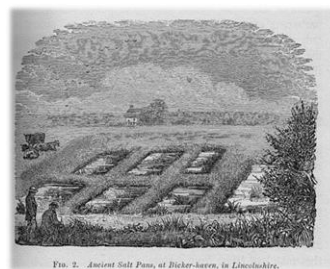


OUR LOCAL AREA



TIMELINE – OUR HISTORY OF BOSTON

c. 1100	1125	1250	1281	c. 1400	1545	1552	1555	1603	1726	1766	1774	1776	1801	1845	1848	1884	1910	1913	1924	1927	2011
Boston grows into a market town	Boston has an annual fair	Boston is one of the most important ports in the country. It exports wool and imports wine	Boston is badly damaged by fire	Boston begins to decline as the Witham silts up and industry moves to other parts of the UK	Henry VIII grants Boston a charter and it becomes a borough	Boston sends 2 MPs to parliament	Boston Grammar School is founded	Plague strikes Boston	Fyddell House is built	The Grand Sluice opens	Boston gets its first bank	A group of men are formed to light the streets of Boston	Boston has a population of 5926	A water works company is founded in Boston	The railway reaches Boston	New docks built down road from the town centre	The first cinema opens	A new town bridge is built	Boston gets electric light	County Hall is built	The population is 59000



Long before Boston was a town, people lived here and worked extracting salt from the sea. There is evidence of this in Boston and the local area going back to the Iron Ages.

THE HANSEATIC LEAGUE

In the 12th century, Boston grew in size and importance thanks to the Hanseatic League.

The Hanseatic League was an association of traders from a number of German towns. Their aim was to encourage trade, maintain monopolies and help each other out in cases of piracy.

The countries who joined the Hansa supported each other. They traded goods with each other and helped each other out in times of conflict.

Boston was a perfect place for the Hansa because it is on the east coast of England and have river access to much of England.

By 1204, Boston was the second most important port in the country (London was the first) Wool was the dominant export from Boston. The wool came to Boston from places such as Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire.

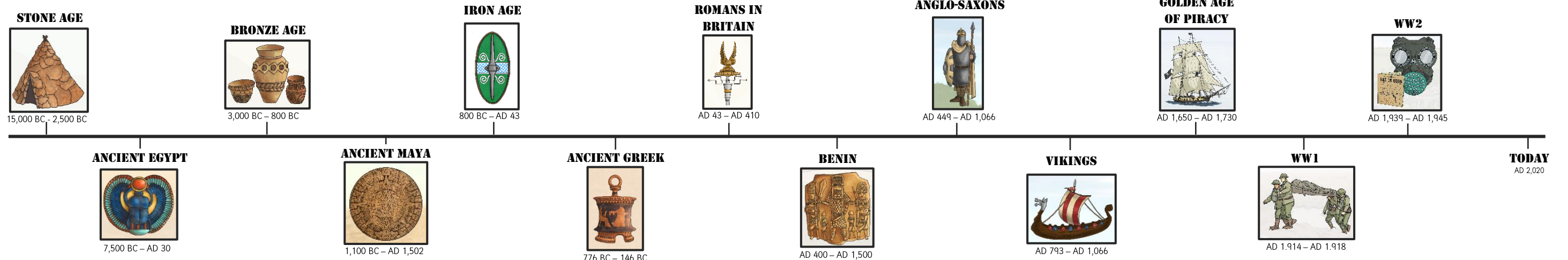
The monks there were the largest and richest produces of wool in Northern England. They also owned property in Fountains Lane in Boston. Between 1279 and 1288, 37% of all wool from England came through the port of Boston.

By 1377 Boston was the 10th largest town in the country.

By the 15th century, the Hanseatic League were concentrating on trading in London and Boston began to decline.

Key Vocabulary			
Era	A distinct period of history	The Hansa	The Haseatic League are often referred to as 'The Hansa'
Chronology	The arrangement of events in order	Monasteries	A building occupied by a community of Monks
Middle Ages	A period of time from the 5 th century to 15 th century	Monks	A man who has devoted his life to religion. Monks often live together in monasteries
Medieval Times	Middle ages are also known as Medieval times	Friars	A member of a certain religious order, especially the four orders- Augustinian, Carmelites, Dominican and Franciscan
The Hanseatic League	The Hanseatic League was an association of traders from a number of German towns. Their aim was to encourage trade, maintain monopolies and help each other out in case of piracy.	Silts up	When the river becomes clogged up with silt causing a blockage
		Subterranean Aqueduct	Underground tunnels built to carry water

