

# New England



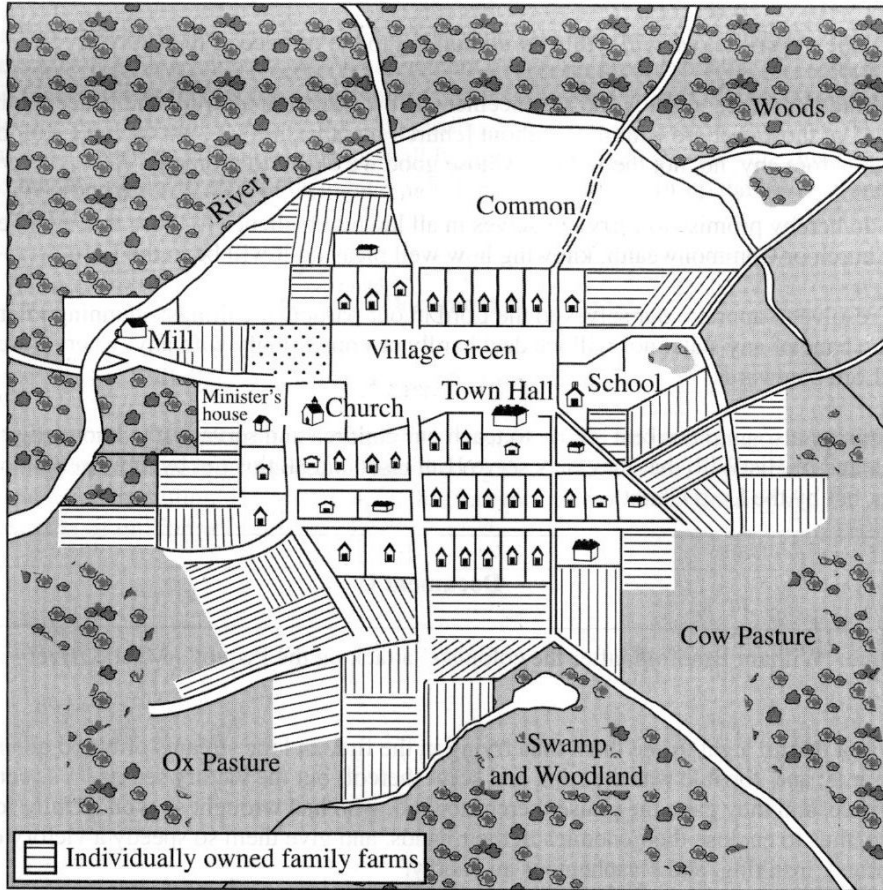
**A south east  
view of the  
great town  
of Boston in  
New  
England in  
America,  
John  
Carwitham,  
1730**



THE OLDEST MEETING-HOUSE IN THE UNITED STATES, AT HINGHAM, MASS.

The Old  
Ship  
Church  
and  
Meeting  
House,  
1681

TOWN MAP, COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND



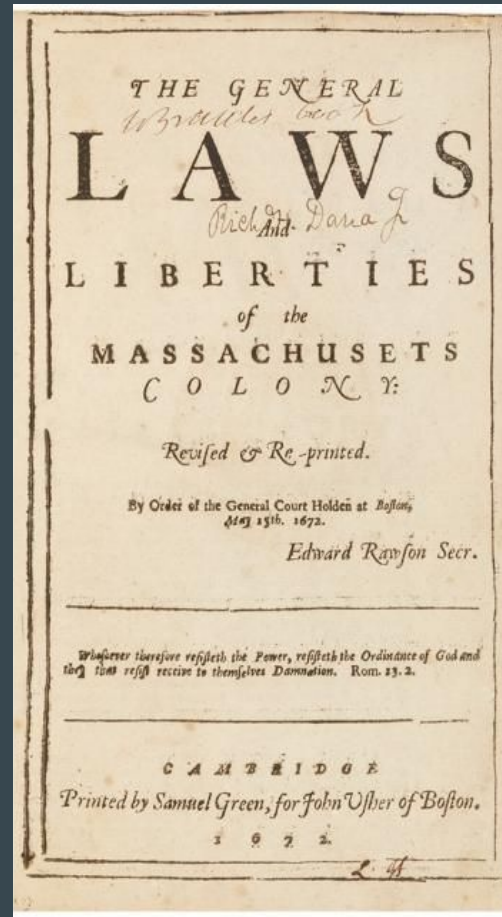
The leaders of Massachusetts organized the colony in self governing towns. Groups of settlers received a land grant from the colony's government and then constructed houses in a central area and used land on the outskirts for farming. Some land was used communally by the town. Each town had its own Congregational Church. Each, according to a law of 1647, was required to establish a school, since the ability to read the Bible was central to Puritan belief.

