

Notable Abaco Dates - A work in progress Began October 2003 and ongoing

In the course of writing or researching stories for The Abaconian, we often have problems finding dates for notable events. Following is an attempt to record events affecting Abaco. Additional dates and events are welcome from anyone with this information. This is not a contest to see who can out-remember someone else but rather to compile a resource list of recent and past Abaco history which is public information. If you see incorrect information, please inform us.

Any notable event should be included - Green Turtle, Crown Haven, Sandy Point and so on. Events are notable to different persons for different reasons. At some point events become trivia and not worth recording. For example, the date when the fourth bank came to Abaco is much less relevant than when the first bank came.

A brief description of the event is sufficient, not to make a story. In depth stories would be interesting and of value but that would be a separate endeavor. This summary is available on request either via email or a printed copy. It may be used for personal, educational and non-commercial purposes.

Please send notable items or corrections to: davralph@baelnet.bs

Many items through 1900 were found in Steve Dodge's book of Abaco History

Information from 1994 and later is sparse in this summary but will eventually be added from the Abaconian newspaper and included as time permits. Archive copies of the Abaconian can be found at www.dloc.com. Enter Abaco in the search box.

1492 Columbus encounters the Bahamas while looking for a route to India, thus begins the influx of illegal immigrants

1513 Ponce deLeon found only one old Lucayan Indian woman in the northern Bahamas, possibly on Walker's Cay, Abaco,

1530 - 1550 Lucayan Indians no longer in evidence in The Bahamas, decimated by disease and slavery by Spanish

1565 French colony established somewhere on Abaco, paired with a sister colony in St Augustine, no further information as the French could not locate it several years later

1633 Indications are that the French attempted to establish a second colony on Abaco

1718+ Charles Vane, "Vane the Great Pirate" fled New Providence for Green Turtle Cay under Woods Rogers amnesty, plundered two ships then escaped when Nassau attempted to capture him.

Historical evidence suggests there were no settlements on Abaco prior to the arrival of the Loyalists in 1783.

There may have been seasonal farming, opportunist wreckers, pirates and visiting fishermen who used Abaco as an occasional base. Many of these temporary occupants were from Eleuthera that was settled 100 or more years earlier.

1780 Cherokee shown on maps prior to this date, possibly farming

1783 Loyalists arrived at Carleton, NW end of Treasure Cay Beach, Sept. or Oct, left New York in late Aug. or early Sept.

1784 A rebellious contingent from Carleton settled in Marsh's Harbour, total Abaco population reported to be 658 with two thirds in Marsh's Harbour

1785 Population reported to be 1,000 with most from New York and the balance mostly from Florida

44% in Marsh's Harbour, 21% in Maxwell, 25% in Carleton and 10 % at Spencer's Bight

Maxwell Town settled close to Marsh's Harbour in mid 1780s but disappeared within a few years.

Settlements established at Spencer's Bight and Eight Mile Bay. Spencer's Bight later known as Sweeting's Village

1785 Twenty-one ton Sloop HUAIBRAS built and launched

1785 Hope Town Settled by Wyannie Malone, North Carolina, USA

1785 Cherokee believed to have been settled by a Mr. Brown from Florida

1785 Severe Hurricane struck Abaco and Eleuthera September

1786 Green Turtle Cay believed settled based on first land grant dated this year

1786 One hundred-fifty-five ton ULYSEES built and launched

1788 Five Abaco built cargo vessels documented in Nassau with cargo from Jamaica, Charleston, New York and London

1788 Abaco population estimated at 400 living between Spencer's Bight, Marsh's Harbour, Maxwell Town, Carleton and Coco Plum Creek.

1790 Abaco population at a low point. Harbour Island settlers began to migrate to Abaco. Harbour Island settled about 100 years before Abaco. Their arrival brought knowledge of the sea causing settlements on the cays to predominate

