

City of Chelsea - TIMELINE

Year	
Pre-Colonial Contact Eras	Early & Middle Woodland Period – 3000 to 1200 BCE Late Woodland – 1200 to 400 BCE Classic – 400 BCE to 1200 CE Post Classic – 1200 CE to European contact
1523-1524	The Narragansett and Delaware Indians encounter Verrazano as he travels along the Atlantic coast. His narrative is the earliest known first-hand description by Europeans of the people of the Atlantic coast.
1580	Over 500 European vessels a year fished off Newfoundland and Georges Bank, making North American fisheries a big European industry. French fisherman reported that it took less than 10 days to sail from St Malo, France to Georges Bank.
1603	Samuel de Champlain makes contact with the Algonquian-speaking and Iroquois tribes and explores the New England coast as far south as Cape Cod. In 1608 he founded the settlement of Quebec for France. The French pattern of engagement is based on trading posts and allied Christian missions attached to existing Indian villages, rather than English colonies of permanent settlers.
1607	105 English colonists with their governor, Captain John Smith, settle In Jamestown
1609	Henry Hudson claims New York for the Netherlands and trades furs for alcohol with tribes on the Hudson River.
1614	John Smith, from his colony in Jamestown, explores Boston Harbor. 3000 Massachuset people live in 20 villages around Boston Bay divided into 6 subtribes named after their chiefs or sachems.
1615	Tarratine tribe (territory is present day northern New Hampshire/Maine) raid the Penobscots (present day southern New Hampshire). The Pawtuckets (territory included present day Chelsea, Mystic River Watershed) come to aid the Penobscots.
1614--1619	Three epidemics of European diseases strike. Significant deaths among the Pawtuckets. Study reports morality rate as high as 90%. Disease was believed to have been spread by European fisherman using temporary stations on the coast to process their catch. Nanepasemet and his family sheltering from the Tarratines in fort on Mystic escape illness.
1619	Tarratines take revenge. Chief of Pawtuckets Nanepashemet killed. Widow Squaw Sachem of Mistick leads the Pawtucket confederation with her sons "Sagamores" functioning in various areas.

1619	In the Virginia colony of Jamestown there are 1000 English colonists. The first African slaves are sent there this year and a School for Indian children opens.
November 3, 1620	Plymouth and Kingston are settled by colonists. King James grants to the Council at Plymouth in Devon, England control of America “between 40 and 48 degrees of north latitude, from sea to sea, in fee that paying to the King one-fifth of all the gold and silver obtained from the country.” ¹
1622	Powhatan uprising against the Jamestown colony. The royal British Virginia Company orders the extermination of all Powhatans and forbids making peace on any terms.
1623	Gloucester and Rockport are settled by English colonists.
1624	Samuel Maverick – age of 22 - builds a palisade house near what is now Admirals Hill with brother Elias Maverick and John Blackbach/Blackstone – becomes first settlement. Eventually holds title to much of Winnisimmet, Pullen Point and Noddles Island. Duxbury and Hull are settled by English colonists.
1625	John Blackbach/Blackstone settles in Boston.
March 19, 1627/8	Sir Henry Rosewell and associates acquire from Wonohaquaham (Sagamore John) (1608-1633)S of the Pawtuckets “all of New England from sea to sea, lying between the Charles and the Merrimack rivers, including 3 miles south of the Charles and 3 miles north of the Merrimack ² Some scholars claim early transfer to colonists of property by Indians (led by Sachem Passaconaway of the Pennacook tribe to the north) was to build needed alliances against the Tarratines.
March 4, 1628/9	King James grants Sir Henry Rosewell and associated charter as “The Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in Newe England” with power to set up local colonial government ³ Company stock holders receive a certain number of acres, immigrants not of the company provision of land based on size of household (family and servants). Ownership deeds were granted to “old planters” outside the company, without regard to indigenous peoples. ⁴
September 6, 1628	First members of the “Company of the Massachusetts Bay in Newe England” under John Endecott and Higginson arrive in Salem. In late autumn, form a settlement in Winthrop. Primary goal stated as missionary “to bring the Indians to the knowledge of the Gospel.” ⁵ Chamberlain reports on the successful “repule of the Indians in their assault on Samuel Maverick’s Palisade House.” ⁶

¹ History of Chelsea p 82

² History of Chelsea p 82

³ History of Chelsea p 83

⁴ History of Chelsea p 88

⁵ John Eliot’s Mission to the Indians before King Philips War by Richard Cogley p 1

