

Basics of Early New England Research

Class 1: Settlement of New England

Ann G. Lawthers, Genealogist

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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



Ann G. Lawthers
Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (60 mins.)
- **Q&A** (30 mins.)



Voice of
Ann Lawthers
Genealogist

Course Overview

Class 1: Geography and Settlement

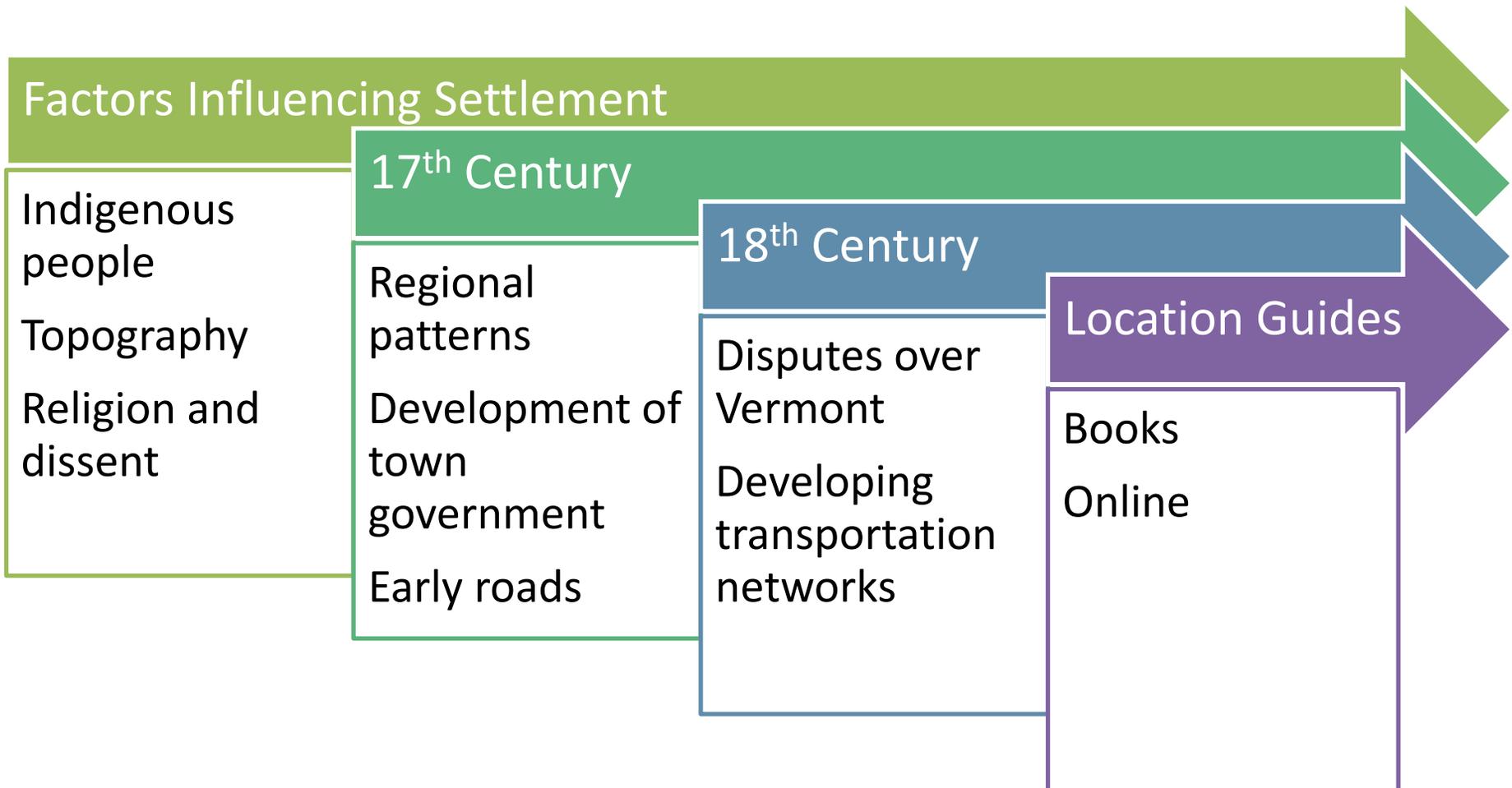
Class 2: Published Sources

Class 3: Records

Class 4: Military

Class 5: Strategies

Session Roadmap



In the Beginning: Algonquin Linguistic Group



Southern NE Tribes-By Nikater; adapted to English by Hydrargyrum - Wikimedia Commons - Image:Wohngebiet_Südneuengland.png, as of 5 July 2006, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5276243>



Western Abenaki--CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=510577>

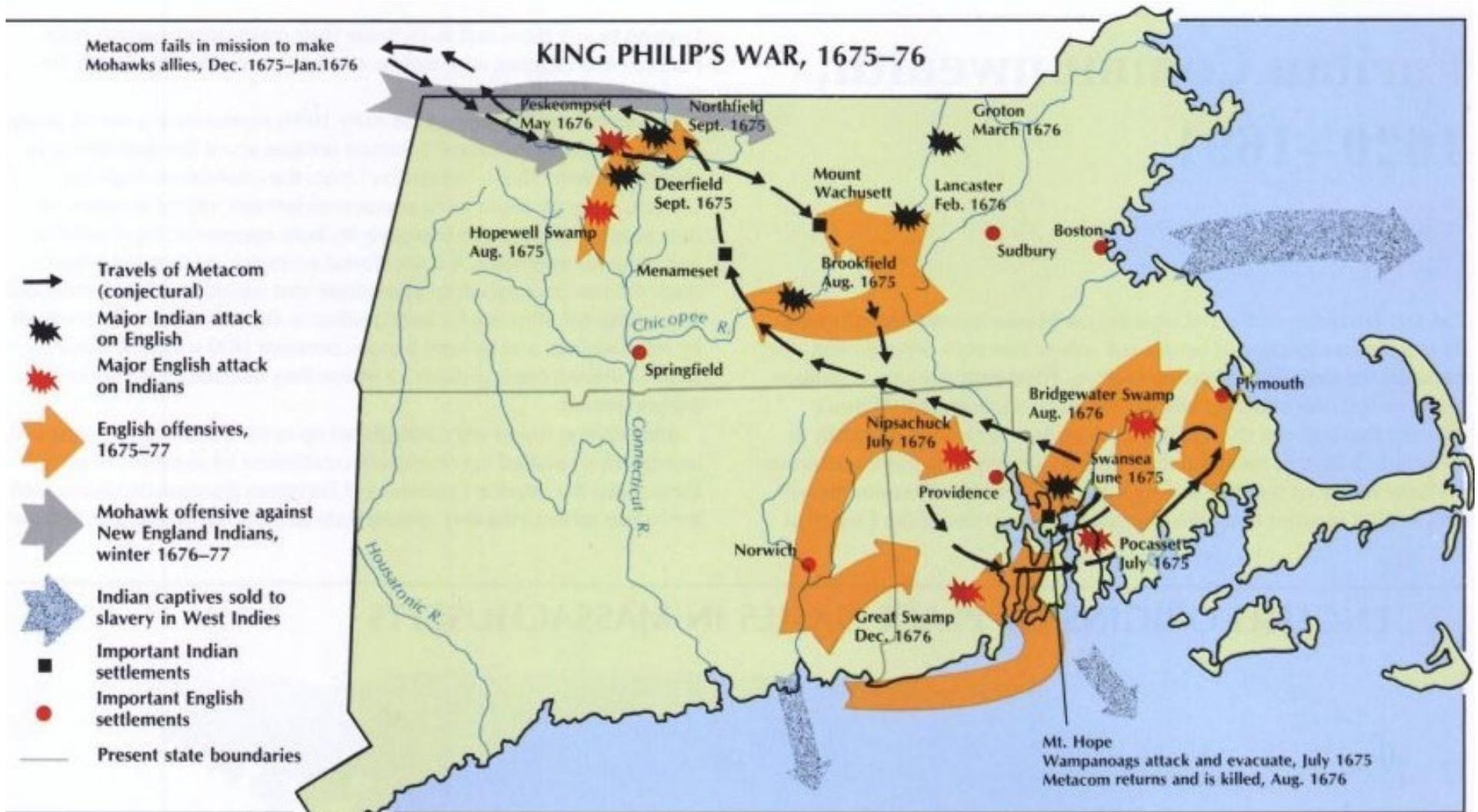


Eastern Abenaki - CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=485753>

Pequot War

- Pitted the Pequot who were allied with the Dutch against the Connecticut colonies in 1636 and 1637
- Pequot allied with the Dutch
- Colonists allied with Mohegan and Narragansett tribes
- Pequot tribe was decimated

King Philip's War



Tip

Indigenous groups allied
with the French in
18th century

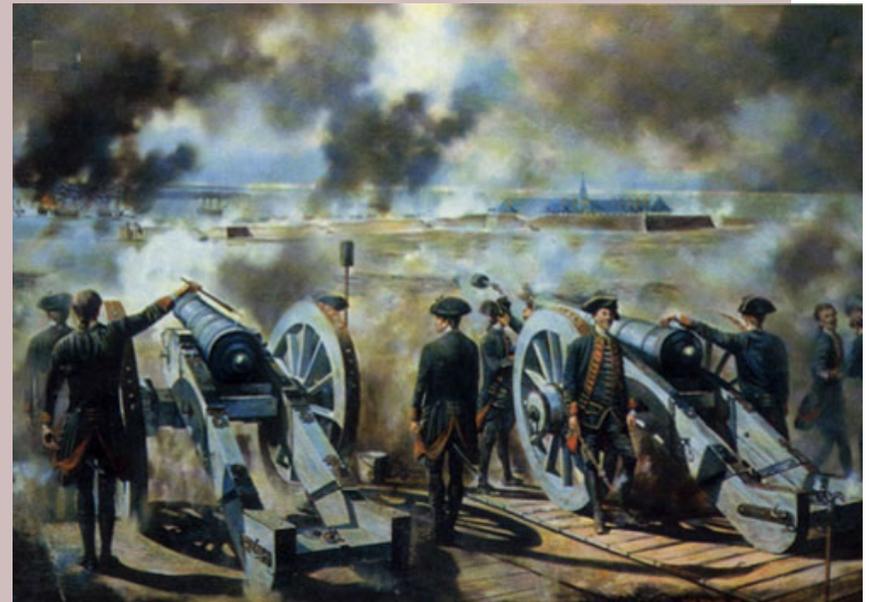
Queen Anne's War: 1702-1713

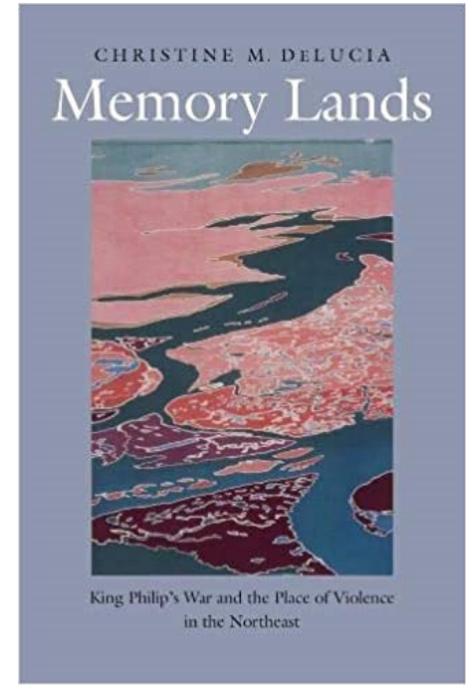
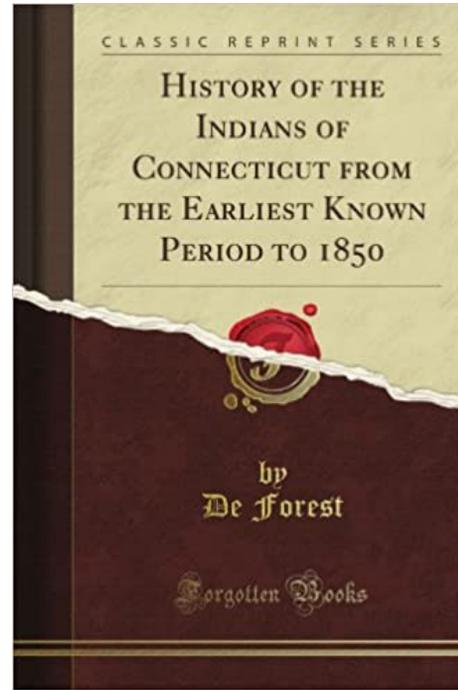
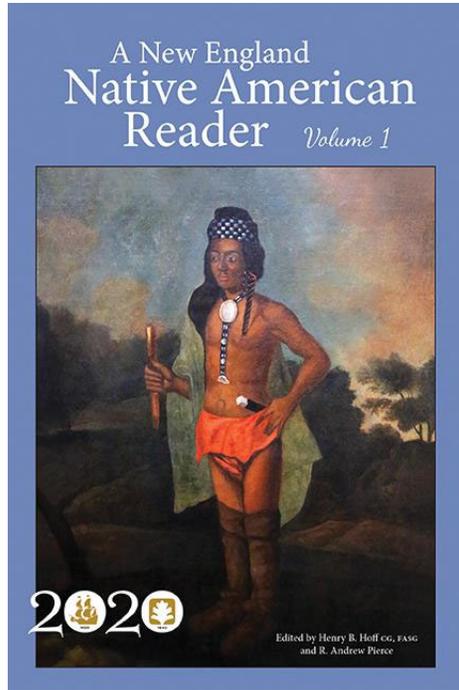
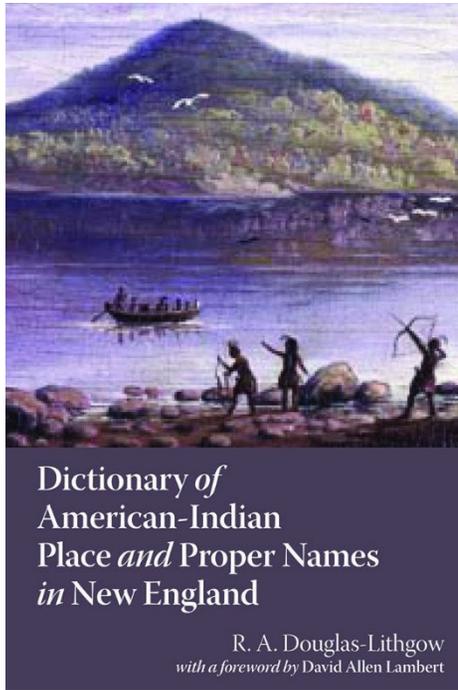
- England at war with France
- Raids by French and allied Indians from Canada into Northern New England communities
- Attack on Deerfield, 1704



Seven Years War

- Also known as the French and Indian Wars
- Boundary disputes between English colonists and French
- Recapture of Fortress Louisbourg in 1759
- Many British soldiers would later fight against the crown in Revolution

