

BEFORE NORFOLK

9500 B.C. -- Earliest evidence of native people in Virginia.

The Chesapeake Indians ruled the area. Their town was called SKICOAK, the site of which is now Norfolk. The Scicoaks were gone by the time the English colonists reached the site of Norfolk, having been wiped out by Chief Powhatan.

One of Powhatan's advisors went to the Chief, telling him of a dream about the Powhatan Confederacy being destroyed by strangers from the east.

Powhatan misunderstood this to mean the Scicoaks and so he eliminated this peaceful people before they could turn against him.

Later, of course, strangers from the east, across the Atlantic, DID come, and so the soothsayer's dream was fulfilled.

1560s - Spanish arrive and settle briefly along the York River

1585 -- English settlers reach Roanoke Island.

1591 -- Roanoke Colony found with no survivors.

NORFOLK, 17TH CENTURY

1607 -- Three English ships landed at Cape Henry. After giving thanks for their safe passage to the New World, the colonists proceeded up the river to establish Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America.

1610 - Hampton Roads named to honor Henry Wriothesly, Earl of Southampton and Treasurer of the Virginia Company in London

1613 - tobacco is introduced to the colony and becomes the center of colonial economy. It was the dominant crop in what would become Princess Anne County through the 1680s.

1622 - 200 acres of land now occupied by the City of Norfolk was owned by Lewis Vandermill, who in the same year sold it to Nicholas Wise, senior, shipwright.

1624 -- Thomas Willoughby granted 500 acres by King James I (present-day Ocean View).

1634 - Virginia consisted of 8 shires, or counties, with a total population of approximately 5000 inhabitants. The area that comprises the present cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Hampton was part of Elizabeth City Shire.

1636 - William Willoughby granted 200 acres by King Charles I (present-day downtown Norfolk).

1636 - Ferry service begins across the Elizabeth River

In 1642, Upper Norfolk Co. became Nansemond Co., now the city of Suffolk.

In 1691 Lower Norfolk County was divided to form Norfolk County and Princess Anne County.

1637 - first court for Lower Norfolk County meets. For 25 years, the court met in private homes.

1640 - Elizabeth River Parish completed (site of present Norfolk Naval Station)

1661 - Lower Norfolk County builds its first courthouse on Broad Creek, which was replaced in 1689 by 2 courthouses, one on the Elizabeth River and the other on the eastern portion of Lynnhaven River, on the southern end of Great Neck.

1673 - Half Moon Fort built at Four Farthing Point (now Town Point) in Norfolk.

1680 -- The Virginia House of Burgesses orders each Virginia county to purchase 50 acres of land, to be laid out for a town and storehouses. By an Act of Assembly the purchase of 50 acres was authorized for the Town of Norfolk, the purchase price being 10,000 pounds of tobacco. In 1682, in pursuance to the act, land was purchased from trustees of Nicholas Wise, a house carpenter and son of the elder Wise. The deed was recorded and Norfolk Towne was established on the area now bounded by City Hall Avenue on the north, the Elizabeth River on the south and west, and the Norfolk and Western Railroad tracks on the east.

1691 - Norfolk County formed from western Lower Norfolk County.

1698 - First church in Norfolk built on Church Street (site is in churchyard of present St. Paul's)

NORFOLK, 18TH CENTURY

1736 -- By charter from George II, Norfolk and its suburbs were incorporated into a borough. Samuel Boush became our first mayor.

1739 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church erected on property deeded to the Borough by Samuel Boush.

1746 - The inhabitants of Norfolk Borough manifest their loyalty by celebrating the defeat of the Pretender by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cumberland, at the Battle of Culoden, fought on 6 April of this year.

1749 - Hurricane lays down Willoughby Spit and forms Willoughby Bay.

1754 - A silver mace, ancient symbol of royal authority, is presented to the Norfolk Borough council by Lt. Gov. Robert Dinwiddie.

1761 - Norfolk's first free school.

