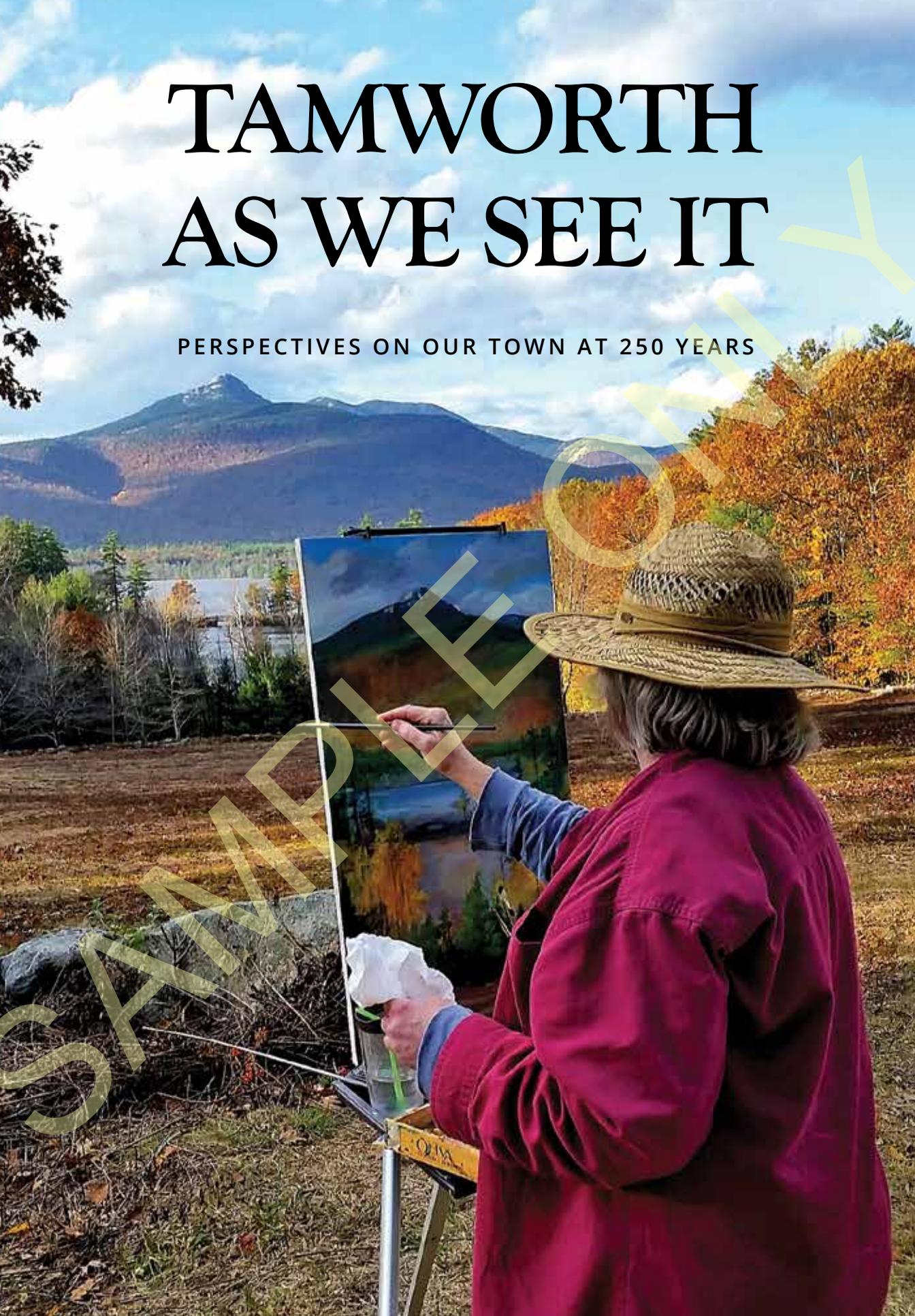
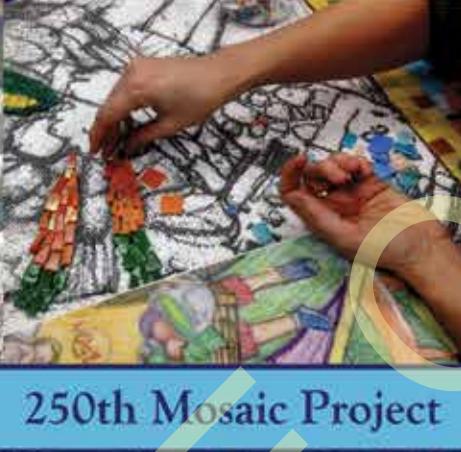


# TAMWORTH AS WE SEE IT

PERSPECTIVES ON OUR TOWN AT 250 YEARS





250th Mosaic Project



# TAMWORTH AS WE SEE IT

PERSPECTIVES ON OUR TOWN AT 250 YEARS



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The mission of Tamworth's 250th Committee is to promote a series of events, activities, and festivities; to commemorate 250 years of history; and to honor the traditions, events, and people that shaped and formed our community.

The 250th Committee will rely on the strength of existing groups to find unique ways to celebrate the town's history, heritage, social, and cultural growth. Through fundraising efforts, the committee will provide opportunities for, and encourage the widest possible participation of, all Tamworth residents, visitors, and friends, and will leave a legacy that is a lasting benefit to the town.

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# An Introduction

Tamworth celebrations are often potluck affairs, with family, friends, and neighbors bringing a favorite dish to mark a special occasion or a simple gathering. This spreads the work of feeding everyone and gives cooks a chance to share their culinary talents with others.

And so it is with this book celebrating Tamworth and its 250 years as a chartered town. When considering how best to commemorate the event, a potluck-style approach seemed — well — very Tamworth! The invitation went out to everyone in town, as well as those beyond with an affection for this place. “Write what you know and love about Tamworth,” we said. “Share your perspective with all of us.”

What follows is the result: An eclectic smorgasbord of verse and prose, blended with art and photographs. Each piece brings a unique perspective to the table. Each writer reveals history, stories, and experiences that come together as a fond portrait of our town.

So turn the page, savor each offering, and enjoy the celebration of this milestone in Tamworth’s history.

