~9,500 B.C. - ~8,000 B.C. – Known as the Paleo-Indian Period. The reason for the brevity of this period (in many areas the Paleo-Indian Period can last for tens of thousands of years) is that 9,500 B.C. is when the last glacier covering Aroostook County retreated, which is when the first human habitation of the Aroostook County area occurred. The land of Aroostook County was then tundra. The Paleo-Indian Period is characteristically marked by fluted points.

~8,000 B.C. - ~5,000 B.C. – Known as the Early Archaic Period.

~5,000 B.C. - ~500 B.C. – Known as the Middle and Late Archaic Period. Notably in Aroostook County and other areas of New England, this is the time of the Red Paint Peoples. The reason for the name is that at grave sites, bodies and grave goods were almost always covered with red ochre.

Post-500 B.C. - Known as the Ceramic Period. This is due to the appearance and wide use of pottery, as well as birch bark and notched arrowheads. There is also likely the cultivation of corn and tobacco.

Pre-1500 – The estimated population of the Wabanaki tribe region (Abenaki, Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot tribes) before European contact is approximated at about 35,000.

1534 – Jacques Cartier is the first explorer to navigate inland North America. He claims the land of Canada for France. He also trades with Micmacs of New Brunswick.

1500s, Early – Micmacs are in regular contact with Basque and other European fishermen and merchants. The Natives trade furs for other commodities such as steel knives, copper kettles, cloth, glass beads, and alcohol in the form of brandy and wine.

1537, June 2 – Pope Paul III decrees the papal bull Sublimus Dei. This official papal statement asserts that the indigenous peoples of the New World are truly men and that they are entitled to land and freedom. It also condemns subjugating natives into slavery. However, this decree will be wrongfully used to justify slavery and violence against natives if they refused to
Conversion also then became a pretext for European powers to explore lands and plunder them.

1542 – One of the earliest references to Norumbega is made by French explorer Jean Allefonsce. Norumbega was a northeastern similarity to El Dorado, a native city of gold and wealth on an island, somewhere in the Penobscot River region. This legendary rumor leads more navigators to Maine’s coastal waters to explore. While Norumbega will never be found, there is a discovery of copious amounts of “soft gold,” or furs, in the northeastern of North America.

~1580 – Messamoet, a Micmac chieftain, travels to Europe and lives in Bayonne France for two years before returning to the Old World.

1603 – Pierre Du Gua de Monts (Sieur de Monts) is granted the lands and rights to colonize the lands 40° to 60° north latitude in the New World by Charles IV, the King of France. This is approximately the land from New Jersey to the Restigouche River in New Brunswick. He was granted these lands and the fur trading rights associated with them if he promised to settle a quota of French colonists on the land each year.

1604, June – Sieur de Monts and Samuel de Champlain, along with 73 other French settlers found a small colony on St. Croix Island, located at the mouth of the St. Croix River in the Bay of Fundy. This is the first European settlement in Maine. The colony is a disaster due to the lack of resources and the harsh winter climate, killing many settlers. During this time, Samuel de Champlain writes one of the earliest descriptions of people that are native to the Aroostook region. He used the term “Etchemin,” this would later refer to Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, and Maliseet natives.

1605 – Sieur de Monts’ and Samuel de Champlain’s colony moves to land in Nova Scotia and establish Port-Royal, France’s first successful North American colony. It becomes the capital of Acadia, the French claim to the New World, its border as far south as the Kennebec River in Maine.

1605, June 24 – Samuel de Champlain discovers and names the St. John River after John the Baptist.

1600s, Early – Soon after Samuel de Champlain’s and Sieur de Monts’ founding of the Port-Royal colony, a priest by the name of Father Briard of France travels in the same region and describes the various natives that he meets in writing, including Maliseets and Micmacs. Another priest (perhaps also Father Briad) now estimates the local native population to be around five to six thousand.

1612* - Samuel de Champlain knows of several Aroostook County landmarks when he sketches and creates maps of North America.
1675, June – 1678, April – King Philip’s War takes place between English colonists and New England Native Americans under Chief Metacomet of the Wampanoag, known as King Philip. During the war, Wabanakis are ordered by the English to surrender all their guns. The Penobscons join southern Maine tribes in the fighting, predominantly in 1678, but the Maliseets and Passamaquoddiies flee north to French missionary towns on the St. Lawrence River.

1684 – France grants Rene D’Amours, Sieur de Clignancourt, a tract of land in Acadia (some of which would lie in Aroostook County) from Grand Falls to Meductic. He did not bring settlers, but he became known as an illegal liquor trader, particularly in the Malisect village of Meductic. Likely because of Rene D’Amours and other landowners and traders, the Wabanakis and the French develop stronger bonds with each other.

1688 – 1697 – King William’s War takes place, the North American theatre of the Nine Years’ War also in Europe, between England and France. Trade was cut off with many Maine and Acadian tribes by the English. The Maliseect tribe soon joins the Penobscons and southern Maine tribes in the fighting after England proclaims a reward of ten pounds for every Native scalp brought to them. The Wabanaki tribes join the French side of the war and the French aid the natives by providing them with guns. The French also build a fort at what is now Fredericton to aid the natives and store supplies. After the fort is built, the Micmac tribe agrees to aid in the war effort as well. During the fighting in Maine, the French and Wabanaki forces nearly pushed or killed all English settlers out of Maine.

1699 – The first known reference to what is now the name “Aroostook” was written on a map by William de Rosier.

1702 – 1713 – Queen Anne’s War takes place between England (after 1707 known as Great Britain) and France. One of the three major theatres of the war was Acadia. Most of the Native tribes in the region wished to remain neutral in the fighting. However, many natives went against tribal wishes and aided the French in attacking what is now Portland, Maine. The colony of Massachusetts responds by imposing more scalp bounties on any native at twenty pounds, then one hundred pounds per scalp. Indiscriminate killing of peaceful and warring natives took place, forcing tribes to flee or fight. The ones who fled went through Aroostook County to reach the St. Lawrence River where there were French missionary towns. Members from all five tribes of the Wabanaki Confederation joined the fight with the French against the English. French and Wabanaki men tried to defend Port-Royal against an English siege in 1711, but lost. During the next few years, the English were able to raid much of Acadia. The French ceded Acadia to the English after being defeated in the war in 1713. This technically gave the English Wabanaki lands that were not surrendered by the natives. Most of Acadia is deemed Nova Scotia by the conquering English (literally New Scotland).
1722, July 25 – 1725, December 15 – Father Rale’s War takes place between the New England colonies and the Wabanaki Confederacy with French aid. After English encroachment on Wabanaki land, a few natives killed stray cows destroying their fields. In retaliation, a few English colonists slay five sleeping Kennebecs. Governor Dummer reinstates a one hundred pound bounty on all natives, including the peaceful Wabanaki tribes. One of the consequences of the war is extended British control over western Maine. This is the only war the Wabanakis fight on their own terms, rather than as a supporter of the French. Peace treaties were signed with many of the Wabanaki tribes; however, most of them are used to trick the native tribes into giving up land or sovereignty, which the natives will not later recognize as legitimate.

1744 – 1748 – King George’s War takes place between Great Britain and the New England Colonies against France aided by the Wabanaki Confederacy. During the course of the war many British settlements bordering the Kennebec River are raided in 1745.

1754 – 1763 – The French and Indian War takes place between France and Great Britain and their corresponding native allies. It is a smaller part of the broader Seven Years’ War, which is very much a global and international war. During the war, Great Britain had aim to remove all northern territory owned by France. All over Maine and the surrounding provinces there is conflict including the Kennebec, St. John, Penobscot, and St. Lawrence Rivers. In 1759, the British claimed all of Penobscot land after marching through where Bangor is now. Quebec was also taken later that year by the British; some of the defenders were Wabanakis. The only Wabanaki ally, the French, ceded almost all land they had acquired in northern North America to the British. French Acadians are exiled after losing to the British beginning in 1755, many go far south to Louisiana.

1763, October 7- A Royal Proclamation decreed by King George III of Great Britain asserts that Natives have rights to their own land. The British of Nova Scotia and Massachusetts (which includes Maine) claim it does not apply to them and give and grant away land belonging to the Native tribes that they had recently acquired by way of France.

