

## NORFOLK: 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

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1607: Three English ships landed at Cape Henry. After giving thanks for their safe passage to the New World, the colonists proceeded up the river to establish Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America.

1610: Hampton Roads named to honor Henry Wriothesly, Earl of Southampton and Treasurer of the Virginia Company in London

1613: tobacco is introduced to the colony and becomes the center of colonial economy. It was the dominant crop in what would become Princess Anne County through the 1680s.

1622: 200 acres of land now occupied by the City of Norfolk was owned by Lewis Vandermill, who in the same year sold it to Nicholas Wise, senior, shipwright.

1624: Thomas Willoughby granted 500 acres by King James I (present-day Ocean View).

1634: Virginia consisted of 8 shires, or counties, with a total population of approximately 5000 inhabitants. The area that comprises the present cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Hampton was part of Elizabeth City Shire.

1636: William Willoughby granted 200 acres by King Charles I (present-day downtown Norfolk).

1636: Ferry service begins across the Elizabeth River

In 1642, Upper Norfolk Co. became Nansemond Co., now the city of Suffolk.

In 1691 Lower Norfolk County was divided to form Norfolk County and Princess Anne County.

1637: first court for Lower Norfolk County meets. For 25 years, the court met in private homes.

1640: Elizabeth River Parish completed (site of present Norfolk Naval Station)

1661: Lower Norfolk County builds its first courthouse on Broad Creek, which was replaced in 1689 by 2 courthouses, one on the Elizabeth River and the other on the eastern portion of Lynnhaven River, on the southern end of Great Neck.

1673: Half Moon Fort built at Four Farthing Point (now Town Point) in Norfolk.

1680: The Virginia House of Burgesses orders each Virginia county to purchase 50 acres of land, to be laid out for a town and storehouses. By an Act of Assembly the purchase of 50 acres was authorized for the Town of Norfolk, the purchase price being 10,000 pounds of tobacco. In 1682, in pursuance to the act, land was purchased from trustees of Nicholas Wise, a house carpenter and son of the elder Wise. The deed was recorded and Norfolk Towne was established on the area now bounded by City Hall Avenue on the north, the Elizabeth River on the south and west, and the Norfolk and Western Railroad tracks on the east.

1691: Norfolk County formed from western Lower Norfolk County.

1698: First church in Norfolk built on Church Street (site is in churchyard of present St. Paul's)