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A Whitefield, Maine timeline - 1981 - 2000

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An Illustrated Timeline of Whitefield, Maine

another *Friends Of Whitefield* project
by David Chase

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1981 - The town proposes a “*more orderly*” organized July 3rd celebration that doesn’t preclude the traditional burning of an outhouse.

“Interest has been expressed by the Swift River Corporation but no specific proposal to purchase or lease the Cooper’s Mills site has been made”(In answer to a query about generating power at the dam). **From a letter to Nicholas Barth of the SVCA from Tracy Moskovitz.**

Old King’s Mills Day on July 18th replaces the traditional July 4th celebration for the first time in memory. Near riots at the outhouse burning the preceding year are cited as the reason.

* Clive Sinclair develops the first cheap computer, the ZX81....more than **1,000,000** are sold. [45](#)

1982- 8th ? Blue Grass Festival held in field on Oxbow lane by North Whitefield Firemen netted \$800

Whitefield Boys Scout Troop 220 started .[11](#)

1983- Whitefield’s first (official) Tax Maps completed. (Elikaim Scammon had begun what was our very first tax map in 1816 as an aid during his tenure as selectman/tax collector a couple of years after our town was founded.)

*President Reagan dubs the USSR the "*Evil Empire*" ...Jesse Jackson becomes the first black man to address the Alabama legislature.

1984-Original incorporation papers "found" by Whitefield historian Linwood Lowden in Mass. Archives in Boston. Including list of 105 men petitioners. [10](#)

0 births, 21 marriages, 8 deaths. [10](#)

17 new homes in town., 3 new mobile homes [10](#)

31 staff at Whitefield school. ¹⁰

1985- Jolly Workers 4H Club has 20 members.

Planning Board got proposals for 9 new homes, 4 mobile homes 15 garages etc. & 1 commercial.

*The Live Aid Rock Concert in London and Philadelphia raises over **\$60** million for African famine relief....U.S. becomes world's largest debtor nation, with a deficit of **\$130,000,000,000.00.** ⁷

1986- Well-known Whitefield historian / author, Henry C. Waters died. (1899-1986) ²

* A worldwide ban on whaling, with limited exceptions for traditional societies, begins. ⁴⁵

1987- Land purchased for location of salt shed and town house.

* A Yugoslavian baby boy born is declared the world's **five billionth** inhabitant by the UN Secretary General. ⁷

1988- King's Mills Volunteer Fire Dept. reports \$11,511 in expenses, No. Whitefield VFD \$13,599, Cooper's Mills VFD \$22,573 for total expenses of \$47,683.00.

1989- July 17 our [Townhouse was moved](#) from its original site near the intersection of Dexter Lane and Townhouse road to its new home at Balltown Lane and Townhouse Road. There is a much needed new town office being built in its daylight basement and restoration all over.

* Astronomers discover a large, thin "sheet" of galaxies with vast emptiness on either side: it is dubbed the "Great Wall" and is unexplained by current theories of gravitational attraction. ⁷

1990 - Harold Olsen, who moved to Whitefield from Mass in 1969, died and left a piece of land on the West branch of the Sheepscot off Route 17 on the Windsor/Whitefield line “ *to the Inhabitants of the Town of Whitefield.....to remain in perpetuity for....recreational purposes.*” This is the first recorded example of such a gift to our town. ¹⁰

“ Notice, Notice To: Postal Customers Whitefield Post Office 04362 Due to the recent rainstorm which caused damage to the foundation of this post office, it has become unsafe to occupy. As a result of this we are moving the operation temporarily to the North Whitefield Post Office. You may pick up your mail there between the hours of 8:00 to 11:00 and 1:00 to 5:00. We thank you for bearing with us , and will keep you advised of future developments. Regretfully, Elizabeth Harmon, Postmaster Whitefield ME 04362-9998.” This notice tacked to the door of the P.O. and dated Nov 14 marked the



end of the 183 year history of local postal service in this hamlet, (1st postmaster Abraham Choate 1807) where it had begun and at one time had expanded to 4 Post Offices throughout our town .(Whitefield, North Whitefield, Joyce and Cooper's Mills).

Licenses sold: 90 combination hunting & fishing, 179 hunting, 47 junior, 187 fishing, 12 archery, 2 small game hunting, 10, Atlantic salmon, 40 duck stamps, 4 pheasant stamps, 17 muzzle loading stamps, 8 over 70 years of age hunting and fishing. [10](#)

* Three major U.S. companies announce that they will no longer buy tuna caught in nets that also trap dolphins. [7](#)

1991- Robert " *Bobby Jo*" Johanson long time Town Meeting moderator dies (1922-1991) [10](#)

Sean Winkley, son of a Whitefield family was killed in Persian Gulf War. [10](#)

1992- 59 tons of recycled materials collected plus 27 tons of cardboard A 25% increase for Whitefield.

Whitefield Historical Society has 86 members.

