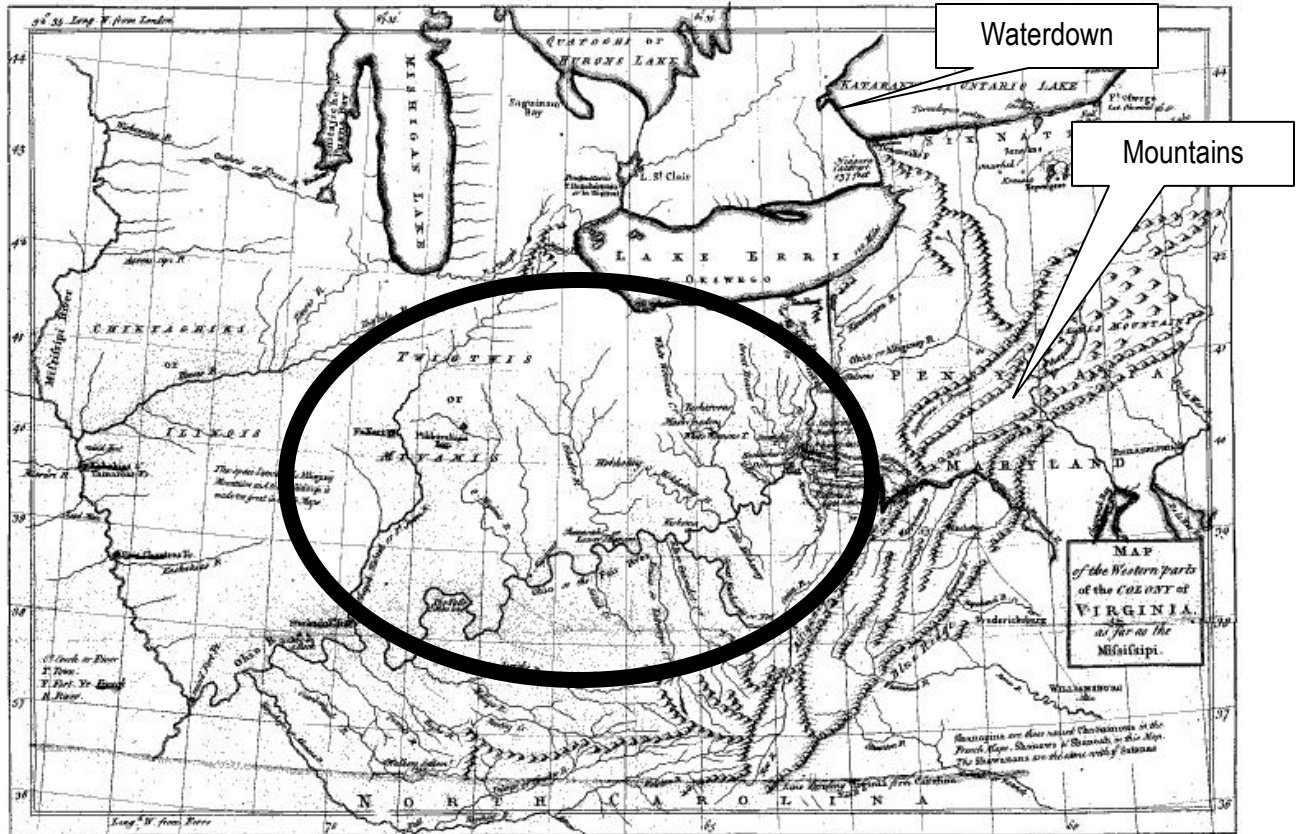


# Meanwhile . . . in the Ohio Valley . . .



We are new settlers in New Jersey with no money and multiple mouths to feed (my mom is pregnant with septuplets). We need to find cheap land, and lots of it. Unfortunately, there is nothing left along the New England coast . . . where could we go?

Maybe if we sneak across the Allegheny Mountains to the vast and "empty" [ignoring First Nations] lands of the Ohio Valley . . .



- Because New France was thinly settled it was no wonder that a few English settlers trickled in from the east coast into the Ohio Valley (Mr. Tidridge's "Burlington Theory of Settlement").
- The dominant power in this region was the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (present-day Six Nations) – a confederacy so powerful that it absorbed the other First Nations pushed west by European expansion.

- Despite numerous pronouncements of neutrality, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy were consistently wooed by both the French and the English (they also actively played one side off the other).
- Traditionally the Mohawk (Eastern member of the Confederacy) favoured the English.
- The French were severely weakened by the outcome of the Wendat- Haudenosaunee War. They realized that they had to do something about the English settlers moving into the Ohio Valley – if they didn't act soon they would be outnumbered.
  - Appeals were made to have settlers, especially women, sent over from France.
- The English colonies along the Atlantic soon began granting land across the mountains – giving official sanction to English settlement in New France. Companies were created to facilitate settlement, including the Ohio Company. Huge profits were generated by colonial land speculators such as Benjamin Franklin.
- By 1753 the French ordered the construction of a series of forts in the Upper Ohio Valley to protect their claims in the area. These rag-tag forts (2,000 Frenchmen started the project to build them yet only 800 survived the campaign) angered the English (who felt they were being intimidated) and the Natives (who felt increasingly sandwiched between the two forces).

An example of what was going on:

- French workers settled into Fort Le Boeuf to wait out the winter when they were met by a young man from Virginia.
- The young Virginian man – named \_\_\_\_\_ -- had a message from the lieutenant governor of Virginia (representative of the Crown) asserting the claim of the English colony in the area. He politely asked the French to leave.
- The French politely responded “Non.”
- The French have a problem.

I do believe this is our land now. I have the dodgy land ownership documents to prove it.

