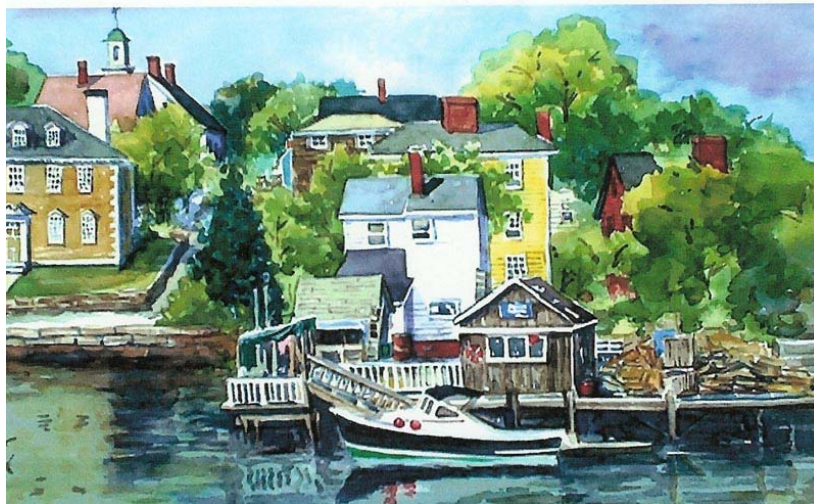
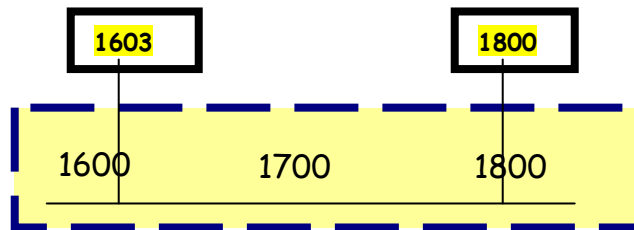


History of Portsmouth NH for Children-Revised

People, Places, and Events



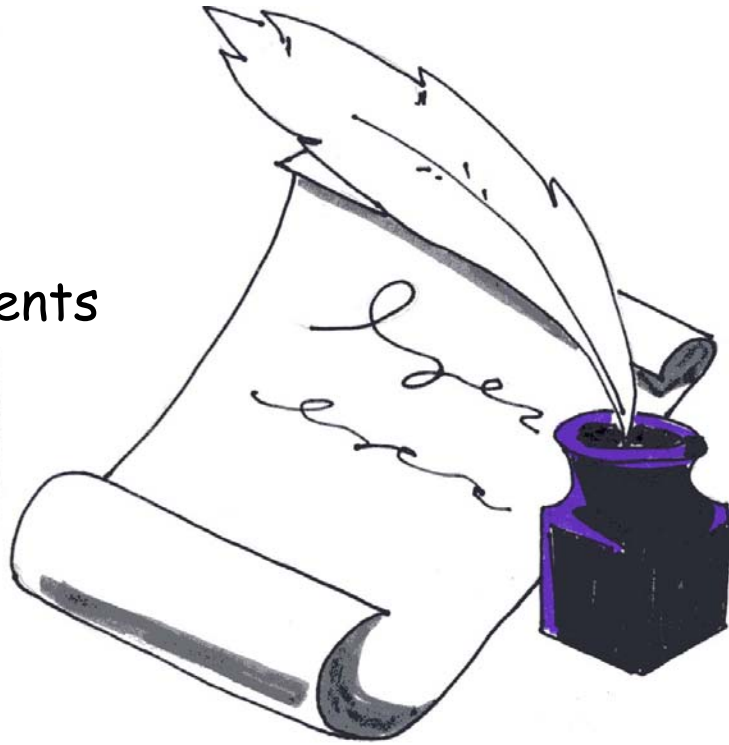
Printed Spring, 2005
Revised Summer, 2011



Dedicated to the former, current, and future
third graders at Dondero School,
Portsmouth, NH
Printed Spring, 2005
Revised Summer, 2011

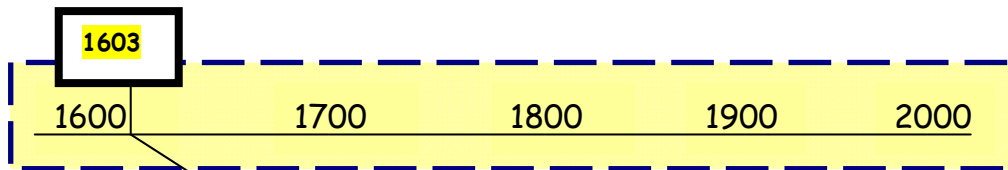
© Mrs. Bodwell, Mrs. Hinton, Mrs. George
Special thank you to:
Terrianne Boggis and Valerie Cunningham

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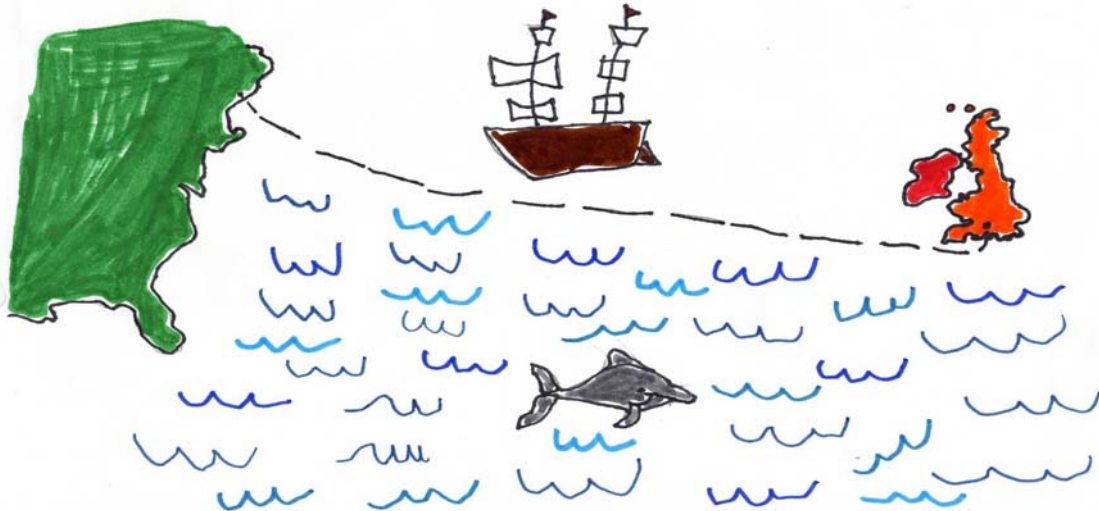


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*All words in bold are defined on pages 38 and 39.



