

New Hampshire Town and County Development, Part II

This concludes the two-part series on New Hampshire town and county developments. Part one of this list covered the first five counties established in the state: Rockingham, Strafford, Hillsborough, Chesire, and Grafton. Initially, New Hampshire was one province with an individual town government. In 1769, an act proposing the establishment of five counties to handle growing demand on government administration was sent to England for confirmation. The Crown confirmed the act in 1771 and the new system was established a year later.

What follows are descriptions of the remaining counties, their original boundaries, and the towns founded within those bounds. Each town list includes:

- The name of town with the date it was adopted
- All known previous names and date name was adopted, when known
- Date of town grant or incorporation
- Parent town set off from, when applicable and known
- Date settled
- Date of affiliation with county or counties

All information in this article regarding the formation of counties, their bounds, the towns in each county with dates, and county seats is taken from the preface of Otis G. Hammond, ed. *Probate Records of the Province of New Hampshire* vol. 39, State Paper Series (State of New Hampshire: 1941), viii. For a statewide alphabetical list of New Hampshire town names see this volume. Also Isaac W. Hammond, ed. *Town Papers, Documents Relating to Towns in New Hampshire* vol. 6-8, State Paper Series (Concord, NH, Parsons B. Cogswell, State Printer: 1891) was used to obtain information about former names and dates of settlement. When information from these sources conflicted, or dates of settlement were missing, various town histories were consulted. In addition, a list of old town names found in the New Hampshire Vital Record office, Hazen Drive, Concord, NH, was incorporated. This list is not sourced and when information from the list conflicted with the State Papers series, or did not make sense, it was not used.

Coos County was established by an act passed December 24, 1803, to take effect March 1, 1805, to contain all the lands and waters northerly of a line beginning on the west bank of the Connecticut River at the southwesterly corner of Dalton and running on the westerly and southerly line of Dalton to Whitefield, then on the westerly and southerly line of Whitefield to Bretton Woods (Carroll), then on the westerly and southerly line of Bretton Woods to the southeasterly corner thereof, then southerly on a straight line across the unallocated lands to the line of the county of Strafford at the northwesterly corner of Tamworth, then on the line of the county of Strafford to the line of the district of Maine. Records for the towns of Coos County after February 1805 are kept at Lancaster.

Towns in Coos County

Town	Date Adopted	Previous/Alternate Name(s) and dates adopted *	Date of Grant or Incorporation	Parent Town	Date Settled	Date of Affiliation with County
Berlin	1829	Cascade, Maynesborough 1771	Granted 1771		ca 1781	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Cambridge			Not incorporated, granted 1773			Grafton 1773, Coos 1805
Carroll	1832	Nash & Sawyers Location, Fabyan's, Twin Mountain , Bretton-Woods, 1772	Granted 1772			Grafton 1772, Coos 1805

Clarksville	1853	Dartmouth College Grant, 1789	Granted 1792			Grafton 1792, Coos 1805
Colebrook	1770	Colebrooke Town, Dryden, 1762	Granted 1770		by 1788	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Columbia	1811	Preston, 1762, Cockburne Town, 1770, Wales Location	Granted 1770		by 1787	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Dalton	1784	Chiswick, 1764, Aphthrop, 1770	Granted 1770	Set off from Littleton	ca 1773	Grafton 1784, Coos 1805
Dixville			Not incorporated			Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Dummer **pdf file			Granted 1773			Grafton 1773, Coos 1805
Errol **pdf file			Granted 1774		bef. 1800	Grafton 1774, Coos 1805
Gorham **pdf file	1836	Shelburne Addition, 1770	Granted 1770	Set off from Shelburne	1764	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Jefferson **pdf file	1796	Dartmouth, 1765	Granted 1765		1772	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Kilkenny			Not incorporated, granted 1774			Grafton 1774, Coos 1805
Lancaster	1763	Upper Coos, Barker's Location	Granted 1763		1764	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Milan **pdf file	1824	Paulsbourg, 1771	Granted 1771			Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Millsfield **pdf file			Not incorporated, granted 1774			Grafton 1774, Coos 1805
Northumberland **pdf file	1771	Stonington, 1761, Groveton	Granted 1761		1767	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Pittsburg **pdf file	1840	Indian Stream Territory, 1823	Incorporated 1840		by 1832	Coos 1800
Randolph **pdf file	1824	Durand, 1772	Granted 1772			Grafton 1772, Coos 1805
Shelburne						Grafton 1771,

