

1780 Charter for the Town of Jamaica

To all people to whom these presents shall come Greetings, KNOW YE, that Whereas it has been Represented by our Worthy Friends Colonel Samuel Fletcher, of Townshend. County of Windham and in this State, and Company to the Number of Sixty-Seven, that there is a Tract of vacant Land within this State which has not heretofore been granted, and which they pray may be granted to them. WE have therefore thought fit for the due Encouragement of settling a new Plantation within this State, and other valuable Considerations us hereunto moving. AND DO by these Presents (in the names and by Authority of the Freemen of Vermont) give and grant unto said Co. Sam'l Fletcher and the several Persons hereafter named, his Associates Viz; His Excellency Thomas Chittenden Esquire, William Samuel Ward, Colonel Moses Robinson, Matthew Lyon, John Butler, Caleb Hayward, Stephen Rawson, Reuben Hamlington, Silas Hamlington, Marshall Miller, Ebenezer Haven, Nathaniel Haven, Joseph Haven, Stephen Wilcox, Joseph Hildrich, Calvin Hayward, John Wright, Benjamin Hayward, Moses Johnson, Silas Hayward, Aaron Alexander, Jesse Knight, Joseph Tyler, Amariah Taft, Aaron Hutson, Charles Hutson, William Hayward, Peter Hazelton, John Fossett Esquire, William Church, Jonathan Knight, Samuel Knight, Daniel Gates, Aarad Holton, Joel Knight, Isaac Miller, Tilletson Miller, Paul Spooner Esquire, John Serjeant, Ethan Hayward, Moses Doty, Reuben Nard, Philip Jordan, Comfort Joy, Jesse Joy, Philip Alexander, Levi Hayward, Benjamin Howe, Isaac Hart, Hazael Shephard, Rufus Shephard, Eliazer Harris, Nathan Hayward, Moses Holbrook, Frederick Taft, Michael Johnson, Archibus Blodget, Joshua Morse, Calvin Knowlton, Seth Knight, Jonas Cook, Samuel Wakefield, Paul Hayward, Ira Allen Esquire, Jabez Butler and John Jones, together with five equal Shares or Rights to be appropriated to the Public Uses following; One Share or Right for the use of a Seminary or Colledge, within this State; One Share or Right for the use of the County Grammer Schools throughout this State; One Share or Right for the first settled Minister of the Gospel in said Township to be disposed of for that Purpose as the Inhabitants thereof shall direct; One Share or Right for the Support of the Ministry; One Share or Right for the Benefit and Support of a School or Schools within said Township; The following Tract or Parcel of Land BEGIN ING at the North East Corner of Wardsborough, then North Twenty Degrees East in the Westerly line of Townshend and continuing the same Course about Five Miles to the Southerly Line of Londonderry, then North Sixty-Three Degrees West in the Southerly Line of Londonderry, and continuing the same Course about Six Miles and One Quarter to the Easterly Line of Winhall, then South Ten Degrees West in the Lines of Winhall and Stratton about Seven Miles to the North West Corner of Wardsborough, then South Eighty Degrees East about Six Miles in the Line of Wardsborough to the Bounds begun at, And that the same be and is hereby Incorporated into a Township by the name of JAMAICA and the Inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit said Township are declared to be Infranchised and Intitled to all the Priviledges and Immunities that other Towns within this State do by Law exercise and enjoy TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said granted Premises as above expressed with all the Priviledges and Appurtenances thereunto belonging to them and their respective Heirs and Assigns forever under the following Conditions and Reservations, VIZ: that each Proprietor of said Township of Jamaica, his Heirs and Assigns shall plant and cultivate five Acres of Land, and build a House at least Eighteen feet Square on the Floor, or have one Family settled on each respective Share or Right of Land in said Township within the Term of Four Years next after the Circumstances of the War will admit of it with Safety, on the pain of forfeiture of his respective Share or Right of land in said Township, and the same to revert to the Freemen of this State, to be by their Representatives regranted to such Persons that shall appear to settle and cultivate the same, THAT all Pine Timber suitable for a Navy shall be reserved to and for the use and benefit of the Freemen of this State. IN TESTIMONY whereof, We have caused the Seal of this Slate to be affixed hereunto this Seventh Day of November in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty-, in the Fourth Year of the Independence of this State and Fifth of the United States.

Tho. Chittenden

Joseph Fay, Secy