

Timeline: 12,000 BP to the Popham "Event"

Tim Buckley

BP = Before Present: 'x years ago'

CE = Common Era (Old A. D.; e.g., 1492 CE)

- 15,000 **BP**      Withdrawal of Wisconsin Lobe of last glaciation
- 12,000 BP      *Paleo-Indians* following mega fauna (mastodon, mammoths, etc.) north from present SW USA arrive in coastal southern Maine. Fine lithic (hard stone) technology; favored hunting technology: throwing and stabbing spears
- 9000 BP      *Early Archaic Period*. Hunting large 'modern' mammals (moose, deer, bear) and broadening range of edible flora. Fiber arts (baskets, mats, nets) developing
- 8500-5,000 BP      *Middle Archaic*. Global rise in temperatures, increasing populations, further broadening of subsistence base. Greater localization and specialization of small summer bands, 25-50 people, with larger winter base villages <100 people. Refinement of dugout canoes; favored hunting technology: atlatls (spear throwers)
- 5000-3700 BP      *Late Archaic*. Coastal maritime adaptation. Less dependence on shellfish, more on fin fish, seals, whales, etc. Technological elaboration
- 3600 BP +/-      *Susquehanna tradition*. Working of steatite bowls with hard stone tools, expanding trade to north and south. < Base of Eastern Algonquian technologies and adaptations.
- 3000 BP +/-      Climate approximates today's weather patterns
- 2900 BP +/-      *Algonquian migrations* begin, eastwards out of N. Great Lakes region
- 2700 BP      *Algonquian peoples reach eastern seaboard*, bringing ceramic technologies and settling from Labrador and Newfoundland south to Chesapeake Bay. In "Maine" these largely riverine peoples are to be the direct ancestors of--east to west--the Almouchiquois, Etchemin, and Souriquois [or Tarrantine] peoples of 1604 CE (Champlain). Today, the descendents of these peoples are called (Eastern) Abnaki, Penobscot, Passamoquoddy & Maliseet, and Miq'maq' (Micmac).
- 0 BP/CE      *Early and (700 CE) Middle Woodlands Periods*. Influences of Mississippian cultures, transmitting Meso-American influences, reach the Eastern Woodlands along riverine trade routes. Effigy mounds, vastly widened trade, ritual elaboration, improved ceramics
- 1000 CE +/-      Emergence of fully developed *Late Woodlands cultures*--pre-horticultural, hunter-forager societies practicing "primary forest efficiency," encouragement of wild crops and deer through burning, and some tobacco horticulture to south. Larger, palisaded villages (<1000 people). Emergence of bark canoes, bows and arrows
- Norse voyagers* and colonists from Greenland travel (minimally) to Baffin Island, Labrador, and Newfoundland. Encounter Dorset People ("Eskimos") and Beotuk Indians (Algonquians): the "*skraelings*": 'wild people.' A few Norse coins enter trade system.

- ca. 1350-1800 CE "Little ice age": profound cooling accompanied by increasing inter-band warfare over advantageous micro-climates. Tendency toward smaller, more mobile bands
- 1481+/- Possible salt cod industries established in Newfoundland by Basques and/or "men of Bristol" (England). Beginning of rapid decline of Beotuk population due to "Virgin soil" disease introduced by Europeans
- 1490 +/- Introduction of *Northern Flint maize*, squash and beans ("the three sisters") north to the Saco River (120 frost-free days needed--May 15-Sept. 15). Scattered horticultural villages north of the Saco in favored micro-climate zones
- 1492 *Columbus'* first voyage (ca. 10,500 years after human beings arrived in southern "Maine")
- 1498 *Cabot* explores New England, claims territory for England
- 1501-12 Portugal, England, France all establish *national cod fisheries* in addition to ongoing Basque operations. Virgin soil diseases (relatively isolated), theft of pelts, kidnapping, all become common to Native experience of Europeans in northern New England and the Maritimes.
- 1524 *Verrazano's* voyage. Hostility of Maine's coastal peoples to Europeans already evident
- 1530-1600 Europeans widening fisheries and fur trading. At least 25 English voyages to "Maine." French trading settlements established on St. Lawrence. Voyages of Andre Thevet, the French Royal Cosmographer, with first descriptions of snowshoes, bark canoes, &c.
- 1534 *Cartier's* voyage
- [late 1500s founding of the five-nation *League of the Iroquois*]
- 1602 *Gosnold's* exploration of Maine coast, sassafras trade
- 1603 *Martin Pring's* expedition (sassafras trading)
- 1604-5 *Champlain* completes mapping of New England coast
- 1605 *Weymouth* kidnaps five Kennebec River Indians
- 1607-08 Settlement at *Popham*, six hundred years after first Europeans visit North America

#### Addendum

- 1610 London premiere of "The Tempest" by W<sup>m</sup> Shakespeare, featuring Caliban (anagram for "cannibal"), reputedly the first literary portrait of a North American Indian in English literature

1616-19      Algonquian population between Narragansett Bay and the Saco River reduced from an estimated 100,000 to 5,000 people due to unidentified "plague," possibly measles.

1677-1836    Wabanaki Confederacy of Penobscots, Passamaquoddies, Maliseets and Micmacs joins council at Caughnawaga (Mohawk). Regional Wabinaki ("People of the Dawn") identity continues through present.