Early Years: The Founding

Coastalville was founded by Welsh settlers on February 21, 1789, when the ship Prydwen was damaged by a storm and entered the naturally formed harbor. The settlers keeled over in the Coastal River to make repairs. Unbeknownst to the ship-goers, the harbor was and had been a popular stopover for pirates since the early 1600s as such, the new settlers, unfortunately, stumbled onto a hidden storage cache used by rum runners.

Not much is known about what happened when the settlers came face-to-face with their opportunistic harbor-mates; however, peace was eventually negotiated, and the city of Coastalville was founded. The settlers built a small town around the cache, that had served as the meeting and negotiation point between the settlers and pirates.

To commemorate their success and as a symbol of their truce, this point was honored with the building of the first structure in the new city of Coastalville, a tavern. Local stories say that, should either party ever betray the truce, the tavern would be destroyed to mark the betrayal of the oath. However, so long as neither party betrayed the other, the two sides would meet as equals; the settlers would share their hospitality with the pirates and safeguard any information, maps, and stored trinkets, and the pirates or privateers would protect the city, and exchange in fair trade and payment with the city.

An amicable arrangement with both sides profiting off the other. As the town grew in population and word spread, the harbor began attracting trading ships from Europe and South America, and the town developed as a lucrative trading point. In honor of the original negotiation with the privateers, it is suspected that the local inhabitants, along with supplying goods and services, may also have shared a portion of the profits from the increased legal business with their founding partners.

Records kept in the city archives from this era show some inconsistencies in the business ledgers and payments with no identifiable transfer, though money was clearly handed over before it simply vanished. This prosperous truce and business operation between the two founding parties lasted for over two decades and may have continued on for many more if not for the ever-increasing (political and economic) tensions between the young United States of America and the Old World powers of Britain and France.

War of 1812: Destruction of Coastalville

The tensions between the three powers came to a head in the War of 1812, also known as the Second War of Independence. It was in this war that the oaths taken at the founding of Coastalville between the settlers and pirates were broken.

The British Royal Navy, the world maritime power, instituted a blockade along the eastern coast, preventing trade. To augment their naval capacity, the pirates were hired by the British to assist in the war effort, violating the truce established with the settlers at the founding of Coastalville.

By this point, Coastalville had become a small yet significant port; as such, President James Madison sent a troop of militia to protect the harbor and town. With the arrival of the militia, the combined forces of soldiers and townsfolk were able to retain control of the port, despite several attempts made by the British Navy to seize it.

Unfortunately, during the skirmish, the British soldiers set fire to the town center and most of the town was destroyed, including the tavern commemorating and symbolizing the truce between the pirates and settlers, fulfilling the legend. After this skirmish, the pirates fled and were never seen again in Coastalville, leading many to believe that their treasure remains unfound to this day.

Rebuilding & Expansion

After the end of the war, the surviving citizens of Coastalville set about rebuilding. However, the importance of the port as a point of trade and military strategy had now been realized; as such, plans were laid to expand the port's capacity to handle incoming ships, the size of the town, and to create a standing military presence and, on March 26, 1821, the US military brock ground Fort Henry.

The increased business, access to goods and a disproportionate amount of wealth lead to an increase in the small city's population. One drawback to Coastalville as a trading port was the distance and cost of transporting goods to major urban centers.
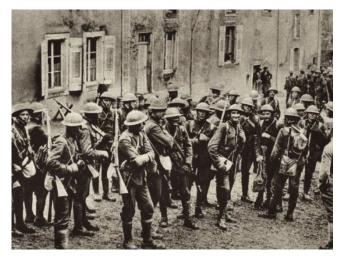
This posed a small hindrance to Coastalville's popularity and revenue; however, a solution came in the early 1830s with the development of the railroad. With the ability to transport goods and people more easily, Coastalville developed a thriving economy over the next several decades, leveraging trade and access to luxury goods, easy overland transportation, maritime access and developing local industry.

The largest change came about in the early late 19th century when the U.S. was given control of Puerto Rico by the Treaty of Paris, and the city became a port of entry for immigrants.

World War I

The decades of relatively peaceful development came to a close with the onset of World War I. Fort Henry closed down in the mid-1870s when its' coastal defense capabilities became outdated. Leading up to the U.S. involvement, the base was renovated with increased storage and training capacity as a measure to escalating tensions in Europe.

Due to its location, Coastalville also saw some additions and strengthening in infrastructure when the port was partially reserved as a military embarkation point for troops and goods to Europe. Despite this interruption to "normal" activity, primarily delays with trade and transportation from decreased capacity, Coastalville's industry and economy saw an increase in profit and local development. This increase was able to sustain the city and local businesses through the turbulence caused by the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Great Depression.

World War II

Coastalville was still recovering from the two decades marked by the Influenza Pandemic and Great Depression, despite weathering the difficulty better than most areas of the U.S., due to the previous decades of economic success, when the Second World War broke out in Europe in 1939 and two years later with the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Due to the renovations to Fort Henry and the city in 1914 and the military activity during the war, the city was well prepared to handle the influx of soldiers, gear and disruption to peace-time harbor activity. However, the war did not seem so far away this time.

The attack on Pearl Harbor hit the inhabitants of Coastalville hard, the city being both a harbor and a strategic point in the U.S. military strategy. With the advance of technology, Fort Henry was reactivated and enhanced with the latest defense technology as a lookout point for enemy submarines and ships off the coast.

After the war, Fort Henry continued to operate on a skeleton crew for a few years before being permanently closed down and turned over to the National Park Service.

Today

Today, Coastalville is a bustling tourist town attracting visitors from near and far and of various interests. The City and surrounding area boast attractions for everyone all year round. Whether a local well-versed in the lore, an explorer from far away looking for adventure, or a neighbor escaping for a relaxing get-away, Coastalville has something for you. Come visit and be welcome by all of us in Coastalville!