

EPSOM CHARTER As
signed May 18, 1727

George, By the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King,
Defender of the faith.

"To all People to whom these presents shall come: Greeting: Know ye, we of our especial knowledge and meer motion, from the due encouragement of settling a new plantation, by and with the advice and consent of our council, have given and Granted, and by these Presents, far as in lies, do give and grant unto all such of our loving subjects as were inhabitants and free holders in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-three, in our town of New Castle and in the Parish of Greenland, both within our Province of New Hampshire, in New England, to be divided among them in proportion to their Respective Rates, which they paid in the year 1723 aforesaid, one tract of Land to be laid out at the head of Nottingham and Northward of land formerly granted to the children of Saml. Allen, desc'd the same to be six miles in Breadth and four miles in Dept, or in such other form as the land un-granted in that place will admit, so as it contains the same Quantity of Land, and the same to be a town corporate by the name Epsom to the Persons aforesaid forever. To have and to Hold the said Tract of Land to said Grantees and their heirs and assigns forever upon the following conditions:"

1 st. That they build twenty Dwelling Houses and settle a Family in each within the term of four years, and break up three acres of Ground for each Settlement, and plant or sow the same within four years.

2nd. That a house be built for the Publick worship of God within the term of six years.

3rd. That One Hundred acres of Land be Reserved for the parsonage, one hundred acres for the first minister of the Gospel, and One hundred acres for the Benefit of a School. Provided, Nevertheless, that the Peace with the Indians continue during the aforesaid term of your years.

But if it should happen that a war with the Indians should commence before the aforesaid term of four years be expired, there shall be allowed to the aforesaid Proprietors the term of four years after the expiration of the War to perform the aforesaid conditions.

Rendering and paying therefore to us, our heirs and successors, or such other officer or officers as shall be appointed to Receive the same, the annual quit rent of acknowledgment of one pound of good merchantable Hemp in said town, on the first day December yearly, forever, if demanded.

.Reserving also unto us, our heirs and successors, all mast trees growing on said Land, according to an act of Parliament made and provided in that case.

And for the better order, Rule and Government of the said Town, we, by these Presents, Grant for us, our heirs and successors, unto the aforesaid Proprietors, and those that shall inhabit the said Town, that yearly and every year, upon the first Wednesday in May, they may meet at any place within the Province of New Hampshire aforesaid until the settlement of the aforesaid town is perfected and afterward in the said town, to elect and choose by the Major part of them constables, Selectmen and all other town Officers, according to the Laws and usage of our aforesaid Province have and enjoy, and we appoint our Loving Subjects, Theodore Atkinson, Joshua Foss and Capt. Samuel Weeks to be the Selectmen to manage the affairs of the said town for the Present year and until others are chosen in their room by the aforesaid proprietors.

In Testimony where of we have caused the seal of our said Province to be herewith annexed.

Witness, John Wentworth, Esq., our Lt. Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our said Province, at our town of Portsmouth, the eighteenth day of May, in the Thirteenth year of our Reign, anno Domini 1727.

/s/ ~. Wentworth