

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 52

House concurrent resolution commemorating the sestercentennial anniversary of the town of Orwell

Offered by: Representative Stevens of Shoreham

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Bray

Whereas, the town of Orwell was established on August 8, 1763 when Royal New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth granted its charter, and

Whereas, the boundaries of this 27,640-acre town were described in the charter as “Beginning at a marked tree standing on the easterly side of the Wood Creek (Lake Champlain) so-called, which tree bears east from Ticonderoga Fort . . . ,” and

Whereas, Governor Benning Wentworth accidentally granted a strip of land to both the towns of Orwell and Sudbury, but the town of Sudbury ultimately surrendered its claim, and

Whereas, the first recorded settler in Orwell was John Charter who arrived in 1771, and

Whereas, in 1776–1777, Mount Independence in Orwell was the site of the Revolutionary War fort located across Lake Champlain from Fort Ticonderoga to which it was connected by a 400-yard-long floating bridge, and

Whereas, American troops, despite much illness, bravely secured the site until July 5, 1777 when they could no longer hold out against the British forces which had captured Fort Ticonderoga, and

Whereas, the town was officially organized on December 12, 1787, at which meeting William Smith was elected moderator and David Leonard town clerk, and

Whereas, the Orwell Baptist Church was formally established on December 21, 1787, becoming the town’s first church, and

Whereas, as early as 1792, there were nine district schoolhouses, and

Whereas, Orwell’s first library was established in 1807, and

Whereas, on November 9, 1847, the General Assembly annexed a small segment of the town of Benson to Orwell, and four days later on the 13th, Orwell was legislatively reassigned from Rutland to Addison County, and

Whereas, the production of milk and cheese and the raising of apples have contributed to the local economy, and

Whereas, 2013 marks 250 years since the establishment of the town of Orwell, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the sestercentennial anniversary of the town of Orwell, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Orwell Town Clerk.