1766 - Inhabitants of Norfolk Borough and Norfolk County assemble at courthouse and organize the Sons of Liberty, to oppose and protest against the Stamp Act.

1774 - First Norfolk newspaper published, the Virginia Gazette or Norfolk Intelligencer, edited by John Hunter Holt. The paper was put out of business when its press was seized by British troops in 1775.

1776 -- On New Year's Day, English ships under the command of Lord Dunmore opened fire on Norfolk, burning many of the buildings to the ground. The destruction was completed by Colonial troops in order that the British might

not occupy the borough. Norfolk was the only American town completely destroyed and rebuilt. A British cannonball in the wall of St. Paul's Church is a reminder of the Revolutionary War.

1782 - Norfolk Charter amended to allow the Common Council to be elected by a vote of the people.

1783 - British blockade lifted and Norfolk begins to rebuild.

1787 -- The first U.S. Marine Hospital was established in Norfolk County. It later became the U.S. Public Health Hospital.

1788 - Norfolk's first organized volunteer fire fighting company was established. By 1827 there were 3 volunteer fire companies in the city.

1788 - First newspaper published in Borough after the Revolution, known as The Norfolk and Portsmouth Chronicle.

1790 - Courthouse built on Main Street, east of Church. The population of the Borough was nearly 3000.

1792 - The Myers House, one of the first brick buildings to be constructed in Norfolk after the Revolution, was built by Moses Myers. Myers was a shipping merchant who came to Norfolk in 1787 from New York.

1793 - Haitian refugees with free blacks as well as slaves arrive in Norfolk.

1795 - Federal government buys land and orders building of Fort Norfolk.

1797 - The Borough of Norfolk adopts an ordinance to govern a Watch. This was the beginning of our modern Police Department.

NORFOLK, 19TH CENTURY

1800 - First Baptist Church on Bute Street was established in Norfolk as the city's first predominantly black congregation.

1801 -- The first Continental Navy Yard was established here.

1803 - Norfolk was divided onto 8 wards, each electing within its own bounds two common councilmen.

1804 - Fire destroys more than 300 houses and warehouses south of Main Street in Norfolk.

1804 - Norfolk Academy, founded in 1728 and named Norfolk Academy in 1787, receives its charter from the General Assembly.

1807 - Act of Assembly passed empowering the court of Norfolk Borough to cause the streets to be paved under certain conditions.

1807 - Embargo Act closes ports. Exportation nearly ceases and business is suddenly interrupted.

1809 - Embargo Act repealed.

1810 -- Fort Norfolk is constructed on the Elizabeth River, on a site originally occupied by an earthenworks fortification built during the Revolutionary War to protect the harbor.

1811 - Act of Assembly allows the corporation to erect lamps for the purpose of lighting the streets.

1814 -- The new Dismal Swamp Canal opened the way for trade between Norfolk and the ports of eastern North Carolina.

1815 - the first steam boat, the sidewheeler Washington, arrives in Portsmouth

1819 -- Act of Assembly authorizes the Governor to cede to the United States jurisdiction over a plot of land for the building of a customhouse in Norfolk.

1820s - A severe depression affected the agricultural community in Norfolk County and Princess Anne County and many families moved away from the area.

1821 - The Great Gale of 1821.

1821 - The Norfolk branch of the American Colonization Society was organized for the purpose of sending blacks to Africa. Many of the emigrants from Virginia and North Carolina embarked from this port. Norfolk native, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, became the first president of Liberia when it became a republic. Roberts Village in Norfolk is named for him.

1822 - Slow-moving team boat drawn by blindered (horses wearing blinders) horses established as ferry to Portsmouth.

1824 - French soldier and statesman Marquis de Lafayette, a hero of the American Revolution, revisits visits Norfolk and Portsmouth and is entertained at a Grand Ball.

1832 - First steam ferry between Norfolk and Portsmouth, the Gosport, begins service.

1837 - Town Back Creek fills in to Henry (now Boush) Street. Most of the remainder of the creek was filled in by 1905.

1838 - Wilkes Expedition sails from Norfolk to explore southern Pacific and Antarctica.

