

HISTORY
OF THE
SEAL AND FLAG
OF THE
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SEAL.

The history of the seal of New Hampshire must necessarily begin with the first establishment of a separate government for the Province, and the assumption of administration by President John Cutt Jan. 1, 1679/80.

From the first settlement in 1623 to 1641, during which time only four towns developed into existence, these towns failed to unite in a common government.

For many years the inhabitants were so few that an established form of government was not one of the necessities of a safe and orderly life. But with a steady increase in population the need of a code of laws and regulations and a recognized controlling power became manifest. As this necessity did not appear in all the towns at the same time, each dealt with its own affairs as circumstances seemed to require.

The grant of New Hampshire to Capt. John Mason was not a charter, and did not convey any power of political government. Tuttle says, in his volume of Historical Papers, 1889, "but the grant of so much power as should be necessary to protect his own rights and the rights of his servants, as well as to preserve order, must be understood as implied in the concession made to him. In the

the following order providing the first seal for the Province of New Hampshire:

“Whereas His Ma^{tie} has thought fitt by His Royall Commission Dated the 18th of Septemb^r 1679 to constitute and appoint a President & Council for the ordering and ruling that part of the Province of New Hampshire lying from three Miles Northwards of Merrimack River unto the Province of Maine in New England; And whereas the said Council is thereby directed to have and use from time to time such Seale only for the Sealing their Acts & Orders and Proceedings as His Ma^{tie} should please to send unto them, It is this day ordered in Council, that the Seale herewith sent (an Impression whereof is in the Margin affixed) bee taken and acknowledged in the said Province of New Hampshire as the Seal appointed by His Ma^{tie} and that the same bee affixed unto all publick Acts, Orders, and Proceedings within the Said Government And that it bee to all intents and purposes of the same force and validity within the said Province as any other His Ma^{ties} publick Seales in Barbados, Jamaica, Virginia or any other His Ma^{ties} Plantations in America. And His Ma^{ties} said President and Council of New Hampshire is hereby authorized and directed to keep and apply the same to the said uses. And whereas His Ma^{tie} is graciously pleased to send His Royall Portraiture together with his Imperial Armes unto His said President & Council of New Hampshire



CUTT SEAL
1679/80

as a mark of His Royall favour and Protection to the Inhabitants thereof, It is hereby ordered that the same bee kept and exposed to view within such place as shall bee appointed for the meeting of His Ma^{ties} said Council.”¹

The records of the Council of New Hampshire for Jan. 1, 1679/80, state:²

“This day by the hands of Edw: Randolph esq^r wee his Maj^{ties} president & Council for the prov. of N— Hampshire received his Maj^{ties} Commission of grace & favor for the Gov^rm^t of said province together wth a seale & Letter from y^e Kings Maj^{tie} & his hon^{bl} privi Council.”

Only one impression of this seal has been found in the archives of New Hampshire, which appears in the first Council Book on a document dated Jan. 22, 1679/80. This is in very bad condition, as will be seen by the reproduction, but it shows a little of the device. In the order of the King and Council of Sept. 19, 1679, providing for this seal, mention is made of an impression thereof in the margin of the original document. An inquiry, and a request for a photograph, sent to B. F. Stevens & Brown of London, brought the reply that the impression mentioned did not appear on the document, and that they were unable to find an

¹ Archives of England, Colonial Entry Book, vol. 61, p. 9; copy in New Hampshire Historical Society.

² 19 N. H. State Papers, 655.

unbroken specimen in the British archives. No description of this seal is recorded except the reference in the Council Records Oct. 4, 1682, on the occasion of the reception of the new seal for the Cranfield administration. By this record it appears that the Cutt seal, which was $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, bore the inscription:

SIGILLUM PREASIDENTIS ET CONSILIS DE PROVINCIA
NOVÆ HAMPTONIÆ IN NOVA ANGLIA

John Cutt died March 27, 1681, and was succeeded by Richard Waldron, Deputy President, acting as President until the arrival of Cranfield, during which period the seal was probably not changed.

1682.

Edward Cranfield, Lieutenant-Governor by commission dated May 9, 1682, published his commission and assumed office Oct. 4, 1682. He brought with him from England a new seal, which he presented in Council on that day, as appears by the Council Records.¹

“The old Seal of y^e Province having this Inscription SIGILLUM PREASIDENTIS ET CONSILIS DE PROVINCIA NOVÆ HAMPTONIÆ IN NOVA ANGLIA, was by y^e Governour demanded (as directed by the said Commisⁿ) & delivered up to him by the late President Richard Waldron Esq^r And a new one of Silver brought by the Govern^r having these

¹ 17 N. H. State Papers, 563.



CRANFIELD SEAL

1682

words around it SIGILLUM PROVINCIAE NOSTRAE NOVÆ HAMPTONIAE IN NOVA ANGLIA, was shown, & is to be kept in custody of the Governour."

Only one impression of this seal has been found, and no description except as in the Council Records quoted above. Inscription:

SIGILLUM : PROVINCIAE : NOSTRAE : NOVÆ :
HAMPTONIAE : IN : NOVA : ANGLIA

1686.

James II ascended the throne Feb. 6, 1684/5. Under date of Oct. 8, 1685, he commissioned Joseph Dudley President, to rule over the Territory and Dominion of New England, consisting of Massachusetts Bay, Maine, New Hampshire, and the Narragansett Country, or King's Province. When President Dudley assumed office May 25, 1686, the separate governments of the provinces united into the Dominion of New England were superseded by the central government so established, and their respective seals had no authority.

