



1



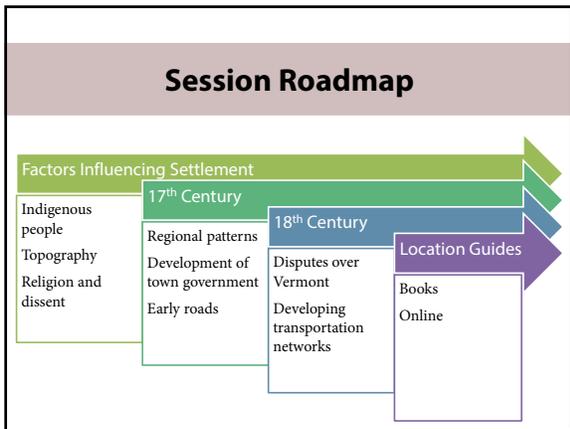
2



3



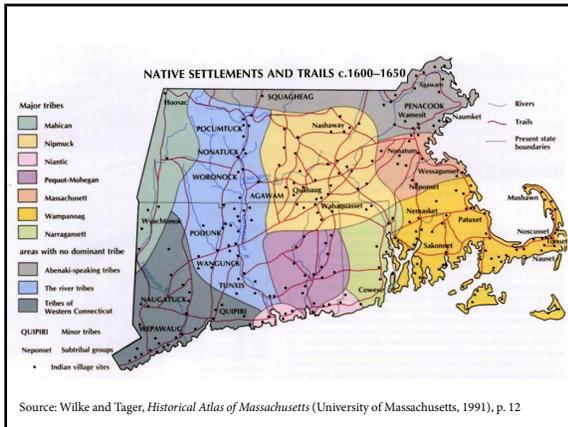
4



5



6

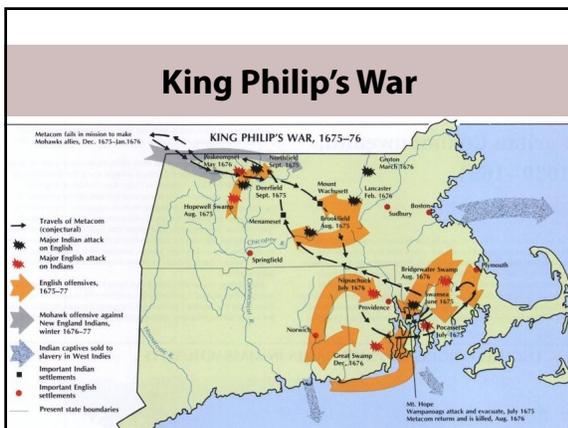


7

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

8



9

Tip
Indigenous groups allied with the French in 18th century

10

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



11

Seven Years War

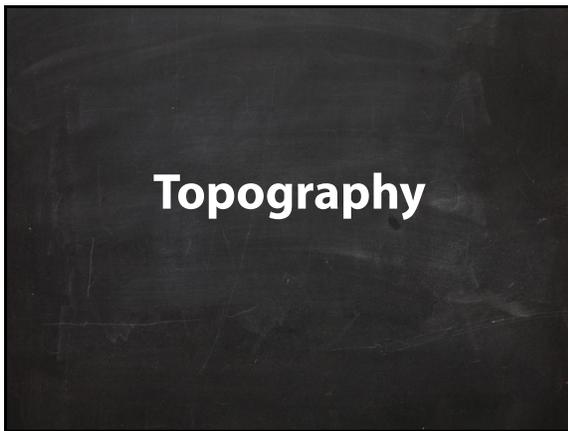
- Also known as the French and Indian Wars
- Boundary disputes between English colonists and French
- Recapture of Fortress Louisbourg in 1759
- Many British soldiers would later fight against the crown in Revolution