1839 - Prince Louis Napoleon visits Norfolk.

1841 - Norfolk Academy building completed (present Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce).

1845 -- Norfolk incorporated as a City.

1847 -- Cornerstone of City Hall (now MacArthur Memorial) laid.

1850 - the Princess Anne and Kempsville Turnpike Company was established to construct a road between Norfolk and Kempsville; however, the turnpike was not built until 1871.

1850 - The Worshipful Court of the City of Norfolk met for the first time in the courtroom of the new City Hall on 29 May.

1851 - Virginia authorized the charter of an 80-mile railroad connecting Norfolk and Petersburg. The line was completed in 1858 and was the forerunner of today's Norfolk Southern Railroad.

1852 - Margaret Douglass, a white woman from South Carolina, is arrested and spends a month in jail for teaching free black children to read and write in a school in her Norfolk home.

1852 - Ordinance passed in Norfolk prohibiting cows to go at large in the city.

1855 -- Steamer Ben Franklin arrives in Hampton Roads with Yellow Fever on board. Epidemic spreads through Norfolk and by 11 August about one-half the population had fled. The epidemic raged until October, by which time one-third of Norfolk's inhabitants, 2,000 people, had died.

1856 -- St. Vincent's Hospital (later DePaul) is founded in Norfolk by the Sisters of Charity in the home of Ann Behan Herron, who had died the previous year of Yellow Fever and left her entire estate to the Catholic order for the purpose of establishing a hospital

1859 - United States Custom House completed.

1861 - Virginia secedes from the Union. Richmond becomes Capital of the Confederacy.

1861 -- Slaves fled from Norfolk to Fortress Monroe and Union General Benjamin Butler labeled them as "contraband".

1861 - Norfolk voters instruct their delegate to vote for ratification of the Ordinance of Secession

1861 -- Vessels at Norfolk Navy Yard, including the Merrimac, burned and scuttled.

1861 - the first local encounter of the Civil War took place at Sewell's Point

1862 -- The Merrimac, rebuilt as an ironclad and renamed Virginia, was built at the Norfolk Navy Yard. The first battle between ironclads - the Virginia and the Monitor - was fought in Hampton Roads.

1862 -- Mayor Lamb surrendered the City to Union troops. Federal forces under the command of General Benjamin Butler occupied Norfolk until 1865.

1863 -- Emancipation Proclamation went into effect but did not apply to Tidewater.

1861-1865 - Princess Anne County and much of Norfolk County were under Union occupation for the duration of the war

1866 - First black-owned newspaper in Norfolk, the True Southerner, published by former slave Joseph T. Wilson.

1867 -- The United Order of Tents, J.R.G. and J.U., one of the most important African-American women's lodges in the country, officially organized in Norfolk. Founded by 2 slave women, Annetta M. Lane of Norfolk and Harriet R. Taylor of Hampton, with the aid of 2 abolitionists, Joshua R. Giddings and Joliffe Union, whose initials are incorporated in the title.

1867-68 --- Dr. Thomas Bayne (former slave Sam Nixon) represented Norfolk at the Virginia Constitutional Convention.

1870 - End of Reconstruction in Norfolk. Union occupation troops withdrawn and Virginia is readmitted to the Union. African-Americans throughout Hampton Roads are elected to state and local offices. After the Civil War, Norfolk County's rich waterways and fertile farmland enabled it to recover quickly from the destruction of the war. In Norfolk, industries and railroads opened the way for transportation of coal to our port, the beginning of trade that made Norfolk the greatest port in the world.

1870 -- Organization of the Norfolk Library Association, and the beginning of the Norfolk Public Library

1870 - the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad consolidated with the Virginia and Tennessee and the Southside Railroads, and eventually re-consolidated to become the Norfolk and Western. The Norfolk and Southern Railroad was chartered to operate between Norfolk and Elizabeth City NC, and opened in 1881. Both are now part of Norfolk Southern.

1870 - Horse-drawn trolley introduced in Norfolk.