# The Tamworth Path of History

## A Meditation

RICHARD POSNER

We the people  
Summering inland  
Threading by the waters  
Waves of stone  
To all places a season  
In all actions a song  
In all creatures spirits  
Ancestors calling

Thick country  
Dense woods  
Wild beasts  
Savages  
Power of trees and water  
Ax the forest  
Hunt the game  
Drag the rocks  
Clearings cabins crops children  
Books within the sound of  
    howling wolves

Persistence  
Perseverance  
Fields  
Walls  
Pride surveyed

This world is ours  
In the year of our Lord 1876  
Freedom's Centenary  
Tamworth's thousand souls  
Sheep cattle oxen horses  
Strangers up from the city  
Seeking what our young folk flee  
We are in splendid heart

Look back now  
The mountain broods in stark perfection  
Look up embrace the blue of day  
Wander spangled watchfires of the night  
Before you cross the road of now  
Down to the river of ever  
Think back to who was here  
What we have done  
And forward to what we shall do

Water  
Cloud rain mountain snow ice stream  
    river ocean sun cloud rain  
Dancing  
Rushing seaward  
Dust returning  
Time tumbling by

---

*Richard Posner has lived and worked in Tamworth since 1992. He remains incorrigibly English, but has also become a proud American and even a typical Tamworthy, hiking his new trail through these lovely woods.*

# Origin of the Town

DAVID LITTLE

There is archeological evidence dating back 12,000 years of sites where Pale Indians manufactured tools, using hornfels quarried from the ring dike around the Ossipee Mountains. For thousands of years a trail along the Bearcamp was used as the route between Winnepesaukee and Ossipee Lake. Comparatively, two and a half centuries is brief.

This year marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tamworth town charter. The impact of two men who never set foot in town is still felt. Governor Benning Wentworth wrote the charter defining the town, which was named for Washington Shirley, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth.

## Tamworth's Charter

The town of Tamworth was created on October 14, 1766, when Governor Wentworth signed its charter. The seventy-year-old Wentworth, a lame duck at the time and desperate for a title he never received, named many towns for British nobility, seeking their favor. Other New Hampshire towns were named for persons of prominence in the province, Wentworth's family, a principal grantee, towns in other parts of New England, or a local Indian name. Wentworth signed over 200 town charters, but only four following Tamworth's charter.

New Hampshire was the only province that didn't have a colonial charter, so authority for granting towns and all the requirements to do so were contained in the governor's royal commission. First signed by King George II on July 3, 1741, this commission was reissued after the ascension of King George III on April 4, 1761. The town charters issued by Governor Wentworth all followed a similar template, containing size, location, town name, conditions, and a list of grantees.

The size for all towns, per the king's instructions, was no more than six miles square, or 23,040 acres. As initially laid out, Tamworth was 28,917 acres, about 25% larger. It appears the initial survey was done using an 18' long rod, instead of the standard 16 ½'. The geometry given in Tamworth's charter is impossible in

reality, so some accommodations were made.

Tamworth's boundaries were based on our neighbors'. Tamworth's western boundary was Sandwich Addition, granted September 5, 1764. The southern boundary was the Mason Curve line, as surveyed by Walter Bryant (a Tamworth grantee) in 1761. Territory to the north and east was unoccupied. But on November 11, 1766, Burton (now Albany) was granted to the north and Eaton was granted to the east.

The rights and responsibilities listed in Tamworth's charter were quite favorable. Self-governing authority was granted, without any prerequisites or need to petition the legislature. A date was set for electing town officers, and the annual town meeting was established as the second Tuesday in March.

When fifty families were settled, a market one day per week and two fairs were authorized. Unlike in many earlier towns, there was no clause forfeiting the entire charter, based on deadlines for the number of settlers. There *was* a requirement that within five years each grantee plant and cultivate five acres out of each fifty received, or forfeit their share. Settlement of the town hadn't taken place by 1771, so this clearly wasn't enforced.

The charter required one-acre town lots be set out in the center of town, one for each grantee. There's no indication this was done on James Hersey's 1775 plan for the town.

As usual, the governor reserved all pine trees fit for masts for the Royal Navy. This had little impact in Tamworth. Due to the rebellion, Governor John Wentworth fled the colony in August 1775, shortly after settlement began.

Quitrents were a system of payments to a feudal lord, brought over to the colonies from Britain. While eliminated elsewhere in New England, they were required by the governor's royal commission. The fee was one ear of Indian corn per grantee for ten years, and one shilling per hundred acres, beginning in 1777. In practice this had no effect. By the time hard currency was due, the royal governor was long gone.

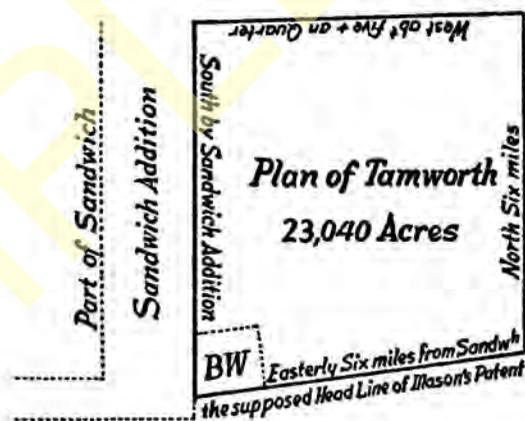
The charter called for sixty-eight shares, listing sixty-three grantees and six additional shares for public purposes. (And yes, that totals sixty-nine shares.)

Early on, grantees of New England towns were the settlers. But by the second half of the eighteenth century, they were largely land speculators. Most names on the list for Tamworth were also grantees in multiple other New Hampshire towns. Only two show up on the 1790 census, or on town inventories of property.

Grantees formed a quasi-corporation known as the Proprietors of Tamworth.

They were responsible for dividing the land, attracting settlers, selling off lots, and initiating operation of the new town, while holding unsold land in common. By April 1796 all the common land had been disposed of, and the proprietorship ceased. Their speculation assumed that, as the town was settled, unsold lots and their investments would increase in value. But absentee landowners were a burden on actual inhabitants of the town.

One share was reserved for the first settled minister of the gospel. On May 21, 1792, the town voted to give that share to Reverend Samuel Hidden. All charters signed after 1760 included one share to support schooling. One share was set off as a glebe for the Church of England. The charter had a share for the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG), the Anglican Church's missionary organization in British colonies. After the Treaty of Paris, SPG ceased to function in America. Tamworth's proprietors never set off lots to support SPG, and in 1791 the town voted not to assert that public right. As he did in every town, Governor Wentworth chose two shares for himself: 500 acres in one corner of Tamworth.



Province of New Hampshire Octr 14th 1766  
 Copy of the Plan taken from the back of the Charter of Tamworth under the Province Seal.

T Atkinson Jun Secry

## Benning Wentworth

Benning Wentworth was New Hampshire's first royal governor, and the longest serving colonial governor in North America.

