



# A Marriage Made in Hell ~~Hell~~ Boston

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*Celebrating Maine's Bicentennial*

The Falmouth Historical Society

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Falmouth Heritage Museum



# Caveat Audiens!

This presentation is my interpretation of historical events.

- Not surprisingly, Falmouth-centered

There is something here to offend almost everyone.



*Off the Reservation: Nothing herein is an official statement or rigorously researched & peer-reviewed product of the Falmouth Historical Society*

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# Hurrah!

Maine celebrates its “emancipation from Massachusetts” on March 15, 2020.

How did Maine come to be “enslaved” by Massachusetts in the first place?

Short answer: “Kicking and screaming”



*Maine Bicentennial Flag*

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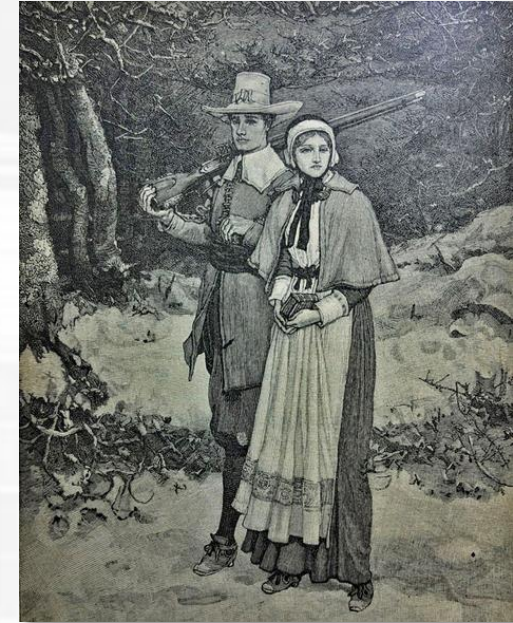
# Today

## The First Chapter (& 1/2) in the Tale

Chapter I      Courtship & Nuptials  
1652-1691

Chapter II     The Dysfunctional Marriage  
1658-1819

Chapter III    The Messy Divorce  
1785-1820



*Puritan Marriage*

Let's begin with a flash-back to high school history class...

*Image: iStock*

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# England

More...

1633-1640	<b>William Laud is Archbishop of Canterbury</b>
1640-1668	Portuguese Restoration War
1642-1651	<b>English Civil War</b>
1652-1654	1 <sup>st</sup> Anglo Dutch War
1654-1660	Anglo-Spanish War
1660	<b>Restoration of Monarchy</b>
1665-1666	Great Plague of London
1665-1667	2 <sup>nd</sup> Anglo-Dutch War
1666	Great Fire of London
1672-1674	3 <sup>rd</sup> Anglo-Dutch War
1688-1697	<b>Nine Years' War</b>



Kings of England and Lord Protector of the Commonwealth



James I  
(1603-1625)



Charles I  
(1625-1649)



Cromwell  
(1653-1658)



Charles II  
(1660-1685)

*Among the most tempestuous periods of English history!*



# Massachusetts

1620	Pilgrims establish Plymouth Colony
1630	Winthrop Fleet establishes Massachusetts Bay Colony
1633	Great Migration Begins
1639	Great Migration Ends
<b>1652-1658</b>	<b>Massachusetts annexes Maine</b>
<b>1665</b>	<b>King nullifies annexation</b>
<b>1668</b>	<b>Mass. re-annexes Maine</b>
<b>1675-1678</b>	<b>King Philip's War</b>
<b>1688-1697</b>	<b>King William's War</b>



## Key Governors of Massachusetts Bay Colony



John  
Winthrop



John  
Endecott



# Who Were the Puritans?

Very conservative evangelical Christians?

Non-conformist Protestants?

Separatists?

Traitors and heretics?

Pressure to “conform” became intense

Consequences of not conforming could be severe

For the staunchest believers, emigration was the answer



*Puritan Chapel in England*



# Massachusetts

## Puritan theocracy

- No daylight between church and state
- Not much tolerance for other religions

## Puritan emigration took off in 1633

- Archbishop Laud threatened to bring down the hammer of ecclesiastical justice on Puritans
- The Great Migration

## Puritans sailing to Massachusetts

- Largely middle-class and many from East Anglia
- Entire groups emigrated together



