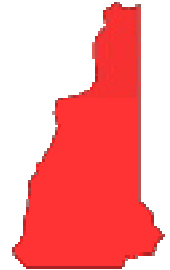


A Map Defining the New Hampshire – Massachusetts Border Dispute (1739)



View the accompanying 1739 map to see how New Hampshire might have looked if Massachusetts had prevailed before the Privy Council in its longstanding border dispute with the Province of New Hampshire. Some credit for the favorable outcome can be ascribed to Lt. Governor John Wentworth and to his nephew (and future royal governor) Benning Wentworth.



Suggestions

- Have students find the map's compass rose. We tend to think of "up" on a map as north. Clearly, this wasn't always so. On this map, which compass direction points upward?
- Which body of water would have marked New Hampshire's northern boundary?
- Which river would have been the basis of New Hampshire's western and southern boundaries? (Hint: the river empties into the "Atlantic Sea" in the town of Newbury.)
- Which river would have marked New Hampshire's eastern border? (Note: the Nywichwannock River is known today as the Salmon Falls River.)
- Using colorful markers, have students draw the Massachusetts-preferred borders for New Hampshire onto a modern road map and then determine in which state their town would lie. (Note: In addition to printing the map for individual student use, teachers may wish to project it on a computer screen so that students may zoom in on the names of the smaller rivers.)
- Have students check the southern boundary preferred by New Hampshire on the 1739 map. Does it coincide with our current borders? How about the eastern border?
- To begin looking at political issues that created and settled this border dispute, turn to the on-line lesson "[The Boundary Dispute between New Hampshire and Massachusetts, 1677–1741](#)," available also on our CD-ROM at "New Hampshire's Land: Physical and Cultural Geography."

- Use the controversy over the New Hampshire–Massachusetts border as a springboard for investigating other border disputes. New Hampshire at one time has disputed all its current borders — including, most recently, its border with Maine. (At issue here was whether or not the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was truly in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, or in Kittery, Maine.) Older disputes include one with New York over the “New Hampshire Grants” (land that both sides finally agreed to call Vermont!) and one with Canada over New Hampshire’s northern border that led to the brief existence of the independent Indian Stream Republic.

Transcription of Text

- This crooked line is the three-mile boundary insisted on by the Massachusetts Bay and determined so to be by the commissioners in case the present charter includes all the late Massachusetts colony.
- This is the boundary insisted on by New Hampshire.
- This line runs due West & is the boundary determined by the commissioners if the present charter doth not include all the late Massachusetts Bay colony.
- Due North West
This is the boundary claimed by the Massachusetts Bay.
- This line runs North 2 degrees West & is the boundary determined by the commissioners agreeable to the New Hampshire claim.
- A Plan of the Rivers and Boundary Lines referred to in the Proceedings and Judgment of the Commissioners for Adjusting the Bounds between the Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire.
By G. Mitchell Surveyor

Engraved by WH Toms in Union Court Holborn 1739