He was born in Portsmouth on July 24, 1696, when there were fewer than 5,000 people in New Hampshire. Named for his paternal grandmother, Mary Benning, he was the oldest of sixteen children born to John and Sarah (Hunking) Wentworth. His father was a sea captain and wealthy merchant, and served as lieutenant governor from 1717-1730, when New Hampshire was governed by Massachusetts Bay.

Benning graduated from Harvard in 1715, ranked fifth in his class of twenty, when class position was based more on social standing than academic achievements. He set school records for the number of windows broken and fines paid to repair damages from his high jinks.

After graduating at age eighteen, Wentworth joined his family's merchant business in a Boston counting house. They exported timber, dried fish, and other New Hampshire products to London, while importing rum from the Caribbean, wine from Spain, and manufactured goods from Britain.

His political career began in 1732 when he was elected to the New Hampshire Assembly representing Portsmouth. He joined the Governor's Council two years later. He fit in easily with the oligarchy of Portsmouth.

Benning's appointment as governor was the result of a bankruptcy. The Spanish government refused payment for a shipment of oak timber because of difficult diplomatic relations leading up to the War of Jenkins Ear. Wentworth sued in London for reimbursement. His creditors agreed to forgo immediate repayment of his £11,000 debt if the government would appoint him governor of the newly separate colony New Hampshire. This was done in 1741, on the condition that Wentworth abandon his claim against the British government. In 1743 he also purchased the post of "Surveyor General of the King's Woods" for £2,000.



Benning Wentworth's career as governor combined astute administration with a level of self-dealing rare even in eighteenth-century America. Perquisites and gratuities from his positions as governor and surveyor general took him from bankruptcy to one of the wealthiest men in the colony. His authority to make land grants brought him fees and "presents." His brother Mark held a near monopoly on the mast trade with Britain. Governor Wentworth sold the contracts for cutting and delivering pines, but rarely pursued violations of the White Pine Act.

He refused to enforce the Acts of Trade. Thus, New Hampshire expanded as merchants participated in the "triangle trade" between the colonies, Europe and Africa, and the islands in the Caribbean.

While the royal governor's authority was great, a frugal assembly controlled spending. But Wentworth's office-jobbery allowed him to bypass controls by spending money from his own accounts. When frustrated, he postponed meetings of the assembly for years at a time.

Wentworth perfected the art of nepotism, giving important government patronage positions and extensive land grants to relatives and members of the oligarchy.

Wentworth saw to the region's defense during King George's War (1744–1748), and the French and Indian War (1754–1763). He was loyal to the crown. His devotion to the Anglican Church was not shared by the majority of residents, who were Congregationalists and Ulster Presbyterians. But the common people of New Hampshire seem to have loved him

Wentworth's political demise resulted from overreach. Both New York and New Hampshire had plausible, if conflicting, claims to the territory west of the Connecticut River. Wentworth is-

***Benning Wentworth was New Hampshire's first royal governor, and the longest serving colonial governor in North America.***

issued 135 land grants there, beginning with Bennington in 1749. Eventually, New York's Governor Clinton objected, and in 1764 the Crown settled the boundary dispute in New York's favor. That year, the Board of Trade issued a five-point bill of complaint (neglect of correspondence, failure to submit acts for royal approval, failure to protect the mast reservations, venial land grants, and selling of ecclesiastical privileges) and recommended Wentworth's dismissal. Instead, he was allowed to resign in favor of his nephew, John Wentworth. The political geography, settlement, and governance of a good part of interior New England derive from Benning Wentworth's acts and policies.

In 1719, Benning married Abigail Ruck of Boston. They had three sons, all of

whom predeceased him. His first wife died in 1755 during a diphtheria epidemic. On March 15, 1760 the governor, age sixty-four, surprised a dinner party at his mansion by announcing that he and his twenty-three year-old housekeeper, Martha Hilton, were to be married. Reverend Arthur Browne, a dinner guest and Anglican clergyman, obliged and married them on the spot. They had two children who died in infancy. Benning Wentworth died at his mansion in Little Harbor, Portsmouth on October 14, 1770.

## Washington Shirley

Washington Shirley, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth, was a British naval officer, peer, Freemason, amateur astronomer, and Fellow of the Royal Society.

He was born on May 26, 1722. He got his baptismal name from his grandmother, Elizabeth Washington. His title came from his grandfather, Robert Shirley, an English peer and courtier, who succeeded as 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Staunton Harold in March 1668, was confirmed 13<sup>th</sup> Baron Ferrers of Chartley on December 14, 1677, and was further ennobled by Queen Anne as 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth on September 3, 1711.



Robert Shirley married twice; he had ten sons and seven daughters by his first wife, Elizabeth Washington, and five sons and five daughters by his second wife, Selina Finch. He sired a further thirty children out of wedlock.

His first son, also named Robert Shirley, married Anne Ferrers, who had inherited Tamworth Castle from her grandfather, Sir John Ferrers, in 1680. When the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl died, Elizabeth Compton, a granddaughter by his first son, became suo jure 14<sup>th</sup> Baroness Ferrers of Chartley. Under male primogeniture, the title Earl of Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth passed to his second son. Elizabeth Compton inherited Tamworth Castle from her mother in 1714, so the castle was not associated with the title Viscount Tamworth thereafter.

In 1738, at age fifteen, Washington Shirley joined the Royal Navy. He was promoted to second lieutenant in 1741, and post captain in 1746. He left the service in 1760 to take his position in parliament, but remained on the captains' list, and was advanced by seniority to rear admiral of the white on March 31, 1775, vice

admiral of the blue on December 7, 1775, and vice admiral of the white on January 29, 1778.

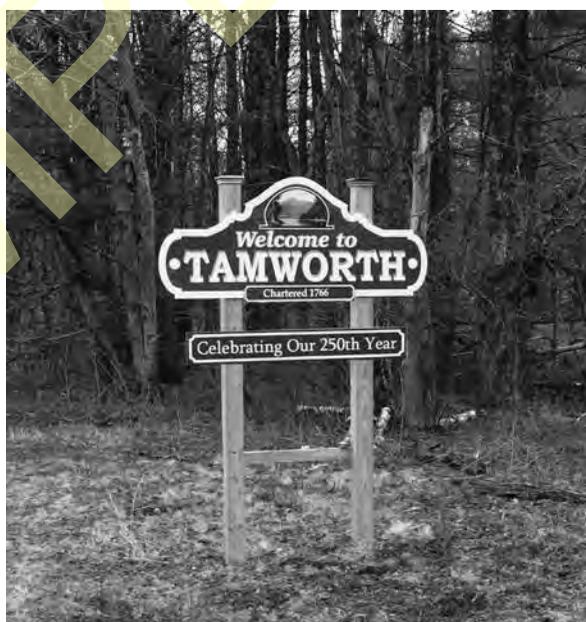
Washington Shirley became the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl Ferrers on the death of his brother on May 5, 1760. On December 14, 1761 Shirley was elected to the Royal Society for his observations of the transit of Venus, and a transitarium he designed. He was an architect, patron of the arts, and a friend of many of the influential artists and scientists in the Midlands. He was Grand Master of Freemasons from 1762 to 1764.

