

Welcome

In 1607 at Fort St. George at the mouth of Maine's Kennebec River, the settlers of the Popham Colony constructed VIRGINIA, the first English deep-sea vessel built in the New World. So began Maine's love affair with shipbuilding. In the 400 years since her launching, thousands of wooden and steel ships have followed in VIRGINIA's wake out of the Kennebec to sail the oceans of the world.

In 1997, the non-profit corporation Maine's First Ship was formed to reconstruct VIRGINIA to commemorate and demonstrate the birth of Maine's shipbuilding industry, and to promote greater understanding of early European exploration and settlement of Maine. With your help VIRGINIA will once again sail the Kennebec and the coast of Maine, providing unique opportunities for education, research, and hands-on excitement! Become a member of Maine's First Ship. Welcome aboard!



Local school children rediscovering Fort St. George, carrying the flag of the 1607 fort.

Maine's First Ship commemorates the birth of Maine's shipbuilding industry through reconstruction of the pinnacle VIRGINIA, built at Popham Colony in 1607, and advances understanding of the early English discovery of Maine by ship.

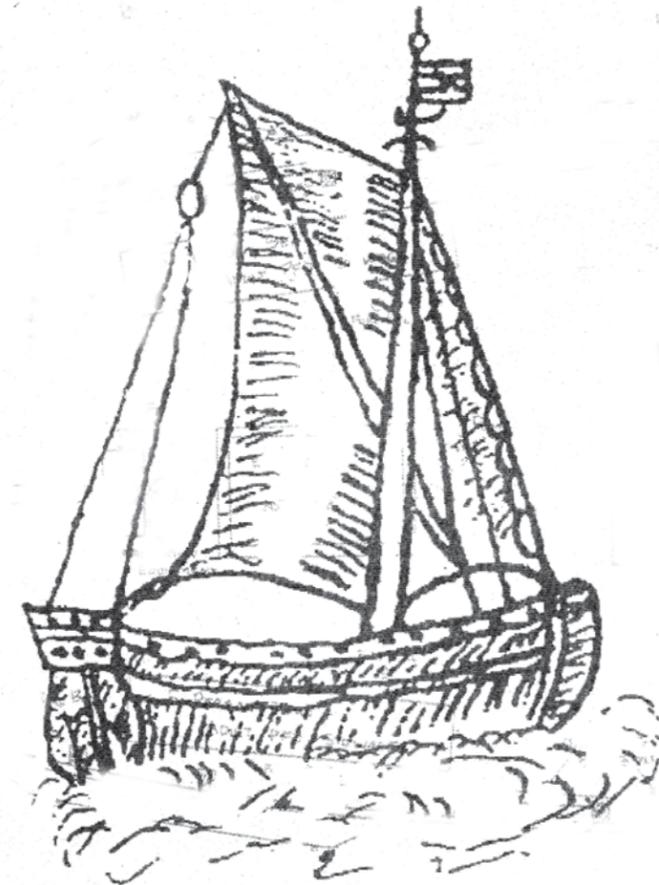
Maine's First Ship is committed to:

- Increasing public awareness and understanding of Maine's place in early European exploration
- Researching, designing, building and operating a reconstruction of the first ship VIRGINIA, built at Popham Colony in 1607
- Developing a broad range of interactive education programs focusing on the building of the first ship and creation of the Popham Colony
- Distinguishing the building of this ship in 1607 as the birth of Maine's shipbuilding tradition



P.O. Box 231
Bath, Maine 04530
www.mainesfirstship.org

Maine's First Ship is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.



VIRGINIA

Maine's 1607 Link to American History

The First VIRGINIA

No original plans existed for VIRGINIA, although documents refer to a pinnacle style vessel with shallow draft, bluff bow, and square transom. Her size was "some 30 tonne," which would make her about 50 feet long. Although incredible by modern standards, ships of such small size frequently crossed the Atlantic during the late 1500s and early 1600s.



VIRGINIA Today

The design team for Maine's First Ship researched 17th century vessel construction to create an authentic and durable vessel. VIRGINIA will be built by professionals and volunteers using traditional wooden vessel construction techniques, in public view. She will carry auxiliary power to supplement her rig and be fully Coast Guard inspected and certified for up to 25 passengers. She will be endowed to insure future maintenance.



Rob Stevens, VIRGINIA's Shipwright, has been involved in period vessel reconstruction and working with volunteers for 24 years.

Interactive Education

Maine's First Ship education programs provide varied opportunities for people of all ages. MFS provides school presentations, independent learning units, and professional development workshops for educators, all in alignment with Maine's Learning Results.



VIRGINIA makes our maritime heritage come alive!

Membership Support

Since 1997 over 10,000 school children have enhanced their education through Maine's First Ship. Your membership support will help continue these programs, and help new generations experience Maine's maritime history first hand.



"Digging": Youth in touch with Maine's history learned that remnants of original structures were uncovered and insights gained of the colonists daily life.



The Shallop Project 2010



The Shallop Project enabled fourteen Morse High School



students to learn hands-on boatbuilding skills under the expert guidance of Shipwright Will West and documentary filmmaking under the tutelage of Media Consultant Patti Irish.

The eighteen foot shallop, similar to that used by colonists and native Americans, was launched October 9, 2010.



All members will receive mailings including the Bi-Annual Newsletter and event notifications.

MFS membership cards provide admission to MFS construction site.



VIRGINIA

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YES I/We would like to be enrolled as a member of Maine's First Ship.

- Trunnel \$30.00
- Plank \$50.00
- Frame \$100.00
- Business \$500.00

I/We would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____.

Please make checks payable to Maine's First Ship.
Your membership dues and donation(s) will be dedicated to educational programs and operations. Maine's First Ship is registered as a 501 (c) (3) organization. Donations are deductible for income tax purposes.

Visit our web site to learn more about volunteer opportunities,
www.mainesfirstship.org



 P.O. Box 231
 Bath, ME 04530

NAME (please print)

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