1775, April 19 – 1783, September 3 – The Revolutionary war between the colonies, later to become the United States, and Great Britain takes place.

1776 – George Washington extends a “Chain of Friendship” to many Native tribes, including Passamaquoddies, Penobscots, Maliseets, and Micmacs to form a large alliance with the colonies against Great Britain.

1776, Summer – The Continental Congress occurs and the colonies declare independence against Great Britain. At the meeting there are three Maliseet and seven Micmac delegates.

1779 – 1783 – Most of eastern Maine is occupied by the British as part of the Revolutionary War. During the occupation there is much fighting led by the Maliseets, along with the
Passamaquoddi, Micmacs, and Penobscots against the British. This prevents the British from taking full control of the area.

1781, October 19 – General Cornwallis surrenders his army to the Americans. The Peace Party then takes over in the British Parliament, essentially ending the actual conflict in the United States in the Revolutionary War, although the war is technically not over until the Treaty of Paris in 1783. However, the Americans do not continue on to drive the British out of the St. John River area as they promised they would do as compensation to the Wabanaki tribes for their aid in the revolution.

1782 – Pierre Lizotte may have been the first permanent white settler of what is Aroostook County, by staying with a Maliseet tribe near Madawaska on the St. John River.

1783 – Pierre Duperre is convinced to move and settle along with his half-brother, Pierre Lizotte, and establish a trading post in the Madawaska region.

1783, September 3 – The Treaty of Paris is signed between the United States of America and Great Britain, officially ended the Revolutionary War. Article 2, dealing with the boundaries between Great Britain and the United States, was exceedingly vague of the northern boundary between the countries.

1780s – 1790s – The British disband military units to settle along the St. John River. This is one as a semi-military defense to protect and keep the river communication line between Halifax and Quebec.

1785 – Many Acadians begin to really settle in the St. John Valley region.

1786 – The State of Massachusetts sold native tribal lands in Maine in a lottery illegally without federal approval. Massachusetts’ reasoning was that the state had previously “conquered” Penobscot lands up to Bangor in 1759.

1787 – The first of several Indian schools in the region is built in Meductic, New Brunswick, a few miles from the border where Houlton is now.

1790, July 22 – The United States Congress passes the Non-Intercourse Act. The act required that federal government must consent in transactions regarding Indians.

1794 – Massachusetts offers a treaty to the Passamaquoddy tribe in Maine. They ask that the natives give up almost all of their tribal lands (some of which lay in Aroostook County) in return for a township and a few extra small tracts of land for a sum of around 23,000 acres and the promise that they would not be further encroached upon. This is a small fraction of the land that they owned, but the Passamaquoddy tribe accepts the deal. Even though they were clearly shortchanged, it was likely the promise of no further encroachments that the tribe did agree to the deal.
1796 – The Penobscot tribe agrees to a deal with Massachusetts where they cede the majority of their lands to Massachusetts. In return, the tribe is allowed to keep river islands and some northern territory, some of which lay in Aroostook County. They also receive yearly rations of various supplies such as blankets, gunpowder, shot, and flint.

1796, October 4 – A commission to determine the original St. Croix River is appointed and begins work.

1797 – The boundary of the St. Croix River and its source is surveyed and agreed upon between the United States and Great Britain by surveyors Samuel Titcomb and John Harris (as it was uncertain which was the river in question in the Treaty of Paris, Article 2, And that all disputes which might arise in future on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are and shall be their boundaries, viz.; from the northwest angle of Nova Scotia, viz., that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of St. Croix River to the highlands; along the said highlands which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence…).

1799 – The state of Massachusetts begins to grant away some of Maliseet tribal land in what would be Aroostook County without federal or Maliseet consent, mostly for state academies.

Pre-1800 – The British erect temporary military posts along the St. John, as well as in what is Presque Isle and Grand Falls.

1800s, Early – Loggers from New Brunswick are the first to begin to traverse the Aroostook Valley region.

1806, March 4 – A resolve is proposed that the State of Massachusetts grant a township deeded in the District of Maine to the town of Plymouth, so it is known as the Plymouth Grant.

1807 – The province of Maine fails in an attempt to secede from the state of Massachusetts.

1807 – Houlton is founded by Joseph Houlton of Massachusetts. It is the first American settled permanent town in what is Aroostook County.

1807, December 19 – The Plymouth Grant deed is executed by Massachusetts official agents. There are soon legal disputes over what the northern boundary really was. This came about because there were two surveyors of the town at different times. Charles Turner Jr., sometime in 1807, as well as Park Holland on November 6, 1807, that marked the northern boundary differently. Eventually the southernmost boundary line is accepted as the official boundary line. Plymouth Grant will later become one of the townships that Fort Fairfield is comprised of.

1808, January 28 – The State of Massachusetts grants 10,000 acres of land in Township Letter H Range 2 (one of the townships that will be part of Caribou) of the District of Maine to
General William Eaton. This was done for his diplomatic and military service in northern Africa from 1797 to 1805. This is largely ceremonial as no one will settle the land for many years to come.

1814 – 1815, February – Eastern Maine is once again occupied by the British in the War of 1812.

1814, December 24 – Treaty of Ghent is signed, officially ending the War of 1812 between the United States of America and Great Britain. Some of the provisions in the articles provided that the two countries must request arbitration from a neutral sovereign head of state if commissioners from the United States and Great Britain could not come to agreement over various disputes.

1816 – “Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death” also known as the “Year Without a Summer” occurs. Due to many factors including low solar activity and the 1815 volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora the Northern Hemisphere was caught in a climate disaster. The Eastern United States and Western Europe were hit particularly hard. Snow was observed in New York and Maine on August 6, and as far south as Pennsylvania there was river ice in July. This created great hardship for the early settlers in the Aroostook region, particularly in Madawaska. While the cold weather itself was not unbearable for tough settlers, crops failed to grow in the summer frosts and freezes, creating a severe lack of food and supplies.

1818 – The state of Massachusetts buys all the remaining territory from the Penobscot tribe (including what they had claim to in Aroostook County) without the consent of the federal government. In return, the Penobscot was allowed to keep four townships and a few river islands and was paid four hundred dollars, given some supplies, and was promised yearly rations.

1819, May – Peter Bull arrives in Aroostook from New Brunswick. He has a land grant of 600 acres from the provincial government at the mouth of the Presque Isle Stream.

1820 – The Missouri compromise allows Maine to leave Massachusetts and become the 23rd state of the Union as a free state and Missouri to be the 24th state as a slave state to keep a balance in free and slave states.

Post-1820 – After Maine becomes a state, it receives eighteen townships in central and northern portions of the state from Massachusetts as compensation for the support of the native tribes in the state. Nine of the eighteen townships are lands still claimed by the Maliseet tribe, but they are sold by the state of Maine, generating some revenue. The rest of the townships are divided up alternating between Maine and Massachusetts. This is done illegally without Maliseet or federal consent.

1820 – Lewis and Charles Johnson and a Mr. McCrea come from New Brunswick along the river, and make a camp at the mouth of the Presque Isle stream. They are the first settlers of Township G Range 2, known as Maysville.
1821 – Two commissioners, Thomas Barclay of Great Britain and Cornelius P. Van Ness of the United States, fail to come to an agreement of a definitive border between the two countries after working on the project since 1816. Essentially, each country believed in its own border, the United States believing it to be a few miles north of the St. John River, Great Britain believing it to be more southward, and would have encompassed much of Aroostook County.

1821 – The Cary Memorial Library in Houlton is founded.

1823 – The first settler of Plymouth Grant is Michael Russell from New Brunswick.

1825 – Maysville has seven families living in the boundaries of the township.

1825, October 3 – John Baker is granted a land deed in Madawaska, still a disputed area. A lot below Baker’s is granted to James Bacon. John Baker establishes a farm, store, sawmill, and gristmill. Naturally he became the de facto leader of the new settlers in Madawaska.

1826 – Nathaniel Churchill of New Brunswick becomes the first permanent settler in the area of Township 13 Range 3, the town that would become Washburn.

1827 – The New Brunswick government imposes an “alien tax” on Americans in the disputed northern boundary area.

1827, Spring – A New Brunswick magistrate from Tobique by the name of George Morehouse continually harasses Madawaska and Aroostook settlers in a variety of ways such as issuing warrants, marking timber, and posting trespassing notices.

