



Little Known Facts about NORFOLK, VA

1680 -- The Virginia House of Burgesses orders each Virginia County to purchase 50 acres of land, to be laid out for a town and storehouses. By an Act of Assembly the purchase of 50 acres was authorized for the Town of Norfolk, the purchase price being 10,000 pounds of tobacco. In 1682, in pursuance to the act, land was purchased from trustees of Nicholas Wise, a house carpenter and son of the elder Wise. The deed was recorded and Norfolk Towne was established on the area now bounded by City Hall Avenue on the north, the Elizabeth River on the south and west, and the Norfolk and Western Railroad tracks on the east.

1698 - First church in Norfolk built on Church Street (site is in churchyard of present St. Paul's)

1739 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church erected on property deeded to the Borough by Samuel Boush.

1776 -- On New Year's Day, English ships under the command of Lord Dunmore opened fire on Norfolk, burning many of the buildings to the ground. The destruction was completed by Colonial troops in order that the British might not occupy the borough. Norfolk was the only American town completely destroyed and rebuilt. A British cannonball in the wall of St. Paul's Church is a reminder of the Revolutionary War.

1793 - Haitian refugees with free blacks as well as slaves arrive in Norfolk.

1800 - First Baptist Church on Bute Street was established in Norfolk as the city's first predominantly black congregation.

The world's largest navel base and North American headquarters of NATO are within the city.

The city of Norfolk is considered a "Tree City" due to the extensive quantity of trees and flowers in the area.

Did you know that Houghton Hall near Kings Lynn houses the largest collection of Toy Soldiers in the world?

SHIPYARD



PEOPLE



TECHNOLOGY

