

Colony: Rhode Island
Region: New England
Founding Date: 1763



RHODE

ECONOMY

Rhode Island's economy ranged from what they grew, what they produced, and what they traded. Farms were a major part of their economy. A giant crop for the Rhode Islanders was corn. A vegetable that helped the Rhode Islanders was the mighty onion. During the warmer months they grew apples. People produced what they had much of. Many peoples spun and sold wool during winter. Another thing people made and sold was cheese. Trading helped the colony get things from other colonies and make friendships with them. When they first came to Rhode Island the Dutch colonists traded weapons to the native americans for fur. Later the Rhode Islanders traded goods with other colonies. The economy of Rhode Island helped it to continue on.



ISLAND

RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIVES

The Rhode Islanders relationship with the local native americans was not as well as their economy. They had a lot of trouble with the original settlers. To begin with they had a war. Not the Revolutionary War (well maybe), but with the native population. This is what happened: The native americans of Massachusetts went to war with the colonists of Massachusetts and then some people from outside of Rhode Island killed hundreds of Narragansett (the local natives of Rhode Island) and they responded by burning two major Rhode Island cities which were Warwick and Providence. After the war many Narragansett moved away from Rhode Island. A lot of the time Narragansett still there were sold as slaves.



COLONIAL LIFE

The colonial life was very different for different people. The colonists and slaves had different things to do in the time they spent. The men usually spent their time earning money in shops for their family. The women of Rhode Island spent a lot of their time cooking to make sure the family had meals. If the family was rich enough they sent their children to school. Slaves had very little free time and if they got it they had to work in that time. In colonial era Rhode Island everyone had a job to do. The men were usually farmers or fishers. A lot of the time women taught dame schools. Even kids helped their parents do whatever their profession was. The slaves mainly did farming, helping out in the house, or whatever their owners wanted them to do. Everybody had a different role in the community. Rich men could vote. The women took care of young children. Older children were often interns for whoever needed them. Rhode Island had one of the busiest slave traders in the colonies so slaves were always moving around and being sold to new owners. Rhode Island would never of gotten through colonial times without everybody doing their part to help out.