

Map 2

Colonial New England Paths 1633-1673

This map shows all of the original New England colonial paths that were used for the first fifty years of the development of the colonies. In different colors, this map shows the five major routes, plus a minor route called Hadley path. In 1633 John Oldham, who created it to make a path that lead people, troops and supplies from the highly populated city of Boston, south to Hartford, constructed the Old Connecticut Path. People realized that this route was so horrible and rough that there must be an easier way to get to Hartford. The next road created was called the Old Bay Path, which was constructed in 1648. This road was also frowned upon because of its insufficient traveling conditions. In 1673 Massachusetts was afraid of a war with the Indians. So the troops needed a faster and more efficient route to get from Boston to the frontier, which was Brookfield to Springfield. This road was the Military Highway of 1673, later called The New Bay Path. There was a spur created in 1673 that gave a travel route from Brookfield to Hadley. The Providence path was created in 1637, which was a dogleg that ran from Woodstock through Providence, Rhode Island to Bristol. Before all of these routes, there was a path called the Nipmuck Path created by the Indians prior to the arrival of the English. This path lead from Springfield to Norwich.

Sponsored by: Anonymous and The Dunbar Family

Tyler Latour, Patrick Mulhern
9/28/09