



# New Hampshire Resources

## Family History Sources in the Granite State

### New Hampshire History

The lumber industry in New Hampshire has drawn immigrants since its earliest days, and its importance is underscored by the fact that it was used as currency in early years. The industry was spawned when the British began harvesting large pines for use as masts in its ships, but this grew to be a source of frustration for residents.

Lumber, fishing, and agricultural pursuits drew settlers initially from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and later from other New England colonies. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, large numbers of Ulster Scots made their way into the area as well.

The mid-1800s saw an influx of French-Canadians to New Hampshire, drawn to a growing lumber industry. Following the Irish potato famine, large numbers of Irish also helped swell the state's population. Waves of Polish, Italian, and Greek immigrants followed as well.

Beyond the lumber industry, New Hampshire has also historically been home to a lucrative fishing industry. Early settlers David Thomson and Thomas Hilton were fish merchants based in London. They set up facilities for drying fish near what is now Rye and Dover.



Pine Mountain, Gorham vicinity, New Hampshire, 1943, photograph by John Collier, from the Library of Congress Photo Collection 1840-2000



View from Harlakenden, New Hampshire, 1913, from U.S., Panoramic Photos, 1851-1991



# New Hampshire Resources

Family History Sources in the Granite State



## New Hampshire Census Records

Federal censuses for New Hampshire began in 1790. The 1800 census does not include the following towns in Rockingham County: Atkinson, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Londonderry, Northampton, Pelham, Plaistow, Salem, Seabrook, Stratham, and Windham. Some Strafford County towns are also missing from the 1800 census, including Alton, Barnstead, Brookfield, Effingham, Gilmanton, Middleton, New Durham, Ossipee, Tuftonboro, Wakefield, and Wolfeborough. However, the 1798 U.S. Direct Tax has been found for nine of these towns and published by Heritage Books.

For the 1820 census, all records for Grafton County and parts of Rockingham (Gosport, Greenland, New Castle, Newington, Portsmouth, and Rye) were lost. Only Center Harbor, Gilford, Moultonborough, New Hampton, and Sanbornton records are available for Strafford County for that year.

For the provincial period, various enumerations exist for the years 1732, 1744, 1767, and 1776. All are available at the New Hampshire Records and Archives, and, except for 1732, appear in the multi-volume set of New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers, described below in "Additional Sources."

### Related Censuses Available on Ancestry.com:

- [U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885](#) (includes New Hampshire schedules 1850-1870)
- [1890 Veterans Schedules](#)
- [Inhabitants of New Hampshire, 1776](#)

## New Hampshire Immigration and Travel Records

- [New England, The Great Migration and The Great Migration Begins, 1620-1635](#)
- [Border Crossings: From Canada to the U.S., 1895-1956](#)
- [Border Crossings: From U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935](#)

<b>Population</b>	
<b>1790</b>	<b>141,885</b>
<b>1800</b>	<b>183,858</b>
<b>1810</b>	<b>214,460</b>
<b>1820</b>	<b>244,155</b>
<b>1830</b>	<b>269,328</b>
<b>1840</b>	<b>284,574</b>
<b>1850</b>	<b>317,976</b>
<b>1860</b>	<b>326,073</b>
<b>1870</b>	<b>318,300</b>
<b>1880</b>	<b>346,991</b>
<b>1890</b>	<b>376,530</b>
<b>1900</b>	<b>411,588</b>
<b>1910</b>	<b>430,572</b>
<b>1920</b>	<b>443,083</b>
<b>1930</b>	<b>465,293</b>
<b>1940</b>	<b>491,524</b>
<b>1950</b>	<b>533,242</b>



# New Hampshire Resources

Family History Sources in  
the Granite State



## New Hampshire Vital Records

Vital events are recorded in town or city clerk's offices. Today each town or city sends copies of its vital events to the Bureau of Vital Records. Statewide compilation, however, did not begin until a law was passed in 1866, and total compliance was not accomplished until the 1880s.