12



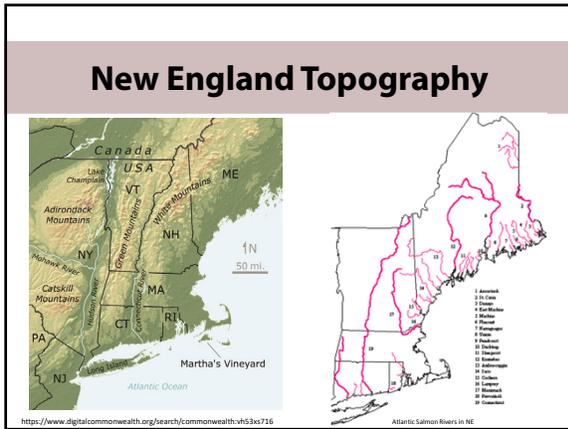
13



14



15



16



17

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

18

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



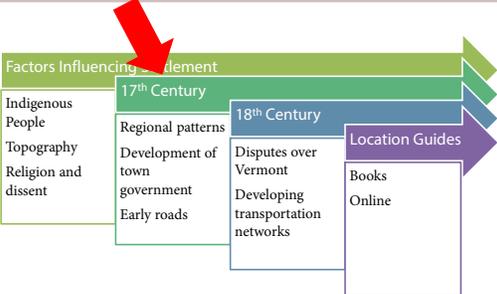
19

Religious Dissent

- Dissenters left Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay over
 - Puritan and Pilgrim lack of religious tolerance (Roger Williams)
 - Belief that no intermediary was 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)

20

Session Roadmap

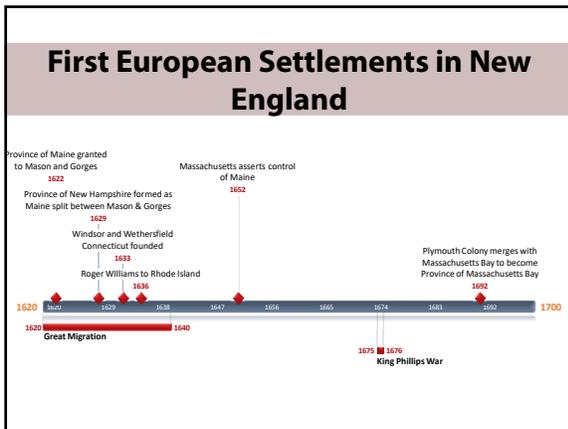


Factors influencing settlement	
Indigenous People	17 th Century
Topography	Regional patterns
Religion and dissent	Development of town government
	Early roads
	18 th Century
	Disputes over Vermont
	Developing transportation networks
	Location Guides
	Books
	Online

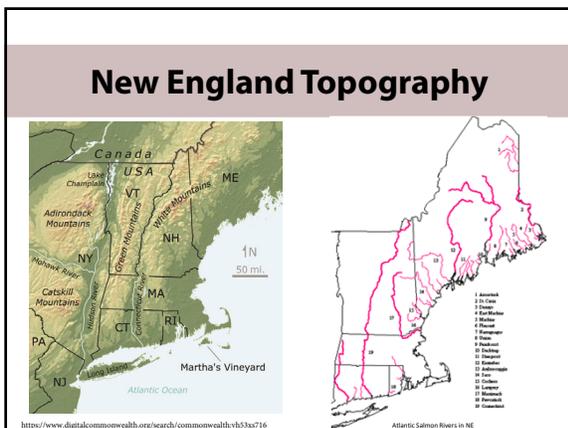
21

Settlement by Region

22



23



24

Plymouth Colony

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

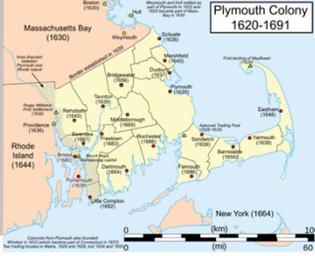
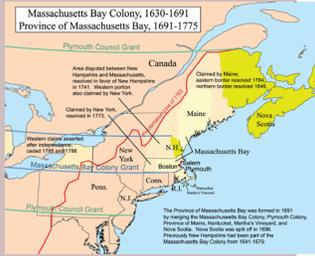