In the commission and instructions to Dudley there is no mention of a seal, but the fact of a new seal for this administration is proved by a crude wood-cut on an issue of printed laws of 1686 in the possession of the New Hampshire State Library, a photographic fac-simile of which is published in the Province Laws of New Hampshire, vol. I, p. 811.

Dudley was superseded by Sir Edmund Andros, whose commission, dated June 3, 1686, was pre-

sented in New Hampshire on the 20th of December of that year. The Dominion under Andros was enlarged to include New Plymouth and Rhode Island in 1686, and Connecticut was added in 1687; and in Andros's second commission, dated April 7, 1688, New York and East and West Jersey were included.

In the instructions accompanying this second commission appears specific mention of a Dominion seal, and the seal of New York, previously used by that government, is ordered to be destroyed.

"And whereas since our Accession to the Crown, Wee have appointed a new Seal for our Colonies of New England, as also another Seal for our Province of New York, which being now united under one government^t, Wee do hereby direct and require that the Seal appointed for the said colony of New England be henceforth made use of for all that our Territory and Dominion in its largest extent & boundaries aforementioned; and that the Seal for our Province of New York be forthwith broken and defaced in your presence."¹

The government of Andros was overthrown by a popular uprising in Boston April 18, 1689, and from that date until March 19, 1689/90, New Hampshire was without any government, either by appointment of the Crown or by its own people, and the towns were obliged to take care of them-

¹ 1 N. H. Prov. Laws, 238.

selves. Efforts were made to unite the towns in a plan of government, but without success. On the latter date the New Hampshire towns were, for the second time, received into the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts government, and afterwards sent their representatives to the General Court in Boston.

1692.

This second union was terminated by the appointment of Samuel Allen as Governor of New Hampshire, his commission being dated March 1, 1691/2. A new seal was, of course, now necessary. But it was not ready, and not until July 29, 1692, does any decisive action appear on record, which was in response to Allen's petition read that day. On that date the Lords of the Committee of Trade and Plantations reported as follows:

"My Lord President is desired by the Lords of the Committee of Trade and Plantations to present to her Ma^{ty} in Councill a Seal prepared by their Lordships approbation for her Ma^{ty}'s Allowance that the same may be made Use of as the Publick Seal of the Government in their Ma^{ty}'s Province of New Hampshire.

"And to move her Ma^{ty} that the Publick Records which were removed to Boston from that Province when the same was annexed to the Government of New England may be Ordered to be delivered to the Governor of New Hampshire or such as shall be

appointed by him to Recieve the same to be brought back to remain in that Province as formerly."¹

There is now in the custody of the New Hampshire Historical Society a silver seal of the reign of William and Mary, evidently designed for the use of the Province of New Hampshire during the administration of Samuel Allen. This seal is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch in thickness, and weighs a little more than three ounces. It bears the royal arms, garter, crown, and motto, DIEU ET MON DROIT, and the inscription SIG: PROVIN : NRÆ : NOVÆ : HAMPTON : IN : NOV : ANGLIA. On the upper left of the arms are the letters W and M interlaced, and on the upper right the letters R and R, interlaced, indicating William and Mary, Rex and Regina.

This seal was formerly owned by the Misses Getchell of Newburyport, Mass., and was by them deposited in the custody of the Bostonian Society in 1888, where it remained several years. A few years ago it was purchased by the New Hampshire State Library, and has recently been deposited in the museum of the New Hampshire Historical Society. At the time of its loan to the Bostonian Society Mr. James Rindge Stanwood of Portsmouth delivered a learned address on the history of the seal, which was afterwards printed in the Proceedings of that Society and in pamphlet form.

¹ Archives of England, Colonial Entry Book, vol. 67, p. 209; copy in New Hampshire Historical Society.



WILLIAM AND MARY
1692-1694

It is asserted by some investigators of the subject that this silver seal never was used in New Hampshire. The period of its possible use covered little more than two years, allowing necessary time for delivery in New Hampshire after its adoption by the Board of Trade July 29, 1692, to the death of Queen Mary Dec. 28, 1694. Only one act passed during this reign, and bearing a seal, is preserved in the archives of the State. This is "An Act for the Reviving & Continuing of an Act for the establishing a Revenew for the defraying the publick Charge of the Governm^t," passed Oct. 21, 1693. This document does not bear the seal of William and Mary, but is sealed with a die like that of the succeeding reign. The Council Records for 1692 being very defective, it is not now possible to find any record of the time of the presentation of the silver seal, but the fact that it was not used on the one surviving document of that period is not proof that it was never used. New seals were frequently late in arriving in New Hampshire, as will be seen in later cases, sometimes not being received until several years of the new reign had passed. There is no evidence that this seal may not have been used later in 1693 and during the whole of the year 1694.

1695.

After the death of Queen Mary Dec. 28, 1694, a new seal was necessary, as William III then reigned alone, and the monogram indicating the joint reign of William and Mary became obsolete.

A fair impression of a seal is found on an act of April 5, 1698, and is here shown.

This seal is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, and bears the royal arms, garter, crown, the lion and unicorn as supporters, the motto, and the inscription:

SIG : PROVIN : NRÆ : NOVÆ : HAMPTON : IN :
NOV : ANGLIA

This is the same as the seal used on the act of 1693, mentioned before. It is a fair assumption that at that time the seal of William and Mary had not arrived, or it would have been then used. Therefore the seal which was used must have been that of a previous administration, undoubtedly the Cranfield seal of 1682. It is, of course, possible that the silver seal of William and Mary was not received until after the death of Mary, when it could not be used, and that the old Cranfield seal, brought forth for temporary use in the beginning of Allen's administration, was used continuously until the arrival of the Bellomont seal. The inscription is the same, though in abbreviated form, as that described in the Council Records of Oct. 4, 1682.

