Aquidneck Island Time Line

1524 Giovanni da Verrazano, an Italian sailing for the French explores Narragansett Bay.

1600’s Rhode Island Home to about 10,000 Native Americans, about half are Narragansetts.

1635 William Blackstone becomes Rhode Island’s first settler.

1636 Roger Williams begins Providence.

1638 Anne Hutchinson and others found Portsmouth.

1638 William Coddington meets with Chiefs Canonicus and Miantonomi and purchases Aquidneck Island.

1638 May, thirteen families start a new town, Pocasset, on the northern section of Aquidneck Island.

1639 April,

1639 Newport is founded.

1644 Roger Williams receives a charter from England to unite the four towns as a Rhode Island Colony.

1657 Quakers settle on Aquidneck Island.

1658 Jewish congregation formed in Newport.
1675-1676 King Phillip’s War ends in an Indian defeat in southern Rhode Island.

1732 The Rhode Island Gazette, the colony’s first newspaper is published in Newport.

1764 Newport opposes the Sugar Act.

1769 Patriots burn the English ship Liberty at Newport.

1774 Rhode Island is the first of the 13 colonies to outlaw the importation of slaves.

1775-1783 The Revolutionary War is fought. About 10,000 Rhode Islanders help the US win its independence.

1776 On May 4, Rhode Island is the first colony to drop its allegiance to the King of England.

1776 December, British troops occupy Newport.

1778 The Battle of Rhode Island ends in a draw.

1779 British troops withdraw from Newport.

1783 General Assembly gives rights to Roman Catholics.

1784 Emancipation Act gives freedom to all children born to slave mothers after March 1.

1787 General Assembly prohibits any Rhode Island citizen from engaging in the trafficking of slaves.