Image by Hoodinski at Wikipedia Commons

25

Massachusetts Bay Colony

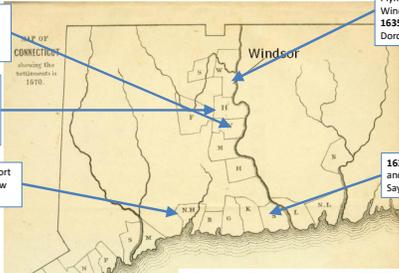
- Established and led by Puritans
- By far the most populous and influential colony in New England



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

26

Early Connecticut



1634: Oldham & Co. from Watertown to Wethersfield

1636: Hooker & Co. from Cambridge to Hartford

1637: Davenport & Eaton to New Haven

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

1635: Winthrop and Gardiner to Saybrook

CONNECTICUT
during the settlements in 1670

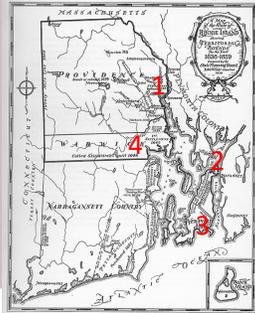
Windsor

CONNECTICUT'S OLDEST ENGLISH SETTLEMENT
Map of Connecticut showing the settlements in 1670 from Historical Sketches of Meriden by G.W. Perkins

27

Dissenters Founded Rhode Island

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

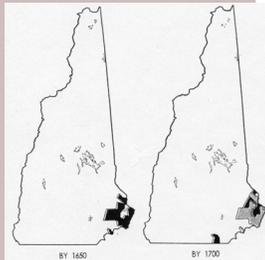


<http://www.findingrogerwilliams.com/images/maps/cady2.jpg>

28

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



29

Maine

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



<https://www.maine-memory.net/artifact/7541>

30



31

Early Towns

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

<http://www.trinityhistory.org/AFH/2map.html>

32

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

33

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

34

Freemen

- Applied for privilege
 - Male, usually over 21
 - Church member (varied by Colony)
 - Land ownership (varied by Colony)
 - Good character



Mural at Post Office, Ipswich, MA

- Participate in Town Meeting
- Vote on Town business
- Serve on juries

35

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



36

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

37

The Town Meeting

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

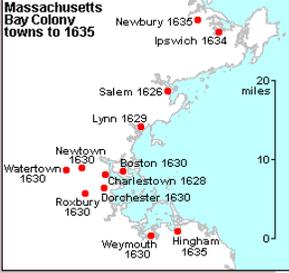
38

Earliest Towns

39

Early Massachusetts Towns

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



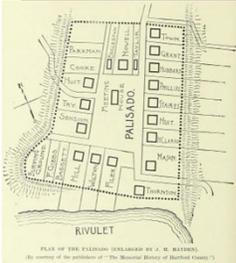
Massachusetts Bay Colony towns to 1635

Newbury 1635
Ipswich 1634
Salem 1626
Lynn 1629
Newtown 1630
Boston 1630
Charlestown 1628
Roxbury 1630
Dorchester 1630
Weymouth 1630
Hingham 1635

Map at <https://www.thedickins.co.uk/so/genealogy/earlydih/colony.htm>

40

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.

41

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



A COLONIAL TOWN: WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT, 1641

Paullin, *Atlas of Historical Geography*

42

First Connecticut Colonies



Saybrook

- Founded by Winthrop and Gardiner, 1635

Connecticut River Colony

- Merger of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield towns - 1637

