

Taken from: Province of New Hampshire—Records of Council 1716 (pages 690 & 691)

**Province of New Hampshire
At a Council held at the Council chambers in Portsmouth
March 14, 1715-16**

PRESENT: The Honorable George Vaughan, Esq., Lt. Governor; Richard Waldron, Samuel Penhallow, John Plaisted, Mark Hunking, John Wentworth, Esquires.

Mr. Smith appeared at this Board on behalf of sundry inhabitants of Swampscott and presented a petition (against making Swampscott a town) as on file, bearing date, January 14, 1715-6*.

Notwithstanding which petition and sundry other objections which have been made since ye first motions about making said Swampscott a town, it is

In Council

Ordered, that Swampscott Patent land be a township by the name of Stratham, and have full power to choose officers as other towns within this Province, and that the bounds of said town be according to the limits specified in a petition proffered to this board by Mr. Andrew Wiggin, the 13th day of January last, except some families lying near to Greenland (viz.) John Hill, Thomas Leatherby, Enoch Barker, and Michael Hicks, which said some families shall belong to the Parish of Greenland: And that a meeting house be built on the King's great road leading from Greenland to Exeter, within half a mile of the midway between ye bounds yet are next Exeter and the bounds that are next Greenland, as the road goes; and that they be obliged to have a learned orthodox minister to preach in said meeting house within one year from the date hereof.

R. Waldron, Cleric Con.

* *See all the papers on file relating to Town of Stratham, in subsequent volume "Towns".*

A ROYAL GRANT OF CHARTER

Province of New Hampshire

I, George, by the grace of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defendand of the faith--To all people to whom these presents shall come, greeting;

Know ye that we of our special grace certain knowledge, and meek motion for the due encouragement of Religion and settlement of a Minister within the limits and bounds hereafter aforesaid and by and with advise and consent of our Council, do constitute, make, and ordain, and by these presents have made, constituted, ordained, and appointed that Squampscott Patent land be a town corporate by the name of Stratham, which said town is bounded as follows: Viz. By a line beginning at Sandy Point and running along by the tide of Exeter River commonly as called until it shall come to Wheelright's Creek's mouth, and from thence upon a southeast line three miles into the land, and by another line that shall begin at the aforesaid Sandy Point and run three miles into the land, also with a straight head line, cutting the two aforesaid southeast lines at the southeasterly ends thereof.

To have and to hold unto the men and inhabitants of the said Town of Stratham, their heirs and successors and others that shall inhabit therein, all the privileges, profits, and advantages which they may by law claim, or demand, by virtue of this grant excepting the four families hereafter mentioned. Viz. John Hill, Thomas Leatherby, Enoch Barker, and Michael Hicks, and their estates and ye future possessors thereof shall forever belong to the Parish of Greenland and for the well ordering ruling and governing said Town of Stratham, we do by these presents grant for them and their heirs and successors and those that shall inhabit therein hereafter, that yearly and every year upon the twenty fifth day of March, except when said day falls on the Sabbath, and then on the day following, there shall be a general Town Meeting held and kept within said Town, at which time shall be chosen, Selectmen, Assessors, Constables, Tythingmen, and any other officers necessary (or required by law) within said Town for the year ensuing.

And further that the said inhabitants, their heirs and successors have and enjoy all the privileges and authorities that any town within this Province hath or ought to have and enjoy.

Furthermore, we do by these presents appoint that there be a meeting house built for public worship of God within said Town with all convenient speed, and that it stand on the King's great road leading from Greenland to Exeter within half a mile of the midway between the two aforesaid southeast lines as the great road goes, and that a learned and orthodox Minister be procured and obtained to preach in the same, by the fourteenth day of March next ensuing the date hereof, and so to be continued.

In testimony whereof we have caused the seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. Witness George Vaughan, Esq., our Lt. Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our said Province at Portsmouth, the twentieth day of March in the second year of our reign over Great Britain, France and Ireland. 1715/

George Vaughan
March 20, 1715/16

Richard Waldron, Clerk Con.