founded New Sweden in the Delaware Valley in 1638. The Dutch took it away in 1655. Then England decided, "This land ain't your land, this land is our land."

While all of these countries were founding their colonies, the French were busy up north in what we know today as Canada (Toronto, Ontario, Newfoundland, etc, founding New France and colonizing that region. This inevitably led, as it always does, to conflicts between the two empires (British and French) over various land areas. Ultimately, it led to what we would call the French and Indian War, which lasted from 1754 to 1763 and called such because the French and several indigenous tribes in the northern areas and the British and several indigenous tribes in the southern area were all fighting each other. The conflict actually spilled over and spread into Europe where it became what is now known as the Seven Years War and included several other countries as well. Back in the Americas, the British eventually prevailed over the French and France ceded its territories to England. Interestingly, during the war the British trained many colonists to fight for the British and defeat the French. One of these men trained by the British was a guy from Virginia named George Washington.

Trade between the British Colonies and North America was booming in the first half of the 18th Century. The Colonists in addition to trading with England, also traded with other British colonies, especially with those in the Carribean. They traded foods, tobacco, and wood for Asian Tea, coffee, sugar, and other goods. The Indigenous Americans were also heavily involved in trade, trading furs and deer skins. The colonists also created a large ship building industry. It is estimated that the population of the colonies had grown to approximately 1 and a half million by 1750. That still was not enough to support the economic system, so the slave trade grew as well in the North and the South. After the French and Indian War, England had accrued a large amount of debt, so they decided to impose several new taxes on the colonies and take more control of colonial industry. This obviously led to increased tensions between the colonies and the British Government. These tensions will lead us into Part Two of Keep Liberty Alive-Trouble with England.



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