- [New Hampshire Division of Vital Records Administration](#): Holds records of births, marriages, and deaths from 1640, and divorces from 1880. New Hampshire statutes allow general public access to birth records prior to 1909; deaths, marriages and divorces prior to 1959 for genealogical research. Records area available from the genealogical research room located in Concord. See the FAQ for details.

### New Hampshire Vital Records on Ancestry.com

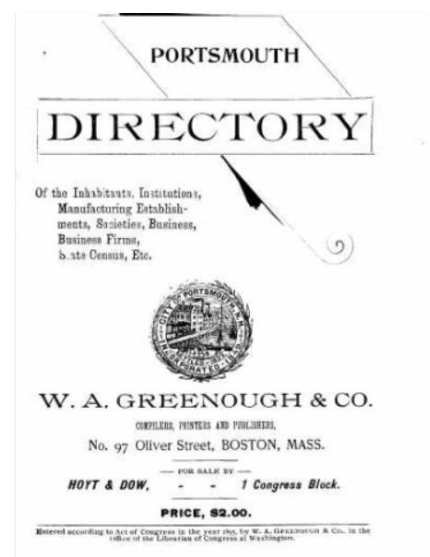
- [New Hampshire, Marriage and Divorce Records, 1659-1947](#)
- [New Hampshire, Marriage Records Index, 1637-1947](#)
- [New Hampshire, Death and Burial Records Index, 1654-1949](#)
- [New Hampshire, Death and Disinterment Records, 1754-1947](#)
- [New Hampshire, Births and Christenings Index, 1714-1904](#)
- [New Hampshire, Birth Records, 1659-1900](#)
- [U.S., New England Marriages Prior to 1700](#)

## Military Collections

- [New Hampshire Military Collections](#)
- [1890 Veterans Schedules](#)
- [U.S., Union Soldiers Compiled Service Records, 1861-1865](#)

## Other Collections

- [U.S., Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918](#)
- [U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989](#) (Use the browse box in the upper right corner to determine what directories are available for your ancestor's area. If they lived in a rural area, check to see if that area was included with a larger city in the vicinity.)





# New Hampshire Resources

Family History Sources in  
the Granite State



## Other State Resources

- [New Hampshire State Archives genealogy page](#)
- [New Hampshire State Library genealogy page](#)
- [New Hampshire Historical Society](#)
- [New Hampshire Society of Genealogists](#)
- [New Hampshire GenWeb](#)
- [The National Archives at Boston](#): This facility maintains records from Federal agencies and courts in New Hampshire, including census, military, court, naturalization, and immigration records.
- [New England Historic Genealogical Society](#): NEHGS holds a wide range of records on New England states, including New Hampshire.

## Help and Advice

- [New Hampshire Family History Research](#)
- [New Hampshire Town Resources](#)
- [Map of New Hampshire](#)

[View all New Hampshire collections on Ancestry.com](#)

## Significant Dates (through 1934)

**1622** - The area that would become New Hampshire was home to the Abnaki, Malecite, Passamaquoddy, and Pennacook tribes of Native Americans. In 1622, King James I of England granted land in the area to John Mason and Sir Fernando Gorges. Land between the Merrimack and Kennebec rivers was granted to David Thomson and he settled near what is now Rye, at Pannawa; it was the first white settlement in New Hampshire.

**1629** - John Mason and Sir Fernando Gorges split the grant of 1622, with Mason receiving the portion south of the Piscataqua River. The area became the Province of New Hampshire.

**1630s** – Puritans from Massachusetts began moving to New Hampshire and settling in places like Exeter and Hampton, including some in conflict with religious authorities in Massachusetts.

**1641** - New Hampshire was part of Massachusetts, although home rule by towns was allowed.

**1642** - A Massachusetts law of 1642 required that children be educated in the laws of the commonwealth and in basic religion. It also required a degree of proficiency when it came to reading and writing.

