



Nottingham began in 1722: 300<sup>th</sup> Committee has been planning for its celebration since 2017

Nottingham's Charter Day May 15, 2022: A Pictorial Review

Steve Soreff, MD

[Charter Day](#) celebration consisted of three events on Sunday, May 15, 2022—the burying of the [Summer Institute 2021 Fall Edition](#)'s Time Capsule, the reading of the 1722 Nottingham Charter, and the playing of music by Never's 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Band. The day broke with a hint of rain but after the momentary passing shower, Sunday proved to be delightful and glorious. Here is how Nottingham Recreation in front of the Community Center set the scene for the day.



On May 15, 2022, the Recreation Department sign the Community Center

Early in that morning preparations were underway on Nottingham Square.. Members of the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee set up tents, tables, and chairs. And the Never's Band brought in its own stage.



L to R Bill Garnett, Steve Welch, and Steve White



Never's Band's stage arrives

Later, promptly at 11 AM, there was a ceremony of burying the Time Capsule at the base of the flagpole in front of the Community Center.



The Plaque tells the 2021 Institute's story and its 2047 future

These speakers at the event included Chris Sousa, Nottingham School Principal, Braydan Behr, a student in the program, Rose Breslin-Dawson, a teacher in charge of the Institute, and Peter Abbott, Ph.D., Consulate for New England for Britain. Afterward, Susan Levenson, Chairperson of the School Board presented the students and faculty with flowers.



Speaking is Chris Sousa, behind left to right Noah Santry-Merrill, Braydan Behr, Riley Cloutier Mrs. Breslin-Dawson, and Ms. Barbara Henderson.

In the capsule were many items. These include student art displayed at the Deerfield Fair, pictures of Nottingham, accounts of life during the pandemic, the four participating students' stories and hopes, and a copy of Nottingham's 250 Celebration newspaper.



Left to right Mrs. Breslin-Dawson, and Ms. Barbara Henderson lower the Time Capsule into the hole. It was then covered with dirt and later the above plaque will be placed over it.

After this event, folks reconvened on Nottingham Square for the Charter Ceremony. Just before the actual introduction of the speakers, members of [His Majesty's Tenth Regiment of Foot](#) in full period uniforms marched in. They were greeted by Dr. Peter Abbott, Order of the British Empire. OBE Her Majesty's Consul-General for New England. Later they did drills while the Never's Band performed.



Dr. Peter Abbott in the midst of members of His Majesty's Tenth Regiment of Foot

Then the Chapter ceremony began. Chet Batchelder served as the emcee. He has been in Nottingham for over 70<sup>th</sup> and could trace his ancestry back to England in the 1600s. He introduced Gary Anderson, who is the Chaplain for Nottingham Fire & Rescue Department. He delivered an invocation citing Psalm 95. Next, Donna Danis, Chair of the Nottingham Select Board welcomed the crowd and thank folks. This was followed by Steve Welch, Chair of the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee who greeted and thanked those assembled. Danis returned and read two congratulatory notes about the Day and the 300<sup>th</sup>. One was from New Hampshire's Senator Margaret Hassan. The other was from Christopher Pappus, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 1st NH District. There were greetings and the acknowledgment that the original Nottingham Charter included Northwood, which broke away in 1776, and Deerfield, which broke away in 1776. Next Dr. Peter Abbott, addressed the crowd. He said his job as Her Majesty's Consul-General for New England was to promote Britain in these six states. He has a Ph.D. I Greek Tragedies. He was happy to speak at a Charter event rather than other events celebrating Revolutionary War's victories over the British army, in which he has spoken. He said, "in response to the alleged call, 'the British are coming, I am here'". He gave a delightful talk.

Finally, Jeffery Merriweather of His Majesty's Tenth Regiment of Foot read the actual 1722 Charter.



The reading of the Charter left Chet Batchelder and right Jeffery Merriweather

## The actual Charter

The Royal charter is obtained May 10, 1722 as follows:

GEORGE, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland

King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To all People To whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Know ye that we, of our Special Knowledge and mere motion for the Due encouragement of Setling a New Plantation, by and with the Advice and Consent of our Council, have given and granted, and by these presents, as far as in us lies, Do give and grant, in Equal Shares unto sundry of our beloved Subjects whose names are entered in a Schedule hereunto annexed, that Inhabit or shall Inhabit within the Said Grant, Within our Province of New Hampshire, all that tract of Land within the following bounds (viz.): To begin at Dover Westely Corner bounds, Running along Exeter Northerly line, West and by North Two miles, Then along Exeter headline South-West half a point, more Southerly one mile and three-quarters, and from thence upon a West northwest point of the Compass Tenn miles into the Country. Then to begin again at the aforesaid Dover Westly corner bounds and run North-East half a poynt more Eastely four miles and a quarter along Dover headline, then upon a Northwest poynt half a poynt more Northely Thirteen miles into the Country, and from that Bounds upon a Streight line to the end of the aforesaid Tenn mile line. And that the Same be a Town corporate by the name of Notingham, to the persons aforesaid for ever, To Have and To Hold the Said Land to the Said Grantees and their heirs and assignes forever, and to Such associates as they shall admit, upon the following Conditions:--

1st. That every proprietor build a dwelling-house within three years and settle a Family therein; and break up Three acres of Ground, and plant and Sow the Same, within four Years; and pay his proportion of the Town Charge when and so often as occasion Shall Require the Same.

2ly. That a meeting house be built for the public worship of God within the s<sup>d</sup> terme of four years.

3ly. That, upon default of any particular proprietor in Complying with the Conditions of this Charter upon his part, such delinquent proprietor shall forfeit his Share to y<sup>e</sup> other Proprietors, which shall be disposed of according to the major vote of the said company at a Legal meeting.

4th. That a Proprietor's Share be reserved for a parsonage, another for the First minister of the Gospel, another for the benefit of a School, Provided nevertheless that the Peace within the Indians continue during the afore<sup>sd</sup> Term of Three years. But, if it should so happen That a War with the Indians should commence before the expiration of the aforesaid Term of Three years, the said Term of Three years shall be allowed for the Proprietors after the Expiration of the war for the performance of the afore<sup>sd</sup> Conditions. Rendering and paying therefore to us our heirs and Successors or such other officer or officers as shall be appointed to receive the same, the Annual Quit Rent or acknowledgement of One Ear of Indian Corn in the Said Town on the twentyeth day of December yearly forever. Reserving also unto us our heirs and successors all masts trees growing on the said Tract of Land according to the acts of Parliament in that case made and provided. And, for the better order, Rule, and Government of the Said Town, We do by these presents for ourselves, our heirs, and Successors, Grant unto the Said men and Inhabitants or those that shall inhabit the Said Town, that yearly and every year upon the last Tuesday of the Month of March for ever shall meet to elect and Chuse by the major part of them Constables, Selectmen and other Town officers according to the Laws and Usage of our afore<sup>sd</sup> Province for the year ensuing, with power and privileges and authorities as other Towns and Town officers within our afore<sup>sd</sup> Province have and Enjoy. In Testimony whereof We have caused the Seal of Our Said Province to be hereunto annexed. Witness Samuel Shute, Esq<sup>r</sup>, our Governour and Commander- in-chief of Our Said Province at our Town of Portsmouth, the Tenth day of May 'in the Eighth year of our Reigne Anno Domini, 1722.

By His Excellency's Com<sup>d</sup>

SAM<sup>L</sup> SHUTE.

With advice of y<sup>e</sup> Council.

R. W. Cl<sup>k</sup> Cou<sup>t</sup>.

This was followed by a stellar performance by the [Never's Second Regimental Band](#). Kevin Swift conducted the band. It was been performing for over 150 years. They began by playing music for *The Music Man*. They continued with a medley of songs it might have played when they performed in 1917 at the dedication of the Four Generals Statue in Nottingham Square. They also played *The Imperial March* from *Star Wars* as members of the Tenth Regiment marched in front of them. The band concluded with *The National Emblem March*, written by a New Hampshire person, Edwin Eugene Bagley, *America the Beautiful*, and *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. The very appreciative audience loved them.



Never's Band performing with the His Majesty's Tenth Regiment of Foot at attention

Also on Nottingham Square, there were a number of activities. The Tricentennial Committee had a table which sold 300<sup>th</sup> merchandise. The Nottingham Historical Society' table offered documentation of the Charter's original lay-out of Nottingham Square and its distribution.



Historical Society left to right Peter Abbott, Tray Sleeper, Leanne Gast and Tina Cooke



The Nottingham Fire & Rescue Association provided drinks, meals and snacks



The D.A.R .building was open for visitors to see an old school. Here DAR President, Katheen Fernald and some family members welcomed folks to Nottingham Square Schoolhouse, Else Cilley Chapter DAR building..



And members of militia from [The First New Hampshire Regiment](#) were there to support the event and inform folks of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary's encampment and reenactment there on Nottingham Square on August 19-21, 2022.

A grand day was had by all.