

Copies of the Two Charters for the Town of Merrimack

**From "The History of Merrimack, NH" published by the
Merrimack Historical Society in 1976**

Prepared by the Merrimack Heritage Commission

Town Charters

After the southern boundary of New Hampshire was established, Merrimack was no longer part of Massachusetts and had to petition to the state of New Hampshire for a charter. Neither the petition nor the names of those who signed it could be found. Governor Benning Wentworth signed the Charter April 2, 1746 and the land from Pennichuck Brook to the Souhegan River became the Town of Merrymac.

Merrimack has the distinction of having two birthdays, April 2, 1746 when it was first incorporated and June 5, 1750 when it was expanded. Just prior to incorporation it was part of two states and four townships: Dunstable, Massachusetts, and Litchfield, Bedford, and Amherst, New Hampshire.

CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Province of
New Hampshire George the Second by the
 grace of God of Great
 Brittain France and Ireland
 King Defender of faith

To all whome these presents Shall Come Greeting—Whereas sundry of our Legal subjects inhabitants of a tract of land within the antient Boundries of the town called old Dunstable in our province of New hampshire on the westerly side of Merrimack River herein after Described Have humbly petitioned and requested of that they may be Erected and Incorporated in to a Township Enfranchised with the powers authorised and Privileges which other towns within our said province by law have and enjoy and it appearing to us to be Conductive to the general good of our said province as well as of the said inhabitants on peticular by maintaining good order and encouraging the Culture of the lands that the same should be done—Know ye—therefore that we of our Especial Grace Certain knowledge and for the incouragement and promoting the good purpose and end aforesaid By and with the advice of our trusty and well Beloved Benning Wentworth Esqr. our Governor and Comander in Chief and of our Council for said province Have erected incorporated and ordained and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors do will and ordain that the Inhabitants of the Tract of land aforesaid—Bounded as followeth (viz) Beginning at the River Merrimack where Pennychuck Brook comes into that River then by said Pennychuck Brook to Pennychuck pond then due north by the magnet (to) Souhegan River then by that River to Merrimack River then on the west side of Merrimack to the place where it first began and that shall inhabit the same be and by these presents are declared and ordained to be a town Corporate and are hereby erected and incorporated into a body politick and a Corporation to have a Continyancy forever by the name of Merrimac with all other power and authoritys privilidges Immunities and franchisement which other towns within our said province or any of them by law have and to have and to hold the said power and authoritys Immunities and franchies to them the said inhabitants and their Successors for ever always to us our heirs and successors reserving all the white pine trees growing and being and shall hereafter grow on the said tract of land fit for the use of the royal navy reserving also power of dividing the said town to us our heirs and sucessors when it shall appear necessary and convenient for the benefit of the inhabitants thereof and the severall towns within our said province are by the laws thereof enabled and authorised to assemble and meet the magority of votes to Chuse all such officers as are mentioned in the said Laws we do these presents nominate and appoint Col. Joseph Blanchard to call the first meeting of the said inhabitants to be held within the said town at any time within thirty daus from the date hereof giving legal notice of the time place and design of holding such meeting in Testimony whereof we have Caused the seal of our said province to be hereunto affixed.

Witness Benning Wentworth Esqr. our Governor and Commander
in Chief of our said province the second day of April in the year of
our Lord Christ 1746 and the nineteenth year of our reign
Benning Wentworth

By his Exceencys Command
and Advise of the Counsel
Theodore Atkinson Secty

Many citizens felt the charter did not provide enough land to make a successful town and petitioned the courts again for more land. A charter, ratified June 1, 1750 gave Merrimack an additional three miles to the north.

SECOND CHARTER OF MERRYMAC

Province of
New Hampshire George the second by the
Grace of God of Grate
Brittain France and
Ireland King Defender of
the Faith

To all Persons unto whom these Presents shall Com Greeting—
Whereas By our Charter bearing date the second Day of April In the
year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven Hundred and forty six
and In the nineteenth year of the Present Mayestys Raign—We did
Incorporate a Certain Town in our sd Province by the Name of
Merrymac by such Boundaries with such Privilidges and under such
Limitations as are Expressed in the said Charter the Quantity of
Land therein being about Eight Thousand Acres and whereas the In-
habitants thereof have Lately Represented to us that said Land is
Very mean and Ordinary and therefore Incapable of Supporting
such a number of Inhabitants as will Enable them to Support the
Charges of a Town Without a further Addition of Land and Inhabi-
tants Wherefore they Humble pray that an Addition may be made
to the said Town of Merrymac on the Northerly side thereof a Cer-
tain Tract of Land of about three miles in Breadth and of about four
miles and a half in Length which being Thought of the benifit of our
said Subjects and for the mutual Advantages of the whole Inhabi-
tants Wee Do by These Presents By and with the advice of our Trusty
and well Beloved Benning Wentworth Esqr. our Governor and Com-
mander in chieff and of our Counsel for said Province of New
Hampshire Will and ordain that a Certain Tract of Land in Breadth
about three mils and In Length about four mils and a half Bounded
as follows (viz) Beginning at a Place three miles North of the Bridge
over Sougeegan River at John Chamberlains Hous from thence to
Run East by the Nedle to Merrimack River and to Extend that line
west from the Place three miles north from the Bridge aforesaid until
it Intersects a Line on a Piont north by the Nedle from the North
west Corner bound of the Town of Merrymac heretofore Incor-
porated to Bound Westerly on that line and on Merrimack River

Easterly and on Souhegan River Southerly Shall be and hereby is
Annexed to and United with the said Town of Merrymac with all the
Inhabitants that are of shall be and hereby is Incorporated with the
Said Town with the Respective Inhabitants that are or shall be on
Each of the said Parsols of Land and is hereby Declared to be One
Intire Corporation or Body Pollotock by the Name of Merrymac
to go In successin for Ever with all the Privilidges Powers Fran-
chizes and Immunities that any other Town within this Province has
holds and Enjoys by Law excepting as hereafter Excepted to have
and to Hold to the sd Inhabitants and to there sucessors for Ever
Only hereby reserving all white pine trees that are growing or shall
hereafter grow thereon to His Majestys Use Reserving also the
Power of Dividing the said Town when it shall be Necessary to us
our Heirs and successors for Ever In Testimony Whereof Wee have
caused the Seal of our said Province to be hereafter affixed.

Witness Benning Wentworth Esqr. our Governor and Commander
in Chieff of our said Province the first Day of June and the twenty
third year of our Reign Annpqui Domini one Thousand seven hun-
dred and fifty

B. Wentworth

By his Excelencys Command
with he advice of Council
Theodore Atkinson Secty.
Province of New Hampshire
Entered and Recorded In the
Book of Charters this 5th Day of June 1750
pr Theodore Atkinson Secty.