**pdf file	1769		Granted 1769		1775	Coos 1805
Stark **pdf file	1832	Percy, Piercy, 1774, General John Winslow Grant	Granted 1774		before 1794	Grafton 1774, Coos 1805
Stewartstown **pdf file	1799	Stuart, 1770	Granted 1770		by 1795	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Stratford **pdf file	1773	Woodbury, 1762	Granted 1762		ca 1773	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805
Success			Not incorporated, granted 1773			Grafton 1773, Coos 1805
Wentworth Location			Not incorporated, granted 1797			Grafton 1797, Coos 1805
Whitefield **pdf file			Granted 1774		1801	Grafton 1774, Coos 1805

* Includes some village names under given towns.

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Merrimack County was established by an act to take effect August 1, 1823. It was to include specific towns listed below, ten taken from Rockingham County and thirteen taken from Hillsborough County. Merrimack County records are kept at Concord.

Towns in Merrimack County

Town	Date Adopted	Previous/Alternate Name(s) and dates adopted *	Date of Grant or Incorporation	Parent Town	Date	Date of Affiliation with County
Allenstown	1759		Granted 1722		before 1748	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Andover	1779	Brown's Town, Emery's Town, 1748, New Breton, 1758, Cilleyville, Gale, Potter Place	Granted 1748		1761	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Boscawen	1760	Contoocook, 1733, Gerrish	Granted 1733		1734	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
					by	Rockingham 1771,

Bow			Granted 1727		1758	Merrimack 1823
Bradford	1787	New Bradford, 1771, Bradfordton, Washington Gore, Melvin Mills, Bradford Center	Granted 1735/36		1771	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Canterbury			Granted 1727		ca 1728	Rockingham 1771, Merrimack 1823
Chichester			Granted 1727		1758	Rockingham 1771, Merrimack 1823
Concord	1765	Penacook, 1659, Rumford, 1725, Fisherville	Granted 1725		1727	Rockingham 1771, Merrimack 1823
Danbury			Incorporated 1795	Set off from Alexandria		Grafton 1795, Merrimack 1874
Dunbarton	1752	Gorham's Town, 1735, Starkstown, 1748	Granted 1735		1749	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Epsom		Gossville, ca 1882	Granted 1727		by 1743	Rockingham 1771, Merrimack 1823
Franklin			Incorporated 1828	Set off from the towns of Northfield, Salisbury, Andover, and Sanborton	1748	Merrimack 1828
Henniker	1768	Line Town No. 6, 1735, Todds Town, 1752, New Marlborough, ca 1765	Granted 1735		1761	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Hill	1837	New Chester, 1753	Granted 1753		1768	Grafton 1771, Merrimack 1868
Hooksett	by 1822	Chester Woods, White Pine Country, Hanna-Ko-Kees Hills, Rowe's Corner, Isle au Hooksett	Incorporated 1822	Set off from Goffstown, Chester, Dunbarton	before 1782	Hillsborough 1822, Merrimack 1823
Hopkinton	1762	Contoocook, Line Town No. 5, 1735, New Hopkinton, ca 1736	Granted 1735/36		by 1738	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Loudon			Incorporated 1773	Set off from Canterbury	1760	Rockingham 1773, Merrimack 1823

