

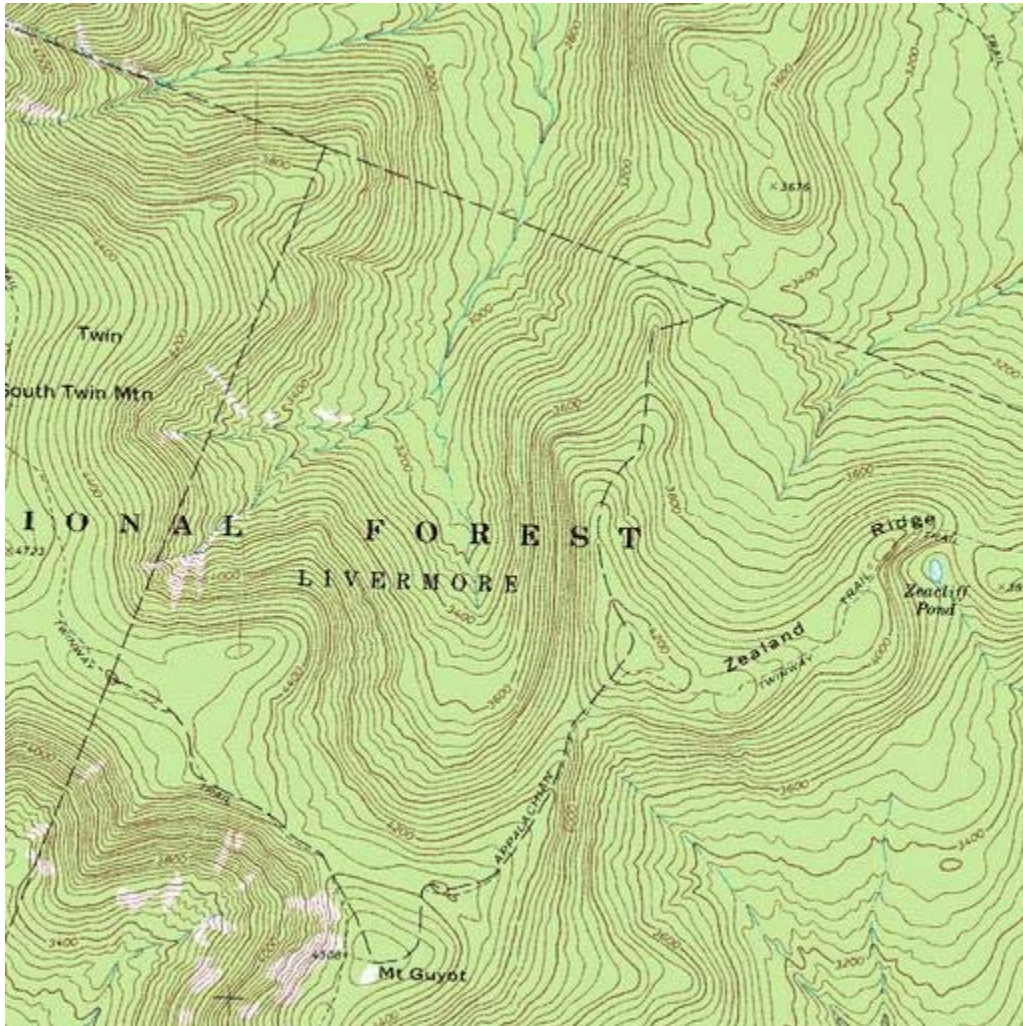
# The Hunt for Why Livermore Was Split in Two

