

Four Centuries of York History

1610

April 1614 Capt. John Smith surveyed region—observed Mount Agamenticus

1620 November 3, 1620 Council of New England chartered by Gorges and others. Autumn 1623 Christopher Leavitt reached Isles of Shoals and explored immediate coast.

1630 Edward Godfrey constructed house at Point Bolleyne. 1631 Edward Johnson arrived—Col. Walter Norton. December 2, 1631 Twelve Thousand Acre Patent granted to group by Council of New England. 1634 Gorges's steward Thomas Bradbury erected manor house at Point Christian. 1635 Charter of Council of New England dissolved—Gorges took for himself province of New Somerset from Piscataqua to Kennebec. Godfrey obtained 1500 acres in area of Cape Neddick—transferred part of tract to William Hooke.

1640 Late June 1640 Thomas Gorges arrived—took up residence at Point Christian. The brief appearance of the Rev. George Burdett. April 10, 1641 Borough charter of Agamenticus—boundaries set at three miles in all four directions from first meetinghouse. Division of the Twelve Thousand Acres. March 1, 1642, charter of Gorgeana. Arrival of the 'Scituate Men' Preble, Twisden, Bankes, Curtis. The wife of Richard Cornish tried and executed for his murder. 1646 Francis Raynes obtained grant at Brave Boat Harbor. May 24, 1647, death of Sir Ferdinando Gorges.

1650 First reference to John Davis—advocate of Massachusetts takeover. 1651-1652 Edward Godfrey challenged the claim of Massachusetts. November 22-23, 1652 Massachusetts commissioners ordered submission of government at Gorgeana—December 8, town of York convened first meeting for election of officers. 1655 Thomas Moulton and Henry Sayward took up residence. 1657 Thomas Moulton sold land to Alexander Maxwell a Scotch war prisoner—the beginning of 'Scotland' in the western part of town.

1660 At Restoration—the return of Charles II the throne of England—Gorges heirs petitioned for rights. 1661-1662 Formal restoration of the Gorges government. 1663-1664 Royal commissioners sent to New England. June 23, 1665 Commissioners took possession of province in the name of the King. 1665 The beginning of Rev. Shubael Dummer's ministry. 1667 Second meetinghouse constructed. July 1668 Massachusetts commissioners ordered the surrender of government for a second time.

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1670 Malcom McIntire, a Scotch prisoner arrived. 1675-1677 The general Indian war in New England. September 25, 1675, Attack upon James Jackson farmstead at Cape Neddick. April 1677 Two local attacks documented. 1678 Maine patent sold to Massachusetts by Gorges heirs. 1679-1680 Massachusetts organized government with president and deputy president.

1680 March 1680 Thomas Danforth presented his commission as president—Major John Davis was to serve as deputy. Local petition sent to King Charles II for return of royal government. 1686-1689 Dominion of New England under King James II. 1688-1689 Outbreak of violence with Indians—war between France and England—King William's War.

1690 1690-1691 Indian attacks documented. January 25, 1692 The Candlemas Attack—Indian war parties attacked town inflicted casualties and took prisoners for return to Canada. 1694 and 1696 Indian attacks documented. 1696 Capt. John Pickering proposed mills at Mill Creek. May 1698 Commencement of Rev. Samuel Moody's ministry. May 1699 Four roads properly ordered by selectmen.

1700 April 1701 Nathaniel Freeman hired as schoolmaster. 1702-1703 Outbreak of war between France and England—Queen Anne's War. September-October 1703 Indian attacks upon coastal settlements—attack upon farmstead of Arthur Bragdon Jr. 1705 Lucy Moody buried—oldest dated stone in the Village Burying Ground.

1710 December 1710 Nottingham Galley wrecked at Boon Island. 1711-1712 Multiple Indian attacks documented. 1713 end of Queen Anne's War. November 9, 1713, Jonathan Sayward born. 1718 Registry of Deeds and Superior Court ordered to be placed in town. March 1719 Meetinghouse built in western part of town. October 1719 Order for construction of county prison—first reference to the Old Gaol.

