

A Tale of Two “Moretowns”

Moretown Historical Society



1. In **2025**, the PBS’ documentary “The American Revolution” described a Colonel John Peters who was a delegate to the 1st Constitutional Convention in **1774** from **Moretown Vermont!** Moretown historians had two questions:
- How could this be true since there were no European settlers in present-day Moretown until **1790**?
 - Had Ken Burns erred or had there been two Moretowns?



New York Patents - 1775



New Hampshire Grants -1774

2. The British colonies of New York and New Hampshire both claimed the land which became Vermont.



Red arrow points to Mooretown



Sir Henry Moore
Royal Governor of the
Province of New York
1765-1769

3. In **1770**, New York issued a patent for a town on the west bank of the Connecticut River called **Mooretown** in honor of Sir Henry Moore, their Royal Governor.

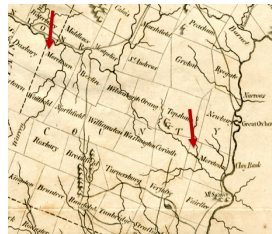


1879 Map of New York during the Revolutionary War – red arrow points to “Moretown”



1780 Map of the Province of New York
red arrow points to “Moretown”

4. However, most **Mooretown** residents were Patriots and referred to their town as “**Moretown**,” rather than recognize Royal Governor Moore.



1795 – Map of “Vermont from Actual Survey”
Red arrows point to two Moretowns

Pay Roll of a Scout from Moretown, Jan 1786

Scout	Days	Pay	Money	Total
Hezekiah Sherry, Co.	4	1.00	0.00	1.00
John Barry	4	1.00	0.00	1.00
Robert Kennedy	4	1.00	0.00	1.00
John Gault, Sergeant	4	1.00	0.00	1.00
Samuel Davis	4	1.00	0.00	1.00
				5.00

Test, Hezekiah Sherry, Clerk of said Scout,
Attest, John Barry, Agent.

Pay Table Office, Rutland, Oct. 28, 1786. The within Pay Roll being examined and approved, the Treasurer will pay the contents of the same to Maj. John Barry for said Scout, being the sum of five pounds 10/00 of money.

Thomas Johnson, Comptroller

Rutland, Oct. 28, 1786. Recd. of the Treasurer the contents of the above order.
John Barry.

Rolls of the soldiers in the Revolutionary War
1775 to 1783

5. Because of this practice, the name “**Moretown**” rather than **Mooretown** appears on maps until at least **1818**, and on payroll rosters for Revolutionary War scouts from **Mooretown**.

“It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, That the name of the township of Moretown, in the County of Orange, be forever hereafter known by the name of *Bradford*: And that it is hereby provided that, whenever an advertisement respecting said Township shall be published, within three years from the passing of this act, it shall be called ‘Bradford, heretofore known by the name of Mooretown, in Orange County.’”

6. Following the Revolution, Mooretown residents petitioned the Vermont General Assembly to rename their town “**Bradford**.” The Assembly changed the name in 1788.



Wentworth in 1760
by Joseph Blackburn



Moretown map on the back
of the original 1763 Charter

7. In **1763**, New Hampshire colonial Governor Benning Wentworth chartered **Moretown** on the south bank of the Winooski River and likely named it for two of his patrons, Daniel and James Moorehouse.



8. The first European settlers in Governor Wentworth’s Moretown, Seth Munson and Ebenezer Haseltine, did not settle along the Winooski in North Moretown until about **1790**.



ca. 1783 Restored cabin of Jedidiah Hyde, Jr. on Grand Isle

9. The first Moretown town meeting was held in the home of Joseph Haseltine, the brother of Ebenezer, on **March 22, 1792**, in a cabin similar to this one.



Ebenezer Haseltine (1764-1843)
Fairmont Cemetery, Moretown



Seth Munson (1768?-1824)
Hope Cemetery, Waterbury

10. Ebenezer Haseltine and Seth Munson are buried in North Moretown and Waterbury, respectively.



11. In summary, there have been two Moretowns, the official Moretown chartered in **1763** and the other the informal name used for present-day Bradford, Vermont at the time of the Revolutionary War and until around **1788**.



12. A search of the U.S. Geological Survey Board of Geographic Names database and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Geographic Names Server indicates that there is **only one Moretown in the world today!**