1827, July 4 – At John Baker’s, many of the American settlers gathered to celebrate Independence Day. During the festivities, they fly from their “liberty pole” a flag with an eagle with red stars arranged in a semi-circle around it. George Morehouse demands that it be taken down after he sees it. The Americans refuse to do so as a response. George Morehouse retaliates by threatening a summons to appear in a Fredericton court for each individual participating in the celebration. As a final response, the Americans signed a compact among themselves that they would settle all disputes among themselves and not abide by British Authority.

1827 – John Baker and James Bacon decide to travel to Portland to ask Governor Enoch Lincoln and the legislature to hear their case.

1827, September 25 – Before John Baker reaches Portland, George Morehouse has acquires a subpoena and a force of men that drag John Baker out of his bed in the morning, taking him to jail in Fredericton under a conspiracy charge.

1827 – William I, King of the Netherlands, is chosen by the United States and Great Britain as the neutral sovereign head of state to arbitrate the northern boundary dispute.
1828 – Dennis Fairbanks is the first permanent settler of Township Letter F Range 2, part of what would become Presque Isle. He built a gristmill, but the very first grinder in the town was actually a hand cranked one owned by Joseph Ireland.

1828, May 5 – The United States military establishes a post, Hancock Barracks, in Houlton.

1828, May 8 – John Baker defended himself against the provincial attorney general in British court and lost. He was sentenced a fine of twenty-five pounds and two months jail time, but the jail time was never served.

1830* - The first settler in Township 12 Range 3 (later Mapleton) is likely Peter Bull.

1830 – The population of Aroostook County is approximately 3,399.

1830 – William Dalton is the first permanent settler of what would become Ashland.

1831, January – William I, King of the Netherlands, proposes his arbitration of what should be the northern boundary line between the United States and Great Britain.

1831 – Great Britain accepts the arbitrated proposal by King William I of the Netherlands, but the United States refuses the proposed line.

1831, March 8 – Houlton is incorporated a town in Maine.

1832 – The Military Road is completed connecting Houlton to Bangor and the various intermediary towns. This is the first real road built leading into Aroostook County. Prior to this there was only a few lumber trails of little use.

1833 – The Penobscot tribe is essentially misled in selling to Maine the four remaining townships it owns, two of which would border southern Aroostook County.

1833, January 5 – Alpheus Felch, the town clerk of Houlton, writes on behalf of Houlton to Shephard Cary, a Maine Hous Representative from Houlton, for the creation of a new county in the northern region of Maine. However, Cary is unable to move any legislation along.

1836 – 1837 – Dr. Charles T. Jackson extensively surveys and reports the lands and geology of Maine, including much on Aroostook County.

Pre-1837 – Peter Bull builds the first frame house in the Aroostook Valley.

1837, February 3 – Aaron Putnam and twenty-five other Houlton men sign a petition for the creation of a new county. In the petition, no county name is proposed and Madawaska is not to be included in the new county. There is no following action by the legislature on the petition.

1838 – Dr. Ezekiel Holmes surveys the Aroostook region.
1838 – Maine Governor John Fairfield dispatches agent Buckmore to view operations in northern Maine. Buckmore finds extensive trespassing in his observations. This was because the land in Aroostook was mostly disputed and the majority of the settlers were from New Brunswick. This meant that most of the settlers’ allegiances likely lied with England.

1838 – Thirty-four men from Smyrna send a signed petition for the creation of a new county to the state legislature. They are the first to propose a name for the new county, that being Aroostook County.

1839, January – Houlton, wanting to retain its foremost position if there were to be a new county as the designated shire town, sends another petition with forty-eight signatures in response to other towns’ petitions (such as Smyrna’s last year, and Hodgdon, Linneus, Bridgewater) for the creation of a new county. This time they include the Madawaska region, but they still leave the county name blank. There is also a petition to prevent a new county as well.

1839, February – Because of all the petitions brought forward to the legislature, the state had to take some form of action. This is done in the form of the Act of Establishment. In the draft of the act the name of the county is Restook. Some other proposed named are Arestook and Jackson. Restook is amended to Aroostook.

1839, March 6 – The amended Act of Establishment passes through the Maine Senate.

1839, March 9 – The Act of Establishment passes through the Maine House of Representatives.

1839, March 16 – The Act of Establishment is signed under Governor Fairfield. It creates Aroostook County from extensive portions of Washington and Penobscot Counties. Houlton is to become the county seat.

1839, May 1 – The Act of Establishment takes effect and Aroostook County is officially incorporated as a county in the state of Maine.

1839, Spring – The first settled farmer in the boundaries of Caribou is Ivory Hardison.

1839 – So far, the only real road through Aroostook County from Houlton only reached to Monticello (any farther north had but lumber trails). The State commences to build roads to Presque Isle, followed by Ashland and Fort Kent.

1839 – Alvin Nye is sent by Maine to the Aroostook region to prevent illegal logging by New Brunswick.

1839 – U.S. Congress approves that $10,000,000 and 50,000 men be readied in case of war in the Aroostook region.

1839 – Maine State militia men march up to Caribou as the forces in the “Aroostook War” mobilize.

1839 – The Maine militia falls back quickly to Masardis.
1839 – Fort Fairfield, named after governor Fairfield, is built.

1839, Summer – A river boom is built at Fort Fairfield, along with the block houses for the garrison. It was used to stop logs being cut and floated down the Aroostook River to market by the British.

1839, September 8 – The Fort Fairfield river boom and fort is unsuccessfully attacked by several dozen woodsmen from New Brunswick.

1839 – 1840 – Fort Kent is garrisoned and built after the completion of the Aroostook Road all the way through Fort Kent. Alvin Nye helps build the fort. Fort Kent is named after the Governor Edward Kent.

1840 – The Aroostook Road is built from Molunkus to Fort Kent.

1840s, early – Presque Isle builds its first schoolhouse, known as the “Red Schoolhouse.”

1840s* – Reverend Pingree is a preacher who traveled on foot through the northern Maine woods to visit at least Houlton, Patten, Masardis, Ashland, Presque Isle, Maysville, and Fort Fairfield. He is the first clergyman to reach Presque Isle.

1840 – The population of Aroostook County is approximately 9,413. There are about 28 total schools in the county with about 1,150 students.

1840 – The Military Road from Houlton is built connecting to Fort Fairfield and Presque Isle. With the Military Road, a loaded horse team with goods would take ten days to ride from Presque Isle to Bangor.

1840 – The first settler to settle in Maysville by land (as in not rafting down the river from New Brunswick) was Captain Role, a veteran of the Aroostook War and was under the command of Alvin Nye.

1840 – Issac Wilder works as a carpenter at the Fort Fairfield barracks before he settles in Washburn where he builds the town’s first sawmill.

1840 – The first hotel is built in Presque Isle, the Northeastland Hotel or also known as Old Reed’s Tavern, is built by Leonard Reed, who rafted up from Masardis.

1841 – Plymouth Grant is organized as Sarsfield Plantation.

1842 – Presque Isle begins to receive postal mail. Once a week from horseback, Presque Isle mail from Houlton. Noah Chandler is the first postmaster.

1842 – A road is built by the state to connect Presque Isle to Fort Fairfield.

1842, August 9 – The Webster-Ashburton Treaty is signed by the United States Secretary of State Daniel Webster and Great Britain’s Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton. One of the
major purposes of the treaty is that it formally established a northern border recognized by both the United States and Great Britain, creating the current border between Maine and New Brunswick. It also resolved boundary disputes on the 49th parallel out west among other things. This officially revolved and brought an end to the Aroostook War. The United States ended up receiving a little less total land than the proposed arbitration by King William I of the Netherlands. Also with the end of the Aroostook War in conjunction with the preceding media surveys of the land a few years before, there is a shift in the demographics of Aroostook County as the settlers become primarily Americans rather than British subjects.

1842 – As part of the legislature and laws with Webster-Ashburton Treaty, a provision regarding settlers from the British provinces such as New Brunswick settling on what was now officially United States territory, provided that if they resided in the same area for six years and improved the land they would be granted that land to keep by the government.

1842/1843 – George W. and William Towle establish the first real store in Presque Isle. It is the first official store north of Houlton.