In 1641, a Puritan minister wrote the Massachusetts Body of Liberties, the first set of laws in New England. It include basic rights such as

- Freedom of speech
- The right to a trial by jury
- The right to post bail to get out of jail
- The right to fish or hunt on public land
- A ban on cruel and unusual punishment.



It also contained the first law in British America allowing slavery, stating that slaves could be anyone “taken captive in just war...or strangers sold to us.”



Because reading the Bible was so important, Massachusetts passed a law in 1647 that all towns with 50 households or more must have schools in order to teach children to read. *The New England Primer* was the first reading textbook designed for the American Colonies. It became the most successful educational textbook published in the 17th century (1600s) colonial United States and it became the foundation of most schooling before the 1790s. Below is an example of a page from the book.

*The New England Primer introduced colonial children to their ABC's by means of pictures and rhymes such as these.*



In Adam's fall  
We sinned all.



Thy life to mend,  
This Book attend.



The Cat doth play,  
And after slay.



A Dog will bite  
A thief at night.



An Eagle's flight  
Is out of sight.



The idle Fool  
Is whipt at school.



As runs the Glass,  
Man's life doth pass.



My Book and Heart  
Shall never part.



Job feels the rod,  
And blesses God.



Proud Korah's troops  
Were swallowed up.



The Lion bold  
The lamb doth hold.



The Moon shines bright  
In time of night.

Think the Cedar Shoals Dress Code is Bad? In 1651, Massachusetts passed a “sumptuary law”--a law regulating what people could wear. Puritans in New England could not wear silver, gold, lace, silk, hoods, scarves, anything with slashes in the sleeves or anything embroidered unless you were wealthy (wealthy people were considered to have better morals). These items were considered “vain” (pretentious or flashy) and unnecessary. Anyone who broke the law would be fined the equivalent of \$53,000!

Typical Puritan clothing



# Harvard University was founded in 1636 in Boston to train ministers





## NEW ENGLAND.

**T**HIS Name generally speaking includes the four Colonies of *New-Hampshire, Massacuset, Conetticut, and Rhode Island*; but *Massacuset* is the Province more strictly called *New England*. The first Plantation here was *New Plimouth*, by a Grant in 1606 from King *James I.* and in the Beginning of *Charles I.* this Colony was extended up *Massacuset Bay* to the River *Merimak*, and thenceforth called the *Massacuset Province*. 'Tis the principal Colony of the Four, and whose Governor is Captain-General of the Whole. *Boston* is the chief City, and indeed the Capital of all *British America*; and *Cambridge* is a University. The Cod and Whale Fishery here is very great; as likewise their Lumber Trade to other Colonies with Pipestaves, Hoops, Deals and Laths; also Horses and Salt Provision. Their lofty Fir-trees afford Masts for the Royal Navy. They build Abundance of Sloops, and have Plenty of Rosin, Tar, Pitch, Turpentine, Hemp, Flax, Moosedeer and Bever.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE.

**T**HIS Province lyes on the *Massacuset* Bay, North of *Boston*, between the two Rivers of *Merimak* and *Penobscut*. The Articles in Trade are much like the other Colonies, but most considerable in Naval Stores, Lumber, and Fish. They have a Manufacture of Coarse Linen, which increaseth not only here, but in the other Provinces of *New England*. The Capital Town is *Portsmouth*. They who fancy *Main* to be a distinct Government are mistaken, for tis only a County of *New Hampshire*.

## C O N E T T I C U T .

**T**HIS Colony, situate Southwest of *Boston*, was begun in 1635, and united in one Charter with the Plantation of *Newhaven* in the Year 1664. Tis a Corporation Government, where all the Magistrates, Council and Governor are chose yearly by the People, the Merchandize in general being the same as the rest of *New England*. The capital Town is *Newhaven*, where there is a College for Univerfity Learning, called *Yale Hall*.

## RHODE ISLAND.

**T**HIS is the Fourth Division of *New England*, and situate South of *Boston*. It was first planted in 1639, and established by Charter soon after the Restoration, with the Addition of *Providence* Plantation, which lyes near it on the Continent. This is a very thriving Settlement, the Exports being in general like the other neighboring Colonies. Tis also a Corporation Government as *Conetticut*. *Rhode Island*, for its fine Air and fruitful Soil, is called the Paradise of *New England*: The chief Place is *Newport*.