Massachusetts Bay Company

1629 – Group of Puritans form the Mass Bay Co. They received a royal charter to establish a colony north of Plymouth. John Winthrop is named governor.

1630 – Winthrop leads 900 men, women, and children to Mass Bay. During the 1630’s more than 15,000 Puritans journeyed to Mass. This becomes known as the Great Migration.

1634 – Settlers demand a larger role in government. Male church members were allowed to vote – later property ownership becomes a requirement

Puritans had little tolerance (to put up with different views) for different beliefs. They persecuted people who did not agree with them. They strictly enforced their own religious rules thus causing other colonies to form.

Connecticut and Rhode Island –

West of Boston is the Connecticut River Valley, rich farming land. In the 1630’s colonists began to settle the area.

A leader of this movement was Thomas Hooker, a Mass minister, who disagreed with how Winthrop and other Puritan leaders were running the colony.

1636, Hooker led his congregation to the Connecticut River Valley and founded the town of Hartford. Other towns began to form.

1639 – The colony of Connecticut is formed. They adopt a plan of government called the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. This became the FIRST written constitution in America. It reflected a belief in democratic principles.

A minister named Roger Williams founded the colony of Rhode Island. He felt that government should not force people to worship a certain way. He also believed it was wrong to take land away from the Native Americans.

Forced to leave the Mass colony, he found refuge with the Narragansett peoples. They later sold him land, where he founded the town of Providence. He established a policy of religious toleration and it became a safe place for dissenters. It was the first place in America where all faiths could worship freely. Others followed his example

1638 – John Wheelwright led a group of dissidents from Mass to found the town Exeter in New Hampshire.

1679 – New Hampshire becomes an independent colony

Conflict with Native Americans

Native Americans, Wampanoags, Narragansett, and other groups traded furs for settlers’ goods but conflict arose.

Usually settlers would move into Native American lands without permission or payment. This caused intense competition for land.

1675 – Wampanoag leader Metacomet, known as King Philip to the settlers, waged war with the colonists. He enlisted the help of other Native American groups. The conflict raged on for 14 months before he was defeated. This war destroyed the power of the Native Americans in New England and colonial settlements expanded.