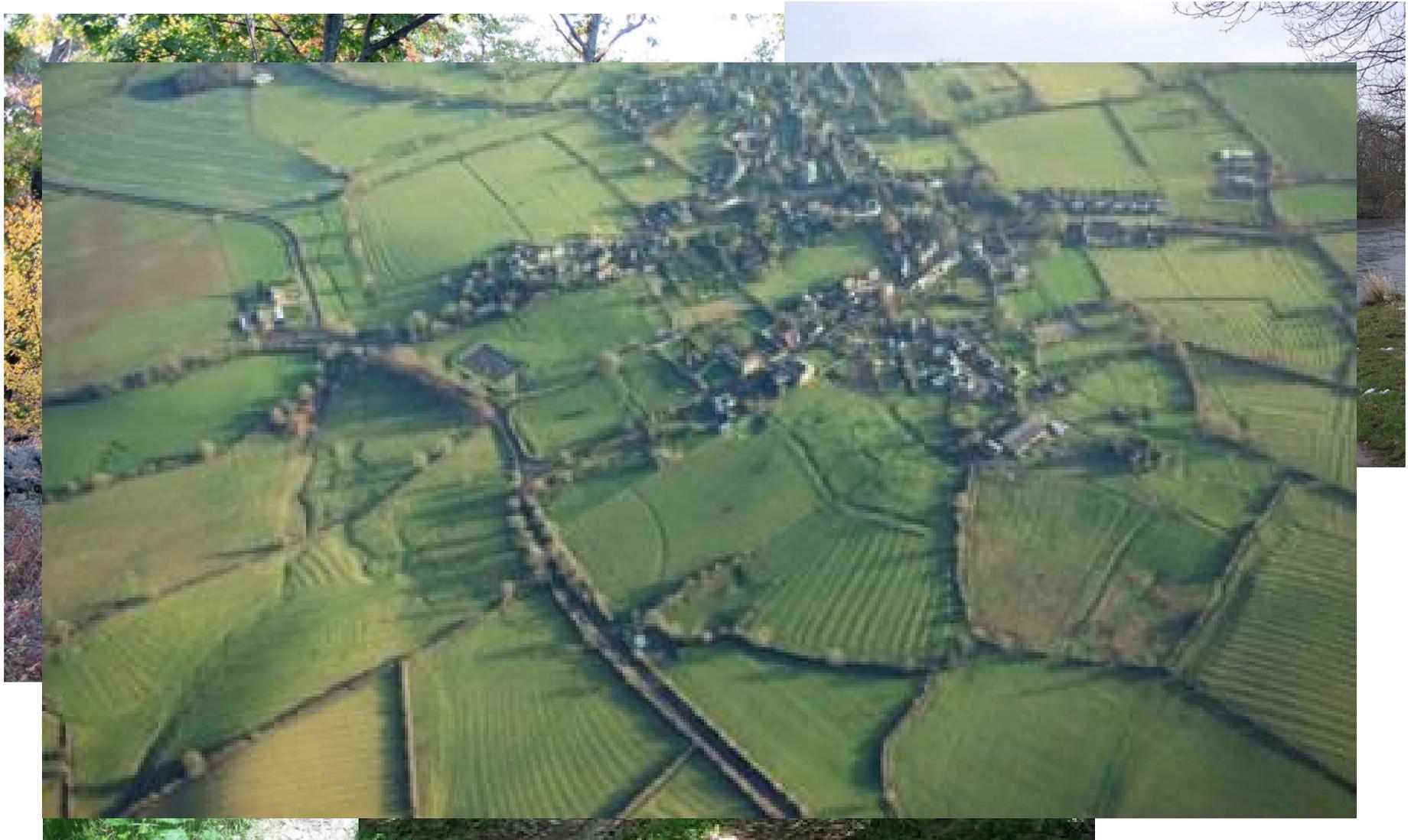




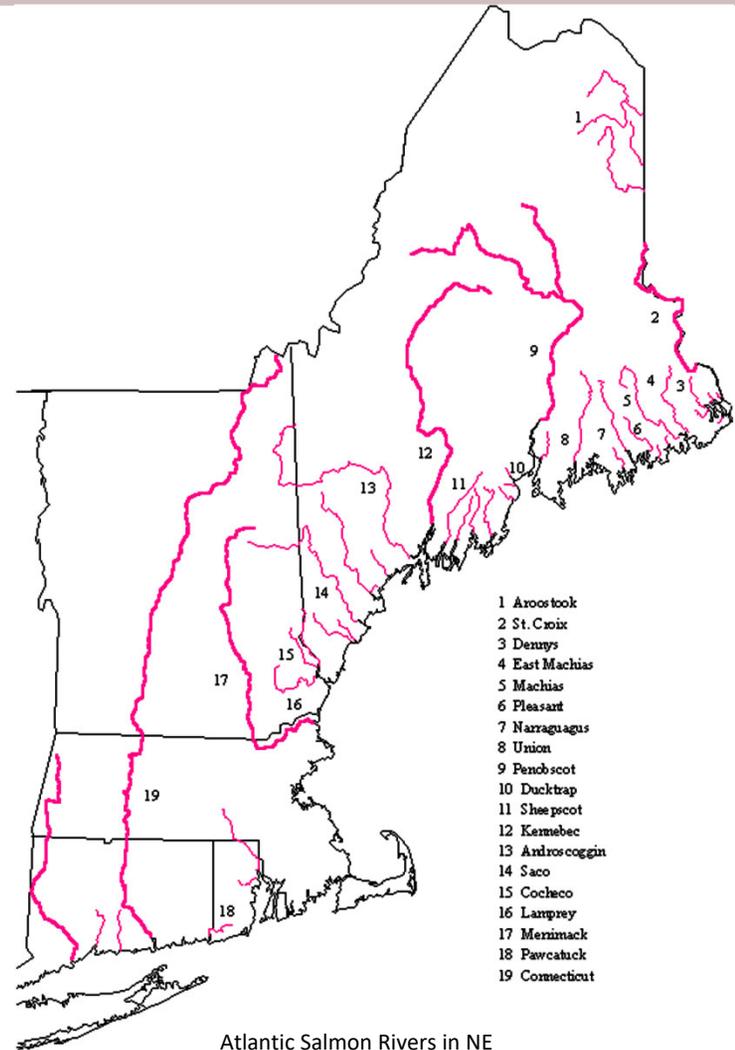
Resources for Researching Indigenous Settlements

Topography

Early European Settlers Found . . .



New England Topography



<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:vh53xs716>

Atlantic Salmon Rivers in NE

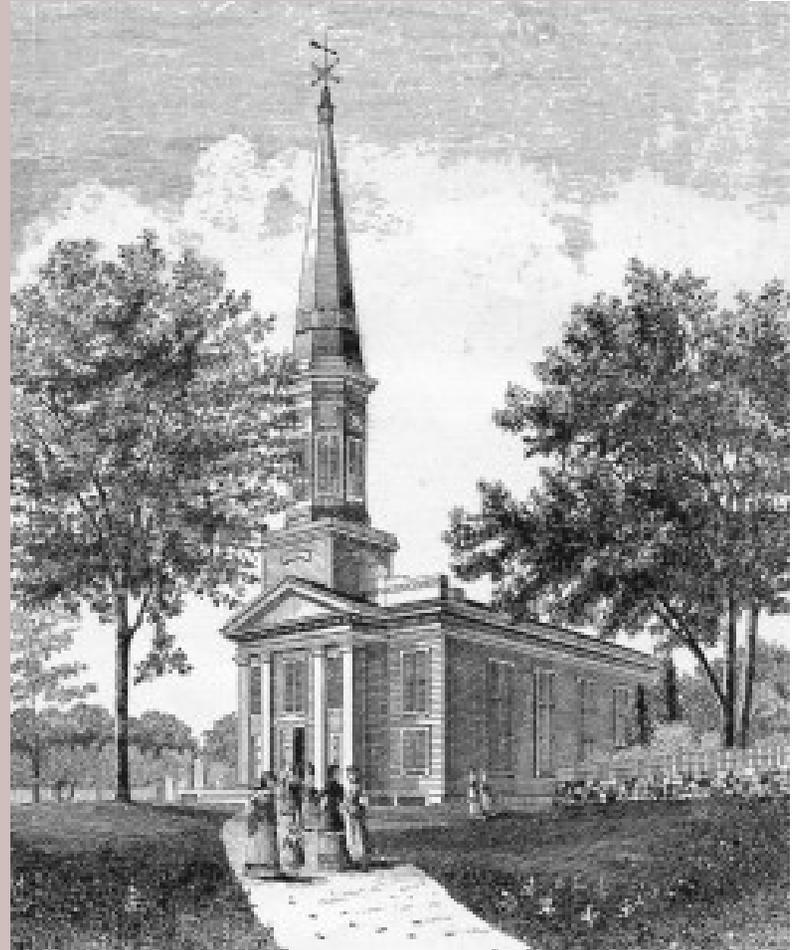
Religion

Religion in Early New England

- Most settlers came to America opposing the established Anglican Church of England
- Pilgrims – advocated separation from CoE
- Puritans – advocated change from within the CoE
- Religion dictated community life and systems

Matters of Discontent

- “Too many” settlers (anywhere from 15 to 30 freemen)
- Church disputes
- Desire to determine own standards for church and government
- Inability to adapt to prevailing order



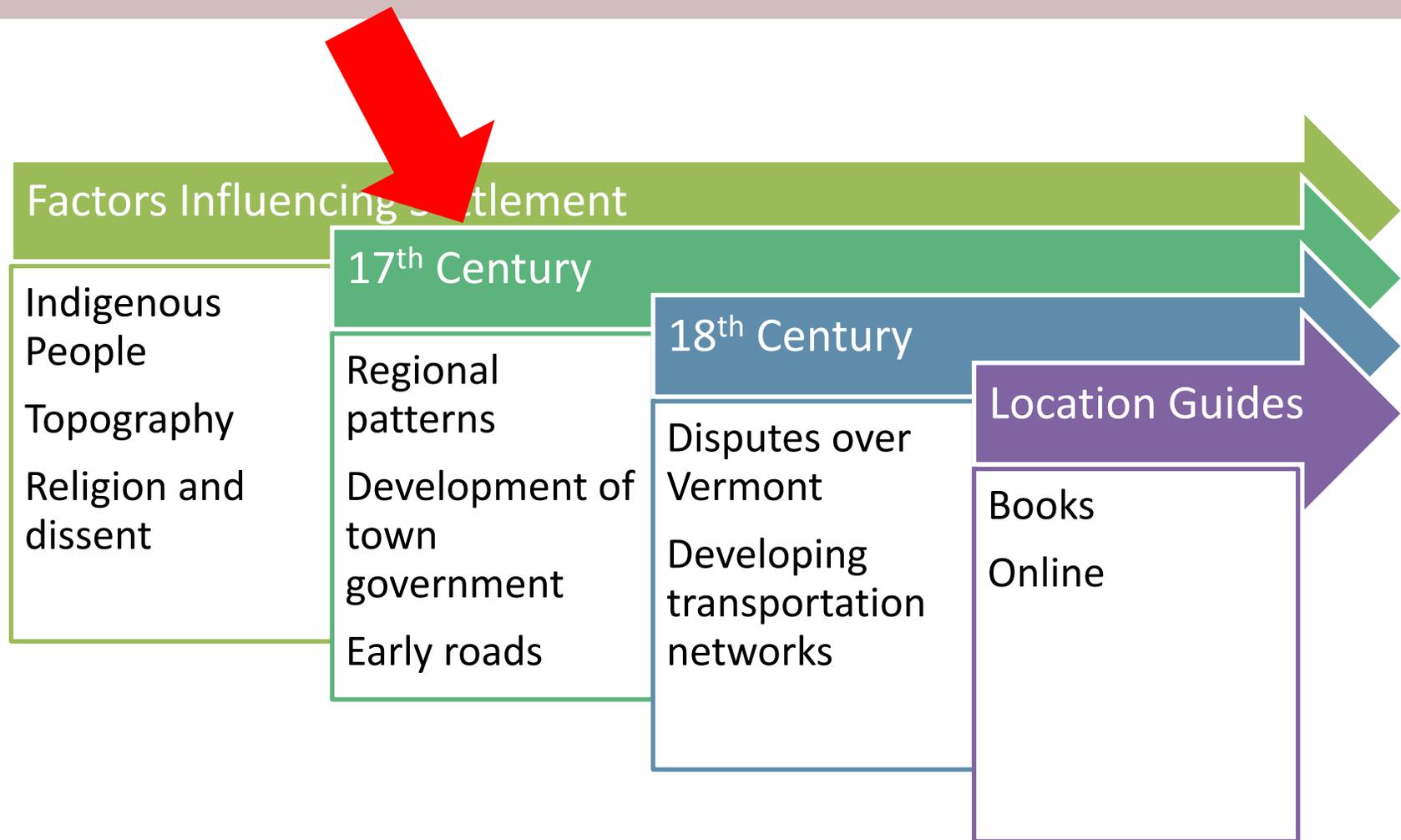
Religious Dissent

- Dissenters left Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay over
 - Puritan and Pilgrim lack of religious tolerance (Roger Williams)
 - Belief that no intermediary needed for a relationship with God (Roger Williams and Ann Hutchinson)
 - Voting privileges within a community should not be limited to church members (Thomas Hooker)
 - Desire for control of civil matters by “the godly” (Davenport & Eaton)



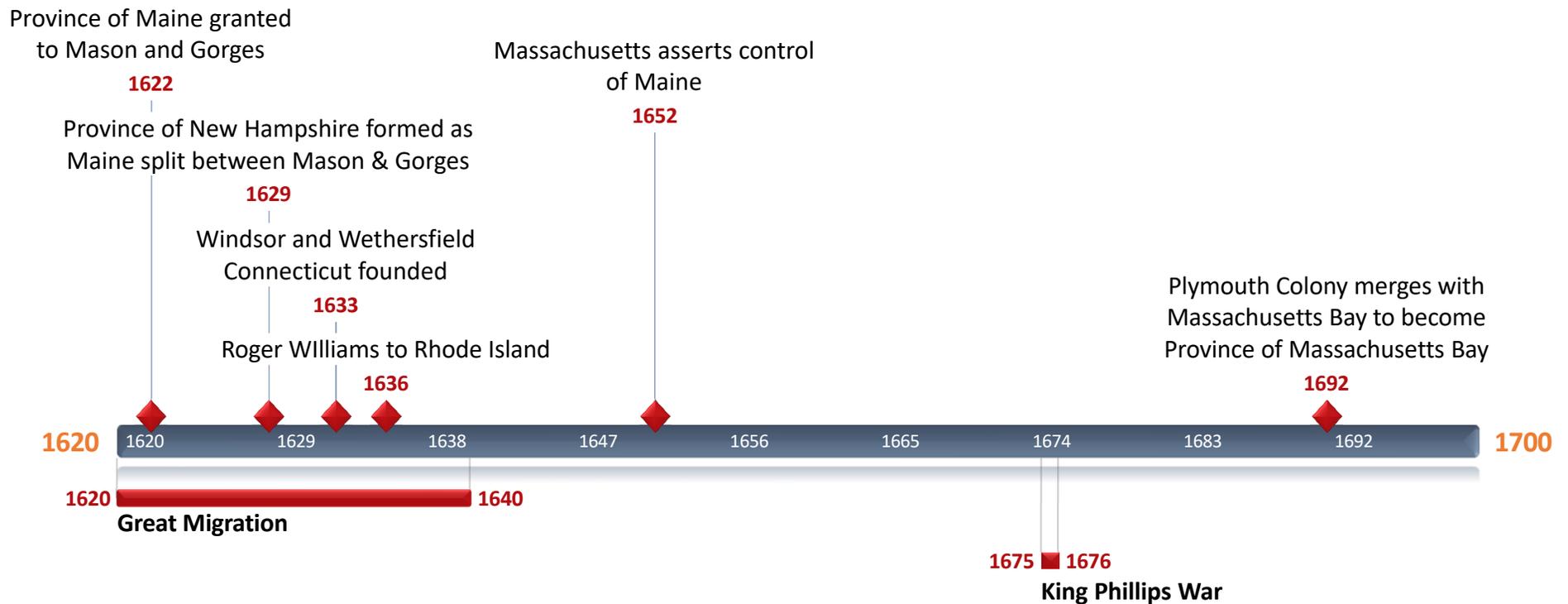
QUESTIONS?

Session Roadmap

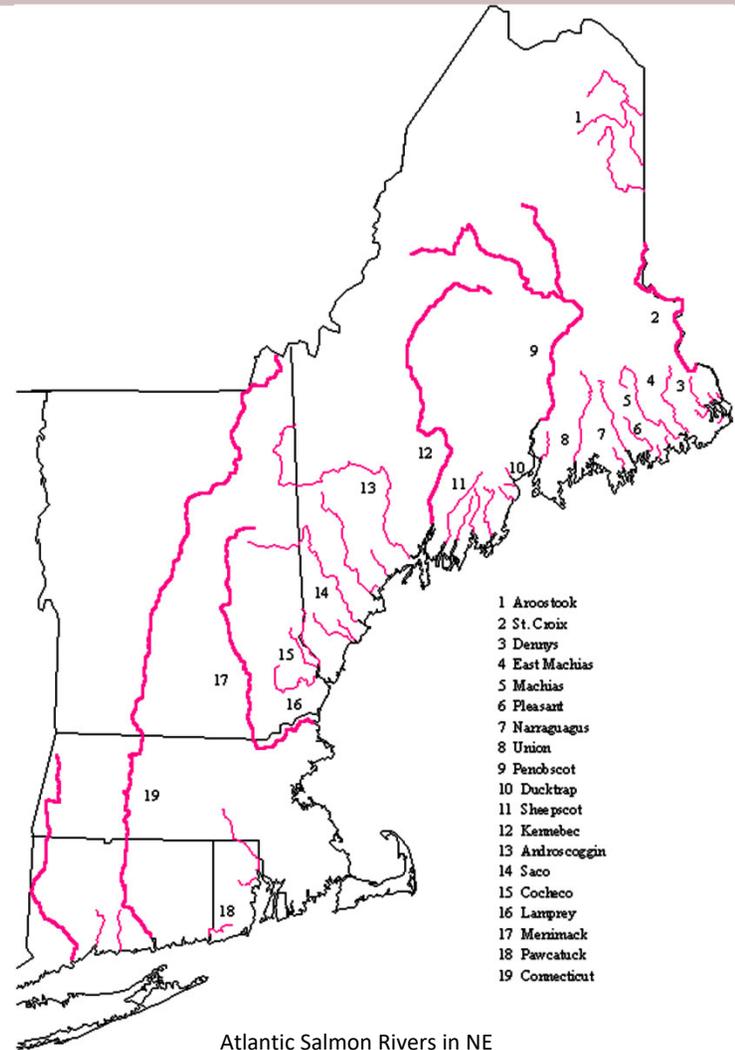


Settlement by Region

First European Settlements in New England



New England Topography



<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:vh53xs716>

Plymouth Colony

- Core group were Separatists who had first fled to Leiden, Holland
- Small in population and grew slowly