1720 August 1720 First entry in the surviving diary of Rev. Joseph Moody. July 1722 Outbreak of Indian war—Dummer's War. August 12, 1724 Capt. Johnson Harmon and Jeremiah Moulton commanded attack upon Jesuit mission town of Norridgewock—Father Sebastian Rasle killed. January 1726 Nineteen men organized for construction of dam and mill complex at Meetinghouse Creek.

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1730 1732 Second Parish in western part of town legally established by legislature. 1732 Division of the inner common lands. 1734-1735 Construction of county courthouse. July 24, 1735, Execution of Patience Boston. 1737 Enlargement of the Gaol—wooden structure added to the stone structure. Autumn 1738 Rev. Joseph Moody experienced a breakdown—the wearing of the handkerchief veil.

1740 May 1740 Earliest reference to future Emerson-Wilcox house in Village. 1741-1742 The town became epicenter of Great Awakening in northern New England. 1745 The Louisbourg Campaign undertaken as action in war with France—King George's War. March 1747 Construction fourth meetinghouse. November 13, 1747, Death of Rev. Samuel Moody. December 1749 Rev. Isaac Lyman ordained as successor to Rev. Moody.

1750 Estimated population—2511 persons. Second division of the common lands. March 20, 1753 Rev. Joseph Moody died.

1760 January 17, 1760 Jonathan Sayward began diary. May 12, 1760, Thomas Moody departed on March for New York and the final campaign against French Canada. 1764 Number of houses 272—292 families in First Parish—105 in Second Parish. 1764-1765 Parliament's revenue measures—Stamp Act violence. July 20, 1765, Death of Col. Jeremiah Moulton. 1768 The Circular Letter episode—Jonathan Sayward among the 'Rescinders'—end of his legislative career.

1770 September 27, 1770 Rev. George Whitefield delivered sermon at First Parish meetinghouse—died at Newburyport three days later. April 15, 1773 David Sewall planted four elms between townhouse and meetinghouse. June 1774 John Adams in town on circuit—had conversation with Sayward. September 23-24 York 'Tea Party' tea removed from ship Cynthia. April 1775 Outbreak of Revolution—soldiers march in response to Lexington Alarm—Committee of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection formed. January 1, 1777, 129 of town's 607 men were in army. June 1777 Lt. Josiah Bragdon at Ticonderoga as Burgoyne's soldiers advanced from Canada. May 1779 town rejected Massachusetts constitution. Summer 1779 Penobscot operation.

1780 1780 Inflation escalates as consequence of depreciated currency. Enemy privateers off coast jeopardized fishermen. September 1783 The end of the war.

1790 1793 Joseph Tucker appointed Collector of Customs. 1794-1796 Construction of Coventry Hall by David Sewall. May 8, 1797, Death of Jonathan Sayward.

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1800 1805 Alexander Rice petitioned for bridge over river—Rice's Bridge. December 1807 The Jefferson Embargo—American ships prohibited from foreign ports.

1810 February 1811 York Cotton Factory Company incorporated—mill located 100 yards below outlet of Chase's Pond. 1810-1812 Construction of new county courthouse. June 1812 War with Great Britain—War of 1812. 1814 York Sea Fencibles formed for coastal defense. June 15-16, 1814 British coastal raids in southern Maine—incident occurred at Nubble. 1816 Renewed effort of separation of Maine from Massachusetts. July 16, 1817 President James Monroe in town while on tour—breakfasted at Coventry Hall. 1819-1820 Move for Maine statehood finally successful.

1820 March 15, 1820, Maine became twenty-third state. Probate court and clerk of courts transferred to Alfred. 1823 County prison constructed at Alfred. 1827 Construction on widened straightened road from Kittery to Portland—basis of Rt 1—triangular plot at York Corner created.

