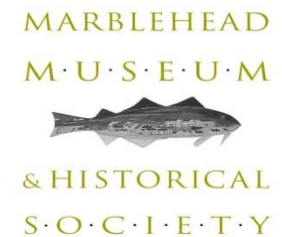


# Marblehead in the 1600's

By Standley Goodwin



# Prologue

- Area Settlement occurred very rapidly.
- In spring 1629 there were about 450 inhabitants of Mass. Bay Colony including 200 in Plymouth.
- In summer 1629 an advance group of about 290 immigrants (200 men, 90 women and children) arrived in Salem with supplies and 140 cattle.
- In summer of 1630 1000 immigrants (including many families) arrived with supplies.
- For most, the margin of survival was razor thin until the 1631 harvest. About 10% perished.

# Immigration and Religion

- Immigration started in 1629 and accelerated in 1633 when Laud was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Puritans were trying to reform the Church of England.
- Archbishop Laud persecuted Puritans.
- The more extreme Puritans departed England before they became victims.
- Puritans were mostly middle class families.

- Between 1630 and 1641 about 15,000 came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- In 1641 the English Civil war started and immigration slowed.
- Immigration reverted to the economic model.
- Immigrants came for a better life.

# Information on Early Marblehead

- From it's founding until 1649 Marblehead was part of Salem.
- No public records were kept in Marblehead
- Sources of early information come from public records in Salem and a few personal papers that survived.
- Significant local events that didn't make it to Salem went unrecorded.
- The historian is left to fill in the blanks.

# 1629 Rev Higginson

At this instant we are setting a Bricke-Kill on worke to make Bricks and Tyles for the building of our Houses. For Stone, here is plentie of Slates at the Ile of Slate in *Masachusetts Bay*, and Lime-stone, Free-stone, and Smooth-stone, and Iron-stone, and Marble-stone also in such store, that we haue great Rockes of it, and a Harbour hard by. Our Plantation is from thence called Marble-harbour.

# Wood's New England Prospects: 1634

*Marvill Head* is a place which lyeth 4 miles full South from *Salem*, and is a very convenient place for a plantation, especially for such as will set upon the trade of fishing. There was made here a ships loading of fish the last yeare, where still stands the stages, and drying scaffolds; here be good harbour for boates, and safe riding for shippes.