1798 Man-O-War Cay farmed by Benjamin Archer & Elizabeth Pinder.

1801 Hope Town cemetery #1 original 1801 - 1850, 37 graves not now visible

- 1815 New Plymouth population 193
- 1820+ Guana Cay and Cherokee believed founded now or shortly after
- 1822-23 Man-O-War founded by Pappy Ben and Mammy Nellie, economy based on fishing and farming. Boat building began in mid century
- 1825 New Plymouth Inn originally built as a residence for the "Roberts" family, remained residential until 1954
- 1826 Methodist minister visited Cherokee on his way to Green Turtle Cay on the mail boat
- 1828 Methodist church built in Cherokee
- 1830 Pineapples exported in small quantities from Abaco during the 1830s
- 1830 - 1840 Sponge harvesting industry begins
- 1833 Church of England built in Man-O-War, on site later housing the Methodist church
- 1836 Hole-in-the-Wall Lighthouse built
- 1838 Emancipation of slaves, Abaco population was 499 white, 61 free blacks, 361 black slaves
After Emancipation blacks settled in new towns, Bluff Point, Cornish Town and Old Place. Hard Bargain and the Bight on Moore's Island, Crossing Rocks may have been settled about this same time.
- 1840 Abaco population reached 900
- 1840+ Sisal introduced to the Bahamas
- 1849 Abaco Population at 2000
- 1850 Cholera epidemic in Hope Town killed 100, Cholera graveyard established beside the present (2010) fire station
- 1850 Hope Town Cholera cemetery #2, 1850 - 1851, on dune beside fire station
- 1850 Hope Town cemetery #3, 1850 - 1900, on dune behind Taylor Park and swimming pool
- 1850 - 1920 Sponge harvesting was a mainstay of the economy
- 1854 Fruit and orange exports totaled 322800 (pounds) from Abaco
- 1855 - 1864 Abaco produced nearly half of the boats built in The Bahamas, mainly Hope Town, Cherokee and M. Harbour
- 1856 New Plymouth population about 1000, home to 40 fishing smacks and 29 wrecking schooners, economy based on fishing, fruit growing, lumbering and wrecking. Closer proximity to Abaco proper gave commuting farmers on Green Turtle Cay an advantage
- 1862 Elbow Cay Lighthouse construction began, completed 1864. Residents attempted to prevent its construction.
- 1862 Steam sloop ADIRONDACK, a Union warship, went aground August 23 and sank off Man-O-War, artifacts still visible
- 1865 Union gunboat SAN JACINTO sank 1 January off Whale Cay, remains still visible
- 1866 Hurricane
- 1867 Legislation enacted to provide for fortnightly mail service between Nassau and Abaco.
- 1870 Sandy Point settled within a year or two of this date
- 1880 Pineapples were the major export item for Abaco, Hope Town District and Green Turtle Cay were principal processors
- 1880 Hope Town's Todd house constructed, still standing 2010
- 1885 Green Turtle Cay population about 1500
- 1887 Hope Town district's largest export item is pineapples (grown on the Abaco mainland)
- 1888 Hope Town is made a Port of Entry which facilitates produce exports
- 1888 Boatyard established in Man-O-War, later owned by William H Albury
- 1889 Legislation introduced to encourage sisal production
- 1889 Foreign company establishes a sisal plantation south of Marsh Harbour. Several large plantations founded on Little Abaco Island. Sisal processing mills located at Marsh Harbour, Hope Town, Guana cay, Coco Plum Creek and maybe Sandy Point Sisal processing machine still visible on Guana Cay .
- 1890 Hope Town's two story jail, Post Office, Commissioner's office complex was built, still standing 2010
- 1890 Sponges displaced pineapples as an Abaco export during the 1890s
- 1890 Abaco Population at 3686
- 1895 Hope Town's school built , still standing in 2010
- 1895 +/- many sisal operations shut down as prices tumble
- 1895 Population of Hope Town District was almost 1200
- 1896 Man-O-War school begins in the Church of England
- 1897 Green Turtle Cay residents complain that the monthly mail boat service was inadequate
- 1897 Green Turtle Cay exported 350 dozen pineapples, down from 125,000 - 130,000 dozen several years earlier
Hope Town pineapple production was similar to that in Green Turtle Cay
- 1897 Orange exports from Abaco totaled 480,000 (pounds) with most being produced in the Hope Town district
- 1898 The *Albertine Adoue* was built in GTC from salvaged materials. Abaco's only sailing mail boat, lasting until the 1920's.

