**Queen Anne's War (1702-1714)**

After this brief season of peace, the colonists were obliged to face another long and murderous war.

In character this war was similar to that which preceded it, a contest over Acadia and New France, consisting of surprises and bloody massacres.

Early in the conflict the coast of [Maine](http://www.mainehistory.info/) was swept by bands of savage Indians and equally savage Frenchmen, and hundreds of men, women, and children were tomhawked or carried into captivity.

On an intensely cold morning in February, 1704, at daybreak, a party of nearly four hundred French and Indians broke upon the town of Deerfield, and with their terrible war cry began their work of destruction and slaughter. Nearly fifty of the inhabitants were slain, and more than a hundred were carried into captivity. A few years later Haverhill, Massachusetts, met with a fate similar to that of Deerfield.

In 1704 the colonists made an unsuccessful attack by sea on Acadia, and another in 1707; and three years later the British government, having at last decided to aid the colonies, sent a small fleet and a third attack was made. This was successful. Port Royal in Acadia surrendered, and was named Annapolis in honor of the English queen, while Acadia was henceforth called Nova Scotia.

A bold scheme of conquering Canada was now conceived. Sir Hovendon Walker arrived at Boston with a fleet and joined by an army of colonists of Massachusetts The fleet consisted of nine war vessels, sixty transports, and many smaller craft, bearing in all twelve thousand men. Nothing like it had ever before been seen in American waters. In August, 1711, this fleet moved to the northward, and at the same time a land force of twenty-three hundred men started for Montreal by way of Lake Champlain.

It would seem that New France must certainly fall before such a power, and all Canada be added to the British dominions in America. But there was one fatal obstacle to success, and that was the lack of ability in Admiral Walker. He not only lacked capacity to command such a force, but he lacked in courage. The whole movement came to nothing. Walker lost eight ships and a thousand men in a dense fog and refused to go further, believing that the disaster was a blessing in disguise, a merciful intervention of Providence to save his men from "freezing, starvation, and cannibalism."

The French citizens of praised God that He had preserved them and dashed their enemy to pieces, and a solemn mass was ordered to be said every month for a year.

Both nations were now weary of the war, and the Treaty of Utrecht was the result. By this treaty Acadia, Newfoundland, and the Hudson Bay territory were given by France to England; and the Iroquois Indian nation were acknowledged to be British subjects.

The treaty brought only a temporary peace. The great problems in America were left unsettled. The treaty fixed no limits to Acadia, nor did it mark the boundary between the British colonies and Canada. These were questions that must sometime be settled; but there was another question of far greater importance, and that was whether France or England would obtain control of the great valley of the Mississippi.

The embers of war were thus left to burn, and the time was bound to come when they would burst forth into flame. The Treaty of Utrecht brought a peace that was unbroken for thirty years; but meantime the two nations, like crouching tigers, made ready each to spring upon the other.

The king of France had been forced to give up his beloved Acadia, but he retained Cape Breton Island which commanded the mouth of the St. Lawrence. Here, on a portion of the island, the king determined to build a fortress far more imposing than any other in America, and to call it after his own name -- Louisburg. This project was scarcely on foot when Louis XIV died, and the plan was carried out by his successors. The great object of this movement was to furnish a base from which to guard the St. Lawrence Valley against all comers, and to reclaim, if possible, the fair land of Acadia.

The French did not stop with the founding of Louisburg; they strengthened their hold on the Mississippi Valley. In 1718 New Orleans was founded, and four years later it was made the capital of the vast region known as Louisiana.

France had now two great North American possessions -- one amid the Canadian snows and the other in the tropical regions of the South. But two thousand miles of untrodden wilderness lay between the extremes of this boundless domain, and the French knew that to hold it something more than merely claiming it must be done. They began, therefore, to build of a chain of forts, or military posts. They built forts at Niagara, Detroit, and other points, to guard the great lakes until by the middle of the eighteenth century there were more than sixty forts between Montreal and New Orleans.

France now claimed all of North America from Mexico and Florida to the Arctic Ocean, except the Hudson Bay region and the narrow English margin on the east between the mountains and the sea; and it must have seemed to human eyes that the future development of the continent must be French rather than English. But a great struggle was yet to determine the trend of American civilization.