

Dartmouth College - land, grant etc
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The Second College Grant is the fourth grant of land made to Dartmouth College by New Hampshire. The first was made in 1770 under the Royal Charter of the colony and was lost through litigations in 1791. The New Hampshire state legislature granted to the College in 1785 23,000 acres between St. Johnsbury and Lake Willoughby in Vermont, then a part of New Hampshire, This was the township of Wheelock. Most of this land has been sold, but a few rents are still collected by the College for land leased in Wheelock.

The First Grant or Clarksville Grant was requested by the Dartmouth trustees to replace the source of income lost in the Landaff grant. In 1789 the Clarksville Grant of 36,000 acres in northern Coos County was given to Dartmouth. The division and sale of the land began immediately and by 1872, the entire grant had been sold.

In 1792 the first request for additional land was made to the New Hampshire legislature, and after repeated petitioning, the lawmakers granted to Dartmouth a township of 26,800 acres in the northern part of the state next to the Maine boundary.

In view of the fact that Dartmouth College had "under Divine Providence been signally useful in diffusing science in the various professions, academies and schools, throughout the State," and that the College was in need of some aid, the legislature gave a "tract of land amounting to six miles square," with the provision that "the incomes of such land

shall be applied wholly and exclusively to assist the education of the youths who shall be indigent and to alleviate the expenses of the members of families in this estate, whose necessitous circumstances will render it impossible for them to defray the expenses of an education at said seminary without such assistance."

In 1828 the section best suited to settlement was subdivided into 100-acre lots for long term leasing. Very few lots were actually leased; sales of timber brought in most of the income from the land.

By an act of the legislature in 1846 the trustees were permitted to "sell, alien, and convey in fee simple" the land of the Second Grant, "the income from the avails of such sales to be forever appropriated agreeably to the provisions of said Act (the original grant)". In 1919 the original Act was amended further to allow the College to use for general purposes that part of the income from the Grant "as may not reasonably be required for the purpose specifically declared in said grant, namely the education of indigent youths and the alleviation of the expenses of necessitous families in this State."

In 1853 the College commissioned an agent to evaluate the possibilities of the Grant. He reported many opportunities for settlers and recommended that the area be logged so that full advantage could be taken of the "excitement in relation to timber which now exists." He placed a valuation of \$8,026 on the standing timber.

Cutting contracts were let and timber sold. From 1905 to 1912 the College employed a forester to carry out the ten-point management program adopted. Just after World War I the spruce and fir trees were being attacked by the spruce bud worm and it was decided to cut the whole.

The price of wood was high in 1920 when a contract was made with the Brown Company of Berlin, N.H., for the sale of all softwood standing timber. The \$162,500 taken in the first year, and funds built up from

previous cuttings were judged sufficient to provide an annual \$50,000 until another cutting could be made.

From 1920 to 1935 the College used \$884,167 for scholarships and general purposes, leaving a balance of \$1, 213,970 in the fund in 1935.

In the late thirties there was more demand for hardwood, which had not been logged because of the long haul to markets. It was not until 1944 however, that the potentialities could be fully realized. It was then that the wartime access road of 8.5 miles was built into the Grant. Since that time the yellow birch and hard maple have been hauled out of the Grant in large quantities and are used principally for furniture manufacture.

The Second College Grant has long been a veritable paradise for hunters and fishermen who must have permission to enter. In 1947 the gate keeper was located on the southern boundary of the Grant on the only road leading into the area. This makes it possible to keep track of all fish and game taken. There is excellent fishing in the Swift and Dead Diamond rivers which run through the Grant; regulations prohibit fishing in feeder streams. The Dartmouth Outing Club has built two cabins in the area for the use of students and alumni outdoorsmen. It is a favorite camping area and an "outdoor laboratory" for courses in the natural sciences.

In 1946 a survey of the Grant was made by the Pack Forestry Foundation at the invitation of the College. Among the recommendations made was one that a College Forester be put in charge of the development of the forestry program. This has been done and a Forest Management Center, made possible through a gift from the Pack Foundation, has been built. This was completed in 1951. The Second College Grant is being improved and used to the best advantage.

Dartmouth College has credited the income received from the Second College Grant to an endowment fund the income of which is used for the scholarship program and for general expenses. There are at least two scholarships a year for boys from New Hampshire. These two awards range from \$600 to \$1000 each and are given on the assumption that they will be continued in succeeding years if the recipient maintains a high scholastic record and there is continued need for financial aid.

Beyond the regional scholarships taken from the Second College Grant fund, a varying amount of money is used each year for smaller scholarships and for student loans for New Hampshire boys. The Grant fund has also been used for the purchase of land and for improvements on the College plant.

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