- 1899 Sisal production rebounded and was a major industry for Green Turtle Cay and a lesser industry for Hope Town, Sisal mill located south of Marsh Harbour, renovated to present St. Francis pre-school building on hill. Building shell was standing in 1959 said to be remnants of a sisal plantation or mill. Lumbering at Witches Point said prior to 1905
- BEGIN below - additions to history on web site
- 1901 Hope Town cemetery #4, 1901-1970, on dune south of school
- 1905 The *B. Frank Neally*, a 3 masted schooner, sailed from Jacksonville bound for Wilson City with a load of brick and cement. She was never heard from again, loss included some Hope Town crew members .
- 1905 Wilson City Lumber Mill started by Germans
- 1908 Wilson City residents get electricity in their houses, tennis court and ice plant are there
- 1910 Sisal mill on Guana Cay stopped operation
- 1910 - 1920 Hope Town population peaked at about 700
- 1911 Dr Robert Stratton arrived and served as missionary & unqualified licensed medical practitioner
- 1911 Walkers Cay first settled (not confirmed, found in Walkers Cay press release)
- 1912 Wilson city lumber mill employed 540 persons
- 1912 Hope Town had 32 sponging vessels, economy supplemented with sisal, sugar cane, syrup, boat building, shipping and the timber industry.
- 1913 Church of God established in Green Turtle Cay
- 1914 Church of God established in Cooper's Town - ditto
- 1916 Wilson City, Abaco Lumber Company operation closed
- 1916 Minister Kendrick and unqualified licensed medical practitioner thrown out of Hope Town, moved to Green Turtle C.
- 1917 The keel was laid for a 3 masted 266 ton schooner, *ABACO*, in MOW, launched the following year. Built with timbers from the SW side of Great Abaco. 112' keel, 130' LOA, draft of 10' and 33' beam.
- 1918+ Norman's Castle lumber mill came several years after Wilson City closed not sure of year, horses and mules were used to pull logs from the forest
- 1918 Sisal still being produced in limited quantities in the Cedar Harbour area
- 1919 Final voyage of Roberts and Russell which was bound for Havana. Home ported in Hope Town for many years prior. Five Hope Town crew lost on this voyage.
- 1920 First wireless telegraph on Abaco in Hope Town
- 1920s Tomatoes grown for export and ranked 2nd behind sponges
- 1922 The schooner *Abaco Bahamas* was launched in Hope Town. A 3 masted schooner, the largest ever built in Hope Town or the Bahamas. 158' LOA, 35' beam, draft of 8', 484 tons.
- 1922 Hope Town Commissioner complained about poor mail service by schooner *Albertine Adoue*
- 1923 *Priscilla* became the Abaco mail boat, first with engine, *Richard Campbell* next mail boat
- 1924 Marsh Harbour gets a wireless telegraph station
- 1924 Sponging industry virtually shut down due to sponge disease
- 1925 Norman's Castle lumber mill had 400 employees and 250 houses
- 1925 Green Turtle Cay gets telegraph
- 1925 James A. Pinder opens Sandy Point's first school
- 1926 Hole-in-the-wall light station upgraded with new lantern, lens, etc. Completed Nov 5
- 1926 Oct Hurricane surge flooded Marsh Harbour, 6 ft followed by 20 ft, many drowned
- 1926 Batelco station on Marsh Harbour's front street beside present's teacher's residence was destroyed by storm
- 1926 Post office on front street, Marsh Harbour destroyed by hurricane
- 1927 Destructive Hurricane, Water receded at Norman's Castle dock leaving the sea bed dry
- 1927 Batelco moved to building beside Marsh Harbour cemetery, Court, Post Office & School there also
- 1928 Destructive Hurricane
- 1928 Schooner *Abaco* was destroyed in a hurricane in Nassau.
- 1929 Milleville at Rocky Pt on S shore near Sandy Pt., began constructing freight dock, destroyed by hurricane, Cornwall mill No 1 South of High Banks in West side forest by blue hole now called Sawmill Sink
Cornwall mill No 2 (1 mile?) South of Crossing Rocks on West side
Cross Harbour Mill inland at Cross Harbour on S Abaco shore, Final mill in this era,
(Others suggest progression was Wilson City, Norman's Castle, Cornwell 1 & 2, Milleville & Cross harbour)
- 1929 Destructive Hurricane

- 1930 Norman's Castle Lumber camp gets telegraph
- 1930 Cherokee gets telegraph
- 1930 Fire destroyed 17 homes in Cherokee in early 1930s,
- 1930 Sisal production came to a halt during the 1930s as prices tumble
- 1930 Limited sponging still being undertaken, believe terminated soon
- 1932 Cornwall Lumber camp on S Shore, not far from Sandy Point not sure when begin or end
- 1932 Hurricane destroyed Marsh H Post office & school building, School held in Methodist church
Nassau Guardian, 3012 houses damaged on Abaco, water 8 feet deep in MH, water worse than in 1926 storm
- 1932 Dundas town began after disastrous hurricane destroyed Cornish town, Big Grape Tree, & Old Place
- 1933 New school built in Marsh H. Also a combined library, Post Office and radio station, teacher's house on harbour
- 1933 - 1943 Shark fishing by Floyd Lowe, Andros fishermen brought skins to Harold Lowe, buyer on Green Turtle Cay
- 1936 Norman's Castle mill moved, portable mills now used instead of permanent mill sites
Milleville, Believe there were three Cornwall locations
Cross Harbour last mill on Abaco, on south shore between Hole-in-wall and Sandy Point, Floyd Lowe there in 1942
Three Cornwall locations, worked an area with available RR track then relocated - Floyd Lowe
Cross Harbour last mill on Abaco, on south shore midway between Hole-in-wall and Sandy Point, Floyd Lowe there in 1942 (! see 1929 entry above,)
- 1936 Hurricane caused much damage
- 1936 Tourism begins, Robinson family began visiting MOW, relatives of Derek Lee
- 1938 Dundas Town established, then continues as Murphy Town, began at Marsh Harbour's western border, residents brought from South Side, Old Place (between Blackwood & Fire Road), Cornish Town, & Grape Tree, all northwest of Marsh Harbour and all(?) on the SW marles coast
- 1938 Murphy Town began as soon as Dundas Town was completed, settled by people from Bluff Point
- 1940 Old Place (& Cornish Town?) residents displaced by 1932 hurricane,
- 1940 Bluff Point residents devastated by 1932 hurricane, later moved to Murphy Town by Governor George Murphy in 1941 (Dundas Town was first, then Murphy town)
- 1940's The *Arena* was Captained by Sherwin Archer of MH and provided freight service, supplementing the mail boat. Initially sail, then an engine added
- 1942 The *Athol Queen* was torpedoed by a German submarine off Elbow Cay.
- 1943 Cross Harbour sawmill closed, (between Hole-in-wall and Sandy Pt) operation moved to Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama
- 1940s Evans Cottman arrived and served as unqualified licensed medical practitioner
- 1945? Brigadier Robbins retires in Hope Town in the building later converted into Hope Town Harbour Lodge
- 1948 Voice phone installed in Hope Town
- 1948 The *Green Cross* sailboat was launched in 1948, built in Marsh Harbour. Used by Evans Cottman as living quarters and doctors office.
- 1949 Capt Leonard Thompson elected to House of Assembly for Abaco, served until 1969, other Abaco representatives were Frank Christie, Harold Johnson & John Bethel. Apparently they represented Abaco at large and not a particular section or district.
- 1950 Marsh Harbour gets simplex voice phone which is relayed through Hope Town
- 1950 Coopers Town gets telegraph
- 1950+ J B Crockett arrived, Began farming operation south of airport on west side
- 1951 Mailboat service begins to Sandy Point and Moore's Island, Initiated by Capt. Ernest Dean
- 1951 Sandy Point gets telegraph
- ?? Almeta Queen built, took crawfish to West Palm Beach, did not transport freight
- 1953 Rex Major appointed as head teacher to Marsh Harbour All Age School (thru 1956)
- 1954 New Plymouth Inn opens in Green Turtle Cay, first hotel on Abaco, opened with electricity & hot water
- 1954 Town power in Green T Cay, by Colyn Rees for N Plymouth Inn & extended through town, only lights allowed, subsequently bought and operated by Harold Lowe then by Bill Elder. Ultimately taken over by BEC.
- 1954 James B Crockett given 3000 acres in exchange for road to Big Mangrove for Cherokee access, began large scale farming, provided many seasonal jobs,
- 1954 New Hope opens in Hope Town several weeks after New Plymouth Inn, began as alcoholic rehabilitation center, later became Elbow Cay Club
- 1954 Capt Leonard Thompson re-elected to Parliament, served through 1967