Michael Saltmarsh, rev. 9 FEB 2009

Portions originally published at <http://forum.hike-nh.com/viewtopic.php?t=1540>

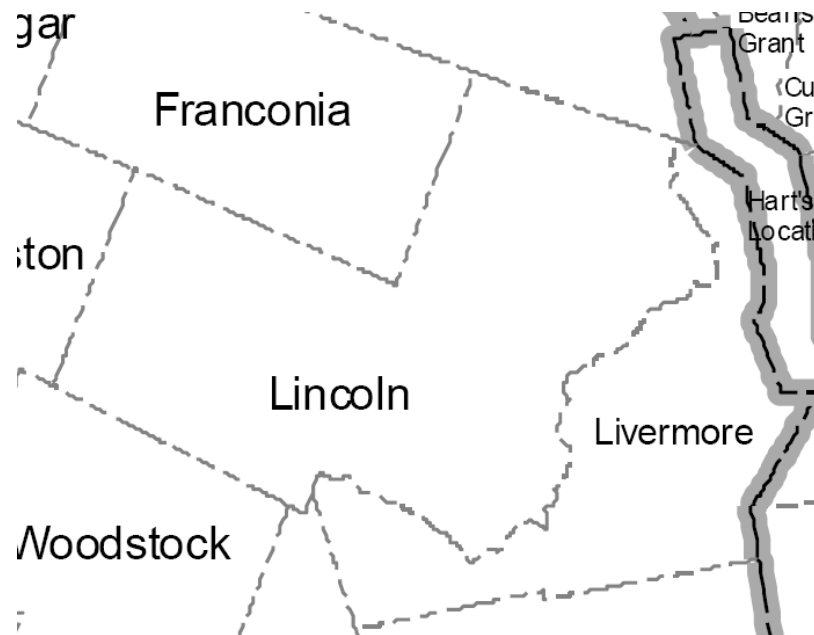
Livermore is a long-gone logging town, located along the Sawyer River Rd. It has been unincorporated, but it still exists as an entity. Besides the familiar part of it around Sawyer River Rd., way up in the NW section of Lincoln straddling Mt. Guyot, is a small section of land that is also Livermore. This borders Lincoln, Franconia and Bethlehem. I remember seeing this in my Dad's 1969 AMC guide way back when and it has perplexed me off and on for years. Finally, I was determined to get the answer.

This little section shows up in the AMC WMG Franconia maps (1992 and 1969), USGS topo map, and I seem to remember a NH state published map from the 80's showing the same. This is the topo map<sup>1</sup> showing the small section:



<sup>1</sup> Topozone. <http://www.topoquest.com/map.php?lat=44.18431&lon=-71.52788&datum=nad27&zoom=8&map=auto&coord=d&mode=zoomin&size=m>.

But the NH GRANIT database<sup>2</sup>, the statewide clearinghouse for GIS data, shows only the large part of Livermore:

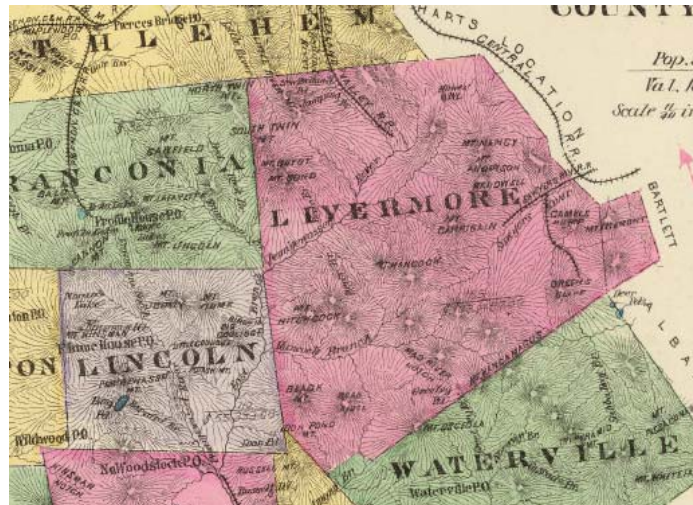


So it was possible that this small portion of Livermore was at some point absorbed into Lincoln. This doesn't, however, explain how it was split in the first place.

---

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.granit.unh.edu/ResourceLibrary/Download.pm?FILE\\_ID=143](http://www.granit.unh.edu/ResourceLibrary/Download.pm?FILE_ID=143)

The original land grant for Lincoln is not its current boundaries, as it was roughly a 7 x 6 mile rectangle<sup>3</sup>. Looking at these current boundaries and comparing to this original description, it's the lower left portion. The D.H. Hurd map of Grafton County, published in 1892<sup>4</sup> shows this:



Note that Livermore is much larger, and it indeed includes the small section up by Mt. Guyot. It becomes clear that much of northern Livermore was incorporated into Lincoln at some point, except for the small portion to the NW.