1699.

The Earl of Bellomont was made Governor of New Hampshire by a commission dated June 18, 1697, and he was at the same time Governor of Massachusetts by a separate commission. He did not come to America until the next year, and did



ALLEN SEAL

1695

not publish his commission and begin his administration in New Hampshire until July 31, 1699.

The province seal was changed with this administration, though William III still sat on the throne. A special instruction to Bellomont June 10, 1699, transmits a new seal as follows:

“To our Right trusty and well beloved cosin, Richard Earle of Bellomont, our Govern^r and Commander-in-chief of our Province of New Hampshire, in New England, in America; and to our Lt. Govern^r and Coman^r-in-chiefe of our said Province, for the time being, Greeting: with this you will receive a Seal, prepared by our order for the use of the Government of New Hampshire; which Seale is engraven with our Arms, Garter, Supporters, Motto and Crown; with this Inscription around the same: SIG. PROVINCIÆ NOSTRÆ DE NOV. HAMPTONIA IN AMERIC: and our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby authorize you and our L^t Govern^r, or commander-in-chiefe of our said Province, for the time being, to affix the said Seale to all patents and grants of Land, and to all Publick acts and Instruments of Governm^t which shall be made and passed in our name, within our said Province; and that it be to all intents and purposes of the same force and validity as any former Seale appointed for the public use of the Government in our said Province, hath heretofore been; which former Seals are not to be made further use of or affixed to any public acts or Instruments whatsoever, but to be defaced and broken.

“Given at our Court at Kensington, the tenth day of June, 1699, in the tenth year of our Reign.

“By his Maj^{ty}'s command Ja. Vernon.”

(3 N. H. Prov. Papers, 80; 1 N. H. Prov. Laws, 632.)

The Journal of the Council and Assembly for Aug. 15, 1699, records the introduction of the new seal, and it last appears on an act passed Aug. 23, 1704.

“His Excellency produces a former Great Seal of this Province, which he rece^d this day from the hands of Sam^l Allen, Esq., late Govern^r, and which he caused to be cut in two and defaced, pursuant to his Maj^{ty}'s warrant bearing date the tenth day of June, 1699, in the tenth year of his Maj^{ty}'s Reign, and the silver of the said former Seal, his Excellency hath delivered to the Secretary to be restored to Sam^l Allen, Esq., aforesaid.

“His Excellency doth also deliver to W^m Partridge, Esq., L^t Govern^r, a new great seale lately sent to his Excellency from England; and orders that the Secretary do enter his Maj^{ty}'s warrant in the Council Book, authorizing and commanding the use of the said seale within this his Maj^{ty}'s Province; which warrant bears date as aforesaid.”

(3 N. H. Prov. Papers, 80; 1 N. H. Prov. Laws, 633.)

This seal was $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, and bore the royal arms, garter, crown, supporters, motto, and the inscription:



BELLOMONT SEAL

1699

SIG · PROVINCIÆ · NOSTRÆ · DE · NOV · HAMPTONIA · IN · AMERIC

1705.

Queen Anne succeeded to the throne March 8, 1701/2, and Joseph Dudley was appointed Governor of New Hampshire by commission dated April 1, 1702, the Earl of Bellomont having died in New York March 5, 1701/2. Dudley was also Governor of Massachusetts by a separate commission. Governor Dudley published his commission in New Hampshire and assumed the government July 13, 1702. Apparently no change in the seal for New Hampshire was made for nearly three years.

A special royal instruction to Governor Dudley dated May 3, 1705, transmitted a new seal and ordered the destruction of the old dies, but an impression of the new seal appears on an act as early as April 23, 1705. It may, of course, have been applied later, after the arrival of the new dies.

ANNE R.

“To our trusty and well beloved Joseph Dudley Esq^r our Captaine General and Commander in Cheife of our province of New Hampshire in New England in America and to our Lieu^t Governour & Comander in Cheife, of our Said province for the time being Greeting. with this you will receive a Seale prepared by our Order for the use of the Government of New Hampshire; which Seale is Engraven, with our Armes Garter, Supporter, Motto, and Crown, with this Inscription Round the

Same, SIG: PROVINCIÆ NOSTRÆ, NOVÆ HAMPTONIÆ IN AMERIC. And our will & pleasure is and wee doe hereby Authorize you and our Lieutenant Governour or Comander in Cheife of our Said province of New Hampshire for the time being; to fix the Said Seale to all pattents & Grants of Lands, and to all publick Acts and Instruments of Government, which shall be made & passed in our Name within our Said province, And that it be to all intents and purposes of the Same force and validitie as any former Seale appointed for the publick use of the Government in our Said province hath heretofore been, which former Seals are not to be further made use off or affixed to any publick Acts or Instruments whatsoever but to be defaced and Broken. Given at our Court at S^t James the third day of May 1705: in the fourth yeare of our Reigne.

By her Majesties Command C Hedges”
(2 N. H. Prov. Laws, 31.)