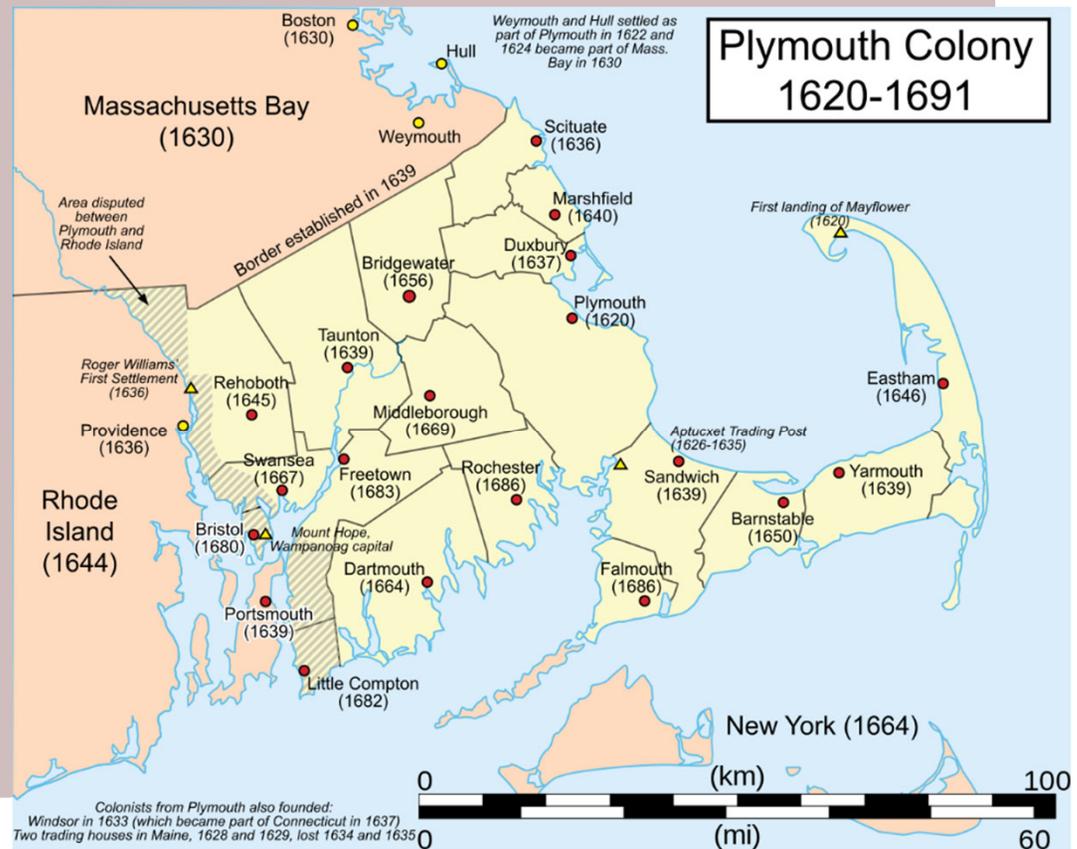
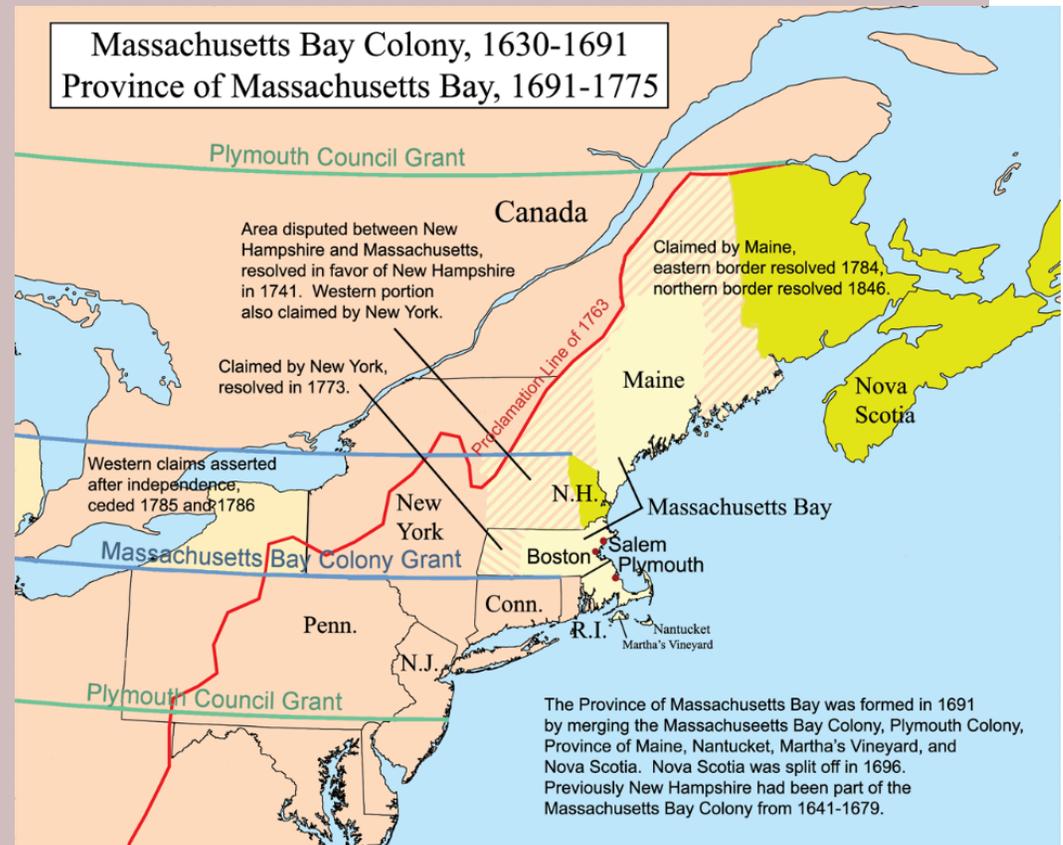


Image by Hoodinski at Wikipedia Commons

Massachusetts Bay Colony

- Established and led by Puritans
- By far the most populous and influential colony in New England



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Colony#/media/File:Masscolony.png

Early Connecticut

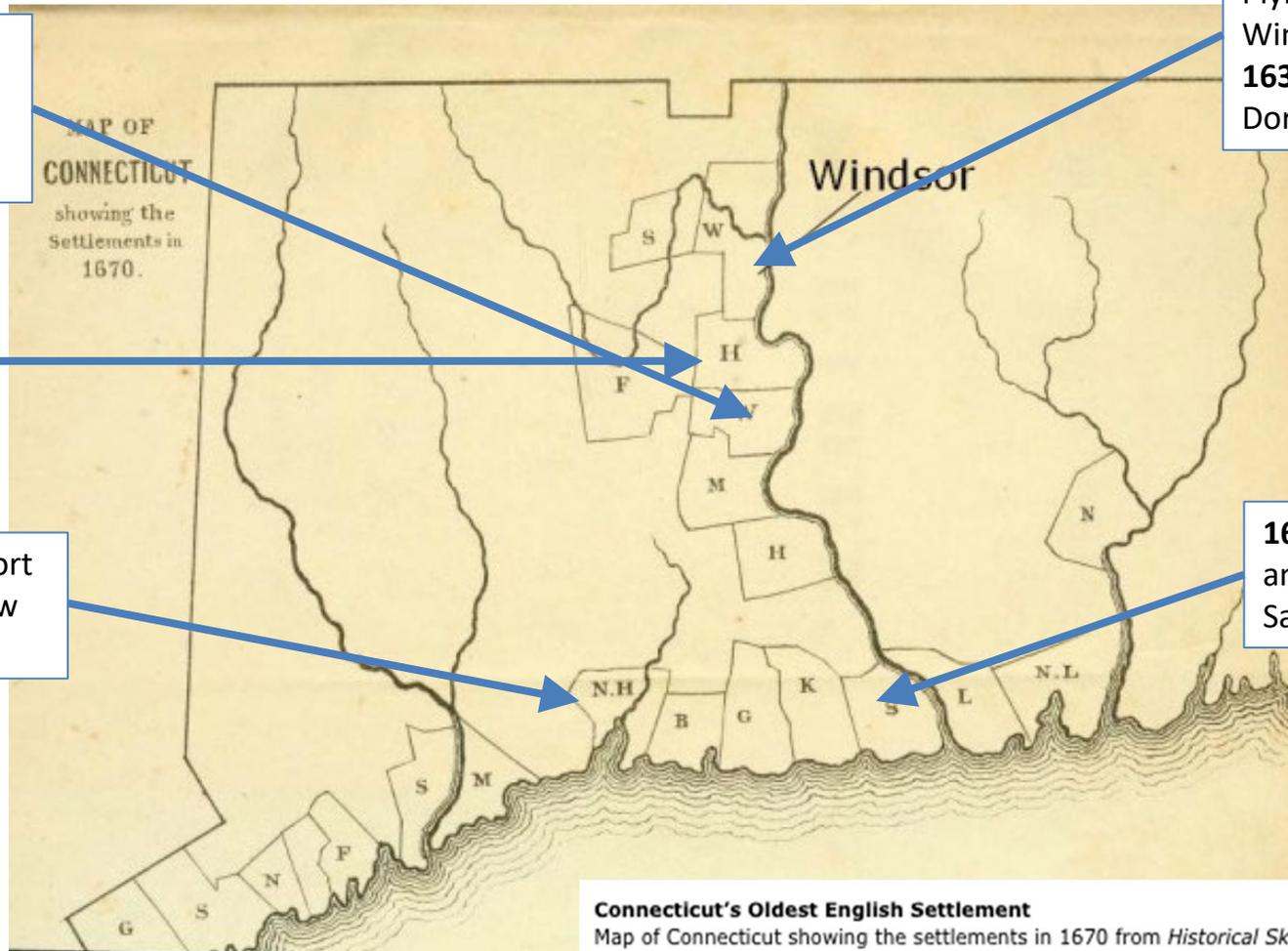
1633: Holmes from Plymouth to Windsor
1635: settlers from Dorchester

1634: Oldham & Co. from Watertown to Wethersfield

1636: Hooker & Co. from Cambridge to Hartford

1637: Davenport & Eaton to New Haven

1635: Winthrop and Gardiner to Saybrook

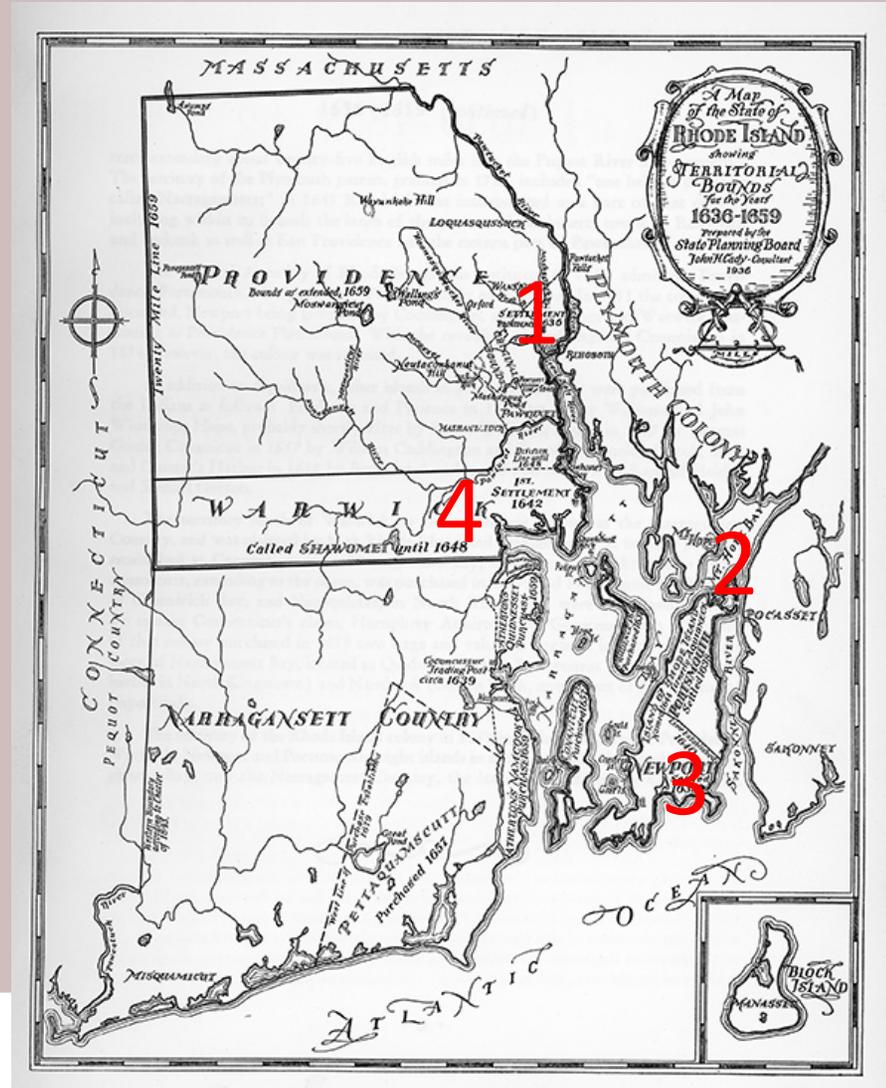


Connecticut's Oldest English Settlement
Map of Connecticut showing the settlements in 1670 from *Historical Sketches of Meriden* by G.W. Perkins

Dissenters Founded Rhode Island

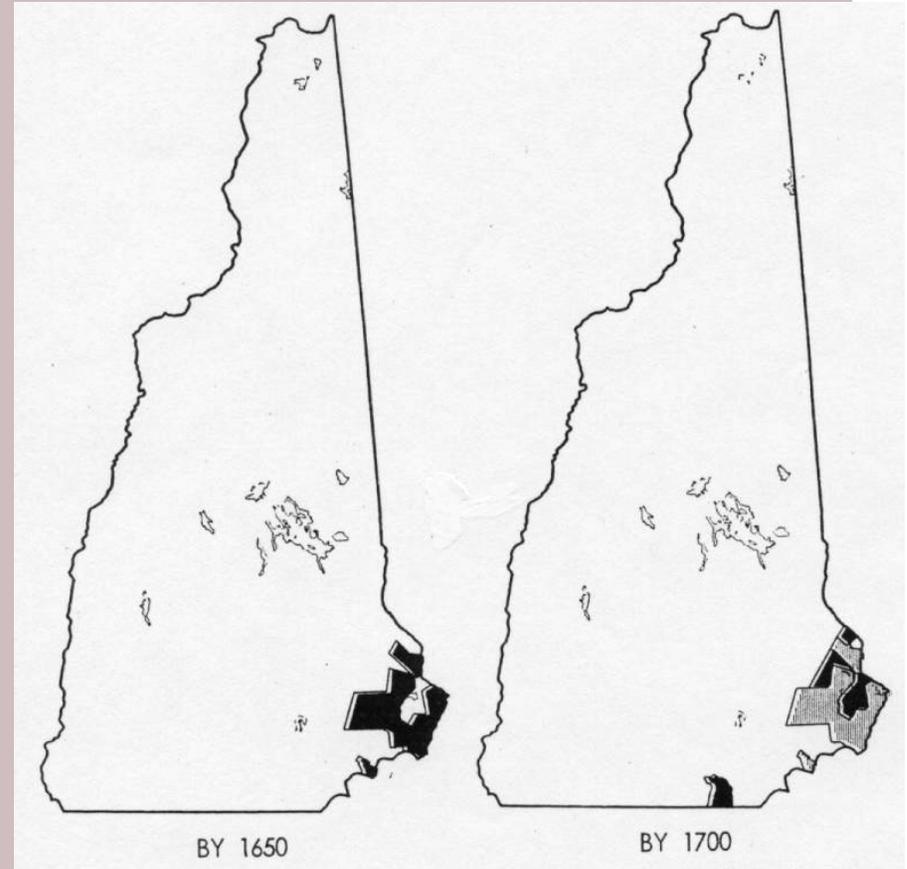
- 1636 – Providence (Roger Williams)
- 1638 – Portsmouth (Ann Hutchinson)
- 1639 – Newport (8 families)
- 1642 – Warwick (Samuel Gorton)