Online I found the Manual for the General Court (NH) of 1947<sup>5</sup> which stated:

*Livermore was made up of grants to Elkins, Sargent and Elkins, Hatch and Cleaves, Raymond, and Bean and Gilman in 1876, and named in honor of the Livermore family. In 1901 the legislature authorized the annexation of part of the town to Lincoln, and this annexation was completed in 1908.*

So I went to the State Library, and found the law<sup>6</sup>, stating in part:

*All that part of the town of Livermore, which is drained by the East branch of the Pemigewasset river, and such of its tributaries as enter it at points above the northerly line of the town of Woodstock, is hereby severed from the town of Livermore, and annexed to and made part of the town of Lincoln.*

It was now clear how it got separated. This definition appears to take out everything north of the current line along the height of land that goes through Mt. Carrigain. The area south of Carrigain drains

<sup>3</sup> *Provincial and State Papers of New Hampshire*, v. 25, p. 234, 1895.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=q1kSAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA236&lpg=PA236&dq=lincoln+new+hampshire+1764+avery+clement&source=bl&ots=2XV5n93UDt&sig=WJu51Ra19hcg6XMB7Wr2crTkYx0&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&esnum=2&ct=result#PPA234,M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=q1kSAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA236&lpg=PA236&dq=lincoln+new+hampshire+1764+avery+clement&source=bl&ots=2XV5n93UDt&sig=WJu51Ra19hcg6XMB7Wr2crTkYx0&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&esnum=2&ct=result#PPA234,M1)

<sup>4</sup> Published in the David Rumsey collection. <http://www.davidrumsey.com/detail?id=1-1-30996-1150930&name=Grafton+County++N+H+>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.archive.org/stream/manualforgeneral30newh/manualforgeneral30newh\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/manualforgeneral30newh/manualforgeneral30newh_djvu.txt), p. 166

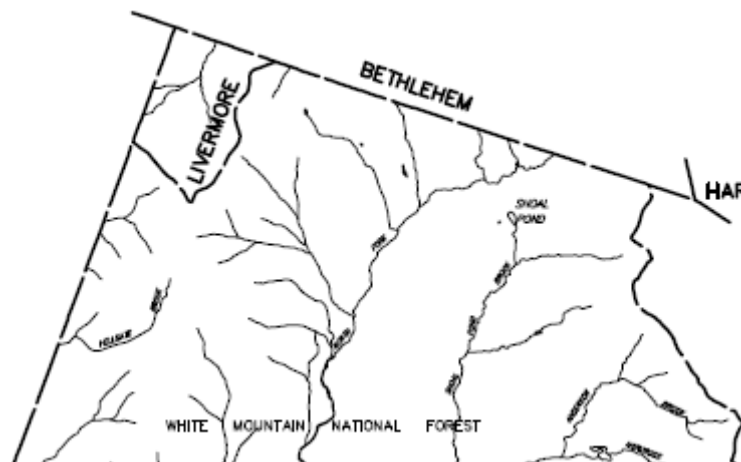
<sup>6</sup> *NH State Law, 1901, Chapter 28*

into the Swift River. Looking back at the topo map of the small section, note that the southern and eastern border follows the height of land around Mt. Guyot. This portion drains into the *Ammonoosuc*, not the Pemigewasset, so as the law was written, it could not be incorporated into Lincoln, and thus had to remain Livermore, probably an oversight on the part of the lawmakers<sup>7</sup>. It is interesting to note that this annexation was a purportedly the result of feuding between the Henrys and Saunders over boundary lines and taxes<sup>8</sup>.

This line was ratified on April 9, 1909<sup>9</sup>, not in 1908 as noted by the Manual for the General Court. One could presume they had found out this small section would remain Livermore, but didn't feel it necessary to correct this through law.

A search of the NH State Library records showed no further laws concerning the Livermore boundaries, so it appeared that this small little section is still part of Livermore.

Going straight to the source, the Town of Lincoln website, in the Assessing Office section contains tax maps including an overview of the town. This confirms this section is not a part of Lincoln<sup>10</sup>.



So the next time you're on the Twinway, you can tell your friends they're straddling the Franconia/Livermore border, or if you're up for a bushwhack just to do something ridiculous, straddle the Bethlehem/Livermore border.

---

<sup>7</sup> Shocking, no?

<sup>8</sup> Bicentennial Commemorative Book of the Town of Lincoln, New Hampshire, 1764-1964.

<sup>9</sup> NH State Law, 1909

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.lincolnnh.org/government/assessing/documents/2008TaxMaps.pdf>, page 2, and <http://www.lincolnnh.org/government/assessing/documents/2009TaxMaps-Draft.pdf>, attachment L001.pdf

## ***Revision History***

10 JAN 2009 Original

09 FEB 2009 Rev. 1. Added section on Lincoln tax maps, confirming current status.