Due to persistent financial problems, Shirley sold several of the family estates, using the proceeds to transform the family seat of Staunton Harold in Leicestershire, demolishing many of the oldest buildings, sweeping away the 1st Earl's formal gardens, naturalizing the landscape in the fashion of the day, and building the present Palladian-style Hall.

Washington Shirley married Anne Elliot (1722-1791) on December 1, 1747. As they had no children, when he died on October 1, 1778 his title and estates passed to Robert Shirley, his younger brother. He's buried, along with his wife, on the family estate at Staunton Harold.

---

*David Little has been a summer resident since before he was born. Eventually he realized Tamworth was home and stopped leaving every fall. He enjoys researching facts about Tamworth and its history.*





# A Market “Most Advantageous to the Inhabitants”

BOB STREETER

Hunger has always been a relentless motivator for human beings, right up there with the ubiquitous call of our thirst, and perhaps even love. So I should not have been surprised when a friend showed me our Tamworth Town Charter from October 14, 1766, and the role that hunger played.

The document is four pages long, but early on, after a surveyor-like description of the 23,040 acres we all love as Tamworth, it gets right to the point: “...as soon as the said Town shall consist of Fifty Families, a Market may be opened and kept one or more Days in each Week, as may be thought most advantageous to the Inhabitants.” This was no rustic Hannafords, it was a farmers’ market. You had to farm, and it says so right in the document: “...every Grantee, his Heirs or Assigns shall plant and cultivate five Acres of Land within the Term of five Years for every fifty Acres contained in his or their Share...” Food came first in the Tamworth Town Charter, followed by the politics and particulars of running a small town in a land of “Rocks, Ponds, Mountains, and Rivers.”

Oh, what I would give to rise early on a Saturday morning and saddle-up for a slow ride off Pease Hill, heading for that first market and the fifty families that then called Tamworth home. Riding toward the brightening sky, one hundred years before the Mason jar. Riding toward the unportioned raw reality of frontier food in a land defined mostly by winter. The vegetables might be ugly, but at least there would be plenty of parking for the horses.

We will never know what those first markets really looked like, but we know what it looks like in this century, and what it says about food and farming in the “Six Miles square” of Tamworth in 2016. We begin our tenth year in Tamworth of watching farmers and families rise early on a Saturday to go to market, myself among them. I load-up rather than saddle-up a pickup truck in the darkness of an old dairy farm. Perhaps 200 full Mason jars on a busy summer Saturday, testing

the leaf springs with dairy and maple syrup.

Rolling through the village at dawn, crossing the Swift River and gently rising to a crossroads and height of land, I arrive at the market. And this market, in this century, is courtesy of the Unitarian Universalist congregation, opening their fertile parking lot so thirty or more vendors can blossom here each Saturday from May through October. When the leaves have fallen and the chevrons of geese have passed, we head inside for holiday markets at the Brett School, and “Deep Winter” markets at the Town House. Again, I wonder about those first fifty families, the markets they may have had when the kettles of hawks had long migrated and the pounding obstacle of snow came blowing down from the White Mountains.

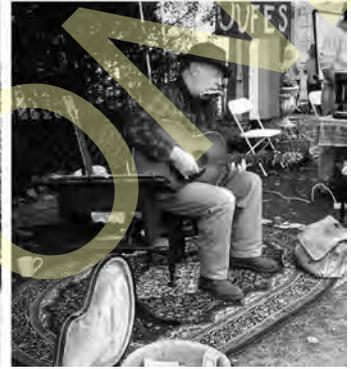
But here in the parking lot the sun is rising, chairs and shaded tables made ready for market-goers to visit, eat, and listen to music. And now the current face of farming in Tamworth comes forth, one vendor at a time pulling into the parking lot, unloading their goods in the usual spot. From the Bearcamp Valley come vegetables, honey, and eggs, from Chocorua, sweet cider and beef. From Wonalancet, lamb, hay, and bread still warm from the wood-fired hearth. From the heights of Cleveland Hill, more meat and vegetables, and a rainbow of mushroom varieties roll in from Gardner Hill. And still more vegetables from the edge of the Hemenway Forest. From the village itself come jams and jellies, sausage and cheese, baked goods, hard cider and mead, and pastured chicken and turkey.

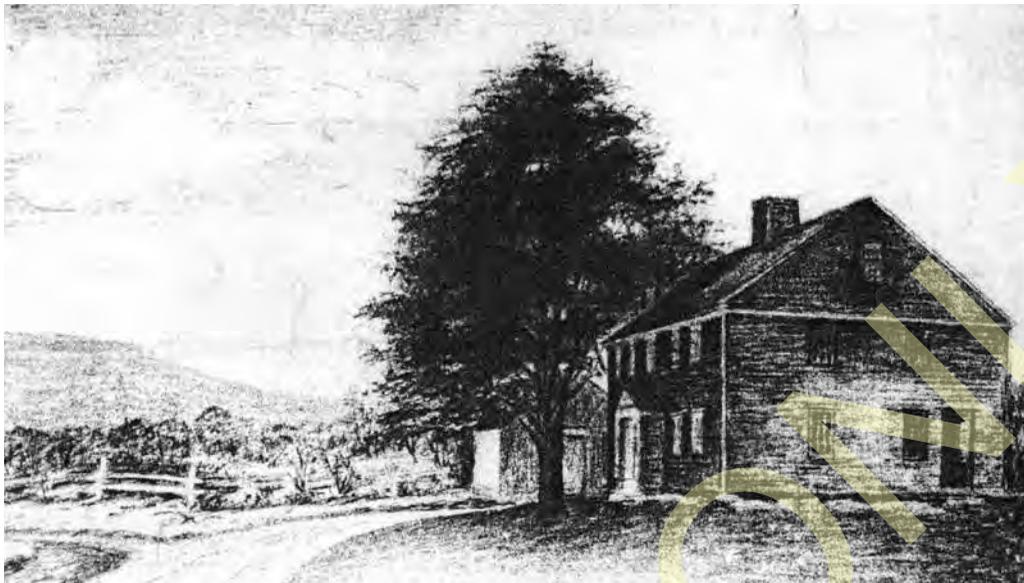
Indeed, we have a market as called for all those years ago by King George III and Governor Benning Wentworth, and their antique eyes would shine with incredulity at the sight of a thousand market-goers on an August Saturday in Tamworth.