1871 - The volunteer fire fighting system was abolished and the Norfolk Fire Department was established by the City of Norfolk. It was the third fully paid fire department to be formed in the United States.

1877 - Ball at the Navy Yard to honor Russian Grand Dukes Alexis and Constantine.

1879 - The Norfolk Traction Company lays a narrow gauge railroad to connect Ocean View to the railroad terminus at Church and Henry Streets. The cars are drawn by a steam-powered locomotive. The rail is changed to standard gauge in 1895 and is operated by electricity by 1902

1883 - The Norfolk and Virginia Railroad and Improvement Company opened a nineteen-mile, narrow-gauge railroad between Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The same year, the railroad purchased the Seaside Hotel and Land Company and in 1884 constructed the Virginia Beach Hotel, which was remodeled and reopened as the Princess Anne Hotel in 1888. The railroad reorganized, becoming the Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Southern Railroad in 1887. By

1898, the line was so popular that it was widened to standard gauge.

1883 - First car of coal arrived from Pocahontas fields over Norfolk & Western Railway.

1883 - Norfolk Mission College established by the United Presbyterian Church to provide secondary education for black students.

1887 -- Brambleton, Norfolk's 5th ward, was annexed, followed by Atlantic City (6th ward) in 1890.

1890 -- Atlantic City annexed to the city. Ghent Company begins to lay out a new residential area and renames Smith's Creek, The Hague.

1894 - Electric trolley introduced in Norfolk. Within ten years, they link Norfolk with Sewell's Point, Ocean View, South Norfolk, Berkley, Portsmouth and Pinner's Point.

1894 -- Classes begin at Norfolk's first public high school.

By the late nineteenth century, Princess Anne and Norfolk Counties became leaders in truck farming. More than half of all greens and potatoes consumed on the east coast came from this area. Also, Lynnhaven oysters became a major export during this time.

NORFOLK, 20TH CENTURY

1902 - in Norfolk, Park Place (7th ward) was annexed, followed by Berkley (8th ward) in 1906 and Huntersville (9th ward) and Lambert's Point (10th Ward) in 1911.

1903 - News of the Wright Brothers' historic first flight at Kitty Hawk NC is "scooped" by a Norfolk newspaper reporter

1907 -- The Jamestown Exposition, celebrating the 300th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, was held in the Sewell's Point area of Norfolk.

1907 - The Abraham Doumar family moves to Norfolk and sets up an ice cream concession at Ocean View Park. In 1904, at the St. Louis Exposition, the Doumars were credited with inventing the ice cream cone. In 1905 they made the first ice cream cone machine, which is still in use at Doumar's Restaurant today.

1907 -- The Great White Fleet - 15 U.S. ships on a peace mission around the world - sailed from Norfolk.

1909 - Virginian Railway opened for business.

1910 -- Eugene Ely makes aviation history when he successfully launches his Curtiss biplane from the deck of the cruiser Birmingham and lands on the beach at Willoughby Spit.

1910 - P.B. Young founds the Norfolk Journal and Guide newspaper.

1917 - 600 German sailors, crew of the interned raiders Kronprinz Wilhelm and Prinz Eitel Friedrich, are held at the Norfolk Navy Yard in Portsmouth and build a German Village to pass away the time. The village is a popular tourist attraction - entrance fees and revenue from the sale of baked goods and souvenirs are sent to the German Red Cross. After the United States enters the war, the sailors become prisoners of war and are sent to POW camps in Georgia.

1917 -- The U.S Naval Operating Base and Training Station was established on the old Jamestown Exposition grounds. 1400 sailors from St. Helena Training Station in Berkley marched to the new base.

1917 -- Announcement made that Norfolk leads the nation in Navy recruiting for World War in proportion to population.

1917 -- Poet James Weldon Johnson meets with P.B. Young and other prominent blacks in Norfolk to organize NAACP chapter.

1918 -- The City Manager form of government was established in Norfolk, and the old 5 ward system was replaced by a 5 member at-large City Council. In

1919 -- The ward system returned to Norfolk, with members elected from 5 wards and 2 superwards.