⁶ History of Chelsea Vol II p 350

1629	Massachusetts Bay operates as a theocracy. John Winthrop elected as Governor and goes on to serve for 18 annual terms as governor or lieutenant-governor. He was a force of comparative moderation clashing with the more conservative Thomas Dudley and the more liberal Richard Bellingham and Henry Vane.
September 7, 1630	Naming of towns was the equivalent of their incorporation. General Court declares: "Trimountaine shalbe called Boston; Mattapan, Dorchester; & the towne vpon Charles Ryver, Watertown." "Massachusetts towns...sprang up on the soil as they were needed, and were recognized as quasi corporations as early as 1632 although their powers were not defined by the General Court until 1636." ⁷ Between 1630 and 1643 20,000 English arrive in New England.
1630-1640	Series of laws passed to restrict rights of Indians – controlled use of guns, no purchase of silver, gold, powder, shot, glue or alcohol. No house-to-house sales. Court approval required for Indians to sell land or repair their guns. Rules on preventing and compensating re English cattle harming Indian corn planting ⁸
1631	First ferry service from Chelsea to Boston founded by Thomas (Theodore?) Williams Life was regularly embattled for Indians and colonists. August 8, 1631: "The Tarentines, to the number of one hundred, came in three canoes, and in the night assaulted the wigwam of the sagamore of Agawam, by Merimack, and slew seven men, and wounded John Sagamore, and James, and some others, (whereof some died after,) and rifled a wigwam where Mr. Cradock's men kept to catch sturgeon, took away their nets and biscuit, etc."
1633	Smallpox kills many Pawtuckets including Wonohaquaham (Sagamore John) (1608-1633) and Montowampate (Sagamore James) – their deaths were recorded by Governor Winthrop, 12/5/1633 Wenepoykin (Sagamore George) with his mother <u>Saunskwa of Missitekwa</u> (called Squaw Sachem of Mistick by the colonists) remain as tribal leaders of Chelsea area
1632-35	After Mass court in 1634 orders Winnisimmet, Rumney Marsh and Pullen Point part of Boston, lines are fixed. Second ferry service from Chelsea granted to Maverick
1634	Governor Bellingham buys Winnisimmet and the control of the ferry from Samuel Maverick. Maverick at the time was in legal troubles.
1635	Maverick-Blackleach sells Winnisimmet to Richard Bellingham. Maverick relocates to Noddles Island

⁷ History of Chelsea page 85

⁸ History of Chelsea page 69

1636-1637	<p>Pequot War. A war for control of trade and territory between the Dutch allied with Pequot Indians fighting against English colonists of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth and Sabrook Counties allied with Mohegan, Wampanoag, Narraganett and Algonquian tribes. Massachusetts Bay forces dispatched to Rhode Island and Connecticut.</p> <p>700 Pequot killed on May 26, 1637. Others sold as slaves in Bermuda or the West Indies or dispersed as captives to victorious tribes.</p> <p>Scholars believe the ending term of many indentured servants provided motivation for the war. The European concept of a “just war” facilitated the enslavement of the Pequot captives, mostly women and children. Slaves were divided among the militia as reward for fighting.</p> <p>Harvard College is founded.</p>
January 8, 1637/8	<p>“The great Allotments at Rumney Marsh and Pullen Point” - grants lands (other than those owned by Bellingham). Among the new owners of modern day Chelsea was Henry Vane. By 1651/2 owned by Aaron Way and William Ireland of Dorchester: “...Boston chose a committee of leading men to divide the lands of the own among the inhabitants.”</p> <p>In Rumney Marsh twenty-one parcels sold, gradually reduced by sale and repurchase to 7 farms -- those of Parker, Newgate, Keayne, Cogan, Tuttle, Cole, and Penn.</p> <p>English Puritans establish the first Indian reservation in Connecticut.</p>
1639	<p>Saunskwa Mysticke (Squaw Sachem of Mistick) as leader of Pawtucket Confederation deeds to colonists (Jotham Gibbons?) much of greater Boston including modern day Cambridge, Watertown, Newton, Arlington (Menotomy), Somerville, Malden and Charlestown.</p>
1641	<p>First County Road between Winnisimet/Ferry mooring and Salem built.</p> <p>Massachusetts becomes the first colony to authorize slavery by legislation with the passage of the “Body of Liberties.” Slaves could legally be obtained if they were captives resulting from war, sold themselves into slavery, were purchased as slaves from elsewhere, or were sentenced to slavery through the governing authority. Using a biblical reference accommodating the slavery of “strangers” citizens of the colony took “strangers” to mean Native Americans and Africans.</p> <p>Some particularities of the state’s law.</p>
1642-1648	<p>Civil War in England and Scotland</p>
1644	<p>Indigenous leaders including Squaw Sachem sign document placing themselves under Massachusetts government and consenting to Christianity. Document signed March 8, 1643/1644.</p>
Before 1650	<p>Bellingham divides his property into 4 farms.</p>