Today, most people in Tamworth are not farmers. But many residents are celebrating the comeback of local food and farmers’ markets. They come to the market for the same compelling reasons those first fifty families did all those years ago. Our physical and metaphorical hungers come in many shades. We hunger for connection, for community, for love and acceptance. Two hundred and fifty years later, it truly is “most advantageous to the Inhabitants,” and they are us.

---

*Bob Streeter co-founded and co-manages the Tamworth Farmers’ Market with Peg Loughran. He farms full-time at the old Red Gables dairy farm on Pease Hill.*





The Bradbury Jewell residence, said to be the first house built in Tamworth



According to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, there are 64.017 miles of town roads and 30.835 miles of state roads crisscrossing Tamworth. Our town grader, pictured here, maintains the dirt sections of this network.

# “Any Other Road in the Same Predicament”

CHRIS CONROD

Tamworth’s earliest settlers had to be a pragmatic bunch. The vagaries of distant bureaucrats hold little consequence when you’re trying to turn a wilderness into a self-sufficient home. By 1775, there were probably close to 150 inhabitants and certainly a few established paths of organic origin. Whether it was a sense of need for more orderly development of the town or because the inhabitants were simply more willing to cooperate with a newly formed independent nation than they were with a British colonial government could be a matter of debate. But, for whatever reason, this was the year Tamworth decided to start playing by the rules and laying out official town roads.

Bradbury Jewell must have had some personal interests over toward Moultonborough because, two months after being elected to the office of selectman at Tamworth’s inaugural town meeting, the first road ever laid out by Tamworth started at his house near the top of what is now called Cleveland Hill and headed due south to “the highway.” This “highway” was the earliest rendition of what is now Route 25 and, apparently, already in existence.

The northern half of Bradbury’s road follows the route of Pine Hill Road. But down in the “Intervale,” there was a problem. The swamps were extensive and the town didn’t want to expend the effort needed to build causeways and bridges. The solution was to cross Meadow Brook but then skirt the swamps on the west side. Never mind that their solution placed a short section of the road in Sandwich. What’s more important: obscure legal minutia or expedience?

*It’s easier to get the written word to follow the people than to get the people to follow the written word.*

Tamworth wasn’t the only municipality to stray outside of its domain when laying out roads. There are a couple of references to the “old road laid out by

Burton” (now Albany) in Tamworth’s road layouts. These layout descriptions suggest that Scott Road and a section of Chinook Trail were parts of “the old road leading from the birch Intervale to Burton settlements.”

When we look at it from the perspective of practical-minded Burton residents, it makes perfect sense. Could you imagine trying to build a road from Birch Intervale to the bustling hub of activity on the far eastern edge of town, all within your own municipal borders? You would have to slab across two steep mountain slopes. Burton likely took advantage of unsanctioned roads created by the earliest settlers. Unfortunately, Albany’s earlier town records were lost in a fire, so we may never know the exact route of this road.

There is another aspect of practical, independent-minded settlers that pops up in the town records. Although the selectmen had the power to lay out roads, the town government did not have the means to build the roads. Most of the bridges, but not all of them, were bid out and paid for by the town, but apparently it was up to the individual users of the road to cut it out and make it passable. Passable is a relative term and, more importantly, Day Ballard on Hackett Hill or Mr. Sanborn, who built the mill on Mill Brook, may have decided that they knew better than the selectmen as to exactly where the road should go. If you plot one of the selectmen’s layouts and compare it to the road as it now exists, you are apt to find some significant discrepancies that are not explainable by subsequent modifications.

It appears that the selectmen were aware of these unauthorized layout revisions. In a town record entry of May, 1802, we find a reference to layouts of six roads or sections of roads and the statement that “These to be exchanged where others have been laid out in its room.” The only logical interpretation of this statement is that the town is recognizing that the roads don’t fit the recorded layouts but wherever they are is where the layout shall be. And, just to make sure they were covering all the bases, they added a final clause: “And any other road in the same predicament.” Now that’s what I call pragmatism. It’s easier to get the written word to follow the people than to get the people to follow the written word.

---

*Chris Conrod lives in South Tamworth. He spends a fair amount of time wandering the woods where he encounters cellar holes, old roads, and deer ticks.*

# Legacy

PEGGY JOHNSON

When Tamworth was a scraggly settlement, concerned town elders decided to call in a leader. A man named Samuel Hidden was asked, and answered the call. In 1792 the Tamworth Congregational Church officially came into being. Regular attendance was about 300 people, they say. Parson Hidden came to believe this earnest and hardworking community could only profit from having some education. So he taught reading and by 1796 he had established a small library of books for circulation. He made sure that a number of young men could go away to school for more education. In 1893, by a decree of the New Hampshire Legislature, public libraries were established and the state helped every community create a collection. In our town, Parson Hidden formed the cohesive community that was the church, and the far-reaching community of the mind that is the library. We remain richly endowed by his vision.



Monument on Ordination Rock, Cleveland Hill Road



# Reflections on Tamworth's Religious & Spiritual Life

HEIDI FRANTZ-DALE

There was a time from the mid-1960s to the 1970s when the religious profile of Tamworth was relatively clear. There was the Roman Catholic Church — Our Lady of Perpetual Help — a summer-only mission church in Chocorua (now Rutabaga Upholstery), the Methodist Church in South Tamworth, the Wonalancet Chapel, and the three yoked churches — Saint Andrew's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, the Tamworth Congregational Church, and the Chocorua Baptist Church, these three served by one pastor who was an Episcopal priest.

By the early 2000s, the building housing the Catholic Church had been sold, with many Tamworth parishioners attending services year-round at St. Joseph's Church in Center Ossipee; the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes had been established and met in Runnells Hall (Chocorua); the Tamworth Village Congregational Church and the Chocorua Community Church were yoked, shared a pastor, and alternated by month as to which church was used; and Saint Andrew's-in-the-Valley had its own full-time rector.

As we begin 2016, the profile has continued to shift and become more diversified. The Unitarian-Universalists purchased the former school building in Tamworth Village in 2004 and are a solid presence in our area. They also host the weekly summer farmers' market. The Methodist Church has a small congregation. Saint Andrew's continues to have a full-time rector. The Tamworth Congregational Church and the Chocorua Community Church now operate independently with part-time clergy leadership. The Wonalancet Chapel holds non-denominational services in the summer and on Christmas Eve.

