



# Founding Hampton



Hampton dates its founding from October 14, 1638, when Reverend Stephen Bachiler and other English colonists came by shallop from Newbury, Massachusetts to settle a "reasonable meet place" called Winnacunnet, granted to them by the Massachusetts General Court. Named Hampton in 1639, the town remained part of Massachusetts until 1680, when by royal decree it became part of the Province of New Hampshire. Using replicas of original records from 1636 to 1641, this exhibit presents the timeline of Hampton's beginning.

**Below is the Introduction poster followed by thumbnail links to the 8 posters that comprise the timeline**

**Founding Hampton**

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This exhibit is made possible through the generous support of  
**H. Alfred Casassa, Esq.**  
in memory of  
**Hazel Simonds and Olga & Herbert Casassa**

Museum Director: Betty Moore  
Exhibit Design: Cheryl Lassiter  
Candace Stellmach, President Hampton Historical Society

Legend  
MGC: MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT RECORD  
HTT: TOWN OF HAMPTON RECORD

Finding Inspiration: The carved designs on Stephen Bachiler's joined-oak armchair provided the inspiration for the background art in this exhibit. The chair, owned by the NH Metropolitan Museum of Art, is believed to have been made by an area artisan.

CREDITS: Panels 1, 4, 6-7: ©October 1700X, Massachusetts Archives, Boston, Massachusetts.  
Panel 5: Stephen Bachiler to John Winthrop, by Winthrop Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.  
Panel 8: Hampton Town Record, Hampton, New Hampshire, photographed by Richard Winkler.

The poster at left is a high-res image (larger than it appears on the screen). To enlarge it on-screen, use pinch-zoom on a tablet or smartphone; on a desktop system, click the image to see a full view (use your browser's Back to come back here).

Click a thumbnail below to view the poster and more info



1635-1636



1637



June, 1638



Sept, 1638



Oct, 1638



1639



1640



1641



# March 3, 1635/36 - Bound House To Be Built at Winicumet



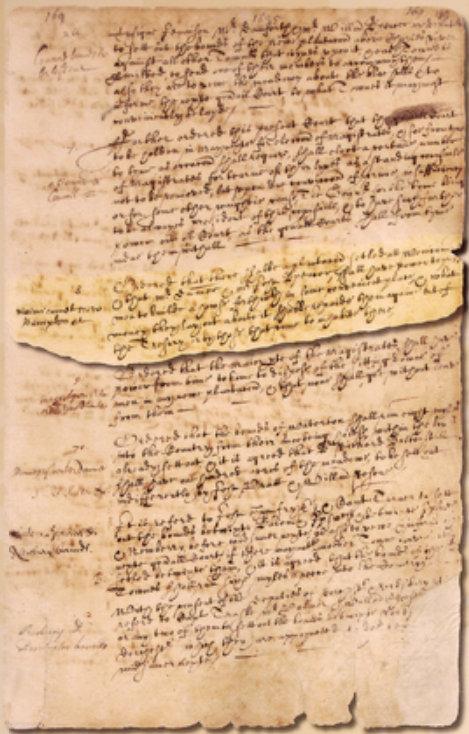
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March 3, 1635/6

Bound house to be  
built at Winicumet



Ordered that there shall be a plantation settled at Winicumet & that Mr. Dummer & Mr. John Spencer shall have power to press men to build a house forthwith in some convenient place, & what money they lay out about it shall be repaid them again out of the Treasury or by those that come to inhabit there. MGC

*Richard Dummer and John Spencer were wealthy Newbury landowners; in 1637 they were disarmed as supporters of Anne Hutchinson. Dummer was early associated with Stephen Bachiler in the Company of the Plough, a failed colonizing venture. Spencer returned to England; part of his estate has been preserved as the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm in Newbury. The Bound House, as the building they erected was called, was used to mark possession of the surrounding land. It is believed to have been located in present day Seabrook, New Hampshire. In 1637 Massachusetts Governor John Winthrop wrote of a 'Winicowett house' which stood north of the Merrimack River on the way to Pascataquack (settlements within the Pascataqua River region).*

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# November 2, 1637 - Permission to Settle Winnacunnet