1842/1843 – Alexander Cochran constructs the first grist mill in Caribou.

1843 – A road connecting Presque Isle to Van Buren is built.

1843 – General Mark Trafton is sent by the federal government to establish a Customs House in Fort Fairfield.

1843 – Maine governor Edward Kavangh passes a resolve to determine the legality of settlers in the previously disputed land. Philip Eastman, John W. Dana, and Henry W. Cunningham are appointed Maine commissioners for this purpose, along with Massachusetts commissioners.

1843, March 21 – Aroostook County acquires an addition of land from Penobscot County.

1843 – 1844 – The commissioners finish investigating settler claims in land around the St. John River.

1844 – Samuel Collins and Washington Vaughan build a gristmill and sawmill in Caribou.

1844 – General Mark Trafton’s son John B. Trafton came to Fort Fairfield to establish a law firm.

1844 – Maysville’s first schoolhouse is built. Prior to this two of the female settlers, Miss Susan Hooper and Mrs. Duff were private tutors.

1844 – There are twelve heads of family living in the Washburn area.

1844, March 12 – Aroostook County acquires additions of land from both Somerset and Piscataquis Counties.
1844, October – The Congregational Church of Fort Fairfield is built. The year before, Freeman Ellis, Deacon Edwards S. Fowler, Isaac Ellis, and Addison Powers chopped forty-five acres of land that was in the corner of all four adjoining lots (about eleven acres chopped per lot). They then built a twenty foot square camp on this corner clearing. This became the Congregational Church building. This is the first church building in Fort Fairfield.

1844, October 17 – A land commissioner from both Maine and Massachusetts begin to settle claims on the Aroostook River.

1844, Winter – Township 13 Range 3 is organized as Salmon Brook Plantation (what will become Washburn), naming itself after the river tributary it is settled upon.

1845 – A road is cleared in Washburn that connects to the “State Road” (a road connecting Presque Isle to Ashland), allowing for a road from Washburn to Presque Isle.

1845 – The first school in Fort Fairfield is a private school out if vacated building taught by Miss Thompson.

1845 – General Mark Trafton of Bangor (the Custom House officer in Fort Fairfield), his son Mark Trafton Jr., and B. D. Eastman come up with the idea of the Limestone Mill Company. Township Letter E Range 1 was denominated as Limestone because a recent scientific survey of that area denominated the stream running through the township as Limestone Stream because of its mineral composition. Soon after the State of Maine legislature grants the men 1600 acres to aid in the building of a mill. Limestone at this time is fully unsettled.

1845, June – A team of axmen and one horse begin clearing land on the Limestone Mill Company’s tract of land.

1846, Fall – The Limestone Mill Company mill and dam are built. The mill includes an up and down saw, a gristmill, a shingle machine, and a clapboard machine.

1847 – Henry Wilson began teaching in Presque Isle in a log house.

1847 – The Traftons sell their interest in the Limestone Mill Company to Mr. George A. Nourse. This created a new firm Nourse and Eastman.

1847 – Limestone is surveyed and lotted for settlement. The first farmers in the township are Andrew Phair and Bernard McLaughlin.

1848 – The first school in Caribou is established. It is a private school in a log cabin taught by Mary Ann Hardison.

1848 – Nourse and Eastman build a clapboard mill on Limestone Stream.
1848 – The first schoolhouse is built in Salmon Brook Plantation. Prior to this for three years, school was simply held in one of the settlers own homes. Religious meetings are also held in the schoolhouse.

1849 – Stephen B. Pattee is appointed as the Deputy Collector of Customs in Fort Fairfield. He is also a three time State of Maine Congressman.

1849 – Nourse and Eastman have a huge failure when they attempt to drive 400,000 pine clapboards bundled into bunches down the river to market, much like a river log drive. They end up losing most of their product in the attempt.

1849 – Mark Trafton is elected to the Maine House of Representatives. He is a proponent of lowering the price of an acre of unsettled land in Aroostook County. For a time prior to this, an acre of land was usually $1.25, 50 cents was paid in cash and 75 cents usually paid in road labor. The newly passed law lowers this to just 50 cents per acre and is paid in road labor.

1849 – Township Letter E Range 1 is organized as Limestone River Plantation. However, it soon loses its organized status.

1850 – The population of Aroostook County is approximately 12,579.

1850 – A road is built beginning in Salmon Brook Plantation and connecting to Caribou.

1850 – East Washburn is first settled by Gould Crouse and his sons. This will later be known as Crouseville.

1850, July 16 – The Northern Maine Fair is incorporated. It is also known as the Aroostook Agricultural and Horticultural Society. Sometime early on, it is voted to make Presque Isle its permanent location.

1851 – The first real schoolhouse is built in Caribou.

1851 – The first permanent settler of Easton with certainty is Henry Wilson, who cuts a clearing in Easton. At this time there is only a winter logging road that cuts through Easton between Presque Isle and the St. John River.

1851 – The Nourse and Eastman firm fails and goes out of business, largely from the 1849 clapboard disaster and other similar misfortunes.

1851, October 9 – The Northern Maine Fair's first exhibition is held.

1852 – S. W. Collins and W. A. Vaughan build a tannery and a blacksmith shop in Caribou. William Farrell operates the tannery and Benjamin Annis operates the Blacksmith shop.
1854 – All of the townships in Maine that are owned by Massachusetts (as Maine and Massachusetts owned alternating townships in unsettled territory) are purchased by the state of Maine.

1855 – 1856 – Noah Barker surveyed and divided Township Letter C Range 1 (later to become Easton) into lots, allowing the state to open the township for settlement. Prior to this, there were a few settlers already with cleared land in the township.

1855 – S. W. Collins and W. A. Vaughan build the first store in Caribou.

1855 – Township Letter E Range 1 is reorganized as Limestone Plantation.

1856, July 26 – Township Letter C Range 1 is organized as Fremont Plantation. The plantation is named after John C. Fremont, a military general and the Republican candidate who lost the election for president this year. Fremont Plantation has a total of nine legal voters this year.

1857 – Ephraim Osborn and Daniel Libby revive the Limestone mills which have essentially been out of operation since the Nourse and Eastman firm failed 1851.

1857, Fall – The first newspaper is started in Aroostook County in Presque Isle as The Aroostook Pioneer. It is founded by partners Joseph B. Hall and W. S. Gilman.

1858, March 11 – Township Letter D Range 1 is incorporated as Fort Fairfield.

1858 – The Maine Press Association thoroughly visits and reports on Aroostook County.

1858 – The first gristmill in Fort Fairfield is built by Randall and Foster from Montville.

1858 – A covered bridge is built over the Aroostook River in Maysville. The cost of the bridge was $6,000 and $3,000 was paid for by the state.

1859 – Township 12 Range 3 is incorporated as Mapleton Plantation.

1859 – The first mill in Mapleton Plantation is built by Freeman L. Ball and Reuben A. Huse.

1858 – The first schoolhouse is built in Fremont Plantation.

1858, June 7 – Fremont Plantation holds a meeting and votes four for license of alcohol and fourteen against license for alcohol, making it a strong prohibition town.

1859 – A wagon road connected Fort Fairfield to Blaine is completed. This is also a very important road for Fremont Plantation as the road went directly through it, aiding the young township in commerce, as well as having many of the first settlements built alongside the road.

1859 – Township 13 Range 4 is organized as a plantation known as Garden Creek Plantation.

1859 – Fort Fairfield’s first real schoolhouse is constructed.
1859 – Isaac Wortman builds the first mill in Fremont Plantation.

1859, April 4 – Presque Isle is incorporated as a town. The following year, the 1860 census shows that there are 723 people in the town and that the valuation of the entire town is $79,874. On the same date, Maysville is also incorporated as a town. In 1860 the census shows that there are 665 people in the town.

1859, April 5 – The 10,000 acres Eaton Plantation and half of Township Letter H Range 2 (part of what is now Caribou) was incorporated as the town of Lyndon.

1860 – The population of Aroostook County is approximately 22,479.

1860 – Maine has the highest literacy rate of any state in the country.

1860, February – Joseph B. Hall withdraws his activity with The Aroostook Pioneer. W. S. Gilman continues the venture alone.

1860 – The first religious building is constructed in Caribou as a Union meetinghouse.

