

Terms about Land in New Hampshire

Masonian Proprietors	A group of twelve men who bought John Mason's descendants' claims to all the land within 60 miles of the Atlantic Ocean that had not already been conveyed to others.
Township Proprietors	The joint owners of the common land within a township.
Township	A concession of land from the granting authority (Province, Masonian Proprietors, et c.), often measuring 6 miles on each side (i.e., 36 square miles), made to a group of people in common ownership.
Town	A municipal government incorporated by the state legislature to function as the governing body over a certain specified area, often the township.
Common land	Those lands in the township that continue to be owned by all (Township) proprietors.
Division	A portion of the common land that the (Township) proprietors jointly agree to subdivide and allot to individual owners. Some proprietors designated the entire township as one division, while other townships included two or more divisions.
Range	A row of similar lots within a division.
Lots	The individual predefined parcels of land that were usually drawn in a lottery by the individual proprietors. Once drawn, the lot became the exclusive property of the individual, and was no longer part of the common land.
Pitch	A parcel of land that was chosen by the individual in any location within the township. This could include squatters, but was generally given to people who agreed to build mills and who therefore needed to choose the best location for a dam. Others were given the privilege to "make a pitch" in lieu of payment for some special service they performed for the Township Proprietors. The Pitch is most commonly associated with locations where the proprietors came from Massachusetts.
Law Lots	Lots in a division used to pay the lawyers assisting Township Proprietors who faced legal issues. Similar lots were also reserved for ministers, surveyors, occasionally schools, and in other circumstances where debt was incurred and money was in short supply.

Gore	A parcel of land lying between two parcels that were granted; usually odd-shaped (triangular) or odd-sized, as it was a remainder tract.
Heater Piece	A small parcel of land, generally triangular, and therefore similar in shape to a clothes iron (or “heater piece”).
Amoskeag Measure	A customary unit of measure used by the Amoskeag Company when granting land in Manchester, where 100 “Amoskeag feet” measured 101 U.S. statutory feet (i.e., Amoskeag measurements were 1 % more than standard measurements).
Chain	(1) A physical object made of 100 links, with a handle on each end. (2) The distance of four rods (66 feet). The physical object was made to measure four rods by Edmund Gunther, a seventeenth-century British scientist, but in New Hampshire, a chain measuring only 2 rods (a “half chain”) was often used because it was easier when measuring sloped land or in wooded conditions.
Tally	The length of ten chains (660 feet). Surveyors used a chaining pin or a chaining arrow when measuring distances, and there were 11 pins or arrows on a ring. The head chainman put the first arrow in the ground to mark the spot where the measuring was to begin. A second chainman stretched the chain from the initial point, and each time the chainmen stretched the chain, the rear chainman picked up the tailing arrow. When the head chainman ran out of arrows, and the rear chainman has ten arrows in his possession, they knew they had stretched the chain ten times. The rear chainman then returned the ten arrows to the head chainman (the eleventh arrow still in the ground marking the current location) and he recorded that they had measured “one tally.”