

Piscataqua Pioneers Trolley Tour
July 30, 2022

by Wendy Blood

After a wonderful “Coastal New England” buffet, 30 Piscataqua Pioneers headed off in the footsteps of our original Piscataqua Pioneers, to see where some of the original Pioneers settled.

As we left the Wentworth, we traveled along Sagamore Creek and headed to Odiorne Point, considered the “birthplace of NH”. Back in the 1600-1700s it was part of New Castle, which is an island. Piscataqua Pioneer John Odiorne (The Odiorne’s were the ones who petitioned to have it become part of Rye) settled there in the late 1600’s. In 1899 The Colonial Dames erected a monument to the pioneers who landed there in the spring of 1623.

Next, we traveled near the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, home to many Wentworth family Piscataqua Pioneers, including Lt. Gov John Wentworth (1717-1730), Gov. Benning Wentworth (1741-1766) and another Gov John Wentworth (1766-1775). We will also pass the Gov. John Wentworth House.

In our travels we will pass three public cemeteries, the final resting places of many of our Piscataqua Pioneers. South cemetery, which is made up of five cemeteries, Point of Graves, the oldest cemetery in the city and North/Union Cemetery.

Along the way we passed many notable homes and locations that are instrumental in the founding and settling of Portsmouth, NH. Including the Daniel House, Gov. Ichabod Goodwin house, Gov. John Langdon, Thomas Bailey Aldrich House, The Warner House, St. John’s (formerly Queen’s Chapel in colonial times) and the William Moffett/Ladd House.

In the garden of the Moffett/Ladd house is an enormous horse chestnut tree planted in 1776 by General William Whipple upon his return from signing the Declaration of Independence. The horse chestnut tree was designated the Millennium Landmark Tree for the State of New Hampshire in 2000 and is on the National Register of Historic Trees.

As we head north out of town we come to Hilton’s Point. This is the first settlement of Dover, NH. Settled by Edward and William Hilton in 1623. They are both original Piscataqua Pioneers. In the 1630s they settled in the “New Fields” section of Exeter, NH.

Heading back to town, we pass many notable sites. The site of the Bloody Point Ferry, Louis De Rochemont ‘s house, the John Paul Jones (Piscataqua Pioneers has erected a plaque here), the Frank Jones, Rockingham Hotel, the African Burying Ground. City infrastructure project

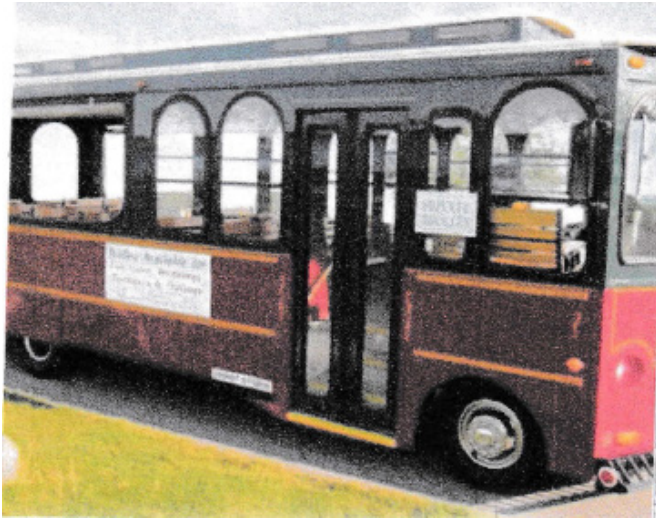
The African Burying Ground was unearthed in October 2003 during a city infrastructure project. The buried remains of 13 people were found. The burying ground had been in use during the 1700s and had been forgotten and built over.

Heading back to Wentworth by The Sea, we go along Portsmouth Harbor. We pass the closed Portsmouth Naval Prison (The Castle), Fort Constitution and the New Castle Common.

In 1905, the Russian and Japanese delegations negotiated “the treaty of Portsmouth” to end the Russo-Japanese War here. President Theodore Roosevelt proposed the peace talks and won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

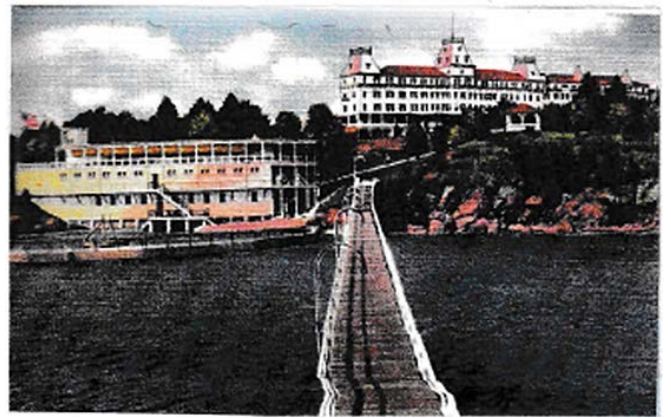
I hope you have enjoyed your trip through the history of Portsmouth, N. H., and the lives of some of the Original Piscataqua Pioneers.

**** See next page for scanned postcards of historic landmarks visited during the tour.****



Seacoast Trolley

Wentworth-by-the-Sea



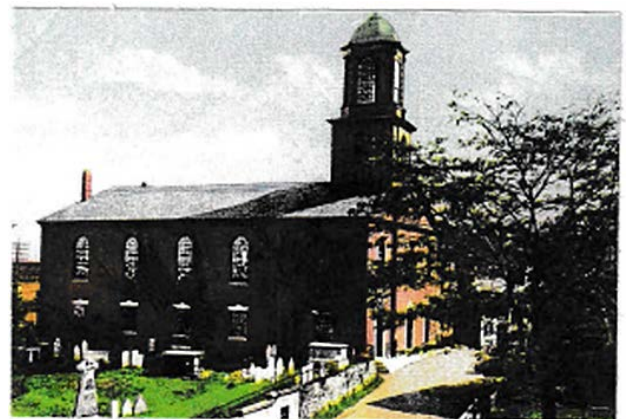
Wentworth Coolidge Mansion



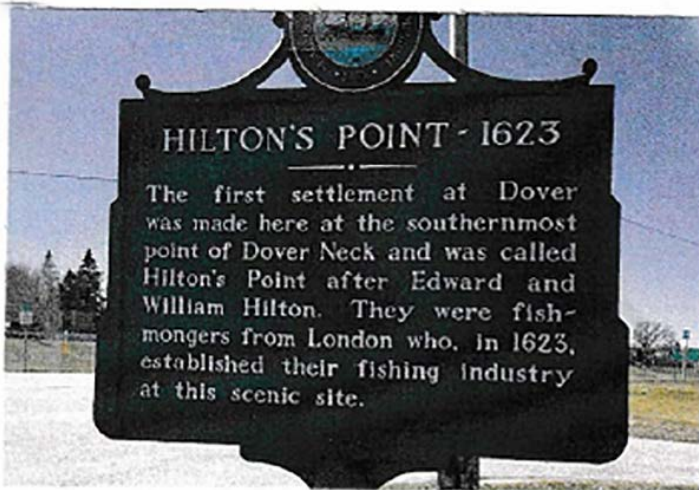
Odiorne Point Monument
Placed by Colonial Dames 1899.



Union
Cemetery



St. John's Church



Hilton's Point Dover



Hilton Homestead at Newfields



Frank Jones Rochester Hotel



African Burying Ground



Naval Hospital "The Castle"