HISTORY TIMELINE



THE CHANGING GEOGRAPHY OF BOSTON

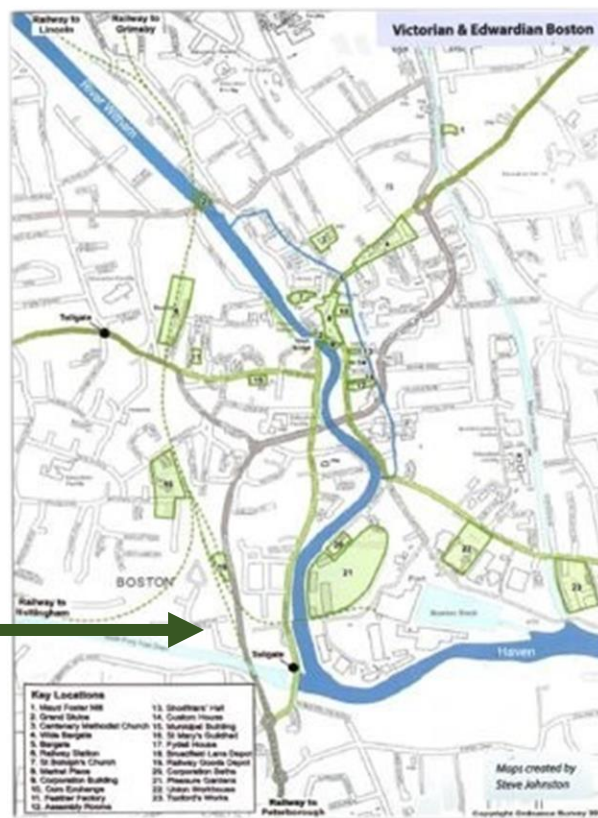


The background of this photo is Boston Town Centre today.

You can see the very important River Witham flows through the town centre.

The river and the orange parts show what existed in the town centre in medieval times

The background of this photo is Boston Town Centre today. The river and the green parts show what existed in the town centre in Victorian and Edwardian Times.



THE RIVER WITHAM

In the medieval map the river is very wide at the top where it enters town. The river was straightened in the 1800s, because it had become very wide and split into channels. Silt and sand had accumulated and made it impossible to use it as a port. It was also causing flooding problems inland. Plans were drawn up to re-route the river from the Black Sluice to the wash. The work began in 1830 and wasn't complete until 1884. This picture shows them digging the new channel.



BOSTON MAY FAIR

In 1218 a royal charter recorded the towns right to hold it's markets a fairs. The Boston May Fair originally last for 8 days.

In the middle ages the annual fair was a sumptuous occasion that lasted several days. There was a vast array of luxury goods such as velvet, silk, wines, spice and fish. The fair took place around St Botolph's Church.

On 26th July 1288, during the fair, a group of rioters set fire to the merchants booths in three or four places and the flames spread and burned down much of the town, including the church, the refractory and other building of the Black friars. The fair had developed so much by 1330 that the fair went on for 4 months!! The Hustings court (The oldest courts in London) closed down each June so that the London merchants could attend St Botolph's Fair.



These pictures show the medieval fair, the fair in the 1800s and the fair as we know it today.



SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS IN BOSTON

MARKET PLACE

(NOT A BUILDING BUT VERY IMPORTANT)

Trading fairs or "marts" have been held in Boston since at least the 12th Century – the earliest historic record of a fair or "mart" is in 1132. It ran from St. Botolph's Day (12th June) to 24th June. In 1218 a Patent was granted for Boston's Fair.

The earliest maps of Boston date from that time and the "Market Place" is indicated on them in its current location. Once a year the London courts would close so that everyone would have the opportunity to visit Boston during the May Fair, at that time goods which were rare, such as spices and wines, could be bought fresh from the port. The town flourished and Boston Port was recognised as second only to London.



BOSTON STUMP

St Botolph's Church is one of the country's largest parish churches with its iconic tower, known as Boston Stump being the tallest to the roof of any parish church in England and one of the largest medieval towers in Britain



ST. MARY'S GUILDHALL

The Guildhall was built in the 1390s by the Guild of St Mary, a collection of the wealthiest and most prominent members of Boston society.

The Guildhall was built of locally made brick, at a time when stone and timber were much cheaper and more readily available.

The Guildhall then became used as a Town Hall, and over the following centuries the medieval origin of the

building were hidden under layers of renovation and alterations. Finally, in 1902 the Corporation moved into new purpose-built quarters in West Street. The Guildhall was used as a 'National Kitchen' in World War One, offering free meals to the poor. It fulfilled a similar role in WWII, acting as a 'British Restaurant'.

HUSSEY TOWER

Hussey Tower is a red brick building dated 1489. It belonged to Lord Hussey who was beheaded by Henry VIII in 1537, for failing to suppress the Lincolnshire Rising.



DOMINICAN MONASTERY (BLACKFRIARS)

The building we now know as Blackfriars Arts Centre (theatre) is the only remaining part of the Dominican Monastery that occupied its site from 1222. The Dominicans also known as Shod Friars founded their friary in 1222. In 1288 their buildings and much of the town was burnt down during St Botolph's Fair. In 1290 they were given 8 great oaks from Sherwood Forest by the King to help them rebuild.

Blackfriars is built on, what would have been, the monk's refectory (dining room). In the picture above you can see how the original building merges with the new. In 1327 they were given a royal licence to build a subterranean aqueduct from Bolingbroke to their house. The friary was dissolved in 1539 and the land given to the Duke of Suffolk in 1540. Nowadays Blackfriars is an Arts Centre and houses the town's theatre.