<http://www.findingrogerwilliams.com/images/maps/cady2.jpg>



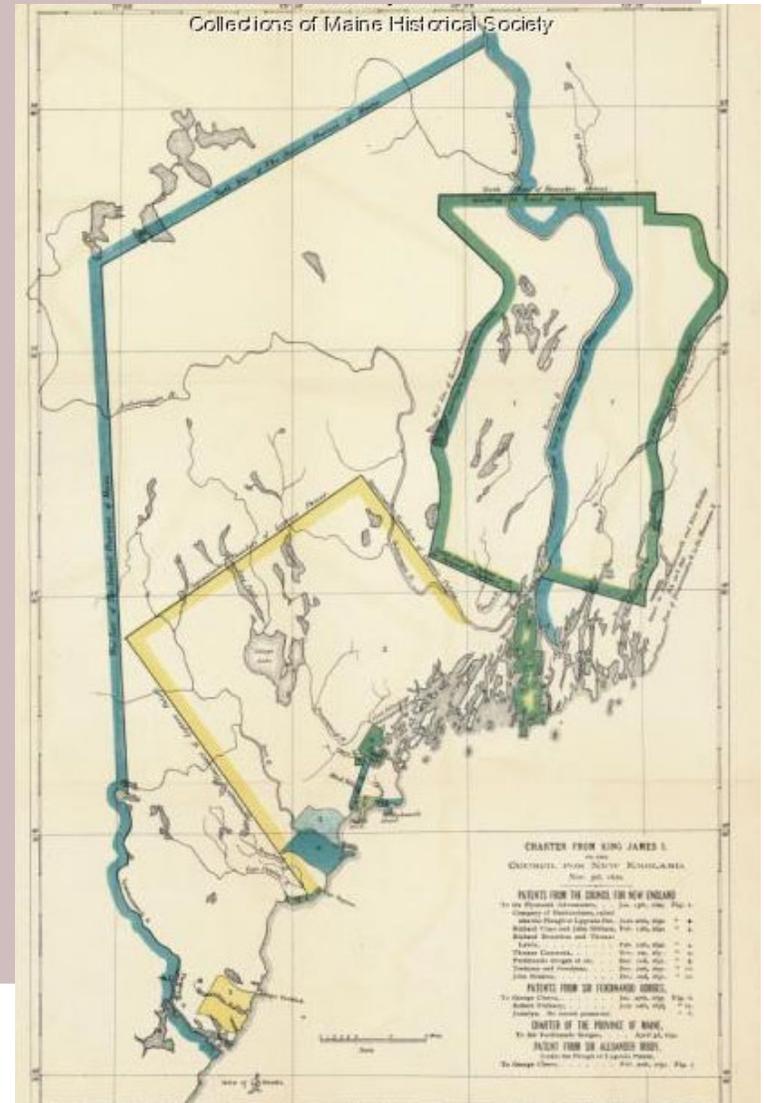
New Hampshire

- 1622 Captain John Mason and Sir Ferdinando Gorges received patent for New Hampshire and Maine
- 1623 Mouth of the Piscataqua River settled by Hiltons
- Mason and Gorges split the charter into NH and Maine in 1629



Maine

- Scattered settlements 1620s or earlier along coast from Cape Elizabeth to Pemaquid
- Under jurisdiction of Massachusetts from 1652 (until 1820)
- Abandoned briefly 1675 after King Philip's War
- Little new settlement until after Revolutionary War



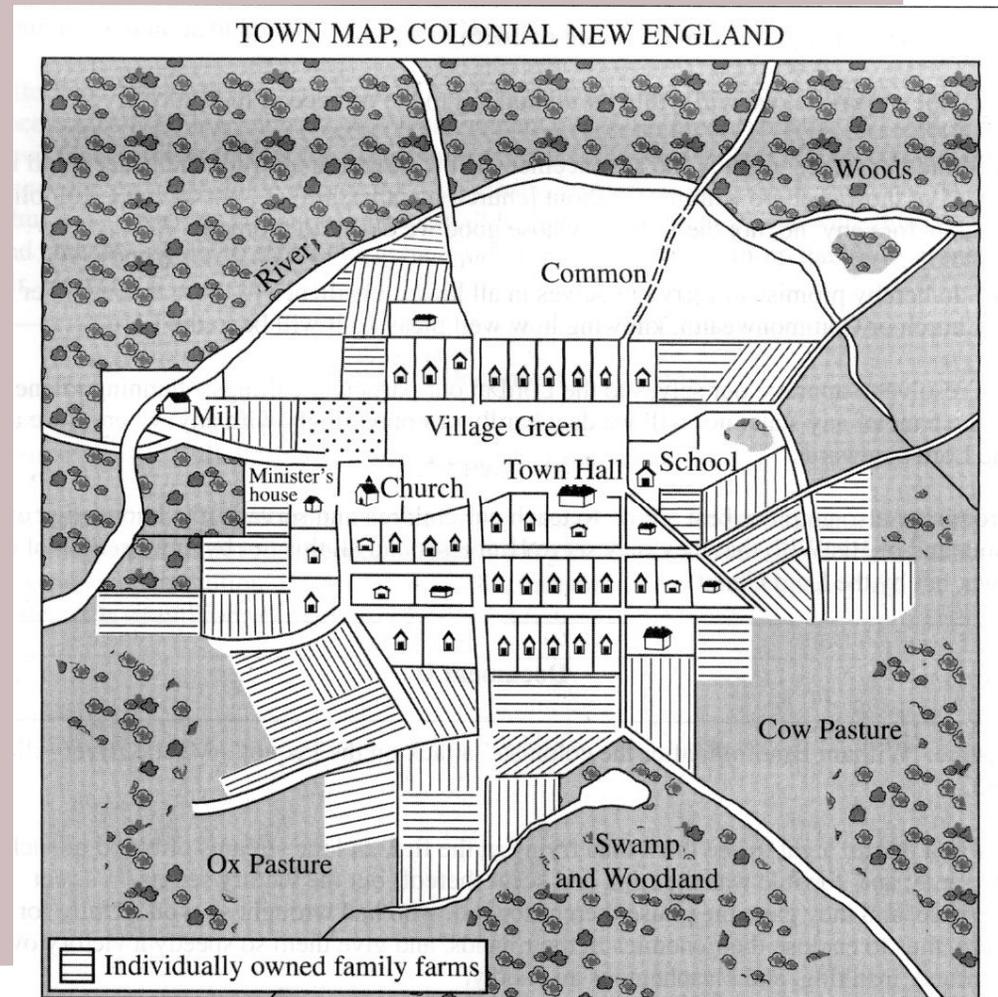
<https://www.mainmemory.net/artifact/7541>

The New England Town

Early Towns

- Distinguishing features
 - Church
 - Common
 - Houses facing Common
 - Farmland outside the Settlement

<http://www.trinityhistory.org/AH/u2map.html>



Privileges of Town Inhabitancy



- Land
- Common land for grazing
- Fishing and hunting privileges
- If became indigent, right to be cared for by the town

Image from www.revolutionarywarjournal.com

Who Was Considered a Town Inhabitant?

- Landowners
- Individuals born in the town
- Apprentices trained in the town
- Newcomers allowed if:
 - Good character
 - Vouched for by existing town inhabitant OR
 - Approved by Selectmen
 - Deemed not become a burden to the town

Freemen

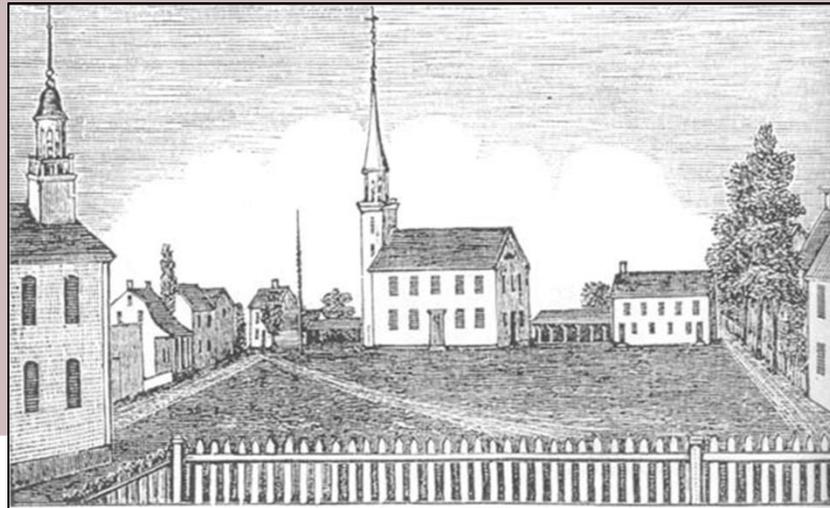
- Applied for privilege
 - Male, usually over 21
 - Church member
(varied by Colony)
 - Land ownership
(varied by Colony)
 - Good character
- Participate in Town Meeting
- Vote on Town business
- Serve on juries



Mural at Post Office, Ipswich, MA

Town Government

- Unit of government in New England
- Elected town officers governed the town, kept records, recorded laws
- Freemen voted for elected officials at town meeting



Typical Functions of NE Towns

- Assess and collect taxes
- Record land transactions
- Build and maintain roads
- Maintain law and order
- Care for indigent members of the community
- Maintain schools

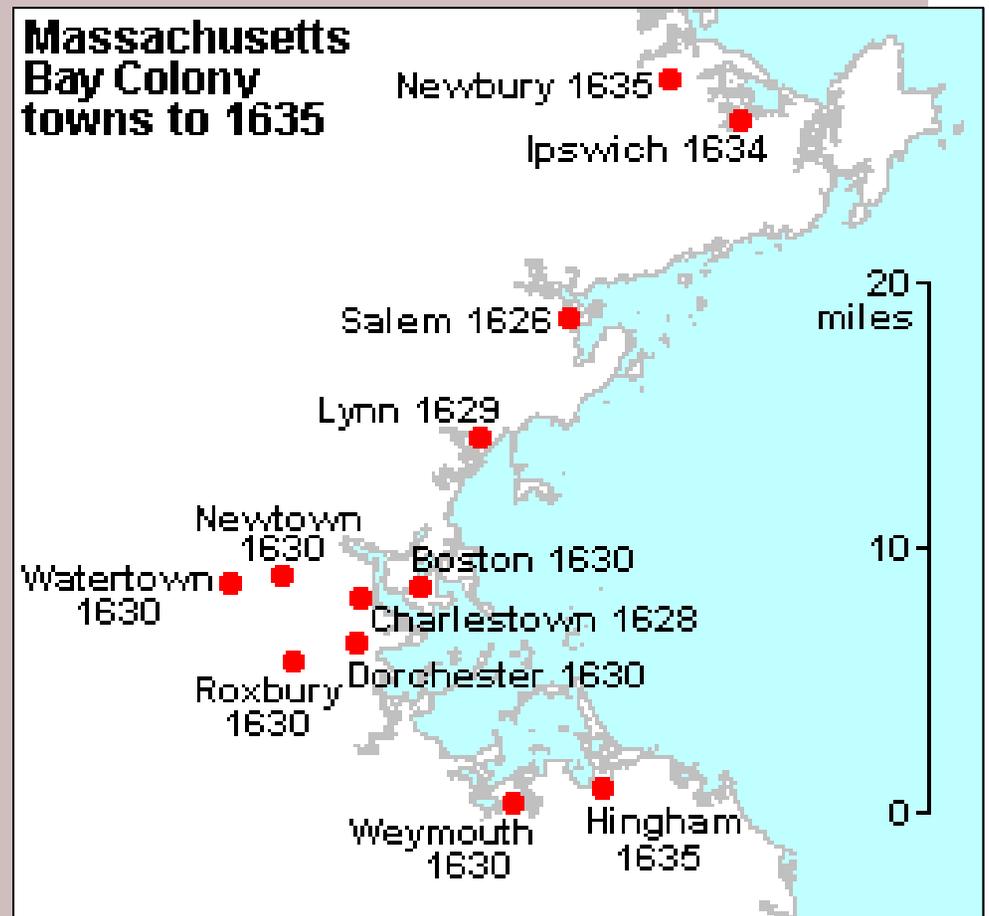
The Town Meeting

- Notice posted to townspeople
- Often required attendance
- Led by a moderator
- Election of town officials
- General town business

Earliest Towns

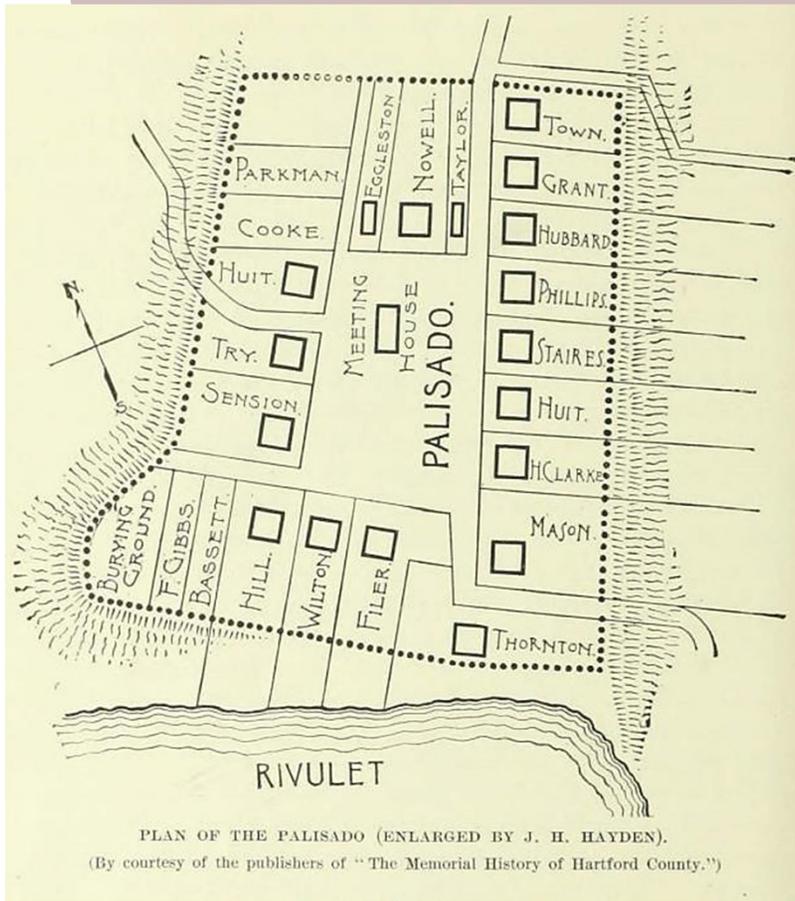
Early Massachusetts Towns

- Plymouth, 1620
- Cape Ann/Gloucester: 1623
- Boston: 1625
- Salem: 1626
- Lynn: 1629
- Marblehead 1629
- Weymouth: 1630
- Watertown: 1630
- Cambridge/Newtown: 1631



Map at <https://www.theedkins.co.uk/jo/genealogy/earlydib/colony.htm>

First Connecticut Settlement - Windsor

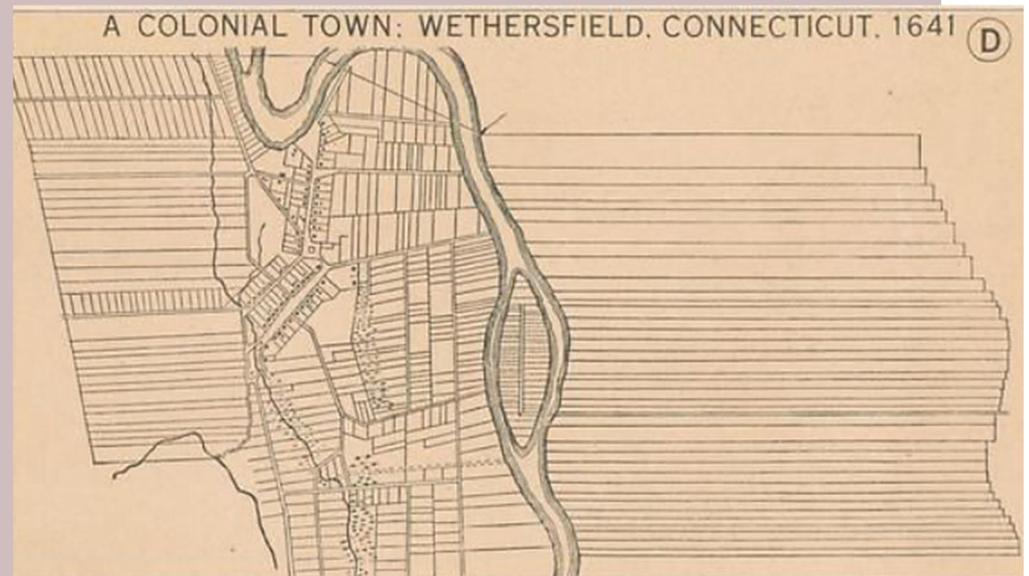


- William Holmes establishes trading post 1633 near junction of Farmington River and Connecticut River
- English counterbalance to the Dutch settlement at Hartford
- Permanent settlers from Dorchester arrive in 1635

Ancient Histories and Genealogies of Windsor, viewed at HathiTrust.org, page 140.