*Puritans in Massachusetts*

*About 14,000 by 1660*





# Maine

1607-1608	Popham Colony (Fails)
1620	Royal charter granted for Council of New England
1623	Settlement at Kittery
1624	Settlement at York
1630-1633	Settlements near Casco Bay
1652-1658	<b>Massachusetts annexes Maine</b>
1665	<b>King nullifies annexation</b>
1668	<b>Mass. re-annexes Maine</b>
1675-1678	<b>King Philip's War</b>
1688-1697	<b>King William's War</b>



Map "New England Colonies in 1677"  
downloaded from [nationalgeographic.org](http://nationalgeographic.org), extracted  
and edited to show Maine towns in 1677



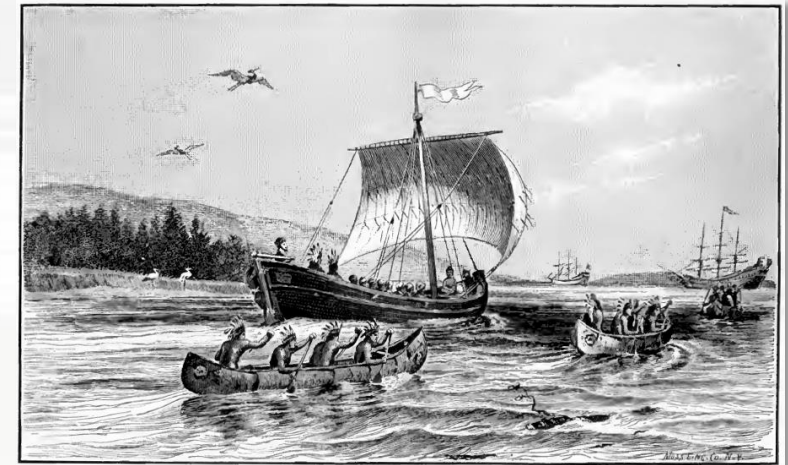
# Maine

## Plantations in the wilderness

- Land parceled out to gentry
- Overlapping grants led to incessant squabbling

## Apart from “Great Migration”

- Settlers more likely to come from western counties in England
- Largely Anglican



*Shallop in Casco Bay*

*About 1,000 by 1660*

*Image from Po in the Past*

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# 1652 in Massachusetts

The English Civil War is over

- Cromwell and the Roundheads won
- King Charles I was deposed (and decapitated)
- Bishops were abolished
- “Purification” of English churches is underway

Maine is in disarray

- Squabbles have worsened
- Landowners have aligned into camps

Massachusetts sees an opportunity



*Roundhead  
Soldier*



# Creative Cartography

## Massachusetts “reinterprets” its northern border

- *The General Court “voted that upon perusal of their charter, the extent of their line is to be from the northernmost part of the river Merrimack, and three miles more north, and thence upon a strait line east and west to each sea.”*
- Mass. border moves into Maine (Falmouth-Cumberland town line)
- New Hampshire and Maine object



*New Massachusetts Border (in red)*



# Annexation

## The Commissioners visit Maine

- Sent by the General Court in Boston to visit each town and “Make them an offer they can’t refuse”
- No need to mention the three regiments of Massachusetts militia

## One by one, the towns caved

- Three towns renamed to bring home the point of who is really in charge

Year	Old Name	New Name
1652	Kittery	No change
1652	Georgeana	York
1653	Wells	No change
1653	Cape Porpoise	No change
1653	Saco	No change
1658	Black Point, Blue Point	Scarborough
1658	Casco & Spurwink	Falmouth

That the places formerly Cauled spurrwinke & Casco bay, from the East side of Spurwinke River, vnto the Clapboard Ylands in Casco bay, shall runne backe eight Miles into the Countrey, & Henceforth shall be Called by the name of Falmouth



# Lygonia Falls to Massachusetts!

July 14, 1658

The towns of the Province of Lygonia surrender to the Commissioners of the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony

- Black Point
- Blue Point
- Spurwink
- Casco

Massachusetts  
To  
Black  
Point  
Blew  
Point  
Spurw:  
&  
Casco.