The Journal of the Council for Sept. 20, 1705, records the presentation of the new seal and the letter of instruction accompanying it as follows:

“Her Majesties Letter dated at the Court at Saint James the 3rd Day of May 1705 Relating to a New Seale prepared for the use of this her Majesties Government of New Hampshire, which Seale was Engraven, with her Majesties Arms, Garter, Supporter, Motto and Crown, with this Inscription Round the Same SIG: PROVINCIÆ NOSTRÆ NOVÆ



DUDLEY SEAL

1705

HAMPTONIÆ IN AMERIC. and that the Said Seale be affixed to all pattents and Grants of Land, and to all other publick Acts, and other publick uses for our Said province. And that the fformer Seale be noe more or further used or Affixed to any publick Acts or Instruments whatsoever, but to be defaced and broken &c: was read at this Board.

“His Honour the L^t Governour produced the New Seale to this Board, and demanded the old Seale of the Secretary; which was by him Shewn to the Honourable the Lieu^t Governour and Council, whereupon they Imediately Ordered the Same to be broken & defaced, which was accordingly done by the Secretary in the publick View of the Hon^{ble} the Lieu^t Govern^r and her Majesties Council now present.”

The design of the new seal included the royal arms, garter, crown, and supporters, as before, but the die was larger, being two inches in diameter, and the border was changed from milled edge to ivy leaves, and the motto was changed from DIEU ET MON DROIT to SEMPER EADEM on a different scroll. The inscription differed slightly, being:

SIG · PROVINCIÆ · NOSTRÆ · NOVÆ · HAMPTONIÆ
IN · AMERIC

1709.

For some reason not now ascertained the seal was again changed in 1709. There was no change in the monarchy nor in the governorship of the Prov-

ince. A special royal instruction to Governor Dudley dated Oct. 29, 1709, transmitted the new seal in these words:

ANNE R.

“To our trusty and well beloved Joseph Dudley Esq^r Our Captaine General and Commander in Cheife of our province of New Hampshire in New England in America, and to our Lieutenant Governour and Commander of our said province for the time being Greeting. with this you will receive a Seal prepared by our Order for the use of our Goverment of New Hampshire which Seal is Engraven with Our Arms, Garter, Supporters, Motto, and Crown with this Inscription round the Same, SIG. PROVINCIÆ NOSTRÆ NOVÆ HAMPTONIÆ IN AMERICA; And our will and pleasure is and wee doe hereby Authorize you and our Lieutenant Governour or Commander in Cheife of our said province of New Hampshire for the time being to ffix the Said Seal to all patents and Grants of Lands and to all publick Acts and Instruments of Goverment which shall be made and passed in Our name within our said province and that it be to all intents and purposes of the Same force and Validitye as any former Seal appointed for the publick use of the Goverment in our said province hath heretofore been And wee further will and require you Upon the receipt of the Said Seal to Cause the former Seal to be Broke before you in Council, And then to transmitt the said former Seal soe broken to our



DUDLEY SEAL

1709

Commissioners for Trade and plantations to be laid before us in Council as Usual. Given at our Castle of Windsor the 29th day of October, 1709, in the Eighth year of our Reign

By her Maj^{ties} Command Sunderland"
(2 N. H. Prov. Laws, 33.)

This royal message was read in Council Aug. 14, 1710, though an impression of the new seal is found as early as Dec. 6, 1709. It appears from the Council Record that the Queen's instructions were then read with special reference to the destruction of the old seal, which was on that day broken in the presence of the Council.

The new die was of the same general design as the former, but larger, being $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter, and bore the royal arms, garter, crown, supporters, and the motto SEMPER EADEM. The final A in America was not engraved on the seal, though it appears in the official description. The inscription was:

SIG * PROVINCIÆ * NOSTRÆ * NOVÆ * HAMPTONIÆ
* IN * AMERIC

This seal continued through the administration of Dudley, until the advent of Governor Shute.

1718.

The reign of George I began Aug. 1, 1714, but it was not until nearly four years later that the new seal arrived in New Hampshire. In the meantime

Samuel Shute became Governor of New Hampshire by commission dated June 15, 1716, and published in this Province Oct. 17, 1716, when he began his administration. Shute was also Governor of Massachusetts by a separate commission. The royal letter of transmittal and instruction has been found in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, by whose permission it is here published:

“To Our Trusty and Wellbeloved Samuel Shute Esq^r Our Captain General and Commander in Chief of Our Province of New Hampshire in New England in America, and to Our Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of Our said Province for the time being Greeting. With this you will receive a Seal prepared by Our Order for the Use of Our Government of New Hampshire which Seal is engraven with Our Arms, Garter, Supporters Motto and Crown, with this Inscription round the same: SIG: PROVINCIAE NOSTRAE NOVAE HAMPTONIAE IN AMERIC, which said Seal, We do hereby authorize and direct to be used in the Sealing all Patents & Grants of Lands and all Public Instruments which shall be made and passed in Our Name and for Our Service within Our said Province; And that it be to all Intents and Purposes of the same Force & Validity as any former Seal within Our said Province hath been heretofore. And We further will and require you upon the receipt of the said Seal to cause the former Seal to be broke before you in



SHUTE SEAL

1718

Council and then to transmit the said former Seal so broken to Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations to be laid before Us in Council as usual. Given at Our Court at Hampton Court the 8th Day of October 1717, In the Fourth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command J. Addison''

The new seal was produced in the Council June 26, 1718, as shown by the following entry in the Council Records for that day:

“His Hon^r The Leiu^t Gov^r produced and laid before This board a New Seal for the prov: of N-Hamp^r wth orders & Instructions from His Majesty King George for useing the same & for breaking the old Seal in p^{re}sence of The Councill w^{ch} was accordingly broken into two peices at y^e Same time.”

