

Map of the South Fork, "Map New England" by John Seller published in London, 1675

Southampton HISTORICAL MUSEUM



Brief History of North Sea, New York

Long Island was formed after the last Ice Age. Migratory People set up hunting and fishing camps on the shores of North Sea Harbor about 8,000 BCE followed by the Shinnecock Tribe, who established a Woodland Period culture 3500 BCE to 1600 CE. In 1640 English pioneers landed near the Harbor and quickly established a busy seaport called FEVERSHAM, rivaling Philadelphia and Boston in the 17th and 18th centuries. By the early 20th century North Sea become a summer destination for local families, tourists and the wealthy summer colony.

This interesting but fragile area includes salt and fresh water with a great variety of vegetation and wildlife. It is greatly threatened by development and needs to be thoroughly and competently protected. This effort includes all neighbors, such as the Conscience Point Historic Marker and Nature Walk, Emma Rose Elliston Park and the North Sea Burial Grounds, currently being restored by John Griffin who carries forward the legacy of his family. Last but not least is the Stanley Howard Farm which, thanks to Peter A. Salm's discovery of a forged will that would have allowed plans for a major subdivision to go forward, was saved, thus guaranteeing approximately 100 acres to the National fish and Wildlife refuge at Conscience Point.

20,000 BCE – The *Laurentide Ice Sheet* recedes and creates Long Island.

10,000 BCE – End of the last ice age with extreme climate change. Global warming triggers rapid growth in plant and animal life. North Sea contains many relics of the glacial topography including estuaries, beach bluffs, ponds, kettle holes and drumlins that can be seen today.

8,000 BCE - Aboriginal People migrate to N. Sea and establish fishing camps and villages along the shores of N. Sea Harbor taking advantage of the abundance of shellfish, plants and wildlife.

1600 CE – Shinnecock are known among NE tribes for fine beads made from northern quahog clam and whelk shells. Dutch use Shinnecock beads (wampum) as the primary money system.

1636 - King Charles I gives the **Earl of Sterling** a Plymouth Colony patent for developing Long Island. Sterling hires **James Ferret** as agent and receives 12,000 acres & **Robins Island**.

1639 - Gov. **John Winthrop** of Massachusetts scouts Long Island by ship looking for settlements but likes **North Sea Harbor** because of its accessible meadows and woods. A Shinnecock Sachem lives in an Indian fort at the entrance to North Sea Harbor and is said to be friendly.

1640 – Pioneers from Lynn, Massachusetts seeking land and religious freedom arrive near **North Sea Harbor**. They are greeted by the Shinnecock Tribe, who have summer encampments nearby & hope the new settlers will provide protection from the Pequot Tribes of CT.

1640 to 1674 - The South Fork is governed by Connecticut Colony in Hartford (North Fork is governed by the New Haven Colony 1640-1662)

1641 – James Farret sells Robins Island to **Stephen Goodyear**, a founder of the New Haven Colony.

1647 – **John Ogden** receives permission to establish a colony of six families on 324 acres on Cow and Jeffery Necks.

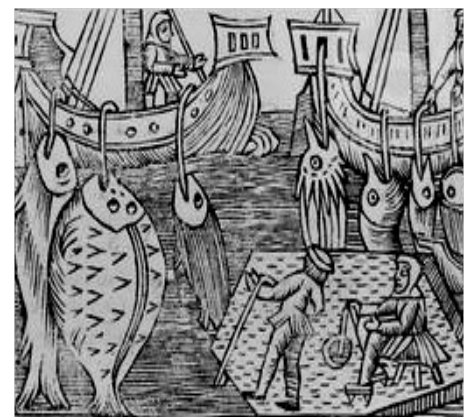
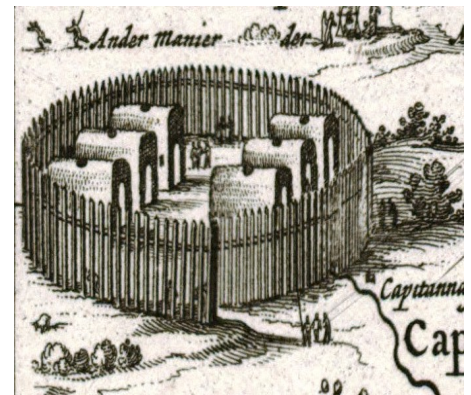
1657 – Town Records lists heads of households in North Sea - "John Rose, Xto Lupton, George Harris, Ri. Smith, Charles Sturmy, Sam Clarke, Tho Shaw, Ben. Haines, and Mr. Jennings [sic]."

1650 – **John Ogden** establishes the first off-shore whaling industry in the colonies. North Sea Harbor becomes an important port rivaling Boston and Philadelphia where schooners deliver new settlers, news from other ports, trade goods and supplies.

1654 - North Sea's notorious **Captain John Scott**, an entrepreneur and buccaneer, leaves a trail of the swindled and cheated. He accumulates a fortune and considerable acreage in North Sea.

1655 – Town records allocates to the men of Feversham **10 cask of liquor** or 450 bottles.

