

How Hammonds Plains Got it's Name?

Echoes From the Past Series – Essay #1



Ever wondered how and when Hammonds Plains got its name? Well, the name dates back to 1786 when original land grants were issued in the area by the British Government. At the time, many existing residents of the developing garrison town of Halifax were frustrated that land grants were being given to the many immigrants entering the province while they were being left out, despite having helped to establish the colony through their own hardships and sacrifices. A number of these folks applied to the governor for their own grants and were finally successful.

In August 1786, one of these grants, an 8000+ acre land grant between Birch Cove and St. Margaret's Bay was awarded to 43 Halifax business folks. The new grantees named their new lands, **Hammond Plains**, after Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, who had earlier been a popular Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia and had personal connections with many of the new grantees. The name has stuck until the present day, although no official document ever existed approving naming rights to the grant.

It is unknown why a second 'm' was added to the name of the grant, even though Andrew Hamond only had one 'm' in his name. The 's' in Hammonds was added for similarly unknown reasons during the early 1800's. A greater mystery exists as to why the grantees would name their new grant '**Plains**', when in fact the lands are actually a series of hills. No reasonable explanation has ever been found for this naming oddity. Many wonder why the community is not called Hammonds Hills, but since we can't travel back to 1786, we will probably never know the answer.



Hammonds Plains is named after Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, pictured above.