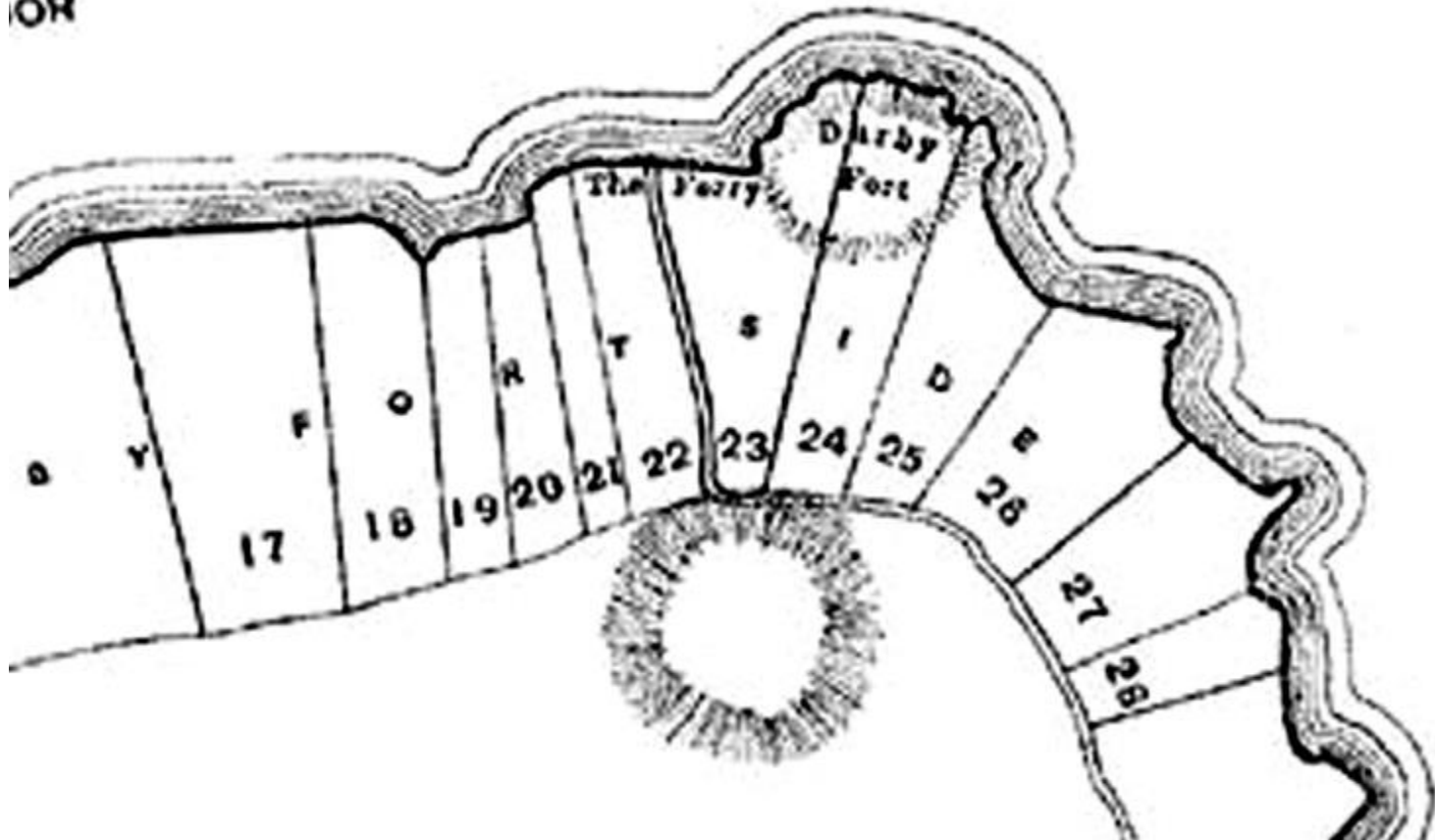
# Early Marblehead

- Initially Marblehead was really in two parts
- The Harbor side was probably settled first
  - English fishing ships were known to process fish onshore and return to England in the fall
  - Unfortunately no records of this effort have been found
- The Salem side was an extension of Salem
  - Good farmland in Naugus Head area



# Marblehead; Salem Side

OR



# First Settlers

- The first recorded events appear in 1631.
- In 1631 Thomas Gray was convicted of undocumented offenses.
  - His House was ordered to be torn down and he was to be shunned.
  - He is on the 1637 taxpayers list and assigned pasture for 1 cow in the Pasture Division of 1648.
  - He died of old age in Marblehead and received the first public assistance from the town.
  - Gray best candidate as first permanent resident.

- Isaac Allerton came to Marblehead from Plymouth on the *White Angel* to set up a fishing operation for Mathew Craddock.
  - He chose Little Harbor and Gas House Beach as the center of his operation
  - Gas House beach is the only landing spot in Marblehead that leads directly to a good road.
  - By 1633 the operation employed eight boats and five men.
  - In the fall of 1633 Allerton and his fisherman were sleeping in Craddock's house when it caught fire. A tailor roused them. All survived.

- In March 1635 Allerton was warned out of Marblehead, probably for associating with liberal churchmen.
- In May 1635 he transferred his holdings to his twenty-four year old son in law Moses Maverick and went to New Haven.
- Moses went on to become a successful businessman and the unofficial town magistrate .
- He was selectman many times and active in town government
- He also was the only Justice of the Peace and performed many marriages.

# Marblehead: Harbor Side



# Settlement of Marblehead

- The first few permanent inhabitants most likely appeared in 1629 or 1630.
- There was little growth until 1633 or 34.
- May, 1635; General Court ordered: “That there shall be a plantation at Marblehead”
- June 1635; “Mr. Holgrave can presse men to unload salt from a ship.”
- The *Desire* of 120 tons was built here in 1636.
- 1637: Ferry to Salem operating.