1860 – The first store in Washburn is opened by Chauncy Harris. The following year, a man named Nathan Perry rented the store out.

1860 – D. Russell Marston builds sawmill in Fremont Plantation. He later buys a shingle machine from Isaac Hacker of Fort Fairfield. This is believed to be the first shingle machine in Aroostook County.

1860, May 13 – A fire burns through Presque Isle where nineteen buildings are burned down and causing about $25,000 in damages.

1860 – The second newspaper venture in Aroostook County is started by Theodore Cary in Houlton. The paper is known as The Aroostook Times.

1860 – Joseph B. Hall starts the first political newspaper in Aroostook County, The Aroostook Herald. The first issue is released June 24.

1861 – Elisha Parkhurst, a Presque Isle farmer, sells $1,200 worth of crop (clover seed) in Bangor and Woodstock in his second year at farming. He makes a net profit of $200 after fully paying off his startup loans. This $1,200 crop sale was likely the largest crop transaction sale in Aroostook up to this time.

1861 – Garden Creek Plantation is reorganized as Wade Plantation for election purposes.

1861, February 25 – Washburn (formerly Salmon Brook Plantation) is incorporated as a town. It is named after the present governor Israel Washburn. Governor Washburn also bestows a gift of 200 books for the town as the beginnings of a library.
1862 – D. F. Adams builds the second store in Caribou, soon after another store in Caribou is built by Nathaniel Bartlett, and yet another one by John S. Arnold.

1862 – Fremont Plantation votes that taxes should be paid in grain or shingles at the rate of the marketplace in Fort Fairfield. At the time, buckwheat and cedar shingles were legal currency in Aroostook County, largely because there was little real currency circulating in the area.

1862 – *The Aroostook Herald* ceases publications.

1862 – Wade Plantation loses its organized status as a plantation.

1863 – *The Loyal Sunrise* newspaper is started in Presque Isle by Daniel Stickney. It is a pro-Union paper that championed the Union cause during the duration of the Civil War.

1863 – The Congregational Church is built in Presque Isle, the first church building in the town.

1863 – The first store is built in Fremont Plantation by W. H. Rackliffe. It lasts three years.

1863 – The first bridge over the Aroostook River is built in Caribou. The cost is half paid by the state and half paid by the town.

1864 – A fire of some kind burns all of the books donated by Governor Washburn in Washburn.

1865 – Benjamin Wilder begins operating a store out of his house in Washburn.

1865, February 24 – Fremont Plantation is incorporated as a town under the name of Easton. The name is derived because since it is one of the Range 1 townships, it lies on the eastern border of Maine next to New Brunswick.

1867 – Sawin & Teague operate a store in Caribou.

1867, February 12 – Fort Fairfield annexes Sarsfield Plantation, making it fully two townships in size.

1868 – 1870 – Elisha Parkhurst introduces Alsike Clover (*Trifolium hybridum*) to all of New England by growing it in Aroostook County. It was only available in New Brunswick and England prior to this.

1868, January – *The Aroostook Pioneer* is moved to Houlton where it published by the Aroostook Publishing Company.

1869 – Limestone Plantation is incorporated as the town of Limestone.

1869, February 26 – The town of Lyndon annexes nearby plantations and the adjacent Township Letter I Range 2, to encompass two full townships, and converts the name to Caribou.

1869, March 9 – Caribou reverts its name back to Lyndon.
1870 – Marston’s mill in Easton is sold to J. H. and E. W. Sprague. The Spragues fixed and repaired the mill extensively.

1871 – Benjamin Wilder sells his store to Nathan Perry in Washburn.

1871 – The first potato starch factory in Aroostook County is built in Caribou. It is owned by Albee Holmes. It is built by J. C. Barnes of Fort Fairfield. It was originally a woolen mill, but was never used for that purpose. At the time it started operating as a starch factory, it was the largest one in the United States and perhaps the world. The potato starch factories (along with the coming of the railroads about the same time) start a trend in which agriculture, instead of lumber, is the big business in Aroostook County as it becomes much more financially profitable than before.

1872 – The Houlton Savings Bank is built in Houlton. This is the first bank built in Aroostook County.

1872, January – The North Star newspaper is started by Reverend W. J. Sleeper in the town of Caribou. It ran a few columns in French as well as at least one in Swedish, making it a popular paper in New Sweden.

1873 – The Panic of 1873 occurs, a global depression. This financial disaster was felt some in Aroostook County as some of the growing businesses were affected by the decline in the market.

1873 – 1876 – In 1873 the Aroostook River Railroad commences operation and from 1873 through 1876, narrow gauge railway is built along the south bank of the Aroostook river. The most prominent towns that it runs through are Fort Fairfield first and following is Caribou. It is not operational until later when a Canadian railway leases the tracks in 1878.

1874 – Wade Plantation is reorganized as an official plantation.

1874 – The first potato starch factory is built in Presque Isle, by Mr. Wheeler, a New Hampshire man.

1874 – The Presque Isle Library Association is formed with a goal of having a public library in Presque Isle. They are also referred to as the “Half and Half Club” because the clubs officers would be half ladies and half gentlemen. The group receives donations of books to start a collection. The collection is held in various storefronts such as George Rowell’s drugstore, Holmes’ Jewelery Store, Laila Smith’s Millinery store, and the post office until they are able to build their own library building.

1874, May 6 – A Grange is organized in Houlton (of The National Grange of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry) which is a farmer’s advocacy, meeting, and assisting national organization. It is known as the Bear Hill Grange or Grange Chapter 16. Among advocating for farmer’s views, there is a cooperative store and mill.
1875 – Fort Fairfield receives a rail line from the New Brunswick Railroad.

1875 – The Johnson and Phair business firm from Presque Isle expand into potato starch making. In the coming years, they virtually create a monopoly in the industry in northern Maine.

1875 – Mr. Miller, a New Hampshire man, builds a potato starch factory in Washburn and a few years later builds one in Crouseville. Both of these factories will later be bought and operated by T. H. Phair.

1876 – Eustis & Aldrich of Boston and Alfred Lovering of New Hampshire build a potato starch factory in Limestone.

1876 – Daniel Stickney relocates *The Loyal Sunrise* to Fort Fairfield. It soon ceases its publication, likely due to the paper’s material being too opinionated and meddling in the affairs of the local population.

1877 – A forest fire burns through Mapleton Plantation. The fire burns the mill, a starch factory (owned by Johnson and Phair and recently just built), and a bridge are burned. Most of the houses are spared though. However, because of the starch factory being burned, Mapleton farmers are forced to go to the nearby Maysville starch factory (also owned by Johnson and Phair) to process their potatoes, which happened to be good yield this harvest. This in turn causes an overflow of potatoes at the factory in Maysville. Sometimes as many as eighty horse team loads of potatoes were waiting to unload and process their potatoes at the factory.

1877 – A post office is established in Maysville. The first postmaster is Edward Wiggin. Around this time, there is daily mail between Caribou and Presque Isle.

1877 – Johnson and Phair build a potato starch factory in Easton.

1877, February 8 – Lyndon once again changes its name officially to Caribou, the name it now retains.

1878 – The New Brunswick Land and Railway Company leases out the narrow gauge tracks built by the Aroostook River Railway and operates it first running through Fort Fairfield and then Caribou. The project is the brainchild of New Brunswick industrialist Alexander Gibson.

1878 – Spragues’ mill is sold to W. H. Newcomb. The following year Newcomb sells the mill to Johnson and Phair.

1879 – Isaac Wilder’s sawmill is burned down twice in the same year and rebuilt both times. Isaac Wilder then sold the mill to Presque Isle businessmen Johnson and Phair.

1879 – Johnson and Phair rebuild their potato starch factory in Mapleton.
1879 – E. W. Sprague builds a steam powered shingle mill in Easton. In ten hours, it could produce as many as 24,000 shingles.

1879 – Theodore Roosevelt spends time hunting and fishing in Aroostook County. A certain location near where the West Branch Mattawamkeag and First Brook merge (near Oxbow) is deemed Bible Point because it is where Theodore Roosevelt went to read his Bible every day.

1879, Spring – Most of the upper and business portion of the town of Fort Fairfield is burned in a large fire.

