

When William Sessions came to Maynesborough, New Hampshire in 1825, the only thing

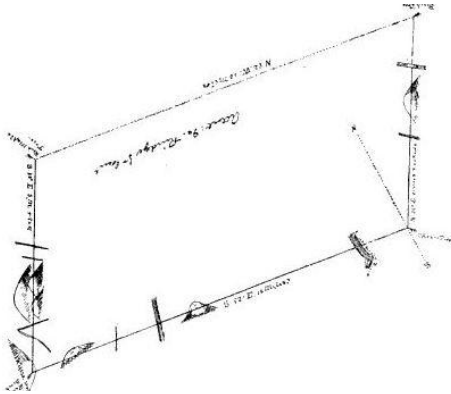


Figure 1: Map from the Maynesborough Charter

that was there was an old shack, which was used by Clovis Lowe of Randolph in 1818 or 1819 as a hunting camp, and an old, overgrown army trail that was used during the Revolutionary War. This township, Maynesborough, is now the most thriving town in the White Mountains.

The township was first granted to Sir William Mayne, Robert Mayne, George Gray, John Graham, Walter Kennedy, William Botts, Paul Wentworth, John Nelson, John Ward, Robert Graham, David Scrymgeour, Colin Mackenzie, Thomas Mayne, Edward Mayne, William Scrwens, Hon. Robert Needham, Samuel Smith, Thomas Evans, and William Wentworth on December 31,

1771. The grantees stated that they were going to settle the land and, by January of 1782, have sixty settlers inhabiting the land. Only a few grantees came but soon left stating that the land was “inhabitable”.

The land saw only hunters and trappers, with very few exceptions, until 1825. James Sargent remembers hunting in the township in the winter of 1816. Mr. Sargent was near the falls when he heard a strange women singing. Upon investigating, Mr. Sargent found a young negro-looking female near the water.

“It looked like she was doing some kind of strange ritual” Sargent said, “I never could figure out what she was doing or even who she was.” The young woman was probably an Indian that lived in the area. Mr. Sargent never approached the young lady.

Let’s now turn our attentions back to Mr. Sessions. Mr. Sessions heard of Maynesborough from two hunters, John Messer and Amos Peabody, in Shelburne, New Hampshire. They told him that they made a great deal of money from potash that they harvested in the township in previous years. They also told him “There is no threat of dying in that place due to the number of game in its woods and fish in its waters”.

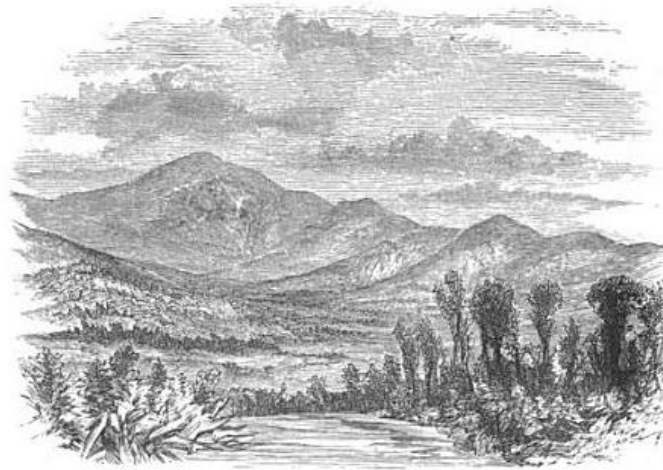
According to Mr. Sessions, “It was an once-in-a-lifetime chance. It was almost like I had to go”. Mr. Sessions did end up going to Maynesborough in 1824 and, in 1825, he, with the help of his nephew, became the first man to settle the land in Maynesborough. “Some of my wife’s relatives came to visit and it seems like the town grew over night” Sessions told us, “I always regretted settling where I did. I should have went further down and built a cabin near the falls, but I was in a rush to settle in”.

Figure 2: "The Falls"



Mr. Sessions soon left Maynesborough but returned when the town was reincorporated under the name of Berlin. Berlin was chosen because the towns shares similarities to Brandenburg and the Kingdom of Bavaria (two German speaking states). “When I came back to Maynesborough, or should I say ‘Berlin’, the population grew a lot and I decided to leave once more”.

This article was written by Benjamin L. Wesley and researched by Gideon Bean, Thomas J. Carey, and Alexander Sampson. Thanks are now given to Mr. James Sargent and Mr. William Sessions for taking time to talk to us. We all enjoyed your stories and would love to hear more, if possible.



Last week's article: *Lancaster: early life and times*. This week's article: *Berlin: settling Maynesborough*.  
Next month's article, *Shelburne: the Indian attack from Maine*

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