1651	<p>Wenepoykin (Sagamore George) forced north to Lowell. Appeals to Mass court for return of his land. Mass Court rules against him fearing success of other claims:</p> <p>In Plymouth (and Boston?) Court outlaws the provisioning of Native Americans with weapons unless "they bee Indians that have been servants for diuers yeares and are in a good measure ciuilised and approued of by the Gouvernor and assistants"</p>
1659	Deputy Governor Bellingham builds a hunter lodge at Chelsea's Powderhorn Hill
1660	More than 40,000 English colonists have settled in the Massachusetts Bay, arriving at the rate of 1,000 each year.
1663	John Eliot, the leading Puritan missionary in New England, with native help translates the Bible into a dialect of the Massachusett language and publishes his work in 1663 – the first Bible published in America. Native Americans in Massachusetts encouraged to live in 14 " praying towns " – designated Christian communities for Indian converts.
1669	"Praying Indians", mostly Nipmucs west of Boston, induced to attack Mohawks of western Mass and New York. Mohawks prevail.
1675-1678	<p>King Philip's War – aka First Indian War, Metacomet's War.</p> <p>For Indians, "Extermination, if not the law, was the fact."</p> <p>The desire for captives formed a "central preoccupation" for the colonists. Hundreds of captives—both combatants and non-combatants—were taken as slaves by the colonial militia, sold to Massachusetts households, or shipped abroad to pay the colonies' war debt.</p> <p>Indian Imprisonment and Exclusion Act bans indigenous residents from living within Boston's city limits. (Though unenforced in modern times, it was not formally stricken from the books until 2004.)⁹</p> <p>Massachusetts Council orders the imprisonment of all Christian Indians. Pawtuckets including Sagamore George and 500 to 1000 of the Nipmuc tribe (modern Natick area) imprisoned at Deer Island¹⁰ A year later half are dead from hunger and exposure.</p> <p>New laws require all captured Indian males over the age 14 to be sold as slaves outside of Plymouth Colony. Indians who had been servants to the Colonists for many years were exempted.</p> <p>Native American servants are no longer permitted to "vse guns for fowling or other exercise." If a Native American servant was found with a gun, the master of that servant was required to forfeit all his weapons for the use of the Colony.</p>

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1682	First captivity narrative published. Mary Rowlandson of Deerfield Massachusetts shares tales of her captivity among the Indians. The popular genre used to justify harsh treatment of Indians.
1684	Wenepoykin (Sagamore George) dies in the home of his nephew, James Rumney Marsh. This can be seen as a mark of the end of the Pawtuckets as a distinct tribe. See also ¹¹ James Quonopohit Rumney Marsh (Pawtucket and Nipmuc lineages) becomes Sagamore.
1685	<p>Colonist version of history: “The Indians about Boston were few and were neither useful nor respectable.”¹² .^[1] There were now many more European settlers living in Naumkeag territories than Naumkeag, many of whom had relocated to Natick as praying Indians, been killed in King Philip's War, fled north to join the burgeoning Wabenaki Confederacy, or been sold into slavery in Barbados.</p> <p>While fewer Native Americans were formally enslaved via capture, colonial courts would sentence indigenous residents in the colony to terms of involuntary servitude for alleged thefts, a failure to pay debts, or committing acts of violence. Abuses were common, terms were long, and involuntary servants with terms over two years could be sold and exchanged around the region.</p> <p>New Sagamore James Quonopohit of Rumney Marsh was living in the Natick praying town and as sagamore holds title to Naumkeag land. Following the restoration of the English monarchy the charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was revoked in 1684, requiring established New England settlements to justify their right to occupy land granted under a now invalid charter. Quonopohit and his kin presented their claims to rightful ownership and were eventually paid for deeds to the present day towns of Marblehead (1684), Lynn, Saugus, Swampscott, Lynnfield, Wakefield, North Reading, and Reading (1686), Salem (1687).</p>
1692-1693	Salem Witch Trials
1701	<p>Africans become the primary population of enslaved people. Estimates put the number of African slaves brought to Massachusetts between 1638 and 1770 at 13,500 people.</p> <p>Enslaved people were part of the community of Chelsea. For example, (Capt?) John Floyd, landowner in Chelsea since 1640 upon his death left in his will 8 slaves. Men named Jack and Tom were left to his widow, Dick to his son Hugh, Caesar & Sarah & and their youngest child James to son John, Harry to his Daniel, Lydia to his daughter Sarah.¹³ See also slave owning of Bellingham/Watts family¹⁴</p>