1880’s – With the coming of the railroads and the expansion of starch factories, potatoes became very big business in Aroostook County and potato farming boomed. Aroostook potatoes were widely discovered and praised from outside markets such as Boston. Many farmers shipped excellent potatoes southwards as table stock and as seed.

1880 – Samuel Matthews starts *The Aroostook Republican* as a political newspaper in Caribou. It becomes financially successful when it changes hands to A. W. Hall, son of Joseph B. Hall, and ceases to be solely political in nature. Another similar venture about the same time was *The Fort Fairfield Leader* started in Fort Fairfield by C. H. Ellis as a political paper. Once it changed hands to Chandler Harvey, who remodeled the structure and content of the paper, it became a financial success as *The Fort Fairfield Review*.

1880, March – Mapleton Plantation is incorporated as the town of Mapleton.

1881, April 2 – Presque Isle holds a town meeting regarding a railroad line in the town.

1881, April 8 – The town of Presque Isle agrees to pledge $10,000 for railroad line with New Brunswick Railroad.

1881, April 9 – Maysville (a township now incorporated as part of Presque Isle) agrees to pledge $5,000 for railroad line with the New Brunswick Railroad.

1881, May 28 – Presque Isle and Maysville finalize and sign contract with New Brunswick Railroad.

1881, December 1 – The first train arrives in Presque Isle over the railroad.

1882, January 8 – The first telegraph line is completed in Presque Isle.

1882, Winter – Petitions are sent to the state legislature for the annexation of Presque Isle and Maysville townships.

1883 – Much of Fort Fairfield is again caught in a large fire.
1883 – Kimball and DeLaite build a steam shingle mill in Easton. Early on, one of the boilers burst skilli
ning Edward Lord and scalding several others. Just before the boiler exploded, there were several schoolchildren observing the workings of the engine before they left the area.

1883 – Beginning with this year, every year the town of Washburn allocates money in the town budget for the library.

1883, March – Legislation is passed from the state consolidating the townships of Presque Isle and Maysville. Soon after, the first annual meeting of the combined township is held.

1883, Spring – Trustees of an academy fund in Presque Isle vote to give their $5,000 in funds over to Bishop Neely for the construction of a seminary school.

1884 – A severe fire burns through the town of Presque Isle.

1884 – E. W. Sprague’s steam powered shingle mill in Easton is lost in a fire and is not rebuilt. The engine, however, is salvaged and it is used in Robinson’s Mill in Blaine.

1884, May 1 – The business portion of Presque is almost completely destroyed by a fire. Afterwards, more conscientious building and road improvements are built in the town.

1884, September – St. John’s Seminary is opened and there are about eighty students.

1884, October 23 – After Joseph B. Hall returns to Presque Isle, he restarts The Aroostook Herald. He immediately begins stirring up the need for a better and more efficient railroad in town, a direct line railroad.

1885, Spring – The covered bridge over the Aroostook River is carried away in the ice floes when the river thawed.

1885, Summer – A new bridge is built to replace the one that was destroyed at a cost of about $10,000.

1886 – Isaac W. Hoover and his brother-in-law Albert Prout form the Hoover & Prout Co. to manufacture the Hoover potato digger. The year before, Isaac built and patented a horse drawn farm machine that eased the workload on digging up potato crops. Eventually, the Hoover diggers are used widely by the Aroostook potato farmers, making them more efficient.

1886 – The Odd Fellows build a two story building in Easton. The bottom floor is used for worship by the Methodist Society. Also at the same time, a Free Baptist Church is built in Easton.

1886 – The state of Maine standardizes a set of “rules” for teachers.

1886, Summer – Johnson and Phair’s potato starch factory in Mapleton is struck by lightning and is burned down again.
1886, Fall – Johnson and Phair rebuild another potato starch factory in Mapleton in time for harvest.

1887 – 1890 – Aroostook County raised $100,000 for the Northern Maine Railroad Company as backing for a direct line railroad in Aroostook County to be built.

1887, April – The Presque Isle Water Company is organized. Mantle Lake is soon created with the construction of a dam; it is named after the contractor that worked with the Presque Isle Water Company. It is needed to create a reservoir of around 25,000 gallons. The water company also creates a pumping station for the city as well. The costs of these projects are about $30,000.

1887, December – Presque Isle first electric light plant is operational leading to the first use of street lights in the town.

1880’s, late – Crop rotation began to be widely used. Also, fertilizer became widely used as well, which greatly increased potato yields in Aroostook County. Because Aroostook County farmers (though not specifically targeted, they were likely the intended) were trying to take advantage of every bit of field land possible, the State of Maine legislature had to pass a statute preventing farmers from growing their fields right to the edge of roads and ditches because they were causing damage and making road repairs difficult.

1888 – The town of Presque Isle votes to pay for the tuition of the students of St. John’s Seminary. They appropriate $1,000 to do this, as well as with $250 from the state as part of the Free High School Act.

1888, January 2 – The First National Bank of Presque Isle opens for business, initially starting with $50,000 of capital.

1888, March – Big businessman and politician Fred Atwood of Maine tries to generate capital interest in Aroostook County in Boston. One of his first attempts, the Atwood Aroostook Publicity meeting with movers and shakers in the big city area was a failure, providing little interest in Aroostook among the attendees. However, it does mark a beginning of trying to promote financial interest in Aroostook County from others in New England.

1889 – The firm Johnson and Phair dissolves as C. F. A. Johnson moves out West to Nevada and California. T. H. Phair, the younger of the two, became the sole owner. He continued to expand business and was eventually known as the “Starch King of Aroostook.” Aroostook County had around forty potato starch factories in the heyday of starch, and on a good year, they could manufacture approximately 250 tons of starch each.

1890 – The 1890 census shows that Presque Isle has a population of 3,046 and a town valuation of $993,875. For the town of Caribou, the valuation is $780,439, but Caribou has the largest population in Aroostook County with 4,087 residents. Washburn has a population of 1,097 people and a town valuation of $215,341. Fort Fairfield’s population is 3,526 residents and
the town’s valuation is $893,593. Easton has a town valuation of $208,765 and a population of 978. The town of Limestone has a population of 933 residents and a town valuation of $149,938.

1890 – The Northern Maine Railroad Company collapses, ending the direct line railroad project.

1890 – *The North Star* and *The Aroostook Herald* papers merge, creating *The Aroostook Star-Herald*.

1890, November – A “People’s Charter” for a good railroad in Aroostook County is promoted so that the state legislature may get involved in the construction of a direct line railroad so that Aroostook County would be more efficient and competitive.

1890, December 18 – The Aroostook Star-Herald gives the first publicity of the “Burleigh Railroad Plan.” In this plan, Aroostook County would issue bonds at 5% of the County’s value to finance the railroad. The plan is named after Albert A. Burleigh.

1891 – *The Aroostook Democrat* newspaper is started.

1891, March 19 – A so-called “Enabling Act” is passed. It provided that the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Company build a rail line to Houlton from one of the existing lines around Bangor. By the next year, branches connecting to Presque Isle, Caribou, and Fort Fairfield had to be built.

1892 – There are currently seven church buildings in Presque Isle.

1892 – In Easton there are a total of ten schools.

1892 – There are over thirty operating stores in Caribou. There are also three starch factories in the town. In the previous year they manufactured only five hundred tons of starch combined. This was a low year because the costs of shipping that year were high and deterred many farmers from sending as many potatoes as stock for the factories.

1892, January – The Merchants’ Trust and Banking Company of Presque Isle is opened for business, beginning with $50,000 of capital.

1893 – The Panic of 1893 occurs. This is the worst financial depression in the country up to this time and lasts until about the turn of the century.

1893, March – The town of Presque Isle appropriates $20,000 for the creation of an actual school building.

1895 – The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad connects branches to Ashland and then Van Buren.

1895 – The Fort Fairfield Public Library is founded. It starts off with about three hundred volumes and is located in the back of a local store, relocating often.

1895 – The White Mountain Telephone Company is started in Blaine.
1895 – The Fort Kent Telephone Company is incorporated in Fort Kent. The beginning of the widespread usage of telephones drastically affects Aroostook County. As more people use telephones, rural communities and even lumber camps are able to communicate and efficiently, speeding up communication and business.


1896 – Maine Governor Henry Cleaves has a commission to locate a good location for a new normal school in the state. Presque Isle is one of the locations that is considered.