- 1956 Marsh Harbour given Port of Entry status by Customs,
1956 Abaco Lumber Company at Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama, bought by National Container Company, moved to North riding Point, Grand Bahama, Pine ridge housing moved to The gap, Owens Illinois buys National Container Corp. 1956-1957, subsequently to Snake Cay, Abaco
- 1957 Yachtel opened in Guana Cay, later known as Guana Cay Resort, destroyed 1999 by Hurricane Floyd
1957 Sept 18 M H Airport opened for use, Victor Russell Customs Officer, Land clearing began 1956 by Sea Breezes Construction Co.
- 1957 Conditional lease given for 930 acres at Sand Banks - later Treasure Cay
1958 Town power installed in Man-O-War by Vernon Albury ?
1958 Batelco installs direct voice connection between Marsh Harbour and Nassau, simplex transmission only
1958 Dumas Milner Bahamas Limited formed, name later changed to Treasure Cay Limited
1958 S & M farms bought from Crockett recruits 1000 Haitians to work on their farm South of M H airport on West side
1959 Hope Town Harbour Lodge opens in April - Originally residence of Brigadier Robbins
1959 Canadian Imperial Bank opened in Marsh Harbour, followed within a month by Barclays Bank
1959 Albury's Ferry began Feb. 18
1959 Snake Cay Owens-Illinois pulpwood operation moves in fall to Snake Cay from Riding Point, Grand Bahama
1959 Abaco road network began by Owens Illinois reputed to total 1600 miles including secondary logging roads
1959 Spring City began as village for Bahamian staff of Owens Illinois, houses came from The Gap, Grand Bah. Named for fresh water well found there.
- 1959 Lake City began as workers village for Owens Illinois wood cutters, predominately Turks Islanders, houses came from The Gap on Grand Bahama and earlier from Pine Ridge, Houses moved to Andros in 1966 when the pulpwood operation moved there. Abandoned site is half mile north of Casuarina Point road and now (2005) the access road to the Casuarina Point dump Named for lake (swash) found nearby
1959 Robert Fulton towed in mid-December to Snake Cay from Riding Point, Grand Bah.
1959 ? Seabreeze Hardware begins (maybe 1958?), Subsequently Standard Hardware
1959 Green Turtle Cay established as Port of Entry by Customs,
1959 Treasure Cay airport being used in the fall, not sure when opened .
1959 Moxie Williams Nursery at Sand Banks to supply Treasure Cay (get better year) still operating 51 years later
1959 Causeway connects Little Abaco to Abaco proper
- 1960 Seat of government moves to Marsh Harbour for Central Abaco, Hope Town is now just an island settlement
1960 Commissioner's office and Magistrate's Court moved to Marsh Harbour from Hope Town
Curt Taylor, first M H Commissioner, Gerassimus, last Hope Town commissioner
1960 Magistrate's Court moved into Barclay's building in Marsh H from Hope Town
1960/61 Treasure Cay airport opens (maybe official opening)
Treasure Cay airport opened with 2800 feet, later extended to 5,000 feet by Treasure Cay
- 1960's The Deborah K , an old LCI type boat followed the Stede Bonnett as Abaco's mail boat. She was intentionally scuttled in 1981 or 1982.
- 1960 Great Abaco Hotel opens in Marsh Harbour by Betsner & Shaf, later named Abaco Beach Resort
1960 Dr. Gottlieb came to Snake Cay at request of Owens Illinois lumbering operation, Abaco's first medical doctor
1960 Green turtle Ferry begun in early 1960s
1961 Dec 19 First Treasure Cay hotel burned down, due to open Jan 1, 1962,
1961 Road to Crossing Rocks from Marsh Harbour opened by Owens Illinois logging operation
1961 Island Marine begins on Parrot Cay off Hope Town
1961 White Sound Club opens, later named Fin & Tonic, then private residence of Walter Hawkins, then Abaco Inn
1961-2 ! Treasure Cay harbour dredged
1961! Cherokee gets voice phone, previously only had telegraph
1962! S & M Farms opened a packing plant in Marsh Harbour for tomatoes
- 1962 Campbell Town opened by O-I for Haitian wood cutters, named after Woods Foreman Alan Campbell, located 1 mile inland from Snake Cay on N side of road, moved to Andros 1966,
1962 Road between Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay opened to vehicles in December by Owens Illinois logging operation
1962 BASRA Abaco began in Hope Town by Dave Gale
1962 ? Great Abaco hotel sold to Blair (not sure of date, owned by Blair when Hurricane Betsy hit in 1965))
- 1963 March 14 Road to T Cay & G T Cay officially opened by Governor Stapleton and Edwin Dodd of Owens Illinois