**1647** - Towns of fifty families or more were required to hire a schoolmaster. When New Hampshire became a royal colony in its own right in 1679, it passed its own school law for towns of more than fifty families.

**1675-1676** – King Philip's War, a series of skirmishes and battles between the Narragansetts and white settlers. The war ended with the death of Narragansett chief Metacomet (called "King Philip" by the settlers).



# New Hampshire Resources

## Family History Sources in the Granite State



- 1679** - The Province of New Hampshire was founded independent of Massachusetts.
- 1686-1689** - The Dominion of New England was created, encompassing the present-day states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. It was unpopular though and only lasted three years.
- 1702-1713** - An offshoot of the War of the Spanish Succession, Queen Anne's War was fought in the American theater and resulted in the cession of Acadia, Newfoundland, Hudson Bay, and Saint Kitts to Britain.
- 1718** - Widows were entitled to one-third of her husband's real and personal estate.
- 1734** - Mast Free Riot when colonists dressed as Indians attack surveyors trying to inspect a mill suspected of cutting down pine trees near Exeter that were reserved for use in the Royal Navy as masts by legislation of 1705.
- 1735** - The "Great Awakening," a Protestant religious movement, swept through New Hampshire.
- 1754-1763** - The French and Indian War was fought between Britain and France, pitting the British, the colonists, and their Native American allies against the French and their Native American allies. At the end of the war, France cedes all its land east of the Mississippi River, with the exception of New Orleans.
- 1759** - The western boundary of New Hampshire was set at the Connecticut River.
- 1761** - Widows were entitled to one-third of her husband's real and personal estate, and also her dower.
- 1775-1783** - The American Revolution was fought.
- 1776** - New Hampshire frames the first commonwealth constitution in the U.S.
- 1788** - New Hampshire is admitted as the 9<sup>th</sup> state.
- 1802** - The first of three "Christmas Fires" damaged the business district of Portsmouth on December 26.
- 1804** - The Storm of October 1804 (also known as the 1804 Snow Hurricane) dumps heavy snow on New Hampshire.
- 1806** - The second of the Christmas week fires spread from the Bow Street area to downtown on December 22.
- 1808** - Concord became the state capital.
- 1809** - An explosion at a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at Fort Constitution killed 14 people.
- 1813** - The third and worst of the Christmas fires destroyed 300 buildings on State Street on December 22. The fires prompted the city to move to brick structures, rather than the wood structures that fed and facilitated the spread the fires.
- 1816** - "The Year without a Summer," also known as the "Poverty Year." A series of nor'easters and cold fronts from Canada resulted in frost each month, which killed most of the crops in the region. This difficult winter accelerated migration from New England to western lands with more moderate climates.
- 1819** - The "Toleration Act" of 1819 put all religions in New Hampshire on equal footing and legislated that they needed to rely on the voluntary contributions of church members and could not tax the public in support of the congregation.
- 1832-1835** - The Republic of Indian Stream was a small unrecognized republic that existed for a short time in disputed territory along the New Hampshire border with Canada. Britain relinquished control in 1836, and it officially became part of New Hampshire in 1842 with the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.
- 1833** - The Peterborough Public Library was established. It is the oldest tax-funded library in the world.



## New Hampshire Resources

### Family History Sources in the Granite State

**1842** – Women could own property in New Hampshire if their husband was incapacitated or had abandoned her.

**1854** – Women gained the right to write a will.

**1861-1865** – The U.S. Civil War was fought. More than 32,000 soldiers from New Hampshire served.

**1867** – Women are granted the right to hold property free from the interference of her husband.

**1898** – The Spanish American War was fought.

**1916** – The first New Hampshire primary was held. The New Hampshire primary has risen to prominence as the first primary to be held in presidential elections and as such, draws significant national attention.

**1920** – Women were granted suffrage through the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.



Shaker Church Family Cow Barn, Enfield vicinity, Grafton County, New Hampshire, 1933, from the Library of Congress Photo Collection, 1840-2000