1683 to 1750s - **Feversham** becomes a major trading center by exporting whale oil to Boston and London, cordwood to New York City and barrels of dried pork to Virginia. Imports include sugar, rum and horses from Barbados. The port contains two warehouses, a tavern, brick kiln, several homes and a customs house. After 1750s Feversham becomes **North Hampton**.



1687 - Town Records lists heads of households in North Sea – “Samuel Clarke, Benjamin Haynes, John Rose, Joseph Lupton, John Davis, Thomas Shaw, Richard Smith, Jecomiah Scott, John Rose, Jr., George Harris, James White and Samuel Cooper.”

1715 – Robins Island is purchased by **Joseph Wickham** a large landowner in Cutchogue.

1749 – **Parker Wickham** inherits Robins Island. The Island is confiscated during the American Revolution and Wickham, a Loyalist, is banished from the state. It is purchased in 1784 by Caleb Brewster and Benjamin Tallmadge, members of the **Culper Spy Ring** during the War.

1730s – **Sag Harbor**, with a much deeper harbor, begins to supplant North Hampton as a seaport.

1767 – The **first schoolhouse** is built at N. Sea and Noyack Roads. Later it was moved behind Kreymborg House, across from the intersection.

1768 – **David Rose** is given exclusive rights to fish in **Fish Cove**.

1782 – Oldest known tombstone in **North Sea Burial Grounds** is named for Christopher Lupton.

1857 – The second schoolhouse is built and remodeled around 1910.

1881 – A few Summer Colony families choose North Sea instead of Lake Agawam for a retreat. **A. H. Barney**, a wealthy banker, purchases 300 acres on **Cow Neck** from heirs of John Scott for \$15 per acre.

1910 - The **Southampton Historical Museum** purchases Conscience Point from Charles W. Reeve for \$75 and creates **Conscience Point Historic Marker**, a twenty-ton bolder that commemorates the 1640 landing of English pioneers. The six-acre site is open to the public year-round and becomes a tourist attraction.

1914 – **Colonel H.H. Rogers, Jr.**, heir to a Standard Oil fortune, begins purchasing farms on Cow Neck that eventually grows to an 2,000 acre hunting and fishing compound.

1915 - **North Sea Beach Colony** founded with changing rooms, a bar, food stand, and a long pier stretching out to a float. For years, people from surrounding areas who preferred its calm waters to the ocean surf flocked to the pavilion, which was torn down early in the 1940s.

1920s – **Tupper Boathouse** is built on the original North Sea Harbor shipyard. The Boat House was later developed into **Conscience Point Inn** as a hotel, restaurant and nightclub.

H.H. Rogers, Jr., begins building **Port of Missing Men** named after the 1893 shipwreck of the tug boat **Panther** and barge ships **Lykens Valley** and **Victor** killing 17 of 20 on board. He creates a self-sustaining farm, stables and a dairy. The mansion includes two older homes in North Sea to his estate including the John Scott house built in 1661.

1930s – Conscience Point attracts an elegant clientele with a thirst for the rusticity of North Sea. **Fish Cove Inn and Cottages** has a brochure that promises "an opportunity to enjoy complete comfort."

1934 – **North Sea Community Assoc.** purchases the schoolhouse for \$300 for a community center.

1936—**Suffolk County's 250th Anniversary Pageant** is held at Conscience Point.

1940 – **Southampton's 300th Anniversary Pageant** is held in North Sea. The Southampton Colonial Society organizes a recreation of the English pioneers meeting the Shinnecock Nation.

1952 – **Emma Rose Elliston Memorial Park**, a six parcel gift to the North Sea community from her grandson J. Edward Elliston is dedicated.

1971—**Conscience Point National Wildlife Refuge** a 60-acre preserve is a gift from Stanley Howard.

1989 – Parker Wickham's heirs file a lawsuit to regain ownership of Robins Island. The lawsuit fails, it discourages development. **Louis Bacon** acquires Robins Island in 1993 and all of the island is now protected by a conservation easement donated to **The Nature Conservancy** in 1997.

1995 –The Nature Conservancy and the Town of Southampton, in an agreement with **Wiltred Salm**, acquires **Big Woods Preserve**.

1998 - Louis Bacon acquires 650 acres from the Salm Family including Cow Neck. In 2000 Mr. Bacon donates a conservation easement on Cow Neck to **Peconic Land Trust**.

1999 – **Howard Reisman** and **Eric Woodward** steer a wildlife rehabilitation of Conscience Point. A paved road extending the length of the Point is replaced by a crushed shell path, native botanicals are planted and is now called **Conscience Point Historic Marker & Nature Walk**.

2003 – Town of Southampton purchases Conscience Point Inn and develops a 64-slip marina called **Conscience Point Marina**.

2009 - A group of North Sea community volunteers, led by John Griffin, organizes the **North Sea Burial Grounds Restoration Project**.

2012 - **Sea Scout Ship 908** begins construction of a **Shellfish Hatchery** to be used as an education center on marine wildlife.