Dedicated by ED Dodd of OI and Gov. Robert Stapleton

- 1963 June Treasure Cay Hotel rebuilt and opens
- 1963 Marina opened at Treasure Cay Nov
- 1963 - 1964? Casuarina Point established as private real estate development, no association with Owens Illinois projects
- 1963 Citizen Band radios begin to be common for local communications
- 1963? Harbour dredged in Marsh Harbour, spoil pumped into swamp later occupied by Mud immigrants, ! Need date
- 1963? Hope Town harbour channel dredged ! need good date
- 1963 Wally Smith's house built in Marsh Harbour, 1968 converted into Conch Inn Restaurant,
- 1963 Esperanto launched by Uncle Will, 12 Yr to build last Man-O-War boat, renamed William H Albury

- 1964 Jan - Abaco Account newspaper by Maurice Thompson, monthly publication, Last issue Dec 1966 -
- 1964 Mackey Airlines begin flights into Treasure Cay, quit Oct 1981
- 1964 Batelco moved into present Marsh H. office in Dec. (By ECC school), Forward scatter system. allowed two-way conversations
- 1964 Pigeon Pea Haitian settlement in Marsh Harbour settled in early 60s as worker housing for S & M Farm
- 1964 Hope Town Sailing Club began
- 1964 Capt. Sherwin Archer named Senator January
- 1964 Road between Marsh H and Treasure Cay dedicated by Ed Dodd of O-I and Governor Robert Stapleton
- 1965 St Francis deSales begins with preschool or kindergarten in Catholic church (2012 ECC school building)
- 1965 Esperanto launched by Uncle Will, last big boat built in Man-O-War or Abaco, later re-named William H Albury
- 1965 Fin & Tonic opens on Elbow Cay by Kerlee, earlier was White Sound Club, later Abaco Inn
- 1965 Marsh Harbour volunteer fire Dept begun by Norwel Gordon
- 1965 Hurricane Betsy strikes Abaco, Sep 4-5
- 1965 Hurricane Betsy washed out a portion of MOW's original cemetery, began newer cemetery adjacent and inland.
- 1965 Abaco Bch Hotel damaged by Hurricane Betsy, not rebuilt, left dormant ?
- 1965 Stede Bonnet mail boat sank in Marsh Harbour by Hurricane Betsy.
- 1965 Gulf & Western partners with Edison Key & Morton Sawyer, established Farm in Norman's Castle area?, O-I sugar operation bought 3,000 acre Crockett farm for sugar operation, later acquired by government
- 1966 Pulpwood operation moves to Andros, Sugar mill construction begins, Lake City & Campbell Town move to Andros
- 1966 - 1968 Road into Sandy Point (Not there in late 1966, Was there in 1968)
- 1966 Owens Illinois buy lots & build housing in Casuarina Point for sugar mill staff
- 1966 Robert Fulton demolished at Snake Cay, Debris taken into woods south of roadway
- 1967 Final Abaco pulpwood cut by Owens Illinois
- 1967 Owens Illinois sugar mill began operating, exchanged logging lease for 20,000 acres of cane fields
- 1968 Treasure Cay Owners Dumas Milner & Leonard Thompson sell their interest to Deltec International and others
- 1968 Conch Inn restaurant opened, previously Wally Smith's house
- 1968 - 1969 Public water system installed in Marsh Harbour
- 1968 Hope Town cemetery #5, 1968-2011, on dune behind Assemblies of God Church, nearly full
- 1969 Treasure Cay builds customs building at T Cay airport to qualify as Port of Entry
- 1969 Madeira Park began outside Treasure Cay for Bahamian employees
- 1969 Sugar mill produced 15,000 tons in its initial year of operation
- 1969 Traffic light installed in Marsh Harbour