1919 - Crispus Attucks Theatre opened; designed, financed and developed by African-Americans. The theater is named to honor African-American Crispus Attucks, who was the first American killed by British soldiers when they fired into a crowd of demonstrators in Boston in 1770. The event, which closely preceded the American revolution, became known as the Boston massacre.

1921 - Virginia Beach Boulevard, a concrete road running from Virginia Beach to Norfolk, was completed

1922 - The US Army dirigible Roma crashed at the Quartermaster Depot (now Norfolk International Terminal), killing 34 of the 45 men aboard.

1923 -- An annexation which included Ocean View, Larchmont and Lafayette added 27 square miles to Norfolk City.

1924 - a bus route between Norfolk and Virginia Beach was established

1926 - The Schneider Cup Race between American and Italian aviators is held in Norfolk and receives international publicity. The race is won by an Italian aviator, flying at an average speed of more than 246 mph.

1935 - Norfolk unit of Virginia Union University established (now Norfolk State University).

1938 -- Norfolk Municipal Airport opened on the former Truxton Manor Golf Course tract. A new terminal building was dedicated in 1951. In 1976, Norfolk International Airport opened, with overseas flights.

1938 - Norfolk Virginian-Pilot editor Louis Jaffe's anti-KKK editorials in the earn the Pulitzer Prize.

1939 - Aline E. Black sued against Norfolk's unequal pay for black and white teachers, starting a series of legal maneuvers that eventually toppled similar unequal pay scales throughout Virginia. Black's lawsuit was replaced by one from Melvin OI Alston of Norfolk. National civil rights attorney Thurgood Marshall represented the black Norfolk teachers as the lawsuit prevailed at the U.S. Supreme Court in 1940.

1939 -Norfolk City Manager Borland recommends the creation of a Housing Authority. City Council votes unanimously against the proposal.

1940 - On recommendation of Manager Borland, Council reconsiders; votes to create Housing Authority so Norfolk can participate in federally funded low-cost housing projects. Louis H. Windholz is named chairman. Authority applies to US Housing Authority for \$4 million for 1000 housing units. Ground broken for Merrimack Park, the Authority's first defense housing project.

1941 -- World War II, with heightened defense activities and hundreds of families moving into the area, doubled Norfolk's population. At the end of the war, Norfolk Naval Base and Air Station remained the largest military installation in the world.

1941 - USHA earmarks \$2 million for slum clearance in Norfolk. The previous year, Nathan Straus, USHA administrator, called a Norfolk hotel-apartment "the worst slum he had seen anywhere in the US".

1941 - First tenants move into Merrimack Park. Three black citizens - P.B. Young (publisher), J. Eugene Diggs (attorney) and the Rev. Richard H. Bowling - are appointed as an advisory committee on housing construction in black slum areas. Construction begins on Oak Leaf Park. Merrimack Park is dedicated.

1942 - The Nansemond Hotel at Ocean View served as headquarters of the Amphibious Training Command, Atlantic Fleet until the end of World War II. Troops stationed here participated in embarkation and landing exercises day and night on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Successful assaults on 40 enemy beaches were planned and practiced at the Nansemond, including Operation Torch, the successful invasion of North Africa.

1945 - The first black police officers in Virginia are sworn in on the Norfolk force.

1946 -- The Shriners sponsored the first Oyster Bowl Parade and football game, to aid crippled children. The Granby High School Comets defeated Clifton New Jersey High School 6-0. The last Oyster Bowl game was played in 1995.

1946 - Norfolk Housing Authority changes name to Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority.

1948 - Norfolk's last streetcar runs on the Ocean View line, as streetcars are replaced by buses.

1949 - Norfolk, with 3000 units and Galveston TX, with 500 units become the first cities in the nation to be assigned an allocation of housing units under the new public housing program now being activated.

1950 - The battleship Missouri runs hard aground off Thimble Shoal Light near Willoughby Spit.

