



Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Flag:

Then



Now



Interactions with the natives

The Massachusetts colonists would get into disagreements with the natives over land property. The natives thought that selling land to someone did not mean it gave that person exclusive ownership of that property or that that property was now only that person's. They thought that whoever they sold to would become their neighbor and that they would share resources such as food. But the colonists thought that if a Native sold land to them the Native would immediately leave that spot and stay away forever. This caused a lot of disagreements.

Agriculture in Massachusetts

The colonists in Massachusetts who planted were both men and women, but women mostly gardened. The colonists didn't have a lot to work with, because the terrain in Massachusetts was very rocky and not good for planting. Still, they were able to manage to plant some wheat and rye. This is why they were given the nickname the breadbasket. They also were able to plant pumpkins, corn, squash and beans. Also farmers raised sheep in addition to gardening. The women and children spun the sheep's wool into yarn for clothing.



Colonial life

Each colonial in Massachusetts had a different schedule. But some of them were very similar. For example the men often hunted for food. They hunted for lots of forest animals like turkeys, bears and deer, but a lot of them hunted fish. They hunted fish like whales and codfish. A man could also be a cooper who made barrels, a cobbler made shoes or a tanner who made leather. If a boy wanted a certain job he would be an apprentice for the job he wanted for a certain amount of time. The women spent their time tending to the farms, sewing and they would turn animal hides from the animals that their husbands hunted into leather and fur clothing. They also took charge of cooking and made soap. Raising their children also kept them very busy. They had big families and it was often six or more children. The children helped with chores once they were old enough. That included fetching water, milking cows, herding sheep and baking bread. The boys helped their fathers and the girls helped their mothers.

