

OUR MARITIME HERITAGE

A PISCATAQUA REGION TIMELINE

14,000 years ago	Glaciers melted
8,000 years ago	Evidence of seasonal human activity along the Lamprey River
2,000 years ago	Sea level reached today's current levels (approximately)
Before 1600	Native Americans had been in area for thousands of years
Early 1400s	Evidence of farming by Natives in Eliot
1500s	European explorers and fishermen visiting and trading in region
1524	Verrazano became first European to describe the Maine coast
Early 1600s	English settlements at Exeter, Dover, Hampton, and Kittery
Early 1600s	Native population devastated by European diseases
1602	Earliest landfall on the coast in York (claimed)
1607	Popham Colony established at Maine's Kennebec River; lasts barely a year
1603	Martin Pring arrived, looking for sassafras FISHING, BEAVER TRADE
1614	Captain John Smith created the first map of the region
1620	Pilgrims from the MAYFLOWER settled at Plimoth in Massachusetts Bay
1622-23	King James granted charters to Mason and Georges for Piscataqua Plantations
1623	Fishing settlements established at Odiorne Point and Dover (Hilton) Point
1623	Kittery area is settled; incorporated in 1647, billed as oldest town in Maine
1623	Simple earthen defense was built at Fort Point (later Fort William and Mary)
1624	Captain Christopher Levitt sailed up the York River
1630	Strawbery Banke settled by Captain Neal and band of Englishmen
1630	Europeans first settle below the falls on the Salmon Falls River
1631	Stratham settled by Europeans under Captain Thomas Wiggin
1632	Fort William and Mary established (now Fort Constitution)
1632	Trading post is built at Kittery Point (by Godfrey)
1632	John Tuttle began to farm on Dover Point (farm still exists)
1634	First shipment of masts sent to England
1634	The first water-driven mill was built in South Berwick
1634	Cattle were sailed up river to a settlement on the Salmon Falls (Cow Cove)
1634	The earliest tidemill on the Maine coast is built at York
1635	Europeans settled the Oyster River Plantation as part of Dover
1638	First Europeans settled in Newfields and Exeter
1638	Lower falls on Squamscott River were harnessed for a grist mill
1638	Greenland area established as parish of Strawberry Banke (Portsmouth)
1639	Province of Maine established by King Charles I
1639	Oyster River Plantation had become a sizable settlement of garrisons
1640	Captain Francis Champenowne established farm by the bay named Greenland
1640	Approximately 170 settlers were living and working at Strawberry Banke
1640	Trickey's Ferry operated between Bloody Point and Hilton Point (Newington)
1640	First sawmill in Portsmouth area built by the Cutts brothers
1641	Dover was part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony
1643	Cocheco River first used for water power (sawmill)
1647	Piscataqua Plantation on the east bank of the river renamed Kittery
1648	Richard Waldron's sawmill became first industry in Dover
1649	First gristmill built on the falls of the Oyster River (in Durham)
1650	Camp known as Quamphegan (Salmon Falls) sold by Wabanaki to local settler

