

A History of Early Westport

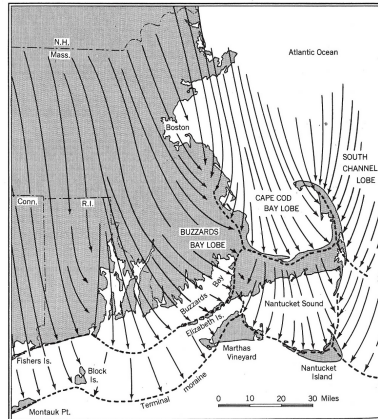


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Westport's history begins in ICE



Terminal Moraines



Effects of the glaciers

- Sea level rose → our seashore
- Water filled → gouged-out → places → our rivers
- Huge blocks of ice melted → in place → our ponds
- Hard bedrock formed high → ground → streams for water power →
- Long oval high spots → drumlins (Gooseberry)
- Rocks dropped out of melting ice → stone walls

Native Americans

- Possibly 10,000 years of habitation
- Very little evidence from earliest periods
- River and tidal sites
- Increasing social complexity and trade
- Wampanoag nation
 - Sakonnet and Acoaxet

Gosnold at Cuttyhunk, 1602



"[May 31], Captain Gosnold, desirous to see the main [land], he set sail over [and] went ashore with certain of his company, and immediately there presented unto him men, women, and children, who, with all courteous kindness entertained him.... These are a fair-conditioned people."



Plymouth – 1620



Dartmouth Purchase, 1652

thirty yards of cloth

eight moose skins

fifteen axes, fifteen hoes, fifteen pairs of breeches

eight blankets, two kettles, one cloak

two English Pounds in Wampum, eight pair of shoes

one iron pot, and ten shillings

King Philip's War, 1675-76

- Long simmering conflict over land
- Massasoit
 - Wamsutta (Alexander)
 - Metacomet (Philip)
- Awashonks
- Great Swamp Fight
- Death of Philip

Awashonks and Mamanoah

- Fight over who leads the Sakonnets
- All land eventually sold to English
 - How to survive?
 - “They gave very decent attendance, and were very handsomely cloathed in English apparel.”

Early Westport Development

- Cheap farm land
- Quakers
- Daniel Wilcox
- Sisson Farm

Shipbuilding at the Head



Waite-Kirby-Potter house



The Point



Revolutionary War, 1775-1783

- Support for Patriot cause
- Militias
- Westport's Paul Revere
- Privateering
- Barney Hicks
- "The Devil's Pocket Hole"
- British attack Bedford Village, 1779
- End of War