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# A Whitefield, Maine timeline - prehistoric period

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# An Illustrated Timeline of Whitefield, Maine

another *Friends Of Whitefield* project  
by David Chase

**Prehistoric** \* [Historic-1700](#) \* [1701-1800](#) \* [1801 to 1850](#) \* [1851-1900](#) \* [1901-1920](#) \* [1921-1940](#)  
\* [1941-1960](#) \* [1961-1980](#) \* [1981-2000](#) \* [2001-2010](#) \* [Gazetteer](#) \* [References](#)

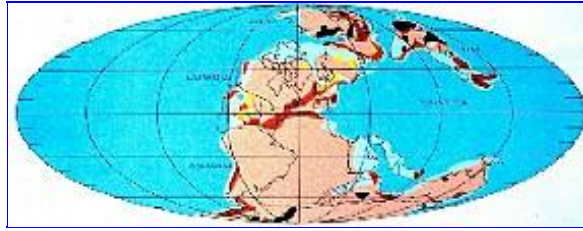
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The place we now call Whitefield in prehistoric times :

**Our planet, earth was formed about 4 Billion years ago !**  
*(Four Billion is four thousand Million - 4,000,000,000)*

About 3 1/2 Billion years after the earth's formation, the land forms here on earth were bunched together in a single general shape.

That land form is now referred to as *Pangaea* .



*\* click the globe to see where Whitefield was located 500 million years ago within Pangaea. \**

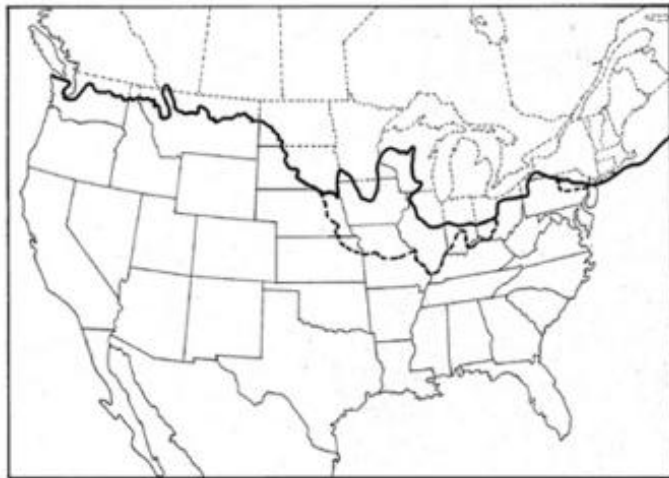
Over the next several Million years this *Pangaea* land mass began to break up - as pieces (now called continents) and began slowly floating away from each other on the hot liquid magma beneath their surface.

[To see an animation of how the continents drifted click here.](#)

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*in this prehistoric section we will use the abbreviation "BP" to mean before the present (today).*

**25,000 BP-** Beginning of the last ice age \* (actual date could be a bit older, as compared to carbon 14 dating.)



*\* The bow and arrow are invented. <sup>45</sup>*

**20,000 BP -** The area now Whitefield is completely covered with several thousand feet of glacial ice.

*\* The earliest animal engravings are made in caves in NW Spain.. <sup>45</sup>*

**14,000 BP-** Whitefield's huge gravel eskers aside the west edge of what is now the Sheepscot River are being formed under the receding warmed based (wet) glaciers.

*\* The first known artifact with a map on it made of bone found in Ukraine. <sup>45</sup>*

**13,000 BP -** Our area is now covered with 300 feet of sea water as the edge of the last glacier has passed through our area, its extreme weight has left the land still deeply depressed and thus covered by the ocean. This area, now our town, has only seven island peaks showing above the water. Those are the tops of our 7 hills above 300 feet. Millers Hill on Cooper Road is just 300 feet above current sea level and so would have been a very small island on which to stand.

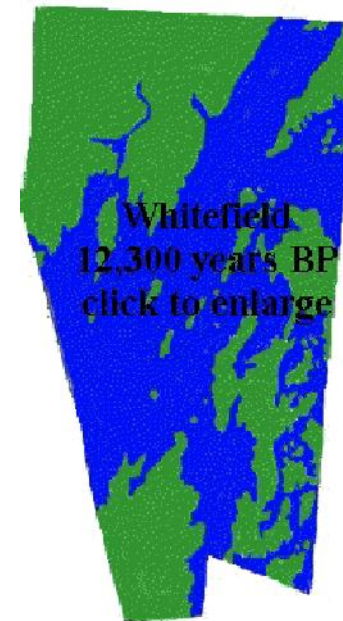


\* Hunter-gatherers colonize future British Isles. [81](#)

12,000 BP - The water levels are still high, leaving only elevations above 150 feet above the sea in our area. [32](#)

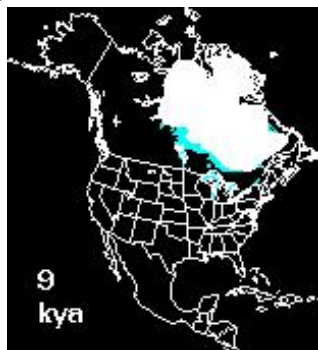
Very beginnings of mixed growth forests in our area. [17](#)

\* The earliest accepted time frame for the migration of modern Humans into North America. It is conventionally thought that these people arrived via the Bering Land Bridge, and then slowly spread throughout both North and South America. Sea going settlers may have settled North America at earlier dates, but scientific opinion on this remains divided. [82](#)



11,700 BP - (+ or - 115 years by carbon 14 dating) fossilized clam remains are found in the blue clay deposits in many parts of Whitefield are dated to his period. (Findings from 1983 geological field trip through Whitefield)

(the author also saw two large deposits of these prehistoric clam shells embedded in blue clay – one was on the east side of the Sheepscot on Pittston road at - uncovered during a building excavation: - the other was on the west side of the river during the reclamation of the huge gravel pit at the former site Liberty Hill on East River road - both sited smelled strongly as do modern clam flats on the lower Sheepscot)



*In animation "kya" = thousands years ago*

10,000 BP -The water level is about 100 feet above today's level. A wandering hunter drops a 2" fluted point while he walks along the high gravel bank

(moraine) that met the sea formed by the receding glaciers in what is now the blueberry fields/gravel pits overlooking the river valley in "the plains" of south Whitefield. (found by John Maasen in 1987?) [2](#)

\* Sheep and goats tamed in the Fertile Crescent. Earliest clay tokens used. [81](#)

8,000 BP The water level is about 50 feet above today's level.

\* The woolly mammoth becomes extinct. [45](#)



**6,000 BP - The land and water finally arrive at levels very close to today's in our area.**

**\* Horses, donkeys, llamas, and alpacas tamed.** [81](#)

**2500 BP- 500 BP - Aboriginal people are using campsites (2) at outlet of Clary lake and the Sheepscot river. Ceramic fragments gathered tested to this period.** [33](#) Probably, this was a fishing site used by the Indians where alewives and other migratory fish would gather before ascending the flows up to the pond to spawn and begin another cycle of life. *dc*

**1,500 AD (500 BP)- Beginning of Historic Contact** [32](#)

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