This seal, which first appears on an act of May 2, 1719, was of the same size as the former, 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches, but the old motto, DIEU ET MON DROIT, was restored. The device was the same, as was the inscription:

SIG * PROVINCIÆ * NOSTRÆ * NOVÆ * HAMPTONIÆ
* IN * AMERIC

1729.

George II ascended the throne June 11, 1727, and on Dec. 19, 1727, he commissioned William Burnet Governor of New Hampshire, who appeared and assumed the government of this

Province Nov. 2, 1728. He was also Governor of Massachusetts by a separate commission. A royal letter of instruction transmitting a new seal was issued Sept. 28, 1728, and the seal and instructions were presented in Council April 23, 1729, as appears by the Journal of the Council and Assembly. The letter of instruction is not found in the archives.

“His Excellency laid before the Board a New Seal wth his Majesty’s Instruction for using the same & sending home the old one: y^e Instruction bears the date y^e 28th Sept. 1728 & is on file.”

(4 N. H. Prov. Papers, 535.)

The seal of George II was of the same size as its predecessor, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches, and bore the usual royal arms, garter, crown, supporters, and motto, the motto, however, being on a different scroll. Here appeared the first New Hampshire seal bearing a double inscription, that of the reigning monarch of England, and of the Province of New Hampshire. These inscriptions were:

(Outer band) GEORGIUS · II · D · G · M · B · FR · ET
· HIB · REX · F · D · BRUN · ET · LUN · DUX · SA · RO ·
IM · AR · THES · ET · ELECT

(Inner band) SIG · PROVINCIÆ · NOSTRÆ · NOVÆ ·
HAMPTONIÆ · IN · AMERICA

The provincial inscription varies from the former seal in that the words are separated by dots instead of rosettes, and the word America is not abbreviated.



SEAL OF GEORGE II

1729



SEAL OF GEORGE III

1760

1760.

George III ascended the throne Oct. 25, 1760. Governor Burnet's administration was ended by his untimely death Sept. 8, 1729, and Jonathan Belcher was appointed to succeed him by a commission dated Jan. 28, 1729/30. He was also Governor of Massachusetts by a separate commission. He assumed the government of New Hampshire Aug. 25, 1730, and continued until succeeded by Benning Wentworth Dec. 13, 1741, whose commission was dated June 4, 1741. With Wentworth's appointment the government of New Hampshire was finally separated from that of Massachusetts after forty-two years of continuous joint administration. This independence immediately followed the settlement of the long disputed boundary between New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

With the advent of a new monarch the seal of George II became obsolete, and a new die was made, bearing the name of George III.

This seal is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, and bears the royal arms, garter, crown, supporters, motto, and the inscriptions:

(Outer band) GEORGIUS · III · D · G · M · B · FR · ET
· HIB · REX · F · D · BRUN · ET · LUN · DUX · SA · RO ·
IM · AR · THES · ET · ELECT

(Inner band) SIG · PROVINCIAE · NOSTRAE · NOVÆ ·
HAMPTONIAE · IN · AMERICA

Slight differences appear in the details of the devices, but the inscriptions are the same as on the former seal, except for the change on the throne.

No further changes in the seal were made during the continuance of royal government in New Hampshire.

1775.

Gov. John Wentworth issued his last official document Sept. 21, 1775, proroguing the General Assembly to Sept. 28, but actual government passed from him and the Assembly to the people when the First Provincial Congress met at Exeter July 21, 1774. New Hampshire was the first of the thirteen colonies to adopt a constitution, which was done Jan. 5, 1776, six months before the national Declaration of Independence. This constitution was a mere skeleton of a form of government, and was intended to continue only during the contest with Great Britain.

All things royal being discarded, the seal with the rest, a new seal was made, with a device of a significance relating entirely to New Hampshire. This seal was made and used in advance of the adoption of the constitution of 1776, as it is found on commissions issued to military officers by the Provincial Congress as early as Sept. 5, 1775.¹ No record is found of any legislative or executive proceedings in relation to the designing or adoption of this device.

¹ Stanwood Collection, in possession of the New Hampshire Historical Society.



COLONY SEAL

1775

This seal was used only about a year. The latest impression in the archives is on an act passed July 5, 1776, but the General Assembly adjourned on the next day, and did not sit again until Sept. 4. The seal was used on official documents issued by the Colony until the advent of the new seal in September.

This first seal of the independence of the colonies was small, being only $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and bore the inscription:

COLONY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE . VIS UNITA FORTIOR.

The design consisted of a fish and a tree, and between them a bundle of five arrows, bound together. The fish and the tree represented the colony's principal sources of wealth and subsistence, and the five arrows represented the five counties of the colony, united or bound into one government. The motto, "VIS UNITA FORTIOR," is translated "Strength United is Stronger."

1776.

The New Hampshire General Assembly adjourned July 6, 1776, before official notification of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Federal Congress could have been received. The Assembly met again Sept. 4, 1776, and the Declaration was read in the House of Representatives Sept. 10. Immediately following the reading, the House passed this resolution, which was concurred by the Council:

“Voted and Resolved That this Colony Assume and Take upon Themselves The Name & Stile of The State of New Hampshire, and That All Commissions, writs, Processes & all Law Proceedings which Heretofore were made & Issued in the Name & Stile of the Province of New Hampshire, or in the Name & Stile of the Colony of New Hampshire Shall Henceforth be made & Issued in the Name & Stile of The State of New Hampshire, and not otherwise.”

