



The timeline below has been created to provide a historical context for events that have taken place on or near St Mary's Island. This is the first issue and it is intended to modify the timeline to include other facts that are discovered as part of members research. November 2013

Years AD	Event
<b>43</b>	<b>Romans cross the Medway as part of their 2nd Invasion. The Romans establish a ferry from the area of St Mary's Island to the Hoo Peninsula. The ferry is known as the Princes Bridge.</b>
449	Angles and Saxons arrive in South East England.
1066	William the Conqueror Invades England.
1087	William the Conqueror succeeded by William Rufus.
1100	William Rufus succeeded by Henry I.
1135	Henry I succeeded by Stephen.
1154	Stephen succeeded by Henry II.
1189	Henry II succeeded by Richard I (Richard the Lionheart).
1199	Richard I succeeded by John.
1215	The Magna Carta was signed by King John.
1216	John succeeded by Henry III.
1272	Henry III succeeded by Edward I.
1307	Edward I succeeded by Edward II.
1327	Edward II succeeded by Edward III.
1377	Edward III succeeded by Richard II.
1399	Richard II succeeded by Henry IV.
1413	Henry IV succeeded by Henry V.
1415	English defeat the French at the Battle of Agincourt.
1422	Henry V succeeded by Henry VI.
1461	Henry VI succeeded by Edward IV.
1483	Edward IV succeeded by Richard III.
1485	Richard III defeated by Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth. Henry Tudor becomes Henry VII
1509	Henry VII succeeded by Henry VIII.
1547	Henry VIII succeeded by Mary (Queen of Scots). Chatham Dockyard, known as Jillingham Water, is recorded as a navy dockyard second in importance to the main yard in Deptford.
1550	Navy ships, lying off Portsmouth were moved to Jillingham Water as it was seen as a superior strategic location.
1558	Mary succeeded by Elizabeth I.
<b>1575</b>	<b>St Mary's Creek is blocked with stakes as a defence against Spanish forces.</b>
1567	Jillingham Water now known as Chatham Dockyard is established as a Royal Dockyard by Queen Elizabeth I.
1573	Queen Elizabeth I visits Chatham Dockyard.
<b>1585</b>	<b>A chain is placed across the Medway from St Mary's Island to Upnor.</b>
1588	English disperse the Spanish Armada at the Battle of Gravelines.
1603	Elizabeth I succeeded by James I (James VI of Scotland).
1605	Gunpowder Plot to assassinate James I is discovered.



Years AD	Event
1620	Pilgrim Fathers' sail for America in the 'Mayflower'.
1625	James I succeeded by Charles I.
1642	Civil War begins as Charles I raises his standard at Nottingham.
1649	Charles I is executed at Whitehall, London.
1653	Oliver Cromwell proclaims himself Lord Protector.
1658	Oliver Cromwell dies.
1660	Charles II returns from Exile and re-establishes the Monarchy.
1665	Great Plague of London begins.
1666	Great Fire of London destroys two-thirds of the city.
<b>1667</b>	<b>In 1667, the Dutch admiral Michiel de Ruyter led a daring raid up the River Medway. Having broken a chain which the English had placed across the river, he attacked the naval dockyard at Chatham, burning and taking many ships. It was a terrible humiliation for the English. The diarist Samuel Pepys wrote: 'Never were people so dejected as they are in the City... this day.'</b>
1673	Samuel Pepys appointed as Chief Secretary to the Admiralty and served until 1689.
1685	Charles II succeeded by James II.
1688	James II succeeded by William of Orange and Mary.
1694	Mary dies and William reigns as William III.
1702	William III succeeded by Anne.
1707	Act of Union of England and Scotland is ratified.
1714	Anne succeeded by George I.
1727	George I succeeded by George II.
1760	George II succeeded by George III.
1789	The French depose the Monarchy during The French Revolution.
1792	The French Revolutionary Wars starts.
<b>1793</b>	<b>Prison Hulks moored in the Medway housing French Prisoners of War. Prisoners who died in the Hulks were buried on St Mary's Island. The hulks were used until 1815 to house the French POW's.</b>
<b>1798</b>	<b>HMS Victory used as a Hospital Ship for French POW's held in the Prison Hulks in the Medway.</b>
1801	HMS Victory undergoes a major refit in Chatham Royal Naval Dockyard and becomes Admiral Lord Nelson's Flagship in 1803.
1803	The Napoleonic Wars starts.
1805	The Battle of Trafalgar. Admiral Lord Nelson dies in action on board HMS Victory.
<b>1814</b>	<b>The plan to extend the Chatham Royal Naval Dockyard onto St Mary's Island is submitted.</b>
1815	Battle of Waterloo where the French are defeated and ends the Napoleonic Wars. French Prisoners held on the POW Hulks in the Medway are repatriated.
1820	George III succeeded by George IV.
<b>1821</b>	<b>First purchase of land on St Mary's Island, by The Crown, to enable the extension of the Royal Naval Dockyard.</b>
1830	George IV succeeded by William IV.
1837	William IV succeeded by Victoria.
<b>1847</b>	<b>Second purchase of land on St Mary's Island by The Crown.</b>
<b>1854</b>	<b>Final purchase of land on St Mary's Island to complete full ownership by The Crown. Construction of a Prison on St Mary's Island commences.</b>
<b>1856</b>	<b>Completion of the Prison Buildings on St Mary's Island.</b>
<b>1862</b>	<b>The extension of the Royal Naval Dockyard on St Mary's Island commences.</b>
1864	The design of new dock basins agreed and work commences on their construction.



<b>Years AD</b>	<b>Event</b>
1865	The construction Brickfields are set out to manufacture bricks for the construction of the basins. The construction is undertaken by convicts.
1867	The Brickfields construction is completed.
1868	The French POW's burial ground in Gillingham known as "Prisoners Bank" was eroding exposing Skeletons and Coffins. On Admiralty instructions, convicts removed the remains and re-interred them on the French Cemetery on St Mary's Island.
1869	A memorial was constructed and erected by convict labour at the French Cemetery on St Mary's Island. The memorial now stands on a site behind St Georges Church.
1871	No 1 Repairing Basin and docks Nos 5 and 6 were completed.
1872	No 8 dock completed.
1873	No 7 dock completed.
1885	The extension of the Royal Naval Dockyard on St Mary's Island completed.
1898	The prison on St Mary's Island is demolished.
1901	Victoria succeeded by Edward VII.
1903	The remains of French POW's are removed from the St Mary's Island French Cemetery and re-interred on the St Georges Church site. The 1869 memorial is also moved to the St Georges Church site.
1910	Edward VII succeeded by George V.
1936	George V succeeded by Edward VIII.
1936	Edward VIII abdicates in Favour of George VI.
1952	George VI succeeded by Elizabeth II.
2013	Current.