1897 – The state legislature votes that Presque Isle is not where they would like a new normal school.

1899 – T. H. Phair donates many books to the town of Limestone.

~1900 – The United States federal government places a 25 cent duty on imported foreign bushels of potatoes. This creates a domestic surge in growing potatoes in the United States, most notably in Aroostook County. This duty also creates a decline in potato growing in New Brunswick because of the cost to export them to the United States. This in turn leads to many New Brunswick farmers migrating to Aroostook County to farm potatoes in the United States.

1900s, early – Potato husbandry becomes more advanced and innovative, creating changes on the potato farming scene of Aroostook. Western draft horses become commonly imported to Aroostook County because of their sturdiness and endurance. Tractors sometimes replace horses altogether, but only the wealthy at first can afford them and they are not commonly used by all until later. Also, potato houses for storage of potatoes become commonplace and a fixture or Aroostook County. At this time, most potato houses are built to store between 2,500 and 10,000 barrels of potatoes.

1900, Winter – Basketball eventually arrives and establishes itself in Aroostook County.

1902 – The town of Presque Isle purchases the St. John’s Episcopal Secondary School for Boys building, as well as five acres of land, for $2,500. They then offered the building and lands to the state if they were to build a normal school. This is largely due to the efforts of Reverend George M. Park.

1903, March 20 – The Maine State Legislature passes a bill to establish a normal school in Presque Isle on the old St. John’s School lands, partly from the campaigning efforts of Reverend George M. Park.

1903, August 18 – The Aroostook State Normal School in Presque Isle is dedicated.
1903, September 15 – The Aroostook State Normal School is open for the first time to students and it offers a two year program for teaching. In its first semester there are seventeen students and three faculty members.

1905, Spring – The Aroostook State Normal School begins the construction of the first dormitory on the college after $20,000 from the state and $20,000 from the town of Presque Isle are appropriated. The first graduating class also takes place, with twelve students.

1905, Winter – The Aroostook State Normal School dormitory is completed. School started late in the fall to accommodate students who would need to live in the dorm. The dormitory is opened for students to move in on December 12, even though it was completely finished on the inside. The new building is deemed Normal Hall.

1906 – The Aroostook Falls Plant begins construction at the mouth of the St. John River at the border of Maine and New Brunswick. The venture is financially backed by Arthur R. Gould.

1906 – T. H. Phair, Eugene Hale, and Senator William Frye travel to New York to receive a $10,000 Carnegie grant for a Presque Isle library.

1906, February 6 – The White Mountain Telephone Company becomes the Aroostook Telephone and Telegraph Company. As the company continues to grow and more and more residents in Aroostook County have and use household telephones, the network expands to connect thirty towns and reach thousands of residents.

1907 – Presque Isle voters vote to fund the construction of a public library with the aid from Carnegie. T. H. Phair purchases the lot where the library will go for $1,000 and the town purchases an adjoining lot for $937.50.

1907, October 17 – The Aroostook Falls Plant begins electric service. In its first year, the plant had a total revenue of $23,000.

1908, July 1 – The Presque Isle public library is opened in its own building and contains about 2,000 books.

1909 – Washburn receives a branch of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. Washburn also appropriates $900 for a high school, known as Free High School.

1910s – Aroostook County becomes a popular area for festivals and circuses to congregate at.

1911 – The Caribou Public Library is constructed largely from a $10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie.

1912 – The Houlton Fair is established.

1913 – Wade Plantation is incorporated as the town of Wade, it is sometimes informally known as Dunntown.
1913 – The Fort Fairfield Public Library is able to construct its own building (instead of being in the back of local stores) with a $10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie.

1913 – The Caribou Fair Grounds and Trotting Park are established.

1913 – Aroostook County’s 4-H clubs are created largely to Dr. Leon Merrill of the University of Maine Agricultural Extension Service, and his appointee of Harold Bickfor as a director of youth agriculture and economics clubs.

1914 – The Houlton Community Park is built.

1915 – The state of Maine establishes a new set of standardized “rules” for teachers to adhere to.

1915 – Frank Hussey, a Presque Isle businessman, helps lead the 4-H club in Aroostook County with large gardening projects.

1918 – Aroostook County’s 4-H club, along with the other 4-H clubs in Maine raise over $100,000 worth of produced and preserved foods for the war effort.

1919 – The Aroostook Daily News is started as a daily newspaper in Houlton.

1919 – State Congressmen visit the Aroostook State Normal School and determines it needs more facilities and space that the school had been asking for help on and begins to take action.

1921 – This year is a bountiful year for the potato crop. Maine as a state produced 37,000,000 bushels of potatoes, of which Aroostook County produced 34,000,000 bushels. In between one quarter and one third of these potatoes are used for seed. In previous years Aroostook County imported an average of 90,000 tons of fertilizer on the railroads. At about one tone of fertilizer for one acre of potato crop, this means that Aroostook was growing about 90,000 acres of potatoes a year. At about eighty barrels of potatoes per acre at this time, an average of about 20,000,000 bushels of Aroostook potatoes were grown a year. This large spike in crop yield demonstrates the efficiency and effectiveness of the changes in potato growing and new technologies of the 20th century.

1921 – The new building at the Aroostook State Normal School is completed and it is called the Administration Building (later to be Preble Hall). Also, the principal’s house (as part of the campus) is transformed into another dormitory when the principal constructs another home. The newly formed dormitory is called South Hall.

1921 – There are a total of sixteen banks in Aroostook County. They are Caribou National Bank, Fort Fairfield National Bank, Frontier Trust Compnay (Fort Fairfield), First national Bank (Houlton), Houlton Savings Bank, Farmers’ National Bank (Houlton), Houlton Trust Company, Presque Isle National Bank, Merchants’ Trust & Banking Co. (Presque Isle), Aroostook Trust Company (Caribou), Fort Kent Trust Company, Mars Hill Trust Company,
Van Buren Trust Company, Washburn Trust Company, Limestone Trust Co., and Ashland Trust Co. In this year the banks have about $17,000,000 in resources altogether.


1923 – The original St. John’s School buildings that were part of the Aroostook State Normal School (which became South and Central Hall from earlier) burned down.

1924 – The new South Hall is built in place of the two buildings that burned down at the Aroostook State Normal School.

1924 – The Houlton Grange Chapter 16 has the largest grange supported cooperative store and mill in the entire world. This grange also facilitates farmer’s insurance as well.

1925, March – Fraser Paper Limited is incorporated as a subsidiary of Fraser Companies Limited.

1927 – The town of Houlton now has the only long wave receiving radio station in the United States that is able to connect across the Atlantic with Europe. This is largely due to superb atmospheric conditions. The radio tower is owned by the Aroostook Telephone and Telegraph Company.

1930 – There are approximately twenty-five to thirty million telephones in European countries (such as Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and Spain) that are channeled through Aroostook Telephone and Telegraph Company’s long range radio tower in Houlton to reach American telephones.

1932 – The Presque Isle boys basketball team is the first Aroostook basketball team to have an undisputed state championship.

1932 – The Aroostook Telephone and Telegraph Company is purchased by the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. It is based in a Mars Hill office owned by the previous company.

1935 – WAGM is the first commercial radio station in Aroostook County and is based and operated from Presque Isle.

1937 – The Limestone Women’s Civic Club begins collecting books for a library, adding to the 1899 donation of books by T. H. Phair.

1938, April – The state of Maine accepts a one hundred acre gift of land near Presque Isle by Echo Lake and encompassing Quaggy Jo Mountain. This is the beginning of Aroostook State Park.
1939, March 19 – Aroostook State Park is officially opened with a program of events being held and has an attendance of about five hundred people. It is the first state park in Maine.

1940s, Early – Both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts are able to form independent troop chapters in Aroostook County, although there was scout activity in Aroostook County in the years before.

1941 – Limestone constructs a library from a financial gift by Aubrey C. and Stella Frost in honor of their son Robert who died in a motorcycle accident and the Limestone Women’s Civic Club book collection. The library is named the Robert A. Frost Memorial Library.

1941 – The New England Telephone and Telegraph Company implements a dial system for its subscribers.

