A Marriage Made in Hell

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Celebrating Maine’s Bicentennial

The Falmouth Historical Society

October 15, 2019
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
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”
Today

The First Chapter (& ½) in the Tale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter I</th>
<th>Courtship &amp; Nuptials</th>
<th>1652-1691</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter II</td>
<td>The Dysfunctional Marriage</td>
<td>1658-1819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter III</td>
<td>The Messy Divorce</td>
<td>1785-1820</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Puritan Marriage

Let’s begin with a flash-back to high school history class…
England

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1633-1640</td>
<td>William Laud is Archbishop of Canterbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1640-1668</td>
<td>Portuguese Restoration War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1642-1651</td>
<td>English Civil War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1652-1654</td>
<td>1st Anglo Dutch War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1654-1660</td>
<td>Anglo-Spanish War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1660</td>
<td>Restoration of Monarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1665-1666</td>
<td>Great Plague of London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1665-1667</td>
<td>2nd Anglo-Dutch War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1666</td>
<td>Great Fire of London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1672-1674</td>
<td>3rd Anglo-Dutch War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1688-1697</td>
<td>Nine Years’ War</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1620</td>
<td>Pilgrims establish Plymouth Colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1630</td>
<td>Winthrop Fleet establishes Massachusetts Bay Colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1633</td>
<td>Great Migration Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1639</td>
<td>Great Migration Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1652-1658</td>
<td>Massachusetts annexes Maine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1665</td>
<td>King nullifies annexation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1668</td>
<td>Mass. re-annexes Maine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1675-1678</td>
<td>King Philip’s War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1688-1697</td>
<td>King William’s War</td>
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## 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
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

About 14,000 by 1660
Maine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1607-1608</td>
<td>Popham Colony (Fails)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1620</td>
<td>Royal charter granted for Council of New England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1623</td>
<td>Settlement at Kittery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1624</td>
<td>Settlement at York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1630-1633</td>
<td>Settlements near Casco Bay</td>
</tr>
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Map “New England Colonies in 1677” downloaded from 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

About 1,000 by 1660

Shallop in Casco Bay

Image from Po in the Past
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
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 straight line east and west to each sea.”

- Mass. border moves into Maine (Falmouth-Cumberland town line)

- New Hampshire and Maine object
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Old Name</th>
<th>New Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1652</td>
<td>Kittery</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1652</td>
<td>Georgeana</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1653</td>
<td>Wells</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1653</td>
<td>Cape Porpoise</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1653</td>
<td>Saco</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1658</td>
<td>Black Point, Blue Point</td>
<td>Scarborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1658</td>
<td>Casco &amp; Spurwink</td>
<td>Falmouth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That the places formerly Cauled spurwinke & 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.
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

[65] W'as the Townes of Blū: poỳt & blew poỳnt, & of Spurwinek & Cascoe, hane Acknowledged themselves subject to the Goũment of the Massatsetts, as by y` seuerall subscriptions under y` hands doth appeare: Wee the Comissioner`s of the Generall Court of the Massatsetts for the settling of Goũmn amongst them, to the full extent of our Lyne, do Actually Grant as followeth/

1: That in Case by an Immediate power from the supremacy of England, we are Comanded, & after addresse to y` same supremacy by the Massatsetts Authority, it be dyuined as pper to anie other regulations then ours, then this obligation to be Nulld, Wee ptesting them till y` determination y`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 civill priviledges now granted them, we do not Intend shall be forfeited upon differences in matters of Religion, but ye regulations herein must be according to penal laws/
## Restoration of the Monarchy

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<td>1660</td>
<td>Restoration of the Monarchy (Charles II) begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1661</td>
<td>Heir of original proprietor (Gorges) seeks restitution for annexed lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1665</td>
<td>Royal commission visits Maine and overturns annexation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1668</td>
<td>Commission order lapses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Massachusetts re-annexes Maine.</td>
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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…
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)
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)

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.
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
Maine has been wed to Massachusetts for 31 years
  • Nary a honeymoon
It goes downhill from here…

Who remembers the old signs?