At this time in history:
France is exploring what is now Canada.



In the Beginning

People from Europe came to America for adventure and wealth. Fishermen traveled to the Isles of Shoals to find the oceans filled with fish.

European trappers and traders found the rich forests perfect for an endless supply of lumber and animal furs.

Native Americans from the Abenaki, Wampanoag, and Penacook tribes met them. These tribes taught the Europeans how to live off the land, how to cultivate their crops, fish, and do what they needed to survive.

In 1603, two ships, the *Speedwell* and the *Discoverer*, left England to explore the New World.

A 23-year-old sailor named Martin Pring from Bristol, England was chosen to lead this exploration to the northern part of Virginia, which we now call New England. He was sent to map out the new area and to begin trade with the Native Americans. Both ships had an eight-month supply of dried peas, salted beef, salted fish, cheese, beans, butter, and biscuits. There were also two large **mastiffs** used as watchdogs.

Pring was the first person to make a map of the Piscataqua River.

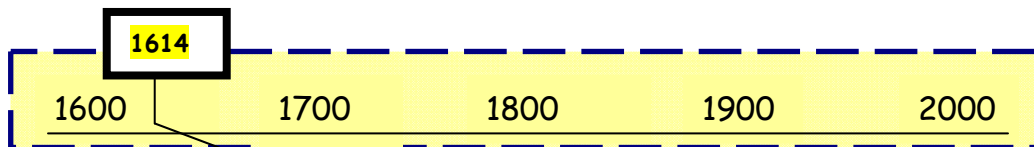


Did you know:

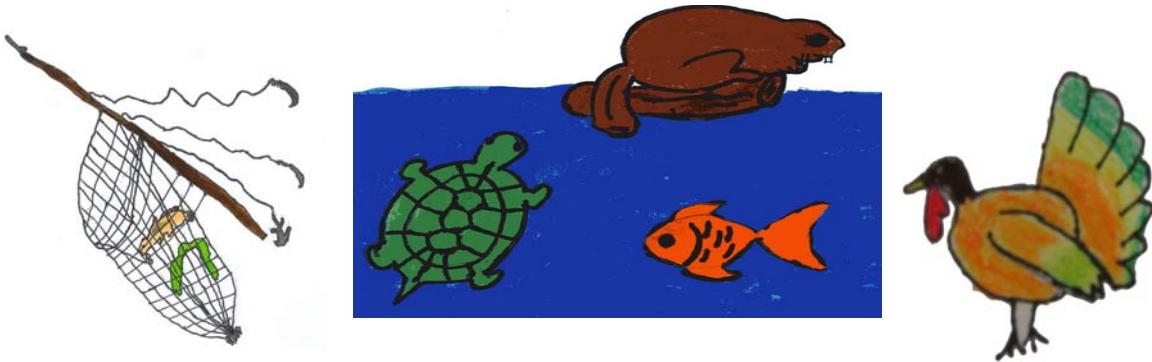
- Pring was also looking for sassafras to use as a medicine?



This story was created by: Abigail and Cameron



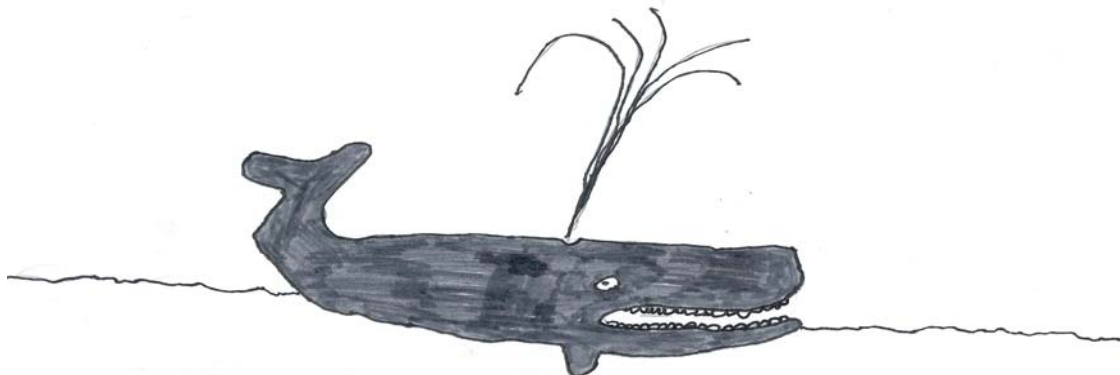
At this time in history:
Princess Pocahontas married John Rolfe.



Others Followed

In 1614, using Martin Pring's maps, an explorer named Captain John Smith was financed by English **merchants** to look for whales, copper, and gold. He didn't find any of those things, but he did find a lot of fish.

He brought the fish back to England, drying it and storing it in the salt in the bottom of the boat. The salt was used to steady the ship and preserve the fish.



For the next nine years, fisherman came, but they always returned to England when winter arrived. Finally in 1623, a ship landed at Little Harbour. David Thompson and two other men had arrived to start the first permanent **settlement** in the wilderness. They called their settlement Pannaway. They called their house Piscataqua House. This stone house can be found at what is now known as Odiorne's Point. It is part of the visitors' center.