1950 - Work begins on Norfolk's first public (non-defense) housing project, across from Oak Leaf Park.

1951 - Norfolk's slum clearance program begins with the demolition of a house on Smith Street.

1951 - Four new housing projects in Norfolk named for black leaders - Diggs, Young, Bowling and the late Dr. Robert R. Moton.

1951 - The last reunion of Confederate veterans is held in Norfolk.

1952 -- SACLANT, Supreme Allied Command Atlantic, western arm of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and only international command in the western hemisphere, was established in Norfolk.

1952 -- The Downtown Norfolk-Portsmouth Bridge-Tunnel opened. A modern engineering marvel, it was followed by the Mid-Town Tunnel in 1962 and a second Downtown Tunnel in 1986. Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel opened in 1957, Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel in 1964 and a second Hampton Roads Tunnel in 1976. In 1992, the \$400,000,000 Monitor-Merrimac Bridge-Tunnel opened, connecting Suffolk and Newport News and completing the loop of interstate highways in Hampton Roads.

1952 - 1918 Berkley Bridge demolished

1954 -- The first Azalea Festival, now an annual event, was held to honor NATO countries.

1955 -- Tanners Creek annexed. Ownership of Broad Creek Village transferred to Housing Authority. Norfolk becomes largest city in state, with a population of 297,253.

1955 -- Ferry service from Norfolk to Portsmouth, established in 1636 by Adam Thoroughgood, was discontinued. Pedestrian ferry service was resumed in 1983.

1955 -- Black parents petition Norfolk School Board to reorganize schools along non-racial lines

1957 - Cornerstone laid for Norfolk General Hospital's new wing. Dedicated in 1958.

1957 - Calvert Park opens in Norfolk - the last housing project of the slum clearance program begun in 1949.

1957 -- The International Naval Review, celebrating the sesquicentennial of our nation's birth, was held in Norfolk.

1958 -- Norfolk's Sister City program began with the adoption of Moji, Japan (changed to Kitakyushu in 1963). Additional Sister Cities followed: Wilhelmshaven, Germany (1976); Norwich, Norfolk County, England (1986); Toulon, France (1989); and Kaliningrad, Russia (1992).

1958 - Gov. J. Lindsey Almond closed six Norfolk schools to stop their integration, putting 9,950 white children out of school.

1959 - Norfolk's public schools were desegregated when 17 black children entered 6 previously all-white schools in Norfolk. Norfolk Virginian-Pilot editor Lenoir Chambers' editorials against massive resistance earn the Pulitzer Prize.

1960 -- Norfolk was one of eleven U.S. cities to receive the All American City Award, granted jointly by LOOK Magazine and the National Municipal League.

1961 -- The completion of the Public Safety Building marked the beginning of a \$15,000,000 Civic Center. A court building and 11-story City Hall were completed in 1965.

1961 - Demolition begins on Norfolk's East Main Street taverns.

1962 -- Kirm Memorial Library opened in a glass and marble structure in downtown Norfolk, replacing the old Carnegie building on Freemason Street.

By 1992, there were also 11 branches and a bookmobile.

1962 - Norfolk College of William and Mary has its name changed to Old Dominion College.

1962 - Brambleton Avenue extension, including the new bridge crossing the Hague, opens to traffic between Colley Ave. and Boush St.

1964 - General Douglas MacArthur Memorial opens in Norfolk. Death of General MacArthur.

1966 - The Supreme Court outlawed Virginia's poll tax in a case brought by Evelyn Butts, a Norfolk citizen activist and seamstress.

1966 -- Norfolk International Terminals are built. This huge complex of one of the most complete and modern operations in the U.S. for steamship, rail and truck carriers serves international cargoes.

1966 -- Virginia Wesleyan College opened.

1967 -- The Virginia Beach-Norfolk Expressway, a 12.1 mile long toll road leading from Baltic Avenue in Virginia Beach to Brambleton Avenue in Norfolk, opened to traffic.