New London	1779	Heidleburg, bef. 1769, Alexandria Addition, 1773, Scytheville, ca 1835, Elkins, ca 1900, absorbed part of Kearsarge Gore	Granted 1773		ca 1775	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Newbury	1837	Hereford, Dantzick, 1753, Fishersfield, 1772	Granted 1753			Cheshire 1771, Hillsborough 1778, Merrimack 1823
Northfield	1780	Factory Village	Incorporated 1780	Set off from Canterbury	in 1760	Rockingham 1780, Merrimack 1823
Pembroke	1759	Lovewell's Town 1728, Buckstreet, Suncook	Granted 1726		ca 1728	Rockingham 1771, Merrimack 1823
Pittsfield	1782	Lower City, Upper City, Knowltons Corners, Berry District	Incorporated 1782	Set off from Chichester	ca 1768	Rockingham 1782, Merrimack 1823
Salisbury	1768	Bakers-town, 1736, Stevens-town, 1749, Gerrishtown	Granted 1736/37		1750	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Sutton	1784	Perrys-town, 1748	Granted 1749		ca 1770	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Warner	1774	Line Town No. 1, New Amesbury, Jenness-town, Roby, Dimond Bayley, Davisville, Rye Town	Granted 1735/36		1762	Hillsborough 1771, Merrimack 1823
Webster	1860		Incorporated 1860	Set off from Boscawen		Merrimack 1860
Wilmot	1807	absorbed part of Kearsarge Gore	Incorporated 1807	Set off from New London		Hillsborough 1807, Merrimack 1823

* Includes some village names under given towns.

Sullivan County was established by an act passed July 5, 1827, to take effect the first Tuesday of September following, to consist of fifteen towns from Cheshire County. Sullivan County records are kept at Newport.

Towns in Sullivan County

Town	Date Adopted	Previous/Alternate Name(s) and dates adopted *	Date of Grant or Incorporation	Parent Town	Date	Date of Affiliation with County
Acworth	1766	Burnat, 1752	Granted 1752		1767	Cheshire 1771,

						Sullivan 1827
Charlestown	1753	Fort No. 4, 1735	Granted 1735		1740	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Claremont			Granted 1764		1762	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Cornish		Mast Camp	Granted 1763		1765	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Croydon		Four Corners, Ryder Corner, Brighton	Granted 1763		1766	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Goshen			Incorporated 1791	Set off from Newbury, Sunapee, Newport, Unity and Lempster	1768	Cheshire 1791, Sullivan 1827
Grantham	1761	Meriden, New Grantham	Granted 1761		after 1767	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Langdon			Incorporated 1787	Set off from Charlestown and Walpole	1773	Cheshire 1787, Sullivan 1827
Lempster	1761	Fort No. 9, 1735, Line Town No. 9, Dupplin, 1753	Granted 1735/36		1770	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Newport	1761	Grenville, 1753, Kelleyville, Guild	Granted 1761		1766	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Plainfield		Meriden	Granted 1761		1764	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Springfield	1794	Protectworth, 1769	Granted 1769		1772	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Sunapee	1850	Corey's Town, by 1764, Saville, 1768, Wendell, 1782, Georges Mills, Blodgetts Landing	Granted 1768		1769	Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
Unity	1764	Buckingham, 1753	Granted 1753			Cheshire 1771, Sullivan 1827
		Monadnock No. 8, 1735, Line				Cheshire

Washington	1776	Town No. 8, 1735, Belcher's Town, 1735, New Concord, 1752, Camden, 1768	Granted 1735/36		1768	1771, Sullivan 1827
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* Includes some village names under given towns.

Belknap County was established by an act to take effect January 1, 1841, to consist of eight towns from Strafford County. Belknap County records are kept at Laconia.