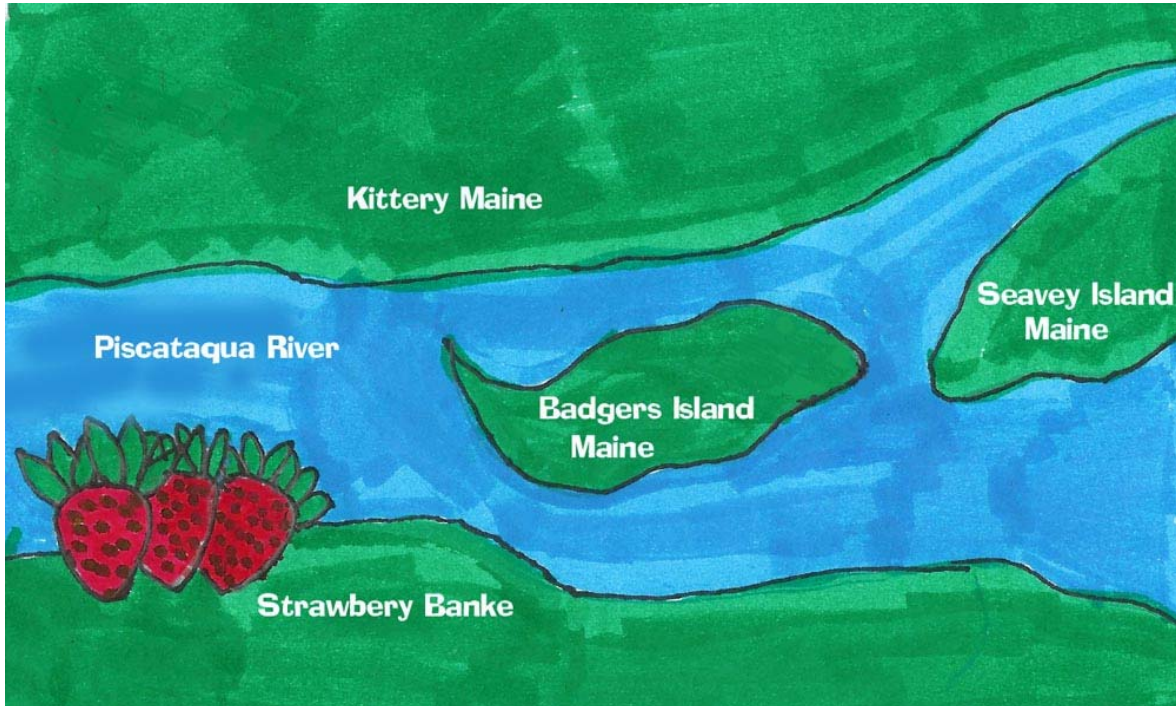
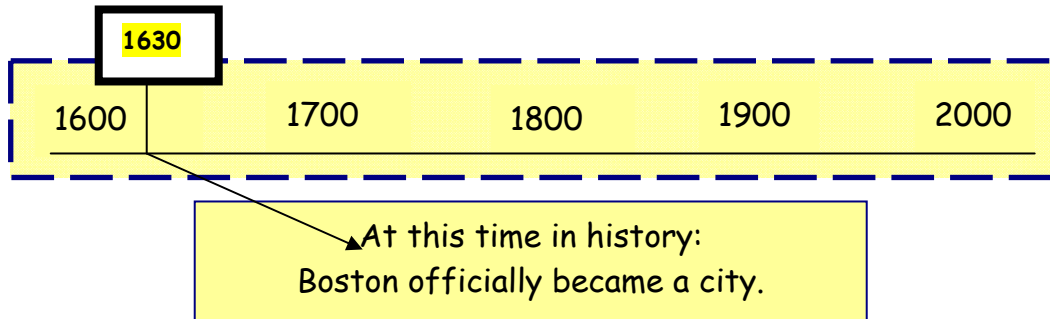
Others joined them, arriving later on different ships until there were eight people in all. They had come to fish, trap animals, and trade with the Indians.



Did you know:

- that Miles Standish came from Plymouth in 1623 asking for food?
- that Miles Standish became friendly with the settlers and invited the men to Plymouth?

This story was created by: Jon and Jack



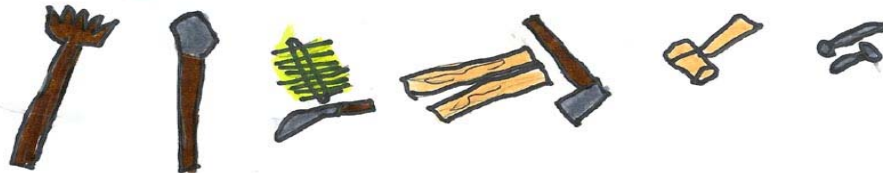
Strawberry Banke

Back in the city of Portsmouth in Hampshire, England, partners Sir Ferdinando Gorges, a wealthy real estate owner, and Captain John Mason read Martin Pring's maps and the reports of the Pannaway colony. They decided to send a group of about 80 men and women and plenty of supplies to start a new settlement. Captain Mason hoped that they would find gold and silver.



The settlers picked a place two miles up the Piscataqua River, which today is about half way between Prescott Park and the tug boat docks.

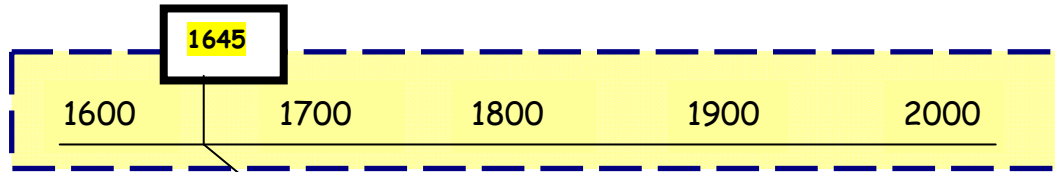
They named their settlement Strawberry Banke because the riverbanks were covered with wild strawberries. The settlers hunted, fished, farmed, and cut lumber. They built a storehouse, many small houses, and a shelter for sheep and cows. They dug wells, built a blacksmith shop, a saw mill and platforms for drying fish.