- 1970 Sugar mill produced a final 19,000 tons then shut down Nov 10, looking for a buyer
- 1970 Batelco installs 100 line exchange for local calls within Marsh H , 4 digit numbers,
- 1970 Pigeon Pea Haitian settlement began by allowing Norman's Castle farm workers to build houses, Key & Sawyer farm
- 1970 Cotland Cay bought & developed by Don & Jim MacKay built airstrip, legally renamed Scotland Cay,
- 1970 Junkanoo on Abaco attributed to Gordon Hudson
- 1970 Abaco Businessmen's Association formed early 70s, later morphed into Abaco Chamber of Commerce Chamber began early 70s by Lindsey Scott, 2nd homeowner, Man-O-War Cay, founder of RTIA, Rotary, Abaco Life
- 1970-72 Hope Town connected to Marsh Harbour electric system by Phil Farrar, owner of M H electric system,
- 1971 Green Turtle Ferry bought by Floyd Lowe from his brother Harold

- 1972 High school opens in Spring City in the Owens Illinois (BAIL) tin building, first high school on Abaco
- 1972 Sept Day of the Dolphin Movie began filming near Red Bays
- 1972 Gulf & Western begins farm in Norman's Castle area
- 1972 CSY charter yachts moved to Marsh Harbour from Exuma, Abaco sailing area is found more hospitable

- 1972 Original Conch Inn burns down
 1972 Leonard Thompson & delegation to London to request Abaco remain as a Crown Colony - not successful
 1972 Errington "Bumpy" Watkins, FNM MP S Abaco, and Sherlin Bootle, PLP MP N Abaco, elected to House of Assembly
- 1973 Independence from Great Britain, July 10
 1973 Treasure Cay Post Office opens, Dec 4
 1974 Owens Illinois terminated operation on Andros in the fall and leaves The Bahamas
 1974 Treasure Cay library opens in Dec in new community center
 1975 Dr Robert Stratton died, Abaco's first non-licensed medical practitioner (Dr. Kendric earlier in G Turtle Cay?)
 1975 BEC takes over Cooper's Town power system, believed to be first appearance on Abaco for BEC
 1975 Regatta Time in Abaco founded to build a race boat for the George Town Regatta
 1976 Nov 6 Albert Lowe Museum opens in Green Turtle Cay
 1976 Abaco Inn opens in residence of Walter Hawkins, White Sound, Elbow Cay, by Ruth Maurey & Jerry Whiteleather
 1976 Dr Evans Cottman died, Out Island Ddoctor, Abaco's third non-licensed medical practitioner
 1977 Batelco installs 700 line local exchange, five digit numbers allows self dial locally
 1977 Marine VHF radios begin to take over from the earlier CB radio for local communications
 1977 Sugar mill sold to Columbians, disassembled and exported
 1977 Key and Sawyer farm now totally locally owned by Edison Key & Morton Sawyer
 1977 Edison Key, PLP, and Mike Lightbourne, BDP, elected to House of Assembly to represent Abaco thru 1982
 1977 Abaco work boat "Rough Waters" built to compete in Georgetown Regatta
 1977 Snow flakes fell on Abaco in January, severe winds, vegetation killed, fish died and blown on shore
- 1978 Government bought the Owens Illinois assets, Oct 31 including the 100 year lease for lumbering
 1978 Wyanne Malone Museum formally opened in March in Hope Town
 1979 Batelco installs direct dial exchange in Marsh Harbour
 1979 Great Abaco Beach Hotel completed by Leonard Thompson
 1979 Treasure Cay Primary school opens on the S C Bootle highway
 1979 Steve Dodge searches for Carleton at Treasure Cay, site later confirmed by S Dodge & archeologist Robert Carr
- 1980 Abaco Rage? maybe Rough Waters, won the George Town Regatta.
 1980 Pigeon Peas vacant H house burned down on Commissioner's authority, Comm. Braynan, transferred same week
 1981 Mackey Airlines discontinued service to Abaco
 1981 Aug 14 New Treasure Cay airport officially opened, 6,500 feet
 1981 Abaco Hardware opens by Ray Albury
 1981 Abaco Rage, launched to compete in various island work-boat regattas
- 1982/83 Mud Haitian settlement begins in Marsh Harbour on Crown swamp land used earlier for harbour dredge spoil
 1982 Albury's Ferry moved from the Crossing Beach to Boat Harbour,
 1982 Treasure Cay development bought by Alfred Meister
 1983 Original Treasure Cay airstrip condemned, New 6,500 foot airstrip begins operation
 1983 Pine Woods Nursery established near M H airport roundabout
 1983 Original Carleton Point settlement commemorated with a bronze plaque on beach site
 1983 Abaco Rage won in the Georgetown work-boat regatta
 1984 Cell phone system installed in Marsh Harbour
 1984 Abaco Central High School opened September in Murphy Town, Spring City school closed
 1984? Police move into new station in Dundas Town (in mid-1980s), previously in M Harbour primary school by cemetery
 1984 Bahama Palm Groves opens citrus processing plant
 1984 Abaco Rage won the Georgetown work-boat regatta
- 1985 Crude road pushed into Cherokee by Batelco to facilitate microwave tower for its expansion
 1985 Harbour View Marina opened in Marsh Harbour by Albert Albury and Hubert Bethel
 1985 Leonard Thompson sells Great Abaco Hotel to Peter Sweeting, renamed Abaco Beach Resort
 1986 Road opened into Little Harbour by residents, Big Mangrove landing discontinued for Cherokee access
 1986 Batelco switches to a digital system, Man-O-War & Hope Town connected to digital
 1986/87 Cherokee residents raised money to improve the road for cars and pickups
 1986/7 Marsh Harbour library & school building demolished for cemetery expansion, Library books to DEO office (see 1989)
 1986/7 Harry Profit grows ornamental slips near Joe's Creek for export
 1987 M H Airport terminal constructed, replaced small original building built in 1958?