But the list does not stop there. Alcoholics Anonymous and AlAnon function in many ways as communities of faith; they meet weekly at Saint Andrew's. The Native American community holds pow-wows twice a year, one at the Tamworth Campground and one in West Ossipee. Other religious communities in the wider



**Will Tamworth be tapping trees in 2050?**

## What I love about Tamworth is....

# “What I Love About Tamworth”

On January 29, 2011, Lianne Prentice posted the following note on the Tamworth Exchange, along with a few of her family's thoughts on what they love about Tamworth.

*Sometimes it's easy to overlook the simple things in our everyday lives which shape and affect us, which make our days pleasant or special or at least tolerable. Often it's the cumulative effect of a hundred or a thousand really small details which total a rich life. Our family started talking over dinner tonight about what makes Tamworth the place we love.*

She encouraged others to share their thoughts and promised to compile the list and share it at town meeting in March. Little did she realize what an outpouring of thoughts, gratitude, memories, and tributes would emerge from the Tamworth community in response to her challenge.

Charlie Ames' stories.

Dancing with Bun Nickerson.

John Moir and his cars.

Steve Damon and his camera.

Elva and Carl Bickford in the little South Tamworth post office.

June's smile at The Other Store.

Arlene Cummings' doughnuts, crispy right out of her cast iron pan full of hot lard.

Don Macy giving directions to the lost during foliage season at Roger Elliot's garage.

Walter at the post office.

Marge Mather at the Chocorua Library.

Joan Phenix and her summer science program and preschool.

Harry Thompson & his vegetable farm.

Ice skating with Joan Cave.

Barry Paterno's love of turtles.

David Anthony's model car collection.

Betty Steele, Peg King...cherish their tales, and trails.

Wes Eldridge... he was king of the steering wheel wave.

Hearing any of the fourteen Roberts speak in that distinctive Roberts way.

The Lost Boys' crazy floats in the 4th of July parade.

Being able to walk around the pond to my piano lesson a few minutes away.

Neighbors who tolerate barking dogs, bake apple pies, pick up chicken food when we run out, share tomatoes, and make birthday cards.

The children's room at the Cook Library, and Jean Ulitz always ready with a suggestion of what I should read next.

George Cleveland in the kissing booth during one of the fairs out behind the Tamworth Inn.

Staffords'-in-the-Fields: suppers at long tables, Ramona's amazing cooking, dances in the barn, theater in the barn.

George Roberts buying gallons of milk each week to feed all the kitties that found their way to his barn ...

Leon Hartford working me into the ground sharpening hardwood fence stakes with an axe.

The fact that Doc Remick kept all his pills in a cabinet with glass fronts in his office and made house calls for the price of a chicken or a loaf of bread.

Dialing a wrong number, recognizing the voice that answers; saying "Oh, sorry, I mixed yours up with so-and-so's again – you know, 46 instead of 45," sharing a people when I'm 'away' often misread this gesture, which is now a habit of mine.

---

*The complete "What I Love About Tamworth" list can be found at  
[www.tamworthfoundation.org/community/why-we-love-tamworth/](http://www.tamworthfoundation.org/community/why-we-love-tamworth/)*



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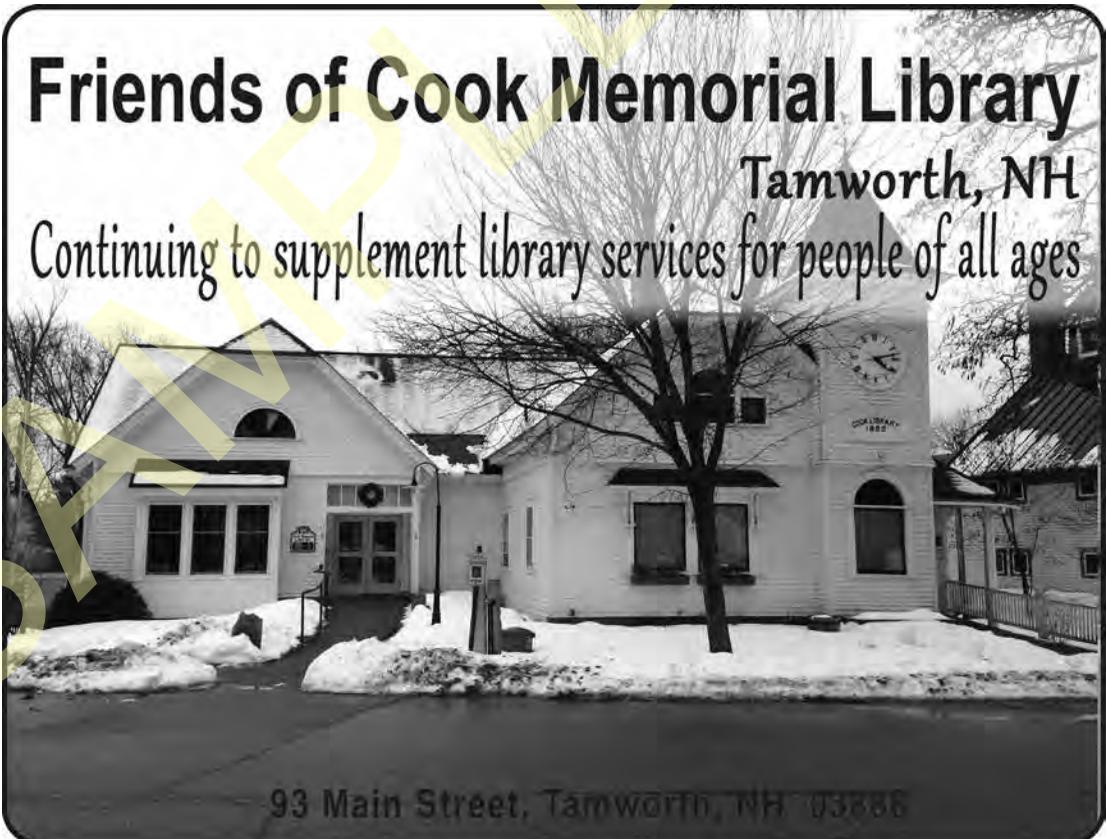
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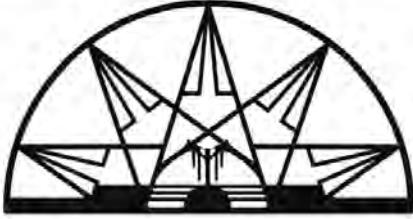
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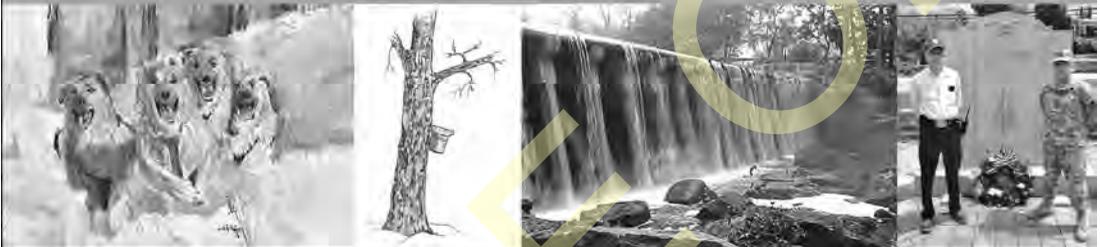
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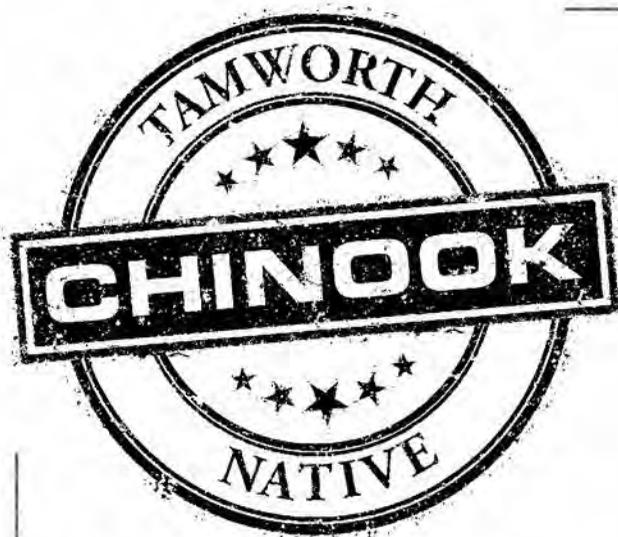