Founding of Wethersfield

- John Oldham and others from Watertown, MA 1634
- Welcomed by the Wangunk desirous of trading beaver pelts
- Merged with Hartford and Windsor by 1637



Paullin, *Atlas of Historical Geography*

First Connecticut Colonies



Saybrook

- Founded by Winthrop and Gardiner, 1635

Connecticut River Colony

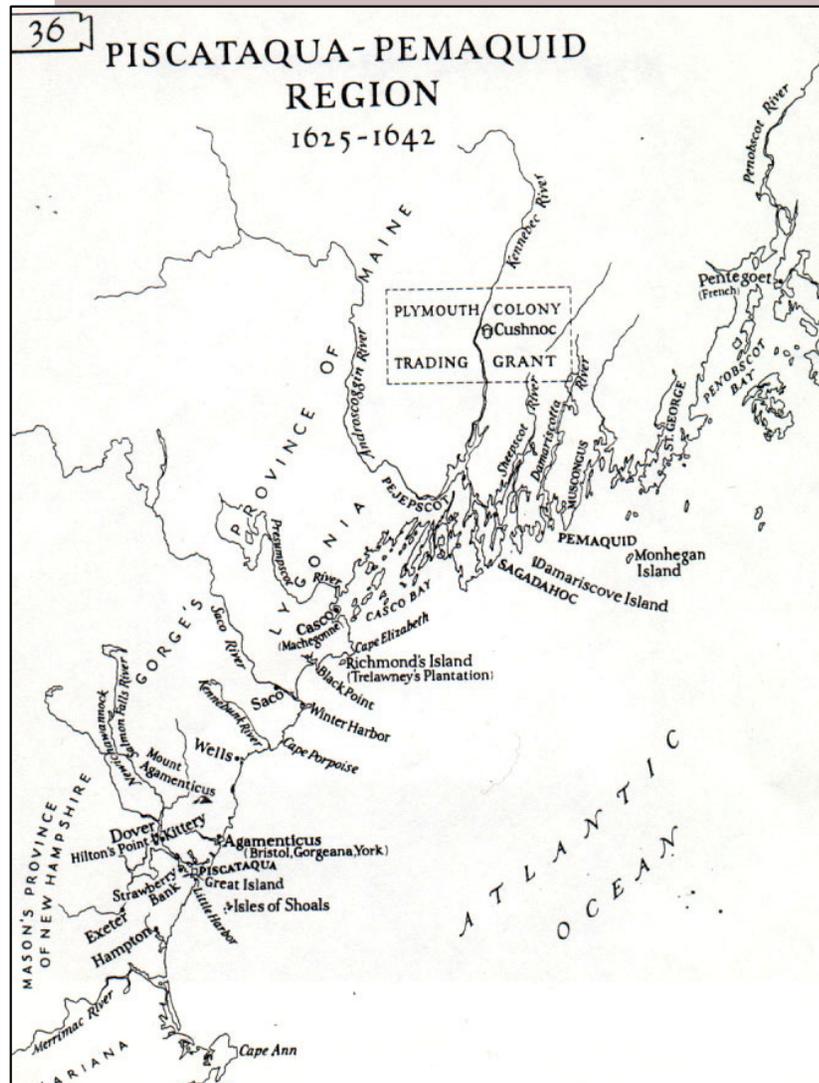
- Merger of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield towns - 1637

New Haven

- Founded by Davenport and Eaton, 1637

National Geographic: Connecticut ca 1645, accessed 21 Dec 2021

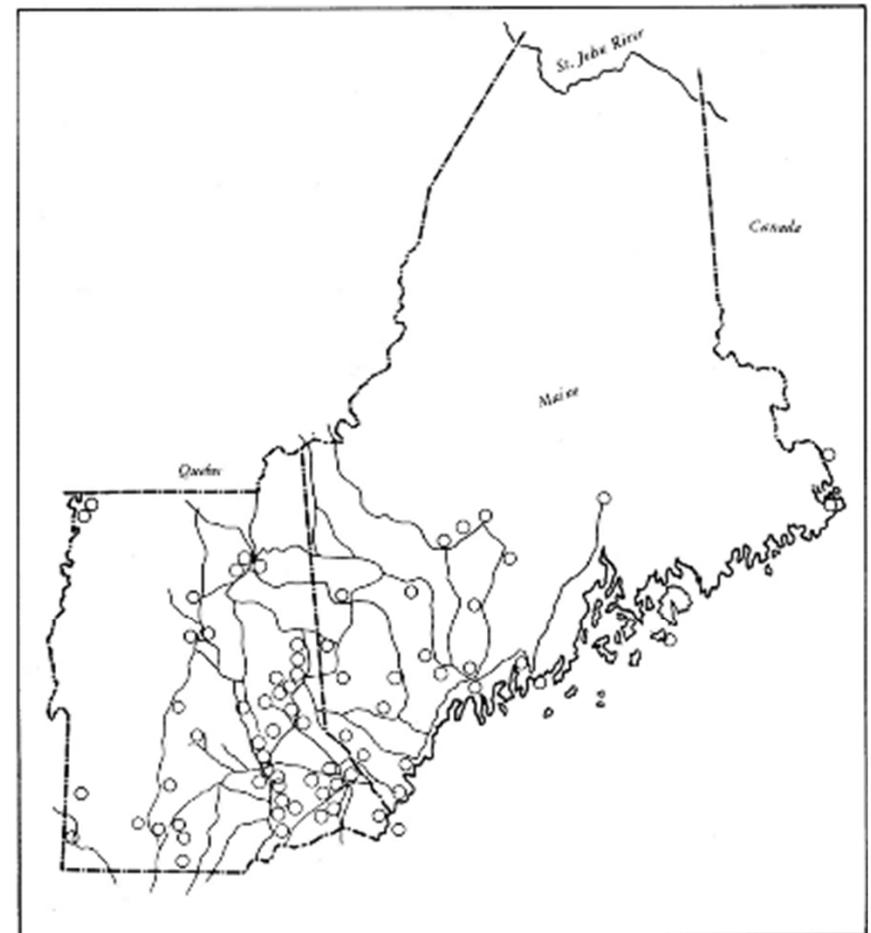
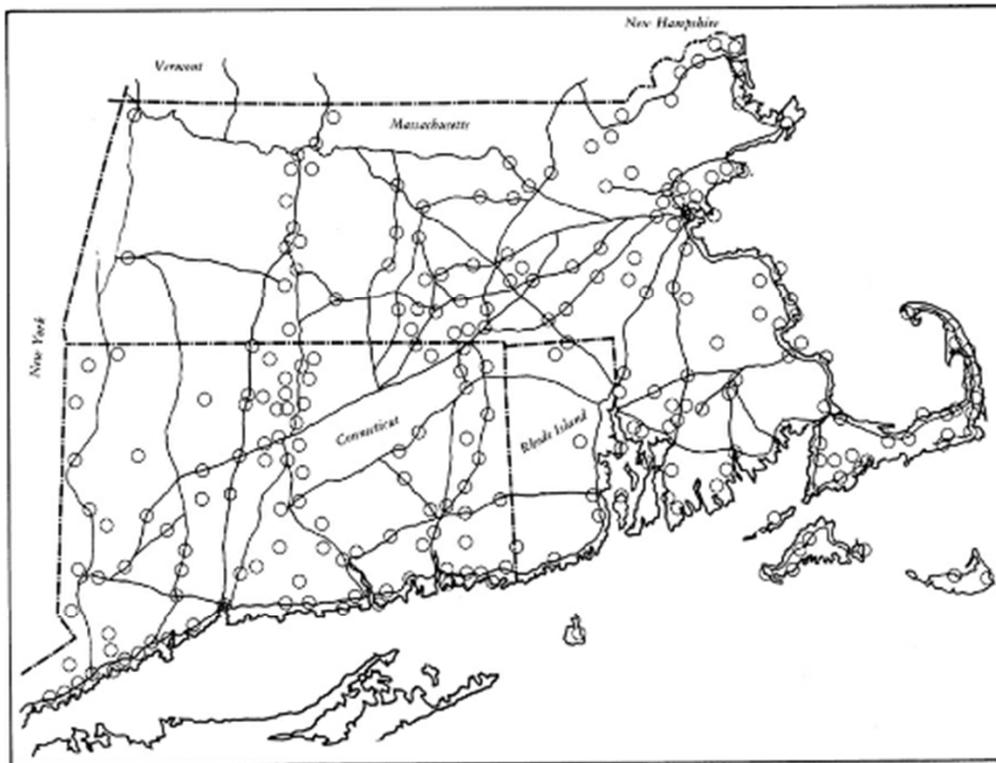
First New Hampshire Towns



- Strawberry Banke/
Portsmouth - 1623
- Exeter - 1637
- Dover - 1638
- Hampton - 1638

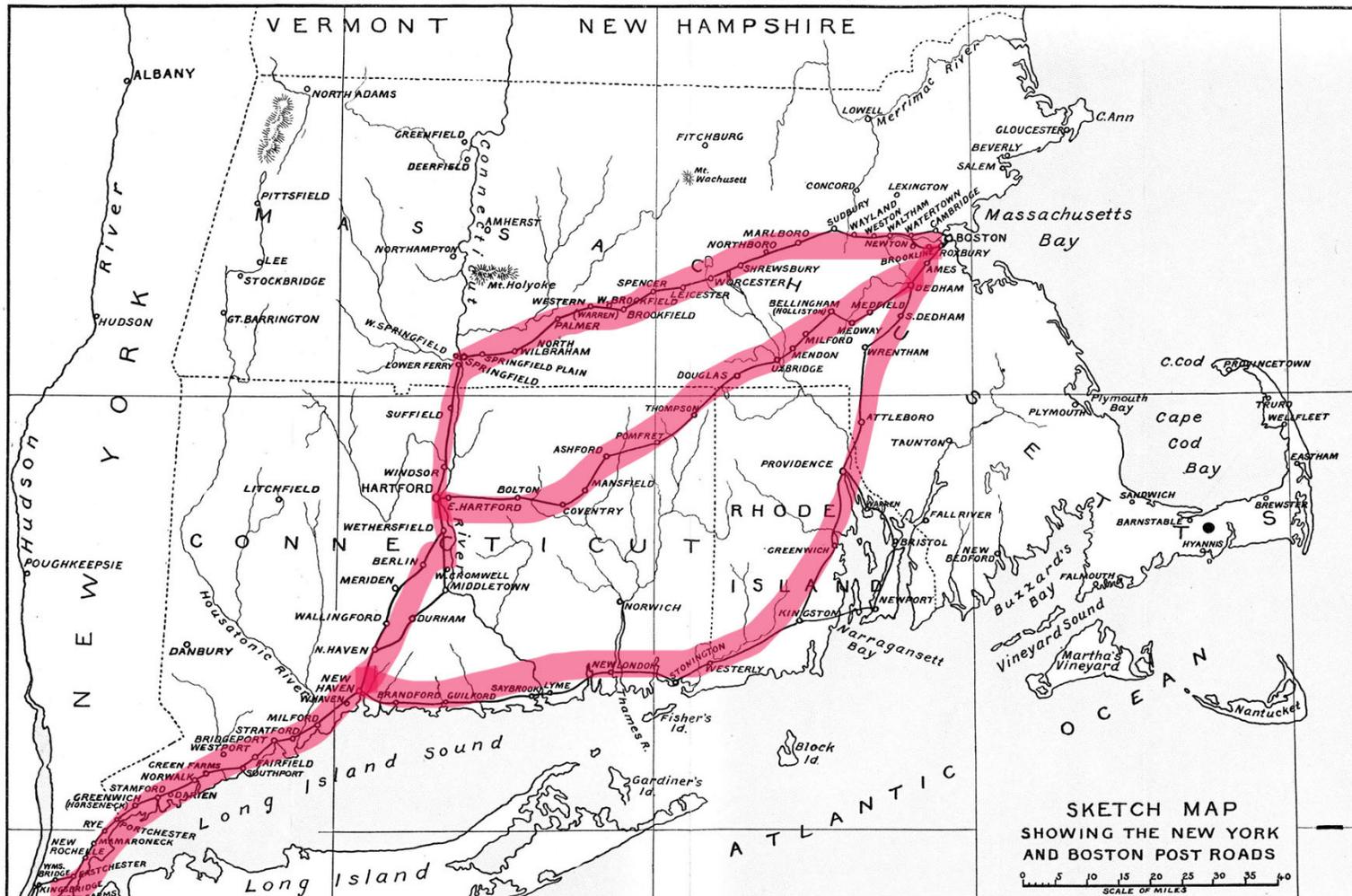
Early Roads

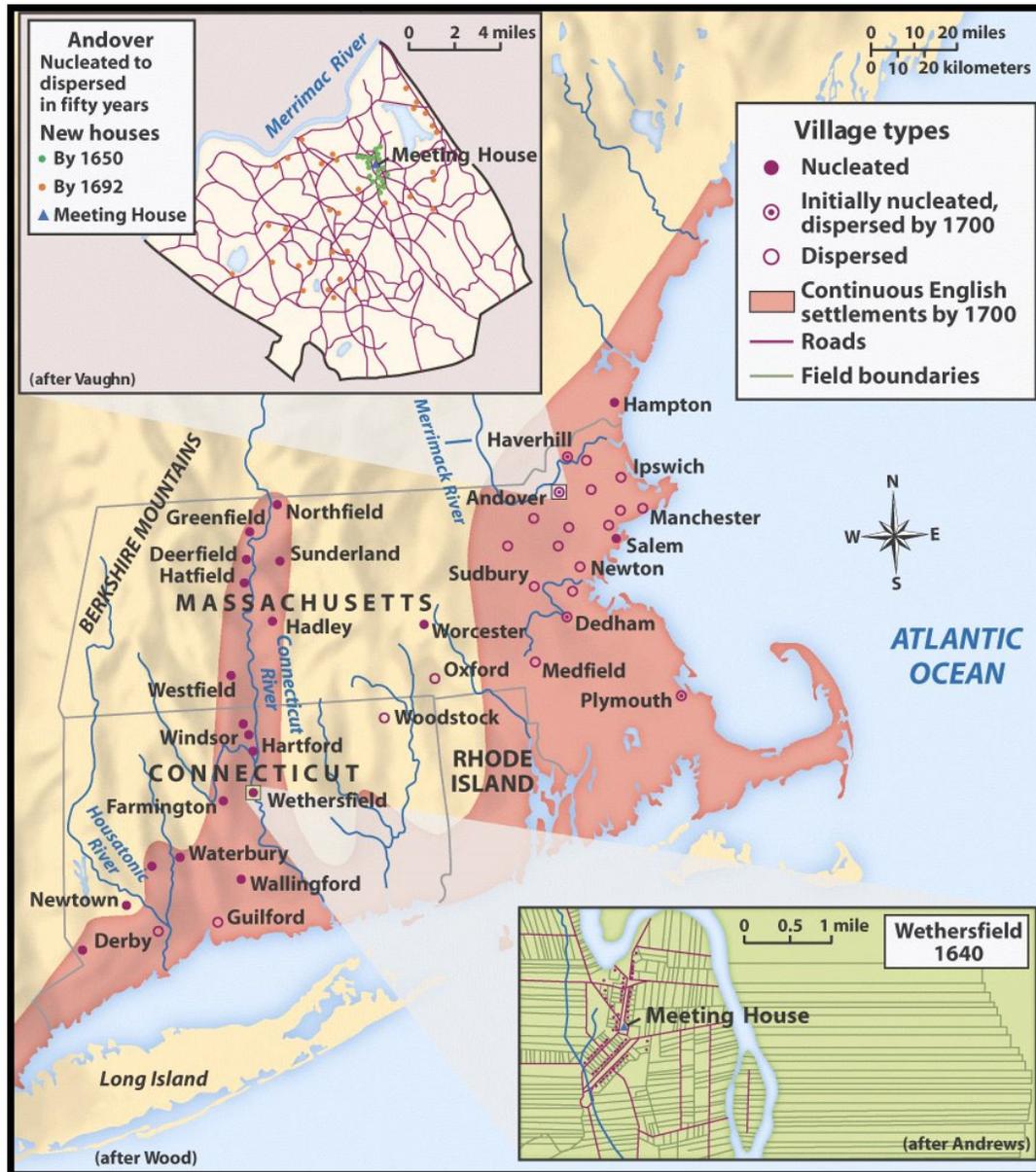
Native Trails 1600



Howard Russell, *Indian New England Before the Mayflower*
(Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 1980)

