

No. R-168. House concurrent resolution commemorating the sescentennial of the Town of Swanton.

(H.C.R.122)

Offered by: Representatives Savage of Swanton and Consejo of Sheldon

Whereas, unlike most New Hampshire Grants towns, the town of Swanton was not a previously unsettled wilderness, but rather the site of a Missisquoi Abenaki village dating from at least 1682 and of French settlements, including one established in 1740 that was possibly the first European outpost in Vermont, and

Whereas, on August 17, 1763, Royal New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth granted a charter for the town of Swanton, named in honor of British Captain William Swanton, a veteran of the French and Indian War, and the boundaries were described as “Begining at the North Easterly Corner of St Albans . . . which Lays on the Easterly side of Lake Champlain from thence Runing Westerly by St Albans Line to Lake Champlain,” and

Whereas, on March 23, 1790, the Town of Swanton was organized under the laws of Vermont, and Daniel Stannard was the town’s first legislative representative, and

Whereas, in 1794, John Joyal established a regular ferry service across the Missisquoi River, and John’s Bridge, the first of many to span the river, opened in 1796, and

Whereas, a U.S. Customs House was established in 1797, and

Whereas, as a result of President Jefferson’s trade embargo with England and Canada, local smuggling became prevalent, and

Whereas, although religious congregations had been previously established, in 1817 a union building for the use of the Baptists, Friends, and Congregationalists was built in Swanton Center, and

Whereas, residents of Swanton actively participated in the Patriot War, an unsuccessful attempt on the part of Canadians seeking independence from Britain, and

Whereas, in 1850, freight and passenger rail service arrived in Swanton, and

Whereas, in 1888, the Village of Swanton was incorporated, and in 1894 Swanton opened the first municipally owned electric company in Vermont, and

Whereas, on August 17, 2013, the Town of Swanton will celebrate with great festivities its 250th anniversary, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the sescentennial of the Town of Swanton, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Swanton Town Clerk and to the Swanton Historical Society.