



MILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Although settlements in the territory began as early as 1738, Milford was not incorporated as a town until 1794. All of Milford's territory south of the river (except the Mile Slip) was known as Dunstable prior to 1746; from 1746 to 1770 as Monson; from 1770 to 1794 as Amherst, and on the north side of the river prior to 1794, as Narragansit No. 3.

In 1741, John Shepard built a mill on the north bank of the Souhegan River near a shallow spot that could be forded easily. His mill became known as the “mill by the ford” thus the town got its name — Milford.

Slavery was never legalized or established by law in New Hampshire, but it was tolerated and regulated. Slaves were owned and taxed as property up to 1789. The existence of one slave in Milford is seen as a footnote in Ramsdell's *History of Milford*.

“Captain Josiah Crosby came to Milford in 1753, he brought with him two children one white and the other colored.”

They named the child Jeffrey and sold him at the age of five when they moved to Billerica. An earlier documentation for the year 1743 seen in Rothovius's book *The Lodge*, introduces Boad:

“ While the Groton residents never actually settled in the Gore, they drove cattle up each spring to pasture in the meadows of Spaulding Brook. A Negro Slave named Boad looked after these cattle and the site of his 225-year-old cabin is probably marked by a rude foundation on the Mason side of the Mile Slip's western line.”