Boston Post Road



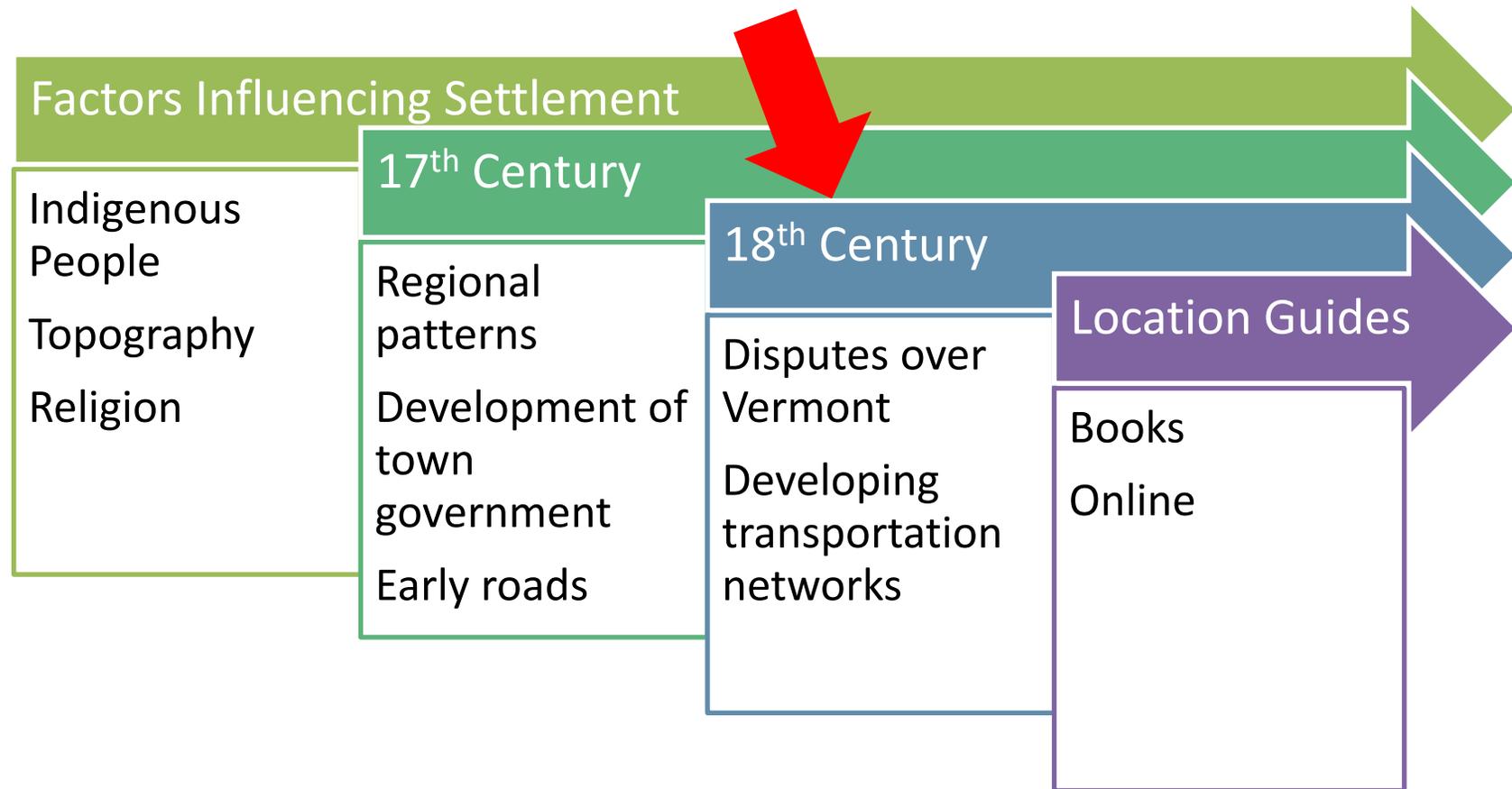


Map 2-3, *America: A Concise History*, 3rd Ed, Bedford/St Martin's 2006

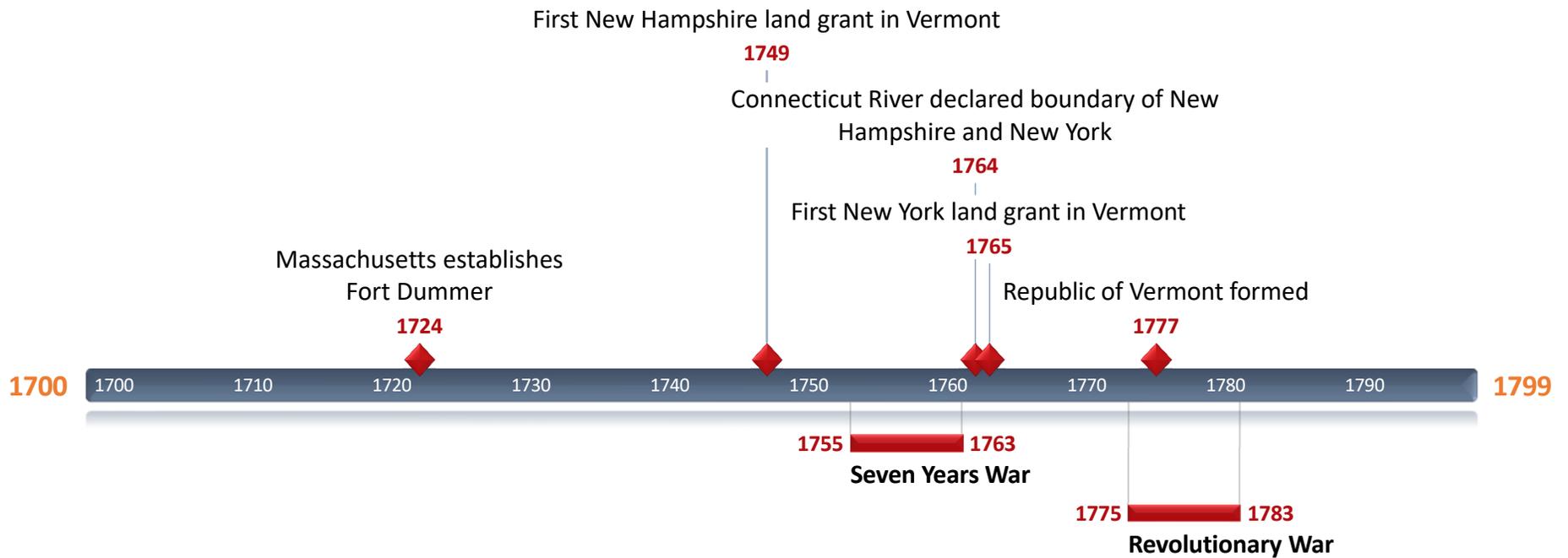
New England by 1700

QUESTIONS?

Session Roadmap



A Timeline for Vermont

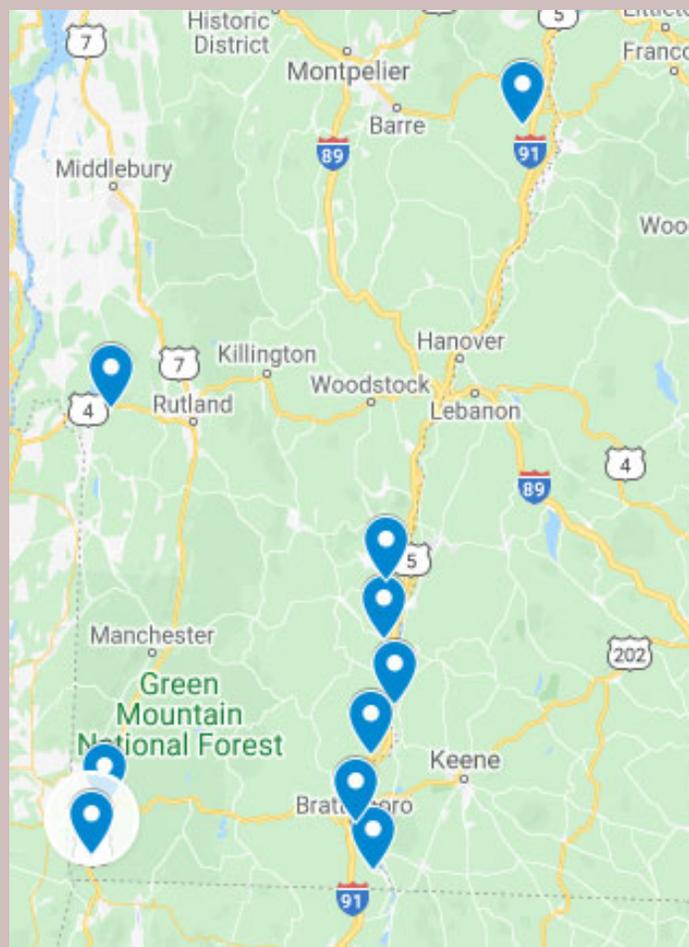


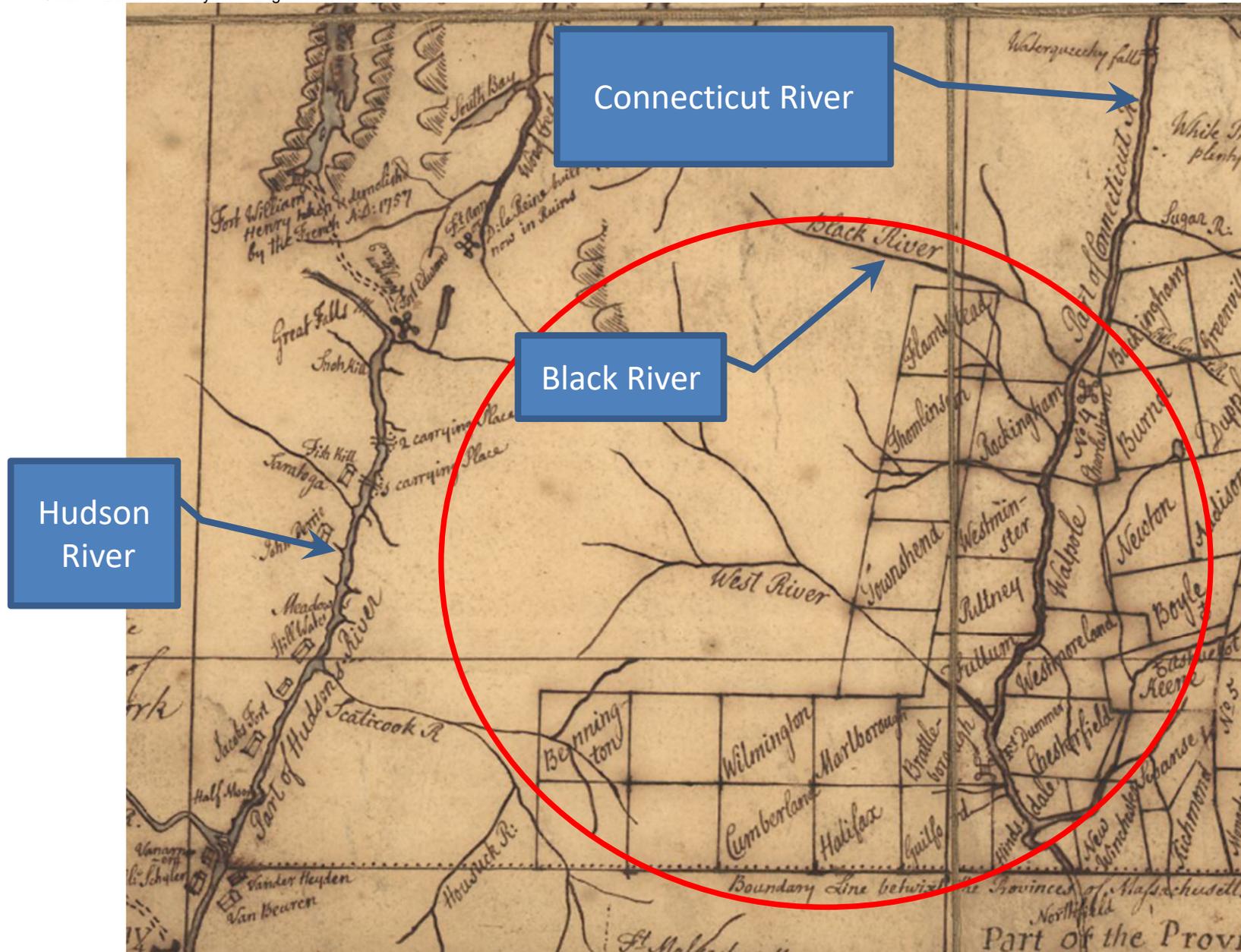
First Towns

TABLE 5
SETTLEMENT OF VERMONT TOWNS BY YEAR, 1739-1773

Date of Settlement	Towns Settled	Annual Number of Towns	Cumulative Number of Towns
1739	Westminster	1	1
1740	Hinsdale	1	2
1753	Putney, Rockingham, Springfield	3	5
1754	Guilford	1	6
1761	Bennington, Castleton, Halifax	3	9
1762	Brattleboro, Newbury, Pownal	3	12
1763	Chester, Hertford, Marlboro, Norwich, Shaftsbury	5	17
1764	Arlington, Fulham, Guildhall, Hartford, Lunenburg, Manchester, Panton, Sharon, Thetford, Townshend, Windsor	11	28
1765	Addison, Danby, Mooretown, Weathersfield	4	32
1766	Fairlee, Newfane, Shoreham, Sunderland	4	36
1767	Vergennes	1	37
1768	Andover, Bridport, Dorset, Grafton, Pawlet, Shelburn, Strafford, Thomlinson, Wells, Woodstock	10	47

1739	Westminster
1740	Hinsdale
1753	Putney, Rockingham, Springfield
1754	Guilford
1761	Bennington, Castleton, Halifax
1762	Brattleboro, Newbury, Pownal





Southern Vermont 1757

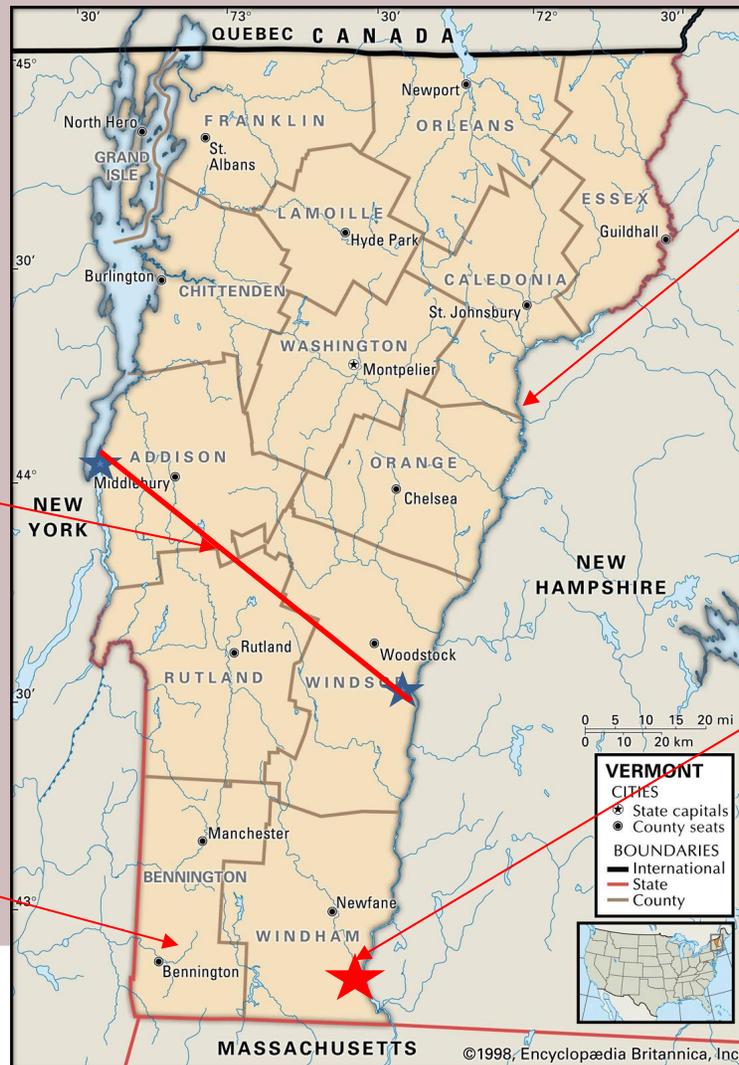
Map by Samuel Langdon - Library of Congress



