ANTH318  
Nautical Archaeology of the Americas  

Class 16  

The Anglo-French Wars:  
King Williams War (1689-1697)  
Queen Anne's War (1702-1713)  
King George’s War (1744-1748)  
French and Indian War (1755-1763)  
(In Europe these wars have different names):  
King Williams War (1689-1697) is known as the War of the League of Augsburg  
Queen Anne’s War (1702-1713) is known as the War of the Spanish Succession  
King George’s War (1744-1748) is known as the War of the Austrian Succession  
French and Indian War (1755-1763) is known as the Seven Years War  

Timeline  
1608 - Samuel de Champlain established Québec City on the banks of the St. Laurent River.  
1642 - Montreal is founded further south, along the St. Laurent.  
1649 - Oliver Cromwell's Republic  
1658 - Richard Cromwell  
1660 - Charles II (Stuart) king.  
1685 - James II king  
1689 - William III of Orange and Mary II Stuart king and queen.  
1689/97 - King William's War  
1694 - William III king  
1702 - Anne Stuart queen  
1702/13 - Queen Anne's War  
1714 - George I (Hanover) king  
1744/48 - King George's War
1727 - George II king
1755/63 - French and Indian War
1760 – George III king (mad George)

History
The English population in the New World grew from about 5,000 in 1630 to 250,000 in 1700. Mostly planters and farmers, some English were however full-time merchants and dedicated to the trade of tobacco, fisheries (to the North), and sugar for rum production.

The French colonization was sparse, mainly along the St. Lawrence and in Acadia - today's Nova Scotia. Dealing mostly in fur, the French were occasionally farmers, fishermen, and lumbermen. Beaver fur was in high demand in Europe for the manufacture of felt hats.

The St. Lawrence was a perfect highway to the Great Lakes, but it froze solid during the winter and Acadia depended on France for survival. Colonies were seen more as trading posts than as settling places.

Contact between the two colonies was sparse. However, Lake Champlain and Lake George ended very close to the Hudson River, and Lake Champlain emptied into the Richelieu River, which in turn emptied into the St. Lawrence. From the Hudson it was possible to reach Lake Ontario, via the Oswego and Mohawk Rivers.

King William's War (1689-1697)
In 1688, William of Orange invaded England and replaced King James II, whose efforts to bring England closer to the Roman Catholic faith were provoking wide protests.

Soon after war broke out in Europe, when William III joined the League of Augsburg and the Netherlands (Grand Alliance, 12 May 1689) to resist Louis XIV's invasion of the Rhenish Palatinate, one German electorate.

As news of war in Europe reached America, the governor of New France received orders to invade New York.

The politicians in France probably underestimated the size of the American continent, the difficulties of the terrain, and the logistics involved in such an invasion.

The governor of New France decided to launch a series of small attacks on the English outposts instead. In this endeavor he was helped by the natives.

On the English side, New York and Massachusetts created their own militias, and tried to invade New France.

In spite of being largely superior in number and armament, the English failed in their first invasion, conducted via Lake Champlain.

A second attempt failed as well as they tried to enter the St. Laurent River.
In 1689, a force of 34 ships and 2,200 troops sailed from Boston to Québec City under the command of William Phips. The French did not seem too impressed with the idea of a siege upon Phips arrival in late November, since New France was always isolated during the winter.

Phips had no other choice but to withdraw his forces. He lost 4 vessels on the way back:

- the 60-tun brigantine Mary,
- the 70-tun ketch Mary Ann,
- the 40-ton ketch Hanna and Mary,
- and the 45-tun bark Elizabeth and Mary.

The war was over in the New World, as far as great acts of hostility were concerned, and small incursions and attacks continued during the next decade, until the end of the War of the League of Augsburg (King William's War), in 1697.

**Queen Anne’s War (1702-1713)**

When William III died falling from his horse in 1702, Anne Stuart, Mary’s sister, became queen and inherited the European War of Spanish Succession together with the crown of England.

This war generated a series of hostilities between the French and English in the New World, where it was called Queen Anne's War.

Charles II of Habsburg, king of Spain was mentally retarded and crippled. His mother ruled in his place, and when he died childless, in 1700, war broke out in Europe in an attempt to prevent the amalgamation of France and Spain under a Bourbon king. France prevailed and the next king, Filipe V of Anjou, was a Bourbon, grandson of Louis XIV. (The first Bourbon king in France had been a Spaniard, Henry IV (1589-1610), the protestant Henry of Navarre (1553-1610), who ascended to the throne of France following his conversion to Catholicism in 1589. It was he who issued the Edict of Nantes – allowing for religious freedom for the first time in Europe. Henry married Margot de Valois and Marie de Medici, and was murdered by Roman Catholic conspirers).

Again, strategists in France ordered the attack of New York and Boston. The French governor engaged in some small incursions and attacks, capitalizing on the native Americans’ hatred of the English colonists.