# 1637 Taxpayers

- Philip Beare
- John Bennet
- Wm. Charles
- John Coit
- John Devereaux
- John Gatchell
- Samuel Gatchell
- Thomas Gray
- Richard Greeneway
- John Heart
- Erasmus James
- Nicholas Listen
- John Lyon
- Moses Mavericke
- Nicholas Mariott
- John Peach, Sr.
- John Russell
- Richard Seers
- Wm. Steephens
- Anthonie Thatcher
- Archibald Thomson
- John Wakefield
- Abraham Whitehair
- George Vickary

# Marblehead and the Puritans

- The Puritans formed a very strict Calvinist Church that allowed little room for dissent.
- Government was an arm of the Church.
- Although part of Salem, Marblehead was never under their control.
- Marblehead became a haven for those who found the Puritan church oppressive.
- Marblehead was a thorn in Salem's side.



- In 1638 William Walton appeared in Marblehead and became the minister.
- About half of town taxes paid his salary.
- Between 1638 and 1648 a meeting house was built on the Old Hill.
- The town's population wasn't irreligious, they just weren't Puritan religious.

# Early Marblehead Economy

- Every individual and town had to be nearly self sufficient in early times.
- Trade was difficult, every surrounding costal town had the same commodities Marblehead did.
- Trading fish for produce and meat was unlikely.
- Farming was an important part of early economy.
- Commercial fishing done mostly by English boats.
- Fishing has been over emphasized for inhabitants of very early Marblehead.

# Organization of Marblehead

- By 1640, Marblehead was big enough to be a town.
- Salem transferred unassigned land to the inhabitants
- There were few Freemen who could vote. To be a Freeman you had to be a member of the Puritan Church and own land.
- Lack of Freemen delayed organization of the town.

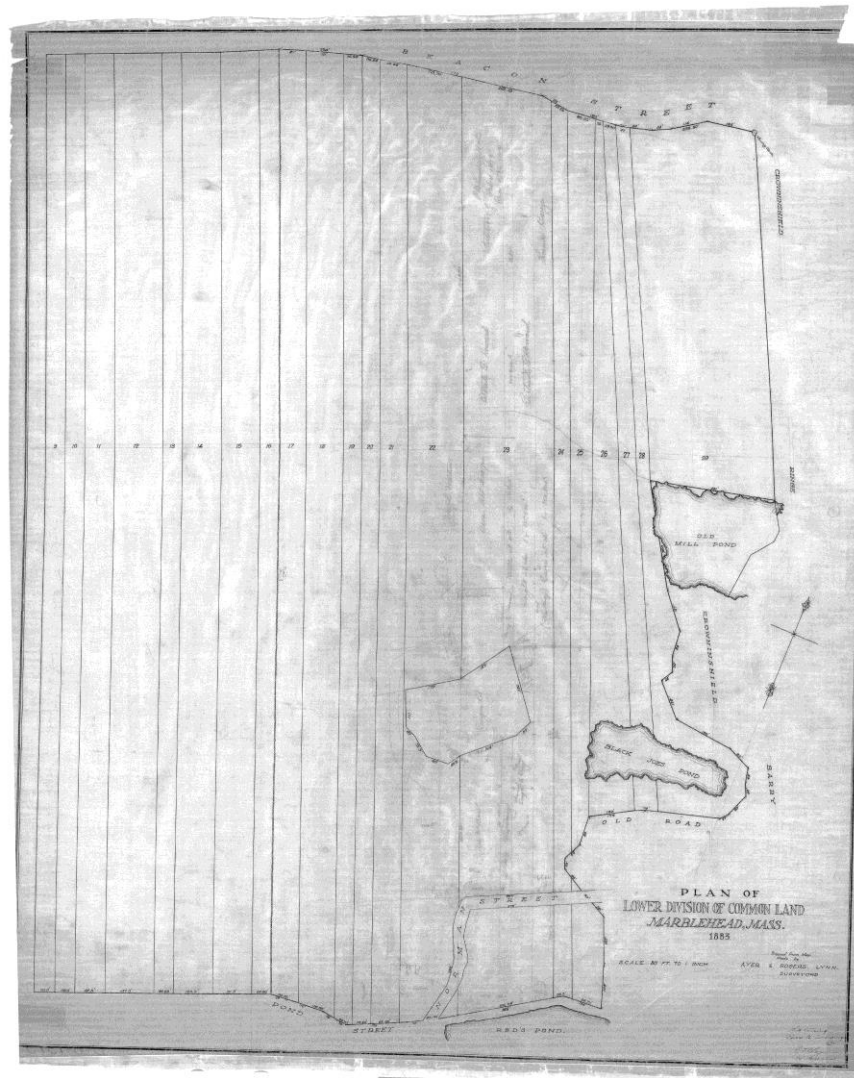
- In 1649 a second level of franchise was created.
- A male over 24 who had taken the oath of fidelity could vote for selectman and serve on juries.
- Salem passed an order that Marblehead become a town in March 1648.
- In May 1649 the General Court allowed the Town to be incorporated.
- Anticipating Incorporation the inhabitants began organizing.