As on the seal of the previous year New Hampshire was called a “Colony,” a new seal became necessary which should bear the designation of “State.” This first appears on an act passed Sept. 12, 1776. As the resolution of statehood was not passed until Sept. 10, this new die must have been made during the summer, following the adoption of the national Declaration of Independence, and in anticipation of the action of the General Assembly.

The die was enlarged to $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, but the same design of the fish, tree, and arrows, and the motto, were retained. The inscription reverted to a Latin form:

SIGILL : REI — PUB : NEOHANTONI : *VIS UNITA FORTIOR*

The original die of this seal is in the possession of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

It has often been stated that New Hampshire never had a motto. It may be true that none was



FIRST STATE SEAL

1776

ever authorized or adopted by legislative enactment, but the official seal of the State bore the motto "VIS UNITA FORTIOR" during the entire Revolutionary period, or from the adoption of the constitution of 1776 until the constitution of 1784.

This fish, arrows, and tree seal continued unchanged until the constitution of 1784 was in effect. An attempt was made in 1780 to secure a new design, but it failed, apparently because the attention of the General Assembly was occupied with other matters of more immediate urgency and importance. The Journal of the House of Representatives for Feb. 23, 1780, records the following action:

"Voted that a Committee be Chosen by this House to Join Such as the Hon^l board Shall Appoint to Consider of the Letter from President Huntington of the 18th of January Last and the resolves of Congress Enclosed therein of the 13th & 14th of Jan^{ry} Last, and of Sundry other resolves of Congress Lately received and to report what is best to be done relative thereto, Also to Consider of Transmitting Copys of the Laws of this State to Congress and to the other United States, also to Consider of making & Establishing a Public Seal for this State and to report thereon to this House And that Gen^l (William) Whipple Cap^t (Josiah) Moulton, Jn^o Wentworth Esq. D^r (Levi) Dearborn & Col^o (James) Hill be the Committee of this house for that Purpose."

The Council, on the same day, added to the committee Josiah Bartlett, George Atkinson, and Ebenezer Thompson. On March 8 the House added Matthew Stanley Parker, Simeon Dearborn, and John Calfe. The committee reported March 15:

* * * "That a Committee be Appointed to form a Proper Device for a Public Seal for this State, and Lay the Same before the General Assembly for their Approbation at their next session"
* * *

In accordance with the report of the committee, which was accepted, the House appointed Gen. William Whipple and George Gains to report a new device, and the next day the Council added George Atkinson, but no report of this committee appears on record.

1784.

The new constitution being now in operation, a new seal was deemed imperative, and in the Journal of the House of Representatives for June 12, 1784, appears the following record:

"Voted that the Honb^l George Atkinson Esq^r Mr John Pickering and Maj^r Gains with such of the Honb^l Senate as may be join^d be a Committee to prepare a Device and Inscription for a Seal for this State and lay the Same before this House at their next Session and that the Seal used under the late

Constitution be made use of until another is provided.”

This committee reported Nov. 1, 1784, as follows:

“The Committee chosen at the last Session of the General Court for preparing a Device and Inscription for a Seal for this State reported that the Device be a field encompassed with Laurel—round the field in Capital letters SIGILLUM REIPUBLICÆ NEO HANTONIENSIS, on the Field a rising sun and a Ship on the Stocks with American banners displayed, and that said Seal be two inches diameter—which device and inscription being considered Voted that the Same be received and accepted and that the said Committee procure the Seal as soon as may be.”

The report was accepted, and the Senate concurred Nov. 4. The seal was made in accordance with the report of the committee, and placed in use, but shortly afterwards doubt seems to have arisen as to the legality of the seal, as authorized only by a concurrent vote of the House and Senate, and the authorization of the seal was embodied in an act passed Feb. 12, 1785, and the legality of the seal was established in a statutory form.

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SEAL TO BE USED AS THE GREAT SEAL OF THIS STATE.

“Whereas the Committee appointed by the General Court to prepare a device and Inscription for a State Seal did on the first day of November

last, lay before said Court a device with the following Inscription viz. a field encompassed with Laurels round the field in capital Letters SIGILLUM REIPUBLICÆ NEO HANTONIENSIS, on the field a rising Sun and a Ship on the Stocks with American Banners displayed Being Two Inches Diameter. Which was then Voted to be received and Accepted and accordingly hath since that time been used as the Great Seal of the State. But as doubts have Since arisen whether the Vote for establishing said Seal was Sufficiently Explicit, for removing Such doubts, Therefore

“Be it Enacted by the Senate & House of Representatives in General Court convened that the said Seal with the above Recited Inscription be fully established & used in all cases, as the Great Seal of this State And considered as having been Such from the first day of November last.”

It is interesting to note that the date “1784,” which appeared with the inscription, and has been used continuously to the present day, is not authorized by this law, or by any later enactment.

In 1826 a new press was needed, and by a joint resolution passed July 5 the Secretary of State was authorized to procure a suitable press at the New Hampshire State Prison, provided it should not cost more than twenty five dollars. No mention is made of new dies.