1830 1832 Alfred formally designated as shire town. June-September 1833 Conflict between town and First Parish over ownership of courthouse. 1834 A triangular tract of land at western boundary set off to South Berwick. 1837 Appropriation of land behind First Parish Church for burial ground.

1840 1846-1848 Public actions taken towards Temperance

1850 1852 Maine Liquor Law.

1860 November 1860 Republican majority in presidential election—torchlight parade over Sewall's Bridge in honor of Lincoln and the Republicans. April 1861 Outbreak of the American Civil War. 1862-1863 Meetings held to decide upon bounties for soldiers. Winter 1864 Local men enlisted in First Main Cavalry—the Dahlgren Raid upon Richmond—Albert Walker taken prisoner and later died at Andersonville. 1865 The town confronted massive debt at end of war. March 1869 Town purchased courthouse and jail, 1865 Earliest of the beach hotels constructed.

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1870 1871 Nathaniel Grant Marshall constructed Marshall House at Stage Neck. February 23, 1874, Dedication of new town hall. 1879 Village schoolhouse built—site of present fire station. June-July 1879 Nubble Light House began operation.

1880 1881-1882 Modifications to Congregational Church. February 17, 1882, Death of N.G. Marshall. 1883 York Harbor and Beach Railroad Company incorporated. 1885 Current portion of Rt 1A from Stage Neck to Long Sands became public road. 1886 Agreement negotiated with Boston and Maine Railroad for use of road from Kittery to Portsmouth. August 8, 1887 Railroad spur first used by summer tourists. June 14, 1888 Atlantic House opened at York Beach,

1890 September 4, 1891 George F. Plaisted commenced publication of York Courant. February 6, 1893 York County Trust Bank established. March 27, 1893 Electric Railroad incorporated. 1895 Stackpole or Lancaster Block. May 7, 1895 York Shore Water Company organized by Josiah Chase. August 1, 1895 Edward S. Marshall organized electric plant. May 1896 Water piped into town. April-July 1897 the electric railroad installed and opened for use. 1899-1900 Old York Historical and Improvement Society organized.

1900 York Country Club. 1901 York Beach Village Corporation and York Harbor Village Corporations created by legislature, ugust 5, 1902 250th Anniversary celebration. 1902 High School on Organaug Road opened for students. 1904-1905 York Hospital incorporated—occupiedJames T. Davidson residence. 1905-1906 Soldiers Monument—May 28, 1906 formally dedicated. 1906 Beginning of bridge controversy. 1908-1910 The town division controversy.

1910 1910 Town division defeated. May 29, 1910 York Harbor Reading Room opened at present site. 1914 York Library Association established. 1916 Firemen's Field Day inaugurated. January 1916 Marshall House fire.

1920 February 22, 1929 York Water District created by legislature. Debate over town hall.

1930 1933-1934 Debate over Sewall's Bridge. 1931 Publication of Bank's History of York. 1939 Jefferd's Tavern dismantled and transported to town.

1940 World War II. December 15, 1947, Maine Turnpike.

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1950 1951 York Sewer District. 1956-1958 Bridge over York River at Rt. 103. 1957-1959
New hospital building constructed. February 13, 1959, York Village fire.

1960 1963 Portsmouth-Kittery bridge over Piscataqua River. 1965 Ski operation at Mount
Agamenticus. 1966 Debate over highway modifications. December 1969 Toll plaza opened.

1970 Population 5,500 persons. 1975-1977 Construction of new high school. 1976 York
Beach voted to dissolve corporation.

1980 Town acquired Agamenticus ski property—Parks Commission created. January
1984 Old York Historical Society formed from merging of three organizations. 1989 Town Manager
approved.

1990 November 5, 1991 Home Rule Charter. 1997 Mason Reservation and Fishermen's
Memorial.

2000 December 1, 2001 York Public Library first opened. 2009 Permanent residents of
town estimated to be 14,000 persons.

2010

2015 York Village Master Plan