Results of the presidential election in Whitefield are:

Bush/Quayle 281, Clinton/Gore 419, Libertarian Party 3, Perot/Stockdale 380

0 births, 16 marriages, 22 deaths recorded in town (included all those at the nursing home)

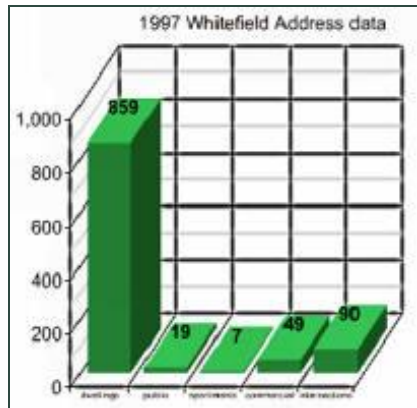
1993- 214 fishing, 205 hunting, 189 combination, 52 junior, 10 over 70 complimentary, 20 muzzle loading, 25 archery and 8 bear licenses sold. Also 42 duck stamps and 1 pheasant stamp. [10](#)

1994- Whitefield recycles over 97 tons (194,000 lbs) of material, saving the town over **\$5,626.00** [10](#)

State voter registration files list the following #'s as registered: **478 Democrats, 4 Independents, 442 Republicans and 501 unregistered for a total of 1425 voters.**

1995- This years *Town Report* lists more than **\$115,732.00** in outstanding unpaid taxes. This is more than 16% of the town's total assessed commitment. [10](#)

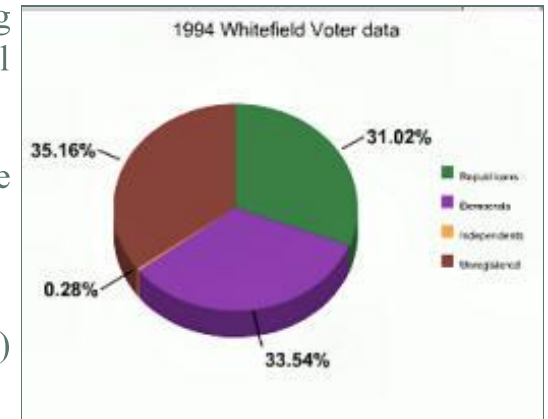
1996- All state [numbered and unnamed roads](#) are named and #'s assigned every 50' as per E 911 . Fifty new road named. Others corrected for road/lane update.



1997- 859 dwelling addresses, 19 public building addresses, 7 apartment addresses, 49 commercial addresses, and 90 intersections listed in town.

13 wild turkeys were counted in Whitefield during the Dec. 16th Audubon bird count.

1998 - An Internet search lists 1 Non-wiccan (Teenage) vegetarian goddess-worshipper on line in Whitefield.



Just 45 years after it is built, The Knights of Columbus Hall below Church Hill that provided a wonderful community center in its heyday of the 60's is [moved up Grand Army Road](#) , being lifted gently over the Partridge bridge and eased up Grand Army to its new home at Turners Corner as the enlarged Country Farms Restaurant owned by Dan and Peggy Downs.

1998-

* Number of complimentary doughnuts Bob Dole receives each week as part of his Dunkin' Donuts contract: **60** . Number he distributed to reporters waiting outside Monica Lewinsky's Watergate apartment last February 2: **48** [84](#)

1999- [Whitefield Salmon Preserve](#) created. [87](#)

2000- Presidential voting results: George W. Bush (R) - 503, Al Gore (D) – 547, Ralph Nader - [78](#)

The Census Reports:

As of the 2000 census, the town had a total population of 2,273.

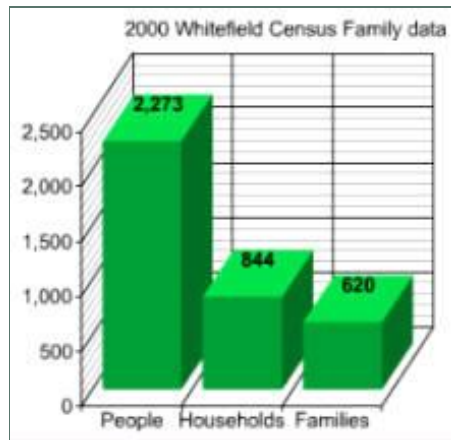
In the 2000 census, more than 13 percent of Whitefield residents who reported their first ancestry on the census claimed [Irish roots](#). [92](#)

Geography :

According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 123.1 km² (47.5 mi²). 121.3 km² (46.8 mi²) of it

is land and 1.8 km² (0.7 mi²) of it is water. The total area is 1.47% water.

Demographics:



As of the census of 2000, there are 2,273 people, 844 households, and 620 families residing in the town. The population density is 18.7/km² (48.5/mi²). There are 954 housing units at an average density of 7.9/km² (20.4/mi²). The racial makeup of the town is 97.23% White, 0.18% African American, 1.23% Native American, 0.35% Asian, 0.18% Pacific Islander, 0.13% from other races, and 0.70% from two or more races. 0.88% of the population are Hispanic or Latino of any race.

There are 844 households out of which 35.7% have children under the age of 18 living with them, 61.1% are married couples living together, 8.6% have a female householder with no husband present, and 26.5% are non-families. 20.0% of all households are made up of individuals and 5.9% have someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older. The average household size is 2.62 and the average family size is 3.02.

In the town the population is spread out with 26.4% under the age of 18, 5.6% from 18 to 24, 29.5% from 25 to 44, 26.8% from 45 to 64, and 11.7% who are 65 years of age or older. The median age is 38 years. For every 100 females there are 98.0 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there are 97.6 males.

The median income for a household in the town is \$38,477, and the median income for a family is \$41,994. Males have a median income of \$27,917 versus \$21,750 for females. The per capita income for the town is \$16,456. 12.5% of the population and 8.2% of families are below the poverty line. Out of the total population, 14.6% of those under the age of 18 and 19.9% of those 65 and older are living below the poverty line. [80](#)

[TOP](#)