- Seven Selectmen were chosen: Moses Maverick, Samuel Doliber, Francis Johnson, Nicholas Merritt, John Peach Sr., John Deverox, and John Bartoll.
- Tax Collectors: James Smith and Joseph Doliber.
- A tax on “strangers” engaged in fishing was imposed.
- This confirms that English fishing boats were using Marblehead as a home port in the summer.
- A Pasture Division between the 44 recorded families in the town was made for 50 cows.

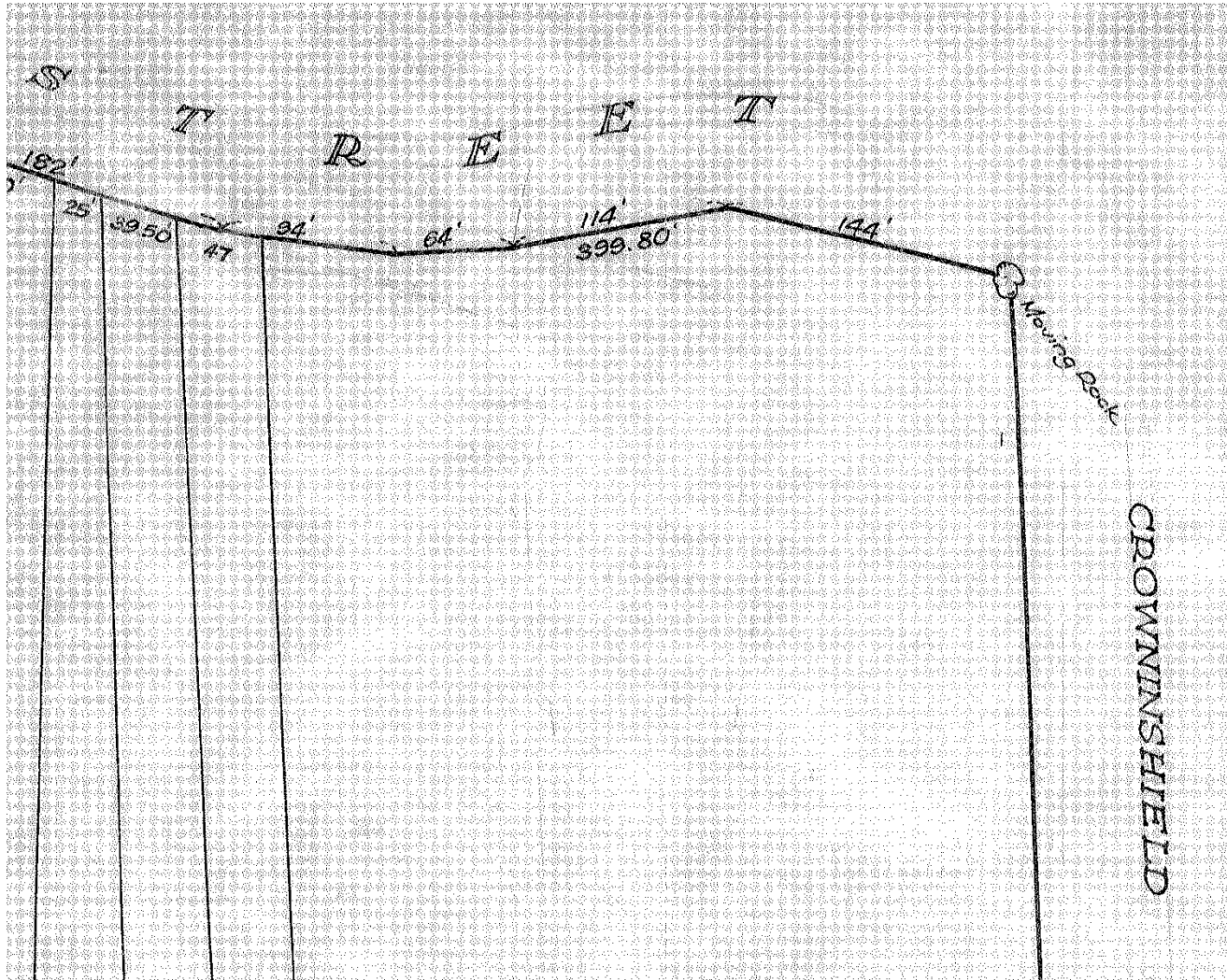
# Pasture Division Residents

Timothy Allen	John Deverox	John Legg	Peter Pittford
William Barber	Joseph Doliber	John Lion	Rowland
John Bartoll	Samuel Doliber	Moses Maverick	Chi Salmon
John Bennet	John Gatchell	Nicholas Merrett	Arthur Sanden
Tho. Bowinge	Jon. Goyt	Edmund Nicholson	James Smith
David Carwithen	Thomas Gray	John Norman	John Stacey
Sam. Carwithen	John Hart	Richard Norman	Henry Stacey
William Charles	Erasmus James	John Northey	David Thomas
Will. Chichester	Francis Johnson	John Peach, Sr.	Walshingham
George Chine	Robert Knight	John Peach, Jr.	William Walton
Richard Curtice	Thomas Lane	Thomas Pitman	Abra. Whiteare