England retaliated with another two attempts to invade New France, one via Lake Champlain (1709), and the other by sea, to the mouth of the St. Laurent (1711). They both failed. The sea invasion ended in catastrophe with the loss of 10 of the 70 vessels engaged in the operation and the disbanding of the 12,000 English troops.

In the meantime, England occupied an old abandoned fort in Acadia (Port Royal) that would prove to be crucial in the years ahead. The French in turn fortified the port of Louisbourg on Cap Breton and launched an offensive of piracy that plagued the English during the 30 years of peace that followed.
King George's War (1744-1748)
In 1744, war out broke again in Europe, this time because of the Austrian succession. After the death of the H.R.E. Charles VI, Frederick II of Prussia, one of the claimants to the Holy Roman Empire crown, invaded Austrian territory in Silesia. A complicated series of alliances led to war in Europe once again, and the French and Spanish aligned against England.

Almost immediately Louisbourg became an immense problem for England in the New World, together with another fort built in the meantime, Fort St. Frédéric.

In 1745, a militia of 4,000 men with heavy artillery was sent to lay siege to Louisbourg. A well organized blockade by the English navy eventually brought the French to surrender after 6 weeks of continued hostilities.

In 1746, a storm saved Louisbourg from a French attack. In 1747, the French navy was beaten off the coast of France. In 1748, the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle ended war between France and England, and Louisbourg was given back to France.

French and Indian War (1755-1763)
In 1755, war erupted once again between France and England, this time over the New World.

The French had built a series of forts on the Ohio River, taking possession of a major portion of the North American continent.

In 1753, the English colonists found themselves pressed between the Appalachian mountains and the sea, and took action against the French expansion movement.

In 1753/4, they sent 21-year old major George Washington with an army to expel the French from two new forts built on the Rivière aux Boeufs, near the south shore of Lake Erie.

In 1755, the English navy attacked two small French supply vessels. In 1756, France and England declared war on each other. In Europe this war is known as the Seven Years War.

The first two years were difficult for the English side. Failing to take positions along the Ohio River, English troops were defeated on Lake Champlain and on Lake Ontario, lost Fort Oswego, and failed to stop the construction of yet another French fort on Lake Champlain (Fort Carrillon).

By the end of 1756, the English had lost the Oswego River and Lake Ontario.

In 1757, the French took Fort William Henry with a force of 4,000 troops transported on 275 bateaux.

But in 1758, the English supremacy at sea turned the tables. Seizing many French supplies and attacking ports, the English managed to isolate New France. Then they took Louisbourg with a force of 157 ships and 11,500 men.

In the interior, despite destroying an English force 12,000 strong at Fort Carrillon on Lake Champlain, the French lost Fort Frontenac in the Lake Ontario region.
In the meantime, English supremacy at sea completely isolated New France.

Then a force of 22 warships and 119 transports sailed down the St. Laurent under Admiral Charles Saunders and bombarded Québec for 10 consecutive weeks. After this General Wolfe attacked the city and took it.

At the same time, General Amherst conquered Forts Carrillon (which became Fort Ticonderoga), Niagara, and Fort St. Frédéric.

Securing the lower portion of Lake Champlain, Amherst had two ships built and sailed up the lake.

Amherst's ships:
- The 18-gun brig *Duke of Cumberland* (115 tons);
- The 16-gun sloop *Boscawen* (115 tons);
- One radeau mounting six 24 pounders;
- Several gunboats mounting one cannon each.

After taking the 3 French sloops that composed Lake Champlain's fleet, he spent the winter at the margins of the lake and in the Spring sailed to Montreal with 17,000 men, artillery and ships. In 1760, Montreal was conquered.

In 1760, France sent a small fleet of six vessels to supply New France. Two vessels were taken by the English navy in the Atlantic, one sunk during a storm, and the other three were scuttled to avoid being captured after three weeks of fighting with the English in the Restigouche River. These were the *Machault*, the *Bienfaisant*, and the *Marquis de Malauze*.

Although the English army had held Québec City and Montreal since 1760, it was not until 1763 that France acknowledged the loss of Canada in the Treaty of Paris.

Once peace was achieved with France, the relations with the French settlers were resumed without major problems. The English respected them, and Lord Jeffrey Amherst even referred to them as his "formidable enemies."

But the natives were a different problem. As relations did not improve between natives and English rulers, General Amherst decided that "...measures [were] to be taken as would bring about the total extirpation of those indian nations."

In the summer of 1763, after Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, led an uprising against the English, Amherst gave orders to Colonel Henry Bouquet to give blankets infected with smallpox to the Indians surrounding Fort Pitt.

*From Amherst’s letter:*

*You will Do Well to try to Innoculate the / Indians by means of Blanketts, as well as to try / every other method that can serve to ixtirpate / this Execrable Race. I should be very glad your Scheme for Hunting them Down by dogs could take effect / but is at too great a Distance to of that at present.*

See: Additional texts in the Readings Volume.