1650		First gundalows (primitive) and numerous sawmills; FISHING @ Shoals
1652		First dam built on the Bellamy River
1652		Valentine Hill built a dam at the lower falls on the Lamprey River (Newmarket)
1653		The first sawmill is built on the Piscassic River (Newfields)
1653		Strawbery Banke petitioned Massachusetts to change name to Portsmouth
1654		Sawmills and grist mills built at Sturgeon Creek by the Shapleigh family
1660		Populations of Native Americans and European settlers were about even
1661		Naval frigate was built at Dover Point for the British
1662		The John Bray House is built in Kittery – Oldest surviving house in Maine
1670		A sawmill was established on the Winnicut River
1677		Province of Maine is sold to Massachusetts
1675		Prince Phillip’s War (Native American rebellion)
1679		Dover became part of the New Hampshire province
1679		New Castle chartered as a parish of Portsmouth
1689		Cochecho massacre occurred in the Dover area
1692		Gundalows help build William and Mary Castle (New Castle)
1693		New Castle incorporated and named after the fort
1694		Oyster River Massacre (Abenaki with the French)
1696		King William’s War
1700		Great Bay filled with oysters, clams, eels, salmon, flounder, herring, etc.
Early	1700s	Flag Hill Farm (Lee) is established along the Lamprey River (still exists)
Early	1700s	Gundalows were partially decked; some had small square sails
Early	1700s	Portsmouth becomes one of greatest industrial ports in the Colonies
By	1700	Approximately 90 working sawmills in region – The first water pollution!
By	1700	The Piscataqua Maritime Region had been clear cut
1703-1713		Queen Anne’s War (third Indian War)
1705		Piscataqua Region is one of world’s most densely industrialized areas
1708		Portsmouth is a busy port, involved in trading fish for rum, sugar, and molasses
1710		Samuel Weeks built a brick house in Greenland (oldest still standing in NH)
1710		Boon Island was immortalized by author Kenneth Roberts
1713		Territories of the Berwicks set off from Plantations of Piscataqua (Kittery)
1716		Oyster River Plantation was declared a parish
1716-18		Warner House built in Portsmouth by owner of mill on the Salmon Falls River
1720		Colony of Massachusetts Bay began work on Fort William (now Ft McClary)
1721		Greenland became a town
1722-27		Prosperous shipbuilding era begins in the Piscataqua Region
1725		Newington Town Forest established; one of the oldest in the country
1729		Rollinsford was a part of Summersworth Parish, part of Dover
1732		Oyster River Plantation was incorporated as Durham
1739		Boundary was established between New Hampshire and Province of Maine
1739		Piscataqua area defended itself from France and Spain in King George’s War
1740s		The Hancock Warehouse was built along the York River
1750		French and Indian War
1754		Somersworth was incorporated (spelling changed due to clerical error)
1761		Captain Sewall built a bridge across the York River
1756		NH Gazette’s first issue (still in print)
1774		Paul Revere rode to Portsmouth to warn of British munitions blockade
1774		Powder taken from Fort William and Mary (Paul Revere) using gundalows
1775		Major John Demerit (Madbury) hauled stolen powder to Bunker Hill

1775	First bridge was built between Stratham and Newfields
1775	Exeter became the state's revolutionary capital
1777	US Navy built and commissioned their first ship built in Kittery
1775-1783	Revolutionary War
1776- 1781	Portsmouth became major revolutionary port for supplies from France
1782	Gun ship <i>America</i> was built in Kittery and commanded by John Paul Jones
1783	First custom house in the region
1785	Hamilton House is built on the Salmon Falls River (South Berwick)
1792	Dover served as the state capital
1793	Eli Whitney patented on the cotton gin
1794-95	First bridge from Newington to Dover Point, built across Goat Island
1795	Peak of trade with the West Indies
1790-1820	Bridge-building fever grips the Piscataqua Region
1800 -1801	Fifty seaworthy vessels are built and launched along the Oyster River
1800	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard established to build vessels for war and service
1801	First piped water in the region
Early 1800s	Beginning of major period of local brick industry (remove clay from riverbank)
1800s	Heyday of the gundalows, which now have rudders, tillers ,and lateen rigs
1800s	Textile mills lead to development of Salmon Falls Village
1801	First piped water system
1807	Jefferson's Embargo Act contributed to the decline in shipping in the region
1808	A gundalow sank with a load of iron and inspired the invention of a diving bell
1808	Fort William and Mary was rebuilt as Fort Constitution
1810	Eliot, Maine is separated from Kittery and incorporated
1810-40	A sheep craze changed the landscape, with 100,000 miles of stone walls
1812	The War of 1812; embargo devastated trade and shipping
1812	Cocheco Mill (cotton factory) opened in Dover
1821	Bridges connected northwestern corner of New Castle with Portsmouth
1822	Great Falls Manufacturing Company opened on the Salmon Falls River
1823	Newmarket Manufacturing Co. became the area's largest shoe factory
1824	A mill was built in Exeter that manufactured potato starch into fabric sizing
1825	Portsmouth was New Hampshire's largest city; Dover was second
1827	Cocheco Mills manufactured first calico made in the United States
1830	Exeter Manufacturing Company began producing cotton sheeting
1828	The first strike by women in the US occurred at Cocheco Mills, Dover
1830s	The "great age of textiles" began
1839	Bicycles appeared as an alternative to horses
1840	Factories in Dover first used coal for heating (delivered by gundalows)
1840	Approximately 200 ships arrived in the port of Dover
1840	The value of goods shipped between Dover and Portsmouth was ~\$2.4 million
1841	First railroads arrive in the NH/ME seacoast area
1845- 1860	Era of clipper ships - - and construction of them in the region
1851	Hanscom Shipyard launched clipper ship <i>Nightengale</i>
1849	Rollinsford separated from Somersworth
1858	Machinery was first used in brickmaking
1860	Edward H. Adams born
1820-1870	The Industrial revolution
1861--1865	The Civil War cuts off trade with the south
1865	Farms were abandoned and reverted to forest after the Civil War