Since the act of 1785 the seal of New Hampshire has not been changed by law, but the provisions of



SEAL OF 1784

that act in relation to the device of the seal were rather meagre and indefinite. It specified only the wreath of laurel and the inscription, the rising sun, and the ship on the stocks, with American banners displayed. As the dies have been worn out and replaced by new ones from time to time, the engravers have exercised the liberties allowed them by the failure of the law to specify the more minute details of the design. The central figure, the ship on the stocks, shows little variation. The rising sun, on the other hand, is variously depicted by rays alone, by a glow with rays, and by a sun wholly or half-risen above the horizon, with the rays spreading therefrom. The foreground of the seal also shows much variety. On one die the ship on the stocks apparently stands in the middle of an open field, there being no indications of water in the vicinity. On two others a wharf is shown in the foreground, on which are scattered timbers, and other ordinary features of a shipyard.

The seal of 1784 was used without change certainly as late as 1846, and perhaps later. The archives bear no record of the making of new dies, nor do they contain documents to which the seal has been attached after the time when the laws were engrossed, and the engrossed copies, instead of the originals, were signed by the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, and the Governor. The seal was affixed only to certain documents issued from the office of the Secretary of State, and

not to documents retained therein. Therefore impressions of various periods of the nineteenth century are difficult to find, being rarely seen except on old commissions of civil and military officers, which are, of course, in private possession.

1848.

After the seal of 1784, came a more elaborate design, with some distinct changes. The constitutional date, 1784, appears at the bottom of the seal instead of at the top; the block rays of the sun are changed to line rays, and only half the body of the sun appears above the horizon, instead of the complete circle of the earlier die; the laurel wreath is much elaborated; and the details of the shipyard lose the felled tree, and show instead scattered timbers, barrels, a fire, and two human figures. The ship is larger and more firmly supported, and the flag and pennant fly toward the water instead of away from it.

The original brass die of this seal, and the enormous iron press, made by Samuel Orcutt of Boston, are now in possession of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

The duration of this seal is not now exactly ascertained, but may be assumed as about 1848 to 1870.

1870.

A new die appears about 1870, in which are some notable changes in the foreground. The corner of



1848-1870



1870-1880

a wharf appears, and the shoreline between the wharf and the ship curves sharply in towards the left, reducing the visible area of the shipyard, and a point of land appears on the right. The laurel wreath is very different, the leaves being much shorter. This seal seems to have been of inferior metal, as most of the impressions found are not sharp and distinct, and the seal was used only about ten years.

1880.

The next die was cut about 1880 and used until about 1887. This device shows no radical changes except in the rising sun and its rays. The sun appears as a globe, half risen, instead of a flat disc. The rays are heavy and thick, and rounded at the upper ends. The wharf on the left and the point of land on the right remain, but the shoreline from the ship to the wharf is less sharply curved.

1887.

The next device appears about 1887, in which the rising sun is represented by a glow, from which rays extend; the wharf disappears, and the ship's timbers, barrels, and two human figures reappear from the 1848-1870 design. The only indication of water is a straight shore or wharf line in the foreground.

1896.

The die now in use, which was made about 1896, is an almost exact reproduction of its predecessor. Very slight differences appear, however, on close comparison. The ship shows two stern port-holes instead of three, and the sun's rays are longer. The details of the ship-yard are not changed.

It should be noted and emphasized that the various representations of the state seal which appear on various state publications, particularly the session laws, for the last hundred years, and the engravings used on the official stationery of the Governor and the Secretary of State, are not accurate reproductions of the actual seal of the state, such as those obtained by photography and used in this treatise. In all these many wood-cuts and steel engravings found in state publications the engravers, like the die-cutters, but in a larger degree, combined imagination with their art in elaborating the details of the device in order to produce a result which would satisfy their ideas in relation to the task upon which they were engaged. In this they were, perhaps, not greatly in error, particularly the steel engravers, as the simple and heavy-lined design of the seal itself, necessary for a sharp and clear impression in wax or paper, would make a very bad steel engraving, entirely unsuitable for any purpose. This excuse, however, would hardly be available to the wood-engraver.

All the seals which appear in this treatise are reproduced in the exact size of the originals.



1880-1887



1887-1896



1896-1916

THE STATE FLAG
OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE



NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE FLAG

1916

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE FLAG.

The State of New Hampshire never had a state flag duly authorized and described by law until 1909, when the following act was passed:

AN ACT FOR THE ADOPTION OF A STATE FLAG.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

Sect. 1. That a state flag be adopted.

Sect. 2. The body or field of the flag shall be blue, and shall bear upon its center in suitable proportion and colors a representation of the state seal. The motto shall include the date 1784. Said seal shall be surrounded by a wreath of laurel leaves with nine stars interspersed. When used for military purposes said flag shall conform to the regulations of the United States.

Sect. 3. Said flag shall be displayed above the State House whenever the legislature is in session, and during meetings of the Governor and Council when expedient, and upon such other occasions as the Governor may designate.

Sect. 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage, and all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

(Approved February 24, 1909.)