Black River

Rest of Vermont 1757

Vermont Mid-18th Century



King George II decrees Connecticut River is western boundary of NH - 1764

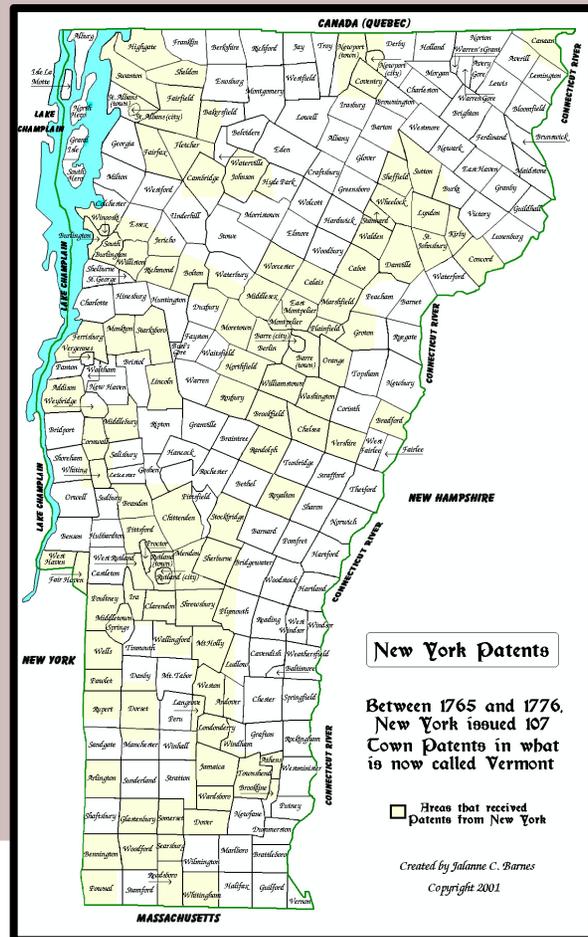
Crown Point Road - 1760

Fort Dummer - 1724

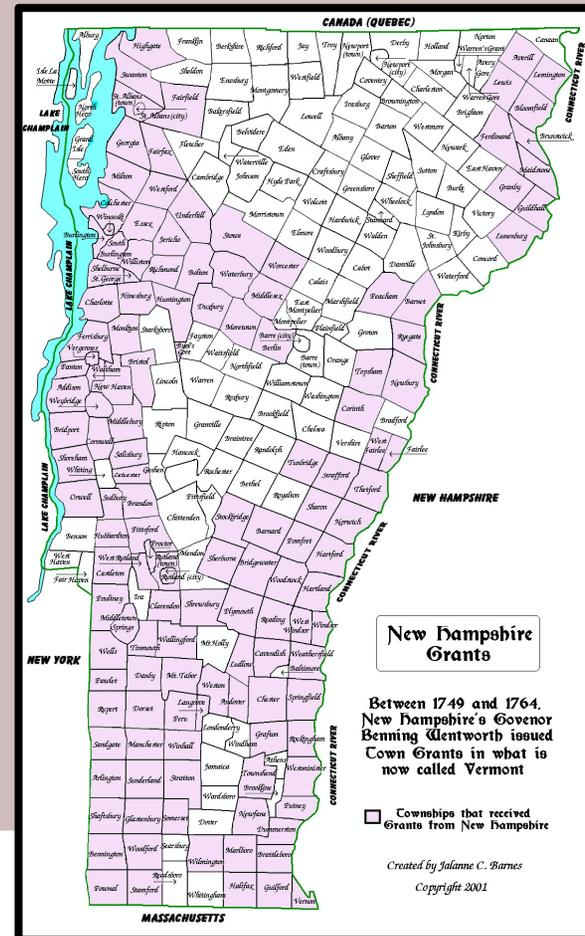
First NH Land Grant - 1749

NY Patents and NH Grants

New York

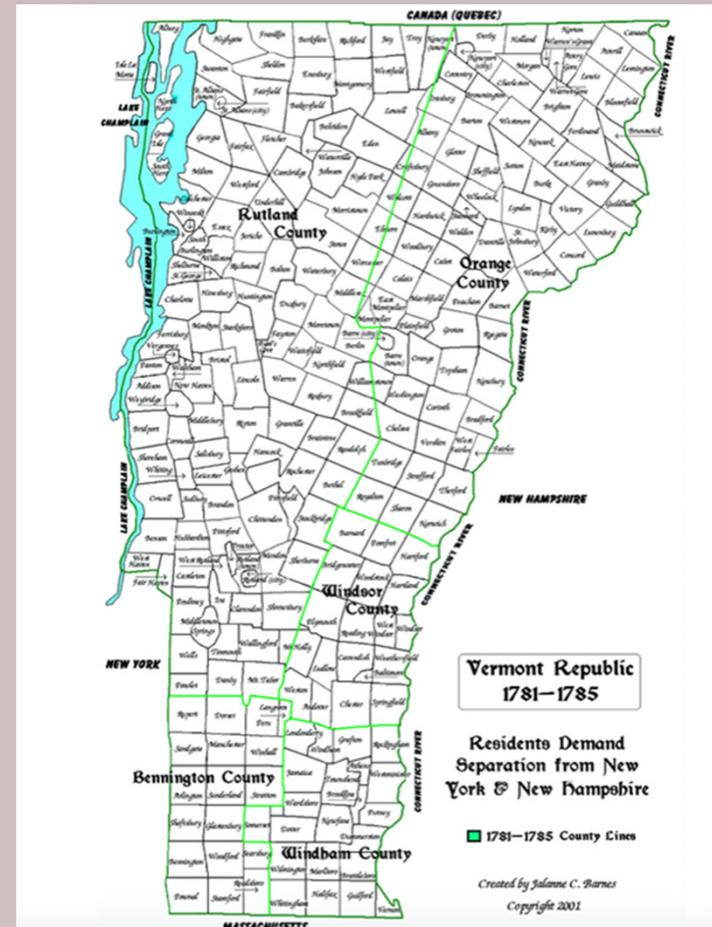


New Hampshire



Republic of Vermont 1777-1791

- 1770 Green Mountain Boys organize
- 15 January 1777 – Vermont becomes independent
- 1790 Vermont settles land dispute with New Hampshire and New York
- Admitted to the Union as the 14th state - 4 March 1791



Where Did Vermont Settlers Come From?

- Up the Connecticut River
 - Connecticut
 - Rhode Island
 - Western Massachusetts
- Across the Connecticut River
 - New Hampshire
 - Eastern Massachusetts
- From Quebec
 - Lake Champlain
 - Lake Memphremagog

Road Networks

Major Routes

1644

- Boston Post Road – three branches – Boston to NYC

1699

- Albany Post Road – Albany to NYC

1722

- Mohawk Trail Boston to Utica, NY

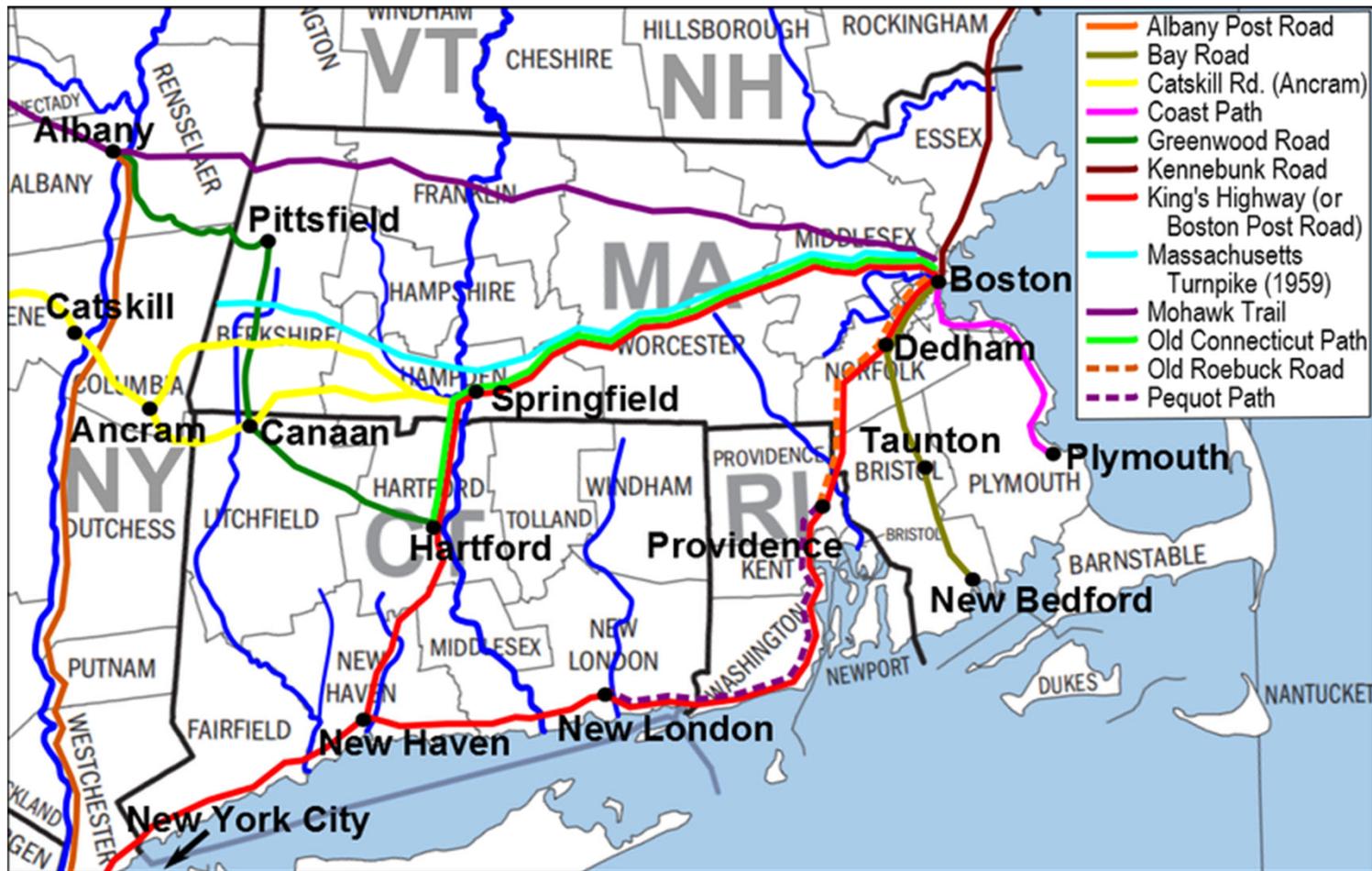
1735

- Kings Highway – continued Boston Post Road from NYC to Charleston SC.

1745

- Catskill Road – Springfield to Catskill, Greene County, NY on Hudson

More Roads



FamilySearch - New England Migration Routes.png

Settlement to 1760

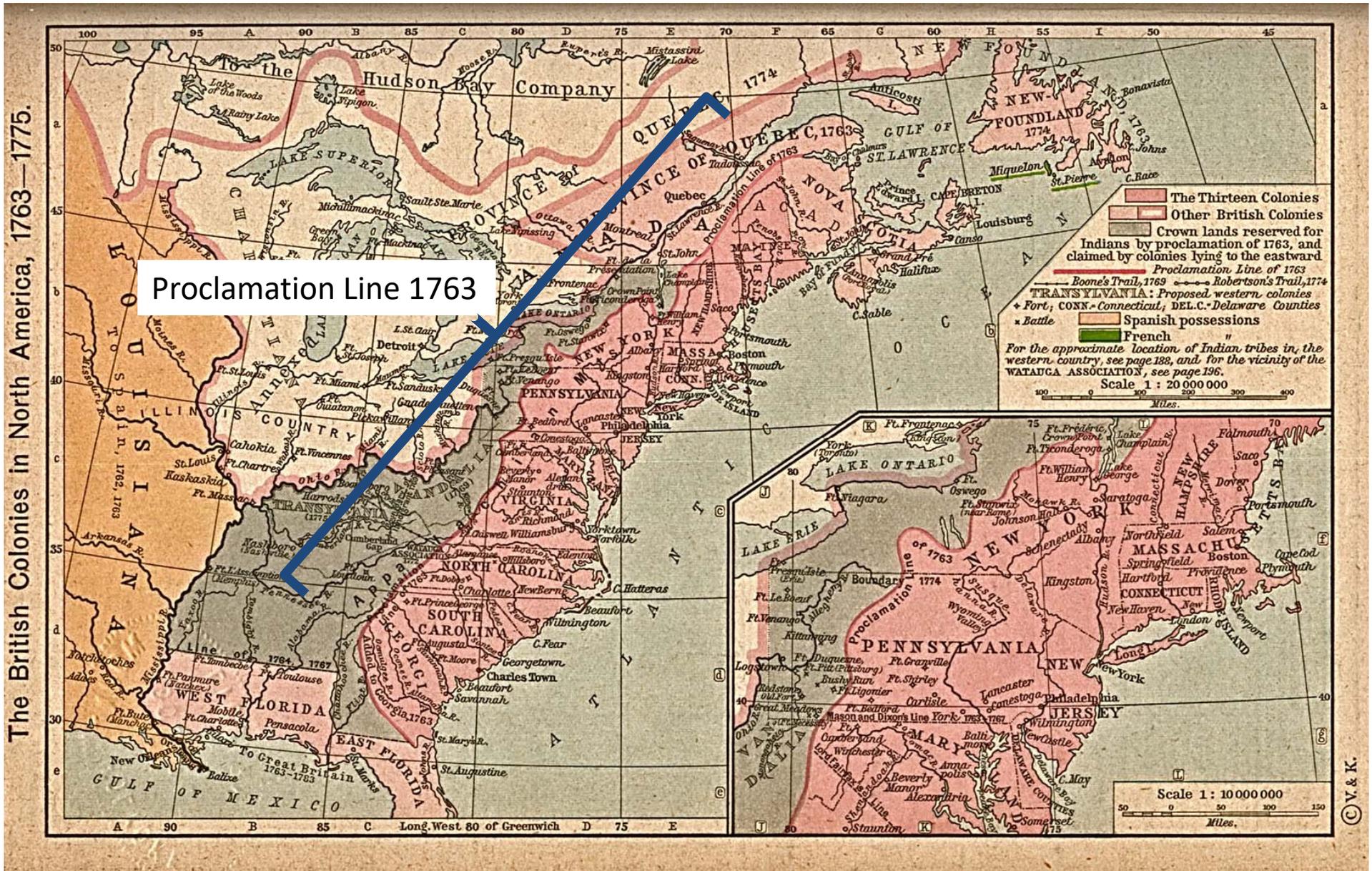


National Geographic Society, The Making of America, published by National Geographic Society © 2002

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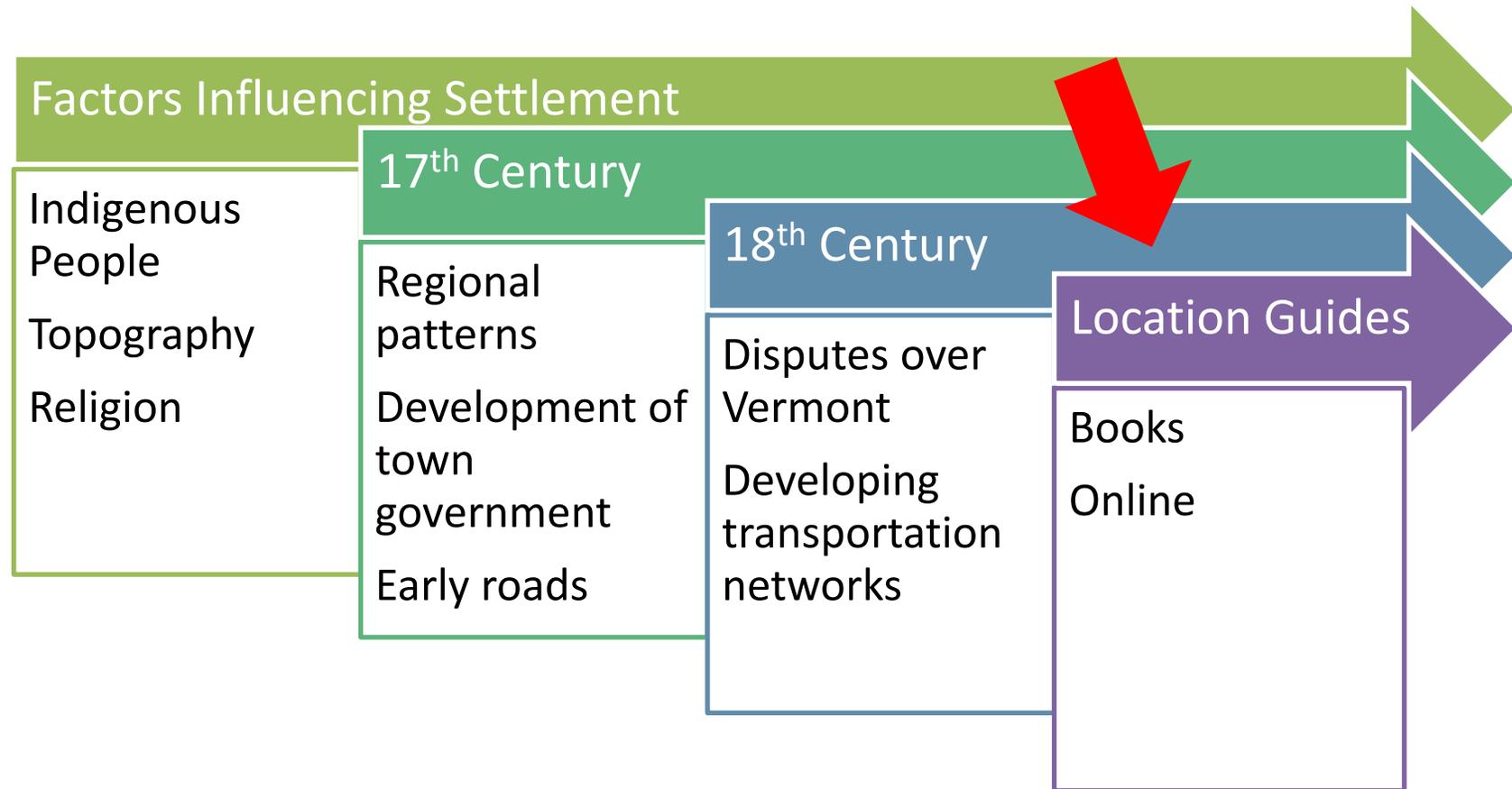
1763 – A Momentous Year for Settlers