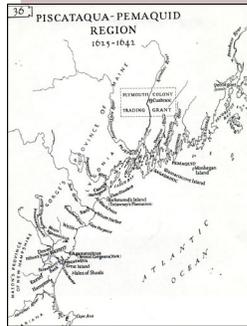
New Haven

- Founded by Davenport and Eaton, 1637

National Geographic: Connecticut ca 1645, accessed 21 Dec 2021

43

First New Hampshire Towns



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

44

First Maine Towns

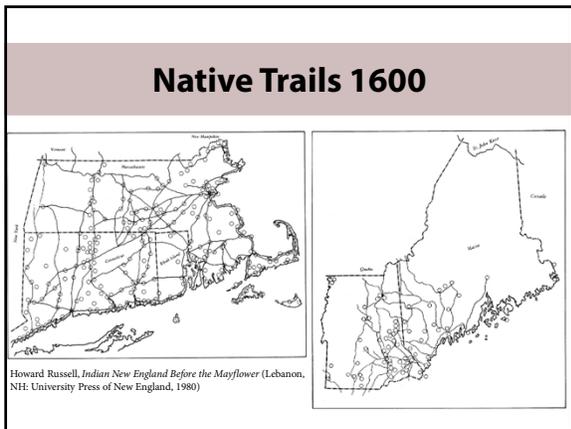
- Kittery - 1623
- Biddeford - 1623
- York - 1624
- Wells - 1653



