

History of the Town of Cumberland

The Town of Cumberland, in the County of Cumberland, was incorporated in March of 1821, one year after Maine became a state. Before that, it was part of the Town of North Yarmouth. It was mostly an agricultural town, with individual farms, dairy farms, market farms, apple orchards, and greenhouses. Carnations from those greenhouses were shipped all over. Cumberland was also home to about 20 sea captains. For 50 years there was a shipbuilding business, run by a father and son team, David Spear senior and junior. The town faces Casco Bay on the Atlantic Ocean, so anything to do with ships was an important part of the make-up of it. Cumberland is now a suburb of Portland, Maine's largest city, and there are only three working generational farms remaining. Because of the numerous farms in the mid 1800's, Cumberland established an agricultural fair in 1868, which still exists today. The Cumberland County Fair runs during the last week of September.