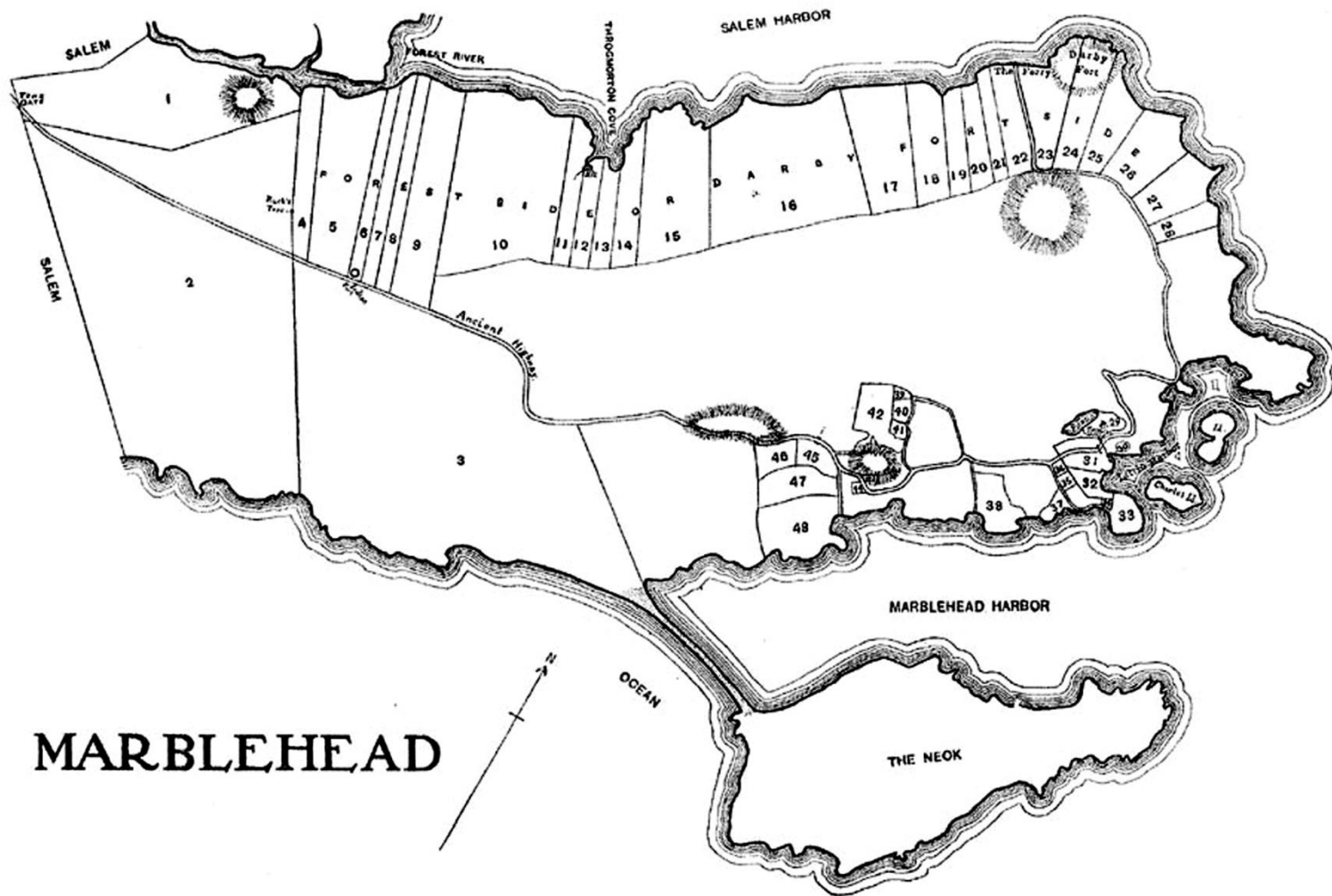
# Lower and Middle Division Pasture



# Tilting Rock







# Marblehead in 1649

- Following Incorporation Marblehead grew slowly and steadily.
- Several additions were made to the Meeting House.
- Regulations for fish processing were introduced:
  - Packers and gaugers were appointed.
  - Cullers of fish were introduced.
  - “Masters of boats” were ordered to brand their names on barrels of packed fish.

- Marblehead was processing a lot of fish.
- Who was catching it is an open question.
  - The small known local population argues for visiting English boats as the main source.
- By 1660 about sixty families had settled.
- In March 1662 thirteen men in four boats were lost in a storm.
- Only record of them is probate of their estates.
- Poor fishermen have begun to appear.
- Fishing is becoming important part of economy.

- In 1674 there was a controversy over the ownership of the common lands. It was settled by the General Court. 114 families involved.
- *Marblehead in the Year 1700* allows us to obtain occupations of 89 families.

Fisherman	41	Cordwainer	2
Landowner	21	Shoreman	2
Planter	12	Miller	2
Merchant	10	Vintner	2
Mariner	8	Misc.	8
Investor	3		

- 1675: School opened by Edward Humphries.
- 1675: King Philips War started and lasted for three years.
- Women of Marblehead killed two Indian captives being shipped to Indies as slaves.
- 1689: William III king. England and France at War.