1943 – The federal government determines that the Aroostook State Normal School will be better used for the Federal Public Housing Authority as lodging for female workers at the Presque Isle Air Force Base in the World War II effort. Two more barracks are built at the campus to accommodate more people. The students, faculty, and Principal Wieden are forced to travel to Washington State Normal School (later to be University of Maine at Machias) for schooling during the duration of the rest of the war.

1944 - Aroostook County’s 4-H club, along with the other 4-H clubs in Maine raise more than $117,200 in produced and preserved foods for the war effort.

1944, March – A U.S.O. (United Service Organization) is dedicated in Presque Isle for the servicemen stationed in Presque Isle and Limestone (some seventeen thousand or so) to provide entertainment and activities. After the war, Presque Isle purchases the building and uses it as a community center.

1946 – Both the Presque Isle Opera House and Perry’s Theatre burn in Presque Isle.

1946 – The Aroostook School of Commerce is founded in Presque Isle offering programs in business and finance.

1946, September 23 – The Aroostook State Normal School is reopened for fifty-two students and faculty after being taken over for the war effort.

1947 – The “State Theater” opens in Presque Isle on State Street.

1947 – Maine passes a law requiring all non-reservation indians to pay taxes to the state. This is devastating to many native americans economically.

1948 – Many small schools in Presque Isle, Mapleton, and Westfield are closed due to consolidation in regards to the creation of Maine School Administrative District #1.

1950 – The Braden Theater opens on Maine Street in Presque Isle.
1950 – The Aroostook State Normal School changes its curriculum from two year programs to four year programs.


1951 – The Aroostook School of Commerce is closed.

1952 – The Aroostook State Normal School is renamed as the Aroostook State Teacher's College.

1954 – The Aroostook State Teacher's College joins the Northeast College Conference, allowing for a broader range of competitive intercollegiate athletics. The Aroostook State Teacher's College also becomes the first state-led practical nursing school in Maine. The nursing program is taught in the barracks that were constructed during war time.

1956 – WAGM-TV first airs over the television on channel 8. It starts out being a CBS affiliate and owned by the Aroostook Broadcasting Company (which also owned WAGM's radio broadcasting). The transmitter is located behind Brewer Road studios in Presque Isle. The broadcasting range is very limited, mostly just to Presque Isle and Caribou.

1958 – Physical education, health, and recreation programs are started at the Aroostook State Teacher's College.

1960, April – Wieden Hall is constructed as a multi-purpose building at the Aroostook State Teacher's College. It is named in honor of former school president Clifford O. T. Wieden.

1961 – The “State Theater” in Presque Isle burns down. It had been out of business since the mid 1950s.

1961, June 1 – The Ashland Community Library is founded.

1961, June 25 – The Presque Isle Air Force Base is militarily decommissioned and shut down.

1961, July 5 – Presque Isle creates the Presque Isle Industrial Council to make the best use of the defunct air force base and acquiring land, rights, and industry at its location. One of the first projects to begin at this time is the construction of the Norther Maine Vocational Technical Institute (later to become Northern Maine Community College).

1962 – The Aroostook State Teacher's College spends $60,000 for the adjacent property known as the Ben Marks Farm. This adds about 123 acres of land creating a total of about 150 acres of school land. This is important for the expansion of the size of the school.

1963 – The Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute opens its doors to students for the first time where the industrial park created from the Presque Isle Air Force base was. The practical nursing program previously at the Aroostook State Teacher’s College moves to the Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute.
1963 – The Aroostook State Teacher’s College adds a new building on their newly acquired land. Emerson Hall is built as a women’s dormitory and it is named after Leah Emerson, the first woman on the State Board of Education.

1964 – Presque Isle Historical Society is incorporated as an entity.

1964, February – Presque Isle builds the first indoor ice skating rink in Maine.

1965 – The Aroostook State Teacher’s College changes its name to the Aroostook State College. This is a reflection of the increasing number of programs at the school not related to school teaching.

1965 – All mail and postal services into Aroostook County by railroad ceases, due to improved airmail and postal trucking, along with the gradual dismantling of railroad beds.

1967 – The Aroostook State College constructs a men’s dormitory and names it Merriman Hall in honor of early school principal San Lorenzo Merriman. Another building is also constructed on the campus as a large dining hall. It is deemed Kelley Commons, in recognition of Mary Kelley, the first matron of the school.

1967, April 30 – The Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library is dedicated in Presque Isle. The Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library is a much needed expansion of Presque Isle’s former public library built in 1908. The name is in honor of Mark Turner and his wife Emily, because he matched state funding for expanding the library with a $60,000 donation.

1968 – The University of Maine System is established. The Aroostook State College changes its name in regards to being a part of the University of Maine System to the Aroostook State College of the University of Maine. The University of Maine System currently consists of the University of Maine (Orono), University of Maine at Augusta, University of Maine at Farmington, University of Maine at Fort Kent, University of Maine at Machias, University of Maine at Presque Isle, and University of Southern Maine.

1968 – Folsom Hall is constructed at the Aroostook State College of the University of Maine as a classroom building. It is named after Ida Folsom, one of the early teachers at the school. The college also joins the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

1969 – The Aroostook State College of the University of Maine constructs two more buildings to accomodate its growth. Pullen Hall is created as another classroom building and is named in honor of Marguerite Pullen, a long-standing teacher at the school. Park Hall is also built. It is a dormitory named in honor of George Park, one of initial founders of the school.

1969, January – The Presque Isle skating rink’s roof collapses.
1969, December – The Norton Museum is donated by Katherine Norton, widow of Leroy Norton, to the Aroostook State College of the University of Maine. It consists of many rare sea shells, geologic artifacts, and Maine wildlife.

1970 – The 27.4 acre area of Bible Point made famous by Theodore Roosevelt is added to the State Register of Historic Places.


1970 – The Aroostook State College of the University of Maine changes its name to the University of Maine at Presque Isle, its current name.

1971 – The land associated with Bible Point is donated to the state for preservation.

1971 – The University of Maine at Presque Isle professor Clifton Boudman opens the first professional art gallery in northern Maine at UMPI. Also at UMPI, Normal Hall is altered from a dormitory to a faculty office building.

1972 – The Presque Isle Historical Society becomes the Presque Isle Historical and Genealogical society.

1973 – UMPI adds some more degree programs to its curriculum including Fine Arts, Criminal Justice, and Soviet Studies.

1974 – The Caribou Historical Society is started largely by the efforts of Clara Piper.

1975 – UMPI constructs a library building (prior the library was part of another building).

1977 – The Francis M. Malcolm Institute (also known as the Francis Malcolm Science Center) is created in Easton, made possible from an inheritance from Francis M. Malcolm when he died.

1978, August 11 – The hot air balloon Double Eagle II takes off for Europe from Presque Isle with the crewmen of Larry Newman, Maxie Anderson, and Ben Abruzzo. It will be the first successful transatlantic crossing using a balloon.

1978, August 17 – The Double Eagle II and crew lands in a field in Miserey, France, completing the successful journey.

1979, January – The Forum in Presque Isle is completed, providing an indoor ice rink as well a a large capacity for spectators for various events.

1980 – The Salmon Brook Historical Society is organized and serves the towns of Washburn, Perham, and Wade.

1980, September 22 – The Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act passes the U.S. House of Representatives, and the next day it passes the U.S. Senate. It is signed into law on October 10 by President Carter. $81.5 million was appropriated as a result. Given directly to the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes is $27 million. They also are granted $55 million to purchase up to 300,000 acres of land (split evenly between Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes with $900,000 granted to the Houlton Band of Maliseets). The Houlton Band of Maliseets also gains federal recognition as a tribe.

1982 – The Aroostook Ice Skating School is opened in affiliation with the Ice Skating Institute of America.

1984, September 14 – Colonel Joseph Kittinger begins the first successful solo transatlantic crossing by balloon from Caribou, using the Rosie O’Grady Balloon of Peace.

1984, September 18 – Colonel Joseph Kittinger lands his balloon near Montenotte, Italy, completing his successful balloon transatlantic journey.


1988 – The Caribou Performing Arts Center is opened.

1988 – The Washburn Memorial library has a significant addition built onto it.

1992 – UMPI completes its campus center, a building with large rooms to hold meetings, gatherings, banquets, speakers, and organizations on campus.

1996 – UMPI purchases Skyway Suites, a nearby off campus housing complex. It creates convenient housing for married couples or families attending the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

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