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	And Nicholas Paige whose assets included five enslaved men. Among them Jack Bill engaged as a servant in livery who ran away in 1708. ¹⁵
1709	First Free School established in Rumney Marsh
1710	Rumney Marsh meeting house established 1710 which sets stage for independence from Boston. First Church established with Minister Thomas Cheever installed later in 1715
1721 or 1732	Grist mill (Slade Mill on Chelsea Creek) built
January 10 (or 11?), 1739	Chelsea established as a town independent of Boston. Areas then known as Winnisimmet Village, Rumney Marsh and Pullin Point, today as Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere and parts of Saugus
1764	Smallpox epidemic in Boston
1772	Freed negroes owned property in Chelsea. "Eight acres...between the Country road, (now Washington Avenue) and the farm of John Grover in Malden, were sold by William Oliver to Tower Hill, a free negro of Malden. When the direct tax of 1798 was assessed, this land was owned by Simon Knights and Sampson Bassett, both free negroes." ¹⁶
1775-1783	American Revolution May 27, 1775 - Battle of Chelsea Creek July 1775 - General Washington visits Thomas Pratt House
1781-1783	Three Massachusetts court cases together known as "the Quock Walker case" applied the principle of judicial review to effectively abolish slavery by declaring it incompatible with the newly adopted state Constitution in 1783. By 1790 the Massachusetts census reported no slaves.
1795	"Negro Insurrection of 1795" in the West Indies impacts sugar plantations including property in Grenada owned by the Cary family of Chelsea.
1803	Chelsea-Charlestown bridge built, Salem Turnpike built
1812-1815	War of 1812
April 6, 1812	Town of Chelsea claimed by vote that present day Revere Beach was never granted to any private entity and has been and remains public land. (Boundaries of land grants were to the beach, not to the sea.) ¹⁷
1826	Stone Marine Hospital built. US Naval Hospital in 1828

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1830-1870	Early Industrial Period: beginning of Irish and Italian immigration shift from single family houses to double and row houses shipbuilding industry spurs machine and boiler factories later railroad and related heavy industry and freight transportation/storage displace the declining shipbuilding trades. period of significant landfilling, Smith Hill on Noddles Island was leveled and the soil used to fill adjacent marsh
1831	Early Industrial Period (1830-1870) is a period of population expansion and land development. Steam Ferry opens. First house in Ferry village built by Joseph S Edwards ¹⁸
1834	Chelsea St-East Boston bridge built
1838	Eastern Railroad – steam railroad through Revere
1841	Panhandle area of Chelsea set off to form Saugus Population triples from 1830 to 1840 from 770 to 2182
1843	The imprisonment of George Latimer, father of famed inventor Lewis Latimer, results in the passage of Liberty Act , dubbed the "Latimer Law," prohibiting state officials from taking part in the recapture of fugitive slaves. Within a few years other northern state adopt similar laws.
March 19, 1846	North Chelsea (what is now Revere and Winthrop) become a separate town with separation of Chelsea (Winnissimet) along Mill Creek Population doubles in 5 years from 2182 to 4100
September 17, 1848	Senator Abraham Lincoln speaks in Chelsea
1849	Grand Junction railroad with connection to Eastern Railroad built
1852	Winthrop becomes a separate town from Revere at Short Beach Creek.
1855	Meridian Street to East Boston built
1857	Chelsea granted charter as a city. Population roughly doubles in 5 years from 5,700 in 1849 to 10,153 in 1855 In "first wave of (modern) immigration" population Increase of 24x between 1830 & 1870

¹⁸ History of Chelsea page 77

1861-1865	US Civil War
1868	14 th Amendment extends citizenship rights and equal protection under the law for formerly enslaved people. Amendment interpreted to exclude Native peoples.
1869	Indian Enfranchisement and Allotment Act of Massachusetts - grants citizenship to members of all the tribes residing in the state and voting rights to Native men
1870-1915	Late Industrial Period populations continue to grow and change housing stock continues trend toward multi-family, multi-level homes and row houses Heavy industry, ship and railroad maintenance, manufacturing trades, and warehouses replaced shipbuilding along the waterfront.
1871	North Chelsea renamed Revere 1871. (Revere is later incorporated as city in 1914.)
1875	Boston Revere Beach and Lynn Railroad built
1882	Soldiers Home opens in former site of Highland Park Hotel
1887	Dawes Act to force assimilation dissolves Native American tribes as legal entities, takes control tribal lands and establishes Indian schools.
1898-1902	Spanish American War
April 12, 1908	Great Fire of Chelsea
September 19, 1912	President Taft visits Chelsea
1917-1918	World War I
1924	Snyder Act/Indian Citizenship Act admits Native Americans born in the U.S. to full U.S. citizenship but does not guarantee voting rights.
1915-1950	Early Modern Period Population peaks just after WWI Landfilling and bulkheading activities continued to alter the landscape. industrial, manufacturing, and maritime industrial base persists through World War II. warehousing and bulk storage support the growing international airport Automobile impacts roadways
1941-1945	World War II
1950	Tobin Bridge opens
October 14, 1973	'73 Fire of Chelsea

1991	Chelsea in receivership
1995	New City Charter