

Timeline

1524 Verrazano exploring East Coast for King of France, trying to find shorter route to Asia. Arrives at Block Island and vicinity

1604 French merchant Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Mons reports from the St. Lawrence River “The Indians [sic] tell us of a beautiful river, far to the south, which they call the Merrimack [Merruh(strong)Auke(Place)]”

1605 George Waymouth’s expedition, from England, captured five “savages” to bring back to England. The hope was that after providing some ‘show and tell’ at Court, they would become guides to future “plantings” in New England.

1607 Popham Colony founded by London and Plymouth Companies (James I) in Maine

1607 Samuel de Champlain explores the Merrimack Valley with native guides

1614 John Smith’s *A Description of New England* reports “...from Penobscot to Cape Cod ...I have seen at least 40 severall habitations upon the Sea Coast...”

1616 – 1619 A terrible epidemic sweeps through the Indian nations, killing tens of thousands

1620 Mayflower lands at Plymouth, in short order they are attacked by a party of Nausets. The Nausets said that 8 months previously 20 of their number had been kidnapped by Englishmen and sold for slaves, at twenty pounds a person. Later they learned it was a Master Hunt, and he had taken them to Spain.

1623 Dorchester Company founded, attempt to plant Dorchester Colony at Cape Anne

1628 Massachusetts Bay Company founded, including some investors from the failed Dorchester Company

1629 Town of Salem is incorporated (settled 1626), originally called Naumkeag, an Algonquian name, renamed Bastable by James I, but called Salem by the planters who lived there

1629 Clifford Wrigley asserts William Wood established a trading station called Pemtuckett at “Andover”

1630 “Trimountaine” (three mountains) or Boston is settled

1632 – 1633 Smallpox swept through the Native population

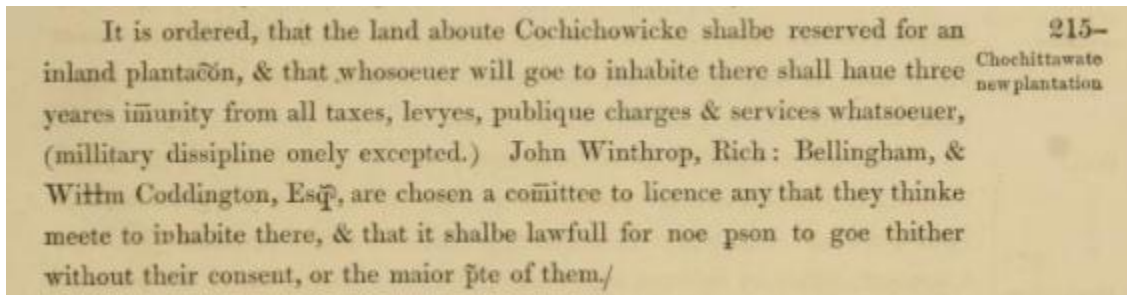
1633 William Wood writes in his report “New England Prospect” for William Armine that “Three miles beyond the river of Merrimac is the outside of our patent for the Massachusetts Bay.” He notes several “habitations” which have taken root including Ipswich (*Agawam*), Salem (*Naumkeag*), Dorchester

(*Matapan*), Plymouth (*Pawtuxet*), Weymouth (*Wessaguscus*), Cohasset (*Conihosset*), and Chelsea (*Winnisimmet*) – all coastal communities

1634 Clifford Wrigley asserts that William Wood established a village located around Central Street in present day Andover

1634 – 37 Major battles in Connecticut between English and Native American people

1635 General Court at Mass Bay Colony make provision for a plantation “about Cochichowicke”



1639 Plantation at Rowley “Rogers Plantation” is incorporated

1640 In May it was declared by the General Court “that Rowley bounds is to be eight miles from their meeting house in a straight line; and then a cross line diameter from Ipswich Ryver to Merrimack Ryver when it doth not prejudice any former grant.” At that same session Nathaniel Ward and “Newberry men..desire” to build before the next Court at “Patucket & Coijchawick”, and Robert Saltonstall petitioned “...that the 1000 acres granted former to his father Sr Richard Saltonstall, might be confirmed at Quochituake...” for himself.

In October of 1640 the Court records “...there appears to be a mistake in a former order for inlargement for a grant made to Roweley...it is now ordered, that the neck of land upon Merrimack, near Cochitawick, shalbe added to Roweley...”

1642 Narragansett sachem Miantonomo made an unsuccessful attempt to rally all of New England’s Indians to resist English incursions.

1642 The General Court orders that “All the land lying upon Saweshin Ryver, and between that & Concord Ryver, & between that and Merrimack Ryver, not formerly granted by this Cort, are granted to Cambridge, so as they erect a village there within 5 years, & so it shall not extend to preiudice Charlestowne village, or the village of Cochitawit.”

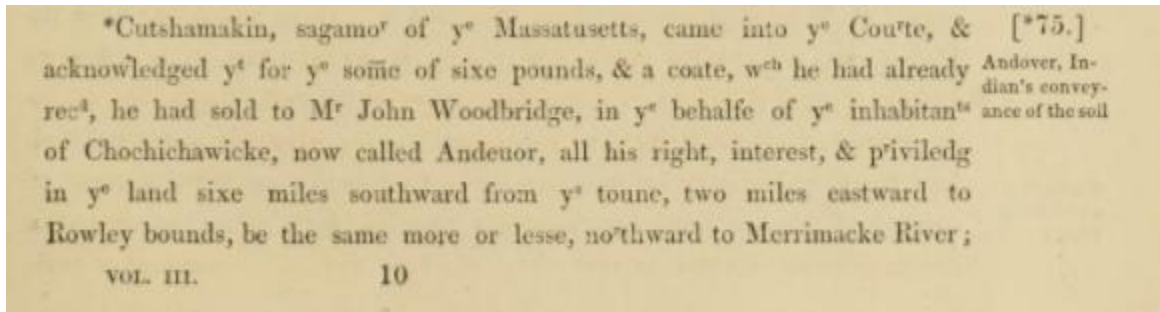
1643 Essex County created including the village of Cochichewick

1643 Record of deed to Richard Barker of Quichichock (Andover) from William Hughes of New Meadows (Topsfield)

1644 Magistrates and ministers met at Rowley to discuss forming churches at Pentucket (Haverhill) and Cochichewick (Andover). Governor Winthrop noted in his journal “the fore mentioned plantations, being then but newly erected, where not capable to entertain them that were like to be gathered together...”

1645 John Woodbridge appointed to minister the First Church of Christ at Cochichewick

1646 The name Andover appears for the first time in the General Court Records which is the Commonwealth’s method of establishing incorporation – the first time the present day name of a town appears in the Colony Records.



Sources:

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Massachusetts Bay Colony, *Records of the Governor and Company*, 1628 – 1649

Massachusetts Bay Colony, *Records of the Court of Assistants*, 1630 – 1692

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