Did you know:

- that pirates, one known as Dixey Bull, once terrorized the colony of Strawberry Banke?
- they stole furs, coats, and blankets?

This story was created by: Emily and Maya



At this time in history:
The Plymouth Pilgrims petitioned the Massachusetts Bay government
for religious freedom for non-Christians.



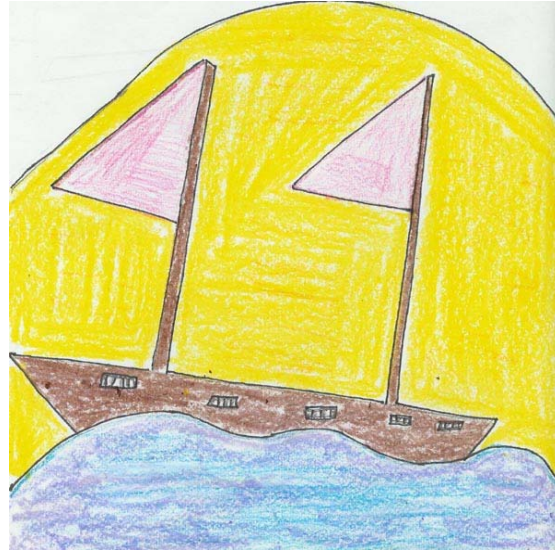
Shackles and chains were put around
the hands and legs of the slaves so
they couldn't escape.



Slave Trade

In 1645 another settler arrived in Portsmouth aboard a ship that docked at the Sheafe warehouse. He was different from other settlers because he did not volunteer to come but was kidnapped and was the first African to be sold at an auction near what we now call Prescott Park.

Slave ships went from the new land to Africa and back to America with captives to be sold as slaves.



Large ships went to Africa and captured strong boys and girls to work in tobacco, cotton, and sugar fields in the south.

In New England, most **enslaved** people were housekeepers and farmers who had arrived in Portsmouth by ship at piers like Long Wharf, which stood here in colonial times. They were auctioned off or sold directly from ships or the docks.



This is a young Black family waiting on the docks to be sold.

As soon as the slaves were sold, their African names were taken away and they were given the last name of the new owner. If the slaves were sold again, their names were changed to the last name of the new owner.



What might this slave girl be thinking?

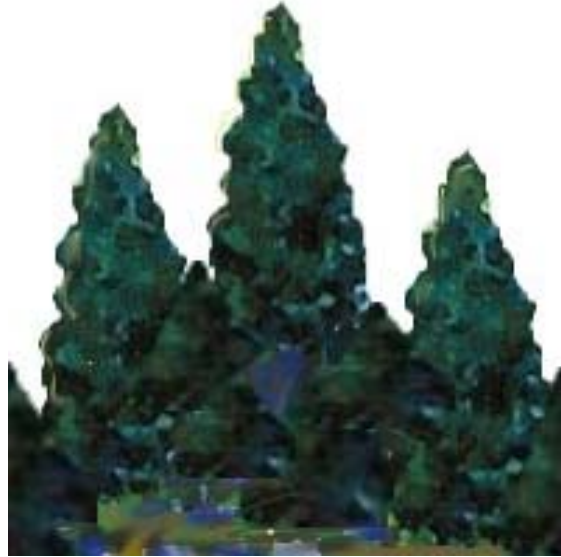
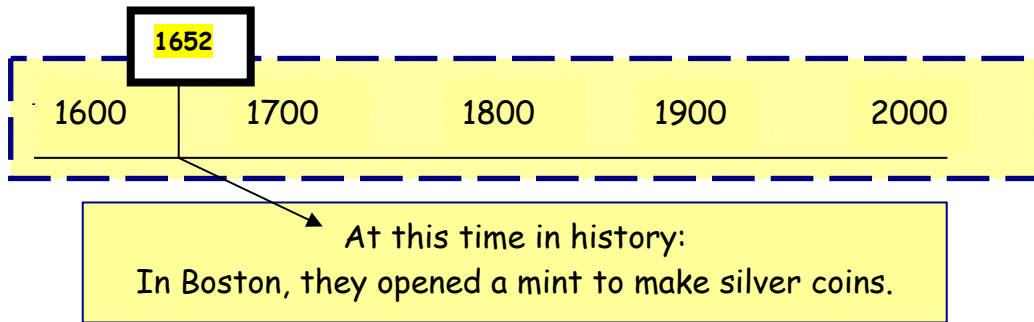
Some of the children were enslaved. They were trained to be servants because it was easier to train children than grownups.



Did you know:

- that slaves had to live in a space 5 feet by 16 inches for the whole boat trip?

This story is dedicated to Valerie Cunningham



Early Portsmouth

By 1652, there were fifty families at Strawberry Banke. There were now so many buildings that there were no strawberries anywhere. Since the settlement was at the mouth of the river and it was a port, they changed the name to Portsmouth.

At this time the settlers began other jobs besides hunting and fishing. The forests were full of cedar, birch, and white pines. They began to build canoes, **gundalows**, **shallops**, fishing boats, **barges**, and ships.

All white pines larger than twelve inches across were claimed to be the property of the king. They used the tallest of the king's pines for masts on the sailing ships.

The trees had to be 50-70 feet high and very straight. For the even bigger ships, the trees had to be up to 100 feet or more! They were so big that oxen had to pull the trees from the forests to the water.



This gundalow is a replica of the ones they made in Portsmouth in the 1700s.

Portsmouth was becoming famous for building wooden ships. Its port was deep enough to handle huge sailing ships.

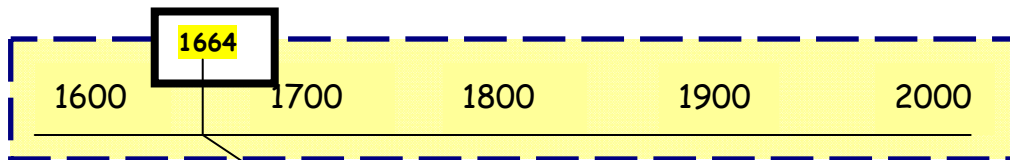
Now, besides shipbuilders, there were many other skilled crafters. They made furniture, they dyed cloth, they made guns and carriages, and they made clocks, watches, and jewelry. Others made things out of tin, gold, and silver. Those who made things out of wood were called **joiners**.

