***Henniker’s First Fifty Settlers***

It all started when Captain John Mason accepted a grant of a large section of land lying in New Hampshire in 1629 from King James. In 1746 a great grandson of the Captain, over a hundred years later, revived the claim and then sold his interest to twelve men, residents of Portsmouth. The twelve were referred to as the Masonian proprietors, who were land speculators. Several inhabitants of Londonderry voted to send Captain Andrew Todd and others to Portsmouth in 1752 to procure a land grant township from the proprietors. On July 16, 1752 they procured the grant of land called Number Six. A surveyor was sent to Number Six that year, though they encountered so many ponds and streams of water the task was only partially accomplished and did not complete the survey until 1753. A map of Number Six indicates the area surveyed into ranges and lots.

The six square miles of Number Six were divided into 14 ranges (vertical) and 21 lots (horizontal). Each plot consisted of 100 acres and could be identified by knowing the Range and the Lot. Seventy-nine grantees drew 3 plots each. However, the French and Indian War between 1754 and 1763 threatened the safety of early settlers. None of the original grantees settled in Henniker but sold their holdings to those who came later.

Sometime prior to 1750, a Mr. Craney cleared land in Henniker, at the top of the hill and near the pond named for him. However, little is known of the gentleman and his family. Town lore suggests that he was driven out by the Indians and did not remain in the area. James Peters was the first permanent settler.

On November 10, 1768 the town was incorporated. The charter, signed by King George III rests in the Town Hall. Prior to the incorporation the first settlers adopted the name of their settlement as Todds’ Town in honor of Captain Andrew Todd. Upon incorporation one of the first settlers, Eliakim Howe, proposed that the new town be called New Marlboro, in honor of the original homes of the many of the settlers. However, Governor Wentworth decided to name Number Six after his good friend, a wealthy London leather and fur merchant with shipping interests in Boston and Portsmouth, Sir John Henniker, Esquire.

Settlers of Masonian Grant Number Six

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Previous Location |
| ***1758*** |  |
| Farnum, Baracas | Concord, Massachusetts |
|  |  |
| ***1760*** | Hopkinton, New Hampshire |
| Scales, James (part time for 6 months) |  |
|  |  |
| ***1761*** |  |
| Peters, James | Hopkinton, New Hampshire |
|  |  |
| ***1763*** |  |
| Bowman, Jonas | Lexington, Massachusetts |
| Gould, Amos (June) | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Howe, Eliakim (June) | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Peters, William | Hopkinton, New Hampshire |
| Stone, Ezekiel | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Stone, Thomas (June) | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Ward, Josiah (September) | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
|  |  |
| ***1764*** |  |
| Harthorn, Ebenezer | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Temple, Johnathan | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Whitcomb, Charles | Stowe, Massachusetts |
| Whitcomb, Jacob | Stowe, Massachusetts |
|  |  |
| ***1765*** |  |
| Campbell, Annas | Hawke (Danville), New Hampshire |
| Eastman, William | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| McKillip, David | Weare, New Hampshire |
| Morrill, Ephraim | Stowe, Massachusetts |
| Pope, David | Unknown |
| Pope, Thomas | Unknown |
| Withington, Francis | Stowe, Massachusetts |
|  |  |
| ***1766*** |  |
| Barnes, Silas | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Bean, Cornelius | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Connor, David | Hopkinton, New Hampshire |
| Gile, Ebenezer | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Gile, Joshua | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Gile, Noah | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Howlett, Thomas | Stowe, Massachusetts |
| Huse, Moses | Unknown |
| Newton, Hezekiah | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Powell, Samuel | Unknown |
| Powers, William | Stowe, Massachusetts |
| Presbury, William | Stowe, Massachusetts |
| Ross, Jesse | Stowe, Massachusetts |
| Ross, Timothy | Stowe, Massachusetts |
| Tucker, Ezra | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
|  |  |
| ***1767*** |  |
| Childs, Solomon | Grafton, Massachusetts |
| Goss, Ephraim | Lancaster, Massachusetts |
| Morrison, Samuel | Unknown |
| Patterson, Alexander | Pembroke, New Hampshire |
| Patterson, Isaac | Pembroke, New Hampshire |
| Patterson, Joseph | Pembroke, New Hampshire |
| Smith, Ezekiel | Westboro, Massachusetts |
| Tyler, Adonijah | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Tyler, Jepthah | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
| Tyler, Joshua | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
|  |  |
| ***1768*** |  |
| Duston, Moses | Hopkinton, New |
| Morrison, Abraham | Unknown |
| Rice, Daniel | Westboro, Massachusetts |
| Wadsworth, Samuel | Grafton, Massachusetts |
| Williams, Joseph | Marlboro, Massachusetts |
|  |  |
| ***Dates Unknown*** |  |
| Clisby, Joseph | Unknown |
| Johnson, John | Unity, New Hampshire |
| Joslin, James | Stowe, Massachusetts |
| Mansfield, Samuel | Unknown |
| Wilson, David | Unknown |