Towns in Belknap County

Town	Date Adopted	Previous/Alternate Name(s) and dates adopted *	Date of Grant or Incorporation	Parent Town	Date	Date of Affiliation with County
Alton	1796	New Durham Gore	Incorporated 1796		ca 1770	Strafford 1796, Belknap 1841
Barnstead			Granted 1727		before 1767	Strafford 1771, Belknap 1841
Belmont	1869	Upper Gilmanton, 1859	Incorporated 1859	Set off from Gilmanton	1743	Belknap 1859
Center Harbor	1797		Incorporated 1797	Set off from New Hampton		Strafford 1797, Belknap 1841
Gilford	1812	Gunstock Parish	Incorporated 1812	Set off from Gilmanton	1743	Strafford 1812, Belknap 1841
Gilmanton	1727	Governor's Island	Granted 1727		1761	Strafford 1771, Belknap 1841
Laconia	1855	Meredith Bridge	Incorporated 1855	Set off from Meredith	1743	Belknap 1855
Meredith	1768	New Salem, 1748, Palmer's Town, Bear Islands, Stone-dam	Granted 1748		before 1768	Strafford 1771, Belknap 1841
New Hampton	1777	Moultonborough Addition, 1765	Granted 1765		by 1777	Strafford 1771, Belknap 1841
Sanbornton	1770	Crochtown, Gaza, Sanborn Town, 1748, North Sanbornton	Granted 1748		1764	Strafford 1771, Belknap 1841
Tilton	1869	Sanbornton Bridge	Incorporated 1869	Set off from Sanbornton		Belknap 1869

* Includes some village names under given towns.

Carroll County was established by an act to take effect January 1, 1841. It was to consist of fourteen towns taken from Strafford County. Carroll County records are kept at Ossipee.

Towns in Carroll County

Town	Date Adopted	Previous/Alternate Name(s) and dates adopted *	Date of Grant or Incorporation	Parent Town	Date	Date of Affiliation with County
Albany	1833	Burton, 1766	Granted 1766		before 1785	Grafton 1771, Strafford 1800,

						Carroll 1841
Bartlett		Glen, Intervale	Incorporated 1790			Grafton 1790, Coos 1805, Carroll 1841
Brookfield		Coleraine, 1726	Incorporated 1794	Set off from Middleton and Wolfeborough	1726	Strafford 1794, Carroll 1841
Chatham		McDonough's Location	Granted 1767		1781	Grafton 1771, Coos 1805, Strafford 1823, Carroll 1841
Conway	1765	Pequawket, Foster's Pocket	Granted 1765		1766	Grafton 1771, Strafford 1778, Carroll 1841
Eaton		Sandy Hill, Snowville, 1825	Granted 1766		before 1788	Strafford 1771, Carroll 1841
Effingham	1778	Leavits Town, 1749	Granted 1749		before 1775	Strafford 1771, Carroll 1841
Freedom		North Effingham, 1831	Incorporated 1831	Set off from Effingham		Strafford 1831, Carroll 1841
Hart's Location			Granted 1772			Grafton 1772, Carroll 1841
Jackson	1829	Fowles Location, New Madbury, Rogers Grant, 1771, Treadwell Grant, 1771, Wentworth, 1771, Gilman Grant, 1773, Adams, 1800	Incorporated 1800		before 1796	Grafton 1800, Coos 1805, Carroll 1841
Madison			Incorporated 1852			Carroll 1852
Moultonborough	1763	Moultonborough Gore, Long Island	Granted 1763		1764	Strafford 1771, Carroll 1841
		Wigwam Village, New	Incorporated		by	Strafford 1785,

Ossipee	1785	Garden, Ossipee Gore	1785		1782	Carroll 1841
Sandwich			Granted 1763		before 1773	Strafford 1771, Carroll 1841
Tamworth		Chocorua, Wonalancet, Whittier	Granted 1766		1771	Strafford 1771, Carroll 1841
Tuftonboro		Melvin Corner, Melvin Village, Mirror Lake	Granted 1750		after 1780	Strafford 1771, Carroll 1841
Wakefield	1774	East town, Ham's Town, Sanbornville, Union, Watertown	Granted 1749			Strafford 1771, Carroll 1841
Wolfeboro	1895	Kingswood, Wolfeborough, 1759	Incorporated 1770		1759	Strafford 1771, Carroll 1841

* Includes some village names under given towns.