- 1987 Commonwealth Bank opens in Marsh Harbour in building at traffic light built for Chase Manhattan Bank
- 1987 Elected Mps to House of Assembly in Nassau
- 1987 BEC acquires Marsh Harbour electrical system from Phil Ferrar
- 1988 Friends of the Environment organization began in Hope Town
- 1988 Government clinic built in Marsh Harbour on Don MacKay Blvd
- 1988 South Whale Cay challel dredged for cruise ship to access Bakers Bay
- 1988 Sandy Point Commissioner's office destroyed by fire Feb 9, included Customs, Post Office, Police, Jail & court room
- 1988-89 Wesley college begins at Old Place, south of Fire Road, later moves to Marsh Harbour
- 1989 Little Harbour connected by road to Cherokee road, all Abaco mainland settlements now connected by road (1986?)
- 1989 Premier Cruise Line Star/Ship Majestic begins visiting Bakers Bay with at north end of Guana Cay,
- 1989 M H Public library moved from old court room on Soldier Rd to DEO office, land needed for cemetery expansion
- 1989 Methodist church building dedicated in Hope Town, replaced church destroyed by fire
- 1990 Skull of Lucayan Indian found in Hope Town while digging a cistern, believed died approx 1400
- 1990 Albury's Ferry moves from Boat Harbour back to Crossing Beach with Crown Land lease
- 1991 Hurricane Erin August 1
- 1991 Forest Heights Academy high school opens in buildings now St Francis de Sales school, Marsh Harbour,
- 1992 Treasure cay Hotel is closed by Alfred Meister, (in need of substantial renovations, subsequently demolished)
- 1992 Premier Cruise Line terminates Guana Cay operation, Whale Cay channel not consistently reliable
- 1992? Marsh Harbour public library closed as DEO office expands and needs space used by library.
- 1992 Bahama Palm Grove opens tomato packing plant at old sugar mill site, Butler building,
- 1992 Elected MPs to Parliament, FNM dominated House of Assembly
- 1993 Individual phones installed in Treasure Cay
- 1993 The Abaconian newspaper began in November as a 12 page monthly
- 1993 Agape Christian School begins
- ! More items from this point forward are to be taken from the Abaconian newspaper as time permits
- 1994 Abaco National Park created as a preserve for the Abaco Parrot
- 1994 BEC takes over Grand Cay electrical system
- 1995 Hole-in-the-Wall lighthouse automated in May by solar powered light, Mechanism and lenses taken to Nassau
- 1996 Guana Cay get phones
- 1996 Hurricane Bertha July 10
- 1997 Green Turtle Cay connected to Bahamas Electric Company by underwater cable in December
- 1997 Radio Abaco by Silbert Mills begins in March,
- 1997 All Abaco Regatta begins off Green Turtle Cay in October
- 1997 Cherokee Road paved (maybe 1998)
- 1997 Goombay Summer Festival began at M Harbour's Crossing Beach, Next year moved to road at Dove Plaza
- 1997 Elected MPs, FNM dominates Nationally
- 1998 Cable Bahamas begins TV service in February
- 1998 Central Abaco Primary school first occupied some classrooms in new building in Dundas Town
- 1998 RND movie theater opens in Marsh Harbour July 1
- 1998 Abaconian begins publishing twice a month in November
- 1998 Every Child Counts school founded for disadvantaged children, in empty building at St. Francis de Sales School
- 1998 Hurricane Bonnie August 24
- 1999 Hurricane Dennis August 27-28
- 1999, Hurricane Floyd September 14, severe damage length of Abaco, no lives lost, 115-120 MPH wind
- 1999 Whole-crawfish processing plant in Crown Haven destroyed by Hurricane Floyd
- 1999 Hurricane Irene October 16, One death by tornado at Bahama Palm Shore
- 1999 Abaco Market burned down on Fathers day, June
- 1999 BEC acquires Crossing Rocks electrical system
- 1999 BEC acquires Man-O-War electrical system
- 2000 FM Jamz100 discontinued their local FM repeater station
- 2000 BEC acquires Treasure Cay electrical system

