

## *Henniker's First 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. 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 survey team 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. An early map of Number Six indicates the area was surveyed into ranges and lots.

Number Six was divided into 19 Lots in a north-south orientation and 14 Ranges in an east-west orientation. Lot 1 begins along the east town boundary and Range 1 begins at the north town boundary, making the lot in the far northeast corner of Henniker L1R1. Each grantee purchased 3 plots. Three plots each were designated for a sawmill, a minister and a meeting house. None of the original grantees settled in Henniker but sold their holdings to the settlers who came later.

Sometime prior to 1750 a Mr. Craney cleared land at the top of the hill and near the pond named for him. However, little is known of the gentleman or his family, other than he was apparently driven out by the Indians and did not remain in the area. James Peters and his family of six were the first permanent settlers in the area now known as Foster Hill.

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.

### First Settlers of Masonian Grant in Number Six

	Previous Location
<b><i>1758</i></b>	
Farnum, Baracas	Concord, Massachusetts
<b><i>1760</i></b>	Hopkinton, New Hampshire
Scales, James	
<b><i>1761</i></b>	

Peters, James	Hopkinton, New Hampshire
<b>1763</b>	
Bowman, Jonas	Lexington, Massachusetts
Gould, Amos	Marlboro, Massachusetts
Howe, Eliakim	Marlboro, Massachusetts
Peters, William	Hopkinton, New Hampshire
Stone, Ezekiel	Marlboro, Massachusetts
Stone, Thomas	Marlboro, Massachusetts
Ward, Josiah	Marlboro, Massachusetts
<b>1764</b>	
Harthorn, Ebenezer	Marlboro, Massachusetts
Temple, Johnathan	Marlboro, Massachusetts
Whitcomb, Charles	Stowe, Massachusetts
Whitcomb, Jacob	Stowe, Massachusetts
<b>1765</b>	
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
<b>1766</b>	
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
<b>1767</b>	
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, Jephthah	Marlboro, Massachusetts
Tyler, Joshua	Marlboro, Massachusetts
<b><i>1768</i></b>	
Duston, Moses	Hopkinton, New
Morrison, Abraham	Unknown
Rice, Daniel	Westboro, Massachusetts
Wadsworth, Samuel	Grafton, Massachusetts
Williams, Joseph	Marlboro, Massachusetts
<b><i>Dates Unknown</i></b>	
Clisby, Joseph	Unknown
Johnson, John	Unity, New Hampshire
Joslin, James	Stowe, Massachusetts
Mansfield, Samuel	Unknown
Wilson, David	Unknown