[65] W<sup>r</sup>as the Townes of Blā: poÿt & blew  
poÿnt, & of Spurwinke & Cascoe, haue Acknowl-  
edged themselues subject to the Goũment of  
the Massatusetts, as by y<sup>e</sup> seuerall subscriptions  
under y<sup>r</sup> hands doth appeare: Wee the Coĩis-  
sion<sup>rs</sup> of the Generall Court of the Massatusetts  
for the settling of Goũm<sup>t</sup> amongst them, to the  
full extent of our Lyne, do Actually Grant as  
followeth/

1: That in Case by an Iĩmediate pouer from the supremicy  
of England, we are Coĩmanded, & after addresse to y<sup>e</sup> same  
supremicy by the Massatusetts Authority, it be defyned as  
pper to anie other regulations then ours, then this obligation  
to be Nulld, Wee p̄tecting them till y<sup>e</sup> determination y<sup>r</sup>of/

2: That an Act of Indemnity & obliuion is freely granted  
them/

*York Deeds, Volume I, Folio 65*

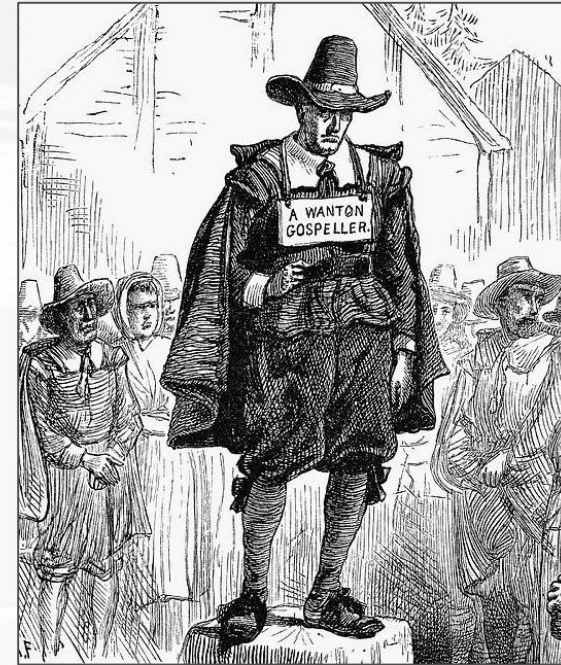


# Uneasy Marriage Begins

## Religious differences

- Maine now a Puritan theocracy
- Prominent families in Falmouth and Scarborough are Anglican
- Massachusetts promptly abrogates annexation agreement
  - Must join church to vote or hold office

6: That the ciuill priuiledges now granted them, we do not Intend shall be forfeited vpon differences in matters of Religion, but y<sup>r</sup> regulations herein must be according to pœnall laws/



*Prison or worse for repeat offenses*

*Image: 19<sup>th</sup> century woodcut*



# Restoration of the Monarchy

1660	Restoration
	Heir of original proprietor (Gorges) seeks restitution for annexed lands
1665	Royal commission visits Maine and overturns annexation
1668	Commission order lapses
	Massachusetts re-annexes Maine

## Massachusetts shows who is in charge

“as soon as the commissioners returned for England the Massachusetts men entered the province in a hostile manner with a troop of horse and foot, and turned the judge and his assistants off the bench, imprisoned the mayor or commander of militia, and threatened the judge and some others that were faithful to Mr. Gorges' interest.”

So much for a do-over...



*Charles II*





# Hedging Your Bets

Gorges heirs appeal to King Charles II

Decision in favor of the Gorges heirs

- "decided that the Province of Maine was the rightful property of the heirs of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, both as to sale and government."

Massachusetts offers to buy Maine

- Gorges heirs accept offer
- Massachusetts pays £1,250 in 1677 (about \$6,000)



*Whitehall Palace ca. 1675*



# Boston Rules

Yorkshire is a vassal to Massachusetts

Maine responds to levies

- Taxes, militia

Maine expected to take care of itself

- Support provided reluctantly and only when funded by tax receipts from Maine

Ancient Falmouth suffers terribly

- King Philip's War (1676)
- King William's War (1690)



*How Boston Viewed Maine?*

The surveyor General is ordered to deliver unto ... one barrell of powder the meanest of the countries store or waste, and the value to be repaid by the treasurer as soon as the quit-rents come in.

*Image from Library of Congress*



# Royal Charter Makes it Permanent

October 7, 1691

## The Charter of Massachusetts Bay

- Establishes the Province of Massachusetts Bay
  - Includes all of Maine
- Establishes a Royal Governor
  - Diminishes self-government
- Removes religious restrictions on voting

WILLIAM & MARY by the grace of God King and Queene of England Scotland France and Ireland Defenders of the Faith &c To all to whome these presents shall come Greeting



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# End of this Chapter...

Maine has been wed to Massachusetts  
for 31 years

- Nary a honeymoon

It goes downhill from here...



*Who remembers the old signs?*

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