**King William's War (1690-1697)**

[King James II](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Stuart-19) of England, unlike his brother, [Charles II](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Stuart-4), was extremely religious, and his religion was that of Rome. The large majority of the people of England were Protestants; but they would NOT have submitted to a Catholic king once he used official power to try and convert the nation to Catholicism.

From the time of James's accession, in 1685, the unrest increased, until, three years later, the opposition was so formidable that the monarch fled from his kingdom and took refuge in France. The daughter of James and her husband, William, the Prince of Orange, became the joint sovereigns of England as [William](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Orange-Nassau-2) and [Mary](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Stuart-21). This movement is known in history as the Glorious Revolution.

Louis XIV, the king of France, was a Catholic and in full sympathy with James and war between the two nations followed. This war was reflected in America, as "King William's War."

The English colonies had long watched the French in Canada and the French were determined to hold the St. Lawrence country, and extend their power over the vast basin of the Mississippi. Each nation was jealous of the other concerning the fisheries and the fur trade. To these differences must be added an intense religious feeling.

* The English colonies were almost wholly Protestant except [Maryland](http://www.usahistory.info/southern/Maryland.html), and even in Maryland the Protestants were in a large majority.
* New France was purely Catholic

The two forms of Christianity had not yet learned to dwell together, or near together, in harmony.

King James had revoked some of the colonial charters and instructed his Catholic governor of [New York](http://www.newyorkhistory.info/) to influence the Iroquois Indians to allow Jesuit (Catholic) teachers to live among them, and to introduce the Catholic religion into the colony.

King William's War was very different in meaning in the colonies from what it was on the other side of the Atlantic. In America it was the first of several fierce contests, covering seventy years; or, it may be said, it was the beginning of a seventy years' war with intervals of peace, for the supremacy in North America.

The war began by a series of Indian massacres instigated by Frontenac, the governor of Canada. The first of these was the destruction of Dover, [New Hampshire](http://www.usahistory.info/New-England/New-Hampshire.html), a town of fifty inhabitants. One night in July, 1689, two squaws came to the home of the aged Major Waldron and begged a night's lodging. Being admitted, they rose in the night and let in a large number of Indians who lay in ambush. Waldron was put to death with frightful tortures, the town was burned to the ground, about half the people were massacred, and the remainder were carried away and sold into slavery.

In the following month a town in Maine named Pemaquid met a similar fate. In February, 1690, a body of French and Indians, sent by Frontenac, came to the town of Schenectady on the Mohawk. For nearly a month they had faced the wintry blasts, plowing their way through the deep snow on their mission of destruction. At midnight they fell with dreadful yells upon the sleeping village. In a few hours all was over; the town was laid in ashes. More than sixty were massacred, many were taken captive, a few escaped into the night and reached Albany. The towns of Casco and Salmon Falls soon after met a similar fate.

The war spirit was now aroused throughout the colonies. New Englanders sent a land force against Montreal by way of Lake Champlain, and a naval expedition against Quebec. The expenses of the former were funded by [Connecticut](http://www.usahistory.info/New-England/Connecticut.html) and New York, and of the latter by Massachusetts.

Sir William Phipps of Maine, who had this same year, 1690, captured Port Royal in Nova Scotia, commanded the naval force. He had thirty or more vessels and two thousand men. But Frontenac, in spite of being 80 years old, was on the alert. He successfully repelled the land force, which turned back, and then hastened to the defense of Quebec. But here he had little to do. Phipps was a weak commander, and the fleet, after reaching Quebec and finding it well fortified, returned to [Boston](http://www.bostonhistory.info/) without striking an effective blow.

The people of Massachusetts were greatly disappointed at the failure of the expedition. The debt of the colony had reached an enormous figure, and to meet it bills of credit, or paper money, were issued to the amount of £40,000. Phipps was soon afterward sent to England to seek aid of the king. King William was hard pressed at home, and he left the colonies to fight their own battles; he also refused to restore the old charter, but he granted a new one, as we have noticed, and made Phipps the first royal governor of Massachusetts.

The war dragged on for several years longer, but it consisted on only frontier massacres. The towns of York, [Maine](http://www.mainehistory.info/), Durham, [New Hampshire](http://www.usahistory.info/New-England/New-Hampshire.html), and Groton, Massachusetts, were the scenes of bloody massacres, and hundreds of people were slain.[2](http://www.usahistory.info/colonial-wars/King-Williams-War.html#2)

In 1697 a treaty of peace was signed and the cruel war was temporarily over. Acadia, which had been prematurely incorporated with Massachusetts, was restored to France. But this treaty was only a truce. The English and French nations had not learned to love each other, and the questions in dispute had made no progress toward settlement.

After the death of William and Mary the crown of England was settled (1702) on Anne, the sister of Mary.

James, the exiled king, died in 1701, and his son, known as James the Pretender, was proclaimed king of England by the French. This act alone would have brought another war, but there was another provocation. King Louis of France placed his grandson on the throne of Spain, and thus greatly increased his power among the dynasties of Europe. This was very distasteful to the English, and the war that followed was known as the War of the Spanish Succession. In America, however, it was called Queen Anne's War (1702).