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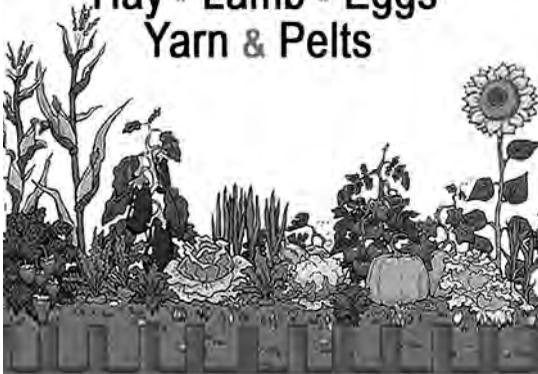
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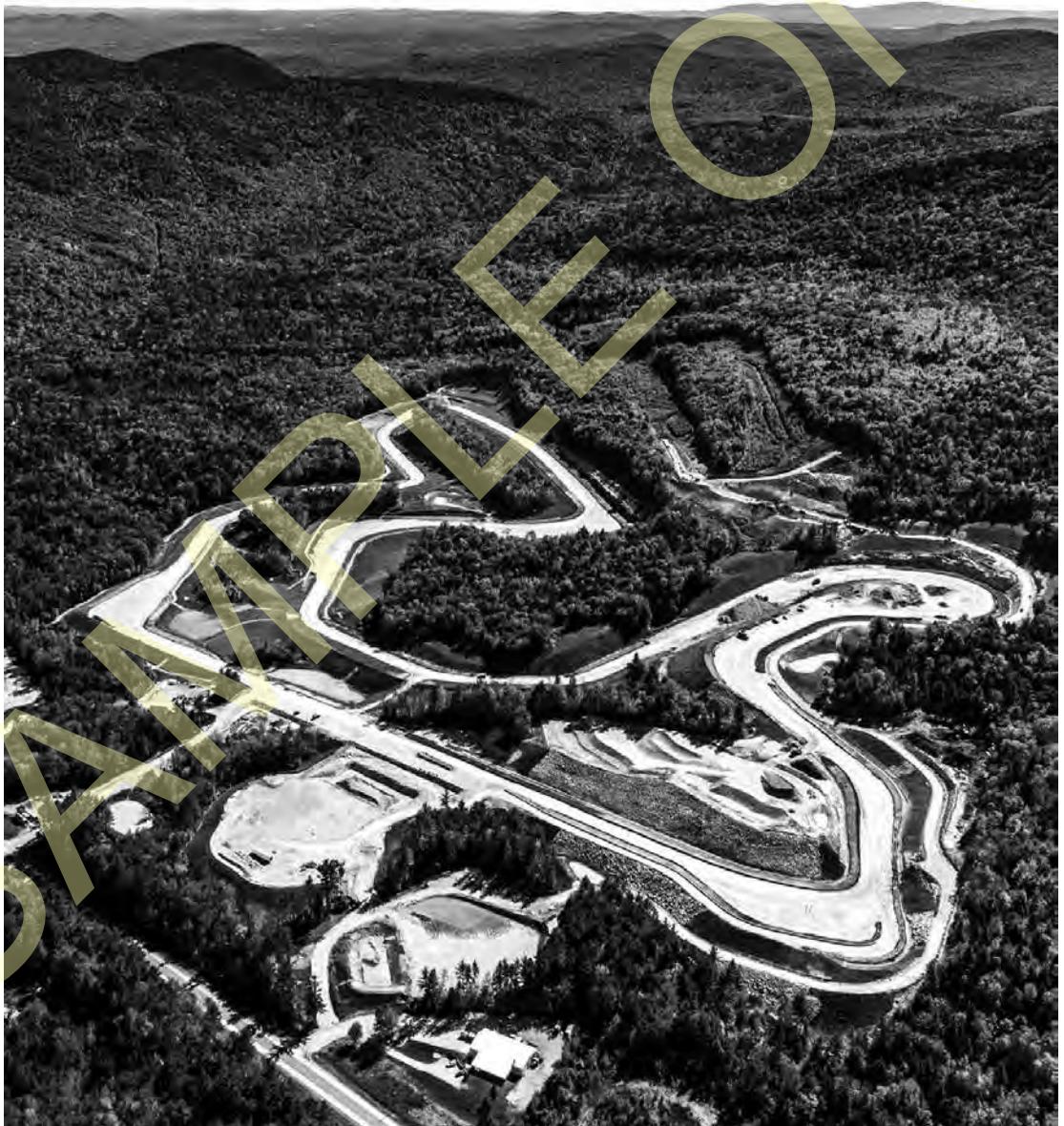
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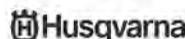
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Chocorua Lake (114).  
Courtesy of John B. Watkins: Chocorua Bridge, 1905 (111)  
Courtesy of White Gates Farm: Greenhouse (73)

Inside front cover:

The Tamworth 250th Mosaic Murals, a project of Arts Council of Tamworth with the support of local grantors, business sponsors, and donors, were created over the winter and spring of 2016. Many community members and every Kenneth A. Brett student submitted hundreds of ideas, photographs, and drawings. Artist David Fichter distilled these into a mural design. Brett students, teachers, families, and many dozens of community members built, mounted, and grouted the mosaics on the front face of the Brett School, assisted by a dedicated team of volunteers.