- September: Treaty of Paris ended the French and Indian War
 - England received territory east of the Mississippi
 - Spain received territory west of the Mississippi
- October: Royal Proclamation of 1763
 - Pontiac's War – loose confederation of tribes protesting new British rule (different attitude to gift giving)
 - George III sets aside Indian Reserve, orders all settlers to leave, declares the Crown rather than individual colonies has the right to negotiate settlements

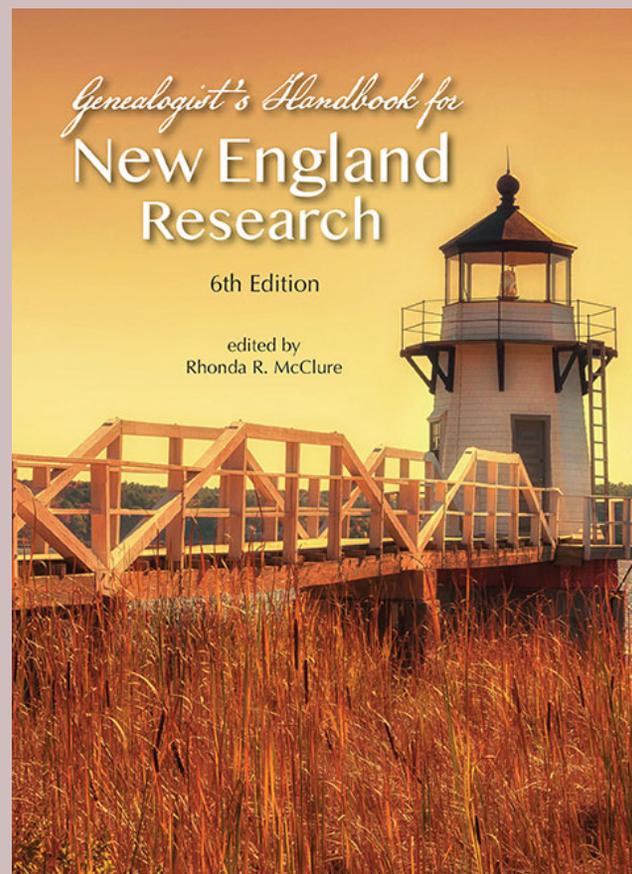


Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection. Historical Atlas by William R. Shepherd The British Colonies in North America, 1763-1775 [p.194] [1923 ed.]

Session Roadmap



***Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* 6th edition**



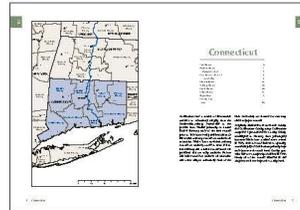
 NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Using This Book

The first chapter of the *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* includes general information about researching and recordkeeping in New England, a focus on sources for early colonial-era ancestors, and a list of major New England repositories. The chapters that follow cover all six New England states, each with the following elements:

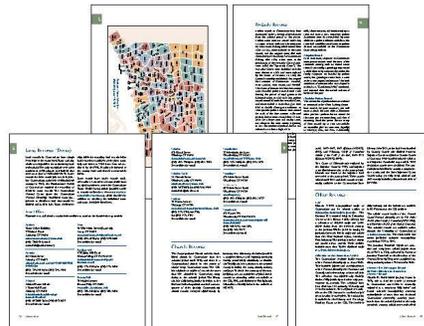
State Profile

Each chapter opens with a map of the entire state with county boundaries marked and labeled, and reference given to the states (or province) with which it shares borders.



A profile provides general information about the state and also specific information about essential genealogical resources, including:

- Vital Records
- Probate Records
- Land Records (Deeds)
- Church Records
- Military Records
- Court Records
- Other Records



The major state repositories and organizations are listed, with contact information and web addresses:

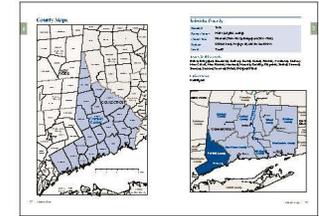
- State archives
- State library
- State judicial archives
- State historical society
- State genealogical society
- Major repositories with extensive collections of interest to genealogists



County Maps

Each individual county has an entry which provides:

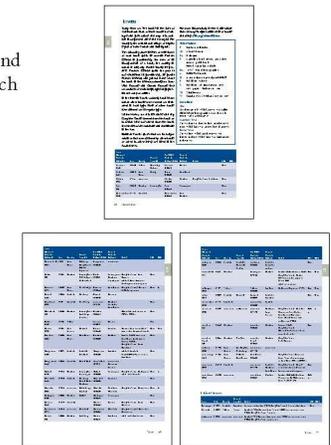
- A map of the county, with towns named, including towns in bordering counties
- A map showing the county's placement in its state
- The date of county formation
- Parent county/counties
- County seat
- Where to find probate records (courthouse, district, or other agency)
- Where to find land deeds (courthouse, district, or other agency)
- List of towns in the county



Cities, Towns, and Plantations

The final section contains information about cities and towns (and plantations in the state of Maine). For each state, an extensive table offers at least the following information:

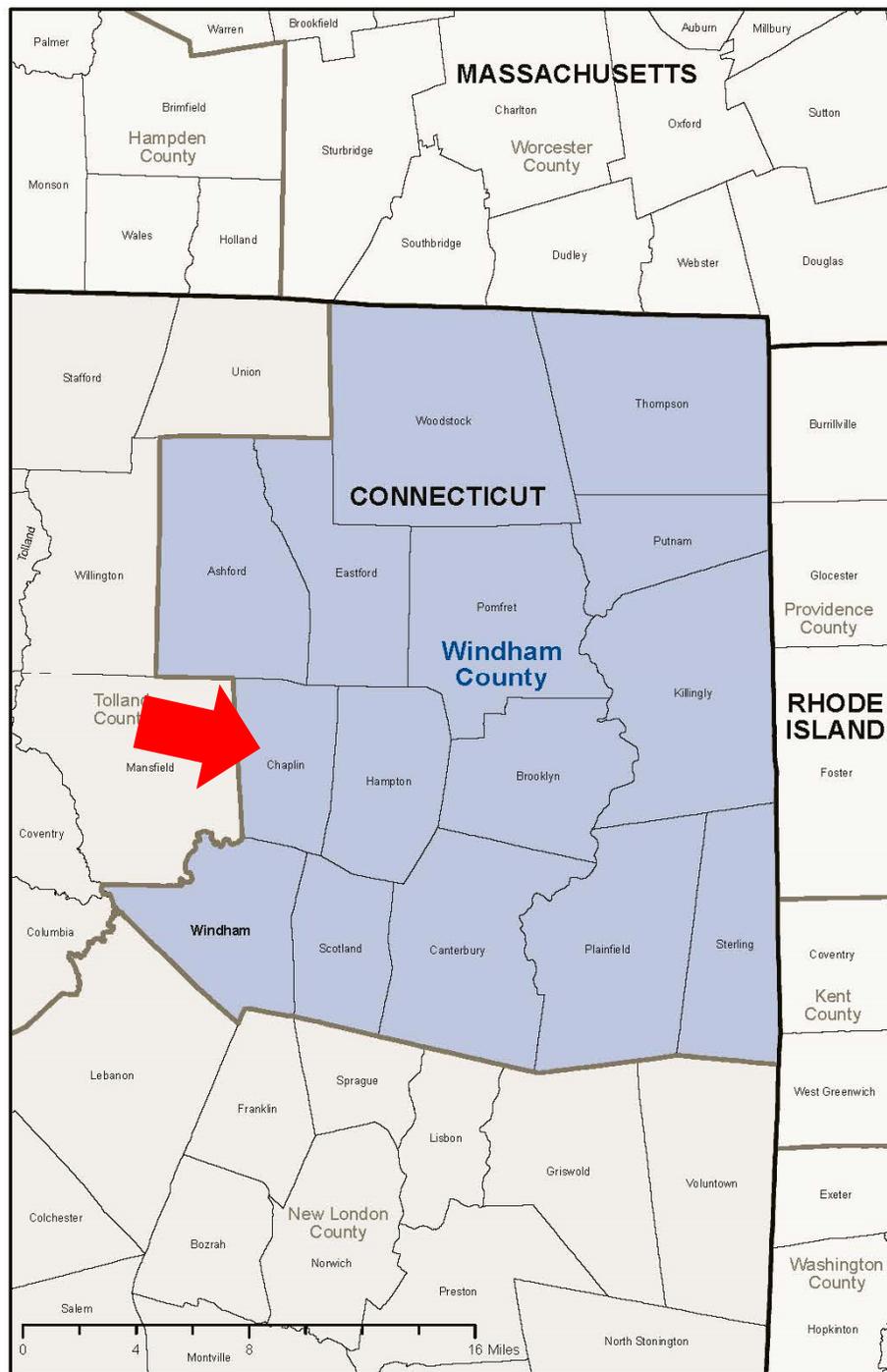
- Current city/town/plantation name
- Date of grant/incorporation as a town
- Current county in which the town is located
- Parent town(s)
- Daughter town(s)
- Special notes for the town, such as date of settlement, date of original grant, name changes, etc.
- Information on vital records and church records available in published form, manuscript, typescript, or on AmericanAncestors.org



After the town table, special tables list extinct towns, unincorporated (and most likely uninhabited) towns, and towns ceded to other states.

As the world continues to move online, it is wise to check websites for the most up-to-date information about a repository, record availability, and what might be available in a digitized format on their site. Always contact the staff with any questions prior to visiting and ask about closures for state or local holidays.

CT



Windham County Map, p. 82

CT	Town (Current Probate District)	Inc.	County	Parent Town(s)	Pre-2011 Probate District (Est.)	Parent Probate District	Notes	VRs	CRs
		Chaplin (28)	1822	Windham	Hampton, Mansfield, Windham	Chaplin (1850)	Windham	Alias: Suffrage.	B, W
	Cheshire (18)	1780	New Haven	Wallingford	Cheshire (1829)	Wallingford	Daughter Town: Prospect.	B, W	
	Chester (33)	1836	Middlesex	Deep River (Saybrook)	Saybrook (1780)	Guilford		B, W	
	Clinton (33)	1838	Middlesex	Killingworth	Clinton (1862)	Killingworth		B, N, W	
	Colchester (28)	1698	New London		Colchester (1832)	East Haddam	Named in 1699. Daughter Towns: Marlborough, Salem.	B, W	
	Colebrook (23)	1779	Litchfield		Winchester (1838)	Norfolk	Alias: Coldbrook.	B, W	
	Columbia (13)	1804	Tolland	Lebanon	Andover (1851)	Hebron		B, W	
	Cornwall	1740	Litchfield		Cornwall	Litchfield		B, W	

Connecticut Town Pages with Chaplin, Windham County

research WIKI

- Wiki Home
- About the Wiki
- Online Genealogy Records
- Guided Research
- Research Resources
- Wiki Policies

Centers/Libraries

- Family History Library
- Family History Centers
- FS Affiliate Libraries

Give Feedback

- Submit Wiki Content
- Report a Problem

Edit the Wiki

- Become an Editor
- Upload File/Image
- Personal Sandbox
- Wiki Projects
- Wiki University

Tools

- What links here
- Related changes
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link
- Page information
- Cite this page
- Browse properties

Page **Talk** Read [View source](#) [View history](#) [More](#)

Hamden, New Haven County, Connecticut Genealogy

[United States](#) → [Connecticut](#) → [New Haven](#) → **Hamden**

Contents [hide]

- [1 Brief History](#)
- [2 Cemeteries](#)
- [3 Church Records](#)
- [4 City Directories](#)
- [5 Land Records](#)
- [6 Libraries and Historical Societies](#)
- [7 Maps](#)
- [8 Newspapers](#)
- [9 Probate Records](#)
- [10 Town Histories](#)
- [11 Town Records](#)
 - [11.1 Town Clerk](#)
- [12 Vital Records](#)
 - [12.1 Births](#)
 - [12.2 Marriages](#)
 - [12.3 Deaths](#)
- [13 References](#)

Brief History

 [edit | edit source]

Hamden is a town in [New Haven County, Connecticut, United States Genealogy](#). Hamden is a suburb of the city of New Haven.

Originally settled by Puritans as part of the town of [New Haven](#), Hamden was purchased by Theophilus Eaton and Reverend John Davenport in 1638 from the local Quinnipiack (Quinnipiac) Native American tribe. It remained a part of New Haven until 1786 when 1,400 local residents incorporated the area as a separate town, naming it after the English statesman John Hampden.

The Farmington Canal, which ships traveled from New Haven northward, passed through Hamden between 1825 and 1848

The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors.org website. At the top, the logo reads "AmericanAncestors by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY" and "A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture". Navigation links include "Search", "Events", "Membership", "Give", "Publications", "Expert Help", "Tools", "Signature Projects", and "Activities & Initiatives". A "LOG IN" button is in the top right. The "Tools" dropdown menu is open, listing: "American AncestREES", "Video Library", "Research Guides", "Research Templates", "DNA Resources", and "Youth Education". Below the menu are three "RESEARCH GUIDE" cards. The first card, "Town Guides", features a photo of a wooden barn and a "FIND OUT MORE" button. The second card, "Vermont Genealogy", features a photo of a white church and a "FIND OUT MORE" button. The third card, "World War Veteran Research", features a photo of a gravestone and a "FIND OUT MORE" button. Red arrows point to the "Research Guides" menu item and the "FIND OUT MORE" button for "Town Guides".

AmericanAncestors.org/tools/research-guides

Repositories and Societies

- New England Historic Genealogical Society
- General Society of Mayflower Descendants
- National Archives and Records Administration/Northeast Region
- Connecticut State Library
- Each state has an historical society
 - Connecticut Historical Society – Hartford
 - Maine Historical Society – Portland
 - Massachusetts Historical Society – Boston
 - New Hampshire Historical Society – Concord
 - Rhode Island Historical Society – Providence
 - Vermont Historical Society - Barre



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Reference

The Nutmeg Navigator

About the History & Genealogy Unit

Thousands of researchers visit our busy department each year in search of information about our state and its diverse population. Our reference staff assists a steady stream of genealogists, historians, students, state employees, attorneys, environmental researchers, and others in search of historical information about our state and the people who have lived in it.

Contact Us



History and Genealogy Reference Unit

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- [Resources for studying African-American Heritage at the CT State Library](#)
- [Biographical Information](#)
- [Census Records & City Directories](#)
- [Colonial Records & Topics](#)
- ["Connecticut Archives", 1629-1820](#)
- [Connecticut Town Documents](#)
- [Connecticut Town Guides](#)
- [Divorce Records for Genealogy Research](#)

History News & Fun Stuff



Learn about an exciting project involving New Haven County Court Records at the CT State Archives! See the link below.

Also be sure to check the Nutmeg Navigator for news from the Reference



Units at the CT State Library (History & Genealogy, Law, & Government Information).

- [New Haven County Court Records](#)

<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/home>

Online Resources

State	Archive	URL
Maine	DigitalMaine	https://digitalmaine.com/archives/
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Historical Society	https://www.nhhistory.org/Research/Collections-Catalog#/
Vermont	Vermont History	https://vermonthistory.org/digital-resources/
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Archives	https://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcdigitalrecords/digitalrecordsidx.htm
Massachusetts	American Ancestors Digital Library	https://digital.americanancestors.org/
Connecticut	Connecticut State Library Digital Collections	https://cslib.contentdm.oclc.org/digital
Rhode Island	Rhode Island State Digital Archives	https://sosri.access.preservica.com/home/

Vermont History Digital Collections



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GENEALOGY LISTS AND INDEXES

<i>Names of Adults</i>	<i>Minister</i>	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Date of Bapt.</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
<i>Lymour Russell.</i>	<i>B. Hawley</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Oct. 12. 1862</i>	<i>Congregation.</i>
<i>Eveline Russell.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>Carric L. Hyde.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>Susan M. Gardner.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Dec. 31 "</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>Roxanna Warner.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Potter.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Ira.</i>	<i>March 18. 1863</i>	<i>The Family.</i>
<i>S. Elizabeth Race.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Castleton</i>	<i>June 28 "</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
<i>John M. Jackman.</i>	<i>R. J. Wade.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Feb 12. 1865</i>	<i>"</i>

This page contains links to unique indexes of original genealogical documents or collections at the Leahy Library of the Vermont Historical Society in Barre, Vermont. We intend to add materials to this electronic collection as time allows.

Summary

- New England settlement was shaped by the presence of indigenous people, topography, and religion
- The basic unit of government in early New England was the town; many records still exist at the town level
- Vermont was settled last, in part because of the strong Abenaki presence and their alliance with the French

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