Did you know:

- gundalows were used to carry large logs and other supplies up and down the river?
- their masts folded down to go under low bridges?



This story was created by: Joseph and Laurel



At this time in history:
The British captured New York from the Dutch.



Jackson House

The oldest house in Portsmouth is the Jackson House, located on Jackson Hill by the North Mill Pond. It was built in 1664 and took 4 1/2 months for Richard Jackson to build.

Jackson was a farmer, a shipbuilder, and a **cooper**. You can still visit this house today.



Houses were very hard to heat back then. They had huge fireplaces and low ceilings. There were no windows on the north side of the house to keep it warm.

In the kitchen there were holes in the brick fireplaces that were used for ovens.

Every family made thread and yarn with a spinning wheel. A loom was used to make cloth and sheets and blankets.

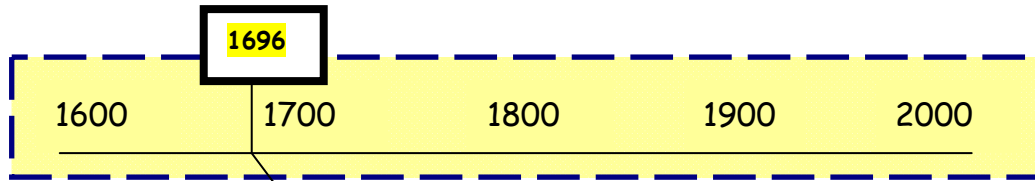
They made their own maple sugar from maple trees and kept bees for honey.



Did you know:

- Jackson's grandson, John, was delirious and had to spend much of his life in a little room upstairs that was cut in half?

This story was created by: Jack and Julia



At this time in history:
Benning Wentworth, a royal governor of New Hampshire, was born.



Indian Conflict

Early in the morning on June 26, 1696, a tribe of Native Americans attacked a small settlement in what is now known as the Plains baseball field. At that time, it was used as a training area for the **militia**.

The Indians broke into the houses and stole the valuables. Five houses and nine barns were burned by the Indians. Fourteen people including one slave were killed. Several others were wounded.



A quiver holds arrows.

One of the wounded people was Mary Brewster. She was related to William Brewster who came over on the Mayflower in 1620. Mary Brewster was found along a path nearby.

The people who found Brewster thought she was dead because her scalp was almost completely removed from her head. She also had a fractured skull. They were able to fix her head by using a silver plate and artificial hair.

Brewster later had four sons and lived to be 81 years old. Today, an old brick schoolhouse stands on the spot where she was found.

The Indians were never caught. They escaped by canoeing out towards the Isles of Shoals.

Did you know:

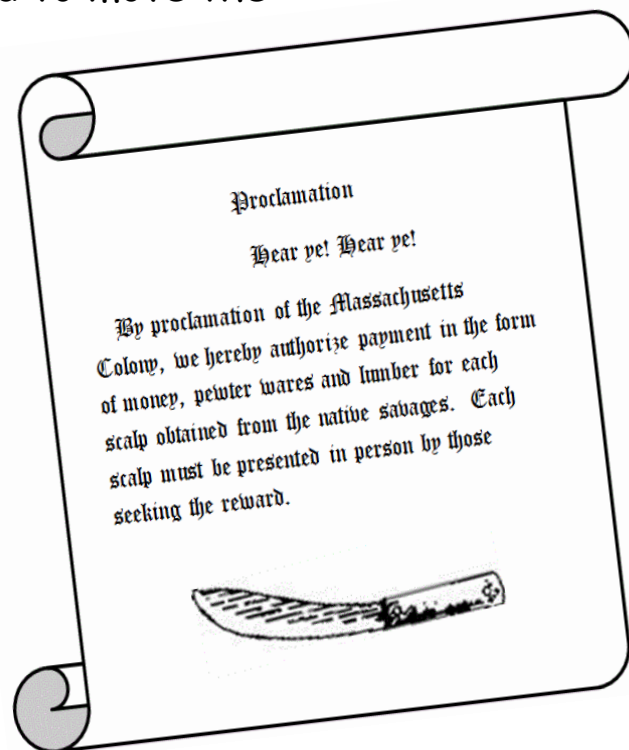
- this happened where many of you play baseball today?



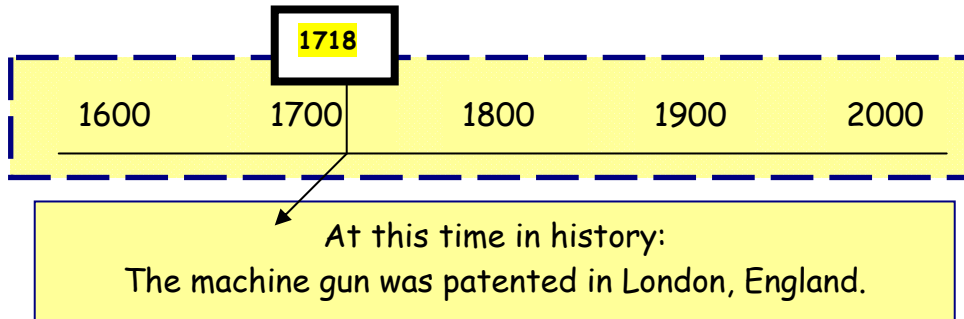
As horrible as this might sound, you have to remember that the Native Americans lived in this area long before the European settlers came. The Native Americans welcomed the settlers because they felt that the land belonged to everyone; no one could decide to take it for themselves. However, as more settlers came, they began to take the land from the natives and they brought disease to the tribes.

Colonial authorities wanted to move the Native Americans off the land so they could have it for themselves. The authorities encouraged the colonists to attack the natives and even offered a **bounty** for their scalps. The Native Americans themselves did not practice **scalping**.