- 1690: Phips organized expedition to Acadia.
  - Armed cargo ship carrying Marblehead's fish to England to pay debts requisitioned.
- 1692: Salem witch trials.

# Marblehead Church

- In 1638 Rev. William Walton appeared in town.
- He was college classmate of John Harvard.
- Between 1638 and 48 a small rude meeting house was built. Additions made as town grew.
- Rev. Walton's ministry was tolerant and in line with the beliefs of Marbleheaders.
- His salary was about half of town taxes.
- Rev. Walton served his congregation until his death in 1668.

- Harvard educated Rev Samuel Cheever was chosen to replace him.
- With time the Puritan Church had moderated.
- Marblehead residents began joining. By 1684 54 residents were members; 15 men and 39 women.
- They had to go to Salem to receive the *Sacrament*
- On July 6, 1684 they requested that Rev Cheever be ordained and on 16 July he was.
- Marblehead now had an official Church.
- In 1695 the Franklin St. Church was built and the Old Hill Church decommissioned.

# Marblehead Deed

- In 1660 Charles II ascended the English throne.
- He recognized that the Massachusetts Bay Colony was more of a commonwealth state than colony.
- He introduced Navigation Laws and other measures to force a return to colonial status.
- None were enforceable.
- In the early 1680's threats were made to revoke the Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter.
- For most communities the basis of all land ownership was the Charter.



