



Moretown

Moretown was chartered June 7, 1763 before the American Revolution. It was first settled about 1790 a year before Vermont was formally admitted to the Union.

Between 1749 and 1764 Benning Wentworth, Royal Governor of New Hampshire granted 135 townships in the territory destined to become Vermont. In each township he reserved 500 acres for himself. He amassed a fortune by selling land and collecting fees from the proprietors.

The charter by which Moretown came into being is dated June 7, 1763. In flowing script it starts: "Province of New Hampshire. George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King and Defender of the Faith. To all Persons who these presents Shall Come, Greetings." The charter continues, "... for the due encouragement of Settling a new plantation within our Said province by and with the advice of our trusty and well beloved Benning Wentworth Esq., our Governor and Commander in Chief of our Said Province of New Hampshire in New England..." Moretown settlers are "Our loving Subjects, Inhabitants of our Said province of New Hampshire." Then comes the important part: a parcel of six square miles beginning and ending at a point on the Onion River"...is hereby incorporated into a township by the name of Moretown. This document has survived for 250 years.

No one knows for sure how Moretown got its name. There is the old story that when Washington County was being formed and maps drawn, a large parcel of land was left over, prompting the response, "My God, more town." But this theory has a flaw. The town was named Moretown in the original grant in 1763. Straight lines designated townships as drawn out by Benning Wentworth who used the Winooski (Onion) river as a northern boundary, then drew three straight lines, without considering topography to create our town of Moretown. In 1791 when Vermont joined the Union our town was known as Moretown in the County of Chittenden.

Some quotes from historical voices about the terrain of Moretown.

**"Much of the township is mountainous and incapable of being settled."
Zadock Thompson 1842**

**"Moretown is considerable broken in surface, but is romantic and affords much to please and profit the student of nature. The Couching Lion (Camel's Hump) is seen from various points and is only a few miles distant from Moretown.
Rev.Seldon Currier ca 1858**

**"Owing to the mountainous condition of the township it is divided into several separate neighborhoods, which prevents building up any large village within its borders.
Hamilton Child, ca 1880**

The Town of Moretown is an area of 23,348 acres with a population of 1653 people in the 2000 Census. Of that 1616 lived were deemed a rural population and 37 were urban. There was a male population of 831 and female 822. 13.5% of the population was age 65 and over. In the year 1800 there were 191 inhabitants.

The settlement of Moretown was started about 1790 and on March 9th, 1792 a meeting of the voters was held at the house of Joseph Haseltine for the purpose of electing officers. Until 1832 town meetings were held on Moretown Common. At that time it was voted to hold future meetings in the Hollow and they have been held there ever since. The present meeting hall (Town Hall) was started by subscription.

Moretown is situated on the Mad River in the heart of the Green Mountain at an altitude of 620 feet. Moretown is bounded on the north by Waterbury and Middlesex, east by Berlin, south by Northfield and Waitsfield and west by Duxbury. The village lies in the extreme southwest corner of the town.