# How Do You See Tamworth ?

AMY BERRIER

Here is Tamworth! A town, technically defined by man-made boundaries, but laid out in a landscape formed by volcanic upheaval, glacial action, and the passage of time that spills beyond any legal delineation of property. Look closely and you will see the organic nature of how the roads we travel were established, following a curving hill or meandering river.

This map was chosen to give you, the viewer, a chance to pause, to consider Tamworth from a new perspective, to explore with your mind's eye and get curious about where you and your neighbors live, walk, drive, work, hike, fish, ski, and sometimes pull over to admire the scenery.

Follow the major routes, shown here in black: Route 16 runs north/south along Tamworth's eastern border, crossing Route 113 in Chocorua Village, just south of Chocorua Lake. Turn here, and travel west, skirting Page Hill and arriving at the "Four Corners" intersection and Tamworth Village in the center of the map. If you turn right here, Route 113A takes you on a wandering road along the Swift River and, eventually, to the Wonalancet Intervale tucked against the Sandwich Range in the northwest corner of town. Back at the crossroads in Tamworth Village, turn left instead and head south on Route 113. In a short two miles, just past the Brett School, is the junction of Route 25 and the tiny hamlet of Whittier. Here, facing the Ossipee Mountains to the south, you must turn right or left. Go right, and Route 25 will take you westward, passing through South Tamworth and on across Tamworth's western border to Sandwich and beyond. Turn left instead, and travel east on either the old or new versions of Route 25 until you leave Tamworth and meet up with Route 16 again in West Ossipee.

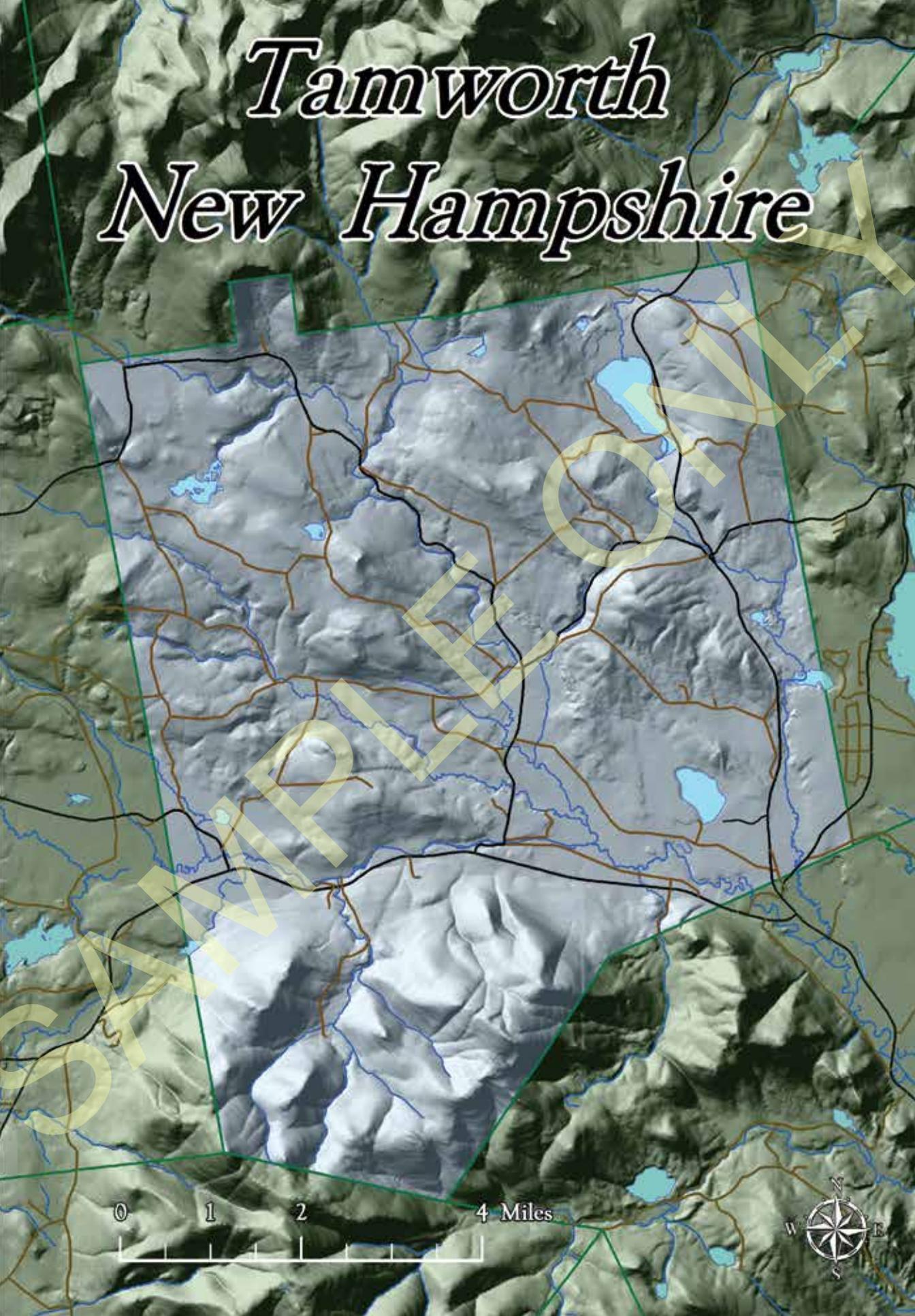
But don't limit yourself to the main roads! Challenge your Tamworth knowledge and explore the network of secondary byways (pictured here in brown) and the rivers, streams, and water bodies (noted in blue). We have, intentionally, left the slate of names blank so that you can enjoy this view of town and, perhaps, appreciate Tamworth from a new perspective in this, our 250th year.

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*Map features obtained from NH GRANIT (1:24,000 scale). Hillshade created from National Elevation Dataset; Hydrological Data from U.S. EPA & USGS; Roads from N.H. DOT; Town boundaries from the USGS quadrangles. Projection: NH State Plane Feet. (NAD83)*

# *Tamworth*

## *New Hampshire*



1766 - 2016

# TAMWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE

