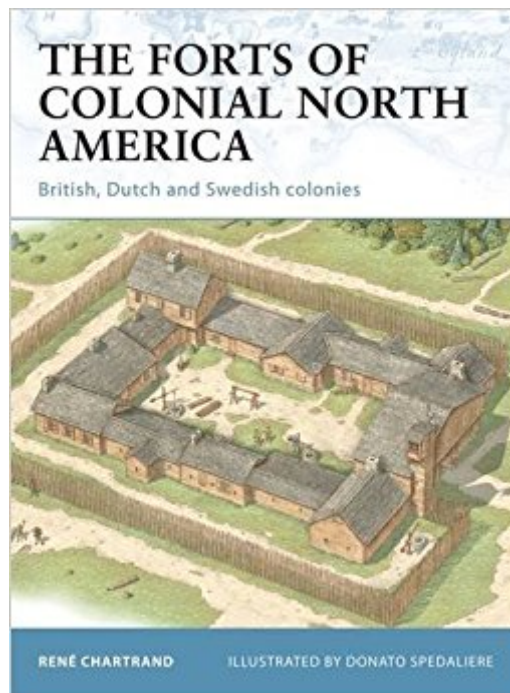




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The Forts Of Colonial North America: British, Dutch And Swedish Colonies (Fortress)



Synopsis

The second in a two-volume study of forts in colonial North America, this title offers a detailed look at various types of fortifications built between the times of the earliest British settlements in North America in the late 16th century until the end of the Seven Years War, when France ceded New France to Britain. With photographs of these sites as they are today, specially-commissioned artwork depicting the forts in their original uses and detailed maps, author Rene Chartrand also provides readers a valuable look back at early American colonial life. Altogether, a comprehensive, detailed look into an important aspect of American history, and one that is still visible across the landscape today.

Forts included:- Roanoke Island: four forts built by the colonists of North Carolina, 1585-90- Jamestown: the first permanent settlements built by colonists, starting in 1607- Early British fortifications in New England, Nova Scotia, and along the coast- Early Dutch fortifications in what is now New York, Connecticut and New Jersey- Swedish fortifications in Delaware, 1638-55- Forts in Newfoundland and the Hudson Bay area, built by the French but ceded to Britain - Castle William, Boston- Fort Oswego, Lake Ontario- Frontier forts along the Ohio River and Lake George- Fort Pitt and Crown point, built to secure British-American conquests

Book Information

Series: Fortress (Book 101)

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Osprey Publishing (January 18, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1849081972

ISBN-13: 978-1849081979

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.2 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,044,391 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 in Books > History >

Americas > Canada > 20th Century #196 in Books > History > Military > Canada #1725

in Books > History > Americas > United States > Colonial Period

Customer Reviews

"The book fills a gap in the coverage of Dutch and Swedish forts which are often missed in other books." - Joe Kaufmann, Site O"Author Rene Chartrand takes us on a quick, but not hurried, tour of forts built by the British, Dutch and Swedish colonies between the 16th and 18th centuries. The

color recreations of select forts of the period are wonderful, as are the contemporary plans drawn and the photograph of the sites as they exist today." - Tim Kidwell, Model Retailer (March 2011)"This volume offers a valuable guide to much of the colonial forts of North America, and is highly recommended." -Bolling Smith, The Coast Defense Journal

René Chartrand was born in Montreal and educated in Canada, the United States and the Bahamas. A senior curator with Canada's National Historic Sites for nearly three decades, he is now a freelance writer and historical consultant. He has written numerous articles and books including over 30 Osprey titles. He lives in Gatineau, Quebec, with his wife and two sons.

This book was very interesting and if your a fortress enthusiast you will love it! The pictures were wonderful along with the descriptions from the primary sources written or drawings of the forts. The pictures of Albany and Schenectady I found particularly interesting since they are near where I live. If you don't have prior knowledge of fort architecture in this period you might want to check out the glossary first which might be a little helpful but a picture showing where these things are might help even more. Still its better than other osprey books when it comes to beginners on the subject. A couple faults in the book that there were way too many areas to cover the history of major forts was sometimes very rushed. Some States like New York (although rightly so given its strategic importance and the sheer amount of forts built in the state) get much attention while Rhode Island and Connecticut get short paragraphs. The dutch and Swedish section should really have been removed, although interesting history, it really just took up space. Another issue was the Forts today was very brief. No mention of Ticonderoga or any famously restored fort museums. This could have made it much better. overall I'd give it 4 1/2 stars just because the sheersize of the topic it covered. It did a good job showing the uniqueness of the forts.

This Osprey Fortress book is one of a sub-set on "The Forts of Colonial North America

Page 5 lays out the coverage of this book. Here, we see a map of the eastern seaboard with major forts of the time. Among the countries whose forts are depicted throughout the slender Osprey volume in the "Fortress" series: British, French, Spanish, Dutch, and Swedish. From Newfoundland to Florida, from Philadelphia to Fort Pitt to Niagara and Venango. The text notes (Page 4): "The forts built in the Thirteen Colonies were extremely varied in type and were built in very large numbers." Another quick note: Few of the forts were made of masonry. And many hundreds of forts were

ramble scramble affairs built by the colonists themselves. A chronology on pages 6-7 notes the story of forts--from the 16th century to 1763. The coverage includes forts in Canada as well. But it is the story of the forts themselves that is at the heart of this story. So many are discussed in the sixty pages of text means that there is little depth on any of these. However, the breadth of consideration still brings value to this work. Among the early forts? Fort Raleigh (named after Sir Walter, who sponsored expeditions of settlement) on Roanoke Island in 1585. Forts that are diagrammed from the very early years include Fort Comfort (near Hampton, Virginia), Fort George (in Maine), Fort Amsterdam (in New Amsterdam [now New York]), and James Fort (in Jamestown, VA). The three British forts and the one Dutch fort were constructed in the early 1600s. Other forts are considered as well. Some random examples: the Dutch fort, built in 1709, Fort Stillwater (along the Hudson River); Fort Christina (a Swedish fort), built along the Delaware River, where Wilmington, Delaware now stands. The book concludes with an all too brief discussion of life in the forts and then another one paragraph on the fate of these forts (most, of course, no longer exist), although some have been restored. In the end, a nice--albeit thin--book providing entree to forts of North America.

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