



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Studies

## Early Connections with America

### Vocabulary

**Wrecking** – attracting ships to cays and reefs, then taking away the goods on board to sell

**Consul** – person appointed to represent the government in another country, who works in a consulate and is not as important as an ambassador

**Embassy** – part of a nation's territory within another country; the ambassador and his or her staff work here

**Ambassador** – person appointed to represent the government in another country, who works in an embassy,

**Blockade** – access to a country's port is prevented

**Prohibition** – the prevention by law of the sale or manufacture of alcohol

**Smuggling** – to carry forbidden goods into or out of a country

**Timeline** – a diagram showing dates and events

### Attorney General Sir Robert Heath

- In 1629, King Charles 1 of England gave the lands of the American Carolinas and The Bahamas to his chief legal advisor, Attorney-General Sir Robert Heath.
- By this grant these lands became British territories.

### Two Historical Groups of Individuals: Adventurers and Lord Proprietors of Carolina

#### Adventures

- In those early years settlers in The Bahamas looked to settlers in North America for advice, help and trade. Settlers in America sent help to the Adventurers.
- Help was sent, and in return the Adventurers later gave money towards the building of the famous Harvard College in Massachusetts.



### **Lord Proprietors**

- In 1670, Charles II of England had given The Bahamas to the Lord Proprietors of Carolina.
- the Proprietors took over The Bahamas to make money, but had little interest in the island.
- The people who lived in The Bahamas were expected to pay some of their wages to the Proprietors in America, but refused to do so
- The rule of the Lord Proprietors ended in 1718, when Woodes Rodgers was appointed as the first Royal Governor of the Bahamas.

### **Invasion of New Providence: America War of Independence and The Spaniards Invasion**

- Occurred in 1775.
- Ships of the American navy were sent to Nassau to take the powder and ammunition stored at Fort Nassau for two weeks, but found only 24 barrels of gun powder and little ammunition.
- When the war was ended, trade between America and The Bahamas increased.

### **Spaniards Invasion**

- Occurred in 1782.

The Governor was forced to surrender to the Spanish troops who took over the island. They remained there for nine months, until a Loyalist officer, Colonel Andrew Deveau, attacked with forces from Harbor Island and Eleuthera recaptured the fort.

### **Wrecking Industry**

- **Wrecking** had been big business in The Bahamas since the first settlers arrived.
- Many ships were caught by the tricky currents around these islands, and swept ashore. Some ships were deliberately attracted on to the cays and reefs by false lights.
- The goods on board were carried away by the wreckers, and later sold.
- Major increase of wrecks occurred after the America War of Independence.

### **Important Dates and Events**

- 1821- First American Consul or representative arrived in Nassau.
- 1859 – Consulate was known as the Consulate General.
- July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1973 – The Bahamas gained independence.
- 1973- US Embassy was established in Nassau.



- 1859 - The first steamships began a regular service between New York and Nassau. This was the start of our number one industry, tourist.
- 1929 – Airline flights between Nassau and Miami began.

### **Blockade**

- During the American Civil War, all ships were prevented from using the ports in the southern states of America.
- This was referred to as the blockade.
- Nassau became very important at that time, supplying guns and ammunition to the troops of the Southern States, which were called The Confederacy. Nassau also exported cotton from the plantations in these states to Britain.

### **Prohibition**

- 1919 - The American government passed an act, which prevented the American people from making, selling, importing or exporting liquors anywhere in the United States.
- 1920 – 1933 – Referred to as the period of Prohibition.
- Since The United States is so close in distance to The Bahamas, this became a great money making opportunity for people in The Bahamas as they smuggled liquor into America.

### **The Project or Contract**

- During the Second World War (1939-1945), many American men went to Europe to join the troops there.
- As a result, there was a lack of farm workers, however people from The Bahamas went to America to work on the farms and in the food factories.
- This was the result of an agreement called *The Project*, or *The Contract*, arranged between the governments of the United States and The Bahamas.