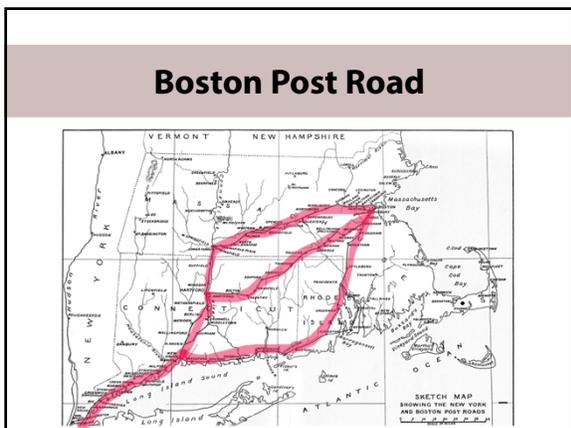
45



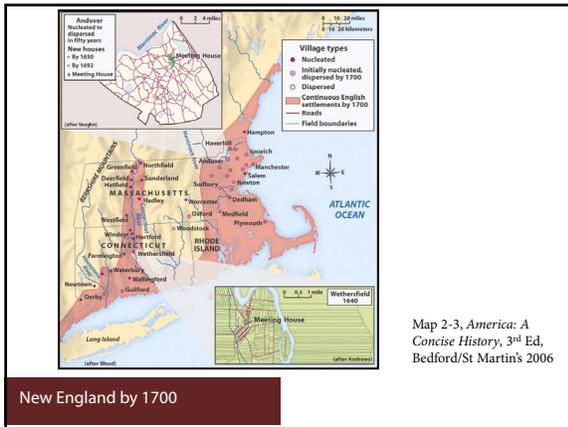
46



47

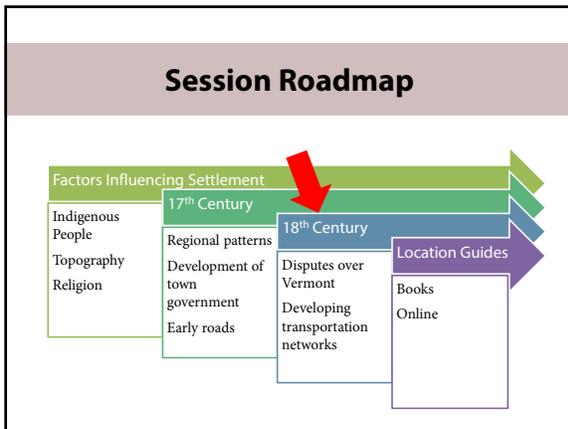


48

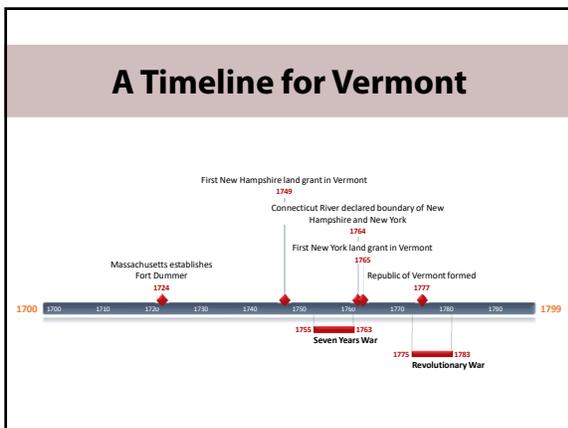


New England by 1700

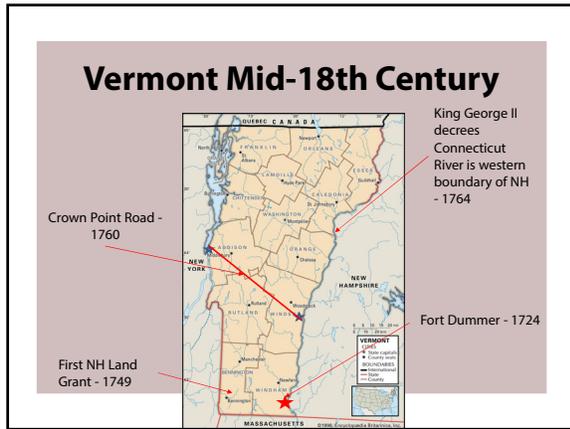
49



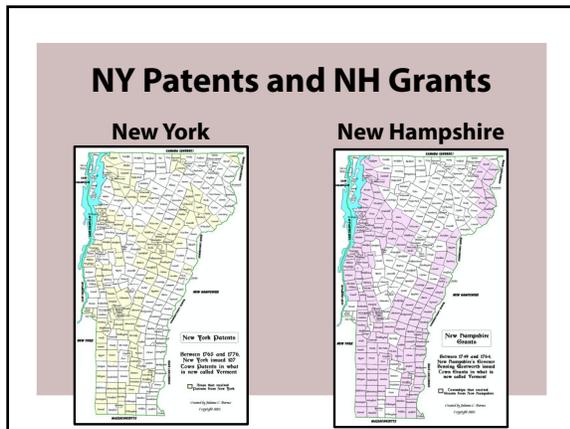
50



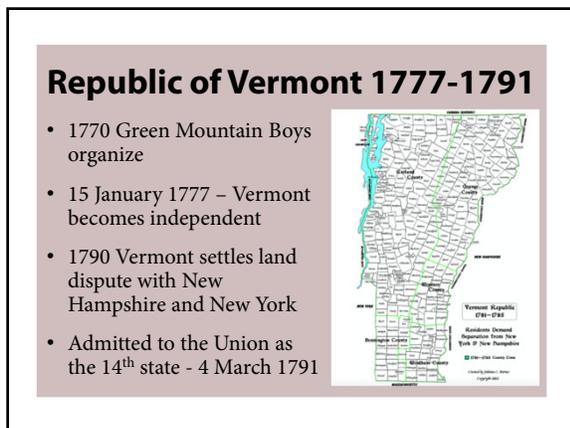
51



55



56



57

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

58

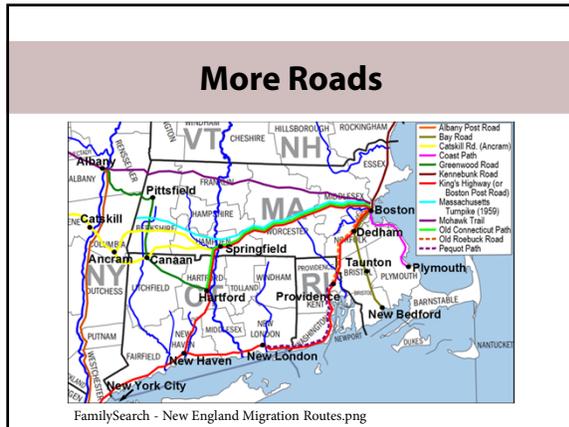
Road Networks

59

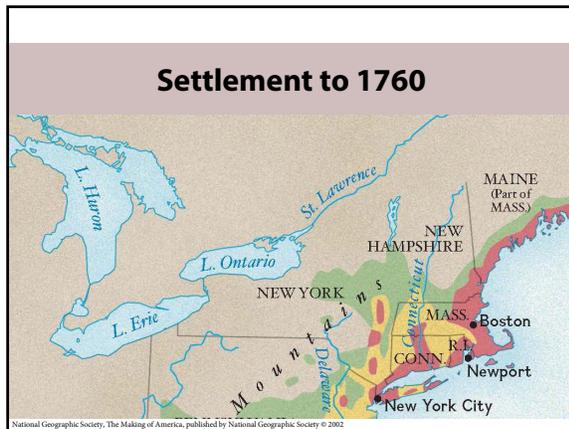
Major Routes

- 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

60



61

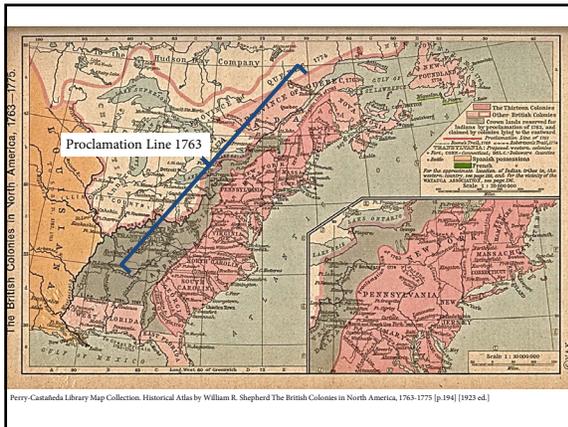


62

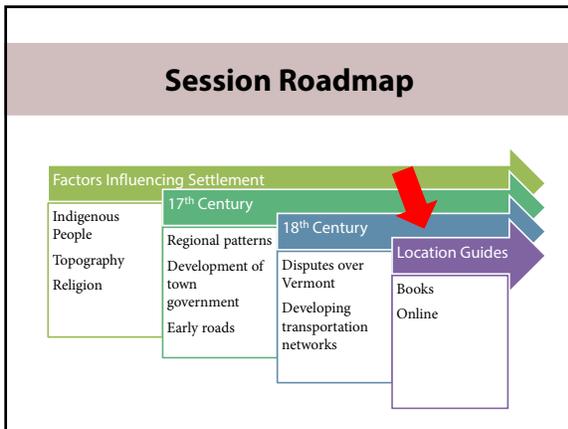
1763 – A Momentous Year for Settlers

- 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

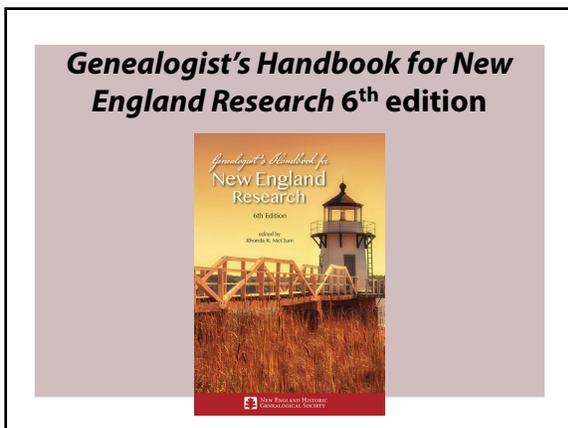
63



64



65



66

CT State Library
Preserving the Past. Inspiring the Future.

ABOUT DEPARTMENTS COLLECTIONS RESEARCH NEWS CONTACT SEARCH THIS SITE

Connecticut State Library | LibGuides Home | History & Genealogy | History & Genealogy | Reference

History & Genealogy: Reference

Reference The History 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 assist 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

Directory of History & Genealogy Subject Guides

- Access Archives & Secured Collections
- Aerial Photographs
- 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 History 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>

73

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/

74

Vermont History Digital Collections

Begin your journey here.

V I S I T L E A R N D I S C O V E R S U P P O R T

GENEALOGY LISTS AND INDEXES

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.

75

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

76

THANK YOU!
AmericanAncestors.org

77



**NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**
AmericanAncestors.org
Copyright © 2024

78