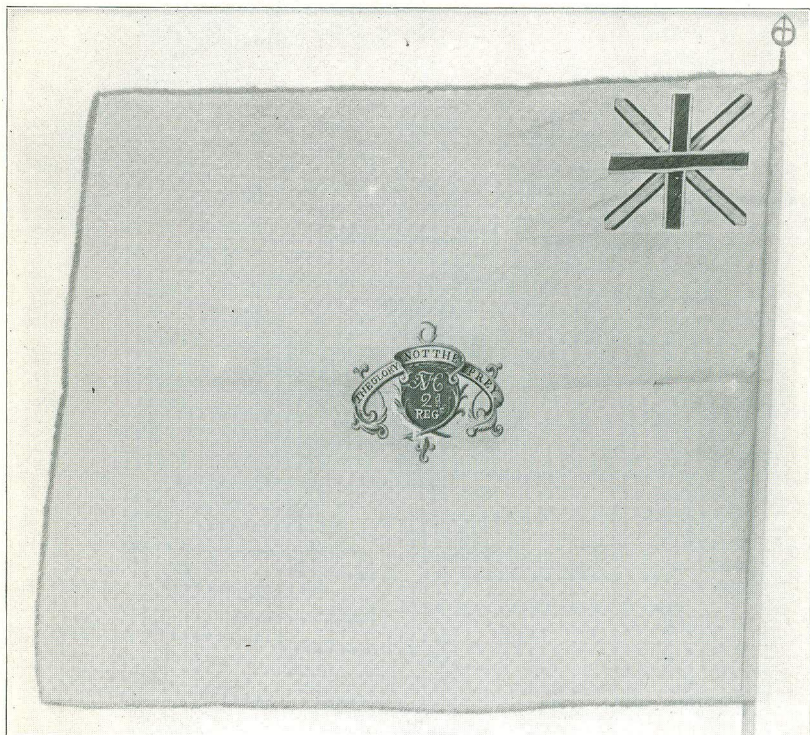
A flag has, of course, been used by the state ever since the adoption of the constitution, but it has been ornamented with various devices, in the absence of any legal designation or description.

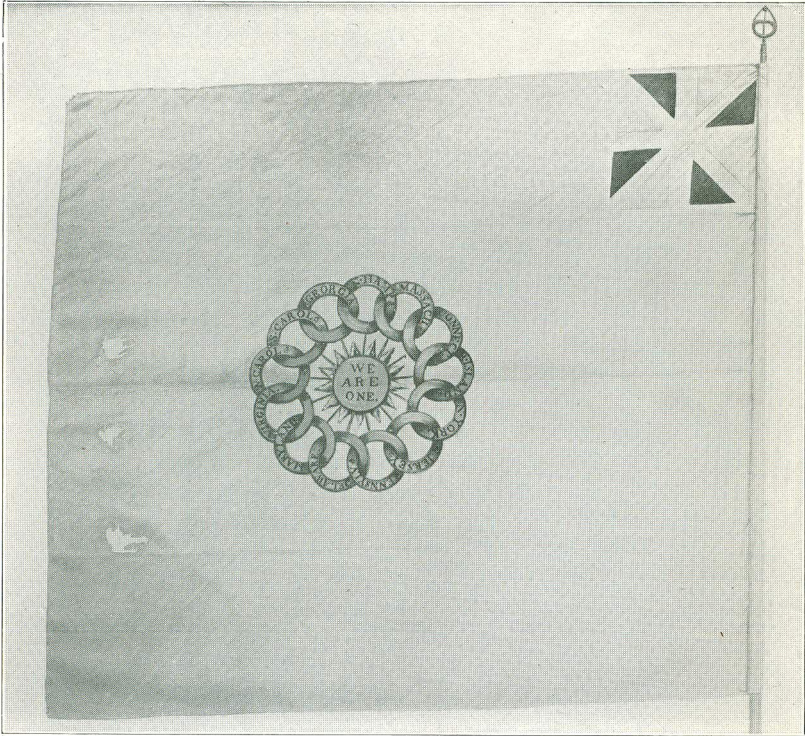
The earliest New Hampshire flags now known to exist are those carried by the Second New Hampshire Regiment of the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War. These were found in England a few years ago by Mr. Gheradi Davis of New York, while collecting material for his book on Regimental Colors in the War of the Revolution. They were then in the possession of Col. George W. Rogers of Wykeham, Sussex, from whom they were purchased by Mr. Edward Tuck and presented to the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1912.

Both these flags are of silk, one blue and one buff, and measure five feet on the staff and five feet six inches on the fly.

The blue flag has a gold fringe. In the center is a small red shield, with golden scrolls on either side and over it. On the shield are the letters "N. H." interlaced, under which is "2d," and under that "Regt." On the scrolls is the motto "The Glory, Not the Prey." In the upper corner next the staff are two small superimposed crosses, the upright cross being red, bordered with gold, the diagonal cross gold, bordered with red.

The buff flag bears in its center a golden disc, with thirteen rays and thirteen lines radiating from it, each of the latter touching one of thirteen inter-





laced golden rings. The disc bears the motto "We Are One," and each ring the name of one of the thirteen original states. In the upper corner next the staff are eight triangles, alternately red and blue, so arranged as to form two crosses, one upright and the other diagonal.

In an action at Fort Anne, N. Y., July 8, 1777, these colors were captured by the Ninth Regiment of Foot of Burgoyne's army, and when Burgoyne surrendered three months later they were carried to England in the personal baggage of Lieut. Col. Hill, commander of that regiment. From him they descended by inheritance to Col. Rogers.

The state flags supplied to New Hampshire regiments in the Civil War were of various designs. Many of them bore a representation of the state seal, but some were adorned with the arms of the United States or other emblems. These flags, now preserved in the State House, are in such tattered condition that the devices are generally not recognizable. In some cases a few fragments give only a very indefinite idea as to the entire design.

During later years it became the established custom that the state flag should be a blue field bearing in its center a representation of the state seal, and this device was finally legalized in 1909.

It will be noticed that in the act of 1909 it is specified that the date 1784 shall appear as a part of the "motto." In this instance the word "in-

scription" should have been used, as the State of New Hampshire never had a motto authorized by law, and no motto has appeared on the seal since the close of the Revolution and the taking effect of the constitution in 1784.

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**THE SEAL AND FLAG OF THE
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