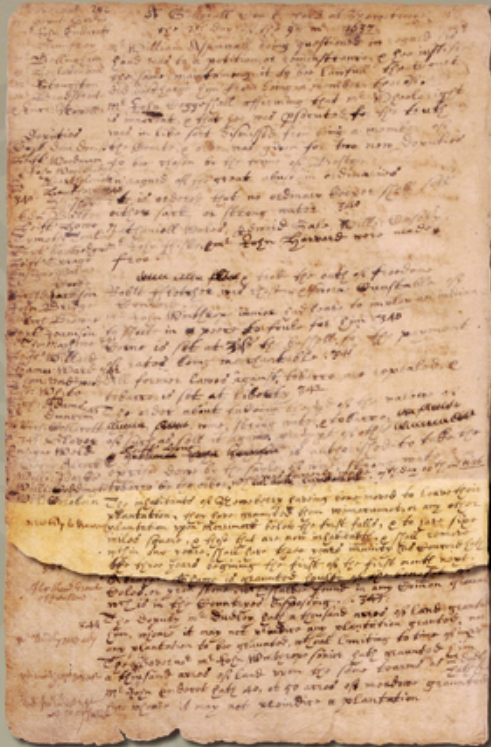
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November 2, 1637

Permission to settle  
at Winnacunnet



The inhabitants of Neweberry having been moved to leave their plantation, they have granted them Winnacunnet, or any other plantation upon Merrimack below the first falls, & to have six miles square, & those that are now inhabitants, & shall remove within one year, shall have three-years immunity (as Concord hath).\* The three years beginning the first of the first month next. MGC

*For reasons unknown, the Newbury inhabitants did not settle Winnacunnet under this order. \*Immunity from taxation by the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Although Bachiler and company asked for permission to settle Winnacunnet less than a year later, this deal was not offered to them. Hampton was assessed a colony rate in 1640.*

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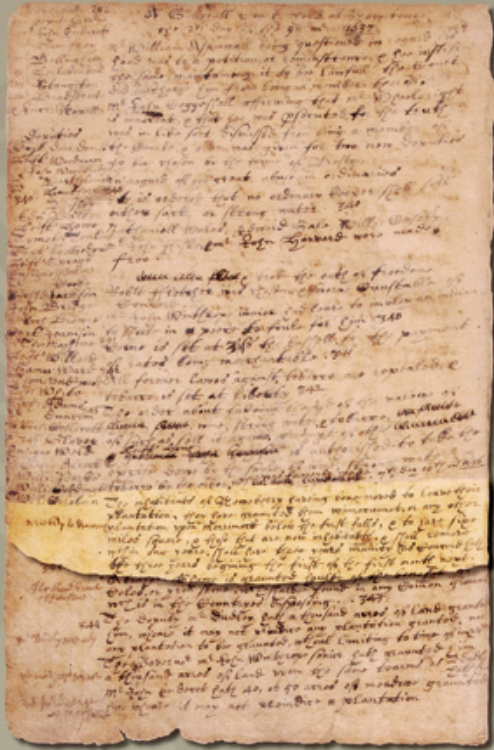
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# September 6, 1638 - Stephen Bachiler Given Liberty to Settle at Winnacunnet

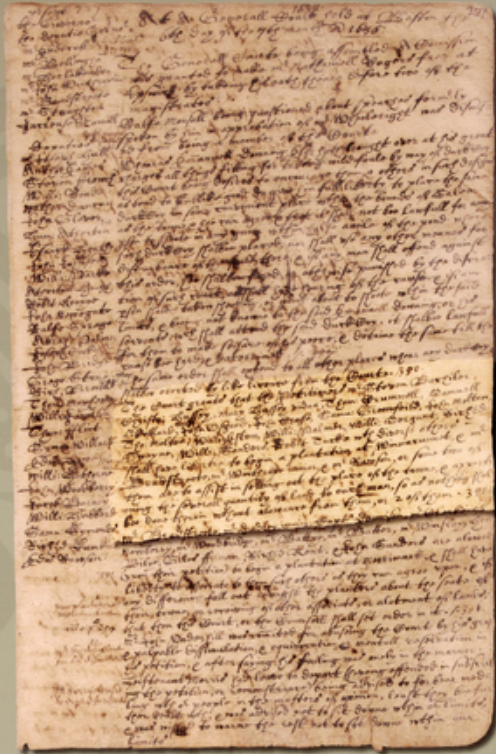


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September 6, 1638 Stephen Bachiler given liberty to settle at Winnacunnet



The Court grants that the petitioners, Mr. Stephen Bachiler, Christopher Hussey, Mary Hussey *vidua*,\* Thomas Cromwell, Samuel Skullard, John Osgood, John Crosse, Samuel Greenfield, John Moulton, Thomas Moulton, William Estow, William Palmer, William Sergant, Richard Swayne, William Sanders, Robert Tucke, with diverse others, shall have liberty to begin a plantation at Winnacunnet and Mr. Bradstreet, Mr. Winthrop, Junior, and Mr. Rawson, or some two of them, are to assist in setting out the place of the town, and apportioning the several quantity of land to each man, so as nothing shall be done therein without leave from them, or two of them. MGC

\*Indicates that Mary Hussey was a widow. An important distinction, as widows had more legal rights than single and married women. A widow could buy and sell land and run a tavern in her own name.