- The wealth of almost everyone was in his land and house. Currency wasn't available.
- Every community that didn't have an Indian deed tried to get one.
- In 1684 Marblehead formed a committee to investigate land claims of certain Indians.
- A deed was generated and Marblehead's land purchased. Cost was apportioned to landowners.
- In 1684 Charles II revoked the Charter and died.
- His successors James II and William III did little; the crisis passed. A new Charter issued in 1692.

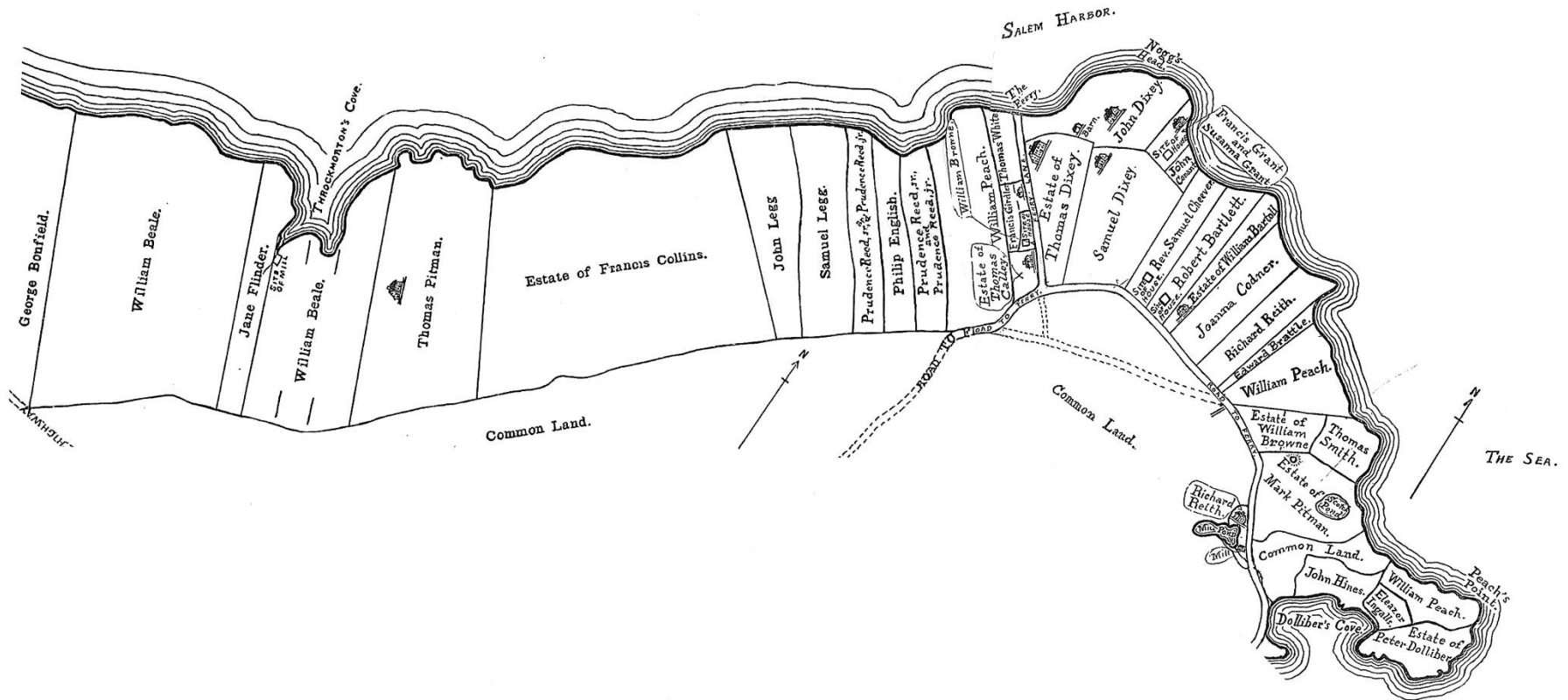
# The Deed



# Marblehead in 1700: Harbor Side



# Marblehead in 1700: Salem Side



# Marblehead in 1700

- By 1700 Marblehead was a mature community of over 1000 inhabitants.
- The cash economy was based on fishing.
- For most life was comfortable by the standards of the times.
- Marblehead was ready for the great expansion that was to make it the second town in the Colony by 1760.