1968 - Joseph A. Jordan, Jr. in Norfolk and Raymond Turner and Dr. James W. Holley III in Portsmouth, became the first African-Americans to be elected to their city councils in this century.

1969 - Norfolk State College, founded in 1935 as a branch of Richmond's Virginia Union University, becomes an independent 4-year college.

1969 -- Old Dominion College gained University status.

1971 -- Donation of major art collection of Walter P. Chrysler, Jr. to the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences.

1971-1972 -- Norfolk's \$30,000,000 convention and cultural center opened; SCOPE, a unique domed convention hall; and Chrysler Hall, a separate theater.

1973 -- Eastern Virginia Medical School, the hub of a major regional medical and health service center, began. In 1980, the first in-vitro fertilization clinic in the U.S opened at EVMS in a \$25,000 lab. The clinic was named the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine in 1983 to honor its directors, Drs. Georgeanna and Howard Jones. In 1992, the Institute's new \$25,000,000 home was dedicated.

1975 -- Professional Opera arrived in Norfolk as the Virginia Opera Association opened its premiere season at the Center Theater. In 1993, the renovated theater was rechristened the Edythe C. and Stanley L. Harrison Opera House in honor of the company's founders.

1976 -- Operation Sail began as a tall ship celebration for the American Bicentennial. It developed into the annual Harborfest.

1976 - First graduating class of the Eastern Virginia Medical School

1979 -- Norfolk State College became a University.

1980 - Headquarters of the Jacques Cousteau Society move to Norfolk

1980 - William P. Robinson Sr. Of Norfolk, the first African-American to head a committee in the House of Delegates when he was appointed chairman of the House Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee.

1981 -- Birth at Norfolk General Hospital of first baby in the United States conceived by in-vitro fertilization (Elizabeth Jordan Carr)

1982 - Norfolk and Western and Southern Railways consolidate; the new company, Norfolk Southern, moves its headquarters to Norfolk.

1983 - John C. Thomas, a Norfolk native, first black to be a judge on the Virginia Supreme Court.

1983 -- Waterside opened in Norfolk as a festival marketplace with 120 food and specialty shops. Adjacent is Town Point Park, the scene of concerts and activities for all ages. In 1990, the \$8,500,000 Waterside expansion opened.

1983 -- The World Trade Center was built in Norfolk. This \$30,000,000, 9 story, curvilinear office complex is a vital center for international trade.

1983 -- The U.S Postal Center, in a new \$13,000,000 building, replaced the Old Post Office and Parcel Post Annex in Norfolk.

1991 -- Site preparation began for the \$52,000,000 National Marine Center, Nauticus, which opened in 1994.

1992 -- Ground was broken for a 12,000 seat, \$13,000,000 baseball park, which opened as Harbor Park in 1993 and is touted as the country's finest minor-league stadium.

1993 -- Tidewater Community College opened a downtown Norfolk center with 100 students in 7 classrooms. A \$26.6 million, 185,000 square foot campus with a capacity for 5000 students, opens in the Fall of 1996.

1995 -- Tolls on the Virginia Beach-Norfolk Expressway are removed. Tolls had been removed from the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnels in 1976 and from the Norfolk-Portsmouth tunnels in 1986. The Jordan Bridge, closed for repairs in 1994, reopened in December 1995 with a 50c toll.

1996 -- Symbolic groundbreaking for MacArthur Center Mall was celebrated on 26 January. The mall is scheduled for completion in 1999.

1998 - The Virginia Symphony, under the direction of JoAnn Falletta, performs at Carnegie Hall.

1998 - Armed Forces Memorial is dedicated at Town Point Park.

1998 - President Bill Clinton participates in the commissioning of the USS Harry S. Truman at the Norfolk Naval Base. The nuclear-powered supercarrier was built at Newport News Shipbuilding, Virginia's largest industrial employer.

1998 - Norfolk Southern acquires 7200 miles of Conrail

From 50 acres of land and a population of 1, Norfolk has grown to 61.86 square miles (39,590.4 acres) and a population of nearly 300,000