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# October 9, 1638 - Stephen Bachiler to John Winthrop, Jr.



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Worthy Sir ~ I commend me to you and yours in the Lord. So it is, that we are resolved (God so consenting) the second working day of the next week to set forward toward our plantation, preparing thereto the day before. We intend to go by a shallop. So that, as our hope and desire is to have your help & our christian friend Mr. Bradstreet, so we pray you both to be with us, the day following. We were there and viewed it cursorily: & we found a reasonable meet place, which we shall show you: but we concluded nothing. This day had not an hindrance fallen out I had brought your father in laws two stalls of Bees to you. For that one of them hath robbed & spoiled a stall of mine (as the manner of Bees is) and I cannot tell how to proceed against the offenders to have law & justice against them but by removing the thievish stall, & keeping in the innocent till they be removed. I pray you acquaint Mr. Bradstreet with our desire and purpose, that we may lay some foundation, & the better by your help & assistance. The Lord's good eye be ever upon you & yours & so trust in him that is all sufficient. Yours in all christian office & service, his most unworthy, Stephen Bachiler The 9 of this 8<sup>th</sup> month 1638



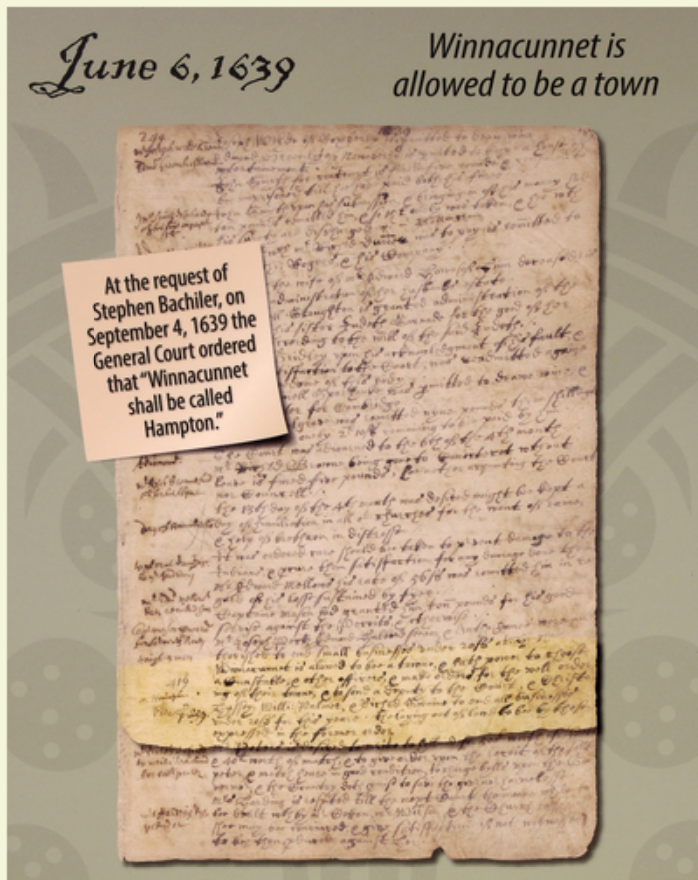
# June 6, 1639 - Winnacunnet is Allowed to be a Town



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Winnacunnet is allowed to be a town, & hath power to choose a constable & other officers, & make orders for the well ordering of their town, & to send a deputy to the court; & Christopher Hussey, William Palmer, & Richard Swaine [are authorized] to end all business under 20 shillings for this year. The laying out of land to be by those expressed in the former order. MGC

*Abraham Perkins was an early constable (January 1641); John Moulton was the first deputy to the General Court (September 1639); the first slate of selectmen for which there is a record was voted in 1644. The three men mentioned above were called Commissioners for Small Causes. They acted as judges for small legal matters at the local level.*