1870	First steam tug permanently stationed on the Piscataqua River
1870	South Berwick Gundalow Captain Gooch Cheney's worth valued at \$1600
1874	Hotel Wentworth was constructed overlooking Little Harbor in New Castle
1875	The cost for a new gundalow is \$1500
1880	New Hampshire produces 54 million bricks
1880	Oxbow was cut into the Squamscott to create a better shipping channel
1886	Captain Adams built the gundalow <i>Fannie M.</i>
1889	University (NH) established
1891	Captain Hypie Philpot of Rollinsford delivered cargo on gundalows
1893	Start of the Great Depression
1895	The town of Newfields was incorporated
1896	Ravaging winter storm ended Dover's shipping – Landing never recovered
1903-04	First electric cars (Atlantic Shoreline trolleys) ran from Dover to York
1903	Dr. Willis drove first automobile in Eliot
1905	Henderson's Point on the Piscataqua River was blown up and removed
1905	Treaty of Portsmouth was signed at the Navy Yard to end Russo-Japanese War
1907	Puddle Dock tidal waterway was filled in (now Strawberry Banke)
1910	The last commercial gundalow, <i>Fannie M.</i> , ceased operations
1910	Water quality in Oyster River Watershed had noticeably declined
1914	Portsmouth Navy Yard selected to construct first government submarine
1917	First submarine launched from the Navy Yard
1912-1918	World War I – Portsmouth builds wood and steel vessels
1928	The Memorial Bridge connects Portsmouth and Kittery
1933	Work began on the creation of Prescott Park
1935	UNH Water Treatment plant went online
1941	United States enters World War II
1948	First law enacted to protect water (Federal Water Pollution Control Act)
1950-53	Korean War
1950	A low, fixed railroad bridge permanently cut off river traffic on the Squamscott
1950	Captain Adams and son Cass launched the <i>Driftwood</i> , built over 20 years
1952	Eminent domain used to acquire land for Pease Air Force Base
1957	NH State Legislature created the State Port Authority
1958	Strawbery Banke was formed to work on restoration of local neighborhood
1960	The Bellamy River is dammed to create a reservoir for Portsmouth
1961-75	Viet Nam War
1969	Portsmouth Navy Yard built its final submarine
1972	Clean Water Act was put into law
1973	Aristotle Onassis attempted to build an oil refinery along Great Bay (SOS)
1982	Replica gundalow <i>Captain Edward H. Adams</i> launched
1992	Pease Air Force Base is closed and converted to high tech trade port
2000	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard converted to natural gas, reducing pollution
2001	The nonprofit Gundalow Company takes charge of the <i>Captain Adams</i>
2004	Head-of-tide dam on the Bellamy River was removed (Dover)
2009	Head-of-tide dam on the Winnicut River was removed (Greenland)
2011	Gundalow Company launched the <i>Piscataqua</i>