- 2001 BEC added two 4.4 MW diesel generators to the Marsh H generating plant September 14
- 2002 Edison Key appointed to Senate by PLP
 Batelco installs free-standing towers with strobe lights on top, replaced cable-guyed towers
 Bahamasair resumes flights to W Palm Beach from Marsh Harbour in November
 Coral Wave Internet service by Cable Bahamas begins in February
 Abacom receives a wireless license for Internet service using the name Coconut Telegraph or cocotels
- 2003 International freight dock completed in March but not opened
 Crown Haven police station opens in March
 Fox Town Clinic officially dedicated in March (has been open for several years)
 Sea Wind ferry begins service between Nassau and Sandy Point in May
 Pigeon Peas fire destroys 70 houses and leaves 260 homeless in May, no injuries
 Abaco Club at Winding Bay begins construction with land clearing, May 19
 Treasure Cay police stations re-opens, June
 July MH Port opened and dedicated by PM
 Solomons opened their renovated Superstore in Marsh Harbour September (previously Solomon's Wholesale)
 BAIC opens Abaco office in downtown Marsh Harbour October
- 2004 January Edison Key resigned his [PLP] Senate seat
 Bahamas Select juice plant begins in building originally used for processing pork, February.
 Yellow Air Taxi begins service Feb 17 to Marsh Harbour & T Cay
 Cherokee day April 10 - dedicated renovated old school building, attended by PM Christie & ex-PM Ingraham
 Dundas Town clinic named Muriam Cornish Community Clinic and re-commissioned May 8, by Prime Minister & Marcus Bethel, Min of Health,
 Island Roots festival May 6 & 7 in Green Turtle Cay with sister city Key West, PM Christie & ex PM Ingraham attend
 Hurricane Francis passes over Sandy Point late afternoon Sept 3. 19 inches of rain, severe fresh water flooding in Marsh Harbour, no deaths, 100 -105 mph wind, no surge, not massive destruction as in Hurricane Floyd
 Hurricane Jeanne Sept 25, 2-3 feet of salt water in downtown Marsh Harbour due to tidal surge, 5 feet of water in Haitian Mud settlement, no deaths, Salt water flood damage, not much physical destruction,
 Abaco Club at Winding Bay has soft opening Dec 30
- 2005 Citrus Canker discovered Jan 5 at Norman Castle groves, Bahamas Star farm operation ceases
 Bakers Bay, Guana Cay, clean-up begins of earlier Premier Cruise facility remains, May
 Snake Cay residents (8 families?) moved into new houses in Spring City July, Snake Cay believed vacant
 Hurricane Wilma fringe winds over Abaco, Oct 24, est 50 mph winds over central Abaco, perhaps 75 mph for 1 - 2 hours in afternoon, higher winds in Little Abaco, Grand Cay lost 8 - 10 houses, flooding in Sand Banks Haitian community, (Oil drill barge from Little Bahama Bank driven onto Johnnie cay reef ?)
 Apr Trauma One volunteer ambulance service ceases operation, Government now provides ambulance service
 Apr 27 Fire destroys Administration building at Abaco Central High School
 Nov 17 BahamasAir begins flight between Ft. Lauderdale and Marsh harbour, Thurs and Sunday only
 Nov 17 Fire 7 pm in the Mud, 128 cement foundations found, believe 170 houses may have gone 1 death, under control by 10 pm(need more info) 278 persons displaced?
- 2006 Nov 1 Bahamas Government Treasury Office opens in Marsh Harbour
- 2007 May 2 National Election returned FNM Hubert Alexander Ingraham to represent North Abaco for a 7th consecutive term and FNM Edison Cay to represent South Abaco. Defeated were PLP Gary Sawyer in the south, 1080 to 1500. Defeated candidates in the North were PLP Fritz Bootle, 1296, independent Cay Mills, 276, and independent Norman Claridge 6 to Mr Ingraham's 1701.
 March 21 - Mud fire pre-dawn, 14 houses, 100 +/- persons displaced, no deaths or injuries
- 2008 BEC summer load is topping 23 Megawatts, plant capacity is 26 Megawatts Nov 07, 2008
- 2009 April 4 Man-O-War holds its first "Sojer" Day celebrating its founding and heritage
 Faith Walk Church of God Cathedral dedicated in Cooper's Town, Large building on hill top