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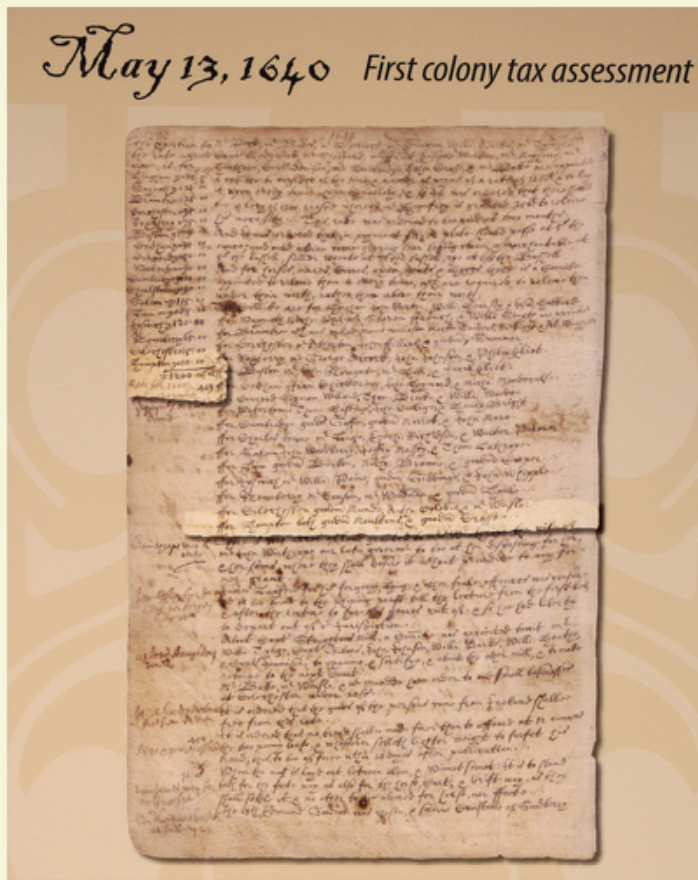
# May 13, 1640 - First Colony Tax Assessment



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...and so it was ordered that there should be a levy of 1200 [pounds] raised. The proportion for the rate agreed upon is for...Boston 179...Salem 115...Neweberry 65...Hampton 10. [The committee appointed to value goods] for Hampton both Goodman Moulton & Goodman Crosse. MGC

*Money was not the only medium of exchange acceptable to the Massachusetts Bay tax collectors. The Court decreed that payment in silver plate should "pass at 5 shillings the ounce" and it valued "good old Indian corn at 5 shillings the bushel, summer wheat at 7 shillings the bushel, rye at 6 shillings the bushel." Also acceptable were horses, oxen, goats, and hogs. It was the job of Goodman Moulton and Goodman Crosse to place a value on items "under their worth rather than above their worth." Wampum (seashells) was also accepted. Items not allowed were "fruits of the earth," since they would rapidly spoil.*

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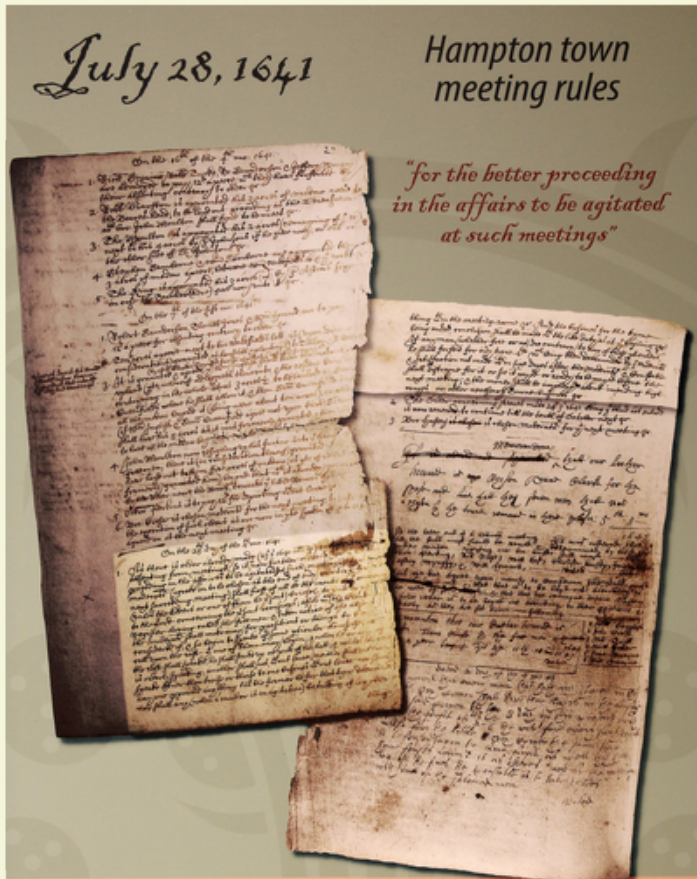
# July 28, 1641 - Hampton Town Meeting Rules



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...it is now further ordered that the moderator...shall first of all be the mouth of the company...to put up petitions to the Lord concerning the present occasions; after which...the moderator shall make way for propositions or things to be considered of; & so begin to speak of some particular himself or call upon the rest that one of them may begin; & when he or any of the rest shall speak he shall stand up or put off his hat; & while anyone is orderly speaking another shall not without leave; neither shall one man speak oftener than twice or thrice to one business without leave; nor shall anyone propound anything till the former be for that time determined; nor shall any...be talking of any other thing...if any man (whether free or no) do contrary to any of these particulars he shall forfeit for each time 6 shillings...the moderator & constable...[shall] see it paid...& the money shall be employed about mending highways or other necessary town business. HTR

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