It became retaliation against the colonists for what they were doing.



This story was created by: Justice and Isaiah



The Warner House

The Warner House is located at 150 Daniel Street at the corner of Chapel Street, close to Prescott Park in downtown Portsmouth. It is the oldest brick house in the city. Many famous people have lived there: the Sherburnes, the Penhallows, the Wendalls, the Warners, the Wentworths, and the Whipples.

Archibald McPheadris, a wealthy merchant from Scotland, built the house. He started the first ironworks in America and some of the iron fixtures in the house are from that ironworks.

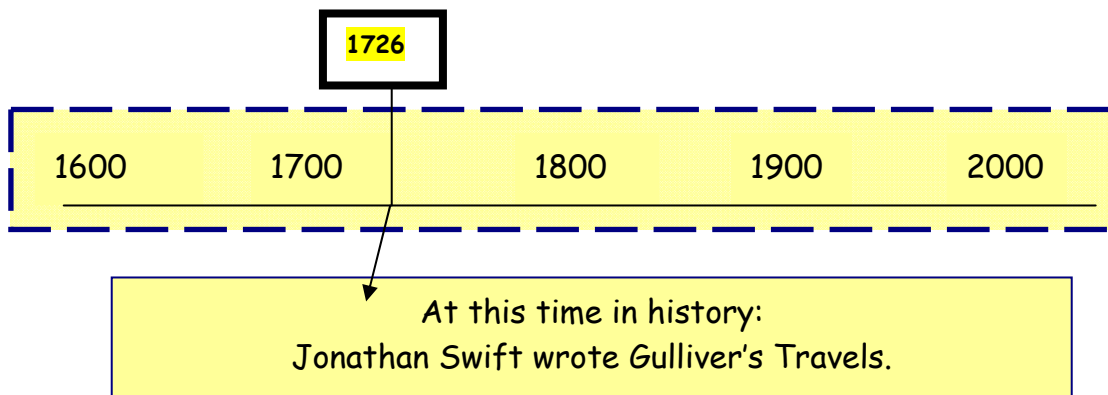
The massive walls are eighteen inches thick. The house is three stories high. It was once ranked as one of the most magnificent houses in the New World.



Did you know:

- that Marquis de LaFayette spilled his wine on the rug in the living room?
- in 1762, Benjamin Franklin is believed to have put the lightning rod on the Warner House.

This story was created by: Shaelyn and Kailey



Africa



Prince Whipple is buried in the North Cemetery on Maplewood Avenue.

Prince Whipple

Prince Whipple was an ordinary boy who lived in Amabau, Africa. He had rich parents who sent him to be educated in America, but a mean sea captain sold him as a slave in Portsmouth at the age of ten. William Whipple bought Prince Whipple at a slave auction. Prince's job as an **enslaved** man at the Moffatt-Ladd house was to be a butler. William Whipple owned another slave named Cuffee. They were brought up as brothers.

Prince Whipple's owner was a very important man. Because of William Whipple's connections, Prince Whipple was able to travel to many places with him.

Fortunately for Prince Whipple, he was given enough food to eat and a place to sleep. Prince Whipple was a smart man and William Whipple recognized that.

Since William Whipple was a general in the Revolutionary War, he often took Prince Whipple on trips with him. It was **ironic** that William Whipple was fighting for freedom for the English colonists but failed to give freedom to Prince Whipple.

Prince wanted to be freed but was not freed until 1785. We are not sure why.



Prince Whipple became a steward after he was freed.

Catharine Moffatt Whipple, widow of General Whipple, loaned land to Prince and Cuffee. The land was in the back corner of the garden. They moved a small house into the garden to live in.



After he was freed, he became a '**steward**' (person put in charge of a large household). Prince Whipple was especially important in the community. He was a **caterer** and a master of ceremonies in important functions and events in Portsmouth.

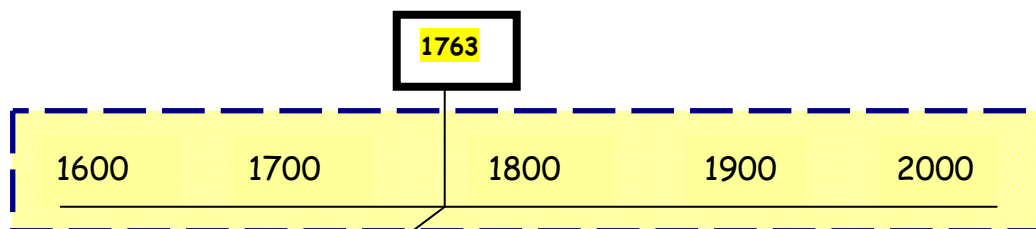
In 1796 Prince Whipple died. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the Old North Cemetery but researchers found his grave and put a gravestone there so he would not be forgotten.

Did you know:

- Prince Whipple only got to enjoy 12 years of freedom before he died?



This story was created by: Mark and Joseph

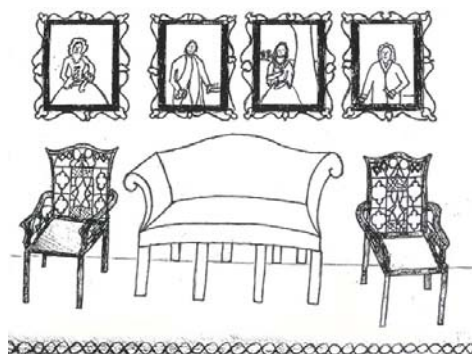


At this time in history:
 1763 was the end of the French and Indian War. It was also the end of the colonial era and the beginning of the American Revolution.



Moffatt- Ladd

The Mofatt-Ladd house is located on 154 Market Street overlooking the Piscataqua River. In 1760 John Moffatt, a wealthy sea captain, built this fine mansion for his son Samuel who married Sarah Mason.



The mansion has five floors counting the attic and basement. One of the most interesting rooms is the great hall, the largest room in the house. It had no fireplace and was very cold in the winter.

They held parties and dances for their wealthy friends in this room.

Did you know:

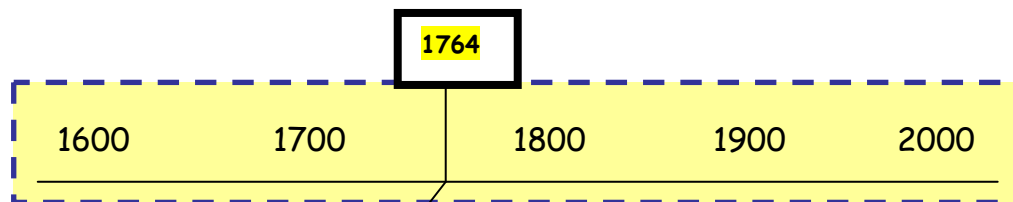
- Polly Moffatt was ten when she scratched her name and a short poem with a diamond on her window in her bedroom?
- General William Whipple brought back a horse chestnut tree from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he just signed the Declaration of Independence and that tree is still in front of the barn?

Samuel lost the house through poor business decisions and his father bought it back. Samuel took off to the West Indies to avoid jail, leaving his wife and children behind.

John Moffatt's daughter Catharine and her husband, William Whipple, moved into the house and raised Samuel and Sarah's children, named Polly and John.



This story was created by: Chris and Stephanie



At this time in history:
The Sugar Act brought about the protest "No taxation without representation!"



The Chase House

The Chase House was built in 1762 by John Underwood. It is located on the corner of Court Street and Washington Street. In 1799, it was bought by Stephen Chase, an important merchant whose family lived there for over a century.

The Chase house is one of the grandest structures at Strawberry Banke. John Wentworth, who was just

appointed governor, may have had his eye on this house as the official governor's residence.

There is fancy carved woodwork throughout the house that may have been done by a ship carver who owned the house for a short time. The **frieze** over the fireplace in the front parlor has a lot of detail.

The beds in the home have curtains around them. They

were for keeping warm air in, bugs and dust out, and for privacy.

After the last Chase (Sarah) lived in the home, it was purchased by Stephen's grandson, George, and donated as an **orphanage**.

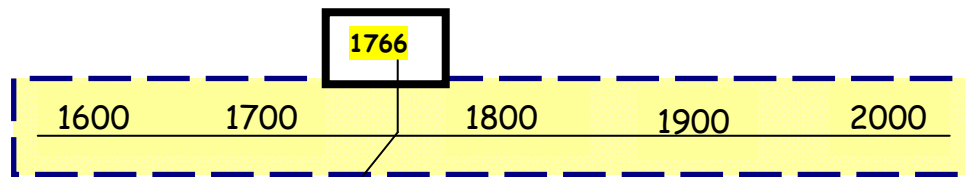
When the orphanage outgrew the space, it was purchased as a home by Mrs. Thomas Bailey Aldrich.

Did you know:

- that George Washington may have kissed the three small Chase girls when he was leaving from a visit?

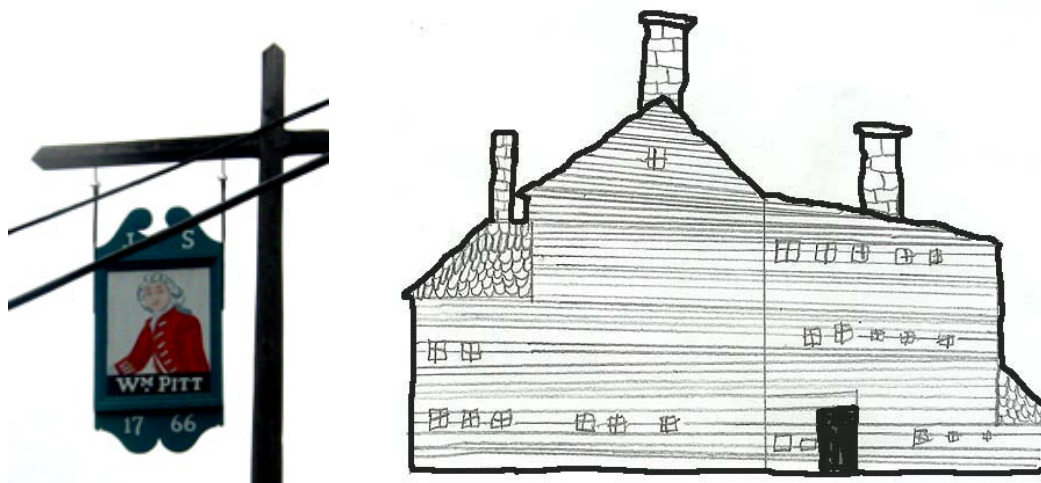


This story was created by: Jared and Michelle



At this time in history:

Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in March 1766. **The Stamp Act** put a tax on anything written on paper: legal documents, all publications, marriage licenses, and even playing cards.



The Pitt Tavern

The William Pitt Tavern is in Strawberry Banke near Prescott Park. It was built by John Stavers in 1766. It was originally called the Earl of Halifax Tavern, but Stavers was a **Tory** (he was *for* the king), and he knew the tavern could not stay open without changing the name to something the **Patriots** (who were *for* independence) would like. William Pitt was a famous Patriot who

everyone liked. After the name was changed, the tavern
 There were fourteen rooms
 with two beds in each room.
 Some rooms were fancy. They
 had feather beds and pillows.
 Others had straw, corn husk,
 or hay mattresses. There was
 a large kitchen that Mrs.
 Stavers and all seven children
 used to cook in. They served
 meals to the customers at any
 time of the day.



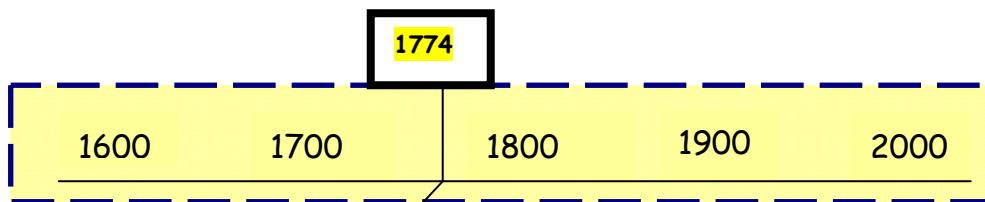
There was no electricity back
 then, so people used candles.
 There were fires in the
 fireplaces for light or people
 could sit near the windows until
 it got dark.



Did you know:

- sometimes total strangers shared a bed or slept on the floor when the tavern was full?
- a room cost \$3 a night?
- John Hancock, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, stayed here?

This story was created by: Joe and Dylan



At this time in history:
Joseph Priestly discovered oxygen.
England passed the Quartering Act that said the colonists had to let
English soldiers stay in their homes.



John Paul Jones

John Paul Jones was born in Scotland on July 6, 1747. He first went to sea at the age of thirteen on his father's ship. He used to be a captain of a slave ship but quit because he thought it was so awful.



In 1774, he came to America. He became a first lieutenant at the age of 28 on the ship *Alfred*, when the **Continental Congress** established the United States Navy.

Congress directed him to be the commander of the new sloop, *Ranger*, being built in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. It was the heaviest boat in the New World at that time.

While the *Ranger* was being built, John Paul Jones rented a room in the Purcell house, now known as the John Paul Jones' house, at 43 Middle Street. Many people believe he owned that house, but he only stayed there. After Mrs. Purcell became a widow, she rented rooms to make money.



Today the house is a museum. Some of the rooms are set up like they were in the 1700s. Other rooms are like a museum, with collections of many colonial artifacts like canes, dresses, shoes, and dolls.

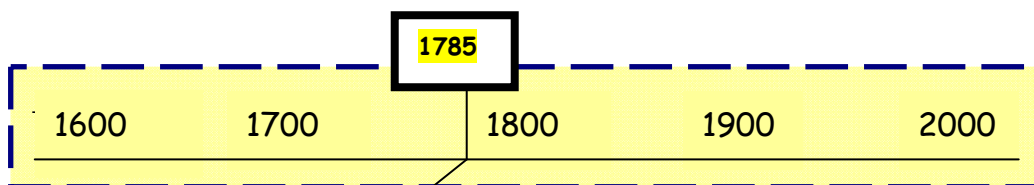
This is our NH State Seal with the frigate
Raleigh in the middle.
John Paul Jones sailed the *Raleigh* in 1777.



Did you know:

- John Paul Jones killed a man during a mutiny on his ship before coming to America?
- the John Paul Jones' house was used for a Sears paint commercial?
- at the age of 45 he died and he was buried in Paris, France but was later dug up and is now buried in Annapolis, Maryland?

This story was created by: Michael and Will



At this time in history:

Frenchman J.P. Blanchard supposedly was the first to actually use a parachute attached to a balloon. He dropped a dog in a basket that was attached to a parachute and a balloon high in the air.



Langdon House

John Langdon was born in 1741. He and his wife Elizabeth had two children, a son and a daughter. Their son died in childhood which left their daughter Elizabeth as their only heir.

At age 22, John Langdon was a sea captain who worked the Atlantic trade routes. He grew upset with the British rules on American trade, such as The Stamp Act. That's why he became active in government and politics. He wanted us to be free from the British rules.

In 1774, Langdon led 400 men to Fort William and Mary in Newcastle to take gun powder for the New Hampshire militia.



In 1776, our country needed warships and our people needed work. Langdon used his influence to get the job of building warships in Portsmouth. Langdon built the *Raleigh*, the *Ranger*, and the *America*.

Congress made privateering legal (this means it is ok to attack and capture British ships and seize their cargo). He was in charge of selling this cargo and was called the agent of prizes. He made a fortune by having several of his own privateering ships on the side.

In 1783, Elizabeth and John Langdon began building their home on Pleasant Street. The Langdons and their daughter Elizabeth moved into the house in 1785, the same year he became governor of New Hampshire. His mansion was a place for entertaining because he was very important in business and politics. In 1789, President George Washington visited the Langdon home.

In 1813, his wife of 36 years died. Langdon died in 1819.

Today, the house sits on two and a half acres with a wonderful garden in the rear.



Did you know:

- that John Langdon and his brother Woodbury each married their distant cousins, the Sherburne sisters?

This story was created by: Riley and Marissa

Look it up!

Glossary

barge: large, flat bottomed boat for carrying freight, usually in canals or rivers

bounty: a reward

caterer: a person who is in charge of providing food and drink

Continental Congress: a group of colonial leaders who met to form a new government for the colonies

cooper: a maker of barrels

enslave: to force someone to be a slave; to make someone lose their freedom.

frieze: a decorated or painted strip, usually along the top of the wall

gundalow: flat bottomed boat with one sail but mostly using tides to move

ironic: happening the opposite way that you would think

joiner: a person whose job it is to build things by joining pieces of wood

mastiff: a large dog usually used as a watchdog or guard dog

merchants: a buyer or seller of goods

militia: a group of citizens who are trained to fight in a time of emergency

orphanage: a place where children live who have no mother or father alive and are cared for

Patriots: a person who is on the side of the colonists revolting against the king

petitioner: a person who signs a paper (petition) asking those in power to change their actions

privateer: an armed ship not owned by the government that can fight in a war and capture enemy ships to steal their freight

quiver: a case for arrows

retaliation: take revenge

scalping: to remove the top of the head including the hair

settler: person who came to the new land to start a new life

settlement: a small village or group of houses

shallop: a large, heavy boat with one or more masts

Stamp Act: a law enacted by the king to collect money from the colonies. It taxed marriage licenses, newspaper, card games, land deeds, and even graduation diplomas.

steward: a person who is in charge of a large household

Tory: a person who chooses to side with the king

Credits

Patricia Ryan Perkins for original artwork.